



RUSSIAN FAMILIES OF ITALIAN ORIGIN. ITALIAN EMIGRANTS IN RUSSIA AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ST PETERSBURG

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Eastern Europe, within which between the tenth and thirteenth centuries Kievan Rus was formed and grew, was from earliest times the arena of migratory processes involving a considerable proportion of the native population, and at the same time linking it with foreign, in some cases very distant, regions. These migratory flows were sometimes more powerful, at other times weaker, and could change their direction and destination, but they never completely ceased, and the number of foreigners and their descendants in the local population as a whole was always significant.

Although for the earlier periods we have practically no documentary sources to establish the scope and make-up of the immigrant population, a considerable body of documents has been preserved relating to the period of Muscovite Rus, particularly the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which testify to the number, origins, ethnic composition and in general the occupations of non-Russians. From these documents we have convincing evidence that in pre-Petrine Rus foreigners and their immediate descendants made up a sizeable part of the population, and had their place in a great many spheres. In particular they prove that along with emigrants from the German lands, from Scandinavia, Greece, Holland, Great Britain, France and Spain, from Poland and other largely Slavic countries, there also came and settled in Rus a good number of Italians. Amongst them were architects and artists, merchants and tradesmen, doctors, military men...Many remained permanently in Rus and established families there, which after a generation or two became completely Russian; only their surnames recalled their Italian origins, and even those, often enough, were russified. My Moscow colleague, Dr. Boris Morozov, has already delivered a lecture here about ancient Russian families of Greek and Italian extraction, and the day after tomorrow my wife will be speaking on an ancient Russian family, whose original forebear came from San Marino.

I shall confine myself to the period in Russian history that began with the rule of the tsar Peter the Great: that sovereign possessed of unbridled energy, powerful will, and the determination, in Pushkin's words, to "make Russia rear up" and to transform it into a country resembling the nations of Western Europe.

The city of Saint Petersburg stands as a symbol of his vision. Founded in 1703 on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, on a practically "empty" tract of land, it became a new capital which tsar Peter from the outset planned according to western European models. Everything was done to breathe life into this desolate corner of the globe, and for this purpose the people essential for the growth of the new capital were brought not only from all the Russian Empire over but also from abroad. So powerful was the energetic impulse directed by tsar Peter to that point on the map, and so powerful the creative energy engendered by that impulse, that despite Peter's death a mere twenty years later, in 1724, and Russian society's objections to the transfer of the capital from Moscow, and indeed the thoroughly unpropitious location and climatic conditions of the new city, Saint Petersburg not only survived and flourished but preserved and consolidated its status as capital of the huge Empire and became one of the greatest cities of Europe.

As early as the eighteenth century Saint Petersburg had become a focal point that attracted people from all corners of the vast Russian Empire and indeed all over the world, above all from Western Europe. From the very beginning the proportion of foreigners among the total population of the city was very high indeed; they performed important functions in a great many spheres of life in the Russian capital: in the government apparatus, at court, in the army and the navy, in the economy, in public and cultural life.

Not only did Saint Petersburg become the most European of all Russian cities, but thanks, in large part, to the appearance in the city of what the Russian thinker Georgii Fedotov called "a race of Russian Europeans", it became a centre of European life and culture, a kind of sign of overall pan-European unity, one might even say that it prefigured the European Union. This was why the same Georgii Fedotov declared that, "Over a long period European life was lived in a more real sense on the banks of the Neva... than on those of the Seine, the Thames or the Spree".

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A prominent place in this "miniature Europe" was enjoyed by Italians, who had come from various parts of Italy and from the Italian cantons of Switzerland. Not that Saint Petersburg was the only Russian town where they settled. They were far more numerous in the south of the country, particularly in the area around the Black Sea which was closer to Italy and where the climate seemed more familiar. Odessa, another new town, became an important centre to which Italians were attracted. But still Saint Petersburg was one of the main points of attraction for this ethnic group.

As had been the case with other foreigners who moved to Russia, a great many Italians settled down permanently in their new homes. Their children and grandchildren were born here and regarded Russia as their native land.

