

**Obituary published in ZARIA, Wednesday, February 21, 1940, Harbin, Manchukuo**

The Death of Sebastian Osipovich Ossinovsky

Yesterday a local businessman and community leader passed away. His death followed a brief illness and brought great sadness to those who knew him professionally and through his charitable work. This is a great loss also to his friends and family. In spite of his 77 years Ossinovsky was active and reasonably healthy. Ten days ago he had a severe heart attack brought about by diabetes from which he suffered earlier. The news of his passing spread rapidly throughout the city. To express sympathy to the bereaved family yesterday there were many, many people at their residence. Among them were many representatives of the commercial and charitable communities. Today at eleven o'clock in the morning the body will be moved from the residence and interment will take place at the Jewish Cemetery.

Ossinovsky was born in the city of Nikoliev where he completed a Jewish religious seminary and a post secondary school professional program. As a young man he moved to Yekaterinoslaw and began to work in publishing. Soon he became manager of his firm and eventually developed his own commercial enterprise. He established a publishing Company, edited books and the newspaper "Southern News."

In 1905 Ossinovsky moved to Vladivostok. There he represented the firm of Skidelsky for distribution of their products, their factories and mines.

In 1912 he purchased property on Uchastkovaya Street in Harbin where he lived throughout the later part of his life. His activities in Vladivostok continued until 1921 when the arrival of the Red Army mandated liquidation of his firm which in turn forced his move to Harbin. There he again began to work for the Skidelsky firm as their representative and auditor of the Moulinsky Coal Mining Company.

In 1932 due to advancing age he discontinued his professional involvement and continued to live a private life in his home. His extensive commercial and professional activities never prevented him from devoting much time to community charitable institutions. In Vladivostok he was the representative of a Zionist organization. After World War I he had the financial oversight of the repatriation of Jewish prisoners of war to their homelands. In Harbin he equally took active part in the community life of the local Jewish Community. He was involved in the establishment of the Society providing care to the impoverished elderly Jews and until his very death continued as a valued member of this organization. He also participated in the community's religious life in the Talmud Torah and other organizations leaving behind the warmest memories as a hard worker and one who cares about others. He was held in high esteem in professional circles due to his trustworthiness and integrity.

He is survived by three sons and three daughters. One son lives in Harbin. The other children live in Shanghai and abroad. He gave all his children an advanced education.

**Transcription provided by Archie Ossin, September 2009**