

## M.:W.:N. D. AVXENTIEV

During the last few months, Russian Freemasonry has suffered several very great losses.

The present bulletin is dedicated to the memory of our Br.'.Michail Andreyevitch Ossorgin, who played a highly prominent part in the Russian Freemasonic circles of Paris. After the plans for this first bulletin had been completed and almost entirely carried out, we received from France sad news—that of the passing away of another prominent Freemason, Br.'.Nikolai Teslenko, formerly one of Moscow's ranking lawyers and a former member of the Russian State Douma. And finally, here in New York, on March 4, 1943, Br.'.Nikolai Dmitrievitch Avxentiev passed away, at the age of 64.

We expect this our first bulletin to be followed shortly by a second one, and, of course, we will dedicate it to the serene, luminous memory of Br.'.Nikolai Avxentiev, to his outstanding personality and uncommonly refined character.

His role in Russian Freemasonry was immense. He had been one of its founders and leaders abroad. He had been a Freemason for almost twenty-five years, and, of those Russians who entered Freemasonry at the same time as he did, only a few are still alive in France and, if we are not mistaken, only two in the United States.

Br.'.Avxentiev founded in Paris the Russian lodge "The Northern Star"; he was its worshipful Master for many years and remained its spiritual leader until the very end of its existence.

He also took a large part in the work of other Russian and French lodges in Paris. After he arrived in this country two and one-half years ago, he became the founder and head of "Rossia." He was held in great esteem and affection by French and Belgian masonic circles of New York, in whose work he also participated. It is our duty to extend our heartfelt gratitude to these brethren for the sympathy expressed by them upon Br.'.Avxentiev's passing away.

In these few, hastily written lines, we cannot give even summary data reflecting the immense political and public services rendered by the late Br.'.Avxentiev during his lifetime.

He was born in Penza, in an old Russian family. He studied in Moscow and abroad, and later became one of the prominent leaders of a great political party that was leading a hard and dangerous fight against Russia's autocratic Government. He was deported to Siberia, fled, became a political exile for many years, returned to Russia in 1917 after the February (March) revolution, and was then called to the highest government posts. He became Minister for Home Affairs in the Kerensky Government, and later was chairman of a Directorate that stubbornly fought the Bolsheviks. He was finally removed from power through a plot organized by reactionary elements; the latter, however, permitted him to leave Russia.

After his escape abroad, he renewed his ideological fight on two fronts: against the Bolsheviks and against reactionaries.

For 20 years, he was editor of the Russian "Contemporary Review" in Paris, as well as chairman of a great number of social organizations and groups.

After the collapse of France in 1940, Br.'.Avxentiev came to the United States, the American Government having immediately granted him an emergency visa.

He became very fond of this country during the two and one-half years of his stay here. Besides his masonic activities, he was editor of the review "For Freedom," published in New York, as well as a collaborator of "The New Review."

Br.'.Avxentiev had a truly outstanding personality. His character embodied an extraordinary nobility of spirit, kindness, intelligence, and energy. He enjoyed the well-deserved reputation of one of the best Russian public speakers, and, ever since his early youth, he had been marked by a flaming passion for social and political work.

While gravely, hopelessly ill, almost up to the last day did he show a keen interest in everything that was going on in the various organizations of which he was chairman or member. It is a great comfort for us to feel that, of all these organizations, our "Rossia" was perhaps the one that was foremost in Br.'.Avxentiev's last thoughts.