

# Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

2009

Revised 2010 April

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009086>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79034082>

Prepared by T. Michael Womack

Revised by Margaret McAleer with the assistance of Lena H. Wiley and Brian McGuire

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov Papers

**Span Dates:** 1918-1974

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1925-1965)

**ID No.:** MSS34082

**Creator:** Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977

**Extent:** 7,000 items ; 22 containers plus 1 oversize ; 8.4 linear feet ; 13 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English and Russian, with French and German

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Poet, novelist, literary critic, lecturer, and translator. Correspondence and notes with holograph and typescript drafts, galley proofs, page proofs, and printed versions of biographies, book reviews, essays, interviews, memoirs, novellas, novels, plays, poems, short stories, and translations of works by others.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Aldanov, Mark Aleksandrovich, 1886-1957--Correspondence.

Aĭkhenval'd, Iŭ. I. (Iŭliĭ Isaevich), 1872-1928--Correspondence.

Banks, Nathan, 1868- --Correspondence.

Baty, Gaston--Correspondence.

Berberova, Nina Nikolaevna--Correspondence.

Berdiāev, Nikolaĭ, 1874-1948--Correspondence.

Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich, 1870-1953--Correspondence.

Jannelli, Altagracia de--Correspondence.

Khodasevich, V. F. (Vladislav Felitĭanovich), 1886-1939--Correspondence.

Lukash, Ivan, 1892-1940--Correspondence.

Maklakov, V. A. (Vasiliĭ Alekseevich), 1870-1957--Correspondence.

Michener, Charles Duncan, 1918- --Correspondence.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977, tr. Eugene Onegin, a novel in verse. 1964.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977, tr. Song of Igor's campaign; an epic of the twelfth century. 1960.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Bend sinister. 1947.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Conclusive evidence, a memoir. 1951.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Defense. 1930.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Despair. 1936.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Event. 1938.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Gift. 1952.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Glory. 1932.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Invitation to a beheading. 1938.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Lolita. 1955.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Lolita: a screenplay. 1961.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Mary. 1926.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Pale fire. 1962.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Pole. 1924.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Real life of Sebastian Knight. 1941.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Tragediia gospodina Morna

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. Waltz invention. 1938.

Pertzoff, Peter Alexander--Correspondence.

Priel, Jarl--Correspondence.

Rapchĭnskĭi, Borĭs, 1887- --Correspondence.

Rudnev, V. V.--Correspondence.  
Schakovskoy, Zinaïda, princesse, 1906-2001--Correspondence.  
Struve, Gleb--Correspondence.  
Zenzinov, V. (Vladimir), 1880-1953--Correspondence.

### **Subjects**

Literature.  
Motion picture plays.  
Poetry.

### **Titles**

*Novoe russkoe slovo.*  
*Petropolis.*  
*Poslednie novosti.*  
*Russki zapiski.*  
*Sovremennye zapiski.*

### **Occupations**

Authors.  
Critics.  
Lecturers.  
Translators.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov, poet, novelist, literary critic, lecturer, and translator, were donated to the Library of Congress by Nabokov from 1958 through 1965. Additions were acquired by purchase in 1971 and 1991 and by gifts from Peter Pertzoff in 1964 and Jay Wilson in 1991.

### **Processing History**

The papers of Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov were arranged and described in 1969. They were reorganized in 2000 when additional material was integrated into the collection, with further processing and description completed in 2003. The collection was prepared for microfilming in 2007, and the finding aid was revised in 2009.

