

Museum of Russian Culture Microfilm Collection

Project Description

In 1999, the Hoover Institution received a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a two-year project to process and microfilm part of the Museum of Russian Culture's more significant archival holdings. The primary goal of the project was to make these collections available to scholars in the reading room of the Hoover Institution Archives in microfilm form, because conditions of access and use at the Museum itself are difficult due to insufficient resources.

As a result of the project, 85 collections, comprising 475 manuscript boxes of materials, were organized, registered and microfilmed.

Matching contributions in materials, labor and training were provided by the Deputy Director of the Hoover Institution, Charles Palm, who served as Principal Investigator, and by Elena Danielson, Archivist of the Hoover Institution, whose support and enthusiasm breathed life into the project. On behalf of the Museum of Russian Culture, Dmitry G. Brauns and Georgy A. Tarala, Director and Deputy Director of the Museum of Russian Culture, and the volunteer staff of the Museum provided endless hours of hard work to complete the project. At the conclusion of the project (summer 2001), use copies of the microfilms were made available to researchers in the Hoover Institution Archives reading room.

Elena Danielson has emphasized the opportunity the grant provides for the greater study and use of these archival materials: "Not only do these documents open up entirely new horizons in the study of Russian émigrés and their contribution to the intellectual, cultural and scientific life of their adopted countries, but they closely dovetail the Hoover's holdings, increasing the value and scholarly accessibility of both collections. In the year in which the theme for the American Historical Association's annual conference was migration, it was most appropriate that the NEH should choose this project for its support."

Collections Microfilmed

One of the largest and most important collections the Museum holds is that of Andrei Bel'chenko (Andrew Beltchenko), Russian, and later Portuguese, Consul-General in Hankow, China. The collection consists mainly of diaries, scrapbooks and subject files that detail life in Hankow during the period 1918–46. Given that in the 1920s, Hankow was for a time the Chinese Nationalist capital, these are significant materials for students of Chinese history. Historians of the Russian emigration will be interested in Bel'chenko's files dealing with the life of the small Russian colony in Hankow, as well as with Russians in Shanghai. Also of interest is information on the activities of Soviet agents in the Chinese Nationalist Movement.

Many of the Museum's collections are significant both for students of Russian history and of the history of other countries. Boris Volkov was an agent of the Siberian government in Mongolia during the Civil War, and his activities and experiences are detailed in the extensive drafts and redrafts of an autobiographical novel (never published) entitled "Conscript to Paradise," where he discusses the internal situation in Mongolia and the effects of the Russian internecine conflict on it, including the activities of Gen. Baron R. F. Ungern-Shternberg. Volkov's first wife, Elena Petrovna Vitte, was the daughter of the former Imperial Russian advisor to the Mongolian government, and the novel is in part based also on her diaries. Volkov arrived in the United States in 1923, working primarily as a longshoreman and day laborer until World War II, when, like many Russian émigrés, he found a use for his Russian language abilities in teaching and translating. As a journalist (and a poet), he was involved in the anti-Communist movement in the United States and kept voluminous files of clippings on a variety of subjects relating to communism and socialism in America, as well as to the activities of other émigrés in this area.

Another important figure whose papers are held by the Museum is George C. Guins (Georgii Konstantinovich Gins). For those who remember Guins as the author of *Sibir', soiuzniki i Kolchak* (Peking, 1921) and a member of the Kolchak government—this is the Guins you never knew: legal philosopher, political scientist, economist, historian. Guins in emigration was all of these and more; but most certainly not the narrow-minded reactionary he appears to some historians of the Civil War. A student of Leon Petrazycki, in 1920s and 1930s Harbin he continued his mentor's legal tradition in the Harbin Law College, which he helped to found. There he produced a number of works, all bibliographic rarities today, on the principles of interaction of law and society. In 1941, he emigrated to the United States, where, after a few years of difficulty, he continued teaching at UC Berkeley, producing a series of books and manuscripts on Soviet politics and society as well as Russian history, culture and legal issues.

Other former government officials whose papers have been prepared for filming are Iosif K. Okulich, a representative of the Kolchak government and Priamur Provisional government in the United States, 1919–22, and Vitalii Petropavlovskii, the chief agent of Russian State Control in the United States from 1917 to 1923.

Historians of science will doubtless be interested in the papers of Vladimir N. Ipatieff, which include not only his scientific writings and other papers donated by him, but clippings and other materials about him collected by the Museum staff and donated by others. Among the collections of other scientists filmed are the papers of M. T. Zaroquentsev, a specialist in refrigeration, and the engineer, mathematician and physicist O. N. Yadoff.

The Church has been one of the most central cohesive and divisive forces in the Russian emigration, and its activities are represented in the collected papers of a number of priests. Fr. Aleksandr Samoilovich, a parish priest in Poland between the wars, details affairs in post-war Europe, South America and Los Angeles in his correspondence with other priests, hierarchs and laymen.

The papers of Fr. David Chubov also deal with post-war Europe, primarily Switzerland, where he was a parish priest, but his collection covers his activities in Bulgaria between the wars (the small Russian colony in Sliven) as well. Both collections illustrate the role of the Church in aiding resettlement of D.P.s after the Second World War.

Substantially different in nature are the papers of Fr. Innokentii Seryshev, an extraordinarily active figure not only in Church affairs, but in émigré organizations and even the international Esperanto movement. The central element in his collection must be considered his multi-volume autobiography, but correspondence with important émigré figures and a substantial collection of periodicals, brochures and other materials edited, authored or published by him illustrate the wide breadth of his interests and activities.

From this brief overview of the collections, it can be seen that they offer not only substantial opportunity to reappraise some aspects of Russian history, but open up new fields of study as well. Historians, specialists in Russian literature and even social scientists will all find materials well worth their scholarly interest, for the opening of such valuable and unique collections to researchers is a rare invitation into a new realm of scholarship.

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For additional information please contact Anatol Shmelev, project archivist.

List of Available Collections

Collections marked with * are part of the Hoover Institution - Museum of Russian Culture microfilming project. The registers are located on the Online Archive of California.

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Biographical sketches

Mother Ariadna, 1900-1996

Mother Ariadna entered monastic life in 1917 as a novice of the Ioanno-Bogoslovskii Convent in the town of Cherdyn', Perm' guberniia. She was taken in by the abbess of that convent, Rufina, with whom she would spend the next twenty years. Together they fled the Bolsheviks to Vladivostok in 1919, where Rufina was appointed abbess of the Smolensk Odigitriia Convent, and then again to Harbin, where Rufina established the Bogoroditse-Vladimirskaia zhenskaia obitel' in 1924.

Ariadna was fully tonsured in 1931, becoming Rufina's deputy, and taking over as abbess upon Rufina's passing in 1937. She presided over the most difficult years of the convent's existence: its evacuation to Shanghai in 1937-38, then to the Tubabao refugee camp in the Philippines, and finally to San Francisco, California, in 1948. This process was the more difficult because of the important role the convent played in the religious and social life of the Russian community, particularly caring for poor and orphaned children and infants. Coming to America before the bulk of refugees, Ariadna was effective in relieving immigration problems and helped many of the Russians to establish themselves in the United States.



The Bogoroditse-Vladimirskaia zhenskaia obitel' thus became one of the first Russian Orthodox convents in the United States, and continues to exist to this day. The collection includes materials on its history, and primarily on the life and activities of Abbess Rufina.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Taissiia Anatol'evna Bazhenova, 1900 - 1978

T. A. Bazhenova was born on 17 May 1900 into a literary family: her father, Anatolii Dmitrievich Bazhenov, was, among other things, editor of the journal *Irtysk*, published by the administration of the Siberian Cossacks during the Russian Civil War. It was during the Civil War, in 1918, that T. A. Bazhenova published her first work: a poem in the Omsk newspaper *Zaria*. On arrival in Harbin in 1920, she became a correspondent of the newspapers *Russkii golos* and *Zaria*, and also served on the staff of the Society for the Study of Manchuria (*Obshchestvo izucheniia Man'chzhurskogo kraia*). Upon marrying Aleksandr Stepanovich Postnikov, she assumed his last name, but generally continued to publish her writings under her maiden name.

In the United States, she was a correspondent for most of the major Russian newspapers on the West coast, also contributing articles, poems, short stories, and other pieces to journals and anthologies. Many of these are represented in the collection. Her newspaper articles primarily reflected émigré life, and included interviews with actors, writers, singers, and others.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Andrew T. Beltchenko, 1873 - 1958

Andrew Beltchenko was born in the village of Kozlovka, Bobrovskii uezd, Voronezhskaiia guberniia, Russia, on 29 October 1873. He graduated from St. Petersburg University with a degree in Oriental philology in 1897. Entering the Foreign Ministry, he was assigned to the Imperial Russian Legation at Peking as a student interpreter in 1899, where he witnessed the Boxer Rebellion and participated in the defense of the diplomatic quarter against the Boxers. Steadily climbing the career ladder, he was commissioned Acting Consul at Foochow in 1901, Vice-Consul at Hankow in 1902, Assistant Secretary of the Russian Legation at Peking in 1903, Consul at Niuchuang (Manchuria) in 1906, Consul at Foochow in 1910, Consul at Canton in 1912, and finally, Consul-General at Hankow in 1915.

