

Xenia Antic-Miller

MY RUSSIA



A Portfolio of photographs of the
Miller and Neklyudov families

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1. Introduction and Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to Mrs. Xenia Mikhailovna Miller and to her parents Mikhail A. Miller and Tatiana A. neè Neklyudov. Xenia Miller was born on Juli 11th, 1932 in Taganrog. For the longer part of her life up to the present day she has used as first name of Oxana, which appears as official transcription of her Russian name in her German documents, and , since 1970, the family name of her second husband, Zdenko D. Antic. In this book for the sake of simplicity I will refer to her as Mrs. Xenia.

I had the fortune to meet and become a friend of Mrs. Xenia in the fall of 2017. Though I never met her parents, I know many details of their life from their writings, from the information available in printed form or on the web and from the narration of Mrs. Xenia.

The circumstances that led Mrs. Xenia and myself to meet are peculiar. In June 2017 I visited the small Russian town of Millerovo in the Rostov on Don district. My father had been stationed in Millerovo as a young lieutenant in the Italian Army from August to November 1942 during the World War II. By reading in his diary about his daily life in Millerovo I become interested to pay a visit to that region and I finally did so in 2017. During a walking tour of the center of the town my guide pointed out to me a sculpture of Ivan A. Miller (reproduced in the next page), a military at the service of the Czarina Yekaterina II. He had founded the city in 1797. Later on, during a tour of the local museum, the lady director did show to me the windows dedicated to the Miller family. One of these included several images of a refined lady, at different stages of her life. Her name was Mrs Xenia Miller. I was told that she was one of the few living offsprings of the Miller family and had visited many times Millerovo in recent years. She had worked as a journalist and resided in the same town as I did, Munich in the South of Germany. Mrs. Xenia was a child during the World War II and resided in Rostov on Don with her parents. Both Millerovo and Rostov on Don, separated by about 200 km, were under German occupation in the second half of 1942. My father and Mrs. Xenia never met but in early 1943, for more than two months, they were both living in Dnepropetrovsk (today Dnepro). By reading now the pages of their diaries of that time I find parallel descriptions of the Ukraine town in the turmoil of the war. We felt from the beginning of our friendship drawn together by our common interests for Russian history and that of our families, and by the similar way we relate to other human beings

I was especially fascinated by her life history and by that of her parents. They embrace more than a century, from the last years of czarist Russia to post-war Germany. This interest led eventually to the idea of the book. It collects in a single place most of the historical photographs of the families of the parents of Mrs.



Xenia , the Miller (that I identify in this book as the "Don" Miller for their connection with this river which is at the hearth of the Cossacks history of the last two centuries) and the Neklyudov. It is a visual journey from the last decade of the 18th century to the end of the Second World War. The photographs were among the few family papers that the parents of Mrs. Xenia could bring with them when they left Rostov in January 1943.

Whenever it has been possible, the persons shown in the images are identified together with date and location of the photographs. The book includes a few lines of biographical information on the different relatives and of friends but obviously is not even a summary of the history of the two families, which would require a much more extended effort.

With a few exceptions all photos in this book come from the private collection of Mrs. Xenia and are part of the heritage she has received from her parents. I am most grateful to Mrs. Xenia for her patience in explaining me the significance and the background of each image, for providing me with the various historical references and for commenting on the text and on the layout of the book.

Complementary information on historical events and figures have been extracted from Wikipedia.

Sandro D'Odorico

December 2019

2. *The Don Cossack Miller family*



The first image of this album is the portrait of the grandfather of Mrs Xenia, Aleksandr N. Miller (1844-1916). His ancestor, Georg Miller, left at the end of the 17th century his fatherland Prussia on invitation of the Tsar Peter the Great to serve as choirmaster in the new capital of Russia, Petersburg. His son Abram was a medical doctor at the Russian court. He was sent by the Tsarin Elisabeth to the Don as chief doctor in the border army, first in Cherkassk, at the time the capital of the Don Cossaks district and from 1748 as head of the medical department of the Astrakhan army in the Enotayevka fortress, where he died and was buried in 1757. His son Ivan, born in 1745 in Cherkassk undertook the military career in St.Petersburg. He raised to the rank of major in the ranks of the 5th Border battalion. In 1772 he returned to the Don Army . As compensation for his services he acquired the right to buy a vast extension of state-owned land on the banks of the river Gluboskaya, around 100 kilometers to the East of the Don river and 200 kilometers to the North of Rostov on Don. Around his first settlement first a village, and later the present town of Millerovo developed. Ivan A. Miller had several sons, from whom the Miller lineage spread out and flourished in the Don and Donetsk districts. They received the right to hereditary noble dignity by decree of the Emperor Paul the First .

Ivan Abramovich was the great grandfather of Aleksandr Nicolaievich Miller, the grandfather of Mrs. Xenia. Aleksandr studied at the military college in Voronez and entered the military service in a Cossack battalion in St.Petersburg. He left the military service in 1866 with the rank of captain and returned to the Don, where he married in 1872 Aleksandra A. Pershina, from a noble family of the Ekatherinanburg province,



In 1893 Aleksandr Nikolaevich sold the estate of Millerovo-Kamenskoye and moved the family to Taganrog. One of the motivation of this change was the desire to send his youngest son, Mikhail, to the city gymnasium instead than to a military college as it was the praxis for landowner of the nobility and had been done with his two older sons, Aleksandr and Vasilij. Although a pensioner in Taganrog Alexander Nikolaevich was a prominent public figure. He was president of the congress of the judges of the district, State Councilor, for 10 years deputy president of the Taganrog city council (he is the one to the right in the official photo above) and member of several commission and governing bodies of the town charities. In the Miller family it was rumoured that he had inspired the figure of the protagonist of the novel "The Lion and the Sun" by his Taganrog fellow citizen A. Chekhov.

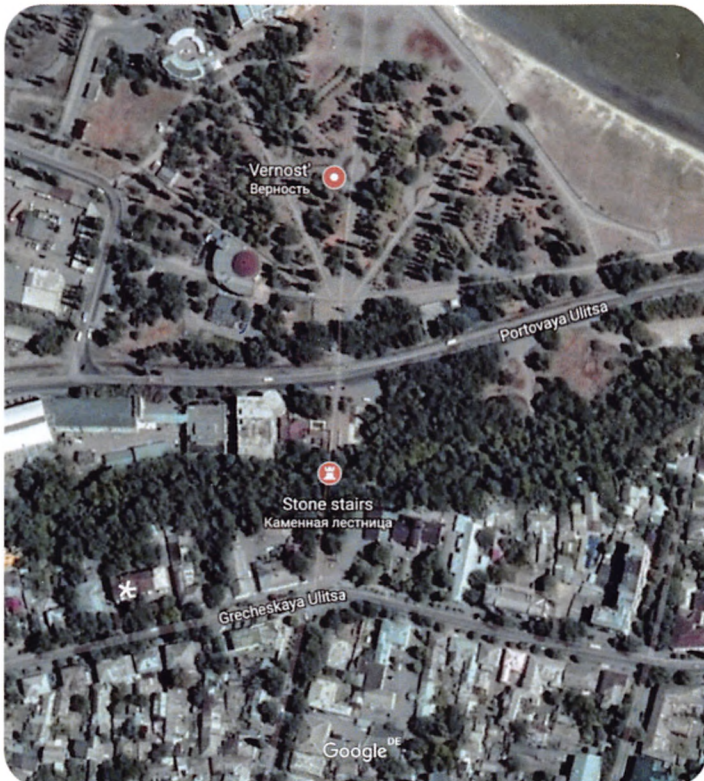


This is the only image which shows Alexander N. Miller with his wife and their six adult children. Standing, from the left, Vasily (1878-1943), Aleksandr (1874-1935) and Mikhail (1883-1968). Sitting in the front row Maria (1879-1951), Aleksandr Nikolaievich, his wife Aleksandra Aleksandrovna Pershin, Aleksandra (1881-1940) and Vera (1880-1949). The photograph was most likely taken in 1912 in the Miller house on the Griechevskaya Ulitsa (Greek Street) in Taganrog at the Azov sea. Mikhail, Mrs. Xenia's father, is in uniform because on that year he had been called in the army. The building was still standing in 1990's (next page, top). It is located close to the stone stairs leading to the seashore and a few steps from the house at the street number 61 where Mrs. Xenia was living as a child with her parents and her grandmother before moving to Rostov on Don in 1938. The photograph of Mrs. Xenia on the staircase was taken during a visit to her home town in the early 90's.

Taganrog had been founded as Peter the Great and is famous as a birthplace of the writer A. Chekhov who visited the same gymnasium than Mikhail Miller, but around 20 years earlier. The building of the gymnasium now hosts a Chechov Museum.

Taganrog was not an unknown name to me. At school in Italy I had read that Garibaldi, the world-wide famous hero of Italian Independence wars, visited the harbour of Taganrog a few times as captain of a Genovese ship to load Ukrainian grain. It was in a Taganrog's Inn at the seashore that he met in 1833 an Italian patriot who convinced him to join in the fight to gain the Italian independence. A statue of Garibaldi in the town reminds of this historical event.





*This Google Earth image of Taganrog (2017) shows the Grecheskaya Ulitsa area. Both the house inhabited by the Miller family before the revolution and the communal flat (marked by a *) where the parents of Mrs Xenia and her grandmother were living in the soviet time. From the street, the stone stairs lead to the shore of the Azov See.*

Her mother met her future husband on those stairs in the late 20s when carrying uphill water collected from a spring close to the shore. She recognised him from a visit he had paid to the house of her parents in Ambrosiavska, as a cadet in a Cossack unit sent to the area for protection against social disorders in 1912.



Aleksandra and Vera Miller are captured in a winter-style portrait taken around 1910 in the studio of the Taganrog Jewish Photographer Jousifa Roubantchik. He was the author of most of the photographs of the Miller family in the czarist time. His name appears usually on the back of all the prints (see page 62), in the picture above the name of the studio is printed on the front in Latin characters.; in the photo below a thoughtful Vera Miller sits at her desk. Michael A. Miller is dressed as a cossacks at the age of 10 (top-right photo) and he is 15 years old in the image of 1898 (lower-right photo), when he was a student of the Taganrog Gymnasium.

From Mikhail Miller's Family Chronicles:

"I remember when I was four years old, I was constantly forced to sing and to dance the Cossack way. Ivan Nikolaevich [N.B. his uncle] was sitting by the table in the living room. On the table there was a decanter with Santurin wine. Ivan Nikolaevich drank in big glasses and made me sing "Oh, chumuche, chumuche, damn your life ..." and then dance the "Kasachka". He was my godfather and I loved him very much. Ivan Nikolaevich himself was a big dancer. We had quite often family balls. On them, Ivan Nikolaevich was at them. running around in an old, crazy waltz, or a polka-mazurka with my bonne Emilia Ivanovna, with his chest sticking out and his beard up."

The group photograph shows components of the Miller family with persons associated to their household in the house in Taganrog. Maria Miller holding her daughter Natalya (born in 1905) is the second from the left in the top row, the wife of Vasiliy A. Miller, Olga Ivanovna Auerbach, sits in the front row holding the younger son Vladimir on her lap, to her right the other son Mikhail (born 1911). He studied engineering , left the URSS toward the end of the second world war and eventually settled in California. The two girls might two of his three sisters. The two men standing in the back were the Russian and German teachers, the woman on the first row the French teacher. The old lady to the right is most likely a former governess or nanny of the house. From the age of children we can infer that the picture must have been taken around 1913.



