

Register of the Papers of Michael Ivanovitch Rostovzeff

Special Collections Library



Duke University
2003

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Papers of Michael Ivanovitch Rostovzeff, (1897-1968)
Creator: Rostovzeff, Michael I., 1870-1952.
Languages English, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Italian.
Represented:
Extent: Linear ft. of shelf space occupied: 4.5; Number of items: ca. 2,500
Repository: Duke University. Special Collections Library.
Abstract: The Michael I. Rostovzeff Papers span the years 1897 to 1968 with the bulk dated 1926 to 1954. The collection chiefly consists of the correspondence of Michael Rostovzeff and C. Bradford Welles, a colleague of Rostovzeff's at Yale University, with other scholars in the fields of ancient history, archaeology, and philology. Other materials include autobiographical writings by Rostovzeff, photographs, financial papers, and clippings. The papers primarily reflect Michael Rostovzeff's tenure as a faculty member of the Classics Department at Yale University.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Michael I. Rostovzeff papers (1897-1968) were donated to the Special Collections Library in 1992 by the American Society of Papyrologists.

Copyright

The copyright interests in the Michael I. Rostovzeff papers have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the Special Collections Library.

Biographical Note

Chronology

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| 1870, Nov. 10 | Born, Zhitomir (the Ukraine), Russia |
| 1888 | Graduated from the First Classical Gymnasium, Kiev, Russia |
| 1892 | B.A., University of St. Petersburg |
| 1899 | Master of Latin Literature, University of St. Petersburg |
| 1901 | Married Sophie M. Kulezycki |
| 1903 | Doctor of Latin Literature, University of St. Petersburg |
| 1905-1918 | Member, Constitutional Democratic Party |

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| 1916-1919 | Member, Russian Academy of Sciences |
| 1918 | Emigrated to Great Britain |
| 1918-1920 | Lecturer, Queen's College, |
| 1920-1925 | Professor of Ancient History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. |
| 1925-1939 | Sterling Professor of Ancient History, Yale University |
| 1926-1927 | Published <i>A History of the Ancient World</i> |
| 1926 | Published <i>The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire</i> |
| 1928-1937 | Director of the Yale University Expedition at Dura-Europos |
| 1938 | Published <i>Dura-Europos and Its Art</i> |
| 1939 | Appointed Director of Archaeological Studies, Yale University |
| 1941 | Published <i>The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World</i> |
| 1944 | Appointed as the Sterling Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, Emeritus |
| 1952, Oct. 20 | Died, New Haven, Conn. |

Professor Rostovzeff received honorary degrees from the University of Leipzig (1909), Oxford University (1919), University of Wisconsin (1924), Cambridge University (1934), Harvard University (1936), Athens University (1937), and the University of Chicago (1941). He was also a member of numerous national academies and learned societies, both in the United States and Europe. Included among these are Phi Beta Kappa, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philological Society, La Pontificia Accademia Romana di Archeologia, Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, and the Polish Academy of Science.

Scope and Content Note

The Michael I. Rostovzeff Papers span the years 1897 to 1968 with the bulk dated 1926 to 1954. The collection chiefly consists of the correspondence of Michael Rostovzeff and C. Bradford Welles, a colleague of Rostovzeff's at Yale University, with other scholars in the fields of ancient history, archaeology, and philology. Other materials include autobiographical writings by Rostovzeff, photographs, financial papers, and clippings. The papers primarily reflect Michael Rostovzeff's tenure as a faculty member of the Classics Department at Yale University.

The Papers of Michael I. Rostovzeff provide information on the scholarly study of the ancient world during the first half of the twentieth century. In the Correspondence Series, letters from scholars in England, America, and Europe focus on matters of historical interpretation, archaeological work at Dura-Europos, and philological analysis. Notable scholars include Rene Mouterde, W. W. Tarn, Franz Cumont, Athur D. Nock, Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz, Tadeusz Zielinski, Walter Otto, and Fritz Heichelheim.

The Biographical Materials Subseries contains Rostovzeff's narrative of the Provisional Government's fall during the Russian Revolution of 1917, his opposition to Bolshevism, and his eventual emigration from Russia. The Correspondence Series also documents Rostovzeff's assistance to European scholars seeking teaching and research positions in the United States during World War II. A number of letters between Rostovzeff and Alvin Johnson, Director of the New School for Social Research, concern efforts by Johnson to identify refugee scholars for faculty positions at the New School for Social Research.

Local Catalog Headings

Rostovzeff, Michael Ivanovitch, 1870-1952.

Welles, C. Bradford (Charles Bradford) 1901-

Yale University--Faculty.

Yale University--Dept. of Classics.

New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y.).

Johnson, Alvin Saunders, 1874-

Heichelheim, Fritz M. (Fritz Moritz).

Otto, Walter Gustav Albrecht, 1878-1941.

Arangio-Ruiz, Vincenzo, 1884-1964.

Mouterde, Rene, 1880-1961.

Nock, Arthur Darby, 1902-

Cumont, Franz Valery Marie, 1868-1947.

