



Romanov News Новости Романовых

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The Royal procession gathered thousands of believers in Yekaterinburg

The traditional Royal procession from the Church on the Blood to the monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs was held on the night of 16 – 17 of July, 2016 in Yekaterinburg. The pilgrims walked about 20 kilometers.



On the eve at the Church-on-Blood, Divine Liturgy was held, headed by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye. On the porch before the church the traditionally high altar was built. Metropolitan Kirill concelebrated with a host of bishops of the ROC, including the Central Asian Metropolitan Vincent, Ukrainian Metropolitan Jonathan, and Azerbaijani Archbishop Alexander. Governor of Sverdlovsk region Evgeny Kuyvashev met the clergy.





At the beginning of the fourth vigil after the Divine Liturgy, the faithful began the prayer procession along the route from the city center to Ganina Yama, the same way which bodies of the Imperial family members and their loyal servants were taken in 1918.

The procession was headed by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye and clergy. The procession along its entire length was accompanied by 25 mobile teams of Orthodox Mercy Service, assisting pilgrims. The group included priests, sisters and volunteers, as well as representatives of the Holy Dormition brotherhood of Yekaterinburg diocese.



After about 7 hours and 30 minutes in the morning the procession reached the monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs at Ganina pit. There moleben was served for the Saint Regal Martyrs.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1297022/>



Memorial service for the Imperial Family in the Feodorovsky Sovereign Cathedral

Service in memory of the tragic death of the holy Royal Romanov family was held in the Feodorovsky Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo in the night from 16 to 17 July. Divine Liturgy and the procession was led by the Bishop Marcellus of Tsarskoye Selo and concelebrated by the clergy of the cathedral.



During the service, the participants prayed for the annual religious procession "Royal road" - for citizens of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, including the parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. Specially revered icons were brought to the Cathedral. Bishop Markell addressed the faithful with pastoral word, recalling that this day marked not only the tragedy of the last Russian Emperor's family, but also the tragedy of the whole of the Russian state as a whole.

Feodorovsky Sovereign's Cathedral was a favorite place of family prayer of the Imperial family. The tradition to gather in it, recalled the massacre with the crowned family, originated in the mid 90s. On this night, pilgrims in common prayer remember the tragic events of the night of 1918, when Emperor Nicholas II and his wife and children by the order of the Ural Executive Committee were shot in the basement of the Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg.

Citywide religious procession in Krasnodar

With the blessing of Metropolitan of Ekaterinodar and Krasnodar Isidor a citywide procession with the participation of the clergy and parishioners was held. The procession began at the Army Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky and went down the street to the Alexander Nevsky chapel where a festive prayer service in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs was served.



In Sevastopol

In Sevastopol, the service was held in the church Reigning Mother of God, and there was set a cross on the dome of the church.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fX8SGBY5F5k>

Icon of Nicholas II was flying over Vladikavkaz

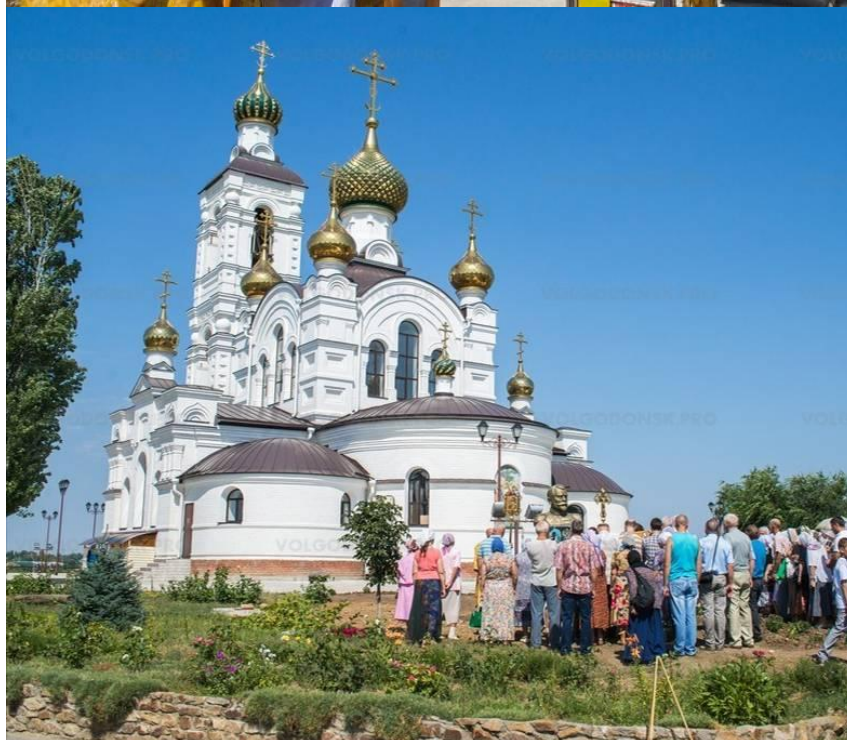
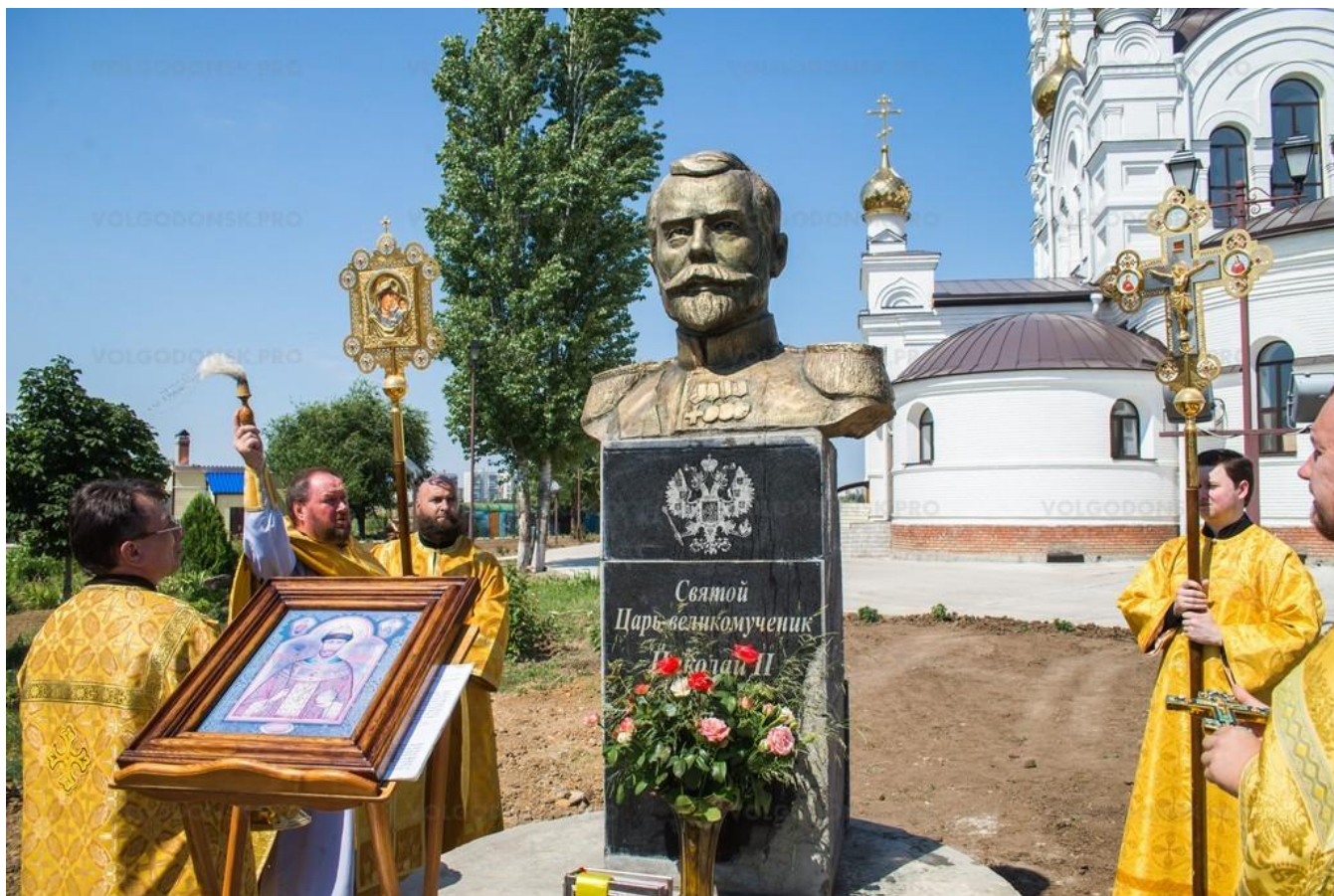
Hundreds of believers with banners and icons of Nicholas II and the Virgin Mary passed through the main streets of Vladikavkaz. The procession in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs started from several churches and met at the Church of St. George. There was a festive prayer service. Ask for the grace of the Almighty and the prosperity of the republic and then the clergy rose up into the sky.

Miraculous icon of Nicholas II, the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feodore - the family shrine of the Romanov dynasty, icon of Apostolic Prince Vladimir and particles of relics of innocent victims of Bethlehem babies were on the board of the plane.

Video - <http://alaniatv.ru/vesti/?id=19853>

Monument to Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II in Volgodonsk

July 17, 2016 on the Day of the Saint Royal Martyrs after Divine Liturgy near the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity of Volgodonsk religious procession, opening and consecration of a bust of the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II took place. The monument was created and established through the efforts of philanthropists: sculptor Victor Grishchenko with family and Nikolai Ivanovich Krivoslylykov with family.



In Feodosia was paid tribute to the murdered Royal family

July 17 at noon, Dean Father Anthony, the priests at Feodosia and Orthodox believers gathered at the icon of Saint Regal Martyrs, at the intersection of Sovetskaya and Victory streets. There was held a public service for the murdered family of Emperor Nicholas II. After the service all believers was anointed with oil and sprinkled with holy water.



Kiev orthodox sang the hymn "God save the Tsar"

On the day of memory of the murder of the Royal Romanov family, Orthodox Christians held a prayer service in Kiev on the Sofia area. They sang the national anthem of the Russian Empire "God Save the Tsar."

Ukrainian nationalists saw the prayer service, and highly indignant they pointed out that the Russian hymn was sung "100 meters from the SBU headquarters"(Ukrainian Security Service).

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZRSEkf4Wxs>

Memorial Day in Thailand

125 years ago, the Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich - the future Russian Tsar Nicholas II - visited the Kingdom of Siam as a guest of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn of Siam (Rama V). This visit was a solid basis of friendly relations between the two Monarchs and peoples of the two countries. On this occasion, the ROC representative office in conjunction with the Russian Orthodox community and the Thai of Thailand organized a commemorative event on July 17, the Day of Memory of the Royal Family.