The Millers in the summer house close to Taganrog



Some of the most interesting photographs of the Miller family in the pre-revolution times are those shot at their summer house near the village of Pokrovskoe (see the map at page 46). The Miller spent many months in the estate which was at short distance from the train station, 25 kilometres from Taganrog. The picture above at the rear gate of the estate must have been taken around 1910. It shows Maria, the oldest Miller sister, with one of the ladies of the house, driving a gig and looking somehow hesitant. The horse is held by a man in cossack uniform, he could be the youngest brother Mikhail.



The river Mius gave the name to the Taganrog district in the 19th century. In its winding course across the steppe from North to South it crossed the Miller estate. The river flows eventually in the Azov's sea to the west of Taganrog. Close to its banks, within their land, the Miller brothers did their first archeological experiences by excavating several kurgans, the burial mounds of steppe warriors (see pg.29). The picture taken in 1901 shows a 19-years old Mikhail posing with a large fishing net on a platform extending to the water.



This iconic image of a afternoon tea on the terrace facing the garden of the house must date from around 1915 judging from the age of the young girl Galina, the first daughter of Mikhail Alexandrovich who was born in 1907. From right to left, a friend of the family, Maria Didusenko, the first wife of Mikhail Miller, Vera Miller, Galina, Maria Miller, an unknown lady-most likely the housekeeper and a pope. The ladies in finely embroidered summer dresses are smiling to the camera while the bearded priest looks like a local version of Rasputin.

Galina Mikhailova Barabash nee Miller, was born in 1907 from the marriage of Mikhail Miller with Maria Pavelic Didusenko. From this union a son was also born in 1911 ,Nicolay Mikhailovic, but died already in 1914. In this photographs Galina must be in her twenties.

She graduated at the Pedagogical Institute of Krasnodar. Galina had a son, Viktor. Both mother and son died suddenly probably of typhus or a form of food poisoning in 1930.



The Miller summer estate (From a letter of Mikhail, son of Vasily A. Miller) to Ksenia Mikhailovna).

"I remember well the estate near the village of Pokrovskoe, 25 kilometers from Taganrog. Your father called it a "farm". Above the gate, in front of the entrance to the garden, was the sign "Miller's Dacha", but it seemed to me a great estate, such as is described in old novels. In front of the main house (hall, dining room, study - library, four bedrooms and a terrace) there was a sandy platform, and behind it a round flower garden - a labyrinth surrounded by lilac bushes. To the side there was a glacier house, followed by a gate and an alley of acacias leading to the top of the hill, where in the chapel there was the crypt with the grave of grandmother Alexandra Alexandrovna. Near the chapel was the grave of the grandfather. Large yard in front of the house covered with grass. On the one hand, there was a well under the poplars, a gate and a Ukrainian-type hut - in the summer Aunt Sasha and Aunt Masha (Alexandra Alexandrovna and Maria Alexandrovna) lived there with their children. The other side of the courtyard was occupied by a cartwright, a stable and a kitchen. In the end, close to the garden, there was a "red house" - we lived in it, then - that is grandfather Alexander Nikolaevich with the whole family. Further there was a garden. It had a croquet court, a belvedere, - this was Uncle Sasha's studio with a glass roof. There he painted (two paintings are in the Art Museum in Taganrog). And then - an orchard and in it, of course, "greens" (as Millers wooden lodges- restrooms were usually painted in green). The garden was cut by a driveway, beyond which the "lower garden" began. Behind there was the river Mius. and on it a wooden platform on pillars, right at the river and a pier for the boat. There was also a working yard with agricultural machines and fields with two mounds and a funnel-shaped pit in which trees and thick grass grew. As you can see, a large estate, but the name "dacha" was justified by the fact that they came there only in summer, for rest and hunting. I heard from my parents that at the beginning of the 1917 revolution the peasants plundered the estate, and at the passing of the red troops all that remained of the robbery was burned. Around 1935, while on a business trip to Pokrovsky, I decided to visit the estate, but could not even find the ruins.

Life in Miller's summer estate (from a letter¹ of A.A.Miller to F.K.Volkov, around 1904)
...I have already begun excavations, but the work is tight because at this time one cannot get workers cheaper 1 r. 50 kop. per day, and we have to dig with brother ourselves. The heat is terrible here. In the shade 34 gr. according to the Reaumur scale. I doubt that by August I could do anything serious. But the painting is quite satisfactory. I am completely fascinated by our steppe and the sun, shady gardens along the banks of Mius and in general everything that can only be represented by paints or a pencil, and I work a lot. Since it often rained here in the month of June, the vegetation reached an amazing development. My workshop, in the form of a white small house, is buried in flowers, right in front of the window there is an apricot tree all in fruits, in a word - paradise. To this you need to add rustic sour milk, dumplings with cherries, cream and ... red-cheeked healthy girls.

I sincerely wish you success with the Hutsuls [a slavic population living in the Carpathian mountains], which I hope to hear about.

Loyal to you, A. Miller

News from Taganrog (from a letter¹ of A.A.Miller to F.K.Volkov,1906?)

Dear Fedor Kondratievich,

for two weeks now, "having folded epaulettes and pistols " ², I turned into a gardener: planting flowers, watering them and arranging flower beds. I sleep with open windows through which climbs the fragrance of cherry flowers, of lilac and nightingale trills. The mood is such that I'm ready, it seems, to fall in love even with a "stone woman" ... I found my brother in Taganrog but the other day he is leaving for Moscow, because University opens. I made an extensive excavation plan for Autumn, but for now I just prepared the ground. Provided that all items are transferred to the Taganrog City Museum the mayor promised me to procure some funds from the Duma, as well as publish a report of my work. But most importantly, the City Government agreed in principle to associate to the management of the museum private Individuals selected by the community of lovers of local antiquities that my brother and I have already started to organise. Not content with the promised 100 rubles, I bowed to the local big newspaper "Priazovsky Krai" to support me with a subscription. So far everything is going satisfactorily, but apart from sympathy I haven't seen anything. For the summer, I'm just gonna do the gathering of the funds and the organisation of the group, and the excavation I'm putting it off for the fall, it's a lot more convenient due to the local conditions. [he further writes about a future visit of a colleague from St. Petersburg]

I usually come to town on Saturday in the evening and on Sunday. My exact address in the city: Taganrog, Depaldovski Lane 2. It will be even better if he writes me to the village about the day of his arrival in Taganrog. My village address is as follows: Neklinovka district, Chaterine railway, Pokrovskoe post office - A.A. Miller.

I wish you all the best.

A. Miller

P.S. On the third day of my arrival, I dug up one of the mounds closest to the estate, and found a big gold earring with an extremely interesting shape.

NOTES

¹ The letters of A. Miller to F. K. Volkov (Ukrainian professor of archeology, drawn smoking in the sketch at page 40) have been published by Prof. I.L. Tikhonov of St.Petersburg

² With this expression he probably refers to his resignation from the army service in which he had been re-drafted In 1905 during the Russian-Japanese war



This group photograph must have been taken around 1905 in the garden of the Miller estate at Pokrovskoe.

Standing from the left: Mikhail Miller, from hat to boots in typical cossack costume , Maria Miller, unknown lady. Sitting from the left: the house governess (note the keys she carries attached to her belt), and Aleksandra Miller.



This unusual picture was taken around Christmas 1906. Mikhail Miller was visiting the house of his brother Vasilij who was working for a bank and living with his family in Samara, more than 1000 km from Taganrog in the direction of the Ural mountains. Vasilij had graduated in Moscow with the title of Scientific Agronomist. After the revolution he worked as agronomist in different locations, Taganrog, Moscow, Poltava , Grozny and from 1938 in Rostov on Don where Mikhail was also professor at the University. He died in 1943.



These two images captured two gatherings at the Miller "dacha" in Pokrovskoe. In the first Maria Miller and daughter Natalia (front line, in the middle) and Olga Ivanovna, the wife of Vasilij A. Miller, sits together with women of different ages, nationalities and positions in the household and with their children. They all look puzzled and enquiring at the photographer. From the age of Natalia -born in 1905- we can infer that it was around 1915. The Word War had just started and that all world was about to disappear within less than a decade. The other image shows a tea or a lunch in the pleasant garden of the house. Six ladies sits at the table on thonet chairs. Of these we recognize Maria (first to the left), the Kalmyk nanny who stands also in the group above and Olga (turned from the table to face the camera). At the small table six girls of different ages, among them Natalia with the hair braid.



4. *The family of Tatiana A. Neklyudov*



The mother of Mrs. Xenia, Tatiana Alexandrovna Neklyudov belonged to an ancient Russian noble family with a lineage which went back to the first tsars. Among her forefathers in the last centuries, a prominent figure is Piotr Vasilyevich Neklyudov (1745-1798), who held important positions in the judiciary at the time of Yekaterina II. He had an imposing palace built between 1787 and 1790 at the Fontanka Embankment, one of the most prestigious locations in St. Petersburg .

Piotr Vasilyevich was the uncle of Tatiana great-grandfather.

N.B. Most of the historical information in this chapter is taken from an autobiographical article by Tatiana Alaxandrovna [see ref. 1]



Mrs. Xenia's grandfather on the mother side was Aleksandr Petrovich Neklyudov (1862-1914) , son of an impoverished landowning noble of the Kharkov province. Upon completion of his studies at the Polytechnic Institute in Riga as chemical engineer he accepted the offer of a friend of his father, a rich land and houses owner, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Mikhalkov, to act as a manager of a large estate he had recently acquired in the South of Russia in the steppe N-E of Taganrog. The estate included both a vast extension of farming land and a brick factory. His brother Ivan Petrovich, a lawyer by education, got the task to administer the Moscow properties of the same Mikhalkov. The third brother, Vasilij Petrovich, was a railways engineer. Aleksandr Petrovich married in January 1892 Eugenia Ivanovna Serdukova, daughter of a

retired Cossack general, owner of a small estate which was contiguous to "Blagodatnoe", the estate Alexander Neklyudov was managing. They had met at a ball of the Mariinskiy Institute for the education of noble girls she was attending in Novocerchassk when she was 17 and they married a year later.



