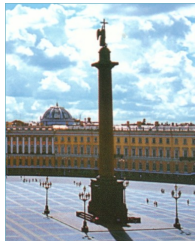


**In This Issue**Imperial Russian eagle.
MARK ANDERSON.**Hereditary Nobility and Russian Nobility Law**

We take an in-depth look at the Imperial Russian legal system as it applied to the nobility, who effectively ruled the land from the 14th century through 1917...

Timeline: Gins Family and Russian History

A graphical outline of the first 100 or so years of known Gins family history is contrasted with significant events in the history of the Russian Empire...

Alexander Column, St.
Petersburg, Russia. COURTESY/HERMITAGE MUSEUM.**Correspondence****Marija Prokhnitskaja writes to daughter, Julija Gins, in 1916**

Vicky Mlyniec gives us an insightful introduction to this letter from her great-grandmother, Marija Andreevna Prokhnitskaja...

Mystery Photos: Mystery Solved!**Researchers**

Stas Bookalo
Boris Dralyuk C.Phil.
Susan Morris
Vicky Mlyniec
Sara Guins
Katherine Guins
Kathy Guins

Gen Guins
Juliana Marin
Natalia Simu
Alexandra Glazunov
Margarita Glazunov
Valerie Warden

**Susan L. Morris
Gins Research Coordinator**

Technical Support
Alexandra Morris

155 Rincon Street
Ventura, California 93001
(805) 746-6432 cell
smorris121@msn.com

Gins Family History

Research News

A fortuitous meeting at the end of April with Gins relatives — Jeff, Jenny, Philip and Mark Anderson — prompted the lead articles for this month's newsletter. As expected, it was good to see and talk to our London-based cousins, but during this brief get-together at the Mlyniec home in Los Gatos, I was able to show the group (which included Vicky, her son, Sam, and my daughter, Alexandra) the Prokhnitskij portfolio that I brought for eventual donation to the Hoover Institute's Russian Archives. Upon seeing the gloriously-decorated Gramota, or Patent of Nobility, from 1832 (see page 3), Jenny asked two very important questions: "Why was this document created?" and "What was going on historically at the time?" I couldn't fully answer Jenny's questions, so I set out to gather details that would address those valuable issues. Context is key to understanding what went on in the lives of our relatives, and why; without context, we will only have assembled a catalog of facts and dates. Thank you, Jenny, for asking such great questions!

Zinaida Glazunova (nee Gergardt) with son, Sergei, and daughter-in-law, Aleksandra Glazunova

Happy Birthday, Sandra! Our senior Gins relative turned 97 last month and we are very happy that she is still with us. Sandra is seated in this photo from Harbin around 1937 with her husband Sergei Vladimirovich Glazunov, and his mother, Zinaida. Zina is the daughter of Ludmila Moritsovna-Emilievna Gergardt (nee Gins) and Andre Andreevich Gergardt.

Aleksandra, who prefers the name Sandra, was born in Harbin in 1914 to Matrona Vasilievna Stepantsova (nee Shinkarenko) and Mikhail Timofeyevich Stepantsov, and is the youngest of 5 children. Sandra met Sergei in Harbin and they married when she was 23. The couple then immigrated to the U.S. by way of Canada in September of 1937.

Sandra's lifestory is of such interest that she has been videotaped and interviewed by Anatol Schmelev, curator of Russian Archives at the Hoover Inst., Stanford University.



From left: Sergei Vladimirovich Glazunov, Zinaida Andreevna Glazunova (nee Gergardt), and Aleksandra Mikhailevna Glazunova (nee Stepantsova), circa 1937. COURTESY/MARGARITA GLAZUNOV.

Hereditary Nobility and Russian Nobility Law

WE have addressed the topic of Russian nobility in past newsletters, although briefly, and it is now time to cover the subject more fully. Numerous documents we recently received from the Department of Heraldry archives in St. Petersburg and elsewhere relate directly to the need to establish or reconfirm the Gins family status as hereditary nobles, following the legal requirements set out by Russian nobility law.

