

Smith/Skolnik Literary Management Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms021001>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Smith/Skolnik Literary Management Records

Inclusive Dates: 1901-2019

Bulk Dates: 1986-2008

ID no.: MSS86366

Creator: Smith/Skolnik Literary Management

Extent: 4,200 items

Extent: 12 containers

Extent: 4.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English with French and Russian

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2020086366>

Summary: Literary management agency representing the estate of Vladimir Nabokov. Contracts relating to publishing, performance, and translation of Nabokov's work, copyright records, promotional material, writings by Nabokov, and writings by others based on Nabokov's works.

Acquisition Information

The records of Smith/Skolnik Literary Management were given to the Library of Congress by Nikki Smith and Peter Skolnik of Smith/Skolnik Literary Management in 2020.

Processing History

The records of Smith/Skolnik Literary Management were arranged and described by Rachel Telford in 2021.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009086>).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the Smith/Skolnik Literary Management Records in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been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 records of Smith/Skolnik Literary Management are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Smith/Skolnik Literary Management Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Administrative History and Biographical Notes

Date	Event
1977, Jul. 2	Vladimir Nabokov died, Montreux, Switzerland
1986, Apr.	Nikki Smith and Peter Skolnik began representing the Vladimir Nabokov literary estate worldwide as literary agents at Sanford J. Greenburger Associates
1988	Smith/Skolnik Literary Management established
1991, Apr. 7	Vera Nabokova died, Vevey, Switzerland
1998	Dmitri Nabokov filed suit against publisher Farrar, Straus & Giroux to protect the Nabokov estate's copyright interest in <i>Lo's Diary</i> , by Pia Pera
2000	PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature first awarded
2008	Dmitri Nabokov develops draft typescript of <i>The Original of Laura</i>
2008, Jun.	Dmitri Nabokov replaced Smith/Skolnik Literary Management with Andrew Wylie of the Wylie Agency as his exclusive agent
2009	Publication of Vladimir Nabokov's <i>The Original of Laura</i> . New York: Knopf
2012, Feb. 23	Dmitri Nabokov died, Vevey, Switzerland

Scope and Content Note

The records of Smith/Skolnik Literary Management span the years 1901-2019, with the bulk of the material dating from 1986 to 2008. The collection documents the Smith/Skolnik Literary Management agency's role representing the literary estate of author Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977) on behalf of his two heirs: his widow, Vera Nabokova (1902-1991) and his son, Dmitri Nabokov (1934-2012). The papers are primarily in English, with some French and Russian.

The collection documents Smith/Skolnik's management of the worldwide distribution of Nabokov publications, the publication of previously unpublished or uncollected works, and the adaptation of select Nabokov titles for film and other performances. This material includes publishing contracts, documentation of translations and foreign editions, copyright records, and publicity and promotional files. Of particular note are typescripts and manuscript cards documenting the process of developing Nabokov's unfinished novel, *The Original of Laura*, and correspondence and legal documents relating to the publication of *Lo's Diary*, by Pia Pera.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

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

Nabokov, Dmitri.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977--Adaptations.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977--Translations.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977. *The original of Laura (Dying is fun)*. 2009.

Nabokova, Vera.

Pera, Pia, 1956-2016. *Lo's diary*. 1995.

Organizations

Smith/Skolnik Literary Management.

