



In This Issue:

Steaming Across the Pacific



Ship manifests from the 1920s—1940s showcase the ways in which Gins and related family members crossed from Asia to North America and a new life...

Parsing the Past:

A Year End Review

It's been an eventful year of discoveries and revelations, and we highlight dramatic details from 2009...

Nina Konstantinovna Gins — Photographs Found!

We continue to pay tribute to brilliant scholar Nina Konstantinovna Gins through newly recovered photographs of Nina as a girl and lovely young woman...

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Mystery Photos

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Gins Family History Research News

The Holidays are a perfect time to reflect on our families and our heritage. And I can think of no better example of family connectedness than that expressed in the photograph below. Thanks to Sara Guins considerable efforts in copying antique family photos from albums in Michigan, we now have this charming picture of Konstantin Moritsov Emiliev Gins, son of Morits Emil Ludvigov and Maria Konstantinovna Gins, with his wife and two oldest sons. This is our first glimpse of a man who died from an illness in 1891 while serving as a Staff Captain in the Imperial Russian Army at the Fortress in Novogeorgievsk, now Modlin, Poland. That Konstantin loved his family is evident from this portrait, showing him comfortably cradling his son, Georgij, who was born in 1887. His oldest son, Dmitrij, gently rests a hand on his father's leg, while mother, Ekaterina, entwines Dmitrij's other hand in her own. The circle of closeness and caring that this young family demonstrates is iconic and eternal; and family connections and continuity are what we commemorate this holiday season.



Ekaterina Dmitrievna Gins with sons, Dmitrij, standing, and Georgij, with father, Konstantin Moritsov Emiliev Gins. Photo courtesy Sara Guins from Katherine Guins collection.



Japanese **Tatsuta Maru**, a 16,955 ton passenger liner for Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) Japan Mail Steam Ship Co. Ltd Line. This vessel brought George and Emilia Guins to San Francisco in 1941, but with an unexpected turn of events. Read George's eye witness account on the following page.

Steaming Across the Pacific: Ship Records Reveal Guins Routes and Ruses

The Pacific Ocean was no barrier to Guins family members who were determined to emigrate to the U.S. to find a life less fraught with the difficulties and dangers they endured during the Russian Revolution and Civil War, and the ensuing political instability in China. The exodus of Guins family members from Asia began in the early 1920s and continued through the 1940s and beyond, as recorded in copies of original ship passenger manifests now available online (Ancestry.com). As you can see from the table below, most paid for passage on Japanese, U.S., or Canadian steamships; only one Guins member, George Alexander, gained entry to the U.S. by military transport ship, the Merritt, which picked up stranded Russian sailors in the Philippines as a gesture of goodwill.

<u>Passenger, Age</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Port of Departure</u>	<u>Port of Arrival</u>	<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Vessel Registry</u>
George A Guins, 19	1 Jul 1923	Manila, Philippines	San Francisco, CA	US Army Transport Merritt	US military
Eugenia Miller, 21	24 Sept 1923	Vancouver, BC	Seattle, WA	SS CP Pacific line	Canadian civilian
Lyda Guins, 19	24 Sept 1923	Vancouver, BC	Seattle, WA	SS CP Pacific line	Canadian civilian
Boris Bekkarevitch, 29	1 Nov 1923	Shanghai, China	Seattle, WA	SS President Jackson	US civilian
Vera Bekkarevitch, 24	1 Nov 1923	Shanghai, China	Seattle, WA	SS President Jackson	US civilian
Igor Bekkarevitch, 3	1 Nov 1923	Shanghai, China	Seattle, WA	SS President Jackson	US civilian
Zinaida Vologodsky, 17	4 Sept 1930	Kobe, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Shinto Maru	Japanese civilian
Sergei G Guins, 19	5 Sept 1934	Yokohama, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Tatsuta Maru	Japanese civilian
Maxim V Kononenko, 46	16 Aug 1935	Shanghai, China	Los Angeles, CA	SS Taiyo Maru	Japanese civilian
Maria A Kononenko, 40	16 Aug 1935	Shanghai, China	Los Angeles, CA	SS Taiyo Maru	Japanese civilian
Vladimir P Kravetsky, 28	14 May 1936	Yokohama, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Tatsuta Maru	Japanese civilian
Ludmila P Kravetsky, 20	14 May 1936	Yokohama, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Tatsuta Maru	Japanese civilian
Sergei V Glazunov, 23	22 Sept 1937	Yokohama, Japan	Vancouver/Victoria	SS Empress of Canada	Canadian civilian
Alexandra M Glazunov, 23	22 Sept 1937	Yokohama, Japan	Vancouver/Victoria	SS Empress of Canada	Canadian civilian
Vsevolod G Guins, 27	12 May 1938	Yokohama, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Taiyo Maru	Japanese civilian
Vera M Guins, 28	12 May 1938	Yokohama, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Taiyo Maru	Japanese civilian
Julia L Guins, 52	4 Jul 1941	Kobe, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Yawata Maru	Japanese civilian
Tatiana N Guins, 17	4 Jul 1941	Kobe, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Yawata Maru	Japanese civilian
George C Guins, 54	30 Jul 1941	Kobe, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Tatsuta Maru	Japanese civilian
Emilie L Guins, 53	30 Jul 1941	Kobe, Japan	San Francisco, CA	SS Tatsuta Maru	Japanese civilian