Legal Aspects of Noble Status

The Imperial Russian government operated under a system of statutory laws that were incorporated into 16 volumes of the Complete Code of Laws of the Russian Empire. Section 2 of the Statutes on Ranks, vol. IX, Compl. Code of Laws, divided the whole population of the empire into four classes:

1. Nobility
2. Clergy
3. Urban residents
4. Rural residents

Each group had their rights, privileges, and duties clearly defined. Section 15 of the Statutes described the term 'nobility':

"The status of nobility is the consequence of the quality and virtues of those commanders who, having distinguished themselves in ancient times by meritorious acts, and having thereby attributed their services the quality of distinction, conveyed to their descendants a noble rank."

Nobles were a social class or status category; nobility was not a title. Of the two basic forms of nobility — hereditary and personal —



Imperial eagles on the gate outside the Russian Museum, St. Petersburg. COURTESY/S. MORRIS

nobles could also be differentiated in the following ways:

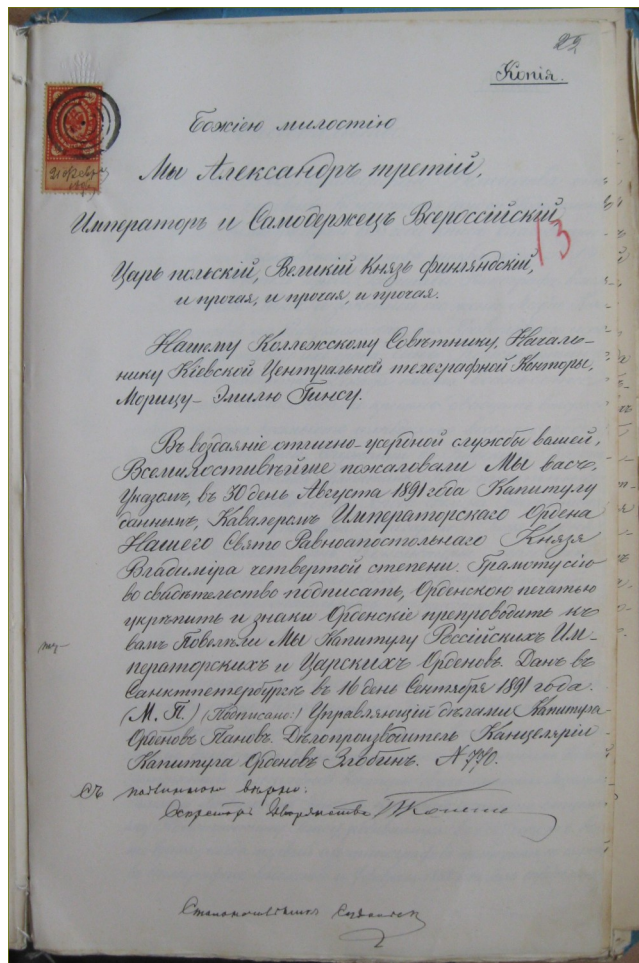
1. Ancient nobility: descendants of Rurik, Gediminas and the boyars (noble families for over 100 years).
2. Titled nobility: Prince, Count, or Baron.
3. Hereditary nobility: inherited by descendants.
4. Personal nobility: earned through personal merit.
5. Unpropertied nobility: noble status not connected with land ownership.

In 1722, Peter the Great established the Table of Ranks based on Russian military ranks that enabled anyone, even commoners, to achieve hereditary nobility through service to the empire, working through 14 ranks as military, civil, or court officials.

Empress Catherine II expanded the rights of the nobility and in 1785 issued a Charter for the Gentry that recognized organizations of noblemen at the provincial (gubernia) and district (uyezd) levels as legal corporations, called an Assembly of Nobility, with specific privileges for Assembly members. However, in 1862, Nicolas I restricted the right to vote in an Assembly to those nobles who owned at least 100 serfs; bringing the total of noble voters to 21, 916.