Bickerman, E. J. (Elias Joseph), 1897-

Tarn, W. W. (William Woodthorpe), 1869-1957.

Zielinski, Tadeusz, 1859-1944.

History, Ancient.

Excavations (Archaeology)--Dura-Europos (Ancient City).

Russia--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

Refugees, Political--20th Century.

Dura-Europos (Ancient City).

Description of Series/Container List

Correspondence Series

Correspondence, 1918-1968, n.d. (bulk 1926-1954).

Divided into three subseries: Individuals, Subjects, and Languages. Letters to and from an individual, or letters pertaining to a subject may be located within more than one subseries. Correspondence in English, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Italian is scattered throughout the subseries.

Individuals Subseries

Correspondence: Individuals, 1921-1968, n.d. (bulk 1926-1954).

Consists of letters to Rostovzeff or copies of letters sent by him. Included are letters which did not originate from, nor were addressed to Professor Rostovzeff, including a substantial number of letters either to or from C. Bradford Welles. Many of the letters pertain to Professor Rostovzeff's teaching positions at Oxford University, the University of Wisconsin, and Yale University; his study of ancient history; and his work as Director of the Yale Expedition at Dura-Europos.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, organization or society. Arranged chronologically under the correspondent when there is more than one letter to or from a correspondent. Following the A-Z arrangement are folders arranged alphabetically by surname.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|--|
| 1 | A: 1934, Oct.-1955, June |
| 1 | B-C: 1937, Apr.-1947, July |
| 1 | D-F: 1936, Dec.-1953, Jan., n.d. |
| 1 | G-J: 1932, Feb.-1953, May , n.d. |
| 1 | K: 1921, May-1954, Aug. |
| 1 | L: 1936, Mar.-1948, Jan. |
| 1 | M: 1925, Sept.-1954, Dec., n.d. |
| 1 | N-O: 1934, Jan.-1960, May |
| 1 | P: 1932, Jan.-1968, Mar. |
| 1 | R-Sc: 1920s, 1936, Sept.-1963, Dec., n.d. |
| 1 | Se: 1930, Feb.-1965, Sept. |
| 1 | Sh-Sn: 1933, Jan.-1964, May, n.d. |
| 1 | Soc: 1936, Sept.-1964, Jan. |
| 1 | Sok-Sz: 1933, May-1965, Feb., n.d. |
| 1 | T-Z: 1931, Mar.-1962, Oct. |
| 1 | Arangio-Ruiz, Vincenzo, 1938, Feb.-1953, May |

| Box | Contents |
|------------|---|
| 1 | Cumont, Franz, 1927, Feb.-1939, Oct. |
| 1 | Heichelheim, Fritz M., 1933, Jan.-1942, Sept. |
| 1 | Mouterde, Rene, 1934, Nov.-July, 1960, n.d. |
| 1 | Nock, Arthur and C. Bradford Welles, 1932, May-1963, Jan. (3 folders) |
| 1 | Otto, Walter, 1934, Nov.-1948, June, n.d. |
| 1 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., and Russian relatives, 1918-1941, n.d. |
| 1 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., letters not sent to the addressees, 1942, Sept.-1950, June, n.d. |
| 1 | Rostovzeff, Michael I. to C. Bradford Welles, 1930, May-1946, Oct., n.d. (2 folders) |
| 1 | Rostovzeff, Sophie, Sympathy letters to, 1952, Oct.-1953, Jan., n.d. (2 folders) |
| 1 | Rostovzeff, Sophie to C. Bradford Welles, 1944, Oct.-1954, June |
| 1 | Schubart, Wilhelm, 1933, Jan.-1960, Aug., n.d. |
| 1 | Welles, C. Bradford and Mrs. F.S. Merrill, 1944, Sept.-1946, July |
| 1 | Welles, C. Bradford to Michael I. Rostovzeff, 1930, Nov.-1946, July |
| 1 | Welles, C. Bradford and Mariano San Nicolo, 1933, Aug.-1955, May |
| 1 | Welles, C. Bradford and W. W. Tarn, 1939, Feb.-1954, Dec., n.d. |
| 1 | Welles, C. Bradford and Toll, Nina, 1932, Nov.-1936, July 2 |
| 2 | Wilammitz to Michael I. Rostovzeff, 1926, May,-1930, July |
| 2 | Zielinski, Tadeusz, 1929, Apr.-1940, June |

Subjects Subseries

Correspondence: Subjects 1918-1966, n.d. (bulk 1926-1950).

Includes correspondence concerning Rostovzeff's contribution to *The Cambridge Ancient History*. Also contains other correspondence from publishers in England, as well as in Germany and France, concerning the publication of Rostovzeff's works. Correspondence from the British publishers comment on the effects of World War II upon publishing and everyday life.

The focus of a substantial number of letters is Professor Rostovzeff's efforts to aid refugee European scholars in obtaining faculty positions in the United States during World War II.