More than a ministerial functionary, he was an avid student of China throughout his life. In 1912 he translated (into English) I. S. Brunnert's The Present Day Political Organization of China (Shanghai, 1912), and it was his intimate acquaintance with the politics and institutions of that land that saved him from the fate of other Russian diplomats when the Chinese government ceased to recognize their credentials. In 1920 he became advisor to the Chinese government in Hankow on Russian affairs (there was a small but influential Russian colony in Hankow with commercial enterprises), and from 1923 until his departure from China in 1947 he served as Portuguese Consul-General in Hankow, retaining his responsibilities for the Russian colony as well.



The primary value of the collection lies in Beltchenko's reports, diaries, scrapbooks, and collected materials on Chinese politics for this period, particularly for 1927, when Hankow became the Nationalist capital. The materials include clippings and issues of rare newspapers, such as the Hankow Herald, North China Daily News, Central China Post, and others, many of which may no longer be extant. In addition, there are significant materials on the Russian and other foreign concessions in Hankow, the Japanese occupation of that region, and Russian émigrés in Hankow and Shanghai, including correspondence, clippings, registration books, legal papers, photographs and other matter.

Following his departure from China, Beltchenko went briefly to Paris before settling in San Francisco, where he helped other Russian refugees from China as head of the Obshchestvo pomoshchi russkim na Tubabao and assisted in the work of the Museum of Russian Culture. He died in San Francisco on 1 February 1958.

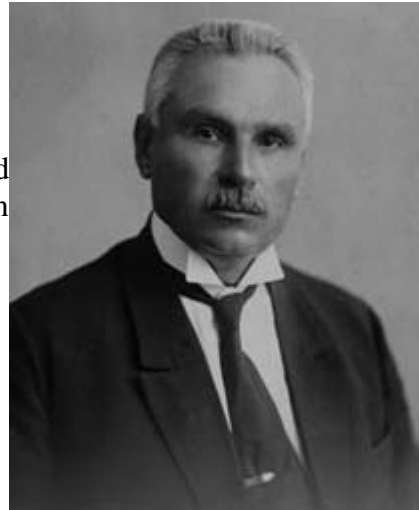
Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Basil M. Bensin, 1881 - 1973

B. M. Bensin was born in Russia on 30 January 1881 (O. S.). He received his education in agricultural sciences at the University of Minnesota, graduating with an M.S. in 1912. Returning to Russia, he authored a pamphlet entitled *Izuchenie zasukhoustoichivyykh ras sel'sko-khoziaistvennykh rastenii* in 1913. After 1920, he emigrated to Czechoslovakia, where he published *Sel'skoe khoziaistvo i kooperatsiia v S.-Amerikie* (Prague, 1923) and *Shkola i sel'skoe khoziaistvo* (Prague, 1924).

Coming to the United States in 1930, he continued his agricultural researches: as an agronomist for the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station and instructor at the University of Alaska from 1945 to 1948, he identified strains of plants capable of withstanding the extreme cold and harsh climate of the region. Bensin was also active in the Russian émigré Sokol movement, and his collection contains some materials on that topic. He died in North Carolina in February 1973.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco



Nikolai Viktorovich Borzov, 1871 - 1955

N. V. Borzov was a prominent and active figure in Russian education and émigré charitable and cultural work. Born in Glazov on 26 April 1871 (O.S.), he graduated with honors from St. Petersburg University, and entered into government service in the Ministry of Education. In 1897 he was a teacher at the Tomsk girls' high school, and in 1904 he was appointed inspector of the Tomsk Commercial School. Aside from his direct duties, he also established an evening school in Tomsk and participated in the work of societies advancing education in penitentiaries as well as in villages in the Tomsk region.

Having moved to Harbin in 1905, he was for twenty years director of the Harbin Commercial schools as well as of the education department of the Chinese Eastern Railway. At the same time, he established advanced economic and legal courses in Harbin. He was also a member of the city council. Dismissed in 1925 at the demand of the Soviet government, he moved to Berkeley, California, where his children lived. But he returned to Harbin in 1929-1931 to assume the post of director of the *Kharbinskoe pervoe real'noe uchilishche*. Back in California, he resumed his



educational work by founding Russian kindergartens and high schools in Berkeley and San Francisco.

For many years, almost till his death on 25 November 1955, he organized the annual "Day of the Russian Child" (Den' russkogo rebenka), and edited the journal of the same name in order to raise funds and awareness of the plight of Russian children abroad.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Reverend David Antonievich Chubov, 1878 - 1956

Fr. David Chubov was born on 24 June 1878. In 1901 he completed a course of studies at the Stavropol' Seminary, and in 1902 was ordained a priest, serving at a village church in Novoshcherbinovskaia stanitsa of the Kuban' Cossack region from 1904 to 1915. From January of that year until late 1917, he served as a chaplain on the Caucasus Front, primarily as the regimental priest of the 22nd Caucasus Rifles.

Witnessing the ensuing Civil War on the Kuban', Chubov was evacuated from Novorossiisk to Serbia with the departing White Army in March 1920. After a brief final return to the Crimea later that year, he was once again evacuated to Bulgaria, where from 1921 to 1932 he served as a priest in Sliven. From 1932 to 1936, Chubov served in various parishes in France and Brussels, until being assigned to the Church of the Protection of the Holy Virgin in Zürich, Switzerland, where he remained until his death. During and after the Second World War, he extended aid to Russian displaced persons, Ostarbeiters and POWs, helping many to emigrate to South America. Chubov died in Zürich on 14 August 1956.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Anton Antonovich Dobkevich, 1892/1894 - 1973

A. A. Dobkevich was born on 18 January 1894 (1892 according to other records) in the city of Dubno. Commissioned as an officer upon graduation from the Kiev Military School in 1913 (1912) in the 3rd Zaamurskii pogranichnyi pekhotnyi polk, he transferred to the 6th Zaamurskii pogranichnyi pekhotnyi polk upon its departure for the front in February 1915. On the Southwestern (Russian) front of the First World War, he commanded the machine-gun detachment of an armored train and was appointed commander of the armored car "Zaamurets" in June 1916.



Following this, Dobkevich served with the 1st Zaamurskii Zheleznodorozhnyi polk until his demobilization in 1918.

In April 1918, he was appointed deputy commander of the engineering section of the Russian forces of the extraterritorial zone of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and thereafter served in various capacities, including commander of an armored train, along the Chinese Eastern Railway until 1920. He emigrated to the United States in 1922, and died in California in January 1973.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Avenir Gennadievich Efimov, 1888 - 1972

Avenir Gennadievich Efimov was a colonel in the Russian army, the last commander of the remnants of the Izhevsk and Votkinsk divisions of the White army in Siberia. These units were composed of workers of the factories of Izhevsk and Votkinsk in the Ural mountains, who rose against the Soviets in 1918 and joined the White army.

Born on 19 October 1888, Efimov was educated in the Simbirsk Cadet School and graduated from the Nikolaevskoe inzhenernoe uchilishche in 1910, receiving his commission as an officer in the 16th Sapper Battalion quartered in Kazan'.

During the First World War, he completed a course of studies at the General Staff Academy, following which he served at the front in various staff posts until his demobilization on 25 February 1918. Back in Kazan' at the time of the anti-Soviet uprising in the summer of 1918, he joined the People's Army (Narodnaia armiiia), in which he served through its unification with the Siberian Army. In February 1919 he was appointed chief of staff of the Izhevsk Rifle Brigade, and when the latter was upgraded to a division, he received command of its cavalry regiment. He was appointed commander of the Izhevsk division in 1920, and presided over its fusion with the fellow votkintsy to form the Izhevsk-Votkinsk brigade, which he commanded until its demobilization.



First in China, and then in San Francisco, California, where he settled, Efimov spent many years collecting documents for a history of the izhevtsy and votkintsy, finally published posthumously as *Izhevtsy i votkintsy* (Concord, CA, 1975) and now a bibliographic rarity. Efimov died on 25 April 1972 in San Francisco.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Ivan V. Emel'ianov, 1880 - 1945

A prominent specialist in the field of cooperative economic theory, I. V. Emel'ianov was born at Uspenskii zavod, Tobol'skaia guberniia, on 1 November 1880 (O. S.). In 1900, he graduated from Tobol'sk seminary, but decided to continue his education in the field of agronomy. In 1907 he graduated from Kiev Polytechnic Institute with a degree in that subject, proceeding to work as an agronomist for local zemstvo organizations. From 1910 to 1912 he served as agricultural agent for the Ekaterinoslavskoe zemstvo in the United States. Following his return to Russia, most of his career was spent in various capacities in the Khar'kov region, where he worked closely with cooperative organizations.