The Paper Trail

Russian law dictated that every member of each generation of a hereditary noble family had to be registered in at least one part of the provincial Noble Register (or Noble Genealogical Book). This is why we now have the documentation from St. Petersburg — Morits-Emil Gins had to register names, birthdates, education and career history for himself, his sons and grandsons.



Document granting Morits-Emil Gins the order of St. Vladimir, 4th degree, on Aug. 30, 1891. This order endowed the recipient with hereditary nobility. It was up to Morits-Emil to ensure that his noble status was shared with his descendants by requesting that they be "attached" to the nobility. COURTESY/S. BOOKALO.

Hereditary Nobility and Russian Nobility Law (continued)

The six parts of the provincial Nobility Register were:

Part 1—Granted or Real Nobility.

Part 2—Military Nobility (acquired according to ranks for the military service).

Part 3—Nobility acquired according to ranks of civil service or military.

Part 4—Foreign Noble Families.

Part 5—Titled Families.

Part 6—Ancient Noble Families.

Morits-Emil Gins would have come under Part 3, having acquired his hereditary nobility through the civil service rank of Actual State Counselor, along with receiving the order of St. Vladimir. He then had to confirm his descendants by a procedure called “to be attached to the nobility” or to be added to the family nobility.

Morits-Emil did this by providing various documents that validated the son or grandson’s right to be registered in the same section of the Noble Register. Birth certificates were submitted for all the male relatives as well as military service records and formulary work histories for the sons, where appropriate.

Apparently the Kiev Noble Assembly decided that Morits-Emil’s documentation was sufficient, because those 76 papers were forwarded to the Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate in St. Petersburg in 1896. We know that a final decision on the Gins family was reached in 1899, when the Kievan Nobility Register recognized the all Gins males as hereditary nobles.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_nobility
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter_to_the_Gentry
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_of_Ranks
<http://www.russiannobility.org/Default.asp?page=23>
<https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/citd/RussianHeritage/5.NOB/5.L/5.XII.16.html>



1832 Gramota or Patent of Nobility for Franciszek son of Ignacy Prochnicki (Prokhnitskij), indicating that he presented sufficient proof of his noble lineage, and that he and his family were therefore entered into **Part 6** (Ancient Noble Families) of the Kiev Governorate’s Noble Genealogical Book. COURTESY/S. GUINS COLLECTION.

Hereditary Nobility and Russian Nobility Law (continued)

Russian Nobles versus Nobility in Other Countries

Following is an excerpt of an article on the “Legal Aspects and Historical Status” of Russian Nobility that appears on the Russian Nobility Association of America website: <http://www.russiannobility.org/Default.asp?page=23>.

...France in particular is a country boasting of a large number of titles, such as “vicomte”, “prince”, “duc”, “marquis”, etc., with no pretense of legal or historical justification. Moreover, their bearers—a thing inconceivable in Imperial Russia—have purchased the nobility status, as well as titles, from the Kings or even from the Popes.

The practice of usurping French titles came into vogue especially as a result of the so-called “Great” Revolution of 1789-1799. It is known, for instance, that the real name of the ancestors of the poet Lamartine was “Alamartine” which was later arbitrarily changed to “Lamartine”, and after a while the title of “vicomte” was added. Likewise Balzac appropriated to himself the status of nobility, and began to call himself Honore de Balzac, with no excuse whatsoever, so that one of his biographers, Antoine Buch, justly labeled him “usurpatuer de noblesse”.

Well-known British historian F. M. Thompson in his latest book, “Napoleon Bonaparte”, (Oxford University Press, New York, 1952, page 121) states that Napoleon, during his time as an Emperor (nine years), created new peerages in the amount of 3,457 people. The new titles of nobility were distributed as follows: 31 Dukes, 452 Counts, 1,500 Barons, 1,474 Chevaliers.

Moreover, these titles “if supplanted by sufficient income varying from 10,000 pounds for Princes and 150 pounds for a Chevalier became hereditary.” Aside from that, he created many titles of Princes, which were given mostly to the Generals for military services.

Thus, Napoleon created 4,000 titles during nine years of his reign—five times more than all the Russian Emperors bestowed during 300 years of their reigns!

