

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463842903321
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Titolo	From the Cincinnati Reds to the Moscow Reds : the memoirs of Irwin Weil // compiled and edited by Tony Brown ; cover design by Ivan Grave
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : Academic Studies Press, , 2015 ©2015
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (245 p.)
Collana	Jews of Russia & Eastern Europe and Their Legacy
Disciplina	891.709
Soggetti	Russian literature Literature and state - Soviet Union Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Editor's Note -- 1. The Lives of Sidney and Florence Weil -- 2. Early Years and Education of Irwin Weil -- 3. Entry into the Soviet Union -- 4. Social and Political Reform in the Soviet Union -- 5. Letters from the USSR -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book brings together a lifetime of experiences told by a beloved member of the field of Slavic languages and literature - Irwin Weil. During the Soviet era, Irwin frequently visited and corresponded with outstanding Russian cultural figures, such as Vladimir Nabokov, Korney Chukovsky, and Dmitrii Shostakovich. His deep love of the Russian people and their culture has touched the lives of countless students, in particular at Northwestern University, where he has taught since 1966. It is these stories of an unassuming Jewish American from Cincinnati, Ohio who rubbed shoulders with some of the most prominent thinkers, writers, and musicians in the Soviet Union that are presented for the first time in this volume.