Register of the Vorontsov Family Papers

Finding aid prepared by Anatol Shmelev
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Title: Vorontsov family papers
Date (inclusive): 1921-1956
Collection Number: 2000C113
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: Russian
Physical Description: 7 microfilm reels (1.1 linear feet)
Abstract: Correspondence, financial and legal records, reports, and photographs, relating to Russian émigré forestry and stockraising business activities in Manchuria and Mongolia.
Creator: Vorontsov family
Access
Collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Vorontsov Family Papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.
Accquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2000.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Location of Originals
Originals in: Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco.
Scope and Content Note
This collection comprises the business records of the Vorontsov brothers, who ran forestry, mining and horse-breeding operations in Manchuria and Mongolia. The records cover the period from the 1920s to the 1950s, when the Chinese government confiscated their property. The records are supplemented by photographs of forestry and horse-breeding operations as well as of the brothers' visits to oversee these.
Detailed processing and preservation microfilming for these materials were made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by matching funds from the Hoover Institution and Museum of Russian Culture. The grant also provides depositing a microfilm copy in the Hoover Institution Archives. The original materials remain in the Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco as its property. A transfer table indicating corresponding box and reel numbers is available at the Hoover Institution Archives.
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Biography
The Vorontsov brothers were the founders and directors of a major commercial enterprise that bore their name: Firma Brat'ia Vorontsovy. They began as workers then as contractors in the building of the Chinese Eastern Railway in 1898 and quickly became monopolists in the supply of timber for the western end of the line. They acquired timber concessions in North Manchuria, and their employees soon numbered nearly 3,000. By 1925, they entered into a partnership with the Chinese Eastern Railway and the local Chinese provincial government for the supply of timber, retaining control of operations of the new enterprise (Khaiminskoe lesopromyshlennoe tovarishchestvo).
In an attempt to create close and reliable food sources for their lumberjacks, they introduced wheat farming, cattle and dairy production to regions along the western line that had not had any experience of intensive agriculture and cattle breeding. The success was such that their dairy products found markets as far away as Tsingtao, Shanghai and Dairen. Their promising sheep-breeding operations, which produced high-quality wool, were disrupted by the events of 1929. In addition to this, in 1917 they began breeding Orlov trotters, in 1924 they opened a winery and distillery, and over the
1920s and 1930s built electrical stations and saw- and flour-mills at various points. In 1929-1930, they constructed the first commercial refrigerated warehouse in Harbin.

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

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Vorontsov, M. M.
China.
Mongolia.
Russia.
Russians--China--Manchuria.
Russians--Mongolia.

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**Box 1-5**

**Business Records, 1921-1956**

Scope and Contents note
Clippings, contracts, correspondence, financial records, inventories, legal documents, minutes of meetings, and reports. Arranged in numerical files according to original order.

**Box 6**

**Photographs, n.d.**

Scope and Contents note
Albums and 33 individual prints depicting the brothers' business operations, arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Box 1-5

**BUSINESS RECORDS, 1921-1956**

Scope and Contents note
Includes correspondence and financial records relating to the brothers' business ventures, primarily the Haimin Forestry Co. and other forestry concessions, documents relating to financial losses suffered during the Sino-Soviet conflict of 1929 and the Chinese government's nationalization of the brothers' business concerns in the 1950s, inventories and equipment rolls, contracts, legal and taxation records, reports by D. V. Murzaev on business conditions in Northern Mongolia and on red deer (maral) breeding.

Box 6

**PHOTOGRAPHS, n.d.**

**Albums**

Box/Folder 6 : 1-2

**General.**

Scope and Contents note
Miscellaneous people and places, including D. M. and M. M. Vorontsov

Box/Folder 6 : 3-4
Forestry operations
Box/Folder 6 : 5

Horsebreeding operations, including numerous photographs of individual horses
Box/Folder 6 : 6

Individual prints (33) depicting horses