Steaming Across the Pacific (continued)

Gins trips to America via steamship were generally trouble-free, with one exception. While most crossings took about two weeks to complete, there was a voyage that took three weeks, due to mysterious circumstances. The following is a first person account by George Constantine Guins (Georgij Konstantinovich Gins) detailing the ordeal he and wife, Emilia, experienced on their journey in the summer of 1941. These edited comments come from the interview conducted by Boris Raymond in 1968 (George C. Guins, Professor and Government Official: Russia, China and California, University of California, Berkeley, pgs. 352-359).

Guins: It was my third tour from Dairen to Kobe, Japan. This time the sea was not quite calm and I did not feel well. The most interesting was a surprise. I looked out the window of our cabin when we were approaching Kobe and was amazed. In the considerable distance there was almost all of the Japanese fleet. It was absolutely impossible to count the warships, but it was an impressive demonstration of the Japanese sea power. And think what was my surprise for the second time when, on the next day when we moved from Kobe, there was no warship at all at any distance. Evidently the fleet moved in an unknown direction. It was probably the whole Pacific Ocean fleet of Japan.

Raymond: You had, I believe, still more interesting observations when you were on board the Tatsuta Maru?

Guins: I will try to remember as much as I still can in the chronological order. First of all, when our steamer left Yokohama, it did not move far from the shore when all passengers were invited to leave their cabins as well as all the decks and to descend into the dinner hall. They were warned also that nobody could go away until it will be permitted by the captain. When all passengers gathered as they were instructed, the steamer stopped. We had the impression that somebody arrived for inspection or something was delivered and loaded aboard. We did not see or hear anything. But it wouldn't be necessary to stop the steamer and isolate all passengers unless a certain person, a certain act, or a new load had to be hidden from the eyes of the passengers. Then we continued our journey.

(Talks about fellow passengers and then this...)

Many other suspicions appeared in my imagination. I could not forget what I heard and read before my departure about the possible Japanese expansion in Asia and that the United States was considered to be the worst enemy of Japan. Then I paid attention to the particular structure of the Tatsuta Maru, the steamer on the board of which we were crossing the Pacific. It was so wide that a small plane could use it as a landing ground, I thought.

However, when we arrived to Honolulu everything there was according to the routine. It was very pleasant to see American physicians, custom employees, and immigration agents who came for fulfilling their duties. I was observing how from our steamer were unloaded baskets with unknown goods, and how much could be put inside if the Japanese had really prepared for a war with the United States. But I could not notice any vestige of anxiety or suspicion on the faces of the American officials or any abnormality in the behavior of people who were on the pier.

The attractive Hawaiian girls decorated with flower necklaces met us with their usual welcome songs. There was time at the passengers disposal for a tour. We were invited to the factory where we tasted excellent pineapple juice. A group of passengers organized a tour around the southern part of the island. We joined them and enjoyed sightseeing, breathed in the fresh air saturated with the fragrance of the flowers, and stopped for a short time on the beach of Waikiki.