At first glance it would appear that in Saint Petersburg the Italians constituted above all a constellation of architects, whose work was immensely important in establishing the architectural character of the Russian capital in its most famous

and distinctive buildings. Trezzini, Rinaldi, Rastrelli, Quarenghi, Rossi, Adamini, Cavos, Gilardi... and that is by no means the complete list of renowned Italian architects and their Swiss brethren from Ticino. One might well include in the list the names of those more humble architects, engineers, builders, stonemasons, plasterers, and monumental sculptors who have been more or less forgotten.

However, it was not only in architecture and civil engineering that emigrants from Italy and Switzerland and their children and grandchildren were active. They made their mark in music, painting and the theatre... A large number of state officials bore Italians surnames, as did officers in the Russian Army and Navy, diplomats, doctors, teachers, tutors and governesses...

Italian immigrants and their descendants became an organic part of the non-Russian section of the city's population, which was a motley, complex heterogeneous mix of races, languages and confessions.

Within this milieu, extraordinarily complex, contradictory and disparate ethnic processes were taking place throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

I have carried out rigorous sample studies of the genealogy of some hundreds of Saint Petersburg families belonging to different ethnic, linguistic and confessional groups; in particular I have traced matrimonial alliances and the new family relationships to which these gave rise.

The research shows clearly that mixed marriages were widespread in Saint Petersburg, leading to a remarkable degree of intermingling between different ethnic groups, and this was true over a wide range of social classes, from ordinary citizens to distinguished court circles.

The absolute numerical predominance in the Russian capital of the Russian population inevitably led gradually to a greater or lesser degree of assimilation, and to the russification of the non-Russian layer of the population.

As genealogical sources show, this is reflected, in particular, in the fact that the ascending family trees of practically all indigenous Russian families include certain non-Russian elements.

However, I would like to draw your attention now to some other aspects of the ethnic processes that took place in this city. Notably, the ethnic minorities of Saint Petersburg displayed a determination to preserve their own culture, language and religious affiliation. Some groups, even when they were actually Saint Petersburg citizens of the third, fourth or even of the fifth generations, resolutely maintained their ethnic and cultural identity, passing it on from one generation to the next. Religion and church played a particularly important part in preserving the cohesion of the community.

This phenomenon is to be observed among relatively numerous, and confessionally clearly delineated, communities such as German Lutherans, Polish Catholics, adherents of the Dutch Reformed Church, and British Anglicans. Italian

immigrants and their descendants were relatively few in number, and therefore unable to preserve their ethnic and cultural identity through several generations. Like many other comparatively small ethnic groups, it was extremely hard for Italians to marry exclusively within their own community; mixed marriages were of necessity very frequent.

There is a noticeable tendency for mixed marriages to be contracted as a rule within the non-Russian sector of the Saint Petersburg population: Italians, like German, English, Dutch, French, or Swedish citizens of the capital preferred, all else being equal, to contract mixed marriages, when they had to be mixed, not with Russians but with each other, even when the couple were of different confessions. One explanation of this may be found in the Imperial Russian law obliging couples where one partner was Russian Orthodox and the other of a different Christian denomination to bring up the children in the Orthodox faith (which subsequently led to the complete russification of the family), to which many non-Orthodox Christians would not agree. In the case of mixed marriages between partners of other faiths - for instance between Catholics and Protestants - the law did not prevent the parents from making their own decision as to how the children were to be baptised and brought up. This meant that the Italians of Saint Petersburg, if they could not find a bride from a Catholic family (if not Italian, then French, Polish or German), preferred to seek out a spouse from among the local German Protestants rather than among the far more numerous Russian Orthodox; when they did enter into marriage with an Orthodox partner they preferred a non-Russian or a half-Russian.

This way of dealing with matrimonial problems was also practised by other ethnic and confessional minorities in Saint Petersburg.

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And now, I shall dwell on some specific examples to illustrate the genealogy and history of several Russian families of Italian origin, which over several generation produced a series of eminent figures who distinguished themselves in the most varied fields.

