Register of the Joseph Brodsky papers

Finding aid prepared by Lora Soroka
Hoover Institution Archives
434 Galvez Mall
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Stanford, CA, 94305-6003
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© 2016
Title: Joseph Brodsky papers
Date (inclusive): 1964-2013
Collection Number: 88072
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: Russian and English
Physical Description: 2 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 1 oversize folder (4.5 linear feet)
Abstract: Correspondence, poems, other writings, printed matter, photographs, and drawings relating to Russian literature and dissent. Includes transcript of 1964 trial of Joseph Brodsky in the Soviet Union. Mainly collected by Diana Myers. Includes some papers of Diana Myers.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Creator: Brodsky, Joseph, 1940-1996.
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Joseph Brodsky papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1988 and 2016.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University’s online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Related Collections
Irwin and Shirley Holzman collection, Hoover Institution Archives Gleb Struve papers, Hoover Institution Archives Joseph Brodsky papers from the archives of the Katilius family, Stanford Special Collections
Related Collections Outside of Stanford
Joseph Brodsky Papers. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.
Biographical Note
Joseph Brodsky (24 May 1940 – 28 January 1996) was a Russian and American poet and essayist.
Born in Leningrad in 1940, Brodsky disliked Soviet school education and ended his formal schooling at the age of fifteen. He then worked in various places, including a factory and a morgue, and was a part of geological expeditions. He began writing poetry as a teenager and soon became interested in translating poetry, for which he taught himself Polish and English. In 1960 he was introduced to Anna Akhmatova, one of the leading poets of the Silver Age. She encouraged his work and would go on to become his mentor. Brodsky’s early writings in the Soviet Union were circulated in samizdat (self-published) collections.
In 1963, Brodsky’s poetry was denounced by a Leningrad newspaper as “pornographic and anti-Soviet.” His papers were confiscated, and he was interrogated, twice put in a mental institution, and arrested. He was charged with “social parasitism” and sentenced to five years of exile in the village of Norenskaia (Arkhangel’skaia oblast’, northern Russia), where he lived from March 1964 through October 1965 and wrote prolifically. The authorities were forced to allow Brodsky to return to Leningrad after eighteen months of exile by protests of preeminent Soviet cultural figures, including poet Anna Akhmatova and composer Dmitrii Shostakovich. Brodsky’s trial and sentence brought him international attention when Frida Vigdorova’s court transcript started circulating in the Western media. Around this time his first book Stikhotvoreniia i poemy, edited by Gleb Struve and Boris Filippov, was published in the United States (Washington, D.C. & New York: Inter-Language Literary Associates).
In 1972, Brodsky was suddenly granted a visa (for which he had not applied) to immigrate to Israel. He had to leave Russia within a matter of weeks and never returned. After a short stay in Vienna and London, Brodsky settled in the United States and spent his first year as poet in residence at Michigan University, Ann Arbor. He taught thereafter at Mount Holyoke College, Yale, Columbia, Cambridge, Michigan, and other universities.
Brodsky was awarded the 1987 Nobel Prize in Literature “for an all-embracing authorship, imbued with clarity of thought and poetic intensity.” He was appointed U.S. Poet Laureate in 1991.
Among Brodsky’s many other awards and honors are a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1977), a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award (1981), a National Book Critics Circle Award (1986), France’s Order of the Legion of Honor (1991), and honorary degrees from Yale University (1978), Dartmouth College (1989), and Oxford University (1991).

During his lifetime, much of Brodsky’s collected poetry and prose was published by Ardis in Ann Arbor, Michigan (Russian-language poetry), and Farrar, Straus and Giroux in New York (English-language poetry, English translations, and prose collections).

Brodsky suffered from heart disease throughout his adult life and had several open-heart surgeries. He died of heart failure on January 28, 1996.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

Joseph Brodsky’s papers, meticulously collected by his longtime friend Diana Myers, include their correspondence from 1968 (when they both lived in Leningrad) through 1970 to 1972 (when Brodsky still lived in Leningrad, while Diana married Alan Myers and left for London), and through Brodsky’s life in the United States. The most intensive correspondence between them (1970–1980) relates to Brodsky’s last two years in the Soviet Union before immigration (1970–1972) and his first years in the United States. These sincere and direct letters document Brodsky’s life as he was establishing himself in the United States.