All my suspicions appeared to me a result of survived troubles and doubts, and I returned to the steamer satisfied with the first impressions of the contact with the territory control led by the United States. The next days of our journey were the days of expectations. We began to imagine ourselves approaching the San Francisco port, the meeting with our son and relatives who will wait for us, the sightseeing of San Francisco, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. But our

expectations were suddenly betrayed only several hours before the end of the journey. Almost all passengers were on the upper deck, and the lights of San Francisco were appearing in the long distance when a passenger came running from the cabin which was below and, nervously expressing his anxiety, informed all passengers on the upper deck, that the steamer had turned back! My trunk, which was standing on the floor, fell, and my compass indicated the turn to the opposite direction; it was true. The lights of San Francisco soon disappeared.

Raymond: It is a stirring story! If you were not here, I should suppose that you lost the chance to come to the United States. I hope you will relate some details about your further survival.

Guins: I will. It was in fact an exciting story. As you can imagine, one could hardly sleep peacefully this night. Fortunately the steamer after two hours approximately ceased to move. We were standing in the open sea. Since the early morning passengers shared with each other their surmises. What happened? Why? Where? When? The most important was the problem of whether it was a political or technical case. At last somebody brought news. The captain informed us that the machines proved to be out of order and as it would be too expensive to repair them in the port and to pay for the moorage, he decided to stop in the open sea. We wished to believe, but some less gullible people quickly dissuaded all. There were no sounds in the engine room; all chairs were taken out from the deck as happens at the end of a journey. There were no reasons to leave the passengers without information up to the morning; and so on. All these and other surmises and reasons let us guess that we were victims of some political complications. But of what kind? During the whole day and the several next days we could not get some more credible news. The next day proved to be even more troublesome. It was prohibited to use the radio. It was prohibited without explanation of the reasons. During the dinner we received the instructions to use sparingly fresh water for both drinking and washing. We were asked also to economize on fruits and food and to leave untouched what one does not eat or does not wish to eat. All that could but convince us that it was a "political machine"; which had to be repaired. There was no comfort.

The possibility to be returned back was not excluded. On the third day the machines suddenly started to work. The Tatsuta Maru began to tremble as if it had been awakened and had to get up after a sweet sleeping. We were going, but where? Maybe back. It was necessary to decide what place to choose, if we will have a chance to choose. If the steamer could not enter San Francisco, neither will it enter Honolulu. But we had many American missionaries on the board, and we could not believe that the U.S. government will leave them without support. That sedative thought supported our patience and hope.

In the meantime the steamer after two hours of movement stopped for the second time. Such a maneuver was repeated not only once. When the passengers could observe another steamer going in the long distance, some of them expressed the hope that it was a steamer which will take all of us on its board. But every time a promising savior passed by. Would you return to Harbin? My house was leased and the furniture sold to the tenant. I gave up the positions which I had. The problem was very difficult. Anyhow I would not return to Harbin. My German sheep dog shared my anxiety. Once it began to howl. It was dreadful.

Only after four days we found out that there were very important negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, D.C. about a certain embargo, and Washington guaranteed that the declared embargo would not be applied to the cargo on the Tatsuta Maru. We entered San Francisco. The steamer hardly stopped when it was literally besieged by correspondents. For five days it had been a sensational story



Steaming Across the Pacific (continued)

Ship manifests with Gins family member itineraries went beyond reports of dates of departure and ports of arrival, and became records of a more personal nature, with scribbled notes from agents who made pronouncements about who was "fit" for admission and who should be denied entry into the U.S. This is evidence of the reach of "scientific racism" that reared its ugly head in the U.S. in the early 20th century. Scientific racism became the basis for restrictive immigrant quota legislation beginning in 1921.