The Counts Santi

In 1722, on the order of Peter the Great, the office of Herald (*Heroldmeister*) was established in Russia. Its remit was first and foremost supervision of the military and civil service of members of the nobility. It also was responsible for devising coats of arms and for regulating use of armorial bearings. Since this was a new and unfamiliar function in Russia, a foreigner was specially invited for this purpose, as an assistant was appointed for the first Herald, Stepan Kolychev. It was Francesco Santi (born in 1683), who up till then had served as *Oberhofmarshal* and privy councillor in the court of the Landgraf of Hessen-Homburg. He came of an ancient noble line which originated in the provinces of Lombardy and Tuscany, and had been educated in Paris, where he studied history, genealogy and heraldry. In all the Russian documents concerning his

invitation to Russia and his official activities as deputy Herald, Francesco (known as Franz, or Frantsisk) Santi is designated as Count, and that title was officially granted to him and his descendants in Russia. And so the honour of becoming the first professional Russian Herald fell to the lot of an Italian. He threw himself into his duties with great energy, appointing staff, ordering foreign special publications, ensuring proper working conditions for the artists, drawing up essential instructions and rules, and devising coats of arms (he was responsible, for example, for the coat of arms of the city of Saint Petersburg).

In 1725 he was appointed to the rank of *Grand Maître des Cérémonies* in recognition of his services. In 1727, however, he fell under suspicion of involvement in the plot organised by Count Anton Devier, Count Piotr Tolstoy and others to remove tsar Peter II from the throne and crown Anna Petrovna, Duchess of Holstein and daughter of Peter the Great. He was exiled to eastern Siberia where he was held under guard and in very harsh conditions. When the Empress Elizaveta Petrovna, also a daughter of Peter the Great, ascended the throne, Count Santi was brought back from exile, given back his old appointment and rank, and granted some land; in 1764 he was retired from service and awarded the rank of Privy Councillor.

While in exile in Siberia Count Santi married the daughter of a local official, a nobleman of the Riazan province, Praskovia Tatarinova, and the couple had two sons - Counts Lev and Alexander - and four daughters; since their mother was Russian, all the children were baptised in the Orthodox church.

Noteworthy among the sons of Count Lev Santi were Count Piotr Santi, senator, who died a bachelor in 1821; and Count Aleksandr Santi (1769-1838), governor of Kiev from 1811, appointed in 1813 quartermaster general of the Polish army and of the former Duchy of Warsaw, in 1820 quartermaster general of the 1st Army, and lieutenant-general. His wife Ioanna Pozniak was Polish.

The only son of Count Aleksandr Santi, Count Vassili (1788-1841) was an eminent diplomat; from 1828 to 1841 he was plenipotentiary at the Court of the Grand Duke of Saxen-Weimar, with the rank of privy councillor. He was married, without issue, to Agnes Rozenbach, who was German.

The only male representative of the family in the next generation was the son of Count Aleksandr, Count Lev Santi (1830-1860), staff captain, who died a bachelor. The Russian line of the Counts Santi thus died out with him. Descendants of the Santis in the female line include Shcherbinins, Buturlins, Tolstoys, Teviashovs, Mavrocordatos, Burnashevs, Sofianos, Eberns, Rudakovs, Lvovs...

The Cavos family

In 1798 a young musician, Catarino Camillo Cavos (1775-1840) arrived in Saint Petersburg. He was the son of Alberto Giovanni Cavos, director of the Venice theatre "La Fenice". The names Alberto, Giovanni and Camillo were subsequently passed on to their immediate descendants. They came of an old, well-to-do Venetian family of Spanish origin.



Cavos

As a child Cavos showed remarkable musical talent, and he later became a noted musician in his home city.

After 1797, however, when Venice lost its independence, he, like many of his compatriots, set off to seek his fortune in foreign lands, and was soon invited to join an Italian opera company based in Saint Petersburg. Here his talent was instantly recognised and appreciated, and he became conductor and composer in the Imperial theatres, in both Russian and French companies, for the remainder of his life. He was also in charge of all the musicians serving the court, and organised concerts and performances of individual virtuosos at balls, mascarades and the like, as well as teaching. During those years Catarino Cavos wrote over thirty operas, some of them based on subjects from Russian history or folklore; music for operetta and ballet; symphonies, vaudevilles, romances and songs; he used and popularised the Russian musical tradition. His place in the history of Russian music is that of a forerunner of the great Russian composer Mikhail Glinka, to whose success in the field, incidentally, he contributed.

Catarino Cavos' sons also left their mark on the Russian artistic scene. Alberto Camillo (in Russia Albert) and Giovanni (Ivan) were born in Saint Petersburg; they had a sister called Stefanida. From 1822 to 1837 she taught music in the famous Smolny Institute for well-born young ladies, and then married an Italian called Corronini and went to live in Venice.