### **Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov in these papers has been dedicated to the public.

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### **Microfilm**

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on thirteen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1899, Apr. 22	Born, St. Petersburg, Russia
1919-1922	Resided in England following the Russian Revolution
1922	B.A. in French and Russian literature, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England Vladimir Dmitrievich Nabokov (father) assassinated
1922-1937	Maintained residence primarily in Berlin, Germany
1925	Married Véra Evseyevna Slonim
1926	Published <i>Mashen'ka (Mary)</i> . Berlin: Slovo
1928	Published <i>Korol', dama, valet (King, Queen, Knave)</i> . Berlin: Slovo
1930	Published <i>Zashchita Luzhina (The Defense)</i> . Berlin: Slovo
1932	Published <i>Otchaianie (Despair)</i> . Berlin: Petropolis
1933	Published <i>Podvig (Glory)</i> . Paris: Sovremennyya zapiski
1934	Dimitri Vladimirovich Nabokov (son) born
1937-1940	Maintained residence primarily in Paris, France
1937	Published <i>Dar (The Gift)</i> serially in <i>Sovremennyye zapiski</i> , Paris, France
1938	Published <i>Sobytie (The Event)</i> serially in <i>Russkie zapiski</i> , Paris, France Published <i>Izobretenie Val'sa (The Waltz Invention)</i> serially in <i>Russkie zapiski</i> , Paris, France Published <i>Priglasenie na kazn' (Invitation to a Beheading)</i> . Paris: Dom Knigi
1940	Emigrated to United States with wife, who was of Jewish ancestry, and son to escape Nazi persecution
1941-1948	Lecturer in elementary Russian and Russian literature in translation, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.
1941	Published <i>The Real Life of Sebastian Knight</i> . Norfolk, Conn.: New Directions
1944	Published <i>Nikolai Gogol</i> . Norfolk, Conn.: New Directions
1945	Granted United States citizenship
1947	Published <i>Bend Sinister</i> . New York: H. Holt
1948-1958	Professor of Russian and European literature, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
1951	Published <i>Conclusive Evidence: A Memoir</i> . New York: Harper

1952	Published <i>Dar (The Gift)</i> . New York: Chekhova
1955	Published <i>Lolita</i> . Paris: Olympia Press
1957	Published <i>Pnin</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday
1958-1977	Maintained residence primarily in Montreux, Switzerland
1960	Published <i>The Song of Igor's Campaign</i> . New York: Vintage Books
1962	Published <i>Pale Fire</i> . New York: Putnam
1964	Published <i>Eugene Onegin</i> . New York: Pantheon Books
1970	Published <i>Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited</i> . New York: Capricorn Books
1974	Published <i>Lolita: A Screenplay</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1977, July 2	Died, Montreux, Switzerland

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov (1899-1977) span the years from 1918 to 1974, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period between 1925 and 1965. Focusing on Nabokov's work as a poet, novelist, literary critic, lecturer, and translator, the collection consists of the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Writings](#), [Miscellany](#), an [Addition](#), and [Oversize](#) containing holograph and typescript drafts, galley proofs, page proofs, and printed versions of biographies in addition to book reviews, essays, interviews, memoirs, novellas, novels, plays, poems, short stories, translations of works by others, and related material. The bulk of the collection is written in Russian and English. In most instances, titles of Nabokov's works are based on English translations of Russian citations appearing in Michael Juliar's *Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography*. There are also small amounts of material in French and German. Additional Nabokov papers are in the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature at the New York Public Library.

The [Correspondence](#) series is arranged as letters received and sent. Although small in quantity, it contains letters from prominent figures in Russian literature and culture including I. I. Aikhenval'd, Mark Aleksandrovich Aldanov, Nina Nikolaevna Berberova, Nikolai Berdiaev, Ivan Alekseevich Bunin, Ivan Lukash, V. A. Maklakov, V. F. Khodasevich, Boris Rapchinskii, V. V. Rudnev, and V. Zenzinov. Various Russian-language emigré publishers and publications are also represented in the series, such as Petropolis, *Novoe russkoe slovo*, *Poslednie novosti*, *Russki zapiski*, and *Sovremennye zapiski*. Subjects include publication deadlines, copyright issues, and author's fees, as well as Nabokov's interest in butterflies. The letters of Gaston Baty and Jarl Priel discuss the performance possibilities of Nabokov's play *Catastrophe*, the French translation of *Sobytie*. Other correspondents include Peter Pertzoff, translator of works by Nabokov; Altagracia de Jannelli, Nabokov's literary agent in the United States; and lepidopterists Nathan Banks and Charles Duncan Michener.

The [Writings](#) series constitutes the largest portion of the collection. The bulk of the series consists of material relating to works of nonfiction, translations of works by others, and novels and reflects both the Russian and English language periods of the author. It was as a writer in English following his move to the United States in 1940 that Nabokov began to achieve serious recognition as a novelist. His writings were banned in the Soviet Union until the 1970s. Nabokov's first of several book-length autobiographies, *Conclusive Evidence: A Memoir*, is documented in files by that name. He regarded the process of translation as a serious literary endeavor, frequently quoting Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin's phrase: "Translators are the post horses of enlightenment." While in America, Nabokov began to translate many of his earlier writings into English and, at times, made extensive revisions to the original text. Such is the case with *Drugie berega*, the Russian-language edition of *Conclusive Evidence*. Files related to Nabokov's English translation of Pushkin's novel in verse, *Eugene Onegin*, include material in which Nabokov reflected upon the translation process. The file also includes