In comparison, in old Russia, according to the “List of Titled families and persons of the Imperial Russia” (see the Edition of the Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate, St. Petersburg, 1892), there were altogether 762 titled names of which 178 were princely names. The 762 titles belonged to persons of Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Georgian, Tartar, Lithuanian, and other origins).

In England, on the other hand, peerage appears to be, in a large measure, a semi-political institution; many members thereof having been created ad hoc. Harold Nicolson, in his book, *King George The Fifth*, has made the following significant admission: Queen Anne it seemed had in 1712 created twelve new peers in order to avert opposition to the Peace of Utrecht; but that had been a very small number and very long ago. William IV, in 1832, had, after much wriggling, promised Lord Grey to create eighty new Peers in order to secure the passage of the Reform Bills.

And turning to more recent times, the same author posed this question:

How could the King (George V) be certain that, in yielding to Mr. Asquith’s solicitations, in promising to create as many as 500 new Peers, he would be accurately interpreting the considered wishes

of the nation?

These few examples demonstrate the fact that in some Western countries the nobility status as well as titles were, and are being, acquired in a manner quite different from that which, traditionally, prevailed in pre-revolutionary Russia, where these matters were subject to scrupulous legislative provisions and most formal procedure. **This is the reason why in Russia, with her population of almost 200,000,000, the number of titled families, in the way of percentage, was the smallest of any other country.**

It now remains to review briefly the present-day legal status of the Russian nobles residing outside of the Soviet Union, and the method in which they may effect transfers to their names those of related families, whether in male or female lines.

The Provisional Government, which succeeded the Imperial Government, did not change the laws of the Russian Empire concerning the rights of personal and hereditary noblemen to family names, titles and escutcheons. After the coup d’état of February 27, 1917, the Provisional Government, by virtue of its decree of May 13, 1917, granted the power of ratifying the escutcheons of private persons, which was formerly vested in the Emperor, to the Department of Heraldry of the Ruling Senate, which body did actually approve sixty escutcheons pursuant to petitions filed prior to the revolution. Among such escutcheons was one of the titled family of the Count Dmitriev-Manonov.

As a result of the Communist revolution some 4,000,000 people, mostly belonging to the educated classes, were swept out of Russia. The bulk of these refugees eventually settled in Western Europe and in America. Meanwhile by the decree of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers’ and Peasants’ Government of November 12, 1917 (Coll. En. 1917, No. 3, Sect. 31) all ranks and titles were abolished in Russia and by the decrees of the Soviet of People’s Commissars of November 24, 1917 (Coll. En. 1917, No. 4, Sect. 50) and of December 14, 1917, No. 9, Sect. 123) the Ruling Senate and the State Council, respectively, were abolished.

The aforementioned Soviet decrees have not, and cannot have, an extra-territorial effect, and those Russians who have left Russia and refuse to submit to the Soviet Government are not, and cannot be, bound by whatever legislation that Government chooses to enact. In particular, the Russian emigres may well disregard the Soviet decree of November 13, 1917, abolishing all ranks and titles.

Hence, there arises the question in what manner the Russians of noble descent, residing outside the U.S.S.R., can exercise the rights, which they enjoyed under the provisions of Sect. 79 of Vol. IX of the Code of Laws of the Russian Empire.

In our opinion the method and procedure of the transfer of Russian family names should follow as closely as possible the statutory provisions thereon contained in the said Code of Laws.

Inasmuch as both the Ruling Senate, with its Department of Heraldry, and the State Council are non-existent, their functions in connection with the verification of the applications for the transfer of family names, titles and escutcheons should be assumed by the Genealogical Committee of the Russian Nobility Association in France or in the United States, and if the claims of the applicants therefore should be found factually correct and valid, such applications should then be submitted for approval to the living Head of the Russian Imperial House, i.e., H.I.H. Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich.

