

THE PARSONS ARCHIVE OF PETER DEMENS AND THE TWO ST. PETERSBURGS

(located in the Special Collections of the Poynter Library at USFSP)

Introduction

I have been studying Peter Demens and the histories of the two St. Petersburgs and their interactions for many years. I became interested in these topics in 1966 when I first arrived in St. Petersburg, Florida to teach Russian History at Florida Presbyterian College. At Eckerd College I taught a course called “The History of the Two St. Petersburgs” on nine occasions, beginning in the spring of 1988 when our city was celebrating our “first” centennial. The materials in this archive will focus on the person of Peter Demens, the two cities named St. Petersburg, and the relations between these cities over the past 50 years.

Anyone interested in learning more about Peter Demens and the two St. Petersburgs will find great sources in this archive. Although this archive has not been completely catalogued, the information in this overview should give researchers an opportunity to find the needed sources, some of which are difficult to find in other locations.

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I. PETER DEMENS.

1. Books and Articles about Demens in English.

- Allen, Robert V. “Peter Demens: ‘The Redoubtable Hustler.’” The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress (July 1977): 208-26.
- Parry, Albert. Full Steam Ahead! The Story of Peter Demens. St. Petersburg, FL: Great Outdoors Publishing, 1987.
- Parsons, William, ed. Peter Demens: An International Symposium. St. Petersburg, FL: Heritage Press, 2000.
- Povedskaya, Inna. The Self-made Man. (In English and Russian), 206.
- Sokolsky, A. Peter Demens (Dementiev): Founder of St. Petersburg in Florida. St. Petersburg, FL 1988.
- Sokolsky, A. “The Outstanding Merits of A Russian in Florida,” The Russian American, July 1976. In English and Russian.
- Sokolsky, A. Through War, Revolution, and Peace. 1998.
- Stoebe, Martha Gaines. The History of Alta Loma, California: 1880-1980. Alta Loma, CA: B & S Publishing, 1981.

2. Books and Articles about Demens in Russian.

- Вильчуръ, М. Русскіе въ Америке. [Vilchur, M. Russians in America]. 1918.
- Сокольскій, А. А. Русские в С. Петербурге Флорида. [Sokolsky, A. A. Russians in

St. Petersburg, FL]. 1982.

Сокольский, А. А. П. А. Демьютев-Деменс: выдающийся русский американец. [Sokolsky, A. A. P. A. Demytyev-Demens: An Outstanding Russian American]. 1988.

Богачек, Игорь. Санкт-Петербург – «столица» Америки. [Bogachek, Igor. St. Petersburg – the “capital” of America]. 1993.

Богачек, Игорь. Философия управления (стр.175-229 о Деменсе). [Bogachek, Igor. The Philosophy of Management (pp. 175-229 about Demens)]. 1999. (2 copies).

Петров, Виктор. Русские в истории Америки. [Petrov, Victor. Russians in the History of America]. 1991. (2 copies).

Поведская, Инна. Весьегонский американец. [Povedskaya, Inna. The American From Vesegonsk]. 2008.

3. Writings by Demens.

Bibliography of Works by Peter Demens in Russian and English.

Тверской, П. А. Очерки северо-американских соединных штатовъ. [Essays on the United States of North America]. 1895. This published work is the first volume of what becomes his Collected Works.

Тверской, П. А. Collected Works, mostly in Russian. Vol. II-VI. Photocopies of the originals at the Library of Congress.

Copies of other articles and pamphlets not included in collected works.

4. Archival Materials about Demens.

At the Library of Congress. Found in file folder and box.

At the Musuem of History in St. Petersburg, Florida

5. Museum Exhibits.

Museum Exhibit. St. Petersburg, Florida. 1995. “Peter Demens: America’s Peter the Great.” January 15-June 4, 1995. St. Petersburg Museum of History.

Photo Album. Small format.

Text of Exhibit.

John Wilson in 1995 Exhibit. And segment for TV with bad tracking. VCR.

John Wilson in 1995 Exhibit. And Veseyegonsk to Florida. VCR.

Museum Exhibit. St. Petersburg, Florida. 2000. “The People and Places of Peter Demens.” April, May, June 2000. St. Petersburg Museum of History.

Photo Album. Small format.

Text of Exhibit.

Symposium: 150th Anniversary of Demens’ Birth. May 1, 2000.

Parsons, William, ed. Peter Demens: An International Symposium.

St.Petersburg, FL: Heritage Press, 2000.

Demens Symposium at Eckerd College. May 1, 2000. VCR.

Museum Exhibit. 2000. Tver.

Photo Album. Small format.
From Vesjegonsk to Florida. VCR in English. 23 minutes. (2 copies)
Poster. "From Vesjegonsk to Florida." in Russian. 24" X 36"

Museum Exhibit. 2000. St. Petersburg, Russia. (from Tver; then to Vesjegonsk).
Photo Album. Small format.

5. Folio Collections of Materials about Demens

Demens in Russia, before America.

Descriptions and illustrations.

Demens in Florida.

Descriptions and illustrations.

Demens in North Carolina.

Descriptions and illustrations.

Demens in California.

VCR: Peter Demens Ranch House. Alta Loma, California.

VCR: Peter Demens Ranch House. After the Fire. After Restoration.

Demens Back in Russia.

1896. Descriptions and illustrations.

1906-08. Descriptions and illustrations.

The Demens Family. Children and Descendants.

Descriptions, illustrations, letters, and documents.

Published works by daughter Inna and granddaughter Muriel Bradley.

6. Files of materials including papers, documents, letters, etc. by Demens scholars.

Anatole Sokolsky File.

Albert Parry.

Karl Grismer.

Inna Povedskaya.

Bill Parsons.

Other scholars.

7. Other sources of scholarship.

Demens in Tallahassee.

The Tampa Journal.

Demens in Hawaii.

Demens on ocean trips.