Personal Details from Ship Passenger Manifests dated 1923-1941

Passenger, age	Place of birth	Last Residence	Occupation
George A Guins, 19	Semipalatinsk, Russia	Vladivostok, Siberia	Sailor
Eugenia Miller, 21	London, England*	Hong Kong, China	none
Lyda Gins, 19	Paris, France*	Shanghai, China	none
Boris Bekkarevitch, 29	Lida, Russia	Shanghai, China	House painter
Vera Bekkarevitch, 24	Kishinev, Rumania	Shanghai, China	Housewife
Igor Bekkarevitch, 3	Quota exempt	Shanghai, China	Child
Zinaida Vologodsky, 17	Tomsk, Siberia	Harbin, China	Student
Sergei G Guins, 19	Petrograd, Russia	Harbin, Manchukuo	Student
Maxim V Kononenko, 46	Graivoroh, Russia	Harbin, China	Railway employee
Maria A Kononenko, 40	Leningrad, Russia	Harbin, China	Housewife
Vladimir P Kravetsky, 28	Nickolsk, Siberia	Berkeley, CA, USA	Radio engineer
Ludmila P Kravetsky, 20	Harbin, China	Harbin, China	None
Sergei V Glazunov, 23	Harbin, Manchukuo	Harbin, Manchukuo	Engineer
Alexandra M Glazunov, 23	Harbin, Manchukuo	Harbin, Manchukuo	Housewife
Vsevolod G Guins, 27	St. Petersburg, Russia	Harbin, China	Mech. engineer
Vera M Guins, 28	Kurgan Tobolsk, Russia	Harbin, China	Housewife
Julia L Guins, 52	Odessa, Russia	Harbin, China	Housewife
Tatiana N Guins, 17	Harbin, China	Harbin, China	Student
George C Guins, 54	Novogeorgievsk, Russia	Harbin, Manchukuo	Prof. of Law
Emilie L Guins, 53	Kishinev, Rumania	Harbin, Manchukuo	Housewife

* this information is not accurate (perhaps to avoid immigrant quota restrictions?)

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES												
ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the insular possessions of the United States. This (white) sheet is for the listing of passengers sailing from.												
1805 / 29		S. S. President Jackson		Passengers sailing from		Shanghai China		Oct 16		1923		
No. on list	HEAD-TAX STATUS (This column for use of government officials only)	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Calling occupation	Rel.	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	1 Race or people	Last permanent residence		Final destination (Should state passenger address)
		Family name	Given name	Yr. Mo.						Country	City or town	State
1	ADMITTED	Shoolman	Maria	20	F	Housewife		Russia		China	Shanghai	Wn Seattle
2	ADMITTED	Moissenko	Sophia	40	F	H		Russia		Harbin		Wn Seattle
3	ADMITTED	Moissenko	Izay	14	M	Student		Russia				Wn Seattle
4	ADMITTED	Moissenko	Pavel	9	M			Russia				Wn Seattle
5	DEBARRED	Seits	Jennie	24	F	Housewife		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
6	DEBARRED	Seits	Luhmiller	3	F	Child		Russia				Wn Seattle
7	ADMITTED	Truhin	Simon	21	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
8	ADMITTED	Vinaretz	Anastasia	20	F	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
9	ADMITTED	Hogoff	Michael	26	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
10	ADMITTED	Jurik	Joseph	22	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
11	ADMITTED	Truhin	Elise	18	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
12	ADMITTED	Kaire	Peter	21	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
13	ADMITTED	Tarasuk	Nikita	20	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
14	ADMITTED	Cyankovsky	Leon	20	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
15	ADMITTED	Maronoff	Eugene	24	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
16	ADMITTED	Medvedoff	Leonid	29	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
17	ADMITTED	Baukareff	Dimitri	27	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
18	ADMITTED	Flisshin	Peter	26	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
19	ADMITTED	Bystroff	John	26	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
20	ADMITTED	Shagohin	Konstantine	23	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
21	ADMITTED	Antonoff	Nikolai	33	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
22	ADMITTED	Bekkarevitch	Boris	29	M	Student		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
23	ADMITTED	Bekkarevitch	Vera	24	F	Housewife		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle
24	ADMITTED	Bekkarevitch	Igor	3	M	Child		Russia		Shanghai		Wn Seattle

This cropped passenger list shows my grandparents, Boris and Vera Bekkarevitch, and son, Igor (Harry) as the last 3 names on the page. My grandparents must have realized there could be a problem with quotas of Russian citizens applying for entry into the U.S., so they changed their citizenship, indicating they were from Lithuania and Rumania

Parsing the Past: A Year End Review

Translations and research by Boris Dralyuk, C.Phil.

It's been a very active year of Gins family history research and translations, and I thought I would briefly review the highlights of our findings, particularly since news of discoveries up until August was distributed by e-mail relay through various cousin intermediaries, rather than through one source, such as the newsletters. And, since we are joined by cousins who have recently been added to the readership, I feel it's important that everyone have access to the same key pieces of Gins background information. But first, a bit of context for the news that follows:

- Fall 2008: Translation of Vera Vladimirovna Gins' 1895 baptismal certificate lists as a witness, **Morits Emil Ludvigov Gins**, Vera's paternal grandfather (giving us through his patronymic, the name of his father, **Ludvig**). Morits Emil is described as a State Councillor.
- Spring 2009: An Ancestry.com birth record of a **Morits Gins, b. 1827 in Kalisz, Poland** (details come from JewishGen.org) is found.
- Summer: Father of Morits Gins and siblings is confirmed through FamilySearch.org (Mormon church) as **Ludwik Gins, b. 1776**, and mother, **Fryderyka Holtz, b. 1791**.