copious explanatory notes, extensive commentaries positioning the narrative within the context of European society during Pushkin's time, comments on the work's significance in Russian literature, remarks upon previous translations by others, and two lengthy appendices and an index. Additional material relating to *Eugene Onegin* is present in the Bollingen Foundation Records in the Manuscript Division. The series also contains files on Nabokov's translation of the anonymous Russian epic, *The Song of Igor's Campaign*.

Nabokov's considerable output of novels is documented in the [Writings](#) series. Titles representing his Russian period include *Dar* (*The Gift*), *Mashen'ka* (*Mary*), *Otchaianie* (*Despair*), *Podvig* (*Glory*), *Priglasenie na kazn'* (*Invitation to a Beheading*), and *Zashchita Luzhina* (*The Defense*). Those representing his American period include *Bend Sinister*, *Lolita*, *Pale Fire*, and *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*. The Writings series also contains material relating to a number of plays written in Russian by Nabokov during his early years. These include *Izobretenie Val'sa* (*The Waltz Invention*), *Polius* (*The Pole*), *Sobytie* (*The Event*), and an unpublished work, "Tragediia Gospodina Morna" ("The Tragedy of Mr. Morn"). A sizeable amount of material documents the author's film adaptation of his novel *Lolita* entitled *Lolita: A Screenplay*.

Holograph and typescript drafts of numerous poems written by Nabokov throughout his career are in both Russian and English. Representative titles include "Bezumets" ("The Madman"), "Chto za noch' s pamiat'iu sluchilos'?" ("What Happened Overnight to Memory?"), "K Rossii" ("To Russia"), "Probuzhdenie" ("The Awakening"), "Rasstrel" ("The Execution"), "Smert'" ("Death"), "Snoviden'e" ("A Vision in a Dream"), and "Vesna" ("Spring"). The poetry section also contains examples of Nabokov's translations of poems written by others, including two in French, "Le bateau ivre" by Arthur Rimbaud and the anonymous "La bonne Lorraine" translated as "P'iany korabl'" and "La bonne Lorraine," respectively. One in Russian, "Obez'iana" by V. F. Khodasevich, was translated into English as "The Monkey." Short stories and novellas represented in the series include "The Double Monster," "Govoriat po russki" ("They Speak Russian"), "Mademoiselle O," "Ozero, obkalo, bashnia" (Cloud, Castle, Lake), "Pil'gram" ("The Aurelian"), "Podlets" ("An Affair of Honor"), and "Tiazhelyi dym" ("Torpid Smoke").

Miscellaneous items in the [Writings](#) series include short works such as book reviews, classroom teaching material, and essays. Many of the poems and short stories in the collection are signed "V. Sirin," a pseudonym frequently used by Nabokov in Berlin and Paris during the 1920s and 1930s.

Scattered throughout the collection are notes and drafts written on 4" x 6" cards. Files documenting the writings *Pale Fire*, *Lolita: A Screenplay*, and "The Vane Sisters" consist entirely of these cards.

The [Miscellany](#) series includes a transcript of a radio interview with Nabokov. An addition to the collection contains letters from Nabokov to Princess Zinaida Schakovskoy and Gleb Struve. [Oversize](#) material consists of Nabokov's diploma from the University of Cambridge and passports and related material removed from the Miscellany series.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1923-1952](#)
- [Writings, 1918-1964](#)
- [Miscellany, 1919-1942](#)
- [Addition, 1923-1974](#)
- [Oversize, 1919-1922](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

*Series*

BOX 1  
REEL 1

**Correspondence, 1923-1952**

Letters received and sent.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, organization, or subject and chronologically therein.

BOX 1-21  
REEL 1-13

**Writings, 1918-1964**

Drafts, proofs, and printed versions of biographies, book reviews, essays, memoirs, novellas, novels, plays, poems, short stories, and translations of works by others as well as correspondence and notes.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of writing, title, and type of material.

BOX 21  
REEL 13

**Miscellany, 1919-1942**

A diploma, drawing, interview, and passports and related material.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of organization or type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 22  
REEL 13

**Addition, 1923-1974**

Letters received and sent.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.