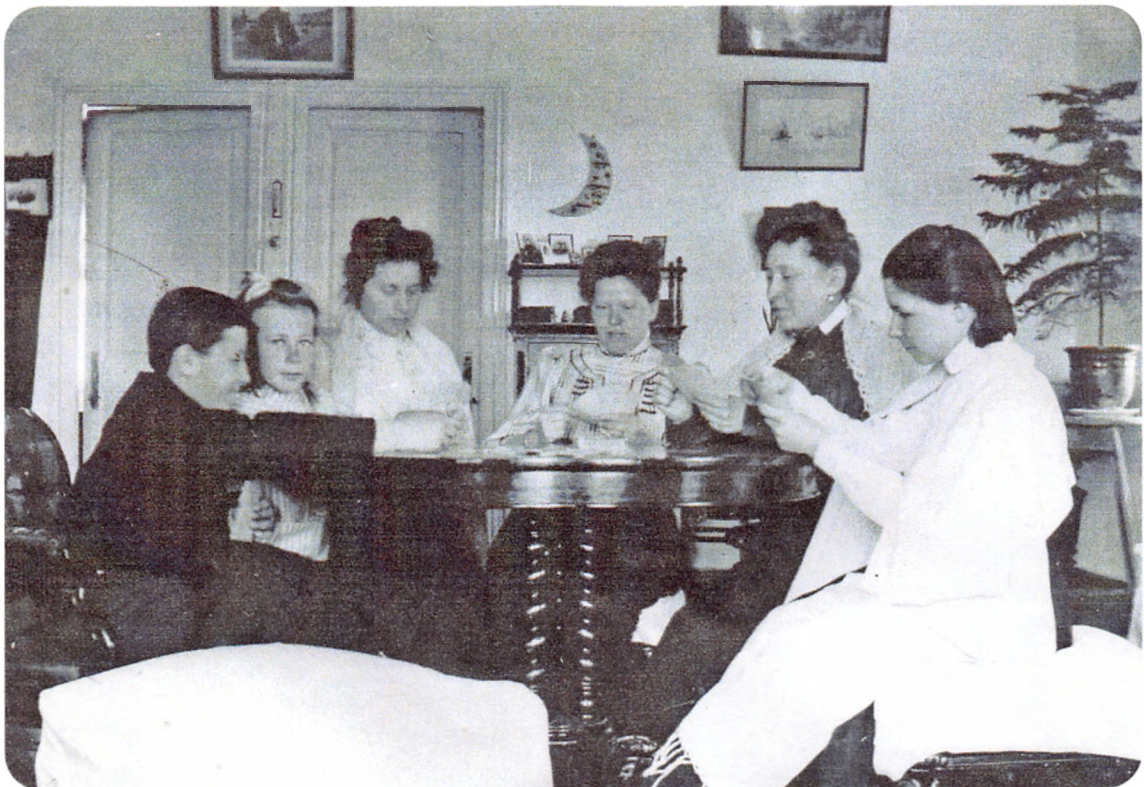
The image above was taken in 1901 at the dinner table in the residence of the large estate "Blagodatnoe" (Heavenly) - managed by Aleksandr P. Neklyudov. The estate was located at 70 km to the North-East of Taganrog, 5 km from the train station of Amvrosievskaya, on the line from Taganrog to Kharkov. Although the quality of this 120 years old print is not very high, it is of great interest because it shows all of the components of Aleksandr P. Neklyudov family and some of the persons associated to the household. From the left, Yevdokia Afanasievna (house employee), a German student, the son Sergei (1893-1919), grandfather Piotr Vasilievich (1840-1906), Aleksandr Petrovich (1862-1914), the wife Eugenia Ivanovna (1873-1958), the daughter Tatiana (1899-1990) mother of Mrs. Xenia, Tatiana's Russian nyanya (nanny), standing, the son Vasilij and Vasilij's bonne Mademoiselle Rafar.

Mrs Xenia remembers: " The grandparents led the comfortable lives of medium-sized landowners. They had a nice, spacious house and about twenty servants. Sometimes I asked grandmother why she kept so many people in the house. But Babuschka, otherwise very open-minded and downright modern, insisted that you needed all these people. "You see," she said, "a coachman drank so much that once on the way to Taganrog he drove grandfather and his horses into a ditch. So we took a second one with the hope that at a given time at least one of them would be sober enough to drive. For the many tiled stoves we needed a stove heater, several maids, a cook and kitchen staff". As it was customary, the children had a Russian teacher and foreign tutor, the oldest Sergei - a German, Wassilii - a French woman. Mother had a Russian nanny, whom she loved very much.. It was a terrible misfortune for her when the old woman became ill and died. She told me how badly she suffered when doctors from Taganrog and even from St. Petersburg were brought to her grandmother when she fell ill, while her sick nanny lay on a bed behind the curtain in the corner of the kitchen and nobody cared for *her*.

In her autobiographical article [ref. 1] Tatiana Aleksandrova recounts on how as a child she liked to run in the steppe around the house, ride horses and shoot. Her father gave her as present when she was 12 a two-barrel 20 caliber Krupp rifle. Much to the unhappiness of her mother because she would have preferred her daughter to be more feminine and to dress properly -as shows this picture taken when she was 4-5 years old.



In the image below, at the table playing cards , from left to right: Vasilij, Tatiana, unknown , Yevdokia Afanasievna (house employee), the mother of Tatiana Eugenia Ivanovna and an unknown young lady, most likely one of the foreign tutors of the children.





The photograph in the garden of the "Blagodatnoe" -Graceful- estate must have been taken around 1908. It shows from left to right the Tatiana governess, Tatiana properly dressed as a young lady, her brother Vasilij, smiling and defiant with his Cossack hat, and two young sisters (twins?), relatives or friends of the family.

The two older Neklyudov brothers Sergei and Vasilij, wear the uniform of the college they were attending in Novocherkassk .

In the oval picture in the next page Tatiana, Sergei and Vasilij pose together around 1910.



Harvesting time at "Blagodatnoe" from the article of Tatiana Aleksandrova, ref. 1

In 1912 Vladimir Aleksandrovich Mikhalkov [N.B. the owner of the estate, schoolmate of] Aleksandr Petrovich at the Polytechnic of Riga] came from Moscow to spend the summer on his property. For this visit he built a new house near the vegetable garden and the fruit orchard on the shore of the river Krinka, 3 versts from our house. We used to ride there with our wagon to go swimming after dinner.

During the harvesting time a large kettle was used to cook tasty dumplings for the workers. These dumplings were made from dark flour and were served with vegetable oil and onions. The village workers were usually fed four meals a day. In the morning for breakfast they received kandor, this is a soup of millet with potato. For lunch they were served borsch with millet porridge. At mid-afternoon they ate bread with tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon or cantaloupe. For dinner they had dumplings and as much black bread as they wanted. A pig was kept by the kitchen to eat the leftovers. After work, almost till dawn, one heard the young people singing. I was wondering when they slept.

Ukrainian boys and girls from the Svatovo village of the nearby Kharkov province hired themselves out from Juli to the first of October [N.B. A village called Svatove still exists halfway between Lugansk and Kharkov] for the three months they worked harvesting the grain. They received 40 to 60 rubles and free food for the three months. They cut the wheat or the barley with horse-drawn mowers, then they folded the shocks by hand. These were transported on large arbas [bullock carts] drawn by pairs of oxen or horses. The grain was sorted with rakes and then threshed with a steam-powered machine. It was an hard, dusty and dangerous work because they had to stand by the machine during the threshing. Chaff and dust got into their eyes and throats. After the grain was threshed it went into a winnowing machine where it was finally cleaned from the chaff.



This picture was taken in 1913 at Blagodatnoe, the estate where the family of the mother of Mrs. Xenia, Tatiana Neklyudov, was living. In the last summer before the beginning of the war, the children of the three Neklyudov brothers, Aleksandr, Ivan and Vasilij, came happily together for a group photo. Their life paths were going to be much affected by the historical events of the following years.

Top row: **Tatiana Aleksandrova** (lived in Taganrog and Rostov on Don in Soviet time, flew with her husband Mikhail Miller, the mother Eugenia and the daughter Xenia to Germany in 1943, settling in Munich from 1951), **Pavel Vasilievich** (born in 1905, life details unknown); middle row: **Petia Vasilievich** (got typhus in 1920 while fighting as a volunteer in the White Army, was left behind in the retreat, circumstances of death unknown), **Vasilij Aleksandrovic** (flew to Yugoslavia in 1920, to the USA after the World War II), **Ekaterina Ivanovna** (born in 1893, life details unknown); front row: **Varvara Vasilievna** (married in 1918, emigrated to Paris where she died in 1922), **Konstantin Vasilievich** (got typhus in 1920 while fighting as a volunteer in the White Army, was left behind in the retreat, circumstances of death unknown), **Grigoriy Ivanovich** (became university professor in Soviet time, received Lenin prize for technical developments in 1961), **Alexsey Aleksandrovich** (lived and worked in Taganrog during the Soviet time, flew with his wife Regina and daughter Olga to Germany in 1943, emigrated to the USA after the war), **Sergey Aleksandrovich** (died in cavalry battle with the Red Army on the Don front in February 2019).



These photographs of Sergei and Tatiana Neklydov were taken in the usual Roubantschik studio in Taganrog, the year must have been approximately 1914. Sergei was at the time studying at the Novocherkassk Polytechnic , Tatiana was at the girl school in the same town.



In the picture above taken in the winter of 1913-14 in St. Petersburg, Xenias's grandfather Aleksandr Petrovich looks older than his actual age of 51 years . He died unexpectedly in April 1914, leaving his wife with 4 children under age. Tatiana writes in her autobiographical article (ref.1): "The owner of the estate he was administering, Vladimir Aleksandr Mikhalkov, came to the funeral. He sobbed and almost fell walking behind the coffin. He wailed that his estate was now ruined and carried on so that mother ended up comforting him. He treated us royally. Mother continued to receive father's full salary until my brothers completed their studies at the university". In 1915 the family moved to Kiev where Aleksandr's brother Vasilij was working as chief of the South-Western railways. In 1917, as the Germans troops were approaching Kiev, they moved back to Taganrog where they resided most of the time during the years of the Revolution and the civil war.



This iconic photograph in the hospital of Taganrog around 1930 shows Tatiana A. Neklyudov with four other nurses around a patient being prepared for an operation.

Tatiana with her mother and the youngest brother Aliosha had returned to Taganrog from Kiev at the beginning of 1917 at the start of the most turbulent years of the revolution and the civil war. The older brothers Sergei and Vasily returned also from the front. Sergei was an ensign and hence as officer was in continuous danger of being arrested and shot by the Red insurgents who had taken control of the city at the beginning of 1918. The soldier committee had reduced the rank of Vasily from second lieutenant to gunner and he was then in a less compromising position. The Bolsheviks retreated from Taganrog on the same year as German troops entered the town, but these left a few months later due to the defeat of Germany in WW 1 and the so called White Don government took over. Two years of bitter civil war followed. The brother Sergei was killed in battle against the red cavalry near the Don in February 1919. The White Army and many civilians retreated to Crimea and at the end of 1920 were evacuated by ship to Europe .

To escape the war and the famine, Tatiana with her mother and the youngest brother Alexey went to the Caucasus, to the town of Kislovodsk near Stavropol , which used to be a summer resort in the Tsarist time. They spent there almost three hard and adventurous years before returning to Taganrog in 1923. With the introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP) the famine had ended and the overall economic situation was improving.

In May 1923, Tatiana started to work as a nurse in the Taganrog hospital. She remained there for almost ten years. In the autobiography (ref.1) she wrote extensively about her experiences at that time. In the next page two episodes have been copied.

"In May of 1923 Dr . Zack, a surgeon , drove up to our house in his service car . Before the revolution he had his own 70 bed hospital. The hospital had been nationalized by the Soviet government but Dr. Zack was kept on as the hospital manager because of his experience and the need of qualified professionals. We had known him for a long time. He suggested that I work for him as an operating room nurse. I told him that I had no training or experience for this, I had worked in a clinic but had had no formal training *or* surgery room experience. He told me that I would soon learn. To him the most important thing was that he knew my family and I could be trusted. I went to the operating room the next day . An operation for osteomyelitis was going on. The doctor was using a hammer and chisel and bone splinters *were* flying everywhere from the patient's leg . My head got hot and I did not think that I would make it. The next day I was put in charge of the instrumentsIt didn't take me long to learn the operating room procedures. I was regularly in charge of handing instruments quickly to the surgeon as they were needed during the operations. I did not need any directions and could place them right into his outstretched hand. There was a lot of work, sometimes 16 hours without a break . As soon as everything was cleaned up after surgery and the room prepared for the next day, an emergency would force us to start all over again. Sometimes just as I was falling asleep at home a driver would arrive to take me back for an emergency and I wouldn't come home until the next night.

