
Register of the Dragiša Nikola Ristić papers

Finding aid prepared by Processed by: Brad Bauer

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Title: Dragiša Nikola Ristić papers

Date (inclusive): 1941-1980

Collection Number: 92077

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Library and Archives

Language of Material: In Serbo-Croatian and English

Physical Description: 7 manuscript boxes, 1 painting(5.2 Linear Feet)

Abstract: Correspondence and writings, relating primarily to Yugoslav military operations and diplomacy during World War II, and to postwar Yugoslav émigré affairs. Includes postwar correspondence between D. T. Simović and Winston Churchill, and a book-length study by D. N. Ristić relating to Nadezhda Krupskaya and V. I. Lenin.

Creator: Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965

Creator: Simović, Dušan, 1882-1962

Creator: Ristić, Dragiša Nikola, 1909-
Hoover Institution Library & Archives

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 Library & Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Library & Archives in increments between 1972 and 2004.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Dragiša N. Ristić Papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Library & Archives.

1909

January 9 Born, Veliko Bonjice, Serbia

1928 Graduated, Belgrade Military Academy, rank of second lieutenant, assigned to Yugoslavian air force

1932 Promoted to first lieutenant, Yugoslavian air force

1935 Instructor, non-commissioned officers school

1936 Promoted to second captain, squadron commander

1936-1938, Aide-de-camp to General Dušan Simović, commander of Yugoslavian air force
1940-1941

1939 Promoted to first captain

1941 Accompanied General Dušan Simović to a meeting in Belgrade with Colonel William J. Donovan, Franklin D.

January 23 Roosevelt's representative in Europe

1941 March 23 Yugoslav Prime Minister Cvetković signed the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany

1941 March 27 Took part in the coup led by General Dušan Simović to overthrow the government of Prince Paul and Cvetković. The 17-year-old Peter II was appointed king, and Simović became the new prime minister

1941 April 6 Germans bombarded Belgrade, began invasion of Yugoslavia

1941 April 14 Received assignment to escort King Peter II out of Yugoslavia to safety, and flew him to Athens. Two days later, Simović, Ristić, and the King flew to Alexandria

1941 April-June In Jerusalem, where Yugoslavian government-in-exile was based until it moved to London

1942 March Transferred to the Yugoslav military mission in Canada and the United States, and was based variously at Ottawa, Washington, Nashville, and Windsor, Ontario. While in Windsor, enrolled at Wayne State University in Detroit

1943-1945 Transferred to Yugoslavian forces based in Cairo, and while there, enrolled in the American University

1945 May 26 Honorable discharge from the Yugoslavian armed forces, rank of major

1946-1948 Returned to the United States, employed by U.S. Steel Products Company, Los Angeles, and enrolled at University of California, Los Angeles

1950 Graduated, bachelor's degree in political science, University of California, Los Angeles

1951 Employed as instructor of Serbo-Croatian language at the U.S. Army Language School, Presidio of Monterey, California

1953 Graduated, master's degree in political science, University of California, Los Angeles

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- 1955 Studied at the Faculté de Droit, University of Paris, while researching book on the Yugoslavian revolution of 1941
- 1966 Published Yugoslavia's Revolution of 1941 (Pennsylvania State University Press)
- 1972-1973 Studied in doctoral program for political science, Western Colorado University
- 2004 Died, Monterey, California

Scope and Content of Collection

The papers of Dragiša N. Ristić, acquired in increments between 1972 and 2004, document his military career in the Yugoslavian air force, with a special emphasis on his role as a protégé of General Dušan Simović. Simović was one of the leaders of the coup of March 27, 1941, which overthrew the pro-German government in Belgrade. Ristić was an aide-de-camp to General Simović, and as such, was both a participant in and eyewitness to the events surrounding the coup.

In the years following the war, Ristić sought to document the events of this period, with an eye to defending the reputation of his mentor. Having spent the war years in London, Simović returned to Yugoslavia in 1945, and lived in Belgrade until his death in 1962. During the 1950s, Simović maintained a steady correspondence with Ristić, who by then had settled in Monterey, California, and designated him to write his biography. To facilitate this, Simović transferred his wartime diary and manuscript memoir to Ristić, both of which can be found in a separate collection under Simović's name at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives. During that period, Ristić began corresponding with and interviewing many of the surviving key figures from the Yugoslavian government before the coup, including Vladko Maček, Slobodan Jovanović, Prince Paul, and others.

The Biographical File contains various personal documents, but also includes fairly extensive wartime diaries of Ristić from his period in North America and Egypt. These diaries were written initially in Serbian, but Ristić switched to using English in 1942, when he began studying English at Wayne State University in Detroit. Fragments of a never-completed memoir can also be found in this series.