In London Brodsky often stayed at the home of Diana and her husband, Alan Myers, who translated Brodsky’s poetry into English. Letters to Brodsky from various people during these times, as well as Diana’s own letters to Brodsky and letters to her from various people concerning Brodsky, were preserved by Diana. She also saved Brodsky’s notes and ink and chalk drawings.

The papers also document Brodsky’s professional life through his writings, including drafts, holographs, typescripts, and computer-generated texts, allowing us to catch a glimpse of stages of his work. Photographs, mostly taken by Diana during the 1991 conference in memory of Osip Mandelstam, depict Brodsky in informal discussions. Materials from Brodsky’s memorial services include invitations, programs, and tributes. The papers also include the proceedings of Joseph Brodsky’s trial on charges of social parasitism in the court of Leningrad’s Dzerzhinskii district.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Dissenters--Soviet Union.
- Political crimes and offenses--Soviet Union.
- Russian literature.

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**Biographical File 1964-1997**

**Transcript of Joseph Brodsky’s trial in Leningrad (Saint-Petersburg) 1964**

**Honorary degrees 1981-1991**

- **Arrangement Statement**
  - Arranged chronologically.

  **Box/Folder 1 : 1**

  - **Nomination for Honorary Degree, University of Birmingham, draft 1981**
    - Language of Material: English

  **Map case**

  **Box/Folder 1 : 1**

  - **Honorary Diploma of Doctor of Letters, Oxford University 1986**
    - **Encaenia, Honorary Degrees, University of Oxford 1991 June 19**

  **Scope and Contents note**
  - A booklet listing recipients of honorary degrees on 19 June 1991.

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**Memorial and commemoration services 1996-1997**

- **Language of Material: English**

  **Box/Folder 1 : 2**

  - **Memorial service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, program and invitation 1996 March 8**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tribute to Joseph Brodsky at the Brunei Gallery organized by Diana Myers, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London University 1997 January 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Contents note
Includes a planning document, a program, an invitation, texts of presentations by Seamus Heaney and Diana Myers, and related correspondence.

**Correspondence 1967-1992**

**Diana Myers, 1967-1992**
Arrangement Statement
Arranged chronologically.

**Letters to her 1967-1992**
Language of Material: Russian

**From Leningrad, 1967-1972, undated**

**From the United States 1972-1992, undated**

Scope and Contents note
Holograph and photocopies. Includes letters and postcards to her husband Alan Myers, 1972-1985 and undated.

**Letters from her 1970s-1989**
Language of Material: Russian

**With others 1977-1991**
Arrangement Statement
Arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent.

**Unidentified 1978**
Scope and Contents
Arranged alphabetically by name of sender.

**Bearden, Maureen 1982, undated**
Language of Material: English

**Heyman, Arlene 1988**
Language of Material: English

**Iakimchuk, N., 1991**
Language of Material: Russian

**Jangfeldt, Bengt 1988**
Language of Material: Russian

**Klass, Stephen I., 1988**
Language of Material: English
Scope and Contents
Includes two poems by Werner Asperström.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Korobova, Era 1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language of Material: Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies. Includes drawing by Brodsky in verso of letter pages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Kruzhkov, Grigori, 1987</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language of Material: Russian</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Murray, Les 1986</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Language of Material: English</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Naiman, Anatolii (photocopy), 1977</th>
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<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Polukhina, Valentina (letter to her) 1988</th>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Reidel, Jim</th>
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<td>Language of Material: English</td>
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<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Rein, Evgenii, 1988</th>
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<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Skidelski, I., 1978</th>
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<td>Language of Material: Russian</td>
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<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Swainson, Bill 1991</th>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Uflian, Vladimir (?) 1991</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language of Material: Russian</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 7</th>
<th>Yevtushenko, Yevgenii, 1977</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language of Material: Russian</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 8</th>
<th>Notes 1977, 1982, undated</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some notes include ink drawings by Brodsky.</td>
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</table>