In 1917, he was elected a member of the Khar'kov gubernskaia zemskaia uprava and Chairman of the Board of the Khar'kov Zemstvo Bureau of Small Credit. In September 1919 under the White regime he was appointed chairman of the Khar'kov gubernskaia zemskaia uprava. The same year, he became an officer of the Selosoyus cooperative and Moscow Narodny Bank. Arriving in Prague in 1921, he proceeded to help found the Russkii institut sel'sko-khoziaistvennoi kooperatsii (of which he was deputy director until 1927) and established the journals Zemledelie and Khutor, which he edited.



Emigrating to the United States at the invitation of Rutgers University, he taught there until 1933, thereafter working for various government agencies as an economist. His Ph. D. thesis at Columbia, Economic Theory of Cooperation was completed in 1942, only some three years before his death in Washington, D.C. on 17 December 1945.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Valentin Vasil'evich Fedulenko, 1894 - 1974

V. V. Fedulenko was born in Kazan' on 22 February 1894. He graduated from the Alekseevskoe voennoe uchilishche in December 1914, was commissioned as an officer and sent to the front. Demobilized in January 1918, he returned to Kazan', where he joined the White Army in September of that year. He remained in its ranks until his evacuation from Vladivostok in October of 1922 with the flotilla of Admiral Iu. K. Stark.

His life and activities in Shanghai through the end of the Second World War were recorded in an oral history



entitled Russian Émigré Life in Shanghai, by the University of California Berkeley Regional Oral History Office as part of its Russian émigrés project. At the conclusion of that war, Fedulenko was the deputy head of the Russian Emigrants Association of Shanghai, and assisted in the evacuation of thousands of Russians to Tubabao camp in the Philippines. Arriving in San Francisco in July 1950, he took an active role in helping the Russian refugees leave Tubabao for the United States and Australia.

In 1970, he published a history of the theater in Kazan' entitled Zarozhdenie i rastsvet teatra v Kazani. Fedulenko died in San Francisco in November 1974.

Photo courtesy of the Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley

Pavel Timofeevich Filip'ev, 1896 - 1981

P. T. Filip'ev was born in Ekaterinodar on 14 December 1896 (O.S.). He graduated from the Ekaterinodar School of Arts in 1915, was drafted into military service the same year, and commissioned as an officer following training at the Tiflis Military School in May 1916. He saw action in the Caucasus during the First World War, and served in Siberia and South Russia during the Civil War, eventually being evacuated with General Baron P. N. Vranghel's army. From 1920 to 1925, he worked as a painter and draftsman in Yugoslavia.

In 1925, Filip'ev moved to Prague, Czechoslovakia, to continue his studies at the Russian Higher School of Transportation (Russkoe vysshee uchilishche tekhnikov putei soobshcheniia), graduating in 1928 as a transportation technician. This gave him the opportunity to find employment as a surveyor, project manager and auditor in the highway section of the Czechoslovak State Construction Department, where he worked until 1941. With the advent of the Second World War, Filip'ev was forced to change employment several times, working as an artisan and a teacher at a high school in Klatovy, Czechoslovakia, before illegally crossing the border into Allied-occupied Germany in January 1947. After working there at a variety of jobs, including policeman, tanner and toymaker, he left for the United States in 1951.



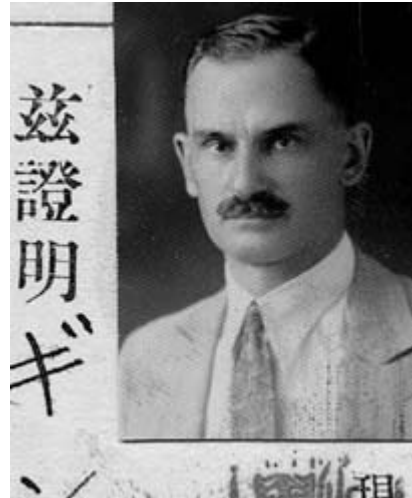
In America, he became intensely interested in the so-called "Vles-Kniga," devoting most of the remainder of his life to examining and deciphering it and attempting to prove its veracity, although it has long been dismissed as a forgery by all competent scholars. Filip'ev died in San Francisco in September 1981.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

George C. Guins, 1887 - 1971

George C. Guins is best known to historians as the administrative secretary (upravliaiushchii delami) of the Siberian (later All-Russian) anti-Bolshevik government at Omsk. Privy to governmental decisions in this capacity as well as in concurrent service as deputy minister for education and foreign affairs, he described the workings of the government and the anti-Bolshevik campaign in Siberia, 1918-1920, in his published memoir, *Sibir', soiuzniki i Kolchak* (Peking, 1921).

Less well-known is his career as a legal philosopher, journalist, and writer and lecturer on the Soviet Union. Born in Novogeorgievsk (now Modlin, Poland) on 27 April 1887, he studied law at St. Petersburg University under the direction of the eminent jurist and legal philosopher Leon Petrażycki, obtaining his degree in 1909. Entering government service in the Resettlement Office (Pereselencheskoe upravlenie) of the Ministry of Agriculture, he continued legal studies in his spare time, obtaining an advanced degree in 1915 and remaining at St. Petersburg University as a lecturer. At this time he completed a dissertation on water rights in Central Asia.



The 1917 Revolution saw his promotion in government service to the post of chief legal counselor of the Ministry of Provisions, but following the Bolshevik coup in October, he left for Omsk, where he was drawn into service in the White government formed there the following summer. At the conclusion of the Civil War, he found himself in Harbin, China, where he served on the administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway until 1926, first as director of the chancellery and later as chief controller. At the same time, he edited and wrote for *Russkoe obozrenie*, published in Peking, and helped found the Harbin Law Faculty, a unique émigré institution training lawyers in China. Here he lectured almost until his departure for the United States in 1941, made necessary by Japanese pressure due to his independent position in Harbin politics. During this period he accomplished his greatest scholarly achievements in legal philosophy, with such publications as *Novye idei v prave i osnovnye problemy sovremennosti* (Harbin, 1931-1932), *Uchenie o prave i politicheskaia ekonomiiia* (Harbin, 1933), *Ocherki sotsial'noi filosofii* (Harbin, 1936), all now bibliographic rarities.

Following his arrival in the United States, he settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, editing for a brief period the émigré newspaper *Russkaia zhizn'*, and lecturing at the University of California at Berkeley and the Army Language School in Monterey. Not finding an application for his specialization in legal philosophy, he turned to teaching Russian and Soviet civilization, history, and law, publishing numerous articles and two books on Soviet affairs: *Soviet Law and Soviet Society* (The Hague, 1954) and *Communism on the Decline* (New York, 1956). Even after retiring from active teaching, he continued to lecture and write, served as a consultant to the Voice of America until

1964, and contributed an oral history to the UC Berkeley Regional Oral History Office's Russian émigré program. He died in September 1971.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Catherine A. Gumensky, 1897 - 1988

Catherine Gumensky was born Ekaterina Aleksandrovna Aristova in Kazan' on 14 July 1897 (N. S.). On her mother's side she was descended from the Demidov family. From 1914 to 1917 she studied at the Vysshie Golitsynskie sel'sko-khoziaistvennye zhenskie kursy in Moscow, but following the Revolution departed to Harbin, and thence to the United States (1921). The same year, she married an engineering student Dmitrii Gumenskii, from whom she was later divorced (1932). She graduated from UC Berkeley in 1925, later also acquiring an M.A. from UCLA. In 1927, she was naturalized as a U.S. citizen. From 1945 to 1952, she worked as a translator for the U.S. Army European High Command. Catherine Gumensky died in Apple Valley, California in 1988.

