Register of the Dragiša Nikola Ristić Papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Dragiša Nikola Ristić Papers
Dates: 1941-1980
Collection number: 92077
Creator: Ristić, Dragiša Nikola, 1909-

Collection Size: 7 manuscript boxes, 1 painting5.2 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace
Stanford, California 94305-6010

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.

Physical location: Hoover Institution Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English Serbian Croatian

Access
Collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Dragiša N. Ristić Papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in increments between 1972 and 2004.

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.

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.
Roosevelt's representative in Europe

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

1941 March
Took part in the coup led by General Dušan Simović to overthrow the government of Prince Paul and Cvetković.

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

1941 April
Transferred to the Yugoslavian 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

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

1942 March
Transferred to the Yugoslavian 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

1942 March
Transferred to Yugoslavian forces based in Cairo, and while there, enrolled in the American University

1945 May 6
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

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 on 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 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 Stanoevic, 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.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

World War, 1939-1945—Yugoslavia.
World War, 1939-1945—Diplomatic history.
Yugoslavia—History—Axis occupation, 1941-1945.
Yugoslavs—United States.
Lenin, Vladimir Il’ich, 1870-1924.
Krupskaya, Nadezhda Konstantinovna, 1869-1939.
Simović, Dušan T., 1882-1962.

**Biographical File 1941-1965, undated**

**Scope and Content 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 | Academic records, 1950-1955 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Address book, circa 1950s |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Application for fellowship, 1956 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | 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 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Scope and Content Note |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | 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).**

**Scope and Content 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 | Đinić, Miloj, 1955 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Djurović, Tosa, 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Dragosavlević, S., 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Džaković, M., 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Gavrilović, Milan, 1956-1957 |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Graham, Malbone, 1959 |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Jevtić, Bogoljub, 1955 |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | Jovanović, Slobodan |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Correspondence, 1956-1957 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Interview notes, 1955-1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Krek, Miho 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Maček, Vladko |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Maksimović, Boža, 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Miletić, B. S., 1959 |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | Milovanović, 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 | Pavić, 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 | Radosinović, 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 |
| Box 3, Folder 13 | Sumenković, Ilija |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | Correspondence, 1956-1957 |
| Box 3, Folder 15 | Interview notes, 1956 |
| Box 3, Folder 16 | Veselinović, Božidar and Srbslava (brother-in-law and sister) |
| Box 3, Folder 17 | 1981-1989 |
| Box 3, Folder 18 | 1990-1996 |
| Box 3, Folder 19 | Visacki, Ljubos, 1956 |
| Box 3, Folder 20 | Vukčević, Petar, 1958 |
| Box 3, Folder 21 | Vuković, Ivona, 1974-1977 |
| Box 3, Folder 22 | Yugoslavian air force, Cairo, 1941-1942 |
| Box 3, Folder 23 | Živanović, Zagorka (sister), 1966-1986 |


**Scope and Content 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

**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 Content Note
  Typescript

Box 3, Folder 25  Marxism, undated
  Scope and Content Note
  Typescript

Box 3, Folder 26  Preface to book about Yugoslavia, undated
  Scope and Content Note
  Typescript

Box 3, Folder 27  Work on Yugoslavion foreign relations, undated
  Scope and Content 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 Content 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
Box 4, Folder 7  "Imperial Russia and Serbia," undated.
  Scope and Content 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
  "Nadezhda Krupskaya and Lenin," undated
  Pages 1-163
  Pages 165-329
  Pages 330-500
  Pages 501-726
  Pages 727-938
  Pages 939-1061, plus Chapter XXIV
  Pages 1062-1271
  Pages 1272-1464
  Additional notes and fragments of draft
  Scope and Content Note
  Manuscript drafts

Box 7, Folder 4  "Opening Stage of the Triune State," undated
Box 7, Folder 5  "Poseta Pukovnika Williama Donovanu," 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 Content 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 and 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 Content Note**

Arranged alphabetically by title

| Box 7, Folder 15 | Prince Paul of Yugoslavia (printed in Great Britain, unattributed), circa 1942. |
| Box 7, Folder 16 | Samoubistvo Jugoslavije, by Danilo Gregorić. Belgrade: Izdavačko i Prometno A.D. Jugoistok, 1942 |
| Box 7, Folder 17 | Yugoslavia at War (Yugoslav Documents, No. 2, Collection of official statements). London: Yugoslav Information Department, 1942 |

**Art, Racks Art**

**Painting, undated.**

**Scope and Content Note**

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