Celebrations took place in Hua Hin Mountains, where there is the orthodox church in honor of St. Royal Passion Bearer. The celebration began at the gate of the church with the clergy meeting the cross with a particle Life Giving Cross, specially brought from the

St. Nicholas Cathedral in Bangkok.

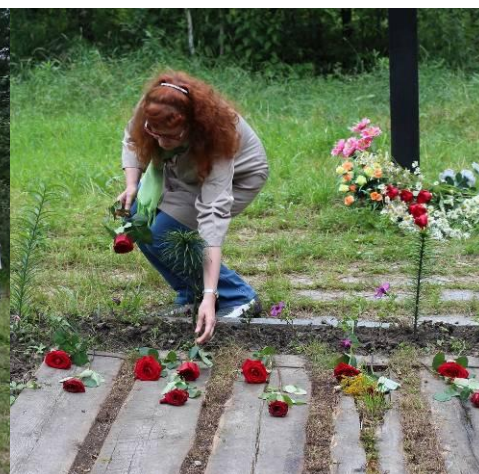
Divine Liturgy on this day led the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) in Thailand, Archimandrite Oleg (Cherepanin). He was joined by the rector of All-Saints Church in Pattaya and the chairman of the Orthodox Church in Thailand Foundation Archpriest Daniel (Danai) Bath; Vice-Rector of the Spiritual School and rector of the school of the Church of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow Phuket monk Paisius (Ipate), sacristan of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Bangkok monk Seraphim (Vasiliev); and rector of the Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs of Hua Hin, Priest Andrey Ivashchenko; rector of the Ascension Church on Samui, Priest Alexei Golovin; rector of Trinity Church on Phuket, Priest Roman Bychkov, and Hierodeacon St. Nicholas Cathedral Micah (Phiasayavong).

Choir of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Bangkok sang during the service. After the Divine Liturgy, a procession around the temple was held. Parishioners of churches in Thailand arranged a holiday meal. Celebrations continued with a concert of Russian sacred and classical music in school "Hua Vittayakom". More than 100 pilgrims joined that day the Hua Hin Church congregation. V.D. Marchukov, deputy chief of Russian Embassy in Thailand attended the service. Many Thai visitors joined celebrations. At the end of the festival all participants were presented with a book about the friendship between King Rama V Chulalongkorn of Siam, and the All-Russian Emperor Nicholas II Romanov, prepared by the Center for the Study of Russian of Bangkok University. Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxirODiksH4>

Ceremony of laying flowers to the Romanov Memorial at Porosenkov ravine

On July 18, 1918, after one night at Ganina Yama, the remains of the Imperial Family were moved to Porosenkov ravine - it was by accident, as it was due to the truck carrying the remains got stuck there, so the killers decided to bury the remains at this spot.

On July 18, 2016, Alexander Avdonin, who was part of the team who found the remains, arrived at the memorial of the Imperial family. In 1991 and in 2007, not far from the already opened burial of the Imperial family and servants, the same group managed to find the remains of Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich and his sister Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna.



Historians and archaeologists came to the memorial cross on the old Koptyakjvskaya road, as every year on this day. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director of Museum of History and Archaeology Svetlana A. Korepanova; Nikolai Borisovich Neuimin, Museum of History and Archaeology; researcher Olga Potemkin; honorary member of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Sverdlovsk region Tatiana G. Merzlyakova and the Head of the Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the Sverdlovsk region Valery Y. Zadorin.

Nikolai Borisovich Neuimin, Museum of History and Archaeology:

"I cannot comment on the opinions and arguments of the representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as I am not authorized to speak about the results of the examinations. But one thing is for sure: all research results have confirmed that the remains found here belong to the Royal family. In September last year the ROC again requested to initiate a criminal case and began to carry out its own independent assessment. They have made a step forward, and it is at least some progress in our case."

On the eve of the commemoration day, on July 12 the Public Fund "Discovery" arranged activists to clean up the memorial site, installed a new metal cross at the site where relics of Tsarvich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria were found, put a metal fence around it and planted flowers.



Memorial service in the Winter Palace

The memory of the Grand Duchess Feodorovna Elisabeth, Nun Varvara and the other Alapaevsk Martyrs was commemorated on July 18 at the Great Church in the Winter Palace.

Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Archpriest Vladimir Sorokin, assisted by Archpriest Andrei Zhuk and deacon Oleg Luferov. During the service, the faithful prayed for the illustrious members of the royal Romanov family, remembered the victims during the hard times, as well as those included in Church synodic - the directors of the Hermitage staff, alive and deceased, the Rulers of Russia, the Primate of the Russian Church, abbots and priests of this church.

Director of the Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky and museum staff attended the service.



Unique exhibition of Emperor Nicholas' II era items opened in the monastery at Ganina Yama

In Tsarist Days thousands of visitors at the Ganina Yama monastery could touch the history of Russia and of the Romanov dynasty - in the spiritual abode opened a unique exhibition of objects of Nicholas' II era.

The collection, donated by the Ural Mining and Metallurgical Company and its CEO Andrey Kozitsyn, has 287 items, collected over several years.

Among the most interesting exhibits are a crystal decanter with an inscription of the Emperor's sister Olga Alexandrovna, who awarded a prize to the winner of the barrier jumping without saddles on March 4, 1911; a stack of silver with an inscription from the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, mother of Emperor Nicholas II; and even report on the activities of the special department of the Committee of Her Imperial Highness Princess Tatiana Nikolaevna on refugees registered in 1915.



Days of Remembrance in Alapaevsk

Already on 17 July started the Days of Remembrance of Grand Duchess Elizabeth and the Alapaevsk martyrs in Alapaevsk. It started with the traditional charity fair "White Flower", where all proceeds from the events goes to the aid of families with many children in Alapaevsk and Artemovsky areas.

The action was supported by Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society, Charity Foundation of St. Basil the Great and of the Association of Philanthropists "White Flower" (Moscow).



Last year was collected more than 140 thousand Rubles, but it also united and inspired many people, especially young people. This year, the square in front of the Holy Trinity Church was arranged church choirs, local and guest artists - the concert program began with chimes on a mobile belfry, under the leadership of the diocese priest ringer George Smirnov.

There was sold handicraft by local artists, crafts, beaded items, embroidery, jeweler and sweets. Flowers exhibition was arranged, with workshops on floral design and traditional crafts.

In the Days of Remembrance of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, thousands of people visited the Alapayevsk shrines. Thousands of people were praying in churches, where Martyr Elizabeth was praying, visited the place where she stayed, and touched subjects revered worldwide of the Alapayevsk Saint.



Every year, on the night of July 18, in Alapaevsk thousands of pilgrims walk on the last route on the earth of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna - seventeen kilometers of sorrow and prayer, memory and love. The cross procession in a single prayer rush with icons and singing, in spite of the weather conditions, go to the place, where in the terrible 1918 was committed a serious crime, which cut short the lives of eight innocent people.

The procession started at night, after Divine Liturgy, which was made in the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Reverend Methodius headed the procession. Replacing each other, all the way on the hands of the clergy was carried the ark with the relics of Martyr Elizabeth and nun Varvara. On the way the cross procession twice stopped for a brief service - at the school and at the Catherine church.

Around six in the morning the procession arrived at the Monastery of the martyrs and confessors of the Russian Church. Immediately bowed at the cross and was made public prayer, reading akathist to Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara.

The tired pilgrims could relax in specially established for this purpose tents and get a hot meal, and in the health center get medical aid if needed.



At 06:00 in the cloister of the Monastery of the clergy it was made early Liturgy, and at 09:00 - Late Liturgy, headed by the Archbishop Alexander of Baku and Azerbaijan, concelebrated by Bishop Methodius of Alapayevsk and Kamensky, and Bishop Innocent of Nizhny Tagil and Serov.

Liturgy was in the open air at the mine, where Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nun Varvara, Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Feodor Remez his secretary, Princes of the Imperial Blood John, Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich, and Prince Vladimir Paley were thrown alive. Thousands of pilgrims from different regions of Russia have come on this day in Alapaevsk, to honor the memory of Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna and Alapayevsk martyrs.

Bishop Methodius proposed to introduce a new tradition - to give the white colors flowers here, in the place of Elisabeth Feodorovna's martyrdom. Flowers offered to buy at the Elizabethan convent or the charity fair "White Flower", which is held these days in the cathedral square in Alapaevsk and carry them in procession to the mine and here to give them to Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna, leaving them in the place of mine. Thus, we will continue the tradition of charity and remember Elizabeth Feodorovna, who gave all her wealth to the poor.

About an important event told Reverend Methodius to the pilgrims. Next year, with the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, a new memorable date is introduced in the Church calendar - the day of acquisition of the relics of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. This holiday will be October 11 - the day when her body was lifted out of the mine. This is a new Orthodox Holiday. Bishop Methodius invited the faithful this year on October 11 to visit Alapaevsk and take part in celebrations on the occasion of finding the relics of Elizabeth Feodorovna.



Bishop of Nizhny Tagil and Serov Innocent expressed great joy - "It is strange that we are at the place of death, and we are seized by a feeling of joy, but it is the feeling of grace that Holy Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna gave us."

Elisabeth sisterhood commemorated its heavenly patroness

Elisabeth sisterhood celebrated July 18 the day of memory of its patron saint Elisabeth and Varvara. Divine Liturgy was served in the Church of St. Alexis the Metropolitan of Moscow. It was headed by the abbot of the church, as well as house-church of St. Elisabeth Hospice at number 1, head of the coordination center for work with volunteers and sisters of mercy Archpriest Alexei Lebedev. During the service, the dedication of three new sisters was held.





The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

Bishop Tikhon (Egoryevsky): Research on the remains of Tsar Nicholas II's children will be completed soon

22 July. TASS. - Results of the study of the remains of last Russian Tsar Nicholas II's children Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria will be presented soon. This was reported by chairman of the Patriarchal Council for Culture, Bishop Egoryevsky Tikhon.

"When the investigation will be completed, we will tell (and I think that the arguments will be very convincing), so it is necessary to check again and again all versions and to make historical and anthropological examination. I cannot say when it will be, but I think that it will be soon, "- said in an interview with TASS Bishop Tikhon.

The ROC representative said that the results of the investigation will be presented to the Council of Bishops. "Conclusions of the Investigative Committee and the Churches' Commission, and (very important for us), and

experts and historians will be presented to the Council of Bishops, which will make the decision," - said the bishop.

