



Guide to the Michael Ivanovitch Rostovtzeff Papers, 1897-1968

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

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Summary

Collection Title:

Michael Ivanovitch Rostovtzeff papers, 1897-1968

Creator:

Rostovtzeff, Michael Ivanovitch, 1870-1952

Extent:

4.5 Linear Feet

2,500 items

Language:

English, Latin, French, German, Spanish or Castilian, Russian, and Italian.

Collection ID:

RL.01112

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1kh2g>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Michael Ivanovitch Rostovtzeff Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

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

The Papers of Michael I. Rostovtzeff 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 Rostovtzeff'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 Rostovtzeff's assistance to European scholars seeking teaching and research positions in the United States during World War II. A number of letters between Rostovtzeff 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.

Biographical/Historical

Date	Description
1870, Nov. 10	Born, Zhytomyr (Zhitomir), the Russian Empire (modern-day Ukraine)
1888	Graduated from the First Classical Gymnasium, Kyiv (Kiev)
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
1916-1919	Member, Russian Academy of Sciences
1918	Emigrated to Great Britain

Date	Description
1918-1920	Lecturer, Queen's College, Oxford University
1920-1925	Professor of Ancient History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
1925-1939	Sterling Professor of Ancient History, Yale University
1926-1927	Published A History of the Ancient World
1926	Published The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire
1928-1937	Director of the Yale University Expedition at Dura-Europos
1938	Published Dura-Europos and Its Art
1939	Appointed Director of Archaeological Studies, Yale University
1941	Published The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World
1944	Appointed as the Sterling Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, Emeritus
1952, Oct. 20	Died, New Haven, Conn.

Professor Rostovtzeff 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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in the Michael I. Rostovtzeff papers have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Michael I. Rostovtzeff Papers (1897-1968) were donated to the Rubenstein Library in 1992 by the American Society of Papyrologists.

Processing Information

Processed by: Daniel Daily

Assisted by: Sallie Locke and Brent Johanson

Date Completed: Nov. 20, 1992

Encoded by: Daniel Pitti and Stephen Miller

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Names and Subjects

- Excavations (Archaeology) -- Dura-Europos (Ancient City)
- History, Ancient
- Dura-Europos (Ancient City)
- Refugees, Political -- 20th century
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Refugees
- Russia -- History -- Revolution, 1917-1921
- Welles, C. Bradford (Charles Bradford) 1901-
- Tarn, W. W. (William Woodthorpe), 1869-1957
- Rostovtzeff, Michael Ivanovitch, 1870-1952
- Otto, Walter Gustav Albrecht, 1878-1941
- Nock, Arthur Darby, 1902-
- New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y.)
- Mouterde, Rene, 1880-1961
- Zielinski, Tadeusz, 1859-1944
- Yale University -- Faculty
- Yale University -- Dept. of Classics
- Heichelheim, Fritz M. (Fritz Moritz)
- Johnson, Alvin Saunders, 1874-
- Bickerman, E. J. (Elias Joseph), 1897-
- Cumont, Franz Valery Marie, 1868-1947
- Arangio-Ruiz, Vincenzo, 1884-1964

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1918-1968, undated, (1926-1954)

Scope and Contents note

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, 1921-1968, undated

Scope and Contents note

Consists of letters to Rostovtzeff or copies of letters sent by him. Included are letters which did not originate from, nor were addressed to Professor

Rostovtzeff, including a substantial number of letters either to or from C. Bradford Welles. Many of the letters pertain to Professor Rostovtzeff'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.

A: 1934, Oct.-1955, June	Box 1
B-C: 1937, Apr.-1947, July	Box 1
D-F: 1936, Dec.-1953, Jan., undated	Box 1
G-J: 1932, Feb.-1953, May , undated	Box 1
K1921 May-1954 August	Box 1
L: 1936, Mar.-1948, Jan.	Box 1
M: 1925, Sept.-1954, Dec., undated	Box 1
N-O: 1934, Jan.-1960, May	Box 1
P: 1932, Jan.-1968, Mar.	Box 1
R-Sc: 1920s, 1936, Sept.-1963, Dec., undated	Box 1
Se: 1930, Feb.-1965, Sept.	Box 1
Sh-Sn: 1933, Jan.-1964, May, undated	Box 1
Soc: 1936, Sept.-1964, Jan.	Box 1
Sok-Sz: 1933, May-1965, Feb., undated	Box 1
T-Z: 1931, Mar.-1962, Oct.	Box 1
Arangio-Ruiz, Vincenzo, 1938, Feb.-1953, May	Box 1
Cumont, Franz, 1927, Feb.-1939, Oct.	Box 1
Heichelheim, Fritz M., 1933, Jan.-1942, Sept.	Box 1