- Summer: A book, *Neofici polscy; materyally historyczne* (*Polish Neophytes; Historical Materials*) is located. "Neophytes", here, means converts to Christianity. The translated record shows: "Gins, Maurycy Emil [Rus. "Morits Emil"], 15 years old, son of Ludwik Gins and Fryderyka Holtz from Kalisz, in 1842."
- Summer: Discovery of **Emil Andreevich Gins** and **Marija Konstantinovna Gins** grave markers at Bajkove Cemetary, Kiev. His birth year is 1827 and he is listed as a State Councillor. **Emil died in 1901**, and **Maria Konstantinovna died in 1894**. Andre, used as a patronymic, was likely the man who helped to convert Morits Emil to Christianity.
- Summer: The *List/Register of Noblemen of the Kiev Gubernija* (1906) [Rus. "*Spisok dvorjan Kievskoj gubernii*"] provides the following: **Morits-Emil' Ljudvikov Gins**, along with his sons **Vladimir** (with his son **Mikhail**), **Modest**, **Aleksandr**, and **Konstantin** (with his sons **Nikolaj**, **Georgij**, and **Dmitrij**), was **granted hereditary nobility on July 15, 1899**. It seems that Morits-Emil' -- who appears with his proper patronymic, Ludvikov(ich) --, rose to the rank of **Actual State Councillor** [Rus. "Dejstvitel'nyj Statskij Sovetnik"], thereby attaining hereditary nobility for himself and his sons, a mere two years before his death in 1901. His Actual State Councillor patent was listed as No. 2333.

Nina Konstantinovna Gins — Photographs Found!

In November we examined the scholastic achievements of Konstantin and Ekaterina's daughter, Nina, but didn't have photos of Nina as a young woman at the time. We now have these three, thanks to Sara Guins.



Left: Georgij, Ekaterina, Dmitrij, Nikolaj (seated), and Nina

Above: Nina, Georgij, Ekaterina, Nikolaj, and Dmitrij

Right: Nina with nephew, Seva (my guess)

Photos courtesy of Sara Guins, from her personal collection and from albums belonging to Katherine Guins.



Parsing the Past: A Year End Review

(continued)

There are additional, significant discoveries that took place during the past twelve months (Prokhnitskij Patents of Nobility, Nikolaj Gins letters to name a couple), but I won't go into those here. I will, however, be delighted to answer any questions about our research or sources, and will certainly share copies of any of the research, records, links, or photographs we have with any relative who contacts me (smorris121@msn.com).

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for all those who have put in time on the Gins family history research this year, since this is a team project: Vicky Mlyniec, Sara Guins and Juliana Marin have provided extremely valuable family photographs as well as crucial details about the family history. Kathy Guins and Vicky have also conducted and transcribed their own extraordinary oral history interviews with

Sergei Guins (Katy) and Sergei with Tanya Anderson (Vicky), that have given us insights into the lives of the families in transition, from Russia to China and the U.S..

Not to be forgotten is the contribution made by Katherine (Trink) Guins early this summer, when she brought the very old, very impressive Prokhnitskij portfolio of documents to UCLA to be translated for the benefit of the extended families. And more recently, Alexandra (Sandra) Glazunov graciously allowed us to make photo files of her family's wonderful collection of Gins-Gergardt-Glazunov photographs as well as an antique business card. Sandra also generously shared her time and some of her family history with us.

Finally, I need to recognize the tremendous translation and research talents of Boris Dralyuk, whose ceaseless scouring of obscure Polish and Russian records, along with thoughtful translations, have provided us with amazing details about the lives of our Gins ancestors. Thank you, all!

Mystery Photographs

Can you identify anyone in these two photographs from the Guins family albums in Michigan? If so, please contact me or Sara Guins.



Julija Lvovna Gins with...? Photo courtesy V. Mlyniec