Though she achieved some local prominence as a painter and attempted to publish children's stories, her lasting contribution to the world is her archive, which contains her and her mother's (Neonila Platonovna Aristova) correspondence with relatives in the Soviet Union from 1917 to the 1980s (there is also some correspondence with members of the Demidov family in France). These family letters provide a fascinating insight into the life of Gumensky's relatives in the USSR (Kazan', Moscow, and other places). There is also a subject file on folklorist Ella Young, whom Gumensky apparently knew.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Paul Haensel, 1878 - 1949

Professor Paul Haensel was a prominent economist who authored several books on taxation and finance and taught at Northwestern University from 1930 to 1943. Haensel was born in Moscow on 8 February 1878 (N.S.). Graduating from the Moscow Practical Commercial Academy in 1896, he entered Moscow University, completing his course of studies in 1902 with a degree in law. Remaining at the University as a professor from 1903 to 1928, he published many works on taxation, including his master's thesis, Nalog s nasledstva (1906), as well as



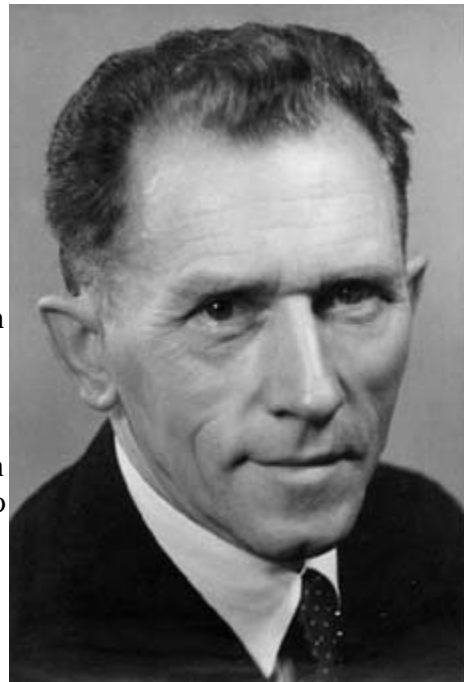
works on public finance, such as Istoriia finansov (1913) and Finansovaia reforma v Rossii (1916-1917). In addition to his teaching and research activities, he served as a member of the board of directors of the State Bank, 1915-1917, advisor to the Commissariat of Finance, and director of the financial section of the Institute of Economic Research in Moscow, 1921-1928.

Invited to lecture abroad in 1928, he opted to remain there, finding a position as professor of economics in 1930. He taught and wrote on Soviet as well as American and European economic issues, and testified before Congressional committees on tax reform in 1943. Following his retirement from Northwestern in that year, he continued to teach at Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia until 1948. Haensel died in Illinois on 28 February 1949.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Semen Dmitrievich Ignat'ev, 1891 - 1974

S. D. Ignat'ev was born near the town of Ostrov, Pskovskaia guberniia, on 25 January 1891 (O. S.). While in the White army in South Russia, he married Aleksandra Ivanovna Kozlova, thus cementing his association with the Kuban' Cossacks. Evacuation to Gallipoli was followed by several years in Bulgaria. A musician by training, he formed a chorus and musical ensemble of émigré Kuban' Cossacks around 1926, touring with them across Europe through the 1940s. During these years, he lived primarily in Germany, and in one of his writings describes his experiences in Berlin in 1945.



The Second World War brought about the dissolution of the Kuban' Cossack Chorus. In 1950, Ignat'ev moved to Sweden (where he found employment mounting specimens for the botanical department of the Swedish Museum of Natural History), and then in 1955 to San Francisco, changing his musical venue to conducting church choirs (his education included the Pskov seminary, where he received a thorough grounding in liturgical music). Ignat'ev died in San Francisco in May 1974.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Vasilii Sergeevich Il'in, 1888 - 1957

V. S. Il'in was a prominent botanist specializing in the biochemistry and physiology of plants. Born in Russia on 17 October 1888, he received his degree in natural science from the University of St. Petersburg in 1912, following which he worked at agricultural

research stations in the Voronezh and Ekaterinoslav governments, from 1912 to 1920. In addition to this, from 1917-1920 he was the assistant chancellor of Ekaterinoslav University.

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Emigrating to Czechoslovakia, he continued his studies at Prague University, receiving a doctorate in natural science in 1923. Remaining on the staff there, he also became rector of the Russian Free University in Prague. Leaving Czechoslovakia early in the Second World War, he moved to Austria, working from 1941 to 1944 at the University of Vienna, and from 1945 to 1947 at the University of Innsbruck. Turning down invitations from universities in Ecuador, Chile and Peru, he took a position at the National Agricultural Institute in Venezuela, where he remained until 1953. That year, Il'in was appointed professor of plant physiology at the University of Caracas, Venezuela, where he served until his death on 9 August 1957.

Aside from his scientific work, Il'in was an active member of the émigré community, heading charitable institutions wherever he lived and assisting in the passage of Russian displaced persons from Europe to South America after the Second World War.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Vladimir N. Ipatieff, 1867 - 1952

Vladimir Nikolaevich Ipatieff was born on 21 November 1867 in Moscow, Russia. His early career was that of a military man: in 1887 he graduated from the Mikhailovskoe artilleriiskoe uchilishche, and in 1892 from the Mikhailovskaia artilleriiskaia akademiia. But his interest in chemistry diverted him from a strictly military path. Teaching the subject at the Artillery Academy, he went on to get a doctorate from St. Petersburg University in 1907, while advancing in military rank to major general in 1910. From 1906 to 1916, he taught chemistry at the University as well, and was made a member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in 1916. As a lieutenant general during the First World War, he served as Director of the Commission for Preparation of Explosives and Chairman of the Chemical Committee.

Following the revolution, he remained in the Soviet Union, where he founded the High Pressure Institute in 1927. But in 1931, while on a trip abroad, he decided not to return and came to the United States, where he taught at Northwestern University from 1931 to 1935. In 1939 he was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Ipatieff died in Chicago on 29 February 1952. Northwestern University dedicated a laboratory in his honor.



Ipatieff authored hundreds of articles on chemistry in a number of languages, as well as textbooks, such as Kolichestvennyi analiz, which he wrote while still a student (St. Petersburg, 1891); a scientific autobiography, Catalytic Reactions at High Pressures and Temperatures (New York, 1936); and personal memoirs, Zhizn' odnogo khimika (New York, 1945), translated into English as The Life of a Chemist (Stanford, 1946). He also held several hundred patents, marking his most significant contributions to science: the formulation of high-octane gasoline, the "cracking" method now used to refine gas, and other discoveries relating to catalytic reactions (especially under high pressures and temperatures), and the synthesis of petroleum and its distillates.

Photo from the Hoover Institution Archives

Evgeniia Sergeevna Isaenko, 1899 - 1969

E. S. Isaenko was born Evgeniia Pechatkina in Askhabad on 16 December 1899, the daughter of General Sergei Pechatkin. Living in Harbin following the Revolution, she was among the first Russian students to depart for the United States in the early 1920s, where she continued her education at Pomona College. For personal reasons, she left college and went to San Francisco, making her living performing menial labor as a packer in a factory, dishwasher, seamstress, etc. Meanwhile, she devoted her free time to Russian social life, actively participating in musical, theatrical and literary presentations. She directed and acted in plays, and wrote articles, reviews, short stories and two books, Perekati-Pole (published in 1953) and Petr Ivanovich (1961).

Though she married Aleksei Leonidovich Isaenko and assumed his last name, she continued to publish under her maiden name. Her husband was also active in the San Francisco Russian community as librarian of the Russian Club and Russian Center. He was born in Orenburg in 1894, the son of Major General Leonid Isaenko. Receiving a degree in law from Moscow University in



1917, he joined the White Army in Siberia during the Civil War. He arrived in America in 1923, and met Evgeniia Sergeevna through their common interest in theatrical and social activities. He died in 1957; Evgeniia Sergeevna Isaenko died in Burlingame, California, in July 1969.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Mstislav Nikolaevich Ivanitskii, born 1910

M.N. Ivanitskii was born in Perm', Russia. Following the Revolution, he and his family emigrated to China, then to Canada, where he completed his high school education, and then to the United States, where he studied at the University of Washington and received a B.A. at the University of California and an M.A. from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

During the Second World War, he worked as a shipbuilder, and used his savings to buy a printing shop and establish a publishing house called Delo. Russian books, periodicals, bulletins, programs, catalogs, and other printed matter were his stock in trade. In this business he met a significant number of émigrés and collected materials about them.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco



Nikolai Petrovich Kalugin, 1902 - 1987

Nikolai Petrovich Kalugin was born in Khabarovsk on 17 February 1902. He graduated from the Kharbinskii Politekhnikeskii Institut as a civil engineer in 1924, and worked in that capacity for the Technical Department of the Chinese Eastern Railway until 1935. From 1935 to 1947, he headed his own engineering and contracting firm in Harbin, working on some of the larger construction projects in the city at that time. He also worked in the Philippines in this period. In 1941 he was elected president of the Society of Engineers in Manchuria, and from 1948-1953 lectured at the Kharbinskii Politekhnikeskii Institut.

Kalugin arrived in Brazil in 1954, working for Morrison Knudsen on the Itutinga Power Project, but ultimately received a visa for the United States (1958), where he remained until his death in San Francisco on 24 November 1987. He was devoted to his alma mater, the Harbin Polytechnic Institute, and collected many materials on it, including photographs and a run of the journal issued by its graduates abroad, Politekhnik, which also carried a number of articles written by Kalugin himself.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Georgii Titovich Kiiashchenko, 1872 - 1940

General G. T. Kiiashchenko was born in the town of Starodub in 1872. He was educated at the Chuguev Military School, and his military career culminated with the rank of major general and the title of director of military transport in the Far East in 1919. He was a participant in the Russian army's 1915 Lodz operation, about which he left notes for a lecture. In San Francisco in the 1920s and 1930s, Kiiashchenko became an active participant in Russian Orthodox Church politics and the émigré monarchist movement.