BOX OV 1  
REEL 13

**Oversize, 1919-1922**

A diploma, passports, and related material.  
Arranged and described according to the series and container from which the material was removed.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 23,205

## *Container*

## *Contents*

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BOX 1  
REEL 1

### **Correspondence, 1923-1952**

Letters received and sent.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, organization, or subject and chronologically therein.

BOX 1  
REEL 1

Letters received

A. M. Heath & Co., 1935-1936  
Aikhenval'd, IU. I., 1926, undated  
Aldanov, Mark Aleksandrovich, 1934-1938  
Banks, Nathan, 1942  
Baty, Gaston, 1938  
Berberova, Nina Nikolaevna, 1931-1939  
Berdiaev, Nikolai, 1939  
Bertensson, Sergei, 1938  
Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich, 1938-1939  
Chambers, D. L., 1939  
Crémieux, Benjamin, 1939  
Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., 1942  
Donich, Rostislav, 1939  
du Dy, Mélot, 1937  
East and West Association, 1942  
Fondaminskii, Il'ia, and Ant. Fridmann [?], 1933  
Gessen, G., 1938  
Gessen, I. V., 1938  
Goudy, Alexander Porter, 1939  
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1942-1951  
Hirschberg, Bernhard, 1925  
Holger Schildts Förlagsaktiebolag, 1936  
Iablokova [?], Tat'iana, 1938-1939  
Institute of International Education, New York, N.Y., 1942  
Jannelli, Altagracia de, 1935-1942  
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 1943, 1952  
Kaun, Alexander, 1936  
Khodasevich, V. F., 1937-1938  
Kovarskii, I., 1935-1936  
Laval, Karin de, 1937  
Library of Congress, 1937  
Lukash, Ivan, 1925-1926  
Malozemova, E., 1938

## Correspondence, 1923-1952

### Container

### Contents

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Mann, Klaus, 1941  
Marinell, Elizabeth, 1940-1942  
Michener, Charles Duncan, 1942  
*New Yorker*, circa 1940s  
Osorgin, Mikhail, 1933  
Petropolis, publishers, 1934-1938  
Pravdin, V., 1937  
Priel, Jarl, 1938  
Prismanova, Anna, undated  
Rachmaninoff, Sergei, 1938  
Rapchinskii, Boris, 1936  
Rosov, Samuil, 1936  
Rostovtzeff, Michael Ivanovich, 1939  
Rudnev, V. V. *See same container and reel, Letters received, Sovremennye zapiski*  
*Russkie zapiski*, 1938-1939  
Shakovskoi, Ioann, circa 1925, 1933  
Slonim, Marc, 1935  
Smeding, H. J., 1939  
Sorokin, P. A., 1939  
*Sovremennye zapiski*, 1937  
Tolstoy, Alexandra, 1938  
Ullstein GmbH, 1935  
University of Leeds, Leeds, England, 1939  
Unkovskii, V., 1938  
Wereldbibliotheek-Vereening, 1939  
Zelenskii, Filip, 1923  
Zenzinov, V., 1935-1938  
Unidentified, 1939-1942, undated

Letters sent

Fondaminskii, Il'ia *See same container and reel, Letters sent, Sovremennye zapiski*  
Klement, Otto, 1935  
Kortner, Fritz, 1937  
*Life*, 1943  
Maklakov, V. A., 1938  
Nikolajević, N., 1933  
*Novoe russkoe slovo*, 1941  
Pavlovski, M., 1937  
Pertzoff, Peter, 1933-1944, undated  
*Poslednie novosti*, 1937  
Rudnev, V. V. *See same container and reel, Letters sent, Sovremennye zapiski*  
Rydelius, Ellen Victoria, 1937  
*Sovremennye zapiski*, 1937  
Tatarinov, Raisa  
*Vremea*, publishers, 1939  
Zenzinov, V. *See same container and reel, Letters sent, Sovremennye zapiski*

## Writings, 1918-1964

### Container

### Contents

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#### REEL 1-13

Drafts, proofs, and printed versions of biographies, book reviews, essays, memoirs, novellas, novels, plays, poems, short stories, and translations of works by others as well as correspondence and notes.

Arranged alphabetically by type of writing, title, and type of material.