Photo under text: Imperial Russian eagles from the Hermitage Museum. COURTESY/ MARK ANDERSON

TIMELINE: GINS FAMILY AND RUSSIAN HISTORY

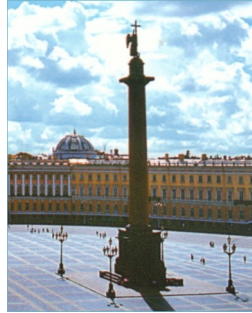
On this page is a timeline of events in the lives of the Gins family (top half) from 1776–1883, contrasted with events occurring during the same period involving the Russian empire (bottom half). I will create another timeline in the June newsletter detailing the next 100 years of Gins family history with a comparison to historical events of worldwide significance.



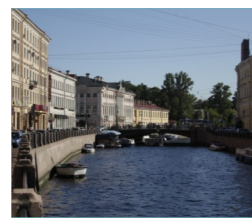
Ludvig Gins, b. abt. **1776**, Jewish merchant and Collector in Kalisz (now in Poland). Married to **Fryderyka Holtz**, b. abt. **1793**, father to **Morits-Emil, Fryderyka, Rozalia, Manas, Julius, Aleksandr, Bernard**, and **Leopold**.



Morits-Emil Gins, b. Aug. 20, **1827** in Kalisz, part of the Russian Empire. Converted to Christianity at 15 (**1842**), like his brothers **Aleksandr** and **Bernard**. **Morits-Emil** was home-schooled and worked as a typographer in Warsaw.



Konstantin Gins, b. Dec. 15, **1857** in St. Petersburg, Russia, to **Morits-Emil Gins** and wife, **Marija** (nee **Golubeva**). They eventually had 8 children: **Konstantin, Ludmila, Anna, Vladimir, Marija, Modest, Aleksandr**, and **Eugenia**.



Morits-Emil Gins, **1858**, qualified as a "telegrapher for foreign correspondence for hire," and entered the Russian postal telegraph system. He was appointed to the Main Station in St. Petersburg in February **1858**.



Morits-Emil Gins leaves St. Petersburg for the Ukraine. His work takes the family to Berdychev, Zhitomer, Odessa, Tutchyn, Rovenky and Kiev, where he becomes Chief of the Kiev Telegraph Station in **1883**.

1700–1800

1800–1900

First Partition of Poland, 1772, was arranged to maintain the balance of power between Russia, Austria, and Prussia. This was the first of three partitions. The next two partitions took place in **1793** and **1795**.

November Uprising of Poland against Russia, **1830**, ends in a crushing defeat with the Battle of Warsaw as the numerically superior Imperial Russian forces put down the insurrection by Polish military officers and supporters.

Crimean War of 1853–1856 had Russia fighting the Ottoman Empire, Britain and France. The Treaty of Paris marked the end of the war. Tsar Nicholas died in **1855**; son, Aleksandr II, became tsar.

Emancipation Reform, 1861: Aleksandr II issued a manifesto emancipating privately owned serfs, granting freedom to twenty-three million people who gained full rights as citizens.

Russo-Turkish War of 1877–1878: Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire. The Treaty of San Stephano brought the conflict to a close. Tsar Aleksandr II was assassinated in **1881**; Aleksandr III became tsar.

Photos, from left: Torah and Torah Mantle, Kalisz, Poland. COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; Castle in Kalisz, Poland. COURTESY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; Alexander Column and Palace Square. COURTESY/HERMITAGE; St. Petersburg, Russia canal. COURTESY/MARK ANDERSON; Morits-Emil Gins' former office building, Kiev, Ukraine. COURTESY/SUSAN MORRIS.

Correspondence

Marija Prokhnitskaja Prays for the Safety of Naval Officer Son, Valentin L'vovich Prokhnitskij

Translation by Vasily Sharikov-Bass and Irina Bass

The Letters of Marija Andreevna Prokhnitskaja

Introduction by Vicky Mlyniec

It is our good fortune that Julija L'vovna Gins (*nee* Prokhnitskaja) always found room in her baggage for the letters she treasured. Whether she was fleeing St. Petersburg for Omsk in 1917 with sister Emilija and brother-in-law Georgi Konstantinovich, or Omsk for Chita in 1919, or escaping Russia for Harbin, Manchuria in 1920, the letters went with her. And in 1941 when she and her 17-year-old daughter Tatjana Nikolaevna (my mother) left Harbin for San Francisco, the letters sailed with them.