In February 1930, surgeon Mark Abramovich Livshitz and I were sent for 40 days on a collectivisation campaign in Kuban to the Cossack village of Kanelovskaya in the Old Minsk district. We were settled together in the hospital duty station and we made arrangements with the accountant's wife to pay her for our lunches. The food she had was wonderful: collectivisation had begun and the hostess was trying to cut down on the size of her poultry flock. We had breakfast with eggs and lard, bought bread at the market. So far, only the grain had been taken away, not the flour. The grinding had already been banned. Horses and cows had been taken away; many horses roamed the streets, because for that amount of cattle they had not been able to build enough stables. Usually we operated on a hernia or appendicitis. Mark Abramovich performed the surgery without any help. He was not particularly skillful but he managed and no one died. After dinner we were supposed to hold seminars on medical themes of our choosing, e.g. on typhus, mange, syphilis. Besides operating and giving lectures we also had to accompany a brigade which went out in the evening to dispossess the Kulaks (well-to-do farmers) . A city communist by the name of Piven was commander of the brigade and had been ordered by the government to dispossess the people. The brigade consisted of about 10 people including the doctor and myself. All the local big shots were in it: the doctor's wife who was a teacher and the cleaning lady from a northern school, the director of the militia or GPU and the party secretary. Piven was one of 10 thousand active communists who had been picked from city factories by the government and told to carry out the collectivisation campaign in the countryside. We went around the huts and were followed everywhere by horrified eyes. The doctor's wife and the cleaning woman behaved outrageously. Every few minutes they would scream: "Death to the Kulaks! The whole race has to be destroyed ! "I never saw anything so disgusting. In each hut we were met by the sullen owner, his crying wife and the frightened eyes of their children who were crowded into a corner. The cleaning woman would yell: "Give us all your grain!" The doctor's wife screamed, "Tell us where your neighbours have buried their grain and nothing will happen to you." Near a hut a family of kulaks was being loaded on a sled. There were several children a few years old. They all kept quiet and didn't cry. They just tried to get as close to each other as they could. Piven came up to them and took away their warm caps. It was freezing already and they were on their way to Siberia ."



The photograph above to the right shows Eugenia Ivanovna with her son Alexey. The backside carries the name of Eugenia Neklyudov and a stamp with a date in 1920 and the name of Yevpatoria, a town in the East coast of Crimea. It was one of the harbour from which the Wrangel's White Army and anti-bolshevik civilians were evacuated at the end of 1920 to escape the advancing Red Army. Eventually Eugenia choose not to leave Russia and returned to Taganrog because she was hoping to find the son Sergei who was missing in action since 1919.

The photo to the right shows the same Alexey in 1934. He was working as an engineer in a factory in Taganrog.

The photograph of Eugenia Ivanovna boarding a plane in Munich is from 1955, when she at the age of 82 did fly to New York. Her son Alexey had emigrated there with his wife and daughter Olga after the war. Her granddaughter Xenia M. Miller was also living in New York since 1953, working at the United Nations.

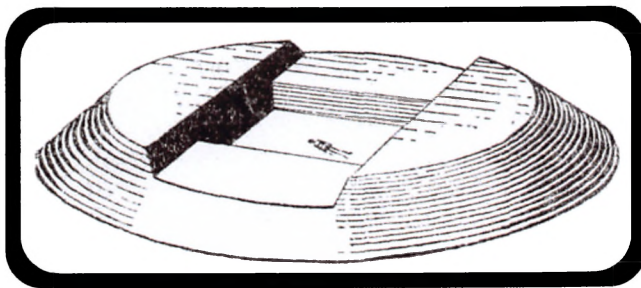
This was going to be her last trip. She died in New York in July 1958.



This coat of arms hangs on the wall of the apartment of Mrs Xenia M. Miller and had been presented to her father by the colleagues of the Ukrainian University in the 60s, when the family was living in Munich. It includes in a single shield the four coat of arms of the parents of her father Michael A. Miller and of her mother Tatiana A. Nekljudov.

At the top right the one of the Miller family, at the top left the one of the Nekljudov. At the bottom right, the coat of arms of the family of the father of the maternal grandmother of Xenia, the retired Cossack general and small landowner Ivan Alexeevich Serdukov , at the right the one of the family of the father of her paternal grandmother, Alexander Ivanovich Pershin from Ekaterinoslav nobles.



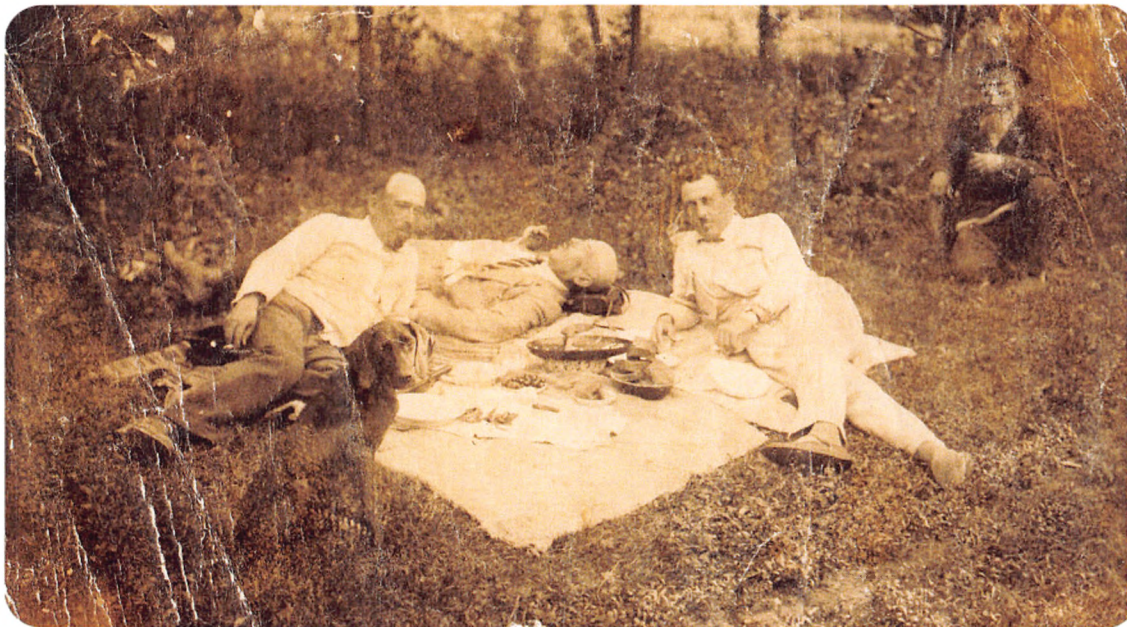


This remarkable photograph shows Mikhail A. with two friends and workers during excavations of a kurgan (a burial mound in the steppe) within the Miller estate. He wears an embroidered Ukrainian shirt and holds in his hands a skull found in the tomb. Ladies of the house (the same who appears in the photograph at page 13) also attend the discovery celebration. We do not know whether the picture was taken by a professional photographer, a friend or possibly by the brother Aleksandr to document their activity.

The drawing by Mikhail Miller shows the layout of a kurgan, the picture documents how the skeletons had been found in a the burial mound.



Aleksandr A. Miller and Mikhail A. Miller were the initiators of the archeological section of the Taganrog historical museum (see the letter at pg.13). The Museum of the Local Lore is hosted since 1927 in the so-called Alferaki Palace. N.D. Alferaki, a rich merchant and local politician of greek origin, had it built in 1848 by the St.Petersburg architect Andrei Ivanovich Shtakensneider.



The photograph shows the three Miller brothers at a picnic in the countryside. Their driver sits nearby. The site must be in the vicinity of their Pokrovsky estate, the epoch - judging from the age of the brothers- around 1915. A.A. Miller, with his coat and a tie on, lies down comfortably and smokes a cigarette. The occasion might have been a hunting excursion. We do not know who was the fourth partner, the one who took the photograph.



Mikhail Miller attended the Taganrog male Gymnasium, built in 1843 in the so called Russian provincial classicism style on a project by the Italian architect Francesco Boffo. A. Cechov studied also there from 1868 to 1879 and the building hosts a museum dedicated to the writer.

The Don Cossack heritage (excerpt from an article by Mikhail A. Miller, circa 1960)

From my earliest childhood, I grew up in an old landlord's house, and then in Taganrog, surrounded by Cossack relatives, my father's companions in the Life Guards and in the Cossack regiments, neighbors, friends and acquaintances of our family. All these Don landlords, generals, officers lived the heroic romance of the past of the Don and told endlessly what they experienced and saw themselves and even more about what they heard from their fathers and grandfathers. The feats of the Cossacks in wars with Napoleon, in Turkish campaigns, in wars with the Poles and, especially, in the Caucasus. They talked about a big peasant uprising on the Don in 1820, about the "torn year" of 1840, when the landlords let the peasants free and these went to work in Turkey, about terrible epidemics, about treasures and robbers. They sang and forced me to sing old Cossack songs. Since 1913, I had to live for 12 years in the settlement of Golodayevka, the former center of the Miuski district. Being at that time a judge and covering a huge territory, and also in connection with my scientific research, I traveled and walked literally all Taganrog district and part of the lower reaches of the Don. I surveyed and recorded the estates of the Don landlords built in fine classic style, and the old churches, in which the highly artistic objects bestowed on the Church by the landlords, were preserved, especially after the war of 1812. On some objects and icons there were inscriptions of historical significance. All this Don old antiquity, under the conditions and circumstances in which I spent my life in the years before the last war, imposed an indelible imprint on me and a great love for the romantic past of our Homeland. But Don has changed so much over the past 40 years, and not only in relation to the population, but also in its landscape appearance, that the present Don - does not appeal to me any more. So much, I think, that if our fathers and grandfathers could get out of the graves and see the Donskoy Krai in its present form, they would not recognize it and rather go back to the ground. Here, in exile, I met some Cossacks, especially from the first emigration, who imagine the Don the way it was 50 years ago. And on the basis of such unrealistic assumptions, they make far-reaching constructs regarding the future of the Don. However, we must admit that the former Don does not exist any more.