#### BOX 1

Fiction

#### REEL 1

Novels

##### *Bend Sinister*

Book review by A. Nazaroff, broadcast on "Voice of America" radio, transcript in Russian, 1947

Draft in English, undated

(2 folders)

(2 folders)

#### BOX 2

#### REEL 2

##### *Dar ( The Gift)*

Drafts in Russian, undated

Chapters 1 and 4

(3 folders)

Fragments

Unpublished chapter drafts

(2 folders)

Printed version in *Sovremennye zapiski* in Russian, 1937-1938

(2 folders)

*Kamera obskura ( Camera Obscura, 1936, and Laughter in the Dark, 1938), draft fragment in Russian, 1931*

*Korol', dama, valet ( King, Queen, Knave), draft fragment in Russian, undated*

*Lolita*, notes in English on 4"x 6" cards, 1950-1955 [\*See also Containers 10-12, Reels 8-9,\*](#)

[\*Lolita: A Screenplay\*](#)

(6 folders)

#### BOX 3

#### REEL 3

*Mashen'ka ( Mary), draft in Russian, circa 1925*

(2 folders)

*Otchaianie ( Despair), draft in Russian, 1932*

*Pale Fire*, draft in English on 4"x 6" cards, 1957-1961, undated

(17 folders)

(24 folders)

#### BOX 4

#### REEL 4

#### BOX 5

(23 folders)

#### BOX 6

(5 folders)

#### REEL 5

*Pnin*, notes in English, undated

*Podvig ( Glory), draft in Russian, 1930*

(2 folders)

*Priglasenie na kazn' ( Invitation to a Beheading)*

English edition, 1959

Draft

(5 folders)

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BOX 7	(1 folder)
REEL 6	Galley proofs (3 folders)
	Setting copy (5 folders)
	French edition, preface, page proofs, undated
	Russian edition, draft, undated (2 folders)
	<i>The Real Life of Sebastian Knight</i> English edition, draft, circa 1941
	French edition, corrections to translation, undated
	<i>Zashchita Luzhina ( The Defense)</i> English edition, draft, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	(2 folders)
REEL 7	Russian edition, draft fragments, undated
	Short stories and novellas
	“The Assistant Producer,” 1943 Draft in English Notes in English on 4" x 6" cards
	“Britva” (“The Razor”), drafts in Russian, undated (2 folders)
	“The Double Monster,” draft in English, 1950
	“Double Talk,” draft in English, undated
	“Govoriat po russki” (“They Speak Russian”), drafts in Russian, undated (2 folders)
	“Korolek” (“The Leonardo”), printed version in <i>Poslednie novosti</i> in Russian, 1933
	“Lik” Draft in Russian, 1938 Printed version in <i>Russkie zapiski</i> in Russian, 1938
	“Mademoiselle O,” drafts in English, undated (2 folders)
	<i>Nabokov's Dozen See Container 10, Reel 8, same heading</i>
	“Nabor” (“Recruitment”) Draft in Russian, undated Printed version in <i>Poslednie novosti</i> in Russian, 1935
	“Natasha,” draft in Russian, 1927
	“Obida” (“A Bad Day”), draft in Russian, 1931
	“Ograda” [“Muzyka”] (“Music”), draft in Russian, undated
	“Ozero, oblako, bashnia” (“Cloud, Castle, Lake”) Draft in Russian, 1937 Printed version in <i>Sovremennye zapiski</i> in Russian, 1937
	Translations English