This collection of letters, tied with a faded lavender ribbon, was passed on to me by my mother. And now, thanks to our team of student translators, we have English translations of an important portion of this correspondence. Perhaps of most dramatic interest have been the letters Nikolaj Konstantinovich Gins wrote from Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, to Julija in Harbin, during the two years he struggled to find a way to rejoin her and the rest of the family.

We have also met Nikolaj and Georgi's mother, Ekaterina Dmitrievna Gins, through a small number of her letters to both Nikolaj and Julija, and which occasionally included short loving notes to Tanya, the granddaughter she would never meet. These letters give us a glimpse of living conditions in Soviet Russia, and what life was like for the widow Ekaterina in the absence, through death or flight, of three of her four children.

And now we turn to the letters written by Julija's own mother, Marija Andreevna Prokhnitskaja. We have a wealth of these—more than 70. Most are written to Julija, whom Marija affectionately called “Jultsa.” A few are written jointly to Jultsa and Miltsa (Emilija). It is clear that mama Prokhnitskaja wrote in similar quantities to Emilija as well as frequently to her sons.

The letters we have range in date from 1909 to the early 1930s, the decade in which I believe she died. There are no letters during the post-Revolution years of 1918, 1919 and 1920, which was also the time when her daughters were moving east through Siberia as the Bolsheviks pursued the White Russian Army and the Kolchak led government of which Georgij Gins was a member.

The expense of translating these many letters has led us to come up with an arrangement with what Susan and I refer to as the “Sharikov-Bass team,” an agreeable and talented mother-son



Marija Prokhnitskaja seated right with daughters Julija, left, Emilija, standing, and sons Nikolaj, seated center, and perhaps Sergei, right.

COURTESY/V. MLYNIEC COLLECTION.

operation that sometimes includes babushka Svetlana in Siberia.

Vasily Sharikov-Bass, an undergraduate engineering student at Stanford, is our translator, but his work is aided greatly by his mother Irina Bass, who lives in Colorado. Irina transcribes the difficult-to-read old fashioned Cyrillic handwriting and sends it to Vasily in neatly typed Russian. When Ukrainian translations are needed, Grandma Svetlana is called upon to translate Ukrainian into Russian, which is then passed on to Irina and Vasily to finish up.

Irina is my main contact and she is a pleasure to work with. It is a bonus that she is very interested in our family history and is always eager to know more. I have asked her to transcribe all of Marija's letters for me. This will enable me to look the letters over and decide which ones merit full translations, and those I will pass on to Vasily. Eventually, I hope to have all of them translated. Susan and I hope to conduct additional research about the Prokhnitskij family in the future and these letters will likely fill in many blanks.

Correspondence (continued)

Below is a letter from Marija in Kishinev to Julija in Petersburg that at first glance seems to be about money and petty grievances until we read about the grave that needs tiling. I am guessing that the letter was written shortly after Marija's husband Lev died and that she is collecting money for his burial and marker. She is also seeking help in applying for a pension. This is important information as thus far we did not know the year of Lev's death. The "Valka" referred to in the letter is no doubt her oldest son, Valentin, (born 1883), and whose name I found on a Russian web site on a list of Russian Naval Lieutenants in 1916. Dora must be his wife and there is obviously some tension between mother and daughter-in-law.

It is exciting to think what else we may discover about life during this period, and our relatives in particular, as we read the words of a woman who is a great-grandmother and great-great grandmother to many recipients of this newsletter.

February 5th 1916.

Dear Yultza!

