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**University of Memphis Libraries
Preservation and Special Collections Department**

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Memphis, TN 38152 - 3250
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George Zotov memoir

Title: George Zotov memoir
Collection No: MSS.483
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: circa 1957

Abstract: The collection comprises a copy of the memoir of George Zotov, a Frenchman who went to the Soviet Union with his Russian wife in September 1945, and tells their story until he returned to France alone a year later.

Donor: Tamara Miller, Memphis, Tennessee, April 1996.
Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, November 2015.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: George Zotov memoir, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.
Publication date: November 2015

Scope and contents

The collection comprises a photocopy of a memoir by George Zotov titled “I Returned to My Homeland: A Post-War Soviet Tragedy”, translated by Tamara Miller and Angela Mullikin. It appears to have been written circa 1957. The memoir tells the story of Zotov, a Russian-speaking Frenchman, who accompanies his Russian wife, whom he met in wartime Germany, when she returns to the Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War. Their daughter is born on the journey to the Soviet Union. During the year Zotov lived in the Soviet Union he discovers how difficult life is for ordinary Russians economically and the daily pressures they faced from an intrusive and paranoiac bureaucracy. As a foreigner, Zotov is under increasing suspicion and finally is ordered out of the country by the Soviet authorities. He is forced to leave his wife and daughter behind.

Provenance

The copy of the Zotov memoir was donated by Tamara Nivniea Miller, who was born in the Soviet Union in 1923, lived through the great famine of the 1930s in Ukraine, and was forced to work for the Germans during the Second World War. From there she emigrated to the United States and married Robert Miller in Memphis in 1947. She earned a doctorate and taught Russian at Memphis State University.

Subject terms

Soviet Union--History--1925-1953.
Zotov, George.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Memoir: Zotov, George, “I Returned to My Homeland: A Post-War Soviet Tragedy”, undated.