Subjects

Literary agents--United States.
Literature publishing.
Literature.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Agency, 1986-2008
BOX 1	Archives and library
BOX 1	Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, Inc., 1999-2003 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Library of Congress, 2003-2008
BOX 1	New York Public Library, 2000-2002
BOX 1	Tajan, 2004
BOX 2	Contracts
BOX 2	Abstracts, 1986 (7 folders)
BOX 2	History, 1986
BOX 3	Performance
BOX 3	Film
BOX 3	<i>Ada</i> , 1992-2001
BOX 3	<i>The Defense</i> , 1992-2003 (2 folders)
BOX 3	<i>Despair</i> , 1991
BOX 3	<i>The Gift</i> , 1964-1967
BOX 3	<i>King, Queen, Knave</i> , 2003
BOX 3	<i>Laughter in the Dark</i> , 1992-2001 (3 folders)
BOX 4	<i>Lolita</i> , 1990-1997 (2 folders)
BOX 4	<i>Mary</i> , 1993
BOX 4	<i>Pnin</i> , 1996-2007
BOX 4	Shorts, 1997-2000
BOX 4	Musical settings, 1994-2004
BOX 4	Opera, 1993-2007
BOX 4	Radio and audio recordings, 1987-2004
BOX 4	Television, 1965-1992
BOX 5	Theater, 1992-2003
BOX 5	Publishing
BOX 5	Russia
BOX 5	Ardis, 1987-1998
BOX 5	Azbooka, 2005-2008 (2 folders)
BOX 5	United Kingdom
BOX 5	Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1988-1992
BOX 5	George Weidenfeld & Nicholson, Ltd., 1988-2003 (2 folders)
BOX 6	George Weidenfeld & Nicholson, Ltd., 1988-2003
BOX 6	United States

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1989-2019
BOX 6	Ardis, 1988
BOX 6	Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1989-2008
BOX 6	Princeton University Press, 1990-1997
BOX 6	Serials, 1986-2005
BOX 6	University of California Press, 1992-1999
BOX 6	Viking Press, Inc., 1992-1993
BOX 6	Vintage International, 1988-1997
BOX 6	Copyright, 1988-2008
BOX 7	Copyright, 1988-2008 (5 folders)
BOX 7	Ledig-Rowohlt, Heinrich Maria, and Jane Ledig-Rowohlt, 1977-2013
BOX 7	Nabokov, Dmitri
BOX 7	Drake, Jonathan, 1990-1991
BOX 8	Writings, 1986-2000 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Nabokova, Vera, 1991-1999
BOX 8	PEN American Center, 1999-2007
BOX 8	Photographs, 1901-1979, undated
BOX 8	Publicity and promotion
BOX 8	Back files, 1986-1998
BOX 8	General, 1973-2006 (2 folders)
BOX 9	<i>Lolita</i> , 1998-2006 (3 folders)
BOX 9	<i>The Nabokov-Wilson Letters</i> , 1979-1982
BOX 10	<i>The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov</i> , 1995
BOX 10	Translations
BOX 10	Dutch, 1981
BOX 10	Finnish, 1982-1992
BOX 10	French, 1987-2005
BOX 10	Hebrew, 1980-1992
BOX 10	Italian, 1982-1990
BOX 10	Japanese, 1974-1990
BOX 10	Spanish, 2005
BOX 10	Vladimir Nabokov Literary Foundation, Inc., 1995-2001
BOX 10	Writings
BOX 10	By Nabokov
BOX 10	Agency correspondence, 1992-2008
BOX 10	"Dream Experiment," 1964-1999
BOX 10	<i>The Enchanter</i> , Russian typescript, 1939
BOX 10	<i>The Original of Laura</i>
BOX 10	Appraisal, 2008
BOX 10	Chronology, 2008
BOX 10	Correspondence, 2008
BOX 11	Press, 2004-2008
BOX 11	Introduction, 2008

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 11	Typescripts and manuscript cards
BOX 11	Konovalov, Alexei, 2008
	Nabokov, Dmitri, 2002 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Shvabrin, Stanislav, 2008 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Submission copies, 2008 (2 folders)
BOX 12	By others
BOX 12	"Ada," screenplay by Michael Alexander, 1995 (2 folders)
BOX 12	"Laughter in the Dark," screenplay by Gregory Mosher, 1996
BOX 12	"Laughter in the Dark," screenplay by Lazlo Papas, 1991
BOX 12	<i>Lo's Diary</i> , by Pia Pera, 1996-2006 (3 folders)
BOX 12	"Pnin," screenplay by Boris Blank, 2001