Yesterday I have received 10 rubles from Dora. She writes that she cannot send any more this month since Valka has been appointed a flag-officer at the mine layer and he is constantly being drenched in the sea waves, and it was necessary to buy waterproof clothes. They have to live at two houses now before she moves to Sevastopol, and that will only be in spring, while Tanya survives the exams. In the end she writes that she is renting one more room to help me out and that only thanks to her wise savings she is capable of making ends meet. So apparently it is because of me that she needs to live in two rooms. I find this completely tactless to write these things in such times. Maybe she did not want to wound me, but I felt that I am a burden to her, and I felt very bad. What can I reply with? I am convinced that she is just foolish, but is with great pretensions to wit and tact.

The cross with the sign is ready, but it is not possible to tile the grave yet; it is raining, the graveyard is covered with impassable mud, but we will take care of everything when everything dries up – should not cost more than 15 rubles.

Nothing has been decided about me at the Council Meeting, there is no one to go bow to them, to ask, apparently, without

that, nothing will get done. I am waiting for a certificate from you to send a request for a pension, but my certificate has not arrived yet, should ask the district to not delay it. As you can see, the business has become protracted – this is called Russian rigmarole, and it has been two months already.

There is a smallpox epidemic in Kishinev, the old and the young die alike, in our courtyard, a lady of my age has become sick

with smallpox and is recovering now; when we moved here, she was sick already and it was necessary to vaccinate ourselves with smallpox, so the doctor lady sent a nurse from the clinic situated at our courtyard. Yesterday, for Grandma's birthday, we cooked intestines with buckwheat and I remembered that you like this dish very much. Wanted to buy a bottle of wine for Grandma, but couldn't find it anywhere – it is forbidden to sell it. Grandma feels excellent, flowering, rosy as an apple and all because she is constantly in motion; and I allowed myself to move and for that have not slept for the whole night, and the next day couldn't wake up until I had fire cupping. Right at that time Dorphman (?) has come over, but I couldn't talk to him so Grandma did. Just now I have received 15 rubles from you. For all the money (50 rubles), thanks to you and to Miltza. Tell me the truth, daughter – do you still attend evening courses?

What do you have for yourself from your salary? I think daily and nightly of what I can do to not burden you. What does George think about this? I'm asking Miltza to write to me – what did she talk with Dora about and how did their life appear to her. Have not received "Niva" yet.

I congratulate dear Sevochka with the upcoming Angel's Day, kiss him, his mother, father and you.

Your mother.

[On the margins of page 1]

Dora writes that Valka's service on the mine layer is now difficult and dangerous, poor thing, she really will atone for all her sins now. God save him from fire, sword, and enemy's bullet – that is how I pray for him every day.

[On the margins of page 3]

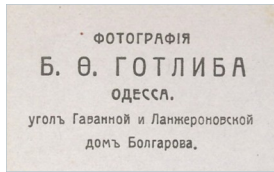
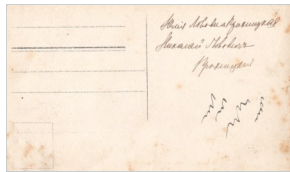
Immediately go to the editorial office of "Niva" and find out why they haven't sent it yet. Hurry the police up to give the certificate.



Marija Andreevna Prokhnitskaja.
COURTESY/S. GUINS COLLECTION.

Mystery Photos: Mystery Solved!

Vicky Mlyniec solved a number of photo puzzles recently when she looked again at a couple of unidentified male faces in photos from the Sergei Guins collection. Using the photo ID feature on her Mac and her own intuition, Vicky figured out that the young man in the central photo is Nikolaj Prokhnitskij, brother to Julija and Emilija. He is seen as a youngster in a white uniform jacket with his sister Julija, and also as a young man with the woman who was his wife, Lyuda. And she is seen in the overlapping photo with a young boy — who could be their son, a younger relative, or — who knows? Both Lyuda (left, next to Georgij Gins) and Nikolaj (center, standing), appear in the stunning group photograph from Harbin, circa 1928. With them are, from left, Georgij Gins, Zina Vologodskaja, Seva Gins, Tatiana Gins (standing), Emilija Gins (seated), Julija Gins (standing), Sergei Gins, and Nikolaj Gins, seated right.



Top left: post card text identifies Julija and Nikolaj; center: photo location is Odessa. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY/S. GUINS COLLECTION