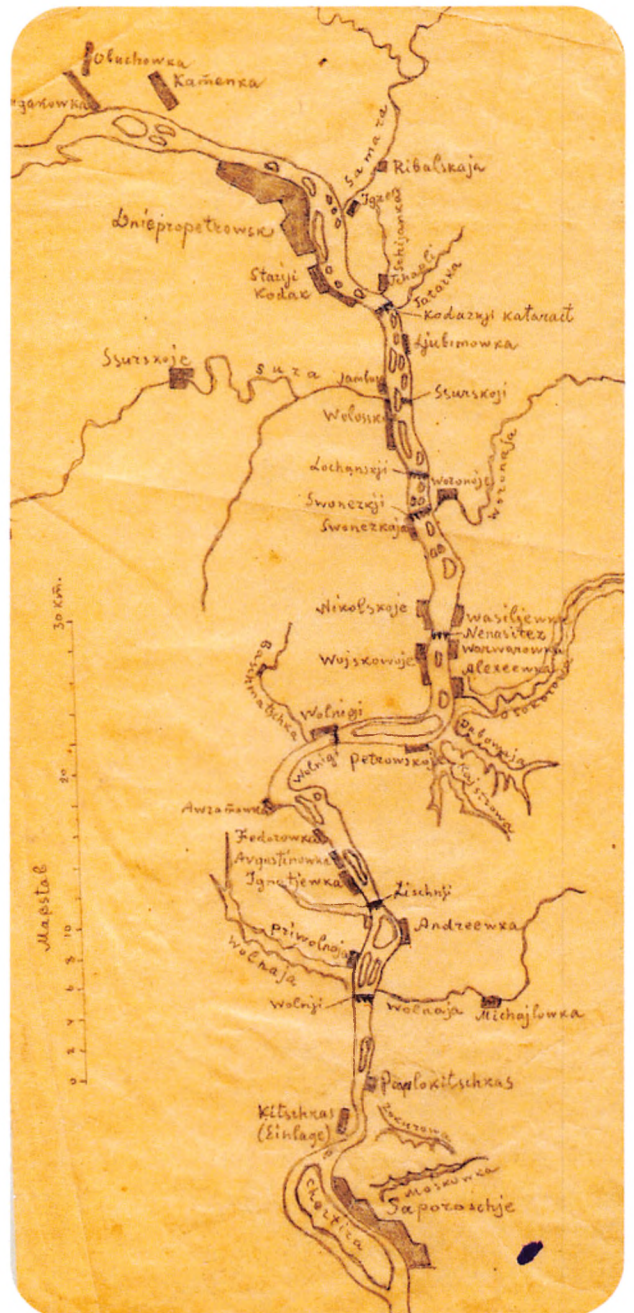
Mikhail A. Miller and Dmitry Ivanovich Yavornitsky(1855-1940) discuss together during an expedition on the Igren Peninsula close to Dnieprpetrovsk (see insert in the next page). The location is shown in the hand-drawn map by Mikhail Miller: it is located between the rivers Dniepr, Samara and Jakarta. The year was 1932, the work was related to the preservation of historical sites in relation to the construction of the Dniepr hydroelectric plant. Yavornitsky was a Russian, Ukrainian and Soviet academician, historian, archeologist and ethnographer. In 1902 he took the position of Director of the Ekaterinoslav (now Dniepro, in soviet time Dnieprpetrovsk) Historical Museum and kept it till the end of his life. He was author of several books and publications on the Zaporozhian Cossack history, on Ukrainian art treasures, on the geography and ethnography of the Dniepr region. With the independence of Ukraina, both the Historical Museum and a major street in Dnipro have been renamed in his name. Miller had first met Yavornitsky as he was starting to work in archeology in 1906 and collaborated with him till the 1930s. The two scientists had common Cossacks roots and shared an interest in Cossack history.

"The territory of modern Igreni was a settlement of the Bronze Age - Belozersky culture. After the construction of the Dnieper dam, the water level rose and part of the settlement eroded, so nowadays it is very difficult to detect historical artifacts. However, it was in connection with the construction of the Hydroelectric Power Station that systematic study and exploration of the Igrensky Peninsula began. The dedicated expedition found objects from different historical periods, from the Stone Age to the Cossacks early times....." (excerpt from the history of the Dnieperpetrovsk region, web site of the city).

The Russian painter Ilya Repin used Yavorrnitsky as a model for the figure of the writer in his famous painting now at the Hermitage "The mocking reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks to Sultan Mehmed IV" (1891) and used several artifacts of the historian's collection to achieve an accurate representation of the scene.



This map of the river Dnieper from Dniepropetrovsk to Zaporozhia had been drawn by Mikhail Miller in 1943 or later, as indicated by the use of the Latin alphabet. He participated to many archeological expeditions in this area and in 1932- at the start of operation of the famous Dniepr hydroelectric power plant- organized in Zaporozhia an exhibition "From the Stone Axe to Dneprostroi " with artifacts from many archeological sites along the river banks which had been explored before the completion of the dam.



Next page
 The beautiful image of a woodland of poplars and oaks with a small stream is not dated. On the back it just carries the inscription "Dniepr". From the way the three men are dressed one can infer a likely date between 1920 and 1930.





This photograph is an impressive testimony of the life of archeologists in the field in the thirties of past century. Mikhail Miller writes at his desk while a colleague takes a nap on a straw mattress. On the table a skull and a bouquet of wildflowers in a vase. The rough tent protects a space apparently dug in the bare earth. On the back side of the photo the following handwritten sentence: "Wigwam of Hiawatha and Nokomis on the island of Dubov, June-August 1931". "Hiawatha" is the title of a poem by the American Henry Longfellow (1807-1882) based on oral legends of american indians of the Great Lakes region. It had been translated in Russian and was well known. A copy of the book published in 1931 in Russia is in Mrs. Xenia's library. The themes dealt with in the text do particularly appeal to scientists like the Miller brothers who had a professional interest in ethnography. Mikhail Miller was conducting a campaign of excavations on Dubov island -the name because of the many oaks (Dub) of the Dnieper river, not far from the town of Zaporizhia in Ukraine. The island is the largest in the river, just south of the major hydroelectric power dam and is now part of a national park. It has been inhabited for more than 5000 years.



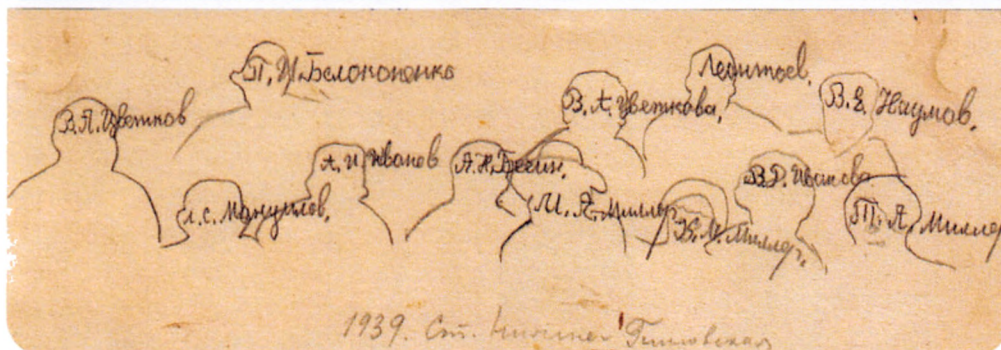
Next page. *The little girl on the top of the Nizhne-Gnilovskoe hillfort is Xenia Miller. The fort and the attached necropolis are one of the most famous historical site in the lower Don region, thought to have been inhabited since 3-4 centuries b.C.. The photograph could have been taken in the summer of 1939 when M.A.Miller was conducting excavations there and the family and friends visited him (see next pages). At that time the historical site was still well separated from the nearby village of Gnilovskaya, a suburb of Rostov on Don on the Kharkhov-Azov railways line , at the banks of the Dead Donets river. Today (color photograph) small houses and civil buildings encroach what is left of the historical area. In 2013, the Minister of Culture of the Rostov region has approved a detailed decree for the safeguard of the site. It specifies the coordinates of the areas which are subjected to limitations on the industrial and private activities.*



These photographs have been also taken at the Nizhne-Gnilovskooe site, in 1939 . Mikhail Miller sits on the slope of a hill dominating the Dead Donets river. A tent is mounted nearby, we do not know whether to serve as overnight accomodation or to protect an archeological excavation. His companion is the Rostov on Don Cossack historian Mikhail Borisovic Krasnyansky (1873-1944). His biography is representative of the destiny of many members of the Cossack intelligentsia in the first half of the 20th century. He graduated from a technical school in Novocerkassk as mining engineer and started to work for the technical office of the Rostov-on-Don city but his true passion was to research and document the geological, archeological and social history of the Don region and of Rostov-on-Don in particular. He was the founding father of the Museum of Local Lore and the author of many publications on these subjects. During the Soviet time he continued to actively work as both mining engineer and historian, although he was repeatedly arrested and exiled.

When the Germans troops approached Rostov on Don in the summer of 1942 he, already 70 years old, was not evacuated. During the occupation he accepted to serve in the so-called "Commission on Cossack Affairs" together with Miller and other scientists. The commission had no executive duties but was charged with the elaboration of a scheme for a Cossack independent state (or a German protectorate, the perception of the future arrangements by the Cossacks and the German Nazi were probably different). When the Red Army reoccupied Rostov-on-Don in 1943, Krasnyansky was arrested on the accusation of espionage for the invaders, processed and condemned to death. The sentence was commuted to 10 years of exile, but in the severe camp conditions he died on January 1944. He was rehabilitated in 1992, nowadays a lane in Rostov is named after him.





During the excavation campaign at Nizhne-Gnilovskoe in the summer of 1939 the family and friends from Rostov came to visit Mikhail Alesandrovich and they posed in this picture together with other Rostov professors and students. All those present are identified in the sketch. At the left side of M. Miller sits first a Jewish professor, then Alexey I. Ivanov , a historian and expert in Byzantology and Theology, who from 1932 had been working at the Rostov-on-Don University. At the right of M. Miller, Xenia, then 7 years old, sits on the lap of Varvara Dmitrievna, Ivanov's wife. Tatiana Miller is the last to the right in the front row. The Ivanovs were living in the same house and were close friends of the Millers. During the German occupation , Ivanov was also a member of the "Commission of Cossack Affairs" collaborating with the Germans . He was in charge of the activities related to religious cult. For this activity he was arrested after the war and condemned to 5 years of prison in a forced labor camp. When released, he resumed his academic career first in Moscow Theological Academy and after promotion to full professor at the Leningrad Theological Academy. He continued to do research and to publish till his death in 1976. He was fully rehabilitated in 1996.