The Correspondence contains the bulk of the surviving research material for his book on the 1941 coup. It consists of correspondence and interviews primarily from the 1950s, including his extensive correspondence with Simović. The Writings contains various fragmentary works and essays, but also a lengthy unpublished history of the Russian Revolution, a topic that greatly interested Ristić over the years. Also included in this series are theses from his academic career at the University of California, Los Angeles and Western Colorado University, works that also are connected to the history of the 1941 coup. The Subject File and Printed Material contain additional material that he used in his research. The collection also contains an oil Painting depicting General Dušan Simović, by Yugoslavian artist Veljko Stanojevic, which Ristić displayed in his home in Monterey.

Arrangement

Arranged in six series, Biographical File, Correspondence and Interview Notes, Writings, Subject File, Printed Material, and Painting.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

- Soviet Union -- History -- Revolution, 1917-1921
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Yugoslavia
- Yugoslavia -- History -- Axis occupation, 1941-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Diplomatic history
- Yugoslavs -- United States
- Lenin, Vladimir Il'ich, 1870-1924
- Krupskaya, Nadezhda Konstantinovna, 1869-1939

Biographical File 1941-1965, undated

Scope and Contents note

Diaries in Serbian and English, 1942-1945; draft fragments of a projected memoir, and various personal documents from his military, civilian, and academic careers, arranged alphabetically by physical form

- box 1, folder 1
- box 1, folder 2
- box 1, folder 3
- box 1, folder 4

Academic records 1950-1955

Address book circa 1950s

Application for fellowship 1956

Awards and memberships 1954-1961

box 1, folder 5	Diary
box 1, folder 6	1942 May 12 - July 3
box 1, folder 7	1942 July 3 - October 11
box 1, folder 8	1942 October 12 - 1943 February 28
box 1, folder 9	1943 February 19 - September 21
box 1, folder 10	1943 September 22 - 1944 May 28
box 2, folder 1	1944 June 2 - December 31
	English lesson book 1944-1945.
	Scope and Contents note
	Includes diary entries, draft letters, and memoir fragments, graded by instructor
	Memoir drafts
box 2, folder 2	"From Autobiography: A Record of (Foreign) Language Experiences," 1965
box 2, folder 3	"A Supplementary: The Author's Recollections," undated
box 2, folder 4	"My Memoria," undated
box 2, folder 5	Untitled draft undated
box 2, folder 6	Untitled fragments undated
box 2, folder 7	Military documents 1944-1945
box 2, folder 8	Passports and visas 1941-1946
box 2, folder 9	Personnel records 1945-1961
box 2, folder 10	Photographs of family undated
	Correspondence and Interview Notes 1927-1996 (bulk 1951-1961). 1927-1996 (bulk 1951-1961).
	Scope and Contents note
	Correspondence and summaries of interviews with exiled Yugoslavian political leaders and others, primarily related to research for his book on the 1941 coup, Yugoslavia's Revolution of 1941, arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. Also contains a few files of family and personal correspondence from the 1970s through the 1990s.
box 2, folder 11	Unidentified 1942-1987
box 2, folder 12	Churchill, Winston 1955
box 2, folder 13	Cvetković, Dragiša 1955
box 2, folder 14	Dinić, Miloš 1955
box 2, folder 15	Djurović, Tosa 1956
box 2, folder 16	Dragosavlević, S. 1956
box 2, folder 17	Dzaković, M. 1956
box 2, folder 18	Gavrilović, Milan 1956-1957
box 2, folder 19	Graham, Malbone 1959
box 2, folder 20	Jevtić, Bogoljub 1955
	Jovanović, Slobodan
box 2, folder 21	Correspondence 1956-1957
box 2, folder 22	Interview notes 1955-1956
box 2, folder 23	Krek, Miho 1956
	Maćek, Vladko
box 2, folder 24	Correspondence 1955-1958
box 2, folder 25	Interview notes 1956
box 2, folder 26	Maksimović, Boža 1956
box 2, folder 27	Miletić, B. S. 1959
box 2, folder 28	Milovonović, Milena 1996
box 2, folder 29	Mogilevsky, Ivan 1975
box 2, folder 30	Nikitović, Dr. 1960
box 2, folder 31	Pantelić, Vojislav, Maj. 1956
box 2, folder 32	Papić, Stevan 1956
box 2, folder 33	Paul, Prince of Yugoslavia 1955-1956
box 2, folder 34	Pavelić, Ante Smith 1956-1967
box 2, folder 35	Pavlović, Paja, Gen. 1956
box 3, folder 1	Peter II, King of Yugoslavia 1943-1959

