

Amherst Center for Russian Culture
Vladimir Zenzinov Papers

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Quantity: .2 linear ft.

Containers: 1 archival boxes

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Vladimir Mikhailovich Zenzinov

Biography

Vladimir Mikhailovich Zenzinov was born in Moscow, the son of a merchant, in November 1880. Upon finishing the Moscow classical gymnasium in 1899, Zenzinov went to Germany for his higher education and for four-and-a-half years spent time at the universities in Berlin, Halle and Heidelberg, where he studied philosophy, economics, history, and law. His attraction to the ideas of emancipation of the sixties and seventies, which had been evident already in his high-school years, strengthened after his acquaintance with the circles of revolutionary émigrés in Switzerland and led to his joining the Socialist-Revolutionary party.

In January 1904 Zenzinov returned to Moscow. On the eve of January 9, 1905 ("Bloody Sunday"), during a wave of arrests, Zenzinov was arrested and after a six-month detainment in Taganaskaya prison he was sentenced to administrative exile in Eastern Siberia for five years. However, the Siberian exile – in view of the absence of any means of transport to the region due to the Russo-Japanese War – was replaced by exile to Northern Russia (Arkhangelsk province), from which Zenzinov escaped on the day he arrived. He succeeded in making his way abroad, and in August 1905 he was already in Geneva, where he learned of the manifesto of October 17. Zenzinov then went to St. Petersburg, and in 1906 he joined the Terrorist Militant Organization of the S.R. party. But Zenzinov did not remain long in this organization and in the spring of 1906, in his role as representative of the Central Committee of the S.R. party, he set off to do peasant labor in the Kiev and Chernigov districts. This work was interrupted with the dispersal of the First State Duma (July 9 1906). Zenzinov hurried to Petersburg where he was arrested in September of the same year and again sentenced to administrative exile for five years in Eastern Siberia. In the summer of 1907, with a group of other prisoners, Zenzinov went to Yakutsk, from where – in the guise of a gold-mine owner – he escaped through the taiga to Okhotsk (a distance of almost 1000 miles); from Okhotsk he escaped to Japan on a Japanese fishing schooner; and from Japan, on a ship sailing through Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, and the Suez Canal, he made his way back to Europe.

In 1910 Zenzinov was again arrested in Petersburg and after a six-month incarceration in the Peter and Paul fortress was yet again sent for five years to the Yakutsk region – this time to a place from where no escape was possible: 1800 miles north of Yakutsk. The time spent in this region was devoted to ethnographic and ornithological studies, the result of which was the appearance of several books which provided new information of this far-off, poorly known and interesting area: *Starinnye liudi u kholodnogo okeana* (Moscow, 1914); *Ocherk i trgovli na severe Yakutskoi oblasti* (Moscow, 1916); *Russkoe Ust'e* (Berlin 1921); *The Road to Oblivion* (New York, 1931); *Chemin de l'Oubli* (Paris 1932).

In 1915 Zenzinov returned to Moscow from exile; from January 1917 through January 1918 he lived in Petersburg, where he witnessed, and participated in, the stormy events of those times. He was elected a member of the Constituent Assembly.

In the summer of 1918 Zenzinov moved from Moscow to the Volga region, where at the time anti-Bolshevik forces were gathering and accumulating; he joined the Committee of members of the Constituent Assembly in Samara, which was conducting armed resistance to the Bolsheviks; in September 1918 in Ufa he was elected to the Provisional all-Russian Government (together with N.D. Avksentiev, general V. G. Boldyrev and others – the so-called "Directorate"). In November 1918, after the military coup in Omsk, he was exiled from Siberia by Kolchak, together with his colleagues in the government, to China by. In January 1919 he arrived in Paris (via the United States). From 1919 through 1939 he resided in Paris, Prague, Berlin, and again in Paris, where he took part in a variety of democratic and socialist newspapers and journals ("Volya Rossiya"; "Golos Rossii"; "Dni"; "Novaya Rossiya"; "Sovremennye Zapiski"). In 1929 "Sovremennye Zapiski" issued Zenzinov's book *Bezprizornye*, which was translated into four foreign languages.

In 1939, at the start of the Second World War, Zenzinov left Paris for Finland, where he collected material about the state of the Soviet Union, the result of which was a book published in New York in 1945 under the title *Vstrecha s Rossiyei*).

