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## Thirteen Years at the Russian Court

*Pierre Gilliard*

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**Pierre Gilliard : Thirteen Years at the Russian Court** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thirteen Years at the Russian Court:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Gilliard's book a slow read and I thought his book on Anna Anderson excellent. It is a real shame his other book ...By R. LoweI found Mr. Gilliard's book a slow read and I thought his book on Anna Anderson excellent. It is a real shame his other book concerning Anderson was not taken seriously as it would have stopped 50 years of her hoax. However I wish he had written a more open book concerning his time as a teacher to the children of Nicholas and Alexandra. Maybe I am expecting too much but I think he seems to "sugar coat" the family. In reality Nicholas was a good father but a very poor ruler married to a woman who thought

she knew all about Russia and its people but in fact she knew nothing. Her totally belief in not sharing ruling with the government was horrible and in the end because of her total belief in the autocracy caused the deaths of her and her family. I admire Mr. Gilliard for his following the family into exile and his never ending hope of saving them. I just wish it was a better written book.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Insight and Understanding of the last Tsar, Nicholas II and His FamilyBy SearcherA tutor to Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra's children wrote a perceptive and insightful view of the family and last years of their lives. Our school History books gave judgmental views of the Tsar, but never observations and facts of his life and his deliberations during the first years of 1900. Similarly influences upon Tsarina Alexandra were explained as well as how the daughters assisted her with her heightened concerned for their son, Alexi. The tutor author was an employee and there were many social protocols for him to observe but he has written an insiders view based on observation and documentation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Personal and Moving!By Slugpuppy3This is a well written, heartrending, personal eyewitness account of the last Romanovs. Gilliard paints a picture of a family that is simple in taste (compared to the formal glitter of the Russian Court), devoted to each other and to their faith. A must read for anyone interested in Russian history or in how Tsar Nicholas II and his family lived and died.

This is a history of the Russian court during the reign of the last czar, Nicholas II, who was toppled by the Bolshevik Revolution during World War I. From the intro: "IN September, 1920, after staying three years in Siberia was able to return to Europe. My mind was still full of the poignant drama with which I had been closely associated, but I was also still deeply impressed by the wonderful serenity and flaming faith of those who had been its victims. Cut off from communication with the rest of the world for many months, I was unfamiliar with recent publications on the subject of the Czar Nicholas II and his family. I was not slow to discover that though some of these works revealed a painful anxiety for accuracy and their authors endeavoured to rely on serious records (although the information they gave was often erroneous or incomplete so far as the Imperial family was concerned), the majority of them were simply a tissue of absurdities and falsehoods—in other words, vulgar outpourings exploiting the most unworthy calumnies. I was simply appalled to read some of them. But my indignation was far greater when I realised to my amazement that they had been accepted by the general public. To rehabilitate the moral character of the Russian sovereigns was a duty—a duty called for by honesty and justice. I decided at once to attempt the task. What I am endeavouring to describe is the drama of a lifetime, a drama I (at first) suspected under the brilliant exterior of a magnificent Court, and then realised personally during our captivity when circumstances brought me into intimate contact with the sovereigns. The Ekaterinburg drama was, in fact, nothing but the fulfilment of a remorseless destiny, the climax of one of the most moving tragedies humanity has known. In the following pages I shall try to show its nature and to trace its melancholy stages. There were few who suspected this secret sorrow, yet it was of vital importance from a historical point of view. The illness of the Czarevitch cast its shadow over the whole of the concluding period of the Czar Nicholas II's reign and alone can explain it. Without appearing to be, it was one of the main causes of his fall, for it made possible the phenomenon of Rasputin and resulted in the fatal isolation of the sovereigns who lived in a world apart, wholly absorbed in a tragic anxiety which had to be concealed from all eyes. In this book I have endeavoured to bring Nicholas II. and his family back to life. My aim is to be absolutely impartial and to preserve complete independence of mind in describing the events of which I have been an eyewitness. It may be that in my search for truth I have presented their political enemies with new weapons against them, but I greatly hope that this book will reveal them as they really were, for it was not the glamour of their Imperial dignity which drew me to them, but their nobility of mind and the wonderful moral grandeur they displayed through all their sufferings."

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