Albert Cavos (1800-1863) was an architect by profession. After graduating in mathematics at the University of Padua, he returned to Saint Petersburg where he soon became a leading and highly popular architect.

He was appointed academician, granted the title of Architect to the Imperial Court. From 1835 he was chief architect of the office of Imperial Theatres; the buildings either erected or rebuilt by him or with his participation, and for which he was renowned, include virtually all the important theatres of Saint Petersburg and the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow; this last was in fact subsequently rebuilt, but according to the original design.

He was the author of several books on theatre architecture, and his monumental monograph, "*Traité de la construction des théâtres*", published in 1847, was considered in its day the standard work on the subject.

Had it not been for his death in 1863 the Grand Opera would probably have been built not by Charles Garnier but by Albert Cavos: his plans had already been approved by Napoleon III.

Albert Cavos owned a house in Venice, on the Canale Grande, which he turned into a kind of museum, and frequently visited. Both Russia and Italy were for him native lands; in 1859 he actually became a Russian subject, and soon afterwards was granted the status of hereditary nobleman.

That dual sense of identity was passed on in some degree to his children, both to those of his first marriage - to the Italian Aloysia Carobio (died in 1835), and also those of his second marriage - to Ksenia Ivanova, from a lower middle class Saint Petersburg family, half German and half Russian, and Orthodox by faith.

Among the more notable of these children was Alberto Cesare (in Russia - Cesar) Cavos (1824-1883), architect and academician, who built or rebuilt a large number of private houses (including his own mansion) and public buildings in the Russian capital, where for some years he was a councillor in the City Council. He was married to a Russian, Natalia Mizhueva, and their children were baptised in the Orthodox church.

The other son, Konstantin Cavos (1828-1890), worked all his life in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an official interpreter, and by the end of his life he had the high rank of Privy Councillor. He was married to Maria Campioni (Wilcken by a first marriage), who belonged to a russified Italian family.

Alberto's daughter, Camilla-Stefania Cavos (1829-1891), married an eminent Saint Petersburg architect of French descent, Nikolai Benois (1813-1898), a Catholic. From then on the famous clan of Cavos and Benois (with whom the Lanceray family, also of French origin, were connected), maintained close ties of kin and friendship; one curious characteristic of these ties was the "migration" of typical Cavos names: Camillo, Camilla, Albert into the onomatology of the Benois family. The son of the marriage, Aleksandr Benois (1870-1960), the famous artist and theatre designer, who inherited his talents from his Italian as well as his French forebears, wrote at some length about the Cavos family in his remarkable memoirs. The family links between the Cavos and the Benois were reinforced in 1884 by the marriage of Mikhail Benois (son of Nikolai and Camilla Benois mentioned above) to Olga Cavos, his first cousin, daughter of the Konstantin and Maria Cavos.

Among the children of Albert Cavos from the second marriage, Sophia (1841-1865) married a lawyer Mitrofan Zarudnyi (1834-1865), who was Russian, or rather Ukrainian, and Orthodox. Their son Sergei, who lost his mother a few days after his birth, was brought up by his grandmother Ksenia Cavos; eventually became a senator. The Zarudnyi family also developed close links with the Cavos clan, since in the next generation Mitrofan Zarudnyi's niece, Ekaterina Zarudnaia,

a well-known artist, was married in 1888 to the stepson of Cesar Cavos, Evgenii Cavos.

The younger son of Catarino Cavos, Giovanni (Ivan) Cavos (1805-1861), followed in his father's footsteps, received a musical education, and for thirty years worked in the Imperial theatres of Saint Petersburg, at first as an assistant to his father; at the end of his life he was director and conductor of the Italian opera; for many years he taught singing in the Smolny Institute. He had three sons. Camillo (1843-1900) was a political journalist for the newspaper "New Times"; he was married with a German from Riga, Elena Treumann. Alberto (1847-1898) served in the Secretariat of the Senate; he also married a Baltic German, Sophia von Essen. Stefano was an officer in the Italian army and died a bachelor in 1906. All three were Italian subjects. Aleksandr Benois wrote of them in his memoirs: "The mother of the three brothers was German, a ballet dancer, and they were educated in a Russian gymnasium - and yet it would be hard to imagine more typical or picturesque Italians" (A.N. Benois. Memoirs, Books 1-3, Moscow, 1993, p.169). None of them had any children.