Most of his views on these subjects were expressed in the pages of Nashe slovo and Viera i pravda, and a number of other pamphlets, periodicals and leaflets, which he edited and published. He supported the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia as well as the Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich's claim to the Russian throne. Kiiashchenko died in San Francisco on 19 January 1940.



Photo from the Hoover Institution Archives

Alex N. Kniazeff, 1909 - 1993

Born at Tsitsikhar station on the Chinese Eastern Railway on 5 August 1909, where his father, an army engineer officer, was stationed, Kniazev spent the first half of his life in China. As his father was transferred to Manchuria station, where he was commandant

during the Russian Civil War, and later to Harbin, where he was assistant commandant, A. N. Kniazeff moved with him, graduating from American Methodist College in Harbin in 1927. From 1927 to 1933 he was a student at Harbin Polytechnic Institute, receiving his baccalaureate degree in electrical and mechanical engineering. Simultaneously, he completed a training course at the Russkii Obshchevoinskii soiuz military academy in 1934

Following his graduation, he moved to Tientsin, where he worked as an engineer for a number of companies until 1945, when he was forced to escape to Shanghai. He was interned at Tubabao refugee camp until January 1951, when he finally arrived in San Francisco. From 1952 to 1955 he was an instructor at the Army Language School in Monterey until he was able to secure employment closer to his field of specialization, first as an instrumentation designer for Bechtel Corporation (1955-1958), and then at Pacific Gas and Electric Company until retirement (1958-1974).



As a member of the Russian boy scouts since 1922 in Harbin, he rose to become Chief Russian Scout of St. George's Knights (Natsional'naia organizatsiia russkikh skautov). Kniazeff died in San Francisco in 1993.

Photo © E. Kniazeff private collection

Ivan Andreevich Kolchin, 1893 - 1967

Ivan Andreevich Kolchin was born in Kalinino, Viatskaia guberniia, on 1 August 1893. He received an education in music (specializing in church singing), and by 1910 was already conducting a choir at the Church of St. Nicholas, in the town of Slobodskoi. From 1912 to 1917 he was a student at Kazan' University, managing to find time to conduct the university choir as well. The Civil War forced him into emigration in China, where he once again turned to conducting choirs as a profession, this time earning a worldwide reputation.

From 1921 to 1936, he was the choir director of the Church of St. Aleksei in Mojiagou, China (a suburb of Harbin), and from 1936 to 1940 he was the choir director of the Church of St. Nicholas in Shanghai. At the same time, he trained and conducted his own male choir that toured China, drawing large audiences,



winning prizes and achieving some prominence there and abroad.

Kolchin became so well-known for the quality of his work that he was invited to conduct the choir of Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. He directed this choir from 1940 to 1962, also finding time to direct a Russian male choir that appeared in concert programs throughout California. Kolchin died in San Francisco in April 1967.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Nikolai F. Kostriukov, 1898 - 1987

N. F. Kostriukov was the long-time conductor of the General Platoff Don Cossack Chorus. He was born on 3 December 1898 in Tsymlianskaia stanitsa in the Don Cossack region. He studied mining engineering in Czechoslovakia in the 1920s, but never graduated because in 1927 he established the General Platoff Don Cossack Chorus, with which he toured the world for nearly half a century. His chorus became almost as well-known as that of Serge Jaroff.

Throughout the 1920s, the chorus toured Europe, and by the early 1930s it began making appearances in South America, Africa, and Asia. The chorus was based in Prague until 1939, when it moved to the United States. It recorded a number of albums on the Victor label. Kostriukov died in New York on 9 November 1987.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco



George Koudinoff, 1896 - 1969

George Koudinoff was a baritone and star of the Russian Light Opera Company in Shanghai, China. His range was such that he was sometimes favorably compared to Fedor Shaliapin. (Shaliapin himself, on a trip through the Far East, saw and praised Koudinoff.)

Koudinoff was born on 6 May 1896 in Russia. After serving in the White navy in Vladivostok, he evacuated



to Harbin, where he made his first concert appearances in the mid-1920s, quickly becoming popular both there and in Shanghai, where he relocated in 1932, joining the Russian Light Opera in 1937. In 1948 he came to the United States, where he toured with Serge Jaroff's Don Cossack Choir as a soloist. He was forced to give up touring for family reasons and became a waiter at El Prado restaurant in San Francisco in the mid-1950s, continuing to work there almost until his death on 17 March 1969.

His singing career, and simultaneously the cultural life of Shanghai and Harbin in the 1920s and 1930s, are illustrated in the scrapbooks that form the basis of the collection.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Iustina Vladimirovna Kruzenshtern-Peterets, 1903 - 1983

IU. V. Kruzenshtern was born in Russia on 19 June 1903. Her father, a military officer, was transferred to Harbin when she was three years old, and in her memoirs she describes her life in this city. After her father volunteered for service at the front in 1915 (where he was killed), she and her mother moved to Vladikavkaz.

Following the Revolution, Kruzenshtern returned to Harbin, where she worked as a correspondent for various Russian periodicals. In 1930, she moved to Shanghai, continuing to work as a journalist for Shankhaiskaia zaria and The North China Daily News. There she married the poet Nikolai Peterets, who died young of tuberculosis. Evacuating to Brazil following the Communist takeover in China, in 1960 she arrived in the United States, where she found employment as a commentator for the Voice of America. Following her retirement, she continued to work as a journalist for Russian newspapers, and even edited the San Francisco daily Russkaia zhizn'. A book of short stories, Ulybka psishi, was published in 1969. Kruzenshtern-Peterets died on 8 June 1983.



Photo © O. M. Bakich private collection

Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Kurenkov, 1891-1971

A. A. Kurenkov was born in Kazan' on 13 May 1891. He studied at Kazan' Military School and began military service in the fortress at Auschwitz. During the First World War he was gassed and wounded. Thereafter he specialized in defense against gas attacks, and was promoted to command the 1st Chemical Company of the XLIV Corps with the rank of captain (1917). Demobilized in 1918, Kurenkov joined an officers' unit in Shadrinsk during the anti-Bolshevik uprisings in Siberia and the Urals in summer 1918, rising to command the 27th Verkhoturskii Siberian Rifles in 1919.

Kurenkov arrived in Seattle, Washington, in February 1923, where he later abbreviated his name to Koor. Here he became involved in numerous émigré organizations, particularly those with a monarchist flavor, and he was promoted to the rank of major general by Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich in 1937. In San Francisco, where he moved in the 1950s, Kurenkov edited and published a monarchist newspaper called Vestnik pravdy (1964-1968). In 1947, he received the degree of "Doctor of Psychology" from the "College of Divine Metaphysics, Indianapolis, Indiana." Following this, he became intensely interested in ancient Russian and Slavic history, writing about and promoting the so-called "Vles-Kniga," a written work purporting to date from the 5th-6th centuries, A.D., dismissed as a forgery by all competent scholars. Much of the collection consists of his musings and collected materials on this subject.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Anatole S. Loukashkin, 1902 - 1988

A. S. Loukashkin was born in Liaonian, China, on 3 May 1902 (N.S.): his father was an employee of the Chinese Eastern Railway. Receiving his schooling in Chita, he returned to China following the Revolution, where he graduated from the Harbin Institute of Oriental and Commercial Studies. He worked as a curator of the Museum of the Society for the Study of Manchuria (Obshchestvo izucheniia Man'chzhurskogo kraia) in the 1930's. Upon arrival in the United States in 1941, he transferred his skills to the California Academy of Sciences, where he became an authority on the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops Caerulea*).

More significant was his participation in various Russian organizations: he was executive director of the Federatsiia russkikh blagotvoritel'nykh organizatsii (involved in helping Russian displaced persons relocate to the United States following the Second World War), served on the boards of the Russian Center of San Francisco and Russian Life Corporation, which published the newspaper Russkaia zhizn'. For over a decade (1954-1965) he served as director of the Museum of Russian Culture, in particular acquiring for it a voluminous amount of material about Russians in China.



Loukaskin died in San Francisco on 6 October 1988.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Elizabeth Malozemoff, 1881 - 1974

Elizabeth Malozemoff was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 26 July 1881. Emigrating to California after the Russian Revolution, she received a full education at the University of California at Berkeley, culminating with a Ph. D. in Russian literature in 1938. She corresponded with a large number of émigré writers, including Aleksandr Otsup (Sergei Gornyi), Dmitrii Klenovskii, Rodion Berezov, Irina Saburova, and Aleksei Remizov. In addition to this collection, the researcher may also wish to consult Malozemoff's oral history interview, part of the Russian émigré project administered by the Regional Oral History Office of the University of California at Berkeley.



