

**Boris Brasol Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81013672>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011021>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011  
Revised 2024 January

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Boris Brasol Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1919-1954

**ID No.:** MSS13672

**Creator:** Brasol, Boris, 1885-1963

**Extent:** 22,000 items

**Extent:** 64 containers

**Extent:** 25.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and Russian

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81013672>

**Summary:** Russian author and critic, criminologist, and lawyer. Correspondence, speeches, drafts and typescripts, notes, memoranda, and other material relating to Russia and the Soviet Union and to Brasol's writings and work as a criminologist.

## 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

Bernstein, Herman, 1876-1935--Trials, litigation, etc.

Brasol, Boris, 1885-1963.

Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821-1881. Dnevnik pisateli a . English.

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947--Trials, litigation, etc.

Holland, Vyvyan Beresford, 1886-1967--Correspondence.

Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia, 1868-1918--Assassination.

Poe, Edgar Allan, 1809-1849.

Romanov, House of.

Von Koeppen, Vladimir.

Wade, Allan, 1881-1955--Correspondence.

Wheelock, John Hall, 1886-1978--Correspondence.

Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900--Correspondence.

Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900.

### Organizations

Columbia University. School of Law.

Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore (Md.)

### Subjects

Antisemitism--United States.

Criminal investigation--Europe.

Criminology.

Criticism.

Jews--United States.

Russian literature.

Soviet literature.

Zionism.

### Places

Russia.

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.

Soviet Union.

United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

## Titles

*Protocols of the wise men of Zion.*

## Occupations

Authors.

Criminologists.

Critics.

Lawyers.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Boris Brasol, Russian author and critic, criminologist, and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by Brasol between 1938 and 1959. An additional gift was made in 1955 by Charles Scribner's Sons.

## Processing History

The papers of Boris Brasol were arranged and described in 1953. The finding aid was revised in 2011 by B. K. Zobrist. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Boris Brasol in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Boris Brasol 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, Boris Brasol Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| Date          | Event  |
|---------------|--|
| 1885, Mar. 31 | Born, Poltava, Russia  |
| 1908          | B.L., Saint Petersburg Imperial University, Saint Petersburg, Russia   |
| 1910-1916     | Prosecuting attorney in the Russian Ministry of Justice  |
| 1912          | Studied forensic science, Lausanne University, Lausanne, Switzerland   |
| 1914-1916     | Served as second lieutenant, Imperial Russian Guard, on the Polish front   |
| 1916          | Russian representative in the United States, Interallied Conference  |
| 1917          | Stayed in the United States as an emigrant following the October Revolution in Russia                                      |
| 1918-1963     | Practised law, New York, N.Y., specializing in Russian law, while pursuing a career as a literary critic and criminologist |
| 1920          | Published <i>Socialism vs. Civilization</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons  |
| 1921          | Published <i>The World at the Cross Roads</i> . Boston: Small, Maynard and Co.   |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1922          | Published <i>The Balance Sheet of Sovietism</i> . New York: Duffield                                |
| 1927          | Published <i>Elements of Crime</i> . New York: Oxford University Press                              |
| 1934          | Published <i>The Mighty Three: Poushkin, Gogol, Dostoievsky</i> . New York: William Farquhar Payson |
| 1938          | Published <i>Oscar Wilde: the Man, the Artist, the Martyr</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons   |
| 1949          | Translated Fyodor Dostoyevsky's <i>The Diary of a Writer</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons    |
| 1963, Mar. 19 | Died, New York, N. Y.   |

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Boris Leo Brasol (1885-1963) span the years 1919-1954. The collection consists of correspondence, drafts and typescripts, notes, memoranda, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Russia and the Soviet Union, criminology, the Zionist movement, and Brasol's writings and various subjects of his literary criticism. The papers are in English and Russian and are organized into the following series: [Political Correspondence](#), [Personal Correspondence](#), [Anti-Soviet Campaign](#), [Scrapbook](#), [Post-Revolutionary Russia](#), [Legal File](#), [Vladimir von Koeppen File](#), [Speeches](#), [Literary File](#), [Newspaper Clippings](#), and [Addition](#).

Subjects of interest include investigations into the assassinations of the Romanovs and crime detection in European countries as compiled by the Criminological Survey of the Columbia University Law School. The [Literary File](#) contains material relating to Oscar Wilde including correspondence with Vyvyan Holland, John H. Wheelock, and Allan Wade concerning Wilde and typescript copies and extracts of Wilde's letters located in other repositories which Brasol used for his book *Oscar Wilde: the Man, the Artist, and the Martyr*. The series also includes the printer's typescript draft with handwritten corrections of Brasol's translation of *Diary of a Writer* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and material relating to Edgar Allan Poe including correspondence of the Edgar Allan Poe Society.