**Drawings 1977, 1982, undated**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 9</th>
<th>Ink drawings 1977, 1982, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Six black chalk drawings undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speeches and Writings 1968-1992, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Poetry 1968-1978**

**Holographs 1967, undated**

**Arrangement Statement**

Drafts and undated poems arranged alphabetically, followed by the 1967 poem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 10</th>
<th>Drafts undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**"Articulation of Siberia," undated**

**Language of Material: English**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 10</th>
<th>&quot;Thank You for You Appear ....,&quot; undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Language of Material: English</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 1 : 10</th>
<th>&quot;Po vecheram, ne pokladaia ruk...,&quot; undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Register of the Joseph Brodsky papers

Speeches and Writings 1968-1992, undated

Poetry 1968-1978

Box/Folder 1 : 10

"What Use Are Days?...", undated
Language of Material: English

Box/Folder 1 : 10

"Kak nynche vam zhivetsia...," unpublished 1967
Original typescripts 1965-1995

Arrangement Statement
Arranged chronologically.

Box/Folder 1 : 11

"Ne zabudem zhe Tiutcheva," unpublished undated

Box/Folder 1 : 11

"A Postcard: Elegy," undated
Language of Material: English

Box/Folder 1 : 11

"Akh, byt' bede...," unpublished 1965
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Chto-to zdes' nespravedlivo...," unpublished 1965
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Muzhchina, zasyiapushchii odin...," 1965
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Feliks," 1965
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Lili Marlen," 1965
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Elegiia: Robertu Louellu," 1977
Scope and Contents note
Includes translation of the poem by V. Strochkov, 1983.

Box/Folder 1 : 11

"Rimskie elegii," 1981
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Novaia zhizn'," 1988
Box/Folder 1 : 11
"Otkrytka iz goroda L.," 1988
Scope and Contents note
One of the first versions of the poem later entitled "Otkrytka iz Lissabona." Includes holograph corrections and changes.

Box/Folder 1 : 11

"V kafe," two versions 1988
Box/Folder 1 : 11

Computer printouts 1989-1992
Arrangement Statement
Arranged chronologically by date according to Brodsky's own chronology. If a different date is found on the same published work, it is shown in parentheses.

Box/Folder 1 : 12

Box/Folder 1 : 12
1989 (1988)
Box/Folder 1 : 12
Box/Folder 1 : 12
Box/Folder 1 : 12
Box/Folder 1 : 12
"Presepio," 1991
Box/Folder 1 : 12
1992
Box/Folder 1 : 12
"Podrazhanie Goratsiiu" (incomplete) 1992 (1993)
Box/Folder 1 : 12
"Pamiati N.N.," 1992
Scope and Contents note

Box/Folder 1 : 12

"Podruha, durniia litsom, poselilas' v derevne...," 1992
Box/Folder 1 : 12
"Pristan' Fagerdala," 1992
Box/Folder 1 : 12
"Semenov," 1992
Box/Folder 1 : 12
"Vid s kholma," 1992 February
Photocopies 1973-1993

Arrangement Statement
Arranged chronologically, according to Brodsky's chronology. When undated by him, dates were established by Valentina Polukhina's book *Iosif Brodskii: Zhizn', trudy, epokha*. Sankt-Peterburg : Zhurnal Zvezda, 2008.

Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Semnadtsatiletie," 1973
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Osnenni krik iastreba," 1975 (1978)
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Piataia godovshchina," 1977
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"San Pietro," 1977
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"To ne Muza vody nabiraet v rot...," 1980
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Piazza Mattei," 1981
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Teper', znaia mnogoe...," 1984
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"V gorakh," 1985/1988

Scope and Contents note
Includes several versions of the poem.

Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Reki," 1986
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Kentavry," 1987
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Rozhdestvenskaia zvezda," 1987
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"V kafe," 1988
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Begstvo v Egipet," 1988 December 25
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Dozh'd v avgustse," 1988
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Novaia zhizn'," 1988
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Otkrytka iz Lissabona," 1988
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Avstraliia (Pamiati ottsa: Avstraliia)," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Dorogaia, ia vyshel segodnia iz domu...," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Elegiia (Postoianstvo sut' evolitsia printsipa...)," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Fin-de siecle," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Lido, Venetsiia," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Landsver Kanal, Berlin," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Na stoletie Anny Akhmatovoi," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Pchely ne uleteli, vsadnik ne uskakal...," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Primechaniiia paporotnika," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Oblaika," 1989
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Metel' v Massachusetse," 1990
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Portret tragedii," 1991
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Presepio," 1991
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Kolybel'naia," 1992
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Mikhailu Baryshnikovu," 1992
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2
"Ia slyshu ne to, chto ty mne govorish',...," 1993

Essays and lectures 1984-1992, undated

Arrangement Statement
Arranged chronologically.

Box/Folder 2 : 3
Commencement address at Williams College 1984
Box/Folder 2 : 3
Nobel Prize lecture 1987

Language of Material: English

Box/Folder 2 : 3
"Collector's Item," first draft (photocopy) 1992

Language of Material: English

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 2 : 3</th>
<th>Untitled (photocopy with holograph corrections) undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plays 1982, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 4</td>
<td>Mramor 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 4</td>
<td>Demokratia 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Translations 1960s, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 5</td>
<td>&quot;Storm&quot; by John Donne 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 5</td>
<td>Cavafy 1960s, 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 5</td>
<td>Darii 1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 5</td>
<td>Poems translated by Gennadii Shmakov and edited by Brodsky 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Photographs 1972, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes 24 prints depicting mostly Brodsky at the 1991 Mandelstam conference; four portraits, 1972-1991; and two prints depicting Brodsky on June 4, 1972, the day he left the Soviet Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map case,</td>
<td>Memorabilia 1972-1991, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 6</td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes Joseph Brodsky's astrological chart; a poster for the play Marmur by Joseph Brodsky at the Teatr Śląski, Katowic, Poland; tickets to a lecture and presentation by Brodsky in London; and a book V Anglii (limited edition of 60 copies, 1977) dedicated to Diana and Alan Myers, copy #44, with inscription.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printed Matter 1988-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes photocopies of publications by and about Joseph Brodsky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diana Myers Correspondence 1976-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrangement Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Two unidentified letters 1976, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The 1976 letter is addressed to Diana and Alan Myers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Braginskaia, Nina 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Brodsky, Maria 1998-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes greeting cards from Maria Brodsky, widow of Josef Brodsky, with photographs of their daughter Anna; a fundraising letter from the Joseph Brodsky Memorial Fellowship Fund; and a greeting card from Diana Myers to Maria Brodsky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Bukovsky, Olga 1985-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Bukovsky, Nina 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Bukovsky, Vladimir (letter to him) 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Gosudarstvennyj literaturno-memorial'nyi muzei Anny Akhmatovoi v Fontannom dome, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Gandlevskiî, Sergeî, 1995, 1997</td>
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<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Gasparov, Boris, 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Gifford, Henry, 1998</td>
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<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Golyshov, Viktor (Mika) 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder 2 : 8-9</td>
<td>Katilius, Ramûnas, circa 1977, 1985, 1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  Kjelberg, Ann 1996-2000
Scope and Contents note

Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  Liubin, V. P., 1995
Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  McCarthy, Liam, 1977-1979, 2013
Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  Memorial, Dobrovol’noe istoriko-prosvetitel’skoe obshcheestvo 1991
Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  Petrushanskaia, Elena 1996
Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts 2001
Box/Folder 2 : 8-9  Sumerkin, Aleksandr 1977
Box/Folder 2 : 10  Writings by Others 1989-1991, undated
Scope and Contents note
Includes writings and translations by unidentified authors and by Sergei Martirosov and Elena Ushakova.