- By Nabokov, "Song" from "Cloud, Castle, Lake," new version, draft in Nabokov's hand, undated
- By Peter Pertzoff, drafts, undated
- Revised by Nabokov
- With notes in Véra Nabokov's hand
- French ("Mirage"), draft, undated
- "Passazhir" ("The Passenger"), draft in Russian, 1927
- "Pil'gram" ("The Aurelian")
- Drafts in Russian (working title "Palomnik"), 1930
- (2 folders)
- Printed version in Russian with Nabokov's notes in English for English translation, undated
- "Pis'mo v Rossiuu" ("A Letter That Never Reached Russia"), draft in Russian, undated
- [Po utram, esli solntse priglashalo menia...], draft fragment in Russian, undated
- "Podlets" ("An Affair of Honor"), draft in Russian, 1927
- "Poseshchenie muzeia" ("The Visit to the Museum"), printed version in *Sovremennye zapiski* in Russian, 1939
- "Rozhdestvenskii rasskas" ("A Christmas Story"), draft in Russian, undated
- "Sluchay iz zhizni" ("A Slice of Life"), draft in Russian, undated
- "That in Aleppo Once..." draft in English, undated
- "Tiazhelyi dym" ("Torpid Smoke"), printed version in *Poslednie novosti* in Russian, 1935
- "The Vane Sisters," draft in English on 4" x 6" cards, undated
- (4 folders)
- BOX 9**
- "Vesna v Fial'te" ("Spring in Fialta")
- Draft in Russian, 1936
- English translation by Peter Pertzoff, draft revised by Nabokov in English, undated
- "Zaniatoy chelovek" ("A Busy Man"), drafts in Russian, undated
- (2 folders)
- Nonfiction
- Biography
- Nikolai Gogol*, corrections to translation, French edition, undated
- Memoir
- Conclusive Evidence: A Memoir*
- English edition
- Foreword (not used), drafts, undated
- (2 folders)
- Chapter 1
- Draft, undated
- Galley proof corrections on 4" x 6" cards, undated
- Notes, undated
- Chapter 2, draft, 1949
- Chapters 3, 8, 10-12, drafts, undated
- (7 folders)
- Chapter 15
- Drafts, undated
- (4 folders)
- Galley proof corrections, undated

BOX 10  
REEL 8

- Chapter 16 (not used), disguised as anonymous review of *Conclusive Evidence*, draft, undated
- General notes, undated
  - (3 folders)
- Unidentified draft fragments, undated
- Russian edition, *Drugie berega*, based upon translation of *Conclusive Evidence* into Russian by Nabokov
  - Foreword, draft, undated
  - Chapters 1-3, 7, drafts, undated
    - (4 folders)
  - Chapters 10, 12, 14, drafts, undated
    - (3 folders)
- Miscellaneous short writings
  - Book reviews by Nabokov
    - Belloc, Hilaire, unidentified, draft in English, undated
    - Bryant, Arthur, *Pagent of England (1840-1940)*, draft in English, undated
    - Cournos, John, *A Treasury of Classic Russian Literature*, and Bernard Guilbert Guerny, *An Anthology of Russian Literature*, draft in English, circa 1962
    - Lifar, Serge, *Serge Diaghilev*, draft in English, circa 1940
    - Masefield, John, *Basilissa*, draft in English, undated
    - Maximoff, G. P., *The Guillotine at Work*, drafts in English, undated
      - (2 folders)
    - Rothenstein, John, *Life and Death of Conder*, draft in English, undated
    - Rustaveli, Shota, *The Knight in the Tiger's Skin*, draft in English, undated
    - Thaler, Alwin, *Shakespeare and Democracy*, and Alfred Harbage, *Shakespeare's Audience*, draft in English, undated
    - Williams, Frayne, *Mr. Shakespeare of the Globe*, draft in English, undated
    - Wright, J. F. C., *Slava Bohu, The Story of the Dukhobors*, draft in English, undated
  - Classroom teaching material
    - Creative writing course
      - Lecture notes on short stories, draft in English, undated
      - Lecture notes on style, draft in English, undated
    - Exam questions, draft in English, undated
  - Essays
    - "Opredeleniia" ("Definitions"), draft in Russian, 1940
    - "Vozzvanie o pomoshchi" ("Call for Help"), draft in Russian, undated
    - "Le vrai et le vraisemblable" ("Truth and Apparent Truth"), draft in French, 1937
  - Interview with Nabokov *See Container 21, Reel 13, same heading*
  - Letter to the editor ("Pis'mo v redaktsiiu"), printed version in *Novoe russkoe slovo* in Russian, undated
  - Musical performance program note, "'The Return of Pushkin,' Elegy in Three Parts, for High Voice and Orchestra by Nicholai Nabokov," with Vladimir Nabokov's translation of Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin's "Vnov' ia posetil...," galley proofs in English, 1964
  - Nabokov's Dozen*, bibliographic note in English, undated
  - Notebook, "Stikhi i skhemy" ("Poems and Schemes"), poems, notes, and schematizations regarding chess, in Russian, 1918