Brasol was purported to have aided in the translation of the American edition of the anti-Semitic tract *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and the papers contain correspondence and related reference material exploring various Jewish issues in the [Newspaper Clippings](#) series. Brasol also participated in arranging a series of commentaries on the protocols that were to be published in Henry Ford's paper the *Dearborn Independent*. The [Legal File](#) contains correspondence and other papers concerning the legal case brought against Ford by Henry Bernstein, who, in 1921, had written a book exposing the protocols as fraudulent and sued Ford to retract their publication.

The [Anti-Soviet Campaign](#) series highlights efforts of White Russian émigrés to deny the Soviet Union official international recognition as the legitimate government of Russia.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [Political Correspondence, 1922-1952](#)
- [Personal Correspondence, 1934-1952](#)
- [Anti-Soviet Campaign, 1919-1948](#)
- [Scrapbook, 1927](#)
- [Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922](#)
- [Legal File, circa 1925-1950](#)
- [Vladimir von Koeppen File, 1921-1927](#)
- [Speeches, circa 1922-1930](#)
- [Literary File, 1920-1954](#)
- [Newspaper Clippings, circa 1919-1921](#)
- [Addition, 1925-1941](#)

## Description of Series

| Container | Series  |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1-6   | <p><b><u>Political Correspondence, 1922-1952</u></b><br/>Correspondence, publicity material, book reviews, political criticism.<br/>Arranged chronologically.</p>   |
| BOX 7-11  | <p><b><u>Personal Correspondence, 1934-1952</u></b><br/>Correspondence and miscellaneous material.<br/>Arranged chronologically.</p>  |
| BOX 12-15 | <p><b><u>Anti-Soviet Campaign, 1919-1948</u></b><br/>Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning efforts to deny the Soviet Union official international recognition as the legitimate government of Russia.<br/>Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 16    | <p><b><u>Scrapbook, 1927</u></b><br/>Scrapbook of clippings concerning Brasol's <i>Elements of Crime</i> (1927).</p>  |
| BOX 17-22 | <p><b><u>Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922</u></b><br/>Notebooks containing correspondence and miscellaneous material.<br/>Organized numerically by notebook number.</p>   |
| BOX 23-25 | <p><b><u>Legal File, circa 1925-1950</u></b><br/>Correspondence, legal records, and miscellaneous material.<br/>Organized into two groups: Herman Bernstein v. Henry Ford and miscellaneous records</p>   |
| BOX 26-32 | <p><b><u>Vladimir von Koeppen File, 1921-1927</u></b><br/>Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning Vladimir von Koeppen.<br/>Arranged chronologically.</p>  |
| BOX 33-34 | <p><b><u>Speeches, circa 1922-1930</u></b><br/>Speeches.<br/>Arranged chronologically.</p>  |
| BOX 35-52 | <p><b><u>Literary File, 1920-1954</u></b><br/>Correspondence, drafts, notes, proofs, typescripts, and miscellaneous material relating to Brasol's books, translations, and literary criticism.<br/>Arranged by subject or topic.</p>                    |
| BOX 53    | <p><b><u>Newspaper Clippings, circa 1919-1921</u></b><br/>Newspaper clippings mostly regarding Jewish topics.<br/>Arranged chronologically.</p>   |
| BOX 54-64 | <p><b><u>Addition, 1925-1941</u></b><br/>Correspondence, articles, reports, and miscellaneous material.<br/>Arranged by subject, topic, or type of material.</p>  |

# Container List

| Container        | Contents   |
|------------------|--|
| <b>BOX 1-6</b>   | <b>Political Correspondence, 1922-1952</b><br>Correspondence, publicity material, book reviews, political criticism.<br>Arranged chronologically.  |
| <b>BOX 1</b>     | Chronological file   |
| <b>BOX 1</b>     | 1922-1937  |
| <b>BOX 2</b>     | 1933   |
| <b>BOX 3</b>     | 1941-1944  |
| <b>BOX 4</b>     | 1950-1952  |
| <b>BOX 5-6</b>   | Publicity, book reviews, and political criticism   |
| <b>BOX 7-11</b>  | <b>Personal Correspondence, 1934-1952</b><br>Correspondence and miscellaneous material.<br>Arranged chronologically.   |
| <b>BOX 7</b>     | Chronological file   |
| <b>BOX 7</b>     | 1934   |
| <b>BOX 8</b>     | 1934-1937  |
| <b>BOX 9</b>     | 1948-1951  |
| <b>BOX 10</b>    | 1949-1952  |
| <b>BOX 11</b>    | Miscellaneous correspondence   |
| <b>BOX 12-15</b> | <b>Anti-Soviet Campaign, 1919-1948</b><br>Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning efforts to deny the Soviet Union<br>official international recognition as the legitimate government of Russia.<br>Arranged chronologically. |
| <b>BOX 12</b>    | 1919, 1933   |
| <b>BOX 13</b>    | 1933-1935  |
| <b>BOX 14</b>    | 1935   |
| <b>BOX 15</b>    | 1935-1936, 1946-1948   |
| <b>BOX 16</b>    | <b>Scrapbook, 1927</b><br>Scrapbook of clippings concerning Brasol's <i>Elements of Crime</i> (1927).  |
| <b>BOX 16</b>    | Scrapbook, 1927  |
| <b>BOX 17-22</b> | <b>Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922</b><br>Notebooks containing correspondence and miscellaneous material.<br>Organized numerically by notebook number.  |
| <b>BOX 17</b>    | Nos. 7, 10, and 12   |
| <b>BOX 18</b>    | Nos. 13 and 15-16  |

## Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922

| Container | Contents  |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 19    | Nos. 17-19  |
| BOX 20    | Nos. 20-22  |
| BOX 21    | Nos. 23-25  |
| BOX 22    | No. 26 and unnumbered   |
| BOX 23-25 | <b>Legal File, circa 1925-1950</b><br>Correspondence, legal records, and miscellaneous material.<br>Organized into two groups: Herman Bernstein v. Henry Ford and miscellaneous records                                 |
| BOX 23-24 | Herman Bernstein v. Henry Ford, circa 1925-1927   |
| BOX 25    | Miscellaneous records, circa 1926-1950  |
| BOX 26-32 | <b>Vladimir von Koeppen File, 1921-1927</b><br>Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning Vladimir von Koeppen.<br>Arranged chronologically.  |
| BOX 26-32 | 1921-1927   |
| BOX 33-34 | <b>Speeches, circa 1922-1930</b><br>Speeches.<br>Arranged chronologically.  |
| BOX 33-34 | circa 1922-1930   |
| BOX 35-52 | <b>Literary File, 1920-1954</b><br>Correspondence, drafts, notes, proofs, typescripts, and miscellaneous material relating to<br>Brasol's books, translations, and literary criticism.<br>Arranged by subject or topic. |
| BOX 35    | Books   |
| BOX 35    | <i>Socialism and Civilization</i> , 1920  |
| BOX 36    | <i>The World at the Crossroads</i> , 1921   |
| BOX 37    | <i>The Mighty Three: Poushkin, Gogol, Dostoievsky</i> , 1934  |
| BOX 38    | <i>Oscar Wilde: The Man, the Artist, and the Martyr</i>   |
| BOX 38    | Photostats, 1938  |
| BOX 39    | Correspondence  |
| BOX 39    | To 1954   |
| BOX 40    | 1938  |
| BOX 41    | Translations and miscellaneous writings   |
| BOX 41    | Cartwright, Beatrice, correspondence and notes concerning memoirs, 1944   |
| BOX 41    | "The Nobel Dynasty," typescript, 1943   |
| BOX 42    | Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, <i>Diary of a Writer</i> ; translated by Brasol  |
| BOX 42    | Draft   |
| BOX 43    | Draft and page proof  |
| BOX 44    | Miscellaneous material  |
| BOX 45    | Varneke, B. V., <i>History of the Russian Theatre</i> , draft and typescript of Brasol's translation,<br>1951   |
| BOX 46-47 | "Walter Pater," correspondence, draft, and typescript 1946-1952   |

## Literary File, 1920-1954

| Container | Contents   |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 48    | "Avinoff: a Study in Genius," notes, 1952  |
| BOX 49    | "Criminal Institutes on the Continent of Europe," draft  |
| BOX 50    | Sikorsky, "Ideas inspired by the Lord's Prayer"  |
| BOX 50    | Miracle Letter Club  |
| BOX 51-52 | Poe, Edgar Allan, correspondence concerning, 1920-1928, 1939, undated  |
| BOX 53    | <b>Newspaper Clippings, circa 1919-1921</b><br>Newspaper clippings mostly regarding Jewish topics.<br>Arranged chronologically.                  |
| BOX 53    | circa 1919-1921  |
| BOX 54-64 | <b>Addition, 1925-1941</b><br>Correspondence, articles, reports, and miscellaneous material.<br>Arranged by subject, topic, or type of material. |
| BOX 54    | Correspondence   |
| BOX 54    | 1925-1927  |
| BOX 55    | 1927-1928  |
| BOX 56    | 1929-1931  |
| BOX 56    | <i>Social Science Abstracts</i> , correspondence, 1930-1931  |
| BOX 56    | "Police Science in U.S.A.," 1930-1931  |
| BOX 57    | Correspondence, 1930-1941  |
| BOX 57    | "Crime, Criminology and Criminological Institute," correspondence, 1938  |
| BOX 58    | "Methods of Criminal Investigation," English translation of Brasol's Russian text  |
| BOX 58    | National Crime Commission, 1927  |
| BOX 59    | Columbia University, New York, N.Y., correspondence, 1929-1930   |
| BOX 60    | "Columbia Reports," 1929-1930, undated   |
| BOX 61    | "International Criminalistic Academy, International Congress," Lausanne, Switzerland, 1938   |
| BOX 61    | "Police Scientifique Centers in Europe," 1926-1929   |
| BOX 62-63 | Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, <i>Diary of a Writer</i> , translation by Brasol  |
| BOX 63-64 | Criminology, correspondence, articles, and reports   |