Malozemoff's sons Andrew and Plato also achieved prominence: the first as a historian and the second as a mining engineer and chief executive of Newmont Mining Corporation. Elizabeth Malozemoff died in New York state in April 1974.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Iurii Petrovich Miroljubov, 1892 - 1970

Iurii Miroljubov was born on 30 July 1892 (O.S.) in the town of Bakhmut, Ekaterinoslavskaia guberniia. The First World War interrupted his studies at the University of St. Vladimir in Kiev, and as an officer he served in the White Army in South Russia, evacuating the country in 1920. He resumed his education in Prague and Belgium, where he settled and became a chemical engineer in charge of a glycerin-producing factory.

Miroljubov also wrote prose and poetry, primarily folkloric renderings of ancient Russian history, most of which was published by his widow posthumously in the 1970s-1990s, but which also appeared in contemporary newspapers and journals. In 1954, he acquired the San Francisco-based émigré periodical Zhar-ptitsa, and moved to



San Francisco, California, to continue its publication. It is in this journal that the document known as the "Vles-Kniga" (aka "Kniga Velesa", "Vlesova Kniga") first made its appearance. Purporting to be a newly-discovered ancient manuscript describing the history of the Eastern Slavs in pre-Christian times, the existence and dissemination of this literary mystification is due in large measure to Miroljubov's efforts.

Following the closure of Zhar-ptitsa in the late 1950s Miroljubov decided to return to Belgium, but never made it, dying at sea on 6 November 1970.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Olga Morozova, 1892 - 1970

Ol'ga Morozova was born Ol'ga Kolesova in Khar'kov on 3 July 1877 (N. S.), the daughter of the principal of the Khar'kov Agricultural School. Graduating from the Khar'kov women's institute in 1895, she established, with her own funds, a primary school for peasant children on the outskirts of Khar'kov. In the same year, she began a career as a journalist in various local papers and journals, also authoring a number of popular books on agricultural issues. She married the livestock specialist Iona M. Morozov and moved with him to Semipalatinsk in 1911, turning her energies to relief and nursing work with the Russian Red Cross during the First World War. In 1918 she established a 50-bed hospital in Semipalatinsk.

The Bolshevik advance in 1919 forced her to leave Semipalatinsk with her son Boris (her husband and a daughter, evacuating Omsk with Admiral Kolchak, were killed; another daughter, Vera, escaped by other means). Living in various towns and cities in China in the early 1920s, she finally moved to Tientsin in 1928, enduring a lengthy trek through the Gobi desert. It was in Tientsin that Morozova wrote most of the novels that gained her a literary reputation, such as Sud'ba, Nevozvratnoe, and Nora. Like many of her compatriots who evacuated China in the late forties and early fifties, Ol'ga Morozova spent some time in the Tubabao refugee camp before being admitted to the United States in 1951, an experience she chronicled in unpublished memoirs. Morozova died in Los Angeles on 1 January 1968.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Andrei Mikhailovich Naidenov, 1896 - 1972

A. M. Naidenov was born in Moscow on 30 June 1896. After graduation from the Moscow Commercial Institute in 1917, he worked in the Soviet Union as an economist in various organizations, including "Azneft" and the People's Commissariat of Light Industry of the Azerbaidzhan S.S.R., where he was a planner for ten years. This experience led him to author a study entitled Administration of Azerbaijani Industry, published by the Research Studies Institute of the Air University in 1952.

Escaping the USSR during the Second World War (1944), he moved to the United States in 1949, working as a draftsman in New York in addition to engaging in anti-Communist activities as a journalist and an announcer for the Voice of America. Most of his writings and correspondence are concerned with problems of anti-communism. Naidenov died in San Francisco in September 1972.

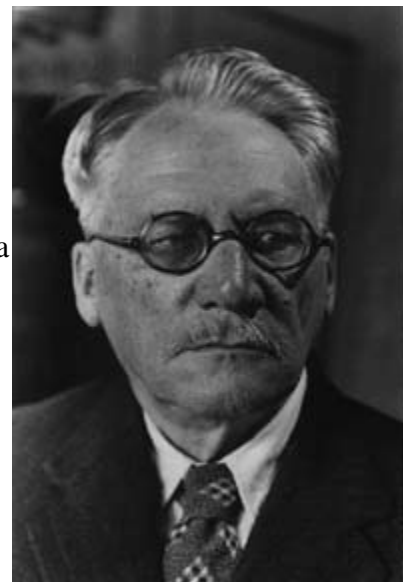


Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Iosif Konstantinovich Okulich, 1871 - 1949

I. K. Okulich was born on 13 November 1871 (O.S.). He received his degree in agricultural engineering from the Swiss Polytechnic in Zürich in 1894. In 1896 he began government service in the Ministry of Agriculture, and was appointed the following year as Government Agronomist of the Tomaskaia guberniia. In 1905 he was appointed head of the Agricultural Section of the Department of Agriculture in the same ministry, a post he had held as acting director since 1903. In 1906 he was appointed Acting Director of State Property for the Eniseiskaia guberniia (confirmed in this post in 1909), simultaneously serving as Vice-Inspector of the Forester's corps of the Irkutaskaia guberniia. The years 1912-1913 he spent in the Balkans as a special agent of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, returning to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1913 as Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture in charge of the Fishing and Game Hunting Section.

With the onset of the First World War, Okulich became responsible for forage and food supplies for the army within his ministry. In 1916 he was appointed a member of the Council of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the administrative secretary for the Chief Food Supply Committee (Glavnyi prodovol'stvennyi komitet). Sent on a mission to Siberia in 1917 to increase fuel supplies, he remained there until April 1918, when the Siberian Creamery Union directed him to Great Britain for the



purposes of expanding trade. In 1919, he was appointed a special representative of the government of Admiral Kolchak, responsible for financial oversight in the United States, Great Britain and France. In 1920-1921 he continued in this role for the Priamur government, based in Vladivostok.

Following the conclusion of the Civil War in Russia, he spent 1923-1926 in Yugoslavia involved in the timber export business, and then settled in Abbotsford, British Columbia, where he lived until his death on 21 January 1949. In Canada, Okulich devoted himself mainly to farming and journalistic work, writing often for the émigré press on agricultural, political, economic, and other issues concerning Russia and Siberia.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Nikolai Vasil'evich Orlov

Colonel N. V. Orlov served most of his military career in the Zamuurskii okrug Otdel'nogo korpusa pogranichnoi strazhi (Transamur district of the Russian border guard), and commanded its Fourteenth Regiment during the First World War.

His handwritten history of the Zamuursy covers the history of this district and its troops from its formation in 1898 until its dissolution (along with the entire Russian army) in 1917. Following this dissolution, Orlov returned to Harbin, where in 1918 he participated in forming a new unit to guard the Chinese Eastern Railway. This Okhrannaia strazha disarmed the pro-Bolshevik railroad regiments then in place, and formed the basis for the military force of the Chinese Eastern Railway. When Chinese troops took over its barracks in March 1920, the Okhrannaia strazha was disbanded and Orlov retired. Wounded in battle and crippled in the use of both his hands, Orlov's five-volume history is a monument to his own perseverance as much as it is to the soldiers he writes about.

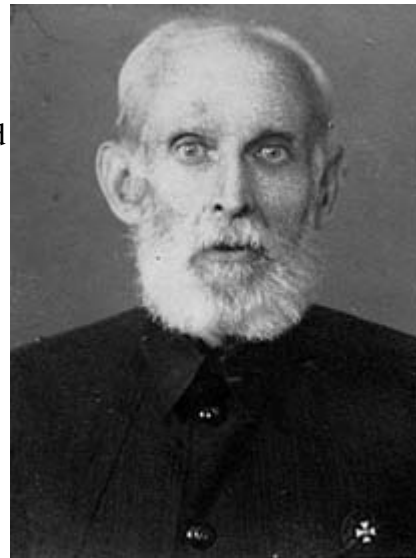


Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Maxim Panteleieff, 1887 - 1958

M. P. Panteleieff was a baritone who had a successful career in Russia and the United States. Born in 1887, he began his operatic career in the Musical Drama Theater of St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1914, where he played the part of Valentine in Gounaud's version of "Faust." In 1918, he left Russia to tour the Far East, eventually gravitating to the west coast of the United States. Early in the 1920s he founded the Russian Grand Opera Company, which gave performances across the U.S.

Panteleieff himself appeared as Boris Godunov in the opera of the same name, as the demon in Anton Rubenstein's composition based on Lermontov's poem, as King Dodon in Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Le Coq d'Or," and in many other roles. Critics consistently extolled his performances and some even compared him to Fedor Shaliapin. After many years of touring with Russian opera companies, he died in the United States in 1958.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Vladimir Mikhailovich Perekrestenko

V. M. Perekrestenko was born in Kiev on 7 July 1887. In 1915 he received his commission as an officer in the Russian army, with which he fought through the First World and Russian Civil Wars, finally evacuating to Yugoslavia. He left Yugoslavia following the Second World War. From 1954 to 1961, he lived in Belgium, where he was secretary of the Union of Russian Writers and Journalists in Belgium (Soiuz russkikh pisatelei i zhurnalistov v Bel'gii). In 1961 he left for the United States, where he remained until his death in San Francisco.