box 3, folder 2	Petrović, Branislav 1959
box 3, folder 3	Purić, G. 1956
box 3, folder 4	Radusinović, Mihailo 1968
box 3, folder 5	Rakočević, Milo 1955
box 3, folder 6	Ristić, Katarina 1965-1966
box 3, folder 7	Ristić, Leposava (mother) 1927
box 3, folder 8	Savić, Dragutin 1955-1959
box 3, folder 9	Simović, Dušan 1951-1962
box 3, folder 10	Stanojević, Veljko 1965-1967
box 3, folder 11	Sterdjević, G. 1956
box 3, folder 12	Subotić, I. 1956-1957 Sumenković, Ilija Correspondence 1956-1957 Interview notes 1956 Veselinović, Božidar and Srbašlava (brother-in-law and sister) 1981-1989 1990-1996 Visacki, Ljubos 1956 Vukčević, Petar 1958 Vuković, Ivona 1974-1977 Yugoslavian air force, Cairo 1941-1942 Živanović, Zagorka (sister) 1966-1986 Writings, 1942-1973, undated. 1942-1973, undated Scope and Contents note Various essays and book drafts on topics related to modern Yugoslavian history (primarily interwar years and events leading up to the coup of March 27, 1941), and the Russian Revolution, arranged alphabetically by title
box 3, folder 13	
box 3, folder 14	
box 3, folder 15	
box 3, folder 16	
box 3, folder 17	
box 3, folder 18	
box 3, folder 19	
box 3, folder 20	
box 3, folder 21	
box 3, folder 22	Miscellaneous fragments undated
box 3, folder 23	Notes for a history of the Yugoslavian revolution undated
box 3, folder 24	Conclusion to book on Russian Revolution undated Scope and Contents note Typescript
box 3, folder 25	Marxism undated Scope and Contents note Typescript
box 3, folder 26	Preface to book about Yugoslavia undated Scope and Contents note Typescript
box 3, folder 27	Work on Yugoslavian foreign relations undated Scope and Contents note Typescript
box 4, folder 1	"Account of the Belgrade Revolution," undated
box 4, folder 2	"The Adriatic Question," undated
box 4, folder 3	"Djeneral Dušan Simović i Njegov Istoriski Cin," 1942
box 4, folder 4	"Epilogue: Pen, Pencil, and Sweat," undated. Scope and Contents note Autobiographical work intended as epilogue to planned book
box 4, folder 5	"The February Revolution, the Tsar and the Formation of the Provisional Government," doctoral project, Western Colorado University 1973

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| box 4, folder 6 | "Foreign Relations of Yugoslavia, 1914-1934," master's thesis, University of California, Los Angeles 1953 |
| box 4, folder 7 | "Imperial Russia and Serbia," undated.
Scope and Contents note
Draft. In Serbian |
| box 5, folder 1 | "A Lecture Syllabus for Yugoslavia's Revolution of 1941, EDCS-700 Independent Study Curriculum," Western Colorado University 1971 |
| box 5, folder 2 | "Nadezhda Krupskaya and Lenin," undated |
| box 5, folder 3 | Pages 1-163 |
| box 5, folder 4 | Pages 165-329 |
| box 6, folder 1 | Pages 330-500 |
| box 6, folder 2 | Pages 501-726 |
| box 6, folder 3 | Pages 727-938 |
| box 6, folder 4 | Pages 939-1061, plus Chapter XXIV |
| box 7, folder 1 | Pages 1062-1271 |
| box 7, folder 2 | Pages 1272-1464 |
| box 7, folder 3 | Additional notes and fragments of draft
"Oktobarska Revolucija," 1962-1964.
Scope and Contents note
Manuscript drafts |
| box 7, folder 4 | "Opening Stage of the Triune State," undated |
| box 7, folder 5 | "Poseta Pukovnika Williama Donovana," undated |
| box 7, folder 6 | "Russia's Great Revolution," undated |
| box 7, folder 7 | "Trieste in International Politics," undated |
| box 7, folder 8 | "Turkey: The Period of Mustapha Kemal Pasha," undated
Subject File 1941-1956, undated.
Scope and Contents note
Notes and other material, primarily related to Yugoslavian leadership in exile during World War II, arranged alphabetically by subject |
| box 7, folder 9 | Coup of March 27, 1941 1941-1956 and undated |
| box 7, folder 10 | Grol, Milan 1945 and undated |
| box 7, folder 11 | Knežević, Živan 1944-1955 |
| box 7, folder 12 | Nedić, Milan 1941 undated |
| box 7, folder 13 | Simović, Miloš 1941-1942 |
| box 7, folder 14 | Unattributed report from Yugoslav mission in Washington, to Slobodan Jovanović, London Sep-42
Printed Material 1942-1957, undated.
Scope and Contents note
Arranged alphabetically by title |
| box 7, folder 15 | <i>Prince Paul of Yugoslavia</i> (printed in Great Britain, unattributed) circa 1942.
Scope and Contents note
Includes tipped-in letter to Ristić from Dušan Simović, 1957 |
| box 7, folder 16 | <i>Samoubistvo Jugoslavije</i>, by Danilo Gregorić. Belgrade: Izdavačko i Prometno A.D. Jugoistok 1942
Scope and Contents note
Copy owned and annotated by Du*san Simović |
| box 7, folder 17 | <i>Yugoslavia at War</i> (Yugoslav Documents, No. 2, Collection of official statements). London: Yugoslav Information Department 1942 |
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Painting undated.

art Racks

Painting undated.

Scope and Contents note

Portrait in oil of General Dušan Simović, by Veljko Stanojevic, undated