
Inventory of the George Herbert Ryden papers

Finding aid prepared by Sally DeBauche

Hoover Institution Archives

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Title: George Herbert Ryden papers

Date (inclusive): 1915-1941

Collection Number: 2010C51

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 2 manuscript boxes(0.8 linear feet)

Abstract: Correspondence, reports, personal documents, photographs, and memorabilia, relating to relief activities in the Crimea during the Russian Civil War. Includes correspondence with Grand Duchess Ol'ga Aleksandrovna.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Creator: Ryden, George Herbert, 1884-1941

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], George Herbert Ryden papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2010.

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.

Biographical Note

George H. Ryden (1884-1941) was an American National Red Cross worker in Russia from 1918 to 1920. A native of Kansas City, he interrupted his academic career to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in Italy during World War I, was with the Red Cross in the southern Russian city of Novorossisk in 1920, seeking to aid refugees during the civil war that followed the Russian Revolution. While there, he played a key role in helping the family of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the sister of the recently murdered Czar Nicholas II, escape to Turkey and subsequently to Europe. Ryden, a historian, later became the state archivist of Delaware.

Scope and Content of Collection

Correspondence, reports, personal documents, photographs, and memorabilia, relating to Red Cross relief activities in the Crimea during the Russian Civil War. Includes correspondence with Grand Duchess Ol'ga Aleksandrovna.

The twenty-three letters and postcards from the Grand Duchess were written from Denmark between 1923 and 1929. Several of these postcards contain reproductions of her paintings, which Ryden helped sell in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s.

In addition to the correspondence with Olga Alexandrovna, Ryden's papers contain a variety of documents pertaining to Red Cross operations in the Crimea and southern Russia, including correspondence, reports of visits to orphanages and hospitals, and financial records. Ryden and his colleagues received a number of honors from White Russian Army commanders, and his papers contain documents concerning honors and medals that he and his colleagues were awarded, including Ryden's honorary membership in the Kuban Cossacks, and medals that were bestowed on him by Generals Denikin and Wrangel. Following his service with the Red Cross, Ryden visited Denmark in 1921 to meet once again with Olga Alexandrovna, as well as with her mother, the empress dowager Mariia Feodorovna, who expressed her gratitude to Ryden with an inscribed photograph that read "In gratitude for what you did for my daughter," and signed simply "Marie." Ryden's academic career and interest in history are also represented in correspondence with the academic institutions that he attended, student transcripts, and certificates of membership from various state historical societies.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

American National Red Cross.

Ol'ga Aleksandrovna, Grand Duchess of Russia, 1882-1960.
International relief.
Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921--Civilian relief.

Academic Career File 1915-1924

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 Biographical File 1918-1957, undated

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Box/Folder 1 : 3 **American Expeditionary Forces identification card 1919**
Box/Folder 1 : 4 **Delaware Historical Markers Commission membership certificate 1923, 1931**
Box/Folder 1 : 5 **Pennsylvania Historical Society membership certificate 1924**
Box/Folder 1 : 7 **Passports 1924, 1933**
Box/Folder 1 : 8 **Newspaper clippings 1938-1957**
Box/Folder 1 : 46 **Kansas City Southern Railway Co. letter of recommendation 1918**
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 YMCA Italy File 1918

Box/Folder 1 : 6 **Letters of introduction 1918**
 Ol'ga Alexandrovna Materials 1923-2008

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 Correspondence 1919-1941

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Decorations Awarded to Staff by Russian Military 1920

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"An Account of the Evacuation of Crimea," Leon K. Wiese 1920

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"An Account of the Evacuation of Crimea," G. H. Ryden 1921

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Letters of Introduction undated

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Memorandum 1920

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"An Account of General Denikine's Speech at Ekaterinodar" 1920

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"General Holman's Proclamation to all the Athamen of Territories, Districts, and Villages and to all Cossacks of the Kuban and Don" 1920

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Reports on meetings with Russian officials 1920

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Reports on visits to hospitals and orphanages 1920

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Letter in recognition of Ryden's service 1920

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Swedish history materials 1938, 1941

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Letter of introduction 1919

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Portraits of Ryden undated

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Portraits of General Baron Wrangel and Maria Feodorovna undated

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Appointments Committee for Russian Scientific and Literary Men report 1921

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"Significance of Crimea," speech notes 1921

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"Panorama of Sebastopol," report 1920

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Business cards, ephemera undated

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Medals undated