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## **Aleksei Fedorovich and Liubov Aleksandrovna Girs Papers 4077550**

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and Content .....	6
Administrative Information .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	8
Collection Inventory .....	9
Series I: Materials by Aleksei Fedorovich Girs .....	9
Series II: Materials by Liubov' Aleksandrovna Girs .....	9

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Girs, A. F. (Alekseĭ Fedorovich), 1871-1958
<b>Creator:</b>	Girs , Līūbov' A., -approximately 1965
<b>Title:</b>	Aleksei Fedorovich and Liubov Aleksandrovna Girs Papers
<b>ID:</b>	4077550
<b>ID:</b>	BA#0135
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1913-1963
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.5 linear feet 1 manuscript box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Russian .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Aleksei Fedorovich and Liubov Aleksandrovna Girs Papers; Box and Folder; Bakhmeteff Archive, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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Aleksei Fedorovich Girs (1871-1958), Captain of the Preobrazhensky Life Guards Regiment, Chamberlain of the Court of His Imperial Majesty, Lieutenant Governor of Estland province, Governor of Kiev, Minsk, and Nizhniĭ Novgorod provinces in late Imperial Russia.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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Liubov Aleksandrovna Girs (1885-1964), nee Ponomareva, Wife of Aleksei Fedorovich Girs.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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Aleksei Fedorovich Girs was born on March 17, 1871 into a noble Russian family of Swedish descent. In 1891, he graduated from the Corps of Pages and started his military career at the Preobrazhensky Regiment, in which he served for ten years until he left military service.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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He began his civic activity as marshall of district nobility in the city of Kovno, and then in the Minsk provinces.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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From 1906 to 1908, he was lieutenant governor of the Estland province. He married Liubov Ponomoreva while in Revel, then the capital city of the Estland province.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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From May 18, 1909, he served as governor of Kiev. During his governorship, there was an attempt on Stolypin's life, and although the investigation showed that Girs could not prevent

the assassination attempt, a stain on his reputation still remained. In order to suppress rumors, Aleksei Fedorovich was transferred to Minsk.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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In the Minsk province, Girs was governor from November 26, 1912 to April 30, 1915. His service there fell on hard times - the World War I was going on. The Girs family gave away their house, which became an infirmary of the Red Cross. The entire second floor of the governor's house was converted into wards for 50 people and an operating room. Doctors settled on the first floor, and nurses on the third. During his arrival in Minsk, on September 22, 1914, Nicholas II, personally visited the hospital and presented the St. George crosses with the inscription "For Courage" on the St. George ribbon, first to the soldiers and then to the officers.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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In 1915, Girs was appointed governor of Nizhny Novgorod. Revolutionary sentiments were already in the air. On March 2, 1917, the local council issued an order to arrest the governor. A day later he was transported to Moscow, however, on March 7 the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Provisional Government ordered the release him.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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Later, the Girs family managed to emigrate to Estonia. In 1924, they moved to France where Girs became a member of many public organizations. In 1943, he was elected to the parish council of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Paris, and at one time was a member of the audit committee. Aleksei Girs also authored numerous memoir sketches and published them in the magazine "Chasovoy".

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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The last years of his life he lived in the Russian House in Sainte-Genevieve-des-Bois. He died on February 11, 1958, in Paris. Buried in the Sainte-Genevieve-des-Bois cemetery.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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One letter, manuscripts, and printed materials of Aleksei Fedorovich Girs and of his wife, Liubov' Aleksandrovna Girs. The letter, dated 1914, when Girs was governor of Minsk, is addressed to N. A. Maklakov. Aleksei Gir's memoirs cover such topics as his service in Estland; Petr Stolypin; the "Jewish question;" Tsar Nicholas II; and independent Estonia, where he lived in 1918-1924. There are also two reports by Girs from the time of his service in Minsk. Liubov Girs is represented by diaries and memoirs from 1901-1918, particularly on Odessa in 1905-1906; Stolypin's murder in 1911; and Nizhny Novgorod in 1917.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Authorities and notes reviewed and updated, finding aid updated; biographical note written by Tanya Chebotarev added, ksd 2009-06-26 2019-05-20 2020-12-03

**Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located on-site.

**Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Papers: Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1955.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Papers: Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1960.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Papers: Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1965.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Papers: Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1957.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Papers: Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1963.

**Location of Originals Note**

Holder of originals: Bakhmeteff Archive. Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Columbia University.

**Processing Information**

Papers Accessioned 1955.

**Processing Information**

Papers Accessioned 1960.

**Processing Information**

Papers Accessioned 1965.

### **Processing Information**

Papers Processed 05/--/79.

### **Processing Information**

Papers Revised 11/--/82.

### **Processing Information**

Papers Accessioned 1957.

### **Processing Information**

Papers Accessioned 1963.

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Jewish question
- Estonia -- History
- Announcements
- Letters (correspondence)
- Memoirs
- Diaries
- Russia -- Politics and government -- 1894-1917
- Soviet Union -- History -- Revolution, 1917-1921
- Stolypin, Petr Arkad'evich, 1862-1911
- Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia, 1868-1918
- Maklakov, V. A. (Vasiliĭ Alekseevich), 1870-1957
- Pazheskiĭ Ego Imperatorskago Velichestva korpus (Russia)



## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Materials by Aleksei Fedorovich Girs

Title/Description	Instances	
Letter to N. A. Maklakov, 1914	box 1	folder 1
Memoirs		
"Estliandskaia guberniia (1906-1909) i nezavisimaia Estonskaia Respublika (1918-1924)", 1956	box 1	folder 2
"Evreiiskii vopros"	box 1	folder 3
"Imperator Nikolai II-oi vo vremia Velikoi voiny 1914 g. i Naslednik Tsesarevich Nikolai Aleksandrovich v Preobrazhenskom polku", 1956	box 1	folder 5
"Iz dalekogo proshlogo"	box 1	folder 6
"O Petre Arkad'eviche Stolypine"	box 1	folder 4
Pazheskii Korpus (Corps of Pages)	box 1	folder 4
"Pravitel'stvo i obshchestvennost"	box 1	folder 3
"Svetlye i chernye dni 1909-1911 g." , 1953	box 1	folder 7
<b>General</b>		
(Publication in "Chasovoi", issues No.328, No.330, 1953)		
Documents related to Gir's activity as Minsk Governor, 1913-1915		
Reports	box 1	folder 8-9
Calls and announcements	box 1	folder 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Materials by Liubov' Aleksandrovna Girs

Title/Description	Instances	
Diaries		
Odessa, 1905-1906	box 1	folder 11
Priezd Tsarskoi Sem'i v Kiev v 1911 g. i ubiistvo Stolypina, 1911	box 1	folder 12
Nizhnii Novgorod 1917 g.	box 1	folder 13

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Memoirs	box 1	folder 14-17
Document: Liubov' Girs' appeal as a trustee of the Minsk Red Cross	box 1	folder 18

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)