The founder of the Russian Cavos was buried in Saint Petersburg in the Volkov Lutheran cemetery, which could more accurately be called the cemetery for non-Orthodox denominations. Also there, near his grave, were buried almost all his descendants and their wives; some of the headstones have Italian or Latin inscriptions. A few found their final rest in the cemetery of the Novodevichii Monastery of the Resurrection.

The 1917 revolution forced almost all the Cavos family to emigrate.

The Guizetti family

Early in the nineteenth century Johann Anton Franz Guizetti (1762-1841) joined the merchants' guild in the town of Narva, Saint Petersburg province. Born in Braunschweig in Germany, he was the grandson of Francesco Guizetti di Capoferri, who came of an old Venetian line, and who settled in Germany in the 1670s and traded in candles; in his honour his son, grandson and great grandson were christened with the German version of his name, Franz. In 1817 Anton Guizetti moved to Moscow, joined the First guild of Moscow merchants, became a broker in the Stock Exchange, and then for many years was a broker in the State Commercial Bank.

He married the daughter of a Moscow merchant of the First guild, Heinrich Krüger, Elizabeth (1783-1852).

The most well-known of his nine children, all of whom were baptised as Catholics, was Hermann Franz Guizetti (1805-1881).

Educated in the law faculty first of Moscow and then of Derpt university, he entered state service in 1827, first in the Finance Ministry in Saint Petersburg and then in the Moscow office of the State Commercial bank, where his father worked; in 1834 he set off for Eastern Siberia, where he worked in the revenue department, and then the local government office of Irkutsk. In 1836 he married

the daughter of the governor-general of Eastern Siberia, Semion Bronevskii, Varvara, who was Orthodox.

Shortly afterwards he moved to Saint Petersburg and took up a post in the Ministry of Justice, where he had a distinguished career: in 1863 he was appointed member of the Consulting Council of the Ministry, promoted to the rank of Privy Councillor, and the same year to that of senator.

His two sons, Anton and Anatolii, Orthodox by faith, also had good careers. Anton Guizetti (1843-1903) had the rank of councillor of state and was President of the Appellate Court of Saint Petersburg; he was married to Nadezhda Andreevskaja. Anatolii Guizetti (1846-1909) like his father was made a senator, in 1905; he married Princess Aleksandra Kugusheva. One of the daughters, Serafima Guizetti (1838-1917) married Johann Renard (1839-1907), a Privy Councillor who was deputy minister for education, and a subsequently a senator. Another daughter, Evgenia (1842-1915), married Aleksandr Rüdiger (1843-1877), from a russified German family (his father, Georg Rüdiger, was Lutheran, his mother, Margarita Hamburger, German Orthodox); their great-grandson - Aleksei Rüdiger - is actually His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All the Russia Aleksii II: thus in the veins of the head of the Russian Orthodox Church flows not only Russian and German blood, but also Italian.

Another son of Johann Anton Franz Guizetti, Ludwig Ferdinand Guizetti (1807-1843), was a Moscow doctor. He married a Russian, Liubov Islenova. Their son, Anton Guizetti (1836-1911) served in the army, reached the rank of major-general, became a military historian, and produced a series of books on the Russian wars of the Caucasus in the nineteenth century.

The youngest son of Johann Anton Franz Guizetti, Viktor (1823-1914), was a Russian Army officer, and then worked in the Customs department in Warsaw. He married a Russian, Olga Vasilieva. Their son Aleksei (1850-1914) was as a young man a member of the Populist party, and later a noted member of the Saint Petersburg regional authority and a tax assessor. His marriage to the doctor and writer Natalia Bekariukova produced a son, Aleksandr (1888-1938), who was active in the Russian revolutionary movement, a member of the Social Revolutionary party, a deputy in the Constitutional Assembly; after 1917 he became a historian of social thought, a literary scholar and translator. He was repeatedly arrested, and in 1938, during the period of mass purges in the Soviet Union, he was shot.

A number of Guizettis settled in Estonia after 1917, at the time when that country was independent; subsequently some of them emigrated to the United States.