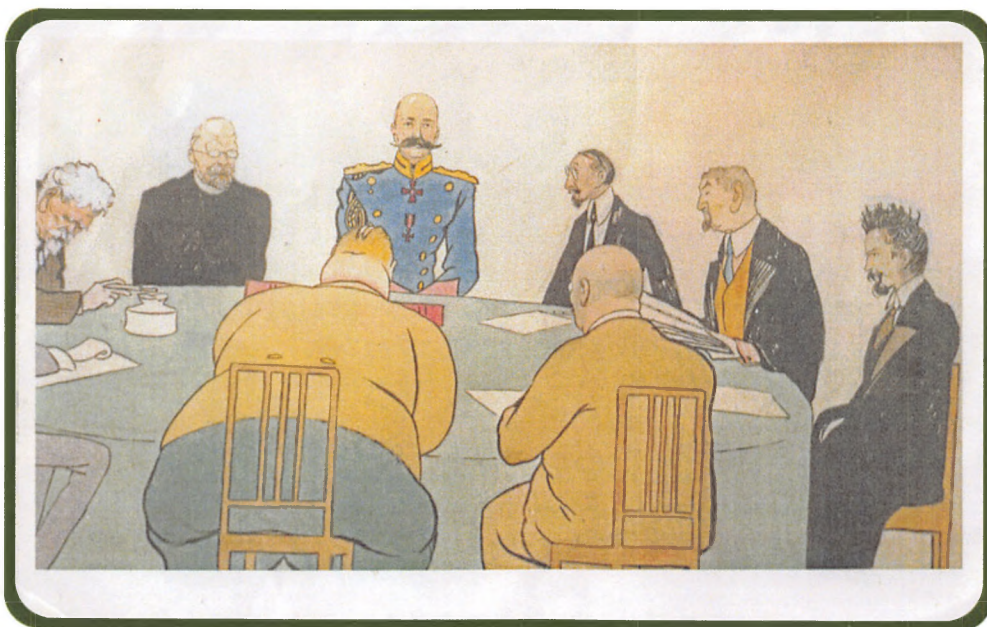


Associate Professor Alexey Ivanovich Ivanov, 1953
Photo Archive of the Church and Archaeological
Cabinet of the Moscow Theological Academy



Aleksandr, the older son of Aleksandr N. Miller, was born in 1875 in Lugansk. He received his primary education at home, in the family estate of Kamunno-Tuzlowsky in the Taganrog district. He graduated in 1893 as first of his course from the Don Cadet school in Novocherchassk. He was then sent to the Nikolaev Engineering college in St. Petersburg and after graduation in 1896 he enlisted as lieutenant in a Railways Battalion. While much praised by his superior he was not interested in a military career and resigned in 1899. He went to Paris to attend initially the Higher Russian School of Social Sciences and at the same time the then-famous Art Academy of Julien. He had artistic talent, his paintings were exposed in the Paris Salon and can be found in the collection of the

Hermitage and of the Taganrog Art Gallery. In 1901 he started to follow the lectures of the Paris Anthropological School. He became especially interested in archaeology, in this he was favoured by his friendship with the famous archaeologist A. Mortille and F. Volkov. When back in the family summer house near Taganrog in the holidays months of 1902-1904 he made his first independent excavations of burial mounds, "kurgans", near the village of Pokrovskoe. Since then he dedicated himself fully to archaeology collaborating with scientists and institutions in St. Petersburg. It is impossible to even summarize here the many steps of his 30 years long scientific career. In the directory "All St. Petersburg" for the years 1912-1917 he is listed as "state servant with the rank of College Assessor and custodian of the Ethnographic Department of the Russian Museum". In 1917 he moved to a flat in the Museum administrative building which he also lived in the Soviet time. After the revolution he fully retained his high social and professional status. He combined the study of archaeology and ethnography, developed new methods of site excavations, forged with his teaching and field work during the expeditions a generation of Russian archaeologists. His academic achievements were highly praised by the institutions, but in autumn of 1933 he was arrested with other employees of the Museum and charged with conducting "national-fascist propaganda of a pan-Slavic nature". Condemned to 5 years of exile in the far -East, he died of heart failure in 1935. He was fully rehabilitated in 1957. An international symposium celebrating his 140 anniversary was held in St. Petersburg in 2015.



The colour drawing reveals the ability of Aleksandr as a caricaturist. The subject is a meeting of the Council of the Ethnographic Department of the Russian Museum of Alexander III. In the center the Chairman of the Council, the Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich, further around the table D.I.Tolstoy, N.N.Mogilyansky, K.K. Romanov, A.A. Miller, G.V.Kakhovsky, F.K.Volkov and N.N. Sheffer (1908 or later).



These two photographs and the one in the following page are from the archive of the Russian Museum (ref.3). The photo above taken in 1912 shows members of the Ethnographic Department at the old Ladoga site. Standing at the centre A.A. Miller and his senior colleague, friend and mentor F.K.Volkov. The "live" image below shows A.A. Miller and P.N. Shefner (secretary of the Ethnographic Department) in the courtyard of the museum among boxes of an exhibition being loaded for a shipment, in the 1910's.



Top: The first mannequins of habitants of the Mountain Caucasus assembled by the workshop of the Ethnographic Museum are on display in a hall and A.A. Miller stands among them together with one of his collaborators. The year is 1912.

Bottom: Museum staff and members of the group "Friends of the Museum" in 1929. A.A. Miller is the first to the right.





"The academician A.A. Miller with two staff of the newspaper "Hammer" on one of the spurs of the byzantine wall of the Kobyakovo settlement" reads the caption of this drawing in the issue of 7th of October 1925 of the Rostov newspaper. Two railway trucks and the Don river are seen in the background. In the accompanying interview Miller, at that time professor in Leningrad, illustrated the historical importance of the site at the periphery of Rostov of Don which had been inhabited for three millennia. He led two excavations campaign in 1924-25 on the so-called Kobyakovo "hillfort" and the necropolis nearby. The first color photograph taken around 2000 shows the "hillfort" on top of which Miller had been sitting in 1925.



Although Kobyakovo is one of the most important historical site in the region and has great significance for the early history of Russia, in 2014 it suffered a major damage due to an unauthorised excavation work. Rostov archeologists called the attention of the public opinion and of the authorities: part of the central hill had been carved by bulldozers as if it was a slice of cheese. And the eastern hill was completely razed to the ground to make place to a railway track leading to a warehouse. Old tires and other rubbish were scattered everywhere (lower photo, published by the archeologist V. Larenok in 2015). According to Russian law of cultural heritage, all monuments of archeology must be marked with explicative signs but this was not the case in Kobyakovo for lack of funds by the regional government.



Aleksandr A. Miller poses together with workers of the Russian museum just outside a secondary entrance of the building in a photograph taken in the late 1920's. The lady sitting in the front row is Antonina (Anta) Orangireeva nee Baronin von Rosen (1895-1960). She had married in 1920 Nikolai Orangireev who was arrested and shot in 1925 on an undisclosed charge. She knew Aleksandr A. Miller because she had been his student at the Leningrad University and she become his companion sometime toward the end of the 1920's. She moved to the Russian Museum apartment he was occupying in Engineers Street. It is not clear whether they were formally married: her friend Sofya Ostrovskaya and some of his biographers speak of Miller as Anta's husband but C.B.Koriagin, author of a monography on the Miller family genealogy in 1999 (ISBN 5-89559-021-7) writes that he had never married. Both hypothesis are quite possible, in the 1920's living together without a formal marriage was certainly socially acceptable. Whatever, Antonina is quoted as an active collaborator of the Museum and the two satirical sketches by Aleksandr show the two working at the preparation of an exhibition .



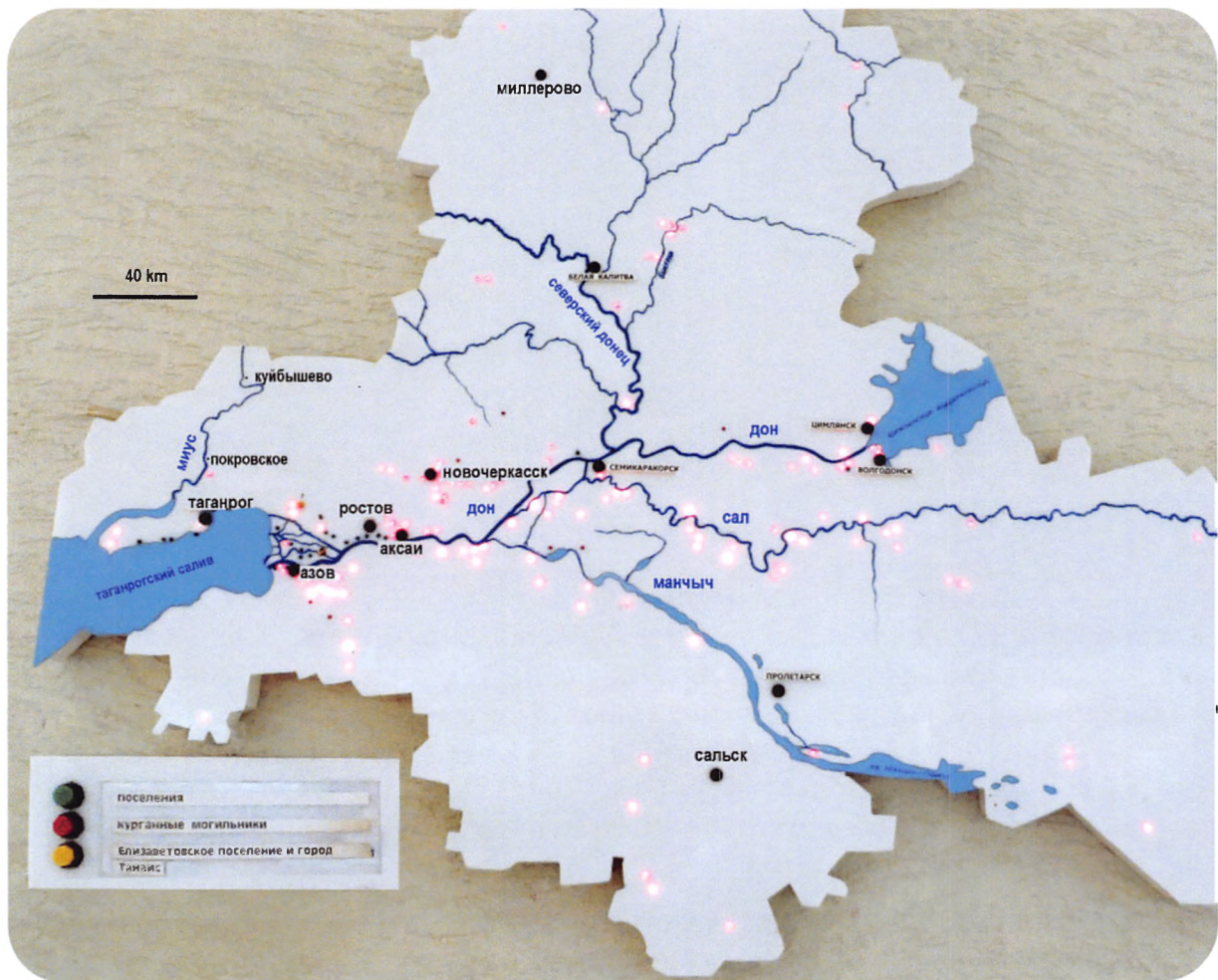
A few months after the arrest of Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Antonina was expelled from the apartment of the Russian Museum. From 1934 to 1936 she worked as scientific secretary of the Academy of Science base in Khibiny in the Kola Peninsula. In the photo taken there she is the second from the left. Returned to Leningrad she stayed in the town during the war and survived through the blockade (1941-Feb.1944) but died relatively young in 1960. She was a good friend of the poetess Anna Achmatova who wrote an epitaph for her.

Excerpts from the diaries of Sofya Ostrovskaya (1902-1983) . The diaries have been published in 2013. Sofya was a close friend of Antonina von Rosen and knew Aleksandr A. Miller as well.

Nov 24th, 1933 ...Today was visited by Lydia [sister of Nikolai Orangireev, first husband of Antonina von Rosen]. Professor Miller is under arrest already for the second month. Anta tries to be chipper and witty...

