

Venona Project Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083681>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008119>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Venona Project Records

Inclusive Dates: 1940-1996

Bulk Dates: 1941-1945

ID No.: MSS83681

Creator: United States. Army. Signal Intelligence Service

Extent: 21 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm96083681>

Summary: Records relating to the Venona Project undertaken by the United States Army Signal Intelligence Service to examine encrypted Soviet diplomatic communications during World War II.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Benson, Robert Louis. Guides to the Venona Project records. 1995-1996.

Organizations

United States. Army. Signal Intelligence Service.

United States. Army. Signal Intelligence Service.

United States. National Security Agency/Central Security Service. Venona Project records. 1941-1996.

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945--Cryptography.

World War, 1939-1945--Military intelligence--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Soviet Union.

Acquisition Information

The Venona Project records of the United States Army Signal Intelligence Service were transferred to the Library of Congress by the United States National Security Agency in 1996-1997.

Processing History

The records of the Venona Project were arranged and described in 1996 by Margit Kerwin. The collection was expanded and revised in 2007 and the finding aid revised in 2009 by Margit Kerwin.

Other Repositories

Venona Project records are also available through the National Security Agency Central Security Service Web site at <https://www.nsa.gov/Helpful-Links/NSA-FOIA/Declassification-Transparency-Initiatives/Historical-Releases/Venona/>.

Copyright Status

The contents of these volumes, which were produced by a federal agency, are not covered by copyright legislation and thus are in the public domain.

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Venona Project 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Venona Project Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the United States Army Signal Intelligence Service Venona Project span the years 1940-1996, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period between 1941 and 1945. The collection consists of records relating to the Venona Project undertaken by the service to examine encrypted Soviet diplomatic communications during World War II. It includes sixteen volumes of photocopies of translations of the communications and five guides to the releases written by Robert Louis Benson. The material was prepared by the United States National Security Agency.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically by date of publication therein.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Benson, Robert Louis
BOX 1	<i>Introductory History of VENONA and Guide to the Translations</i>
BOX 1	<i>VENONA Historical Monograph #2: The 1942-1943 New York-Moscow KGB Messages</i>
BOX 1	<i>VENONA Historical Monograph #3: The 1944-1945 New York and Washington-Moscow KGB Messages</i>
BOX 1	<i>VENONA Historical Monograph #4: The KGB in San Francisco and Mexico City and The GRU in New York and Washington</i>
BOX 1	<i>VENONA Historical Monograph #3: The KGB and GRU in Europe, South America, and Australia</i>
BOX 1	<i>First VENONA Release, July 11, 1995</i>
BOX 1	<i>Second VENONA Release, Oct. 12, 1995</i>
BOX 1	<i>Third VENONA Release, Mar. 1996</i> (3 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Fourth VENONA Release, July 1996</i> (4 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Fifth VENONA Release, Oct. 1996</i> (2 folders)
BOX 3	(5 folders)