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# **Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich papers11.MWalB02580**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brandeis University

415 South St.

Main Library, Goldfarb Level 2

Waltham, MA 02454-9110

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URL: <https://findingaids.brandeis.edu/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Brandeis University
<b>Creator:</b>	Kantorovich, Yakov Borisovich
<b>Title:</b>	Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich papers
<b>ID:</b>	11.MWalB02580
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1941-1943
<b>Date:</b>	Date acquired: 2009-11-01
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.50 Linear Feet 1 manuscript box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Russian
<b>Text [other]:</b>	1 manuscript box
<b>Abstract:</b>	Arranged in one chronological series: 1. Diaries and Letters, 1941-1943. For more information about this series, please consult the series description in the box and folder listing.

### Preferred Citation

Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich papers, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University

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## Biographical Note

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Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich (1904-1973) was born on November 16, 1904, in Bobruisk, Belorussia. His orthodox Jewish parents, Boris (Borough), a tailor, and Tzipty, were killed by fascists during the occupation of Bobruisk. Kantorovich attended Jewish religious school and graduated with honors from the Gymnasium, which had a 5% quota for Jews.

After the Russian Revolution (1917), Kantorovich went to Petrograd, where he received his college degree from the Dorozny Institute and where he wrote his first and part of his second diary. He married Ekaterina (Katya) Zilitinkevitch, with whom he had a daughter, Yelena (Lena), in 1929, and a son, Alexander (Shura), in 1938. Both children have their mother's last name, Zilitinkevitch.

Kantorovich then worked as a principal dispatcher for the Petrograd/Leningrad commercial harbor and taught in Leningrad's Institute for Commercial Fleet until World War II. He survived the Siege of Leningrad and was evacuated via the "Road of Life" (ice road over the Ladoga Lake) in April of 1942. He wrote part of his second and his entire third diary in or around Archangelsk (where, after being evacuated, he worked as Manager of Operations, Marine Ministry) and Moscow (where he was transferred after Archangelsk). Kantorovich's wife and children were evacuated to Ural.

After the war, Kantorovich completed his doctorate in economics and worked in Moscow and Leningrad for the Marine (Commercial) Fleet.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection comprises the personal diaries and correspondence of Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich written during the siege of Leningrad (1941-1943). All documents are in Russian.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Conditions Governing Access

Access to the collection is in accordance with the policies of the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University. Please contact the department for more information.

## Conditions Governing Use

Requests to reproduce or publish material from the collection should be directed to the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University.

## Source of Acquisition

Donated by Larissa Zilitinkevitch, granddaughter of Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich, in Nov. 2009.

## Custodial History

Collection most recently owned by Larissa Zilitinkevitch, who donated it to Brandeis on Nov. 1, 2009.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Jews -- Russia
- Jews -- Soviet Union
- Saint Petersburg (Russia) -- History
- Saint Petersburg (Russia) -- History -- Siege, 1941-1944
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Soviet Union
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, Jewish
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, Russian
- Kantorovich, Yakov Borisovich, 1904-1973

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## Other Descriptive Information

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Addenda to this collection may not be listed in the finding aid, but may be available for research use. Please contact us for more information.

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## Collection Inventory

### Diaries and Letters, 1941-1943

Date: 1941-1943

#### Scope and Contents

Arranged chronologically, this series contains diaries and personal handwritten letters from Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich written during the siege of Leningrad.

Title/Description	Instances
Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich diary, July 16 - November 29, 1941 <u>Date:</u> July 16 - November 29, 1941	Folder 1
Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich diary, November 29, 1941- February 5, 1943 <u>Date:</u> November 29, 1941- February 5, 1943	Folder 2
Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich diary, April 2 - May 18, 1943 <u>Date:</u> April 2 - May 18, 1943	Folder 3
Top of postcard from Lena Zilitinkevitch (daughter) / bottom of postcard from Katya Zilitinkevitch (wife), to Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich, August 18, 1941 <u>Date:</u> August 18, 1941	Folder 4
Telegram from Panfilov (likely Deputy Director, Baltic Sea State Port Authority) to Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich (both manuscript and typed), April 2, 1942 <u>Date:</u> April 2, 1942	Folder 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Panfilov mentions Rossinskiy's (Manager, Political arm of the Baltic Sea State Port Authority) resistance to Kantorovich's reassignment to Archangelsk, and hopes that this can be resolved.	
Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich to Vice Admiral Galler, March 24, 1942 <u>Date:</u> March 24, 1942	Folder 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Kantorovich writes to Vice Admiral Galler (~Chief of Staff, Soviet Navy) of his frustration at being underused in his job at Leningrad's harbor, and requests from the Vice Admiral a	

more fulfilling job that would give him a chance to serve his country according to his experience and abilities.

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Lena Zilitinkevitch to Yakov Borisovich Kantorovich, January 3, 1943 Folder 7

Date: January 3, 1943

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