Sergei Prikhodko: timing of the authentication of the Royal family remains depend on the ROC

July 5. RIA NOVOST - The Russian Government is waiting for the end of the examination by the ROC on the authenticity of the alleged remains of Emperor Nicholas II family, told Deputy Prime Minister and Government Chief of Staff Sergei Prikhodko.

"We are waiting for the end of the Church examinations. Dates depend on the Church. We are in dialogue and contact, and expect them to solve them" - Said Prikhodko.

He noted that there is no rush right now in this matter, and specific deadline for the examination is not set.

Investigators suddenly came at the burial place of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria

July 12. Urfo.org - On the eve of the upcoming anniversary of the execution of the last Russian Tsar the representatives of the Investigative Committee came at the burial site of his children. It was a big surprise for enthusiasts who gathered on the day for the care of the grave in the Old Koptiyakovskiy road near Yekaterinburg, that it was visited by the head of SU RF IC in Sverdlovsk region Valery Zadorin, his deputies and other members of the Regional Investigation Department. The representatives of the investigation did not speak to reporters, while the volunteers put up a cross.



Patriarch Kirill in the necropolis of the Romanovs

In St. Petersburg on July 12, Patriarch Kirill celebrated the Day of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul - this is not only one of the major religious holidays, but also the day of angel of the northern capital, considered patron saints of the city.

Video - <http://www.5-tv.ru/news/108503/>

The investigator came to the burial place of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria

July 14. NDNews.ru - Marina Molodtsova, the senior investigator for particularly important cases of the RF IC is set to arrive in Yekaterinburg. She will explore the burial place of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria.

According to NDNews.ru informed source close to the investigation on the case of the Romanovs, Molodtsova is expected in the Sverdlovsk region in the next ten days. She will explore the land from the Old Koptyakovsky road where the remains of Emperor Nicholas II's children were found.

Note that yesterday volunteers have established a cross on the place of burial. The head of SU RF IC in Sverdlovsk region Valery Zadorin visited this very place of burial in the presence of deputies and other employees of the Investigative Department.

The Yekaterinburg diocese has collected documents for the canonization of the servants of the Imperial Family

19 July. Interfax-religion - Materials for the possible canonization of the cook Ivan Kharitonov, footman Aloysius Troupe and maid Anna Demidova, who accompanied the members of the Imperial Family in exile and died with them in the Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg, the Yekaterinburg diocese transferred to the Synodal Commission for the Causes of Saints, said in an interview the Vicar of the Yekaterinburg diocese Bishop Eugene Sredneuralsky.



Largely due to the activities of the Diocesan Commission for the canonization the glorification among the saints of the personal physician of the Royal family, court physician Yevgeny Botkin was made possible. It took place in February 2016.

Academician's Fabrications on the Imperial remains

28 June. Blogspot - by Victor Aksyuchits

Third decade a lot of myths is swirling on this subject, because their creators are not able to admit errors or lies and hoaxes. The most common myth is that the investigator Vladimir Solovyov, leading in August 1993 a criminal case to investigate the circumstances of the death of members of the Russian Imperial House, did not hold a historical examination. While opponents of Solovyov are convinced that it is a historical examination more than genetic research may finally solve the problem of identifying the "Yekaterinburg remains". Strictly speaking, any remains of the killed people may be identified by genetic studies without



knowing who was killed, when and under what circumstances, and that happens often in criminal cases. Another thing is that for any consequences (especially in this case) it would be good to know all the circumstances of the incident.

However, it was Vladimir Solovyov who initiated in 1991-1998 and 2007-2008 an unprecedented historical research, a lot of historical and archival research, involving highly professional specialists. On behalf of the Government of Russia in 1993-1998 a special commission of historians worked. It was headed by academician-secretary of the Department of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, I.D. Kovalchenko. We investigated all of the state and departmental archives of Russia, archives of the highest party organs of the USSR, foreign archives and private collections, where there could be any documents related to the fate of the Royal family, as well as all known in the world of documents of "White Guard" investigation. As a result it was not found any official document, contrary to the version of the execution of the Royal family in the Ipatiev House. The scale and integrity of research supported by the fact that since 1998 the world has not been found a single document, which puts into question the conclusions of the one-time execution of all the Royal family.



The main "troubadour" of this lack of historical expertise and the most authoritative critic of investigator Solovyov is Academician Veniamin Alekseev, director of the Institute of History and Archaeology, Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences. Alekseev was a member of the Government Commission on the identification and burial of the Imperial family. He also was a member of a group of historians in the Commission under the leadership of Kovalchenko. In this capacity, he could request any documents in all departments and the archives of Russia. However, claiming that he "was not given documents" he does not

show any of his application or any bounce him on this occasion. As director of the Institute, he himself could carry out any historical research and answer all questions he is asking to this day. Origins of V.V. Alekseev position is that he asked the Government Commission to allocate solid finances for his own research: " It requires painstaking research with the documents of Russian and foreign archives, which will help to relate the historical and genetic findings." Since such a huge research work has already been carried out in the Governmental Commission it was considered inappropriate to allocate requested funds. In response, the academician initiates the flow of "dissenting opinions", which does not dry out even to this day.

The main argument of Alekseev - is the absence of official reports on the execution of the Imperial family. But the Commission has collected a number of documents and eyewitness accounts (as many publications confirm). Three options of Y.M. Yurovsky's memories , the memories of participants of execution and burial: P.Z. Ermakov, M.A. Medvedev (Kudrin), G.P. Nikulin, V.N. Netrebin, I.I. Rodzinsky, A.A. Strekotin, G.I. Sukhorukov are studied, as well as the records of the interrogations of M.I. Letemin, P.S. Medvedev, F.P. Proskuryakov and A.A. Yakimov performed by the "White Guard" investigator Sokolov.

Denying the validity of these documents Academician Alekseev refers to such "authoritative" opinion as Sergei Belyaev, an archaeologist who at the meeting with His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II said: "In the early 20-ies one of the members of murder of the Emperor' the family, one Paramonov, said that for the sake of concealing the true place of burial they shot and buried nearby a merchant's family - some of the same composition by sex and age". But Belyaev has not presented any evidence of memories of the former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Yekaterinburg workers, Red Army Soldiers and Peasants' Deputies Anatoly Ivanovich Paramonov. On the professionalism of the method

(which may be called "the finger's pointing") of archaeologist Belyaeva evidenced by the fact that he in the nineties "found" the remains of St. Ambrose of Optina, when the original remains were found a few years later by a Monk, and the years faithful worshipped to the remains of his cell-mate. Academician Alekseev refers to the authority of "scientist" V.G. Sirotkin, who was a specialist in the history of France of XIII century. Anyone knew him as such? But Sirotkin became famous when he declared himself an expert on the "Tsar's gold", which is stored somewhere, and which can be extracted, as well as an expert on Imperial remains. In the late nineties Sirotkin and former leader of the Noble Assembly A.K. Golitsyn (a member of the Government Commission, voted, as well as all those present, for the decision, and later claimed that he was always against) and on REN TV argued that Anastasia was alive and hiding under the name of "Georgian princess" Natalia Petrovna Bilihodze, who lives in the countryside house of FSB with which the authorities are negotiating the issue "of the Tsar's gold." The next day it was reported that "Georgian princess" died six months before the telecast, which scammers knew.

In addition to the references to such "scientific authorities" Academician Alekseev claims that he published "... material dramatically changing the perception about the fate of the Royal family, which will require reassessment of the St. Petersburg reburial of its members in 1998 and substantial correction of numerous publications on the subject. This implies a clear conclusion about the need to revise the conclusion of the Government Commission on the identification of the alleged Royal remains, underestimated the value of a historical examination and overestimated the genetic one".

Does Academician Alekseev feature serious facts, which proves his concept and requirements, shows their comparison with the results of the work of historians of the Governmental Commission. In his books, "The Secret of the Century" (2013) and "Who are you, Mrs. Tchaikovsky? To the question about the fate of the Tsar's daughter Anastasia Romanova" (2014, together with the candidate of historical sciences G.N. Shumkina) Academician Alekseev says that most likely the Tsarina and her daughter survived and went to Europe. He says: "For some reason the version that the prisoners could leave the Ipatiev House not as one party is completely ignored". Academician refers to certain "documents" to support his version, but he does not provide any documents. I must say that the historians of the Governmental Commission studied the materials of the books referenced by Alekseev: "The case of the Romanovs or the execution, which was not" by British journalists A. Summers and T. Mangold, and the "Truth about the tragedy of the Romanovs" by French historian Marc Ferro. Investigator Vladimir Solovyov details conclusions of examination of these books' facts:

"On assignment of broadcaster BBC A. T. Summers and Mangold were working on a documentary about the death of the Royal family. The television had provided unlimited credit to the authors. They traveled around the world, conducted independent research in the laboratories of the famous Scotland Yard, met Anna Anderson and many, while still alive, participants of the tragic events. Summers and Mangold admitted into scientific circulation a large number of previously unknown documents, including diplomatic and intelligence data of many European countries and the United States, reports received from a variety of sources to European Royals ...In the beginning of their journalistic investigation whole world knew about the Royal family death from in the books written by participants of "Kolchak" investigation - N.A. Sokolov, M.K. Diterikhs and Richard Wilton, claimed that all members of the Romanov family shot and did not allowed version of "miraculous rescue." Original investigation files that were in the Soviet Union at a secret storage, as well as documents of N.A. Sokolova, got to the West and carefully hidden by immigrants, were inaccessible to historians and lawyers. A. T. Summers and



Mangold introduced viewers and readers with the so-called "Mirolyubov's Dossier" containing the documents of prosecutor's supervision for the murder of the Royal family. In addition, in the Harvard University' library A. Summers and T. Mangold discovered and studied 7 previously unknown volumes of "Kolchak" criminal investigation of the tragic events that took place in Yekaterinburg in 1918. The conclusions made by A. Summers and T. Mangold, radically differed from the findings of the investigator N.A. Sokolov. A. Summers and T. Mangold, using the fact that the evidence of N.A. Sokolov is not always convincing, set the task to destroy the fundamental conclusions of the investigator. N. A. Sokolov explained the death of all Royal family, basing on testimony of the accused P.S. Medvedev, who participated in the execution and saw the body of killed members of the Royal family and servants, inspection protocols of the "firing" room, the data obtained during interrogations of guards at Ipatiev house, heard stories about the tragic events of the shooting witnesses. The basic document proving the fact of the execution, N.A. Sokolov considered a coded telegram of chairman of the executive committee of the Ural Regional Council A.G. Beloborodov on July 17, 1918: "Moscow. The Secretary of the CPC Gorbunov reverse test. Convey to Sverdlov that the whole family suffered the same fate as the head. Officially the family died at evacuation".



