

Shevchenko Memorial Committee of America records

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Shevchenko Scientific Society Archives

63 4th Ave.

New York, NY 10003-5202

archives@shevchenko.org

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Summary Information

Repository: Shevchenko Scientific Society Archives

Title: Shevchenko Memorial Committee of America records

ID: 020

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Date [inclusive]: 1959 - 1978

Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet (2 linear feet of paper records, 36 audio tapes, motion picture film, and realia)

Language of the Ukrainian

Material:

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Biographical / Historical

The idea of a Shevchenko memorial in Washington, DC arose in the 1950s. For example, as far back as 1955, Roman Smal'-Stockyi, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, proposed the idea of a memorial to be completed in time for the 1961 centennial of Shevchenko's death. The 24th convention of the Ukrainian National Association passed a resolution supporting such a project in May, 1958. Dmytro Halychyn, then head of the UNA and president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, referred the matter to the UCCA. On his and Lev Dobrianskyi's initiative, Senator Jacob Javis introduced a resolution in the Senate on February 19, 1959. On March 17, 1959, Alvin Bentley of Michigan sponsored a similar resolution in the US House of Representatives. In early 1959, the UCCA launched a national lobbying effort in favor of the memorial and approved the creation of a Shevchenko Memorial Committee.

Resolutions for the memorial's construction were unanimously approved by the House of Representatives in June 1960, followed by the Senate in August. On September 13, 1960, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Public Law 86-749, authorizing the erection of the Shevchenko monument. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America then immediately proceeded to establish the Shevchenko Memorial Committee which would devote itself exclusively to the planning and execution of the Memorial.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains records of the activity of the committee tasked with the construction of the memorial to Taras Shevchenko located in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, DC. It contains bylaws, meeting minutes, bulletins, financial reports, correspondence (including with the sculptor Leonid Molodohanyn and in regards to the film "Shevchenko u Vashingtoni"), fundraising records and donor lists, construction contract for

the memorial, photographs, motion picture film (presumably of "Shevchenko u Washingtoni"), audio recordings, posters, buttons, stamps, and documents related to the dissolution of the committee.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is unprocessed or partially processed. Please contact the Shevchenko Scientific Society Archives to determine the extent of access that is currently possible.

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Description Control

This collection is not yet fully processed and the information provided here is based on legacy collection records and/or a general survey. This descriptive information may be supplemented or revised as further processing is performed.

The title of this collection was changed from "Shevchenko Monument Committee papers" to "Shevchenko Memorial Committee of America records" by Michael Andrec in 2023.

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