From 1940 until his death on October 20 1953 Zenzinov lived in New York, where he published shortly before his death his memoirs, *Perezhitoe*. Other books include *Iz zhizni revoliutsionera* (Paris, 1919); *Nena* (Berlin, 1925); and *Zheleznyi skrezhet. Iz amerikanskikh vpechatlenii* (Paris, 1926).

Series Description

The collection is organized into 3 series:

Box/series 1 (1 linear foot)

Subseries 1–**Correspondence from V. Zenzinov to A. Fondamins kaya** (1904-1934). Amalia Osipovna Fondaminskaya was the wife of I. Fondaminsky (for which, see below).

Subseries 2–**Correspondence from A. Fondaminskaya to V. Zenzinov** (1919-1934).

Subseries 3– **Correspondence from V. Zenzinov to I. Fondaminsky** (1915-1935).

Ilya Isidorovich Fondaminsky (pseudonym Bunakov), political figure and publisher, was born in Moscow in 1881 and died at Auschwitz on November 19, 1942. From 1900 he studied philosophy at Berlin and Heidelberg Universities and in the spring of 1902 was arrested at the Russian border for trans porting illegal literature into Russia. In 1905 he became a member of the Moscow Committee of the S.R. (Socialist-Revolutionary Party). In 1906 he fled to Paris, where he became good friends with Z. Gippius, D. Merezhkovsky, and B. Savinkov. He returned to Moscow in April 1917 and as a Comissar of the Provisional Government opposed the Bolsheviks. In 1919 he emigrated to France, and in Paris published a variety of religious and philosophical journals. Although he converted to Christianity in 1941, he was deported to Germany and died in a concentration camp in 1942.

Box/series 2 (1 linear foot)

Subseries 1 – **Correspondence from Grandmother and Grandfather to Amalya Osipovna Fondaminskaya** (1904-1934).

Subseries 2 – **Correspondence from V. Zenzinov to Aunt M** (1906-1911). The addressee is referred only as "Tyotyа M".

Subseries 3 – **Correspondence with Unknown Addressees.**

Letters here include those "to Tanya from Grandfather" 1923-1924; to V. Zenzinov (1919), possibly from his father; and to V. Zenzinov from unknown addressees from 1925.

Subseries 4 – **Essays, articles by Zenzinov.**

Subseries 5 – **Reports, bulletins and other materials from the Interntional Association of Journalists in France (IAJ) and related organizations between 1928 and 1931.**

Subseries 6 – **Photographs, negatives and newsclippings .**

Subseries 7 – **2 typescripts of Zenzinov's memoirs .**

Box/series 3 (0.5 linear feet)

Typescript of Zenzinov's monograph on Russian writer and Nobel Prize laureate Ivan Bunin (1870-1953), newspaper clippings, and 5 folders of correspondence between Zenzinov and Fondaminskaya between 1929 and 1933 removed from the Solntsev collection.

V. Zenzinov Papers

Series 1, Subseries 1 **Personal Correspondence of V. Zenzinov**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1904; 1906	Fondaminskaya, A.
1	2	1907	"
1	3	1907	"
1	4	1907	"
1	5	1908	" plus map
1	6	1909	" plus clipping, leaflet
1	7	1910	"
1	8	1911	"
1	9	1912	"
1	10	1913	"
1	11	1914	"
1	12	1915	"
1	13	1916	"
1	14	1916	"
1	15	1919	"
1	16	1920	"
1	17	1921	"
1	18	1922	"
1	19	1923	"
1	20	1924	"
1	21	1924	"

1	22	1925	"
1	23	1925	"
1	24	1925	"
1	25	1925	
1	26	1926	" includes 1 letter from A. Fondaminskaya to Zenzinov
1	27	1926	"
1	28	1926	"
1	29	1926	"
1	30	1927	"
1	31	1927	"
1	32	1928	"
1	33	1928	"
1	34	1934	"
1	35	1934	"

V. Zenzinov Papers
 Series 1, Subseries 2 **Personal Correspondence from A.
 Fondaminskaya**

<u>Box</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Folder</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	36	1919	V. Zenzinov
1	37	1921	"
1	38	1922	"
1	39	1923	"
1	40	1924	"
1	41	1925	"
1	42	1925	"
1	43	1926	"
1	44	1927	"
1	45	1928	"
1	46	1934	
1	47	1915, 1922, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1934	"
1	48	1928, 1934, 1935	"