The version that the bodies of the Royal family were taken away and burned in the Four Brothers mine area (Ganina Yama) N.A. Sokolov argued that near the mine number 7, a large number of items belonging to members of the Royal family and the people of the entourage, dog corpse, jewelry and bone fragments were found, in his opinion, belonged to the shot. N. A. Sokolov and his colleagues argued that after the events of the night of 16 – 17 of July, 1918 nobody has seen alive any of the Romanovs. N.A. Sokolov in its publications did not consider the version of the "miraculous escape". Skilful polemicists, in search of sensations A. Summers and T. Mangold led contra arguments. According to them, a telegram with the message about the death of the Royal family was forged and jewelry and burnt clothes of the Royal family, the Bolsheviks specially planted to confuse the investigators. A. T. Summers and Mangold brought testimony of many witnesses who

claimed that they saw surviving wife and daughters of the Tsar in the city of Perm, that fled Emperor's daughter was captured by revolutionary soldiers in an abandoned way station. Many conflicting documents studied by A. Summers and T. Mangold in Europe and America, telling us about the preservation of the life of the female part of the family, completely confuse the reader ... A. Summers and T. Mangold believed that some members of the Royal family could stay alive, but they fairly believed that only official documents from Moscow may finally clarify the history of the Imperial Romanov family death or it's salvation."

Thus, the scientist Alekseev had based the concept on book of journalists who made up their assumptions for the missing facts. And he does it after it was acquired not only a great "many documents from Moscow", but also remains of entire Royal family has repeatedly been identified on the extremely scientific level.

Further, Academician Alekseev urges seriously treat the following fantasies of historian Marc Ferro: "Negotiations on the transfer of the Tsarina and her daughters to the Germans were conducted from the Soviet side by Chicherin, Radek, Joffe, and the German – by Cookman (Kuhkman) and Ratsler (Rietzler). After the transfer to the Germans, Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna was under the protection of the Vatican, received a pension from the former Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany as his

goddaughter until his death in 1941 in the Netherlands, and she later died in Italy. Grand Duchess Maria married one of the former Ukrainian Princes. Vatican granted Empress Alexandra Feodorovna asylum in Poland in a convent in Lemberg (Lvov), where she lived with her daughter Tatiana." Marc Ferro after a Madrid meeting with the notorious impostor - "grandson" "Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna Romanova" Alexis Brimeyer - he wrote: "Now it is well established that they were not executed, unlike their father Nicholas II."

The investigator Solovyov writes in details about the credibility of the book of historian Ferro, which is the authoritative source for the historian Academician Alekseev: "All his "facts" about the "salvation" of the Royal family were taken from "authentic documents" and certain statements by Alexis Brimeyer (Alexis Brimeyer, 1946- 1995). He is not only Brimeyer but Aleksey Vasilevich Dolgoruky-Anjou, also known as "Neapolitan heir to the throne" - "Duke of Anjou", aka "Prince of Kiev Olelko II", also known as "Duke of Durazzo," "relative" of Neapolitan Bourbon-Conde-Anzhu, also known as "heir" of the Serbian Nemanjic dynasty, also aspired to the Russian crown and considers himself the head of the Russian Imperial house.



Alexis Brimeyer miserably lost a lot in European courts on the question of recognition of their imaginary rights, including the process initiated by the Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich.

Imaginary heir to the Russian throne decided that the most stupid, gullible and naive people live in Russia. In 90s Government Commission received several volumes of "heir". Historians, members of the Commission learned Brimeyer "documents" and were struck by all "historical backwardness", and politely wished "Olelko II" do not fool any more Russian government of his "gibberish". In 1995, "the Duke of Durazzo," died of AIDS and for a while he was safely forgotten. Now Academician V.V. Alekseev "revived" a rogue and adventurer, citing reasons of Brimeyer's "piggy banks".

In a series of sensations appeared another "handwritten legacy" of Brimeyer. Marc Ferro in one of his interviews reported the discovery of the journalist from Oklahoma, "Marie Stravlo discovered in Vatican archives Olga's diary, which ends in 1954. And she died [Grand Duchess

Olga Alexandrovna Romanov - "aunt" of Brimeyer] about 1960". I am absolutely sure that "Olga's" diary is another "posthumous joke" of Alexis Brimeyer. I'll try to remind the distinguished Veniamin Vasilyevich that he, as a member of the Government Commission was familiar with the insane "arguments" of "Olelko II" in the early 90s and did not share them. Since when the Academician "saw the light"? I inform all admirers of the impostor-adventurer: materials of "Dolgoruky-Bourbon" are still stored in the State archive of the Russian Federation. My sincere congratulations to the venerable and "naive" Academician V.V. Alexeyev with his glorious "discovery" of another "revived" by Tatiana Romanova and her "Diary"! "

The trial of the claims of Anna Anderson lasted from 1928 to 1970. Its papers are still in the state storage in the archives of the German court. Proceedings of the Court were published in the press. The Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna and her daughters Grand Duchesses Xenia and Olga did not recognize the impostor. In 1995, on behalf of the Director of the Governmental Commission of the Russian State Archive of the Russian Federation S.V. Mironenko and investigator Solovyov in Darmstadt studied voluminous materials from the collection of Ernst-Ludwig (the last Grand Duke of Hesse and the Rhine, the brother of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna) associated with trying to identify Anna Anderson. Neither this material nor the court documents about Anna Anderson or published materials of the Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich contain any reliable information enabling to recognize the fake claim of Anna Anderson.

Nevertheless, the scientists of the Governmental Commission scrutinized this version. Here is a small part of the findings of the investigator Vladimir Solovyov: "February 7, 1920 an unknown woman tried to commit suicide by throwing himself into the water at Bendlersky bridge in Berlin. She was rescued, but she categorically refused to give her name. The woman was placed in a shelter for persons with mental disorders and documents designated as "Fraulein Unbekant" (it. Fräulein Unbekannt, «unknown»).

Once she got an illustrated edition of the newspaper "Berliner illustrirte" from October 23, 1921 under the heading: "One of the Tsar's daughter is still alive," about the family of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II. Lying with her in a psychiatric hospital, a former laundress Mary Kolar Poytert drew attention to the external similarity of a patient with Grand Duchess Tatiana, photos of which were placed in the magazine. With this began "climbing" a failed suicide. It is impossible to describe all the adventures and misadventures that befell "Fraulein Unbekant" in the interview.

After some time, her name was put on the front pages of newspapers and aroused extraordinary enthusiasm of all sectors of society. The impostor told that all the women were raped at the night of the murder of the Royal family. At the time of the shooting, she lost consciousness and woke up in the house of Alexander Tchaikovsky, a soldier from the protection of the Ipatiev house. Together with the family of this soldier in a cart they drove all across Russia and ended up in Bucharest. She became pregnant by Tchaikovsky and married him, but put the child (impostor called him whether Alexander, or Alex) into an orphanage. In Bucharest, Tchaikovsky's husband was killed in a street shooting. After that, she left her husband's family and got to Berlin. According to imposter, she knew the Russian language, but refused to speak in Russian, because the order for the execution of her family sounded in this language. Doctors found a large number of healed wounds in the body of "Fraulein Unbekant". 16 front teeth of "Tchaikovsky" were damaged, and then removed, there were signs of a fracture of the upper and lower jaw. After the publication of declarations "Fräulein Unbekant" began a long history of confessions and disclaimers of her belonging to the Royal family, the struggle of the people from imposter e environment for "Royal gold". "Anastasia Tchaikovsky" said confused and sketchy, she referred to a memory defects associated with befallen her misfortunes. However, people fascinated and trustingly listened to her, as well as the ancient Greeks listened to the Delphic Pythia, located in a trance. Every interested person in his own way interpreted incoherent "prophecy" surviving "Princess." Meanwhile, experienced psychiatrists declared her sanity, intelligence and memory preservation.

Today we can say that "Fraulein Unbekant" acted deliberately and as a talented swindler brilliantly played the role of "unfortunate" and all the abandoned Russian Grand Duchess Anastasia. She moved to the United States, where she was given the name Anna Anderson, and got there worldwide notoriety. About her imaginary fate studio "20th Century Fox" in the United States made the movie "Anastasia", where Ingrid Bergman (herself) played the role of Grand Duchess and received her second "Oscar" for best actress. A host of books and articles about the salvation of "Princess" was published." September 8, 1927, Grand



Duchess Olga Alexandrovna wrote to Duke Georgii Nikolaevich Leuchtenberg who gave "Anastasia" shelter: "Are you not surprised that people who knew my nieces: I, Gilliard, his wife, my husband, Isa Buxhowden, Volkov, Mordvinov and so on say that she is not her; and those who did not know, or who saw them by accident - like, Gleb and Tatiana Botkins, Prof. [essora] Rudnev, Ratlevoy and so [ac] d [Next], and you yourself know them a little, - prove the opposite. " October 15, 1928 on behalf of 35 relatives of Emperor Nicholas II a statement was published in the press say that they consider Anna Anderson is an impostor. This did not prevent the fact that a lawsuits on the recognition of Anna

Anderson, Grand Duchess Anastasia lasted from 17 July 1928 until 17 February 1970, when the 50-year anniversary since the fateful leap into the water a German court finally declared that Anna Anderson was not able to prove her belonging to the Imperial family. Despite this legend about saved Grand Duchess remained. The history of the fictional "Anastasia" lasted until the death of the pretender that occurred in 1984 and ended only in the early 1990s.