The Martino family

In 1788 Manuil Martino enlisted in the Russian navy, which at that time, under the command of Count Aleksei Orlov, was fighting the Turks in the Mediterranean. He led a division of Greek sailors.

He came from the Neapolitan nobility; according to legend, his father, Pietro Martino, was a pirate.

When he retired with the rank of lieutenant he settled in the Crimea, became a landowner, and acquired the status of hereditary nobleman of Tavrida province.

Here three sons were born to him, Leonid, Piotr and Aleksandr, all of whom became Russian naval officers.

They produced a great many progeny, some of their children and grandchildren becoming naval officers, landowners, scholars, lawyers...

A few remained in Soviet Russia after 1917, and like many people of the upper class were subjected to persecution; others left Russia, and settled in various western European countries. There were a few who after the Second World War returned to the Soviet Union from abroad...

The Marchesi Paulucci

In 1807 Major Filippo Paulucci (1779-1849) enlisted in the Russian army. He was the son of an Austrian court chamberlain, born in the city of Modena, and a Tuscan marquis, scion of an ancient family whose members had lived for generations in the regions of Emilia and Venice

He fought bravely in the ranks of the Russian army in the war against Sweden, distinguished himself as a brilliant commander during the Russo-Persian war of 1809, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general, and in 1811 appointed governor of Georgia. In 1812 he fought successfully against Napoleon's Grande Armee, was made civil governor of Lifland and Courland, and in 1819 of Estland as well; he showed himself to be an outstanding administrator of the Baltic provinces. Marquis Filippo Paulucci, promoted to the ranks of general of infantry and general-adjutant, returned to Italy in 1830; he died being governor of Genua.

His son Aleksandr-Nikolai (1839-1902), born of his marriage to the Baltic German Maria Kursell, remained in Russia, as a Russian subject.

Educated in the *Corps of Pages*, he became an officer of the Life Guard Hussar regiment, later on served in the Ministry of the Interior, and was appointed Chamberlain of the Imperial Court. In 1890 he was given permission to use in Russia and pass on to his descendants the title of marquis (normally in Russia all children inherited titles, not only elder sons).

He was twice married: first to Princess Aglaida Gagarina (died 1865), by whom he had one son, Aleksandr, and one daughter, Sophia; and secondly to Elizaveta Martynova (1845-1921), by whom he had a son, Viktor.

Marquis Aleksandr Paulucci the younger (born 1865), on graduating from the *Corps des Pages*, joined the regiment of Cavalry Guards, retired with the rank of colonel, and at Court had the title of Chamberlain.

Marchioness Sophia Paulucci married Count Matvei Apraksin (1863-1926), and official of the Ministry of Transport, Councillor of state, Master of ceremonies of the Imperial Court. Marquis Viktor Paulucci (1873-1940), like his elder brother

educated in the *Corps of Pages*, was cavalry guardsman, later colonel on the retired list, and Chamberlain of the Imperial Court, marshal of the nobility of Sviyaz district of Kazan province. His first marriage, in 1905, was to Maria Giers (the Giers being a russified Swedish family), Lady in waiting at Court (died 1939), daughter of Nikolai Giers (1853-1924), eminent diplomat, ambassador in Brussels and Vienna, *Maréchal de la Cour*, and senator; he was the son of Nikolai Giers, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, from the latter's marriage to Anna Mees, who was Dutch. His second marriage, after the death of his first wife, was to Elizaveta Klochkova. By his first marriage Marquis Viktor Paulucci had a son, Marquis Nikolai (born 1908).

All the members of the family were obliged to flee from Russia after 1917, and settled in France.

The Rizzoni family

In the ranks of Napoleon's army which invaded Russia in 1812 was a soldier called Antonio Rizzoni, a cobbler from Bologna. When the *Grande Armée* retreated he stayed behind in Riga, where he was married, probably to a local German, and where he had some children. Three of them, Paul (1823-1913), Edward (1833-1903), and Aleksandr (1836-1902), graduated from the Academy of Art in Saint Petersburg and became professional artists. Most eminent among them was the youngest, Aleksandr, who was elected academician of painting in 1866 and in 1868 was appointed professor. Subsequently he went to live in the land of his Italian forbears and died in Rome. The elder brothers stayed on in Russia. Paul Rizzoni settled in Saint Petersburg and was granted the title of academician of art in 1853; he specialised in painting the everyday life of the Russian common people, and did a great deal of work in the south of Russia and in the Caucasus. His son, Pavel Rizzoni (born 1857) was a technical engineer, a specialist in railway engineering, and the author of several works in that field; after 1917 he stayed on in Petrograd-Leningrad; his last book on railways was published in 1933. The daughter, Vera Rizzoni, 1868-1942, married a pianist, Evgenii Holliday (Golliday), who came of russified English stock and taught music. She died of starvation during the blockade of Leningrad by the German Wehrmacht.

