

NOTE

A BRIEF SURVEY OF ARCHIVAL SOURCES CONCERNING LOUIS ADAMIC *

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Shortly after Louis Adamic's death in 1951, the literary contents of the Adamics' home in Milford, New Jersey, were placed on deposit in The Princeton University Library through the generosity of The Louis Adamic Memorial Foundation. The library's holdings, now titled the "Papers of Louis Adamic and Supplementary Materials," represent the largest single collection of Adamic materials in the world. The collection contains nearly all the editions of Adamic's books and volumes to which he contributed chapters or introductory material; about 75 percent of his periodical publications are included as well. Holograph and typescript versions of many of his translations and articles are available for inspection, as are proofs and galleys of most of his books.

A substantial correspondence is also represented in the Princeton collection. There are letters to and from Adamic during the years 1921 to 1951 concerning his family, publications, and projects; famous and not-so-famous authors, critics, scholars, and publishers; organization, state, and federal officials; and friends, admirers, and enemies. Also among the letters are replies from American citizens responding to Adamic's questionnaire for immigrants and their children and grandchildren—the kind of material from which Adamic created the background and the feeling for specific immigrant pieces like those in his award-winning *From Many Lands* and those he published in *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Woman's Day*.

Also at Princeton are examples of the research items—clippings, monographs, and documents—which Adamic drew upon for his various interests and projects. Beginning in 1931, Adamic subscribed to a clipping service; the collection therefore provides a large selection of reviews of his works and articles about him from the United States and at least a representative group of such items from Yugoslavia. Adamic's scrapbooks and other personal memorabilia are present, too.

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The supplementary items in the Princeton collection consist of articles, books (including newer editions of Adamic's works), Admic symposia programs, reports, tapes, and other similar materials that are continually being added to the initial literary contents of the Adamic estate. It should be noted that the library's Gilbert Chinard Collection also contains a small body of material pertinent to Adamic.

In the United States there are several other smaller but important deposits of material relating to Adamic. Those of the IHRC have been discussed elsewhere in *Spectrum*.

The Chicago Historical Society holds an extensive correspondence between Ivan Molek and Adamic. Molek was responsible for both publicizing Adamic's early translations and arranging the first publication of Adamic's version of Ivan Cankar's *Yerney's Justice* in the United States.

The Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland has the correspondence of Adamic and the late Janko N. Rogelj, who met Adamic in the mid-1930s, was a president of the Slovene National Benefit Society, and became an important participant in several Slovene and Yugoslav American organizations created during World War II.

The Department of Cultural Resources, Archives and Records Section, State of North Carolina, Raleigh, holds documents and letters concerning Adamic's dealings with Black Mountain College.

The Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, contains Adamic correspondence concerning the publication *Contempo*, the work of other writers, and some matters pertinent to Adamic's later career.

Information about Adamic's relationship to and correspondence with President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt may be found in the files of the F.D.R. Library at Hyde Park, New York.

The Carnegie, Guggenheim, and Rockefeller foundations in New York City all hold material concerning their respective grants to Adamic. The Manuscript Division of the New York Public Library has in its collection of H. L. Mencken letters several items that supplement the Mencken-Adamic exchanges found in the Princeton collection. The same holds true for the letters between Upton Sinclair and Adamic in the Sinclair Collection of the Lilly Library at Indiana University.

The Elmer Gertz Collection in The Library of Congress contains letters between Gertz and Adamic, for the most part concerned with Gertz's work on Frank Harris. The National Archives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other government agencies in

Washington, D.C., are currently being approached for Adamic material under the Freedom of Information Act.

Some materials have been saved by two of Adamic's publishers, Doubleday and Company and J. B. Lippincott and Company. However, investigations suggests that Harper and Row lost valuable items during the last decade.

A major Adamic holding, second in size only to Princeton's, is in Slovenia. When Adamic made his second visit to Yugoslavia in 1948 and 1949, he took with him several large boxes of materials that he believed represented his contribution to the New Yugoslavia. These items are now housed in Narodna in Univerzna Knjižnica, Ljubljana, and include articles by and about Adamic and Yugoslavia, correspondence to and from him, and a small number of manuscript items. Much of the material duplicates that found in Princeton, but a number of the Ljubljana pieces are unique.

There is also a small selection of special Adamic material near Grosuplje, Slovenia, in the Adamic Museum Room in Praproče, the house where the author was born. Here the Adamič family has collected publications, letters, photographs, and memorabilia that were passed on to them during and after the author's lifetime.

Available at Nacionalna i Sveučilišna Biblioteka, Zagreb, is an extensive set of letters, primarily in English, between Ivo Lupis-Vukić and Adamic. Lupis-Vukić first contacted Adamic in 1933 during the author's Guggenheim visit to Yugoslavia. They met several times and for the rest of the decade carried on a correspondence which was in part the basis for Lupis-Vukić's articles about Adamic published in *Nova Europa* and other Yugoslav journals.

At the Maxo Vanka Museum on the island of Korčula there is another small selection of letters, primarily from Adamic, dealing for the most part with the Croatian artist Vanka whom the Adamics met in 1933 in Zagreb and who later settled in the United States.

The Slovenska Izselska Matica in Ljubljana holds copies of the Janko N. Rogelj-Adamic letters noted earlier; the letters here are translated into Slovene by Rogelj.

The files of the United Committee of South-Slavic Americans were recently opened in the Slovene National Archives in Ljubljana. The discovery of pertinent information concerning Adamic and that American organization he headed in the 1940s suggests that additional Adamic research materials could in time emerge from other Yugoslavian archives.

Finally, no summary of resources concerning Louis Adamic can ignore some basic considerations—that the author has been dead only 30 years, his interests and associations were varied and international,

and many people with whom he had contact are still living. Therefore, as time passes and new and more complete manuscript, print, photographic, and recorded materials find space in public depositories, still more Adamic source material should become known. The author of this survey will, of course, be pleased to be informed of all such discoveries.

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