



Collection Number: ADJL-06-01

Creator: Klavdiya (Klavdiia; Claudia) Ivanova Antipina

Title: Klavdiya Antipina Papers

Dates: Mid 1950s to early 1980s

Volume of collection: 10 linear feet

Language of materials: Collection materials in English and Russian.

Collection summary: Photographs of ethnographic study, including documented textile samples, of the Kyrgyz people by Klavdiya Antipina.

Biographical note:

Klavdiya Antipina (1904-1996) was born on May 5, 1904, in Morshansk near Moscow, Russia. In 1922 at the age of 18, she studied ethnography at Moscow State University where she met her husband, Mikhail “Misha” Rabinovich. Her husband was imprisoned by the Stalinist government and Antipina would exchange letters until his death which she was unaware of until after the end of the Stalinist regime. Labelled “an enemy of the people” by the Stalinist regime in 1937, Antipina was exiled to Frunze (modern-day Bishkek) in Kyrgyzstan with her son Lev (Leo) where she would spend the remainder of her life.

While in Kyrgyzstan, Antipina had to regularly report to Russian authorities until Stalin’s death in 1953 which gave Antipina the opportunity to devote her life to research. During her time in Bishkek, Antipina grew to love the people and culture of Kyrgyzstan especially their textile production. In 1962, she published *Specific Features of the Material Culture and Applied Art of the Southern Kirghiz (Materielnoe Kultury I Prikladnogo Iskusstva Iuzhnykh Kirgizov)*, which focused on the southmost region of Osh oblast (region) of Kyrgyzstan, and also served as her Ph.D. dissertation granted in Moscow. She was titled “Honored Science Worker” and was a “Laureate of the State Prize of Kyrgyzstan” for her research, field work and teaching.

The Kyrgyz people, originally seasonally nomadic, are of Turkic origin who share cultural, linguistic and historical background with the people of Kazakhstan. In 1924, Kyrgyzstan was made part of the Russian federation which became the Kyrgyz Autonomous Republic in 1926 and finally the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic in 1936. Post-Soviet research suggests the Kyrgyz people assimilated components from their historical neighbors over their history from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and western China. Though, Russian historiography of Kyrgyzstan complicates the origins of the Kyrgyz as recent scholarship notes.

Collection description:

The bulk of the collection contains 4,000 black-and-white photographs of the Kyrgyz people, their daily life and textile production methods, including photos of textile samples. Correspondence in Russian between Antipina and her husband during his exile, some biographical information on Antipina and provenance records are also part of the collection.

The photographs in the collection range in subject but focus on the daily life of the Kyrgyz people. The collection includes photos of men, women and children in ethnic and non-ethnic costume, depictions of people dressed in traditional ikat patterns, and the landscape of Kyrgyzstan and the Tian Shan mountains. Depictions of yurt construction and design are also depicted.

The photographs also largely depict the production and samples of Kyrgyz textiles. Women working with rug looms and smaller looms, producing yarn and wrapping “elechek” (Kyrgyz traditional headdress) are documented. Pile rugs photographed in flat lays and showcased in bazaars, embroidery samples and in situ reed screens of varying regions of Kyrgyzstan are reproduced also.

Arrangement: Box 1 folders #1-7 contain provenance of the collection and biographical background on Antipina. The subsequent boxes and folders contain copies of the original photographs on matte paper roughly in chronological order of when they were taken. Box 6 and box 7 contain CDs with digital copies of the photographs in the collection.

Digitized copies: Digital copies of collection material are not available.

Access restrictions: Requests to use the archive must be made in advance of a research visit; please contact the Arthur D. Jenkins librarian to schedule a visit.

Rights note: Materials in the collection may be subject to copyright restrictions.

Preferred citation: Klavdiya Antipina Papers, Arthur D. Jenkins Library, The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum

Works used in preparation of inventory:

Akmoldoeva, Bibira and John Sommer. *Klavdiya Antipina: Ethnographer of the Kyrgyz*.

McKinleyville, CA: Spring Hill Press, 2002.

Antipina, Klavdiya. *Distinctive Features of the Material Culture and Applied Art of the Southern Kirghiz (Osobennosti Materialnoi Kultury I Prikladnogo Iskusstva luzhnykh Kirgizov)*. Frunze, 1962.

Antipina, Claudia and Temibrek Musakeev. *Kyrgystan*. Italy: Skira, 2007.

Bodansky, Yossef and Gregory R. Copley. "The Kyrgyz Republic." *Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy* 31, no. 11 (Nov, 2003): 6-11.

Sommer, John L. "Klavdiia Antipina -- A Tribute to the Ethnographer of the Kyrgyz." *The Silk Road Newsletter* Vol. 2, No. 1 (2001).

<http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/newsletter/2004vol2num1/Klavdiia.htm#>.

Sommer, John L. *The Kyrgyz and Their Reed Screens*. 1996

Tchoroev, Tyntchtykbek. "Historiography of Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 34, no. 2 (2002): 351–74.

doi:10.1017/S0020743802002118.

Acquisition note: Klavdiya Antipina left collection materials to John Sommer who donated the collection to the Museum. Klavdiya gave the original photographs to Bibira Akmoldoeva to be donated to an institution in Kyrgyzstan; however, the current location of the originals is unknown.

Processing information: The collection was arranged by John Sommer and was received as is in its original order.

Indexed Terms

Subjects:

Textiles – Kyrgyzstan – 20th century

Rugs – Kyrgyzstan – 20th century

Costume – Kyrgyzstan – 20th century

Names:

Antipina, Klavidya, 1904-1996 (Note: Klavdiya Antipina's name is also indexed as Klavdiia and Claudia Antipina)

Akmoldoeva, Bibira

Stalin, Joseph, 1879-1953

Sommer, John L., 1927-

Places:

Kyrgyzstan

Tien Shan