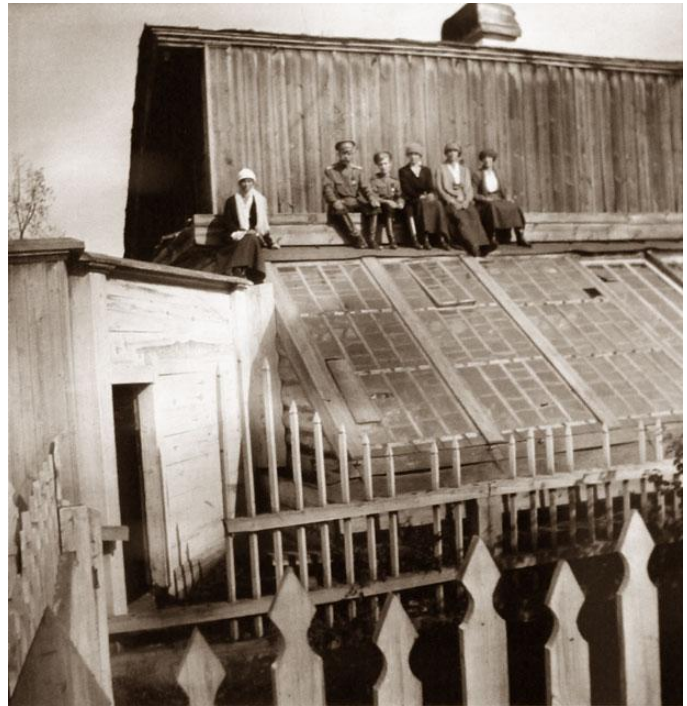
February 12, 1984 Anna Anderson, after marriage - Anna Menehen, died in the US from pneumonia. In her testament the body on the day of her death was cremated and two days later, despite the fact that Anderson professed no religion, the burial service was led in the chapel at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. On Monday, June 18, 1984 urn with Anna Menehen ashes buried in the Orthodox cemetery near the Bavarian Castle Seeon, where 1927-1928 George Nikolaevich (28.11.1872 - 08.09.1929), Duke of Leuchtenberg, Prince de Beauharnais, a distant relative of the Romanovs gave shelter to the impostor. Even after the death of Anna Anderson, many thought that the Duke's relatives found her and were allowed to bury her in his the family plot. In fact, members of church community made the decision on the burial of the ashes in an urn at the cemetery wall unrelated to the descendants of the Duke. It seemed that the deceased Anna Anderson took with her the secret of her origin, but letter of the wise and experienced Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich on 16 of February, 1928 to Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich turned out to be prophetic. Grand Duke wrote regarding Anna Anderson: "... I have no doubt that the case will be revealed, and the truth, it turns out all of a sudden."



Since the end of the twenties the name Anna Anderson was associated with the name of the missing in 1920, the factory worker Franziska Shankovskoy. It was believed that Shankovskoys - this is the only family of Polish peasants, who with some degree of probability can be relatives of the great adventurer. At the same time, even the opponents of Anna Anderson rejected the possibility of such a relationship, considering that Anderson came from a "noble" family. Scientists have questioned the "blue blood" of the imposter. Blood samples were taken from Carl Mauher, son of Margareta Ellerik, who is the daughter of Gertrude, Franziska's Shankovskoy sister, and therefore Mauher should have the same genetic profile of mitochondrial DNA as the missing Franziska Shankovskoy. Results of a study conducted by Peter Gill, said that Karl Mauher could be a relative of Anderson on the maternal side. Peter Gill acknowledged the likelihood that a woman known as Anna Anderson was Francisca Shankovskoy, equal to 98.5%. According to Peter Gill, he cited only probabilistic statistics. In fact, the profiles that are common to Anna Anderson and Carl Mauher, were so rare that they are unable to meet any of the existing databases. These studies and research of other relatives of Anna Anderson showed the same result.

In the 20 years that have elapsed since the first studies of biological products and hair of Anna Anderson, genetics has made a huge leap forward. Now you can at a higher level check the work of predecessors. Dr. Michael Coble, a former employee of the Laboratory of Genetic Analysis of the Armed Forces, and now a specialist in Forensic Biology of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland, who participated in the identification of the remains of the Romanovs, in 2010 again held the most sophisticated study of the hair of Anna Anderson. There is no doubt. She is Franziska Shankovskaya.

Franziska Shankovskaya was born on December 24, 1896 in the village of Borovilhas between Pomerania and West Prussia in a large peasant family. She came from Kashubians, the Baltic Slavs, speaking a special dialect of the Polish language. Father singled out Franziska among other children. She's the best dressed and even completed a full course of secondary school in Hidendorf city. Franziska did well in school, had a competent speech, read a lot. The languages of communication in addition to Kashubian she had Polish and German. Father released his beloved daughter from all the household chores. In her youth, Francis looked reserved girl, did not get along with her mother and siblings. In February 1914 Francis Shankovskaya at age 17 moved to Berlin. She became a maid in a rich house, then waitress in a candy store. In Berlin, Francis changed the name Chenskovskaya to Shankovskaya. In the late summer of 1915 she got a job at a factory of electrical company, where



she spent processing and assembling grenades. Spring of 1916, Francis met a young man. Soon he was drafted into the army and died at the front. It is expected that from him she had a baby or have an abortion in the later months of pregnancy, which is confirmed by gynecological examination of Anna Anderson, conducted in 1951. On 22 of August, 1916 Francis suddenly lost consciousness at the factory. Grenade, which was in her hands, fell and rolled on the floor. The blast killed the master and Shankovskaya was injured. Perhaps later she talked about the scars on the body, as traces of injuries allegedly received during the shooting of the Royal family in the basement of the Ipatiev house. The result of heavy explosion was serious breakdown and young woman handed over the custody of a psychiatric hospital. At the hospital, as in 1920 she refused to give her name, age and profession.

September 19, 1916 Franziska was declared insane and sent to a psychiatric hospital Berlin-Schöneberg, where she remained until the end of 1916. In early 1917, she was transferred to the National Institute of Health and care in Daldorf, in Berlin. After treatment Shankovskaya had to return to her mother, because she didn't have any job. In April, Franziska arrived at the agricultural enterprises in the province of Schleswig-Holstein, which was also the camp of Russian prisoners of war. Every day, 10 hours a day for five months, Franziska was next to Russians. Perhaps here Franziska have learned to understand the Russian language at the household level. In the fall of 1918 at Shankovskaya suddenly was attacked by Russian soldier and severely beat her. He slapped her some farm implements, most likely, a pitchfork. He could hurt her teeth, cause scars on her head and punctured foot. After the attack, she returned to Berlin. Neighbors noted that in the autumn of 1918, Franziska had injuries on the head and she constantly complained of a headache. Not having a permanent job, and left alone, Franziska Shankovskaya went missing at the same time when a drowning Fräulein Unbekannt was found in the Berlin channel. Berlin police showed little interest in Franziska Shankovskaya, an obscure woman with no fixed occupation, officially recognized crazy. Relatives were not looking for her too. When later the question was raised on the court trial where could escape Franziska Shankovskaya interested witnesses said that the real Francis Shantkovskaya disappeared without a trace, because that was killed and eaten by Berlin cannibal Georg Grossmann.

So, what were the prospects of survived Franziska Shankovskaya after a suicide attempt? Stay for some time in psychiatric hospitals, and then die somewhere in the slums of Berlin without skilled care from bone tuberculosis? The successful transformation in the "Grand Duchess" gave her the opportunity of another life, a comfortable existence in luxury apartments and guest houses near the rich I "blue blood" aristocrats. In case of revelations she would always could remember that she has been already recognized mentally ill and to avoid responsibility."

As you can see, the historical expertise of the scientists of the Commission was conducted thoroughly. Many acquired documents were published. But Academician Alexeyev needs that during Investigation his "facts" and "version" will be considered (which, I repeat, he could do himself for a long time). However, he does not show any real documentary evidence, and lists a number of myths and rumors. Keep in mind that the Soviet Russian government misinformed population of all countries of the legends of the "rescue" of the Royal children. In different countries, in different sectors of society dozens of versions appeared of the "afterlife" of the Royal family. During the investigation of the criminal case dozens of people stated the Government Commission that they are direct descendants of the Emperor or his immediate family. These people are "convincingly" proven their relationship with Nicholas II and demanded immediate recognition their alleged rights. On what legal basis the investigation should examine the version on which insists V.V. Alekseev, with disregard many other versions of "life" Princess Anastasia!? Or the Government should deal with all the infinite infinitely reproducible versions?!

Thus, Academician Alekseev, ignoring a lot of research and documented facts, demanded to revise the decision of the Russian Government about the burial of the Royal family on the basis of his pseudoscientific fabrications. But for this, at least, Alekseev has to prove that all the investigative expertise in the identification of the Royal family, all the memories of participants of execution and burial, all documents collected by Governmental Commission are false or insignificant. V.V. Alekseev has not done it for more than two decades that proves the falsity versions of this academic scientist.

Émigré Russian princess's grave restored in UK



Catherina Yourievsky and her grave in the UK. Left the gravestone before renovation, and right the gravestone after.

July 28, 2016 RBTH - One of the first projects for the recently-formed Russian Heritage Committee has been to honor the memory of Alexander II's daughter, who was buried outside Portsmouth.

A new committee dedicated to preserving Russian heritage in the United Kingdom has completed restoration work on the grave of Catherine Yourievsky, daughter of Russian emperor Alexander II. Work on the grave, located in St. Peter's cemetery on Hayling Island near Portsmouth on the south coast, was completed on July 20.

The project was carried out by members of the Russian Heritage Committee together with the Orthodox Diocese of Surozh, based in the city.

Princess Catherine (1878-1959) was the child of a morganatic marriage between Alexander II and Yekaterina Dolgorukaya. After the October Revolution 1917 in Russia, Catherine emigrated to Great Britain where she became a renowned singer. She received an allowance from King George V's widow Mary, but after Mary's death, Catherine ended up alone without any livelihood and died in a retirement home.

Established in March 2016 by the Russian diaspora in the UK, the Russian Heritage Committee aims to revive and preserve the memory of prominent Russians that lived in the country at different times.

In Mikhailovsk opened a monument to Emperor Alexander II

Governor of Stavropol Territory, Vladimir Vladimirov, together with the residents of Mikhailovsk, took part in the opening ceremony of the monument to Emperor Alexander II the Liberator.

The monument to the Emperor was standing until 1917 in Mikhailovsky, but after the October revolution it was destroyed by the Bolsheviks.



The new monument was erected thanks to patrons. It is located near the kindergarten. Soon there will be built a school. Sculptor Nikolai Sanzharov believes that the monument will help the younger generation to grow into patriots.

Vladimir Vladimirov, thanked the initiators of the project and the artists who made it - "Today a milestone event. In it - a tribute to our ancestors, to what they created. With this memory begins the future" - said the governor.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXccPmSUHIA>

Remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich are not found, but road is found

The International expedition to search for the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary Brian Johnson found the road in Perm, at which was taken the prisoners. Told the expedition organizer Peter Sarandinaki.



From July 9 to August 1, 2016 the international search expedition worked in Perm. It was looking for the burial place of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his faithful secretary Brian Johnson. At night from 12 to 13 of June, 1918 local Bolsheviks executed them and buried them in an unknown place.

The results of the five-year search expedition, in which participate members of the Funds: «Search Foundation, Inc.» (Search Romanov Children Fund, USA), Perm historical and cultural Fund "Search", and Library number 32 educational centers "Spiritual revival Library", were reported to the media on July 28.