	Poetry reading, "Recital in New York (with Poems) in the Early Fifties," introductory remarks, drafts in Russian, circa 1950s <i>See also Container 12, Reel 9, "K kn. S. M. Kachurinu" ("To Prince S. M. Kachurin")</i>
	(2 folders)
	Plays and film script
	<i>Izobretenie Val'sa (The Waltz Invention)</i> , draft in Russian, undated
	<i>Lolita: A Screenplay</i> <i>See also Container 2, Reel 2, Lolita</i>
	Draft in English on 4" x 6" cards, undated
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	Draft fragments in English on 4" x 6" cards, undated
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	Act 1
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	Act 3
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	Unidentified draft
	(5 folders)
	<i>Polius (The Pole)</i> , German translation ( <i>Der Pol</i> ), draft, 1923
	<i>Sobytie (The Event)</i> , French translation ( <i>Catastrophe</i> ), draft, undated
	"Tragediia Gospodina Morna" ("The Tragedy of Mr. Morn")
	Drafts in Russian, undated
	(3 folders)
	Narrative description in Russian, undated
	Plot synopsis in Russian, undated
	Poems
	"The Ballad of Longwood Glen," draft in English, 1953-1957
	"Berlinskaia vesna" ("Berlin Spring"), poem in two parts: for part one <i>see Container 13, Reel 9, "Perina"</i> ; for part two <i>see Container 13, Reel 9, "Pochtovyi iashchik"</i>
	"Bezumets" ("The Madman"), draft in Russian, circa 1933
	"La Bonne Lorraine," draft in Russian, circa 1924
	"Chto za noch 's pamiat 'iu sluchilos '?" ("What Happened Overnight to Memory?"), draft in Russian, circa 1938
	"Dandelions," draft in English, undated
	"Dream," draft in English, circa 1946
	"Farewell Party," draft in English, 1941
	"Formula" ("The Formula"), draft in Russian, circa 1931
	"Gadan 'e" ("Fortune Telling"), draft in Russian, 1924
	"Iskusstvo i groza" ("Art and Disaster"), draft in Russian, undated
	"Iz Kalmbrodovoi poemy 'Nochnoe Puteshestvie,'" draft of supposed Russian translation by Nabokov of "The Night Journey" by Vivian Calmbrood (a fictional character created by Nabokov), circa 1931
	"K dushe" <i>See Container 13, Reel 9, "V raiu"</i>

- “K kn. S. M. Kachurinu” (“To Prince S. M. Kachurin”), draft of annotated English translation by Nabokov, circa 1950s *See also Container 10, Reel 8, Poetry reading entitled “Recital in New York (with Poems) in the Early Fifties”*
- “K rodine” (“To My Native Land”), draft in Russian, circa 1942
- “K Rossii” (“To Russia”), photocopies of drafts in Russian, circa 1928  
(2 folders)
- “Kakie bol ‘shiiia shliapy” (“What big hats”), photocopy of draft in Russian, circa 1929
- “Kakim by polotnom” (“No Matter How”), drafts in Russian, circa 1944  
(2 folders)
- “Lastochka” (“The Swallow”), from the novel *Dar*, drafts in Russian, 1936, undated  
(2 folders)
- “A Literary Dinner” (working title “Diner Littéraire”), draft in English, 1942
- “The Monkey”  
Biographical note on V. F. Khodasevich, photocopies of drafts in English, circa 1941  
(2 folders)  
Draft of translation into English by Nabokov of “Obez ‘iana” by V. F. Khodasevich, circa 1941
- “Mr. N. on Russian Poetry,” drafts in English, 1944  
(2 folders)
- “My s toboiu tak verili v sviaz ‘ bytiia” (“We so firmly believed in the linkage of life”), draft in Russian, circa 1928
- “Na zakate” (“At Sunset”), drafts in Russian, circa 1935, circa 1941  
(3 folders)
- BOX 13** “Nepravil ‘nye iamby” (“Irregular Iambics”), draft in Russian, in part photocopies, 1952, undated  
(2 folders)
- “Nerodivshemusia chitateliu” (“To an Unborn Reader”), draft in Russian, circa 1930
- “Oblaka” (“Clouds”), draft in Russian, undated
- “Obrashchenie” (“The Appeal”; working title “K otchizne”), drafts in Russian, 1939  
(2 folders)
- “Ode to a Model,” draft in English, 1955
- “Okno” (“The Window”), draft in Russian, circa 1930
- “Osa” (“The Wasp”) (working title “Muka”), draft in Russian, 1928
- “Ostrova” (“The Islands”), draft in Russian, circa 1928
- “Ot schastiia vliublennomu ne spitsia” (“For Happiness the Lover Cannot Sleep”), drafts in Russian, 1928  
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- “Perina” (“Feather Bed”), also known as part one of “Berlinskaia vesna” (“Berlin Spring”), draft in Russian, undated
- “Pervaia liubov ” (“First Love”), draft in Russian, circa 1930
- “P ‘iany i korabl ” (“The Drunken Ship”), draft of translation into Russian by Nabokov of “Le bateau ivre” by Arthur Rimbaud, circa 1928  
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- “Pochtovyi iashchik” (“The Mailbox”), also known as part two of “Berlinskaia vesna” (“Berlin Spring”), draft in Russian, 1925
- “The Poem,” draft in English, circa 1944
- “Poety” (“The Poets”), draft in Russian, undated