Perekrestenko was a correspondent for numerous émigré newspapers, and his collection contains many of his writings, including the works "Lageria" and "Na pereput'i," which describe experiences in displaced persons camps. Of particular interest is the office file of the Soiuz russkikh pisatelei i zhurnalistov v Bel'gii, detailing its founding and activities up to 1961.

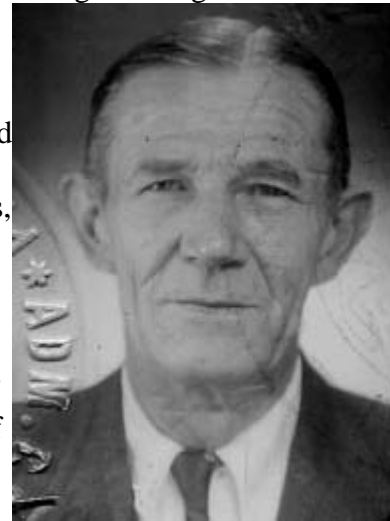


Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Rostislav Vladimirovich Polchaninov

R. V. Polchaninoff was born on 27 January 1919 in Novocherkassk, Russia, where his father served on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief of the White Army. He was evacuated with his family from Sevastopol to Constantinople (Istanbul) in November 1920, finally settling in Yugoslavia. There Polchaninoff finished his schooling and began studies in the law department of the University of Belgrade. At the same time, he was active in the scouting movement, joining the Yugoslav Boy-Scouts in 1931, and later the Russian émigré Boy-Scouts and Sokols. During the Second World War, he was one of the leaders of the Russian underground Scouting movement. At the end of the war he organized a Russian émigré Boy-Scout unit in Niedersachswerfen (near Nordhausen, Germany) just days after the U.S. army liberated the town (11 April 1945). He continued this work among both Russian and Yugoslav displaced persons throughout the immediate post-war years.



In 1951, Polchaninoff settled in the United States, where he continued his scouting work, as well as taught in parochial schools and worked for Radio Liberty (from 1967 to 1983). He also wrote articles for American and émigré newspapers and journals, and published books and bulletins, as well as textbooks for parochial schools.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Mitrofan Ivanovich Retivov, 1869 - 1961

M. I. Retivov was educated as a doctor. He served in various positions of responsibility prior to the Revolution: as director of the medical section of the Khar'kov workers' disability insurance company, as an organizer of sanatoria for tuberculosis patients in South Russia and the Caucasus, and as vice-president of the Pirogov medical conventions held in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Novocherkassk. Many of his writings are of an autobiographical character and describe his own life as a medical student as well as meetings with other members of the medical profession in pre-Revolutionary Russia.

During the Civil War, he served as chief doctor of one of the largest hospitals (1500 beds) in Khar'kov. Emigrating abroad following the Civil War, he served as a Red Cross doctor in Paraguay in 1932, during that country's war with Bolivia. He died on 19 March 1961 at the age of 92 in Olegario Victor Andrade, Argentina. Retivov's son Georgii was one of the founding members of NTS.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Mary Catherine Roberts, 1884 - 1978

Mary Roberts was born in England on 8 October 1884, trained there as a nurse, and subsequently emigrated to the United States. During the First World War, she joined the army medical services, and was sent to Siberia to serve with the American Red Cross in May 1919.

The materials in her collection reflect her service in Vladivostok and include clippings, correspondence, bulletins and other material pertaining to Red Cross and YMCA work in Siberia in 1919-1920. Some of her letters and reports were published in the Washington state press.<

Following her return to the United States in 1920, she received a degree in public health from the University of Washington, and worked as a school nurse in Yakima county, Washington. She retired in 1960 and moved to Seattle, where she died on 3 June 1978.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco



Konstantin Vasil'evich Semchevskii, 1894 - 1978

Colonel K. V. Semchevskii was born on 6 May 1894 (O. S.) in Tiflis (Tbilisi). After graduating with honors from the Corps de Pages in 1913, he was commissioned as a sub-lieutenant in the Life Guard Horse Artillery, with which he served until 1917. In October of that year, he entered the General Staff Academy, where he studied through July 1918, when, with a group of fellow officers, he escaped from Ekaterinburg to join Siberian White military units operating in the area. In August 1918 he was appointed head of the operations section of the army staff in Omsk, and promoted to the rank of guards captain the following month. In December 1918, he was appointed an instructor at an army school in Vladivostok. In November 1919, he assumed the duties of chief of staff of the 1st Cavalry Division, taking command of its remnants to lead them out of encirclement in January 1920. The following month, Semchevskii was promoted to the rank of colonel and appointed quartermaster general of the 3rd Army (from March 1920 - III Corps).



Along with his wife, Elena Vasil'evna Semchevskaia (a writer and poet), Semchevskii lived in China until emigrating to the United States in 1950. He wrote his memoirs, primarily of life in the Corps de Pages, and maintained correspondence with many of his fellow pages through the 1970s. He also taught at the Army Language School in Monterey, California, where he died in February 1978.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Innokentii Nikolaevich Seryshev, 1883 - 1976

Father Innokentii Seryshev was born on 14 August 1883 in the village of Bol'shaia Kudara, in the Trans-Baikal region. In 1902 he married Ekaterina Fedorovna Bondarenko. From 1906 to 1909 he was the village priest in Doronino, and from 1910 to 1913 in Shergol'dzhin, both in the Trans-Baikal region. It was in this period that he became interested in Esperanto, a language he spent most of the rest of his life promoting. From 1917 to 1919 he was a member of the board of directors of the Soiuz kul'turno-prosvetitel'nykh obshchestv Altaiskogo kraia.

From 1920 to 1922, Seryshev was in Japan, where he made a study of the Japanese educational system (published in his Strana samuraev, 1924). Thereafter, from 1922 to 1924, he lived in Harbin and Peking, where he taught in the railroad school and at the Chinese Esperanto College. In 1925 Seryshev emigrated to Australia, where he was a parish priest in Sydney and editor and chief writer for a number of secular and religious periodicals: Aziia, Put' emigranta, Tserkov' i nauka, and others (including some in Esperanto). He also compiled a biographical dictionary of prominent Russians, entitled Great, Outstanding, and Eminent Personalities of Russia (1945-1946). Seryshev died in Australia in 1976.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Olga Petrovna Tissarevskaia

Olga Tissarevskaia was born Ol'ga Petrovna Krasnova on 28 September 1895 (O.S.) in the village of Bogdanovka, near Samara, Russia. In 1921, she emigrated to Poland with her husband, an engineer named Viacheslav Doubrava, and ran a boarding house until the Second World War. Doubrava died in the mid-1920s, and Olga married a former colonel named Georgii Tissarevskii.

Coming to the United States in 1949, she worked for a brief period as a housekeeper to the Swedish ambassador to the U.S., but through intelligent real estate investments



soon achieved financial independence for herself and her already ill husband (who died in 1965). Living in retirement in Phoenix, Arizona, she gained recognition as a painter (specializing in oil paintings on silk), and also wrote for the émigré press, particularly Novoe russkoe slovo (where she published accounts of her travels). She was married again in the 1970s to a Russian named Nikolai Topalov. Her autobiography, Svet i teni moei zhizni, was published in Buenos Aires in 1973.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Vladimir Iakovlevich Tolmachev, 1876 - 1947?

V. Ia. Tolmachev was born in Shadrinskii uезд, Permskaia guberniia, on 21 November 1876 (O.S.). Upon graduation from the Ekaterinburg gimnaziia, he entered St. Petersburg University, where he studied in the physics and mathematics department, and simultaneously audited courses at the Academy of Arts. But his primary interest was archeology, and in 1900 he transferred to the Archeological Institute. Every summer was spent on expedition, and upon graduation from the Institute he went to work digging up artifacts in the Ural-Volga region. Many of the results of his scientific work appeared in Drevnosti Urala, which commenced publication in 1913.

The Civil War brought him to Chita, where he remained until 1922, continuing archeological research and teaching. His career in Harbin was associated with archeological and paleontological finds of great significance all across Manchuria. He was a curator of the Museum of the Society for the Study of Manchuria (Obshchestvo issledovaniia Man'chzhurskogo kraia). He also wrote many articles on the commodities markets for Manchurian goods, such as soy beans. Most of the writings in his collection deal with Manchurian and Chinese archeology, culture, and agriculture. He left Harbin for Shanghai in the mid-1930s. Tolmachev apparently died in 1947.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Sergei Sergeevich Tolstov, 1881 - 1950

Colonel S. S. Tolstov was born on 13 February 1881. He was wounded in the Russo-Japanese War and several times in the course of the First World War, where he began as a captain and rose to command the 5th Siberian Rifles (promoted to the rank of colonel in 1916).