"In the memories of murderers appear prospective place of killing of Grand Duke Mikhail Romanov and his secretary Michael Johnson - Solikamsk tract. We have recreated a map of the old road that carried Romanov and on the alleged plot we conducted excavations at 2.5 meters down and found paving. During the excavation of the 40 meters of the road in both directions, we found several shells of Berdan rifle of 1905, as well as old bullets, about 10 pieces, and huge shells at three kilograms"- said Sarandinaki.

According to him, the approximate area of the search was about three hectares. "When searching for the remains, we used the latest techniques: instruments that measure humidity, radar, magnetic devices, and even brought a unique canine dog - a CZK labrador breed, which can find the bones of a deceased person to a very great depth, and taking into account the old graves" - Sarandinaki said.



Archival maps of 1906 and 1926 were used to recreate the road. The search is complicated by the fact that now this road does not exist, because the landscape has changed greatly. All records and maps the expedition plans to transfer to the Russian government, scholars and historians, as well as the Investigation Committee.

Bust of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich installed in Orel, but not unveiled

A bust of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, younger brother of Emperor Nicholas II now stands in front of the bank on street Moscow 29, where the building once housed the 17th Hussars (51 Dragoon) Chernigov Regiment. The bust of the Grand Duke made of bronze, placed on a granite column on a plinth. Overall height of the composition is 2.7 m.



The monument is now "closed" in a wooden "house", which will be removed on the opening day - a date which has not yet been approved - expected is that this will happen before the end of August. Bust is made by sculptor, People's Artist of Russia, Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts, author of more than 40 monumental compositions, including the monument to Emperor Alexander I in Moscow, Salavat Aleksandrovich Shcherbakov.

Video - 1) http://www.infoorel.ru/news/news.php?news_id=37486
2) <http://obl1.ru/sitenews/kultura/v-orle-poyavilsya-ewe-odin-pamyatnik-byust-knyazyu-mihailu-romanovu/>





"Gambsov Furniture"

Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky attended on July 6th the opening of the exhibition "Gambsov Furniture" in State Historical Museum.



The State Historical Museum is showing for the first time their unique collection of furniture of the late XVIII - early XIX century, made in the workshop of the famous Gambs family in St. Petersburg: Henry Gambs (1765-1831), and his sons Peter (1802-1871) and Ernest (1805-1849). It became the established name of comfortable high quality furniture.

The exhibition includes a patent-secretary of the dowry to Grand Duchess Alexandra Nikolaevna, decorated with porcelain made by the Imperial Porcelain Factory. The furniture was made on orders for the interiors of the Mikhailovsky Castle, the Imperial Hermitage, Pavlovsk Palace, the New Hermitage, Arsenal Block in Gatchina Palace, and on individual orders to the Court and individual of the Russian aristocracy.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153818/



In the IV International public forum "Elisabeth legacy today 2016", held on 27th in the Governor of Yekaterinburg's residence, were made several interesting presentations. One of them was by Maria Harwood, from UK, and with her permission we are pleased to share it with our readers.

Knowledge and Veneration of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov in the UK

By Maria Harwood, PhD, Chairman of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Society, UK

"Ladies and gentlemen, friends and colleagues, brothers and sisters!

First of all I want to thank the organizers of this Forum for giving us the opportunity to speak here as representatives of the United Kingdom - the country that has been no stranger to Elizabeth Feodorovna and where her memory never faded. My colleague Paul Oxborrow and I represent the Society of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov (UK), and we are both parishioners of the Archbishop's Metochion of Saint Elizabeth at Bodiam, in the county of East Sussex.

Our Society was established in December 2015 - as a result of several years of educational activity within our Orthodox community, including two pilgrimages - to Germany and to Russia. The trip to Moscow in October last year served as an impetus for the creation of the Society, though we had to take into account the knowledge about our holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth in the UK.

Unlike Russia, where the name of *Elizaveta Feodorovna* is widely known, in Britain only a few know about her and only in general terms, mainly two or three facts: that she was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria, became a nun and was murdered by the Bolsheviks during the revolution. Of course, in the churches and parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church, the situation is different. So today we will talk separately about the knowledge and veneration of Saint Elizabeth in British society, in the Anglican Church, and in Orthodox parishes.

Probably many of you know of the respect and popularity the Royal family still enjoys in the UK. It was the Royal family who for years has been the guardian of the memory of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, her service to others and her tragic death. Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip of Edinburgh have close ties of kinship with Elizabeth. Not many are aware that the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh is Elizabeth Feodorovna's grandnephew. His grandmother was Victoria Battenberg, Duchess of Milford Haven, Princess of Hesse and eldest sister of Ella and Alix. Prince Philip's mother, Alice, was Victoria's daughter and was married to Prince Andrew of Greece, whose mother was Grand Duchess Olga Konstantinovna - the granddaughter of Emperor Nicholas the First. She was the aunt to the Konstantinovich brothers, who were slaughtered at Alapaevsk at the same time as Elizabeth Feodorovna. Thus, Prince Philip and all his offspring are related to the Romanovs on two lines - maternal and paternal. Queen Elizabeth herself is the granddaughter of King George V (who was cousin of Nicholas II and closely resembled him) and great granddaughter of Queen Alexandra - the sister of the Empress Maria Feodorovna, wife of Alexander III.

We know that almost all the royal houses of Europe were somehow linked by blood ties, but the relationship of the Grand Duchess with the British royal house is particularly close. And this is reflected in the special attention that the Royal House of Windsor pays to the memory of Elizabeth Feodorovna. In England, on the



Princess Alice of Greece (Princess Alice of Battenberg) with Prince Charles and Princess Anne, 1960s.

initiative of the Royal family, an officially registered Foundation, the Friends of the Martha and Mary Convent, helped and continues to help in the restoration of the monastery.

In 1998, also on the initiative of the Royal House, the Grand Duchess's statue was installed at the entrance to Westminster Abbey. It is part of the series of sculptures - "The Martyrs of the Twentieth Century", which consists of 10 pieces, placed in niches. Many in the series are the victims of totalitarian regimes of the 20th century, religious leaders who opposed these regimes. St Elizabeth never entered into any political struggle. She forgave the terrorist-murderer of her husband and dedicated the rest of her life to serving the disadvantaged. In the year of the installation of these sculptures - 1998 - it was exactly 80 years since the death of the Grand Duchess, and this suggests that the whole composition owes its existence to her.



Westminster Abbey - "The Martyrs of the Twentieth Century" - Martyr Elizabeth is 4th from left

It seems that the importance of the Grand Duchess in the history of the church, her royal status, her contribution to the development of philanthropy and the scale of her personality cause her to stand out. I do not want to cast a shadow on the other martyrs of the 20th century, but I want to emphasize that St. Elizabeth occupies a special place in their company. The unveiling ceremony of the monument was done by the Queen with the participation of Prince Philip and other members of the royal house.

A similar project was implemented recently in 2015 in another Anglican Gothic cathedral - Saint Albans, in the London suburb of the same name. The monastery, which once belonged to the Cathedral was founded in the 8th century and is dedicated to the Protomartyr of Britain, the Roman soldier Alban, who was martyred at the beginning of the Fourth century. This also takes the form of a series of sculptures located in empty niches, but unlike Westminster Abbey, they are located inside the cathedral on the great stone screen in the centre of the nave. As we can see, the sculptor, Rory Young, painted the figures in bright colours, as was customary in the Middle Ages. The Martyr Elizabeth is one of seven martyrs from different periods of



In Saint Albans - Saint Elizabeth is 2nd from right

church history. Among them are two early Orthodox saints - the holy martyrs Alban and saint Amphibalus, the priest who baptized Alban and was put to death with him. In this composition there are both early Christian saints and martyrs of the twentieth century.

The sculptor talked about a small miracle that occurred at the time of the completion of the image of Saint Elizabeth. When he finished the face of the Russian Elizabeth (as he called her), a large emerald butterfly flew into the studio and settled on the chest of the statue like a brooch, and a long time did not want to leave. Later, he found a photo of Elizabeth Feodorovna with exactly the same kind of brooch.

Both the cathedrals are visited throughout the year by thousands of tourists and pilgrims. A sculpture of our holy Martyr definitely attracts the interest of many, and remains in their memory.

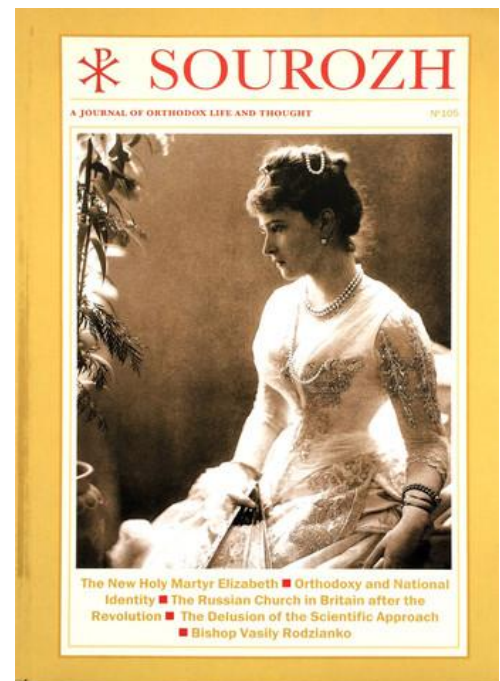
Speaking of British culture, we have to mention the musical work dedicated to St. Elizabeth, composed by John Tavener - an oratorio entitled "Elizabeth Full of Grace" (2002). Here again we see the participation of the royal family, as this piece of music was commissioned by Prince Charles of Wales in memory of his grandmother the Queen Mother Elizabeth and for the charity event in support of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow. The first time it was performed was in February 23rd 2003, in St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle; twice in 2004, in February, in the Temple Church in central London; in September in Dorchester Abbey and in 2005 in Charleston in the Charleston Symphony Orchestra performance. Finally, the last time this oratorio was performed was in Moscow in 2015 in the Historical Museum at the opening of the exhibition dedicated to Elizabeth Feodorovna and Sergey Alexandrovich, which was organized by the Elisabeth and Sergius Educational Society.

It is important that Tavener was Orthodox and composed a lot of music on religious themes. As he himself wrote, this oratorio was for him "as a life and as an icon in the music. There is a terrible fall into the pit, and the fragrance of her holy relics in Jerusalem." Of course, this kind of phenomenon of British culture has a great educational and missionary potential, but unfortunately, they are available only to a small circle of connoisseurs. The famous and much visited historical and architectural monuments are a different matter. Westminster Abbey is where royal coronations take place and it is the Church of the Queen - the head of the Anglican Church. From the Orthodox point of view, the presence of the image of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth at St. Albans is even more symbolic and significant, as this cathedral stands on the relics of the first British martyr for the faith.