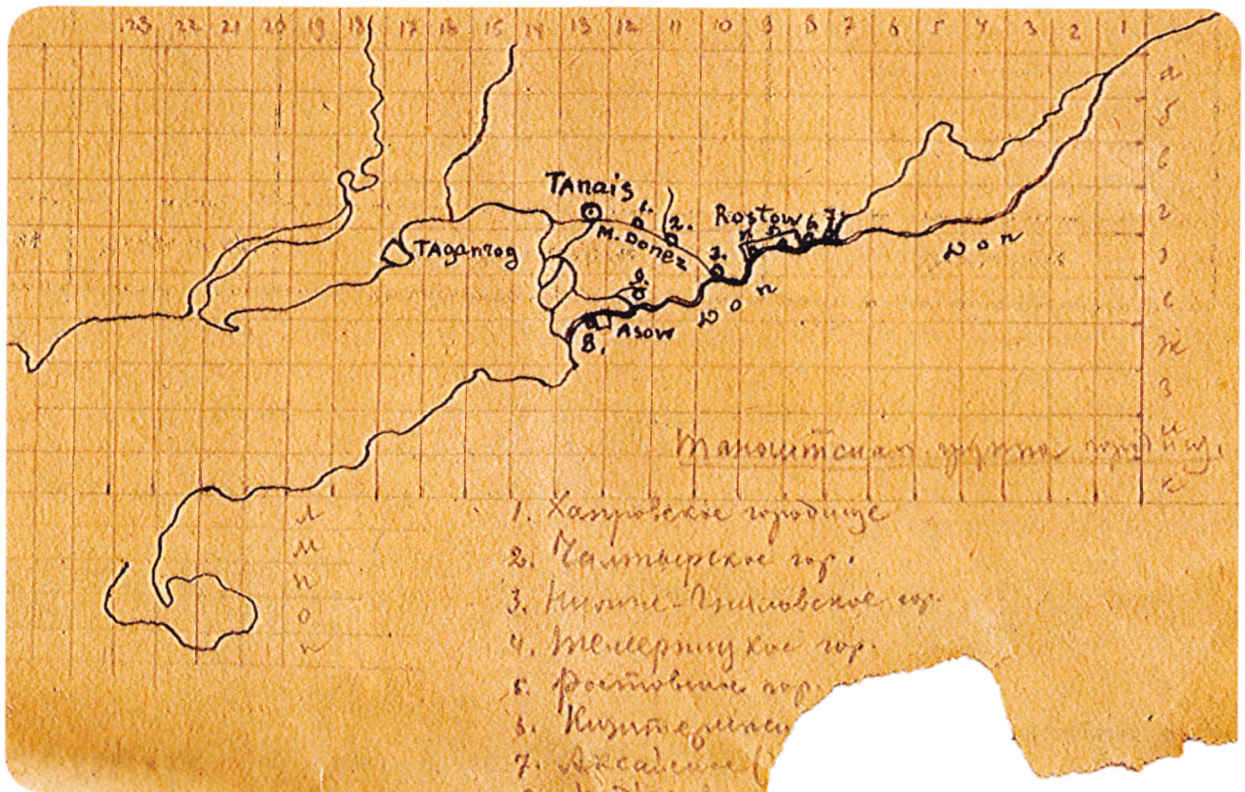
Jan 8th, 1934 ...Anta is as usual. Professor is in prison, awaits trial and is writing his archeological article. I wonder how he speaks with his investigator, he - an admirer of Saltykov-Shedrin and French authors? They would not understand each other..

Jan 19th, 1935 Today around 8 pm came the sister of Anta, Lelya Rosen. She visits me now and then and every time she brings bad news. Walking down the corridor to meet her, I thought for a second of Anta, of her possible illness. But what Lelya told me, was different. Professor Alexander Miller died on Jan. 13th in Petropavlovsk (Kazakhstan). The telegram received stated simply 'stroke'. Unspeakably sad. I have had with him a sophisticated friendship (in Leningrad) and sophisticated correspondence (after his exile). His intelligence level was high and brilliant, his wit - complex and delicate, his perception of the art - fine, baroque and profound. He was one of the best among the persons to talk to, a difficult and discerning interlocutor, with whom one always had to be fit, dazzling and perfect in every way: from clothing to bon mots, from smile to storytelling manner, from turn of the head to turn of the mind. The dialogue with him was always under 'high voltage': appreciating me as a person, a woman and a society lady, he demanded much from me as well - and I tried to meet his demands, carefully keeping the style he fancied and adding more and more nuances to the character which he has seen in me.....



This map of the Rostov on Don Oblast is on display at the local History Museum. By pressing the red button, the positions of most relevant kurgans -the steppe burial mounds- are displayed. Most of the photographs in this book were taken within the boundaries of this map. In the harbour city of Taganrog on the shore of the Azov Sea where the family of Alexander N. Miller, the grandfather of Xenia Miller, moved at the end of the 19th century. Near the village of Pokrovskoe on the banks of the river Mius, where in the Miller's "dacha"- actually a large estate- the family used to spend their summer. Further North, along the railways to Ukraine, close to the station of Ambrosievskaya , was the estate of the wealthy Moscovite Mikhalkov family whose administrator was Aleksandr Nekljudov, the father of Tatiana Miller, Xenia's grandfather. Sixty km to the East of Taganrog lies the large town of Rostov on Don which in the soviet time developed as major centre of the region surpassing Novocerkassk, the capital of the lower Don region in czarist time.

On the opposite side a hand drawn sketch by M.A.Miller from the 40s . It shows the Taganrog bay, the rivers Mius, Sambek, Don, and Donets. Tanais and a number of archeological sites are also identified. The printed text is an article on an extended investigation around Taganrog by a team of German and Russian archeologists, with a reference to the early work of the Miller brothers. In one concurrence that sometimes history outlines to our amusement, the German-Russian team conducted their systematic prospections in the vicinity of the Taganrog stairs leading from the Greek Street to the sea, within 500m of the house of the Miller family lived one century earlier, on the shore where the young archeologist-to-be Mikhail A. Miller did his first observations of remnants of the oldest settlements along the bay.



Excerpt from the "Archaeologischer Anzeiger" , 1 Halbband, 2012

Ausgrabungen in Taganrog und Umgebung 2008–2010

Ortwin Dally – Leon van Hoof – Sabine Huy – Sergej Il'jaschenko – Pavel A. Larenok – Vera A. Larenok – Marlen Schlöffel – Torsten Schunke – Brigitta Schütt,
 Deutsch-russische Ausgrabungen am Don. Ergebnisse der Kampagnen 2008–2010

Die deutsch-russischen Grabungen, die 2004 in Taganrog und Umgebung sowie in Don-Delta angelaufen waren, konnten 2010 beendet werden. Als wesentliche Etappen der kulturgeschichtlichen Entwicklung zeichnen sich die späte und finale Bronzezeit mit zahlreichen Siedlungsplätzen ab. Nach dem Zusammenbruch dieser dichten Siedlungslandschaft (Dally u. a. 2009, 104 f.) konnte sich der früheisenzeitliche Handelsstützpunkt vor Taganrog, vermutlich eine Gründung ionischer Griechen, erfolgreich etablieren (Dally u. a. 2009, 105). Eingebunden war Taganrog sowohl in einen regionalen als auch einen überregionalen Kommunikationsraum, der bis in den östlichen Mittelmeerraum hineinreichte.

Das Südufer der Halbinsel war schon Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts systematisch prospektiert worden⁴⁰, Forscher haben sich jedoch erst nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg systematisch mit den Ufern des Mius Liman beschäftigt. Bei einem dieser Surveys wurde Levinsadovka 1959 durch N. D. Praslov aufgrund freiliegender Funde infolge der Ufererosion entdeckt. Als Mitarbeiter des Staatsmuseums für Literatur, Geschichte und Archäologie in Taganrog (TGLIAMZ) hat er die Fundstelle in 1960 und 1962 wieder besucht'

⁴⁰ Durchgeführt wurde die Prospektion von den Gebrüdern Miller.

5. Xenia M. Miller and her parents in Soviet Russia (1932-1943)

Mrs. Xenia recounts that her mother Tatiana Neklyudov met her future husband Mikhail A. Miller in 1930 in Taganrog on the staircase that lead from the Greek street to the sea (in the Soviet time renamed Third International street). She recognised him from his stay in the estate of her parents in 1912 when he was carrying out his compulsory military training in a Cossack regiment. Then he had been kind to her and praised her riding ability. They were not going to be separated anymore till his death in 1968. She was with him already in the summer of 1931 during the archeological expedition on the island of Dubov (see page 32). Their daughter Xenia was born in 1932 in Taganrog. Since 1931 Mikhail A. Miller had been an associate professor at the Rostov Pedagogical Institute, from 1934 he become professor of History of the Ancient world and Archaeology. Shortly thereafter he moved to that city with his wife. Mrs. Xenia, then still a small child, remained with her Neklyudov grandmother and her uncle Aliosha in Taganrog.

In 1938, when the parents found place in an communal house occupied mostly by university professors on Stanilavsky Street, grandmother and Xenia joined them in Rostov and the family was happily reunited.



Tatiana Miller with her daughter Xenia in 1932 and 1934 in Taganrog.





Mrs. Xenia poses at the gate of the house on the Greek street 64 where she lived in two rooms with her grandmother and her uncle the first six years of her life. Behind the gate a girl of the same age she had at that time look with curiosity at the unusual visitor. The picture was taken during a visit to Taganrog in 1993. From the image below from Google Earth 2017 , we see that nowadays the house has undergone a renovation and recovered her original beauty in the pleasant surroundings of the town on the shore of the Azov bay.



Early years in Taganrog (excerpts from written notes of Xenia Michailovna)

We lived in the basement of a one-storey house that had belonged to a Greek merchant before the revolution. It used to be the service rooms and the domestic workers' rooms. The winding house could not easily be divided into communal apartments. So we had only two rooms, but two kitchens. My grandmother and I lived in the passage room, my uncle Alexey and his wife in a small corner room. There was no running water and no sewer system. Behind my grandmother's large bed stood an enamel pot with a lid for me, and the adults had to walk through the large garden, where a smelly little wooden house stood in the corner. Somewhere, a few blocks away, there was a water pump. From there Uncle Alescha brought the water home with buckets. Once he took me with him, but the soil around the pump was so sodden that I got stuck in the dirt and wasn't allowed to accompany him since. This water was used for cooking and washing. The water for drinking the grandmother bought glass by glass from an old woman sitting on the street corner. There was an old Russian brick stove in this kitchen. There was a sleeping place on top of the stove, where adults and the children used to sleep, because it was always warm there. With long oven forks the pots were pushed into the oven or hung on a hook over the embers.

We were something peculiar, we were "former ones". I was outraged when I heard for the first time that the children in the courtyard talking about me said: "and she comes from the former ones". The mother was visibly frightened when I asked her what that meant, but the grandmother calmly explained to me that we used to have houses and land, horses and dogs, ponds with fish, gardens and woods. That's all gone, the communists took it, but it is not something to talk about. If now you hear that they call you "former one" you should not reply....

Often my grandmother would invite me to go out. Then we dressed especially carefully and put on our hats. The grandmother a small black hat which fit to her clothes because after the death of the grandfather she wore only black and I a straw hat with cherries at the side which my father had brought to me from Leningrad. In her left hand she carried her old Ridicule, a bag embroidered with dark pearls, with her right she held my hand and so we marched out of the house. Under the veranda or in the bushes at the house I heard someone quietly giggling: "Tju...". I knew that the children from the house were making fun of us. But I also knew that they were "simple" children, so I shouldn't care about them. "Don't pay attention-, the grandmother always implored me, don't pay attention ...". We crossed the Greek street in which we lived and went up the slope towards the city center. Our street was now called the "Third International Street", but since no one knew what that meant, not to mention the fact that hardly anyone could write this name, it became, albeit quietly and carefully, as it has always been called, "the Greek Street". On the main street, Sovietskaya Ulitza, there was a café. My favourite pastries were tartlets baked from short pastry in the form of baskets with handles, filled with butter cream.