The Dagnini family

In 1994 the Mantova publishing house "La Corte" brought out a book by Vladimiro Bertazzoni entitled "*I Dagnini*". The book tells the story of Ambrogio Dagnini (1807-1872), son of Mantova civil lawyer, Giuseppe Dagnini. His fame as an opera tenor had spread all over Italy, and in 1840 he accepted an invitation to appear with an Italian opera company in Odessa (where at that time, incidentally, Italians made up a considerable proportion of the population), and subsequently settled in Russia, which became his second home. We learn how Ambrogio (in Russian Amvrosii) Dagnini became director of the Italian opera, and then after a few years left the theatre to devote himself to teaching Italian, and to writing. In 1860 he was given the chair of Italian language and literature at Kharkov University; he moved to Kharkov, where he died in 1872. In Odessa Ambrogio Dagnini married a French maiden. Their many children, grandchildren and great-

grandchildren born in Russia include doctors and architects, school-teachers and university lecturers, lawyers and engineers... Ambrogio's son, Napoleon Dagnini (1849-1919), was qualified as a doctor, and worked as senior physician to the Corps of Pages in St.-Saint Petersburg with the rank of Actual State Councillor; he married a German maiden called Adelaide Haueisen. Another son, Camillo (1850-1903), married to Natalia Danchich, was an accountant by profession, and at the same time worked as treasurer of the Italian Charitable Society of St.-Saint Petersburg. One of Camillo's sons, Emilio Dagnini (1882-1909), taught in a gymnasium, but was also a writer, translator and bibliophile; another one, Giuseppe (Iosif) Dagnini (1893-1939), was a technology teacher. Ambrogio's third son, Vittorio (in Russian Victor), born in 1860, and also married to a Haueisen, was a lawyer; before the Russian revolution of 1917 he was a member of the Warsaw Appellate Court and held the rank of Actual State Councillor. The most famous of Ambrogio's sons, however, was the youngest, Silvio (1867-1942). In 1886 he entered the Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts, where he acquitted himself with great brilliance; he was appointed architect for the administration of the palaces of Tsarskoe Selo, the Imperial residence outside the capital; in 1911, he was nominated architect of the Imperial Court, and in 1914 became Actual State Councillor. He built a number of public and administrative buildings and private houses, and was partly responsible for the refurbishment of the famous Alexander Palace. After the revolution of 1917 he continued to work as an architect, producing, for instance, plans for dams, locks and electric power station buildings on the river Svir. He died of hunger during the nazi blockade of Leningrad. He was married to a German Lutheran, Vera Stuckenberg. They had four children: Evgenii (1894-1954), a distinguished biologist who married Ekaterina Filomatitskaia; Orest (1896-1958), died in emigration (in Egypt); Valentin (1900-1972) an architect, like his father; and Virginia (1903-1982), a librarian, who married Sergei Kvashnin-Samarin.

Their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren still live in St.-Saint Petersburg, and some of them still bear to this day the Mantova name of Dagnini.

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Russians with the surnames degli Albizzi, Bianci, counts Cassini, Campioni, de Campo-Scipion, Della Vos, Giuliani, Ferrieri, Gondatti, Paganucci, Poggio, Visconti... And to these can be added the descendants of immigrants from the Swiss canton of Ticino, Adamini, Bernardazzi, Baroffio-Bruni, Lezzano, Lukini, Monighetti, Trezzini...

The list of well-known families in Russia of Italian and Italian Swiss origin could be easily continued. But I think I have tried your patience long enough.

I should like to say in conclusion that the Institute of Genealogy in the Russian National Library is still pursuing its study of this subject, and I hope that in the near future we shall be able to publish some results of our work, and bring it to the attention of our colleagues not only in Russia, but also in Italy.