I will say a few words about the veneration of St Elizabeth in our Orthodox parishes.

London Cathedral of our Diocese of Sourozh is dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God, and this dedication is inherited from the first embassy church in London. This year we celebrate the 300 anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church in the British Isles. The image of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth - one of the most revered saints in our diocese - is to appear on the new iconostasis of the Cathedral of London, when this is finished. She is revered not only as a Russian saint, but also as a saint of the British Isles. She is the subject of articles in our local church publications, and we pay a lot of attention to her in Sunday school. We have organized pilgrimages to the places associated with her name. Interest in the personality of Elizabeth Feodorovna is growing every year.

A great admirer of the Grand Duchess is our own Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh, and our Bishop's Metochion near Bodiam has born her name since 2006. A fairly large community of prayer has grown up there and her feast day is celebrated annually with increasing numbers. In 2011, we organized a large pilgrimage to Germany, to the hermitage of the New Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth near Munich and to Darmstadt. This pilgrimage was attended by parishioners of several churches in Britain. Of special importance was a pilgrimage last year to Russia, which was attended by 16 people from our parish -



mainly British - and including a few Protestants. Two of them later became Orthodox as a result of this experience. The community has its own educational website, which publishes materials on the life of Elizabeth Feodorovna, liturgical materials and reports on pilgrimages. With the blessing of Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Archbishop Elisey, relics of our Saint together with those of the Holy Nun Barbara, from the Munich convent, were presented to the metochion at Bodiam.

Here in the UK there are two other small parishes bearing the name of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. One of them is located near Liverpool, and has a very remarkable story. It was founded by former Anglican priest Father Paul Elliot, who moved to Orthodoxy with all his family and some of his former parishioners. This happened in 1993. The chapel was built right into Paul's house, and was dedicated to St Elizabeth the New Martyr. In 1998, the year of the 80th anniversary of the martyrdom of our saint, he was ordained a priest in Munich, by Archbishop Mark, and since then, the Liturgy there occurs regularly and the community has been growing. As Father Paul said, the association with the Orthodox community has become for many of his British parishioners a return to the apostolic, ancient church, i.e. primordial church of the British Isles. The idea that the Russian Orthodox Church for the British is a Mother Church which brings them to their own spiritual home, gives meaning to our missionary work. Grand Duchess Elizabeth is one of the main patron saints of the Orthodox England because she was converted to Orthodoxy from Protestantism by deep faith and felt keenly the basis of its ancient and apostolic succession.

It was very significant fact for us to hold the official opening of our cultural and educational Society in the estate called Eastwell Manor in Kent, which Elizabeth Feodorovna visited in 1884, a few months before her wedding, at the invitation of Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, sister of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and wife of Queen Victoria's son, Alfred Duke of Edinburgh. There were about 70 people at this meeting, most of whom have expressed interest in our goals and plans and have become members of the society. There was a screening of the film "White Angel of Moscow" with English subtitles and we listened to an account by the British historian Charlotte Zeepvat of the Moscow period in the life of the Grand Duchess. The evening ended with a concert of Russian classical music and romances. In the Easter season in May, we held another such evening which added to our ranks another group of enthusiasts, mostly British, for which this evening was not only an introduction to the person of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, but also an opportunity to learn more about the traditions of the Russian Orthodox Church in the form of music and Easter food. On this evening we had the opportunity to get acquainted with archival photographs of Hesse family, little known in Russia. They were presented by great connoisseur and admirer of the last Romanovs, the Roman Catholic priest Terence Wilson.

Our next plan is to organize a London exhibition devoted to the activities of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna and other members of the Romanov dynasty during the First World War. This exhibition and related events are devoted to the centenary of the First World and the tercentenary of the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain. You can find information about this event on our Facebook which has same name as our



Society. We are also planning a pilgrimage to places connected with Ella's and Alix's childhood and youth, and a play based on her letters.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the figure of the great Russian Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth, who was English on her mother's side, English by nature and by education and by the language of her surviving letters, presents an important link between Russia and Britain, an inexhaustible resource for missionary and educational work. Our Society is acting to make this work possible."

25 AUGUST 2016 AT 6:30PM

GRAND DUCHESS ELIZABETH ROMANOV SOCIETY UK AND
RUSSIAN HERITAGE IN BRITAIN PRESENT AN EVENT AND EXHIBITION

DEDICATED TO THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND 300 ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PRESENCE IN BRITAIN

**MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN
IMPERIAL HOUSE DURING
THE FIRST WORLD WAR:
CHARITY AND HEROISM**

PROGRAMME:
ROYAL SISTERS OF MERCY EXHIBITION
PRINCE IGOR KONSTANTINOVICH DOCUMENTARY
PRESENTATIONS, TALKS AND MUSIC

ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO FIRST FLOOR, 37 KENSINGTON HIGH STREET, LONDON, W8 5ED

Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society UK and Russian Heritage in Britain present an Event and Exhibition dedicated to the Centenary of the First World War and 300 Anniversary of the Russian Orthodox presence in Britain

"Members of the Russian Imperial House during the First World War. Charity on the home front and heroism on the battlefields. British-Russian links"

The event will start with opening and presentation of an exhibition:

"Royal Sisters of Mercy. Grand Duchess Elizabeth and other members of the Russian Imperial House during the First World War"

The exhibition will present the story of the extraordinary charitable activities of such prominent members of the Romanov family as Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and her daughters Tatiana and Olga, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna and her daughters Xenia and Olga, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna. The Grand Duchess Elizabeth's activities in Moscow, as the Head and

Founder of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, were of special importance. There will be a presentation of the work of the British-Russian Hospital in St Petersburg in 1916-1917, not well known to the Russian and British public.

The second part of the evening will be dedicated to the events on the Eastern Front during the year 1916, specifically to the famous Brusilov Offensive, the greatest of Russian victories during the War. There will be a talk on this topic and a presentation of uniforms and weapons of the time. The British-Russian link will be presented by a story of the Russian Airforce Cadets who were trained in Britain. The decorations to the Russians given by the British Royal Family will be exhibited.

In the last part of the Evening we will speak about some Grand Dukes and Princes of the Romanov family who demonstrated their bravery on the front. A Russian documentary (with English subtitles) "I would like to die with glory" about young Prince Oleg Konstantinovich will be shown in the end (20 min)

The event will take place in the Exhibition Rooms of "Rossotrudnichestvo", 37 Kensington High St, London W8 5ED on 25th of August 2016 at 18 30 - 20 45.

Contact: nd1523@hotmail.com Maria Harwood

Restored portrait of Catherine was presented in Peterhof

More than a year of restoration and some unexpected discoveries - in the Grand Palace of Peterhof presented an updated portrait of Empress Catherine the First. German painter Heinrich Buchholz made it specifically for the Throne Hall on order of Catherine II. In order to emphasize the continuity of power, in the four corners of the room were placed formal portraits of Empresses predecessors: Peter I, Catherine I, Anna Ivanovna and Elizabeth.



Just over a year ago, when there was a survey of paintings of the Throne Hall, it became clear: the portrait of Catherine I was in urgent need of restoration. Almost as soon as they began to remove the top layers of the varnish, experts were surprised. For example, they found that Heinrich Buchholz had used an already existing portrait of Catherine the First. He stuck it on a larger canvas size and added to the front of the large painting. According to experts, this is not the only case in the biography of the artist, when he used other people's work. By the same principle Buchholz created a portrait of Elizabeth, it is now stored in Tsarskoye Selo. Also during the restoration it turned out that the Empress is dressed in a dress not of gold brocade, but in silver. Pearl jewelry was discovered in the hair. Moreover, after removing the yellow varnish has become more visible the background landscape.

"But the most interesting fact is that after clearing the face it turned out that the Empress eyes are blue, although historically we know that Catherine was the first black-eyed - is mentioned by historians to describe the appearance. That she is chubby, dark-eyed and handsome," - said the artist and restorer of the museum "Peterhof" Yelena Lvova.

Video - 1) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154112/
2) <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1295951/>

The Wonders of the Tsars - In Turin, Italy

16/07/2016 - 29/01/2017

Turin Museum-Reserve "Venaria Reale" opened the exhibition "Masterpieces from the collection of the Romanovs "Peterhof". The exhibition presents the splendor of one of the most sumptuous estates in Europe, comprised of palaces and fountains: large projections, images and around one hundred objects on display, including paintings, dresses, porcelain, tapestry and precious stones from the stately rooms of Peterhof will recreate the spirit of one of the most prestigious residences of the House of Romanov, now a destination of cultural tourism in Russia.



Located in a vast park area on the shore of the Baltic Sea near St. Petersburg, the first palace at Peterhof was built by Peter the Great (hence the residence's name). Over the years splendid buildings and gardens were added to the complex by the sovereigns that followed, from Catherine the Great to Nicholas II.



The display opens with a presentation of Peterhof and the figures that inhabited the residence, starting with a large tapestry of Peter the Great. Some of the objects that follow were purchased by the Romanovs during their travels across Europe on spectacular Grand Tours, while others were commissioned by the Tsars to Russian artisans and craftsmen. Together, they reconstruct the opulence of the Russian court and the relations between the Houses of Romanov and the House of Savoy over the centuries.

The exhibition features more than 100 objects of art funds: furniture, ceramics, porcelain, fabric, metal and precious metals. The first section of the exhibition reveals the identity of the Russian emperors and some of the most brilliant pages of their biographies. It will feature parade, genre and allegorical portraits of Russian Emperors and members of the Romanov dynasty, created by the best Russian and European artists.

The motto of the second section of the exhibition is the space and time in art monuments of Peterhof. Visitors will get acquainted with the works from the collections of Russian Emperors: paintings by Dutch and Flemish masters of the XVII century from the collection of Peter the Great "Monplaisir" Delft XVII-XVIII centuries, Chinese porcelain XVII-XVIII century of the decoration of the palace of Peter I, portrait painting by Pietro Antonio. Rotary associated with the decoration of the Big Peterhof Palace.

The final section of the exhibition shows the masterpieces of Russian decorative industry, by the Imperial Porcelain Factory, Imperial glass factory, the Imperial Tapestry Factory, Imperial Lapidary Works in workshops of Faberge.

The most significant exhibits are - a court lady's dress of the XIX century; desk set of malachite; items from the porcelain service, performed in the Empire style and decorated with scenes of the life of Russian (or Russian Guryev service).