These pictures were taken when the Miller family was reunited in Rostov on Don from 1938 . Xenia now 6 years old was going to school. Her father was teaching at the university and in the summer time continuing his investigations at archeological sites in the Don, Dniepr and Caucasus regions. Her mother was working in the sanitary services of the town. Life had taken a regular, relatively quiet pace, even if, with just 5 years gone by from the arrest of the brother Aleksandr in Leningrad, the fear that Mikhail could meet the same fate any day was very much present.



Фото сделано 24 января 1938 г.

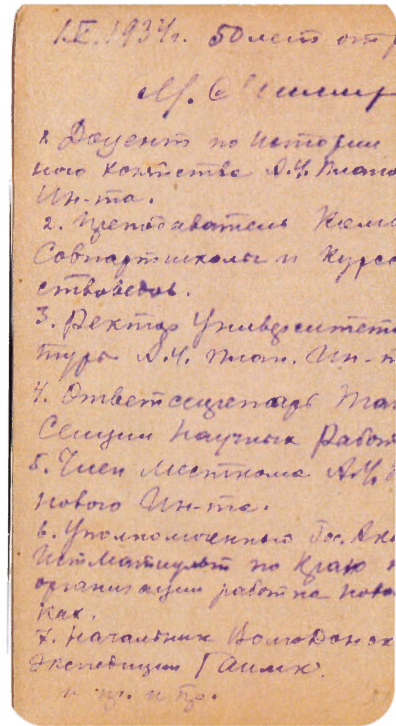


This photograph shows a 5-years old Xenia bathing in the Black See in 1937. As written in the photograph upper left corner it was taken in Gelendzhik, a small town on the coast around 100 km south-west of Krasnodar. At the beginning of the 19th century the first sanatorium for children affected by tuberculosis had been build there. During the Soviet time the place developed as a seaside resort as the picture below shows.

The mother of Mrs. Xenia was working as a nurse in Rostov and during the summer of 1937 she was sent to Gelendzhik to accompany and take care of sick children. Her husband and Xenia managed to join her for a short holidays at the seaside.

Nowadays the town is a very popular summer holidays resort of the Black Sea coast.





The portrait of Mikhail Aleksandrovich is an official photo of the university in the middle 1930's. The handwritten document is a curriculum vitae he compiled in May 1934.

Since the arrest of his brother in 1933, Mikhail Miller was fearing to have to meet the same fate. Although he was academically a less prominent figure than Aleksandr the danger was very real due to his belonging to a distinguished noble family in the Tsarist time and his friendship with Ukrainian scientists who had fallen in disfavor with the Soviet regime. Mrs. Xenia remembers : "A day the father had come home especially upset and told my mother that he was asked to join the party, but he had explained that he felt himself not worthy such an honour and politically not educated, etc.. I saw the horror of my mother, and since that episode in a corner of the closet in the bedroom appeared a bag and I knew that it contained underwear of the father, crackers and smoked sausage, and that he will take this bag if they would come for him ..." . With this background it can be understood that when the German Army approached Rostov on Don during a victorious offensive in the summer of 1942 Mikhail Miller decided to remain the city and not to be evacuated to the East. The German occupation did seem in the circumstance a lesser evil than the Bolshevik regime led by Josef Stalin and most likely be of temporary nature. When in the winter of 1942-43 the Germans started their retreat in front of the advancing Red Army, there was no option for the Miller family than to leave their homeland and go into exile. In 1944 the Prussian origin of their ancestors was recognised and they obtained the German citizenship.

Beginning in September 1941 and ending in July 1947 Xenia M. Miller kept a diary. By reading this document we can relive many of the events of those tragic years as seen through the eyes of a child. This unique document written in a naive and simpleminded style is an unique testimony of the sorrows and the tragedy in which the Miller family , as millions of other people in the world, were involved during the war.



The historical photo from August 1942 shows the ceremony of the reinstatement on the statue of the Peter the Great in Taganrog during the time of the German occupation. It is representative of the schizophrenic situations which can take place in the course of a war. While in their writings Hitler and Rosenberg foresaw the destruction of the Russian state and of the Russian culture and the German troops were leading a destructive siege to Leningrad, the former capital city founded by the same Peter the Great, on the shore of the Azov Sea the German authorities did allow a Russian monarchist ceremony to honour the first Tsar of the modern epoch. The ceremony was attended by the representatives of the Orthodox faith and by the city elders, but there was no double-eagle flag to be seen, just the Nazi swastikas.



There are no photographs of the Miller family during the war but for this picture taken at the Schoenbrunn castle in Wien in the spring of 1944. It shows the 12 years-old Xenia , her mother Tatiana and friends . Must have been a rare time of relax in a city which was swarming with refugees from the East and was under constant bombing by the Allies.



As the Red Army was approaching Wien, the young Xenia with her parents and her grandmother did travel in November 1944 by train across war-devastated Germany to Goettingen. The University town had not been the target of heavy air raids. At the time of the surrender of Nazi Germany, Göttingen ended up just a few km from the border between the areas of occupation by the Russian troops and by the Anglo-Americans. In the very hard post-war years, Mikhail A. Miller did teach initially in the Ukrainian High School for Displaced Persons while Tatiana Miller did work in an hospital run by the British. In 1948 the parents of Xenia did move to Munich, while she stayed in Göttingen with her grandmother Neklyudov to finish the language school she was attending.



These photographs show the family reunited in Munich at the beginning of the 50s. From the left Neklyudov, Mikhail A. Miller, Tatiana Miller nee Neklyudov and Xenia M. Miller.



6: Maria A. Miller , her daughter



Natalya, her granddaughter Zoya



МОСКВА

В. Ф. Шубочкин

1897



Maria A. Miller was the oldest daughter of A. V. Miller, being born on the April 2, 1879. In 1894 she was admitted to Moscow Institute of the order of St Catherine for girls in Moscow (in the group photograph in the previous page, Maria is the first to the left) where she graduated with honour in the Science course in 1907. The class photograph shows how the girls were busy with the study of geometry and anatomy. At that epoch Russian women were not admitted to university. Back in Taganrog, she appears as a young lady in the studio photo above and attending theater. Maria married in 1901 the colonel Nicolay N. Teichman, they had a daughter, Natalia, born in 1905. Mother and daughter appear together in different photographs taken before the first world and the civil war, most of them in the Miller summer estate in the village of Pokrovskoe.

We do not know their whereabouts at the time of the revolution and at the beginning of the civil war. Teichman died in September 1919 in Taganrog. At that time the civil war was raging in Southern Russia, with the front between the red army and the the white coalition of cadets and cossacks (supported first by the Germans and then by the Entente nations), shifting from west to east and back by hundreds of km more than once. Teichman had joined most likely the White Army but it is not known whether he died in combat or of illness. There is no written statement or document on the cause of his death.



These three formal photos are the only ones which show Maria Miller with her husband, the officer Nicolay Teichman.





The photographs on the left page show a smiling Maria Miller with her daughter Natalya born in 1905 from the marriage with Nicolai N. Teichman.

The first picture is dated 1906 but we do not have indication on the place where it was taken. May be in the courtyard of the Miller house in Taganrog. The other three around 1912 and 1916 respectively were all taken in the Miller summer house near the village of Pokrovskoe, 25 km North-East of Taganrog where the families of the married daughters and sons of Alexander Nicolaievich Miller used to spend the summers in the beginning of the 20th centuries before the revolution.

The group photograph below includes from the left Olga Ivanovna Miller nee Auerbach, the wife of the Miller brother Vasily, Maria Miller (at the center) and three visitors to the house, all wearing the same fur hat and looking like three sisters.





And we do not know where and how Maria and her daughter did live through the civil war and in the first years thereafter. The daughter Natalia married in Moscow in 1925 Naum G. Karassik, a Russian jew and government employee. They had a daughter, Zoya, born in 1925. The grandmother Maria was living with them as Zoya was still a child. Shortly after the outbreak of the war in 1941, the all family was evacuated to Central Asia.





Zoya returned to Moscow in 1945, studied law, married as her mother a Russian jew. She worked as state procurator for several years in Moscow. After retirement, in 1990, under the terms of the agreement between the Soviet Union and West Germany which led to the reunification of Germany, she emigrated with her jewish husband and their daughter to Germany. At present she lives in Köln.



Uebersetzung der ^{Alt} russischen
 (beglaubigte Notariatsurkunde)
 Geburtschein
 YF № 163226
 Frau Karassik Soja Naumowna wurde
 am 26. 08. 1925 im sechsundzwanzigsten
 August neunzehnhundertfünfundzwanzig,
 geboren.
 Über diese Geburt ist im Zivilstands-
 register am 08.09.1925 unter der Nummer
 188/2319 aufgeschrieben.
 Eltern:
 Vater: Karassik Naum Grigorjewitsch
 Mutter: Karassik Natali Nikolaewna
 Geburtsort: Charkow
 Registrierungsart: Charkow, Stadtabteilung
 Personenstandswesen
 Ableitungsort (Unterschrift)
 Schriftführer (Unterschrift)
 Wappensiegel der Stadtabteilung Personenstandswesen
 Am 06.09.1990 bezeugt der Staatliche Notar
 M.O. Woznatschewa als 5. Notar von Moskau
 die Richtigkeit der ^{Alt} russischen (siehe die russische
 in der russischen Sprache)

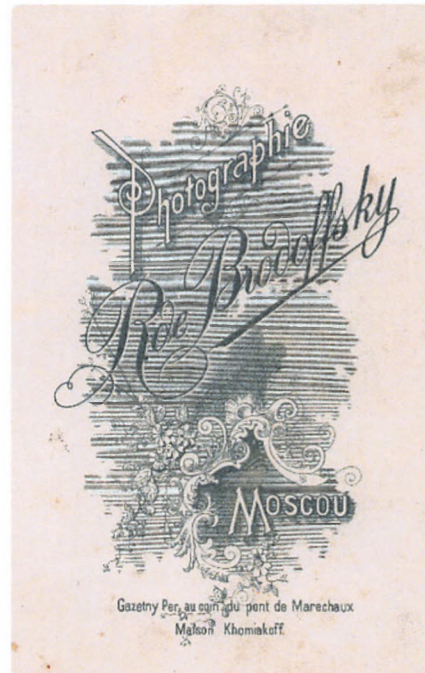
This book includes photographs of Mrs Xenia Mikhailovna Miller and of her family up to the mid-20th century only. The first twenty years of her life were rich in dramatic events which left a permanent imprint in her mind: a war and the foreign occupation in the city where she lived, then the flight to the west with her family to escape the Soviet advance and finally the years of adolescence in Germany which was slowly recovering from the disasters of the Second World War. In 1952 she married in Göttingen the German Journalist Herman Gärtner. Together with her husband she emigrated in 1953 to New York where she found work as a guide and interpreter at the United Nations. The photograph shows her in front of the UN building on the Manhattan Island. She returned with her family to Munich in 1959, to start a new, important phase of her life. But this is an other story, outside the scope of this photographic book.



This book closes with a photograph of the magnificent spring flower blossom on the banks of the salt lake Lopukhovatoe in the natural reserve of the Manych Valley in the region of Rostov-on-Don. The reserve includes some of the most characteristic steppe landscape in the Don region and is rich in wildlife. It is representative of the beauty of the territory where the history of the Don Miller clan unfolded for the last two centuries.



Most of the images of the pre-revolution time were taken in photo ateliers in Taganrog, Rostov on Don and Moscow. The identifications of the studios were usually printed on the back side , some examples are shown below.



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