In 1917, as commander of the 6th Siberian Reserve Brigade, he was simultaneously the commander of the Krasnoiarsk garrison and later the entire military region.



Arrested during the anti-Bolshevik uprising in Irkutsk in December 1917, he escaped from jail to Vladivostok, where he worked in various capacities. In June 1918, he was invited by the anti-Bolshevik government in Vladivostok to be commander of the Primor'e Military District. In September 1918, he resigned his command for political reasons and left for Shanghai (1919). In 1923 he and his wife, Lidiia Vladislavovna, moved to San Francisco, where he was involved in fundraising activity to help Russian war invalids abroad, and where he died of a heart attack on 9 November 1950.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Vakhan Fomich Totomiants

Vakhan Fomich Totomiants was born into an Armenian family in Astrakhan' on 3 February 1875. He graduated from the University of Brussels (1898) and received his Ph. D. from the University of Kiev (1915). As a specialist in cooperative economics, he wrote several treatises on cooperatives and economics in general: Teoriia kooperatsii (1918), Istoriia ekonomicheskikh i sotsial'nykh uchenii (1921), Osnovy kooperatsii (1923), and Iz istorii russkoi ekonomicheskoi mysli (1956).

Generally considered to be one of the leading figures in the field, he taught in Kharkov', Kiev, Moscow and St. Petersburg, and following his emigration from Russia at several universities and institutes in Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria between the wars.

Boris Nikolaevich Volkov, 1894 - 1954

B. N. Volkov was born in Ekaterinoslav' (Siberia) on 30 May 1894 (N.S.). A university student in law, he volunteered for military duty at the front in 1915, serving in Poland and the Caucasus as commander of a medical unit responsible for retrieving wounded soldiers from the front lines. In December 1917, he was involved in an anti-Bolshevik uprising in Irkutsk. During the Russian Civil War, Volkov served as an agent of the Siberian Provisional (later All-Russian) government in Mongolia.

Escaping from Baron R. F. Ungern-Shternberg, who had sentenced him to death, he spent the following few years in China, as a commercial and sales agent for Gilchrist and Co. and the Tientsin Chemical Works Association.

In 1923 Volkov and his wife moved to the United States, where he worked as a longshoreman and construction worker, and at a variety of other jobs. He was also a poet and writer, and though his autobiographical novel, "Conscript to Paradise," was never published, he did see to press a book of verse entitled V pyli chuzhikh dorog (Berlin, 1933). Volkov also wrote for the émigré press,



and much of his poetry was published in periodicals. He died in San Francisco on 9 June 1954.

Photo from the Hoover Institution Archives

Antonina R. von Arnold, 1896 - 1988

A. R. von Arnold, who often went by the nickname Dora, was born in Siedlce (now in Poland) on 26 February 1896 (O. S.). Her father, Roman Apollonovich, then a retired military officer working in the office of the governor-general, volunteered for service during the Russo-Japanese War, following which he remained in Harbin, where he eventually rose to the rank of chief of police. Her mother, born Ekaterina Khristoforovna von Maidel', a dentist by profession, became the founder and director of the Harbin dental school. Antonina had a sister, Liubov', a promising poet who died of appendicitis in Petrograd early in 1917, and a brother, Boris, who became a psychologist in the United States.

Following Boris to the United States in 1923, Antonina tried her hand at business college, but eventually had to fall back on office work to support herself, as well as her mother living in Harbin (her father died in 1930). From work at the Young Women's Christian Association, she moved to the International Institute of San Francisco, making a career in social work and receiving an M.A. in the subject from the University of California at Berkeley in 1942.



An unhappy marriage to a Polish immigrant named Ignatius McGuire was followed by a happier one to the émigré artist Sergey Scherbakoff. Ultimately, Antonina was able to put together enough savings to bring her mother to San Francisco and buy a number of properties, thus achieving the trappings of material success. She died in San Francisco on 8 December 1988.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Vorontsov Family Papers

The Vorontsov brothers were the founders and directors of a major commercial enterprise that bore their name: Firma Brat'ia Vorontsovy. They began as workers then as contractors in the building of the Chinese Eastern Railway in 1898 and quickly became monopolists in the supply of timber for the western end of the line. They acquired timber concessions in North Manchuria, and their employees soon numbered nearly 3,000. By 1925, they entered into a partnership with the Chinese Eastern Railway and the local Chinese provincial government for the supply of timber, retaining control of operations of the new enterprise (Khaiminskoe lesopromyshlennoe tovarishchestvo).

In an attempt to create close and reliable food sources for their lumberjacks, they introduced wheat farming, cattle and dairy production to regions along the western line that had not had any experience of intensive agriculture and cattle breeding. The success was such that their dairy products found markets as far away as Tsingtao, Shanghai and Dairen. Their promising sheep-breeding operations, which produced high-quality wool, were disrupted by the events of 1929. In addition to this, in 1917 they began breeding Orlov trotters, in 1924 they opened a winery and distillery, and over the 1920s and 1930s built electrical stations and saw- and flour-mills at various points. In 1929-1930, they constructed the first commercial refrigerated warehouse in Harbin.



Many Russian émigrés and countless Chinese found gainful employment thanks to the Vorontsovs' entrepreneurship, but in the mid-1950s the Chinese government nationalized all their enterprises, depriving their heirs and descendants of the fruits of the Vorontsov brothers' labors.



Top photo: D. M. Vorontsov. Courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Bottom photo: M. M. Vorontsov. Courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Oleg Yadoff, 1902 - 1961

Oleg Yadoff was born on 14 June 1902 in Rostov-na-Donu. As a young volunteer he enlisted in one of General Kornilov's shock regiments in the First World War, continuing to serve with the White Army in South Russia until its evacuation in 1920. Arriving in

Yugoslavia in 1921 he resumed his education in the sciences at the University of Belgrade. Moving to France in July 1923, he received his baccalaureate in mathematics and philosophy from the Sorbonne (1925). In 1931 he received his doctorate in engineering also from the Sorbonne.



Conducting teaching and research at a variety of institutes and centers affiliated with the Sorbonne, as well as the Russian Technological Institute in Paris, he published a number of works on aeronautics and hydroelectric installations. Another doctorate in physics in 1939 was followed by a third doctorate in mathematics (1946), as well as by military service in the French air force (to 1940) and thereafter in the French Resistance (through 1945). As a recognized authority on aeronautics and fluid mechanics, from 1947 to the 1950s he was a visiting professor and research associate at Columbia University, New York, as well as consulting engineer for a number of corporations. Yadoff died in New York in 1961.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Alexander Yvanoff, 1896 - 1973

Yvanoff was born in Kazan' on 20 January 1896. As an ensign (praporshchik) in the Russian army in 1917, he witnessed the collapse of the front, and returned to Kazan', where he joined the anti-Bolshevik army in 1918. He remained with the Whites till his evacuation from Vladivostok with Admiral Iu. K. Stark's flotilla in October 1922. A fluke of fate left him stranded in the Philippines (instead of continuing on to the United States as had been his intention), and there he remained, working as a logger, surveyor, and miner.



During the Second World War, he fought with guerrilla forces against the Japanese, and spent the post-war years locating and defusing bombs and landmines left in the Philippines. Yvanoff died in Zamboanga on 25 January 1973. He described his life in a memoir entitled "From Kazan to Zamboanga," recorded by Ann Evans, the wife of a mining engineer for whom Yvanoff had worked.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

Mikhail Trofimovich Zarochentsev

M. T. Zarochentsev, a prominent specialist in refrigeration, was born on 18 September 1879. His career in refrigeration engineering began even before graduation from the Institute of Transportation in Moscow in 1909. He participated in the work of the International Congresses of Refrigeration in Paris (1908), Vienna (1910), London (1924), and Rome (1928), and was one of the founders of the Russian Refrigeration Association. Editor of a scientific periodical on refrigeration in Russia, he also authored numerous books on the subject, such as Kholodil'noe dielo (Moscow, 1911), Kholod v plodovodstvie (Simferopol', 1911), and Ledniki (Moscow, 1912).

During the First World War, as consultant to the Ministries of Agriculture and Transportation, he oversaw the construction of numerous packing houses, cold storage facilities, and thousands of refrigerated railway cars. Following the Revolution, he spent two years in France before becoming general manager of the Estonian packing house A/S Külmetus from 1922 to 1927. Continuing scientific work on refrigeration in France and Great Britain in 1928-1930, he saw that without larger capital investment than that available in Europe, his plans would remain unrealizable. In 1931 he proceeded to America to interest investors in what would become known as the Z process of quick freezing. As vice-president of the American Z Corporation, and an official of Z-Pack Corporation and National Frosted Foods Sales Corporation, Zarochentsev became one of the leading figures in refrigeration into the early 1950s, when he retired.



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco

-Hoover Institution Archives, 2001