Arranged alphabetically.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|---|
| 2 | <i>The Cambridge Ancient History</i> , 1926, June-1933, Mar., n.d. (2 folders) |
| 2 | The Clarendon Press, 1926, June-1942, Sept. n.d. (2 folders) |
| 2 | Harvard University: Offer of an appointment as a university professor, 1938 |

| Box | Contents |
|------------|---|
| 2 | Harvard University, The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 1940, Aug.-1950, Nov. |
| 2 | Princeton: Advisory Council to the Department of Classics, 1947, July-1966, Dec. |
| 2 | Publications: French correspondence, 1923, Dec.-1939, Aug. |
| 2 | Publications: German correspondence, 1928, Apr.-1939, July |
| 2 | Recommendations by Rostovzeff, Michael I., 1936, Nov.-1950, Jan. |
| | (Restricted) |
| 2 | Refugee scholars: Bickerman, Elias, 1939, Apr.-1942, Jan. |
| 2 | Refugee scholars: Curriculum vitae, 1938-1941; n.d |
| 2 | Refugee scholars: English, French, German, and Italian languages, 1937-1942, n.d. |
| 2 | Refugee scholars: Johnson, Alvin, 1940, Aug.-1941, Apr. |
| 2 | Refugee scholars: Slavic, French, and Italian languages, 1929-1943, n.d. |
| 2 | University appointments, 1918, Apr.-1944, June. |
| 2 | Yale Research Funds, 1938, Aug.-1943, May |

Languages Subseries

Correspondence: Languages, 1920-1951

Primarily letters received by Rostovzeff from scholars in Great Britain and Europe. Contains correspondence in English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. Included are letters concerning Rostovzeff's archaeological work at Dura-Europos and matters of historical interpretation and philological analysis. Included in the German correspondence are letters from scholars hoping to emigrate from Germany due to political changes after World War I or anti-semitism. A letter dated April 15, 1938 is written from a concentration camp in Germany and describes the conditions within the camp. In the Russian correspondence, the topics of the letters include humanitarian aid to people in Russia, censorship of mail, and archaeology.

Arranged alphabetically by language and chronologically within each language.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|---|
| 2 | English, 1921, Dec.-1951, Nov., n.d. (9 folders) |
| 2 | French, 1926, May-1944, Jan. (4 folders) |
| 2 | Italian, July, 1927-May, 1940, n.d. |
| 2 | Latin, March, 1926-1939, 1930s |
| 3 | Russian, 1920-1945, 1940s, n.d. (5 folders) |
| 3 | Spanish, 1940, Sept.-1946, Feb. |

Miscellaneous Series

Miscellaneous, 1897-1961, n.d.

Comprised of five subseries Biographical Materials, Pictures, Writings, Financial Papers, and General. Each subseries primarily documents Rostovzeff's professional affiliations.

Biographical Materials Subseries

Biographical Materials, 1918-1954 and n.d.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|--|
| 3 | Awards and honors, 1918-1951 (2 folders) |
| 3 | Autobiographical Writings, 1940; n.d. |
| 3 | Curriculum vitae and lists of publications, 1951 |
| 3 | Obituary notices, clippings, 1952-1963 |
| 3 | Obituary notices, 1952-1954, n.d. |

Pictures Subseries

Pictures, 1909-1941, n.d.

Primarily black and white photographs. Subjects include Michael and Sophie Rostovzeff, scenes in Russia, and archaeological sites, possibly Dura-Europos.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|---|
| 3 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., 1926-1933, n.d. |
| 3 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., and colleagues, 1931-1941, n.d. |
| 3 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., and Russia, 1909, n.d. |
| 3 | Rostovzeff, Michael I. and Sophie, n.d. |

Writings Subseries

Writings, 1926-1961

Includes offprints, typed drafts, and clippings of reviews for *The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire* and *The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World*, and a first edition of Samuel Eliot Morison's *The Scholar in America*.

Arranged chronologically.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|-----------------|
| 3 | 1926-1961 |

Financial Papers Subseries

Financial Papers, 1921-1932 and n.d.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|--|
| 3 | Papyri and antiquities, accounts and purchases, 1930-1932, n.d. |
| 3 | Publications, accounts and receipts relating to, 1921-1932, n.d. |

General Subseries

General, 1897-1952, n.d.

Includes notes for a lecture series and the preparation of a bibliography of Rostovzeff's works.

Arranged chronologically.

| Box | Contents |
|------------|-----------------|
| 3 | 1897-1952 |

Oversized Materials

Oversized Materials.

Correspondence Series

| Oversize | Contents |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| III:1 | Individuals Subseries, 1927-1962 |
| III:1 | Subjects Subseries, 1929-1950 |

Miscellaneous Series

| Oversize | Contents |
|-----------------|---|
| III:1 | Biographic Materials Subseries, 1918-1953, n.d. |
| III:1 | Writings Subseries, 1941-1942, n.d. |
| III:1 | Financial Papers Subseries, 1931 |
| III:1 | General Subseries, 1919, 1943, and n.d. |