V. Zenzinov Papers

Series 1, Subseries 3 **Personal Correspondence of I. Fondaminsky**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	47	1915, 1922, 1924 1927, 1928, 1934	V. Zenzinov
1	48	1928, 1934, 1935	"

V. Zenzinov Papers
Series 2, Subseries 1 **Correspondence from Grandmother and
Grandfather to A. Fondaminskaya**

<u>Box</u> No.	<u>Folder</u> No.	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1907	Grandmother & Grandfather
2	2	1908	" includes 1 letter from M. Zenzinov
2	3	1909	"
2	4	1910	"
2	5	1911	"
2	6	1912	"
2	7	1913	"
2	8	1914	"

V. Zenzinov Papers
Series 2, Subseries 2 **Correspondence from V. Zenzinov to
Aunt M.**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	9	1906	Zenzinov to Aunt M
2	10	1907	"
2	11	1907	"
2	12	1910	"
2	13	1911	"

V. Zenzinov Papers

Series 2, Subseries 3 **Correspondence with Unknown Addressees**

<u>Box</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Folder</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	14	1919	Letters to V. Zenzinov from his grandfather?
		1923- 1924	Letters to Tanya from grandfather
		1925	Letters to V. Zenzinov from different addressees

V. Zenzinov Papers

Series 2, Subseries 4 **Articles & Essays by V. Zenzinov, et Al**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	15	1927	Short story "Moi dnevnik"
2	16	1840	Study in Dauria by Mikhail Andreevich Zenzinov
2	17	?	Essay about Gippius and Merezhkovsky
2	18	1926	Article in "The World": "Four Million Homeless, Hungry Children Overrun Russia"

V. Zenzinov Papers

Series 2, Subseries 5 **Reports, Bulletins, Etc. from IAJ**

<u>Box</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Folder</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	19	1929	Reports, financial materials IAJ
2	20	1929	Reports IAJ
2	21	Oct/1931	Reports IAJ
2	22	Oct/1932	Report IAJ
2	23	1928	Notes, correspondence, agendas IAJ
2	24	1929	Notes, programs IAJ
2	25	?	Satutes/Charter? IAJ
2	26	May 1928, June 1928	Bulletins IAJ
2	27	Apr.1928 Sept.1929	Bulletins IAJ
2	28	July 1930 Apr. 1931	Bulletins IAJ
2	29	Feb. 1931 Dec. 1932	Bulletins IAJ
2	30	July 1932 Aug. 1932	Bulletins IAJ
2	31	Oct. and Nov. 1932	Bulletin IAJ
2	32	1928, 1930	Congress in Koln/Lists, etc. Congress in Berlin/Lists, etc.
2	33	1928	Deutsche Presse on IAJ
2	34	?	Russian Lawyers in France/ Financial Statements

2	35-39	?	Photographs
2	40	?	Negatives
2	41	1934	Inventory of Social- Revolutionary Party records
2	42	?	Testimony of V. Chernov, 2 February 1910
2	43	?	Testimony of V. Chernov Xerox of typescript
2	44	?	Clippings
2	45	?	6 Title pages with Lithographs

V. Zenzinov Papers

Series 2, Subseries 7 **Memoirs of V. Zenzinov**

2	46	?	V. Zenzinov – Vospominaniya (I)
2	47	?	" " (II)
2	48	?	" " (III)

V. Zenzinov Papers
Series 3 **Zenzinov's Ms on Bunin and Miscellaneous**
Materials Removed from K. Solntsev Archive

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	1	?	V. Zenzinov--Typescript of "Zhizn' i Tvorchestvo I.A. Bunina"
3	2	1929- 1931	Clippings from "Dni"
3	3	1929	Letters of V. Zenzinov to A.O. Fondaminskaya
3	4	1930	Letters of V. Zenzinov to A.O. Fondaminskaya
3	5	1931	Letters of V. Zenzinov to A.O. Fondaminskaya, plus one letter to Maria Osipovna from I. Il'in
3	6	1932	Letters of V. Zenzinov to A.O. Fondaminskaya
3	7	1933	Letters of V. Zenzinov to A.O. Fondaminskaya

