WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

LEONID YUZEFOVICH

TITLE
Samoderzhets pustyni. Fenomen sudby Barona R.F. Ungern-Sternberg.
Sovereign of the Steppe. Baron Roman Ungern-Sternberg.
Non-Fiction. Ad Marginem. Moscow 1993/ 2010. 282 pages pages with annex

Publishers: Estonia/ Postimees, France/ Editions Des Syrtes, Italy/ Edizioni Mediterranee

Of German-Baltic extraction, Baron Ungern von Sternberg was a Czarist officer stationed in Siberia. After the Revolution he found himself back in the ranks of the White Army which had been formed in opposition to the Bolsheviks. While the soldiers of the White Army suffered defeat in the European part of Russia, Baron Ungern-Sternberg, with the help of the Japanese, managed to defect from Siberia to Mongolia where the Cossack regiments under his command ousted the inept Chinese occupiers before taking the capital Da Huree - now Ulan Bator. For a short time in 1920 this was where the converted Buddhist Baron was able to set up his own autocratic empire. His reckless endeavours were inspired by his vision of bringing Ghingis Khan's Golden Horde back to life. In the end, however, the Bolsheviks managed to defeat his cavalier army too. He was put on trial and finally executed in Nowonikolajewsk, now Nowosibirsk.

With the first edition 1993 (Editions des Syrtes, France) Yuzefovich has provided the first comprehensive, historically-based account of Ungern's life. Up to then, historical research in the German-speaking world, where one can still find a significant number of his descendants, has barely touched on this colourful figure. This may due in part to the fact that the National Socialists - and, more recently, isolated groups of American Neonazis, too - have tried to exploit Ungern for propaganda purposes. In Mongolia, he is still a topic of discussion in schools, books and in newspaper articles. The public interest is fed to no small degree by the rumour that he left a hoard of gold treasure buried somewhere in Mongolia.

Continuing his researches over the past decades, Yuzefovich has published carefully revised and extended versions. But the initial version is providing enough basic and valid information mainly not available to historians and journalists in the West. Yuzefovich with his proven writing talent has put all this into a book which reads like an historical detective story.

PRESS REVIEWS
"Yuzefovich writes with subtle irony, detailed historical knowledge and a great feeling for language – a literary phenomenon!" KNIZHNOE OBOZRENIE

BIOGRAPHY
Leonid Yuzefovich was born in Moscow in 1947 but spent his childhood and youth in the Urals. He has a Doctorate in History and has written books on diplomatic etiquette in old Russia. He is known to a wide audience of readers through his historical thrillers about Ivan Putilin, the Tsar's Chief of Police in St. Petersburg, a living legend during his service (1866 – 1892). Yuzefovich is capable of interweaving detailed knowledge of historical fact with masterly literary style into the plot of a thriller. L. Yuzefovich lives in Moscow and St. Petersburg.