- “Predstavlenie” (“The Presentation”), drafts in Russian, 1930, undated  
(2 folders)
- “Probuzhdenie” (“The Awakening”), draft in Russian, circa 1931
- “Prokhozhi s elkoi” (“A Passer-by with a Christmas Tree”), draft in Russian, 1925
- “Provans” (“Provence”), poem in two parts, part one (first line “Sloniaius ‘ pereulkami bez tseli”), draft in Russian, 1923
- “Pustiak – nazvan ‘e machty, plan – i sledom” (“A trifle, the name of a mast, a plan”), draft in Russian, 1926
- “Rain,” draft in English, 1955
- “Rasstrel” (“The Execution”), draft in Russian, circa 1927
- “The Room,” draft in English, circa 1950
- “Rusalka – Zakliuchitel ‘naia stseny k pushkinskoi ‘Rusalki” (“The Water Nymph – A Concluding Scene to Pushkin's ‘Rusalka”), draft in Russian, circa 1942  
(2 folders)
- “Sam treugol ‘nyi dvukrylyi, beznogii” (“He was triangular, two-winged, and legless”), draft in Russian, 1932
- “Shakhmatnyi kon ” (“The Chess Knight”), drafts in Russian, 1927, 1930  
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- “Siren ” (“Lilac”), draft in Russian, 1928
- “Smert ” (“Death”), draft in Russian, 1924
- “Sneg” (“Snow”), drafts in Russian, circa 1930  
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- “Snimok” (“The Snapshot”), draft in Russian, 1927
- “Snoviden ‘e” (“A Vision in a Dream”), drafts in Russian, 1927  
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- “Son” (“The Dream”), photocopy of draft in Russian, 1939
- “Speaking of Bugs,” draft in English, undated
- “Stansy” (“Stanzas”), draft in Russian, 1924
- “Stansy o kone” (“Stanzas on a Horse”) (working title “Stansy o loshadi”), draft in Russian, circa 1929
- “Tol ‘ko pomniu kholodnost ‘ vashu” (“I Only Remember Your Coldness”), draft in Russian, undated
- “V raiu” (“In Paradise”), draft in Russian, 1928
- “Vesna” (“Spring”), draft in Russian, 1925
- “Voluptates Tactionum,” draft in English, circa 1951
- “Vozdushnyi ostrov” (“Aerial Island”), draft in Russian, circa 1929
- “A War Poem,” draft in English, 1942
- Translations
- Eugene Onegin*, translation of novel in verse by Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin
- Correspondence with publisher
- Correspondence, 1959-1963, undated  
(2 folders)
- Enclosures separated from original documents
- Corrections, undated
- Draft material, 1959-1963, undated [\*See also Container 18, Reel 12, Vol. III, commentaries\*](#)  
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- Miscellaneous, undated

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	Russian transliterations, undated
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	Table of contents, list of illustrations, and translator's mottoes
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REEL 12	
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	Draft E, vol. I, translation, undated
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## Writings, 1918-1964

### Container

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	<b>Miscellany, 1919-1942</b>
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	Arranged alphabetically by name of organization or type of material and chronologically therein.
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	Drawing by Nabokov, undated
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	Interview with Nabokov by Nathalie Shahovskoy, broadcast on "Voice of America" radio, discussing Nabokov's writing style, transcript in Russian, 1958
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## **Addition, 1923-1974**

### ***Container***

### ***Contents***

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Letters received and sent.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.

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**BOX OV 1**

**Oversize, 1919-1922**

**REEL 13**

A diploma, passports, and related material.  
Arranged and described according to the series and container from which the material was removed.

**BOX OV 1**

Miscellany

**REEL 13**

Passports and related material, 1919-1921 (Container 21, Reel 13)  
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