Mouterde, Rene, 1934, Nov.-July, 1960, undated	Box 1
Nock, Arthur and C. Bradford Welles, 1932, May-1963, Jan. Physical Description: 3 folders	Box 1
Otto, Walter, 1934, Nov.-1948, June, undated	Box 1
Rostovtzeff, Michael I., and Russian relatives, 1918-1941, undated	Box 1
Rostovtzeff, Michael I., letters not sent to the addressees, 1942, Sept.-1950, June, undated	Box 1
Rostovtzeff, Michael I. to C. Bradford Welles, 1930, May-1946, Oct., undated Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 1
Rostovtzeff, Sophie, Sympathy letters to, 1952, Oct.-1953, Jan., undated Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 1
Rostovtzeff, Sophie to C. Bradford Welles, 1944, Oct.-1954, June	Box 1
Schubart, Wilhelm, 1933, Jan.-1960, Aug., undated	Box 1
Welles, C. Bradford and Mrs. F.S. Merrill, 1944, Sept.-1946, July	Box 1
Welles, C. Bradford to Michael I. Rostovtzeff, 1930, Nov.-1946, July	Box 1
Welles, C. Bradford and Mariano San Nicolo, 1933, Aug.-1955, May	Box 1
Welles, C. Bradford and W. W. Tarn, 1939, Feb.-1954, Dec., undated	Box 1
Welles, C. Bradford and Toll, Nina, 1932, Nov.-1936, July 2	Box 1
Wilammitz to Michael I. Rostovtzeff, 1926, May,-1930, July	Box 2

Zielinski, Tadeusz, 1929, Apr.-1940, June Box 2

Subjects, 1918-1966, undated

Scope and Contents note

Includes correspondence concerning Rostovtzeff'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 Rostovtzeff'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 Rostovtzeff's efforts to aid refugee European scholars in obtaining faculty positions in the United States during World War II.

Arranged alphabetically.

The Cambridge Ancient History, 1926,
June-1933, Mar., undated Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

The Clarendon Press, 1926, June-1942, Sept.
undated Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

Harvard University: Offer of an appointment
as a university professor, 1938 Box 2

Harvard University, The Dumbarton Oaks
Research Library and Collection, 1940,
Aug.-1950, Nov. Box 2

Princeton: Advisory Council to the Department
of Classics, 1947, July-1966, Dec. Box 2

Publications: French correspondence, 1923,
Dec.-1939, Aug. Box 2

Publications: German correspondence, 1928,
Apr.-1939, July Box 2

Recommendations by Rostovtzeff, Michael I.,
1936, Nov.-1950, Jan. (Restricted) Box 2

Refugee scholars: Bickerman, Elias, 1939, Apr.-1942, Jan.	Box 2
Refugee scholars: Curriculum vitae, 1938-1941; n.d	Box 2
Refugee scholars: English, French, German, and Italian languages, 1937-1942, undated	Box 2
Refugee scholars: Johnson, Alvin, 1940, Aug.-1941, Apr.	Box 2
Refugee scholars: Slavic, French, and Italian languages, 1929-1943, undated	Box 2
University appointments, 1918, Apr.-1944, June.	Box 2
Yale Research Funds, 1938, Aug.-1943, May	Box 2

Languages, 1920-1951

Scope and Contents note

Primarily letters received by Rostovtzeff from scholars in Great Britain and Europe. Contains correspondence in English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. Included are letters concerning Rostovtzeff'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.

English, 1921, Dec.-1951, Nov., undated	Box 2
Physical Description: 9 folders	
French, 1920, Nov.-1950, Feb., undated	Box 2
Physical Description: 4 folders	
German, 1926, May-1944, Jan.	Box 2
Physical Description: 3 folders	

Italian, July, 1927-May, 1940, undated	Box 2
Latin, March, 1926-1939, 1930s	Box 2
Russian, 1920-1945, 1940s, undated (online item available)	Box 3
<p>Physical Description: 5 folders</p> <p>Digital Object: Russian, 1920-1926</p> <p>Digital Object: Russian, 1927-1929, 1920s</p> <p>Digital Object: Russian, 1930-1939</p> <p>Digital Object: Russian, 1939-1945, 1940s</p> <p>Digital Object: Russian, undated</p>	
Spanish, 1940, Sept.-1946, Feb. (online item available)	Box 3
<p>Digital Object: Spanish, 1940, Sept.-1946, Feb.</p>	

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Miscellaneous, 1897-1961, undated

Scope and Contents note

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

Biographical Materials Subseries, 1918-1954 and undated

Awards and honors, 1918-1951	Box 3
<p>Physical Description: 2 folders</p>	
Autobiographical Writings, 1940; undated	Box 3
Curriculum vitae and lists of publications, 1951	Box 3
Obituary notices, clippings, 1952-1963	Box 3
Obituary notices, 1952-1954, undated	Box 3

Pictures Subseries, 1909-1941 and undated

Scope and Contents note

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

Rostovtzeff, Michael I., 1926-1933, undated Box 3

Rostovtzeff, Michael I., and colleagues,
1931-1941, undated Box 3

Rostovtzeff, Michael I., and Russia, 1909,
undated Box 3

Rostovtzeff, Michael I. and Sophie, undated Box 3

Writings Subseries, 1926-1961

Scope and Contents note

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.

1926-1961 Box 3

Financial Papers Subseries, 1921-1932 and undated

Papyri and antiquities, accounts and
purchases, 1930-1932, undated Box 3

Publications, accounts and receipts relating to,
1921-1932, undated Box 3

General Subseries, 1897-1952, undated

Scope and Contents note

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

Arranged chronologically.

1897-1952 Box 3

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Oversize materials, 1918-1962 (online item available)

[Oversize materials, 1918-1962](#)

Correspondence Series

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

Individuals Subseries, 1927-1962

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

Subjects Subseries, 1929-1950

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

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Miscellaneous Series

Biographic Materials Subseries, 1918-1953, undated

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

Writings Subseries, 1941-1942, undated

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

Financial Papers Subseries, 1931

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

General Subseries, 1919, 1943, and undated

Oversize-folder OC:III:1

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