Video - 1) http://www.ansa.it/sito/ideogallery/italia/2016/07/15/motre-con-le-meraviglie-degli-zar-venaria-come-peterhof_b70ce3e3-6d23-4b0d-8874-969d18881a5d.html
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9luYKKK8s9U>



Livadia Palace got a portrait of the Romanov family

July 12, on the day of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul the Crimean prosecutor Natalia Poklonskaya gave Livadia Palace a portrait of the Royal family of the Romanovs. The picture size is 1.6 times 2 meters and is commissioned by the head of the prosecutor's office from Yalta artist Oksana Cairo.





Georgia Museum of Art to show art of the Tsars

July 12, 2016

This fall, visitors to the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia will have the chance to see objects of Russian art never before shown in public. Highlighting a private collection on long-term loan to the museum that is a promised gift, the exhibition "Gifts and Prayers: The Romanovs and Their Subjects" will be on display from Sept. 3 to Dec. 31.



Left - Cigar box with enamel miniatures celebrating the coronation of Alexander II. Right - "Portrait of a Youth" by court painter Aleksei Gavrilovich Venetsianov, 1827

The House of Romanov ruled imperial Russia for 300 years, until the Russian Revolution in 1917, which replaced the Tsars with a Communist government. The court created elaborate gifts for military leaders, attendants, noble families and others, as part of a system of patronage that helped it maintain its power. Those gifts make up this display, which includes such treasures as the personal cigar box of Alexander II commemorating his coronation (which features individually painted miniatures covering its top), a miniature Fabergé rendition of Peter the Great's boat, diamond-encrusted brooches worn by

ladies of the court, the 1802 Charter of Ennoblement, a luxurious folio volume presented to Lord Durham by Tsar Nicholas I, portraits, statues, photographs of the Romanov family and silver icons.



Left - a silver wreath presented to General-Lieutenant Zabotkin, 1878. Right - Watercolor of the thanksgiving prayer of July 15, 1878, with Emperor Alexander II

Among the memorabilia and objects representing military decorations are medals, badges and awards of all the Russian Imperial Orders of Chivalry. Many of these insignia, beautifully rendered in gold, translucent enamel and jewels, were presented by the Tsars in recognition of military service. Also exhibition will present ceremonial swords including a diamond-encrusted sword awarded by Alexander I, armor, helmets topped with double-headed eagles and an intricately designed silver trophy from the Crimean War.



Left - Silver trophy from the Crimean War, 1856. Right - Silver icon triptych, 1907

Assembled by a single private collector, the collection has been virtually unknown for decades. Curator Asen Kirin, professor of art history at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, has selected nearly 200 objects to introduce the collection and its presence at the museum, which will promote its study in years to come. "It is truly remarkable that a collection like this was formed in the United States in the midst of the Cold War and is now made public through the generosity of a private collector," said Kirin. "This is only the

first step in a long-term process of research that will result in the thorough publication of the entire set of 1,226 objects. Even at this initial step we plan to unwrap the many layers of meaning they convey." Kirin has already been studying many of the objects. With the help of UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine, he used an X-ray machine to look more closely at a portrait by Russian court painter Alexey Venetsianov, to help authenticate its signature. The museum will publish a fully illustrated catalog to accompany the exhibition, including Kirin's discoveries so far.

Fabergé collection to return to Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in October in five new galleries

July 12, 2016. Richmond Times, By Katherine Calos - Five exquisitely beautiful and detailed Fabergé eggs will return to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in October as the centerpiece of a new suite of galleries.

Returning from an international tour, the Fabergé collection will be among 280 Russian decorative objects in five dedicated galleries opening Oct. 22. It's the largest art museum collection of Fabergé and Russian objects outside of Russia, and the five galleries will be the largest display of Russian decorative arts in any American art museum, said Barry Shifman, the museum's curator of the Sydney and Frances Lewis collection of decorative arts.

"It's one of our biggest draws," Shifman said. "There are visitors from around the world who specifically come to see it." They're attracted by the "mystique and romance and doomed Royal family. It's a big deal."

Since October 2012, the collection has been on a tour that took it to other U.S. cities, Montreal and Beijing.



Five of the 52 Russian Imperial Easter eggs created by jeweler Karl Fabergé's firm are in the VMFA collection. Only 14 Fabergé eggs are in the United States.

The roughly 170 objects in the core Fabergé collection came from Lillian Thomas Pratt in 1947. Since then, about 20 additional objects have been added by other donors, Shifman said. Almost all of them will be on display.

The five Imperial Easter eggs will be displayed in the round in their own gallery so visitors can view the eggs from all sides. Four touch screens will allow visitors to learn details on each egg, "like pulling away layers of information to get more and more data," he said.

The first gallery will offer a general introduction to Fabergé and his use of silver, gold, jewelry and hard stones. The second will highlight European-style enamels by the Fabergé firm, Shifman said. The third gallery will contain the Imperial Easter eggs. The fourth will feature hard stone objects primarily from Fabergé but also including other firms. The last gallery will feature Old Russian-style works of art, including icons, enamels and an oak table with hammered-brass panels that has never been on display.

The suite's three central Fabergé galleries are named in honor of Eda Hofstead Cabaniss, a former VMFA Foundation board member and museum patron.

"Our Fabergé and Russian decorative arts collection is a longtime visitor favorite," VMFA Director Alex Nyerges said in an announcement of the opening date for the new galleries. "We are thrilled to be reinstalling it this year in a larger modern space. The Fabergé collection has traveled the globe and is coming home to a suite of galleries that boast digital components, which will allow visitors to engage with the art in new and dynamic ways."

Bust of Empress Elizabeth

On July 12, a bust of Empress Elizabeth was unveiled in an exhibition in Anokhin National Museum. Artist and sculptor Zurab Tsereteli's work is in the heart of the exhibition dedicated to 260 anniversary of the entry of the Altai people in the Russian state.

On the second floor of the National Museum, will now be the bronze bust of Elizabeth, whose decree became momentous in the history of the Altai people. The head of the republic Alexander Berdnikov, opening the exhibition, congratulated all residents with the great date.

Alexander Berdnikov - "With the bust of Elizabeth we perpetuate the memory of this great woman of a great time - for a long time many wanted it. We hold special polls and 70 percent of the people were in favor of Elizabeth to be in the Altai Mountains."

In the exhibition are also a map of the Jungar khanate, copies of historical documents, and artifacts of the era.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYmwUKedA0U>



Exhibition for the 220th anniversary of the founder of the Borodino Museum

July 12, 2016 an exhibition dedicated to the Russian Emperor Nicholas I was opened in the main exhibition hall of the "Borodino Field" Museum-Reserve. July 2016 marks 220 years since his birth. 177 years ago, he became the creator of the museum at Borodino.

"All people, for whom memories of our country are dear, will go to Borodino", - said once the Emperor Nicholas I. This statement refers to the Emperor most of all.



He was "late" to the Patriotic War of 1812. When came the "storm of the twelfth year" Grand Duke Nikolai Pavlovich turned only sixteen years old. And while some of his peers were in the Russian Imperial army, and filled their lungs with acrid gunpowder smoke in the battle of Borodino, he, the younger brother of the Emperor, had to stay at home.

"Emperor's departure to the army was for the two of us (him and his younger brother Michael) a cruel blow, - later recalled Nikolai - we felt strongly that our Russian hearts were throbbing and our souls sought after him! But mother (the

Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna) was not pleased to grant us this happiness."

The Grand Duke was forced to return to the sciences and to wait for news from the theater of operations. Among the universal contrition about leaving Moscow, he made a bet with her sister Anna, putting silver ruble that by January 1, that a single enemy will not remain in Russia. And he was right!

Already being Emperor Nicholas I in 1837, he bought the village of Borodino, and gave it to his son, the heir to the Russian throne. And in 1839 he celebrated the anniversary of Borodino, as no one before or after him celebrated. On the very day of the battle August 26 the main monument of the Borodino field was consecrated, within a few days 120,000 troops on the Borodino position were held grand maneuvers, reproduced scenes of battle. Emperor stayed in the palace and park ensemble in Borodino for seventeen days.

In accordance with Nicholas I desire, Museum of the great battle was formed in a small hut at the foot of the battery Rajewski in these memorable days. First exhibits were: the battlefield map of Military Topographic Office and the numerous testimonies of the Borodino battle - core canister, horseshoes, fragments of grenades and weapons.

The new exhibition, opened at the Museum-Reserve "Borodino Field" to the 220th anniversary of the Monarch is a tribute to Emperor Nicholas I Pavlovich, whose writings were preserved and perpetuated the memory

of the glory of 1812 and the Battle of Borodino. Among the exhibits - the portraits of the Emperor Nicholas I made by Russian and Western European artists; graphic sheets with views of Borodino estate and scenes of celebration in 1839, the anniversary of Borodino. A few exhibits from the



collection of rare books tell about the deeds of the Russian Emperor to perpetuate the memory of the ever-memorable year of Russia.

These include the construction of the Alexander Column on Palace Square (architect Auguste Montferrand, 1834.) in memory of the victory on August's brother Alexander I over Napoleon; the creation of the Military Gallery of the Winter Palace with portraits of the 332 generals who participated in the War of 1812 (painter George Dawe, 1826.); preparation of the first official history of the war of 1812, written in 4 volumes on the instructions of Nicholas I, by military historian A.I. Mikhailovsky-Danilevsky, published in 1839, later reprinted many times.

The main artifact of the exhibition is a sculptural portrait of Emperor Nicholas I's by famous sculptor and an Austrian citizen N.-M. Shrödlya, who worked in Russia since 1849. It refers to the first sample of the domestic industry and bronze casting "cabinet-interior bronze." The work was acquired by the funds of the Borodino Museum in December 2015 and exhibited for the first time.

The exhibition will be until the end of 2016.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154347/



Exhibitions dedicated to the Romanov dynasty in Livadia Palace

Guests of the Palace can see the new exhibition "Three Emperors Palace. The world created by love", the photo exhibition "Children of Emperor Nicholas II" and a new guided tour - solarium of Livadia Palace. Livadia Palace in Yalta, continues to delight its guests with new and exciting exhibitions dedicated to the great Royal Romanov dynasty.

One such has become the new excursion program "Three Emperors Palace. The world created by love", dedicated to the 155th anniversary of the entry of the estate "Livadia" in the possession of the Romanov family. It shows photos and watercolors from the palace collection, which tells about the private lives of three Emperors and South Coast estate. For the first time it introduced the original watercolors of the great Austrian artist Rudolf Ritter von Alt, who arrived in Livadia, at the invitation of Empress Maria Alexandrovna, wife of Emperor Alexander II.





In addition, the Museum of Cocoa and Chocolate "Bear" presents unique exhibits of sweets, which were presented at the Tsar's table. The objects brought from the Moscow museum introduced the Russian confectionery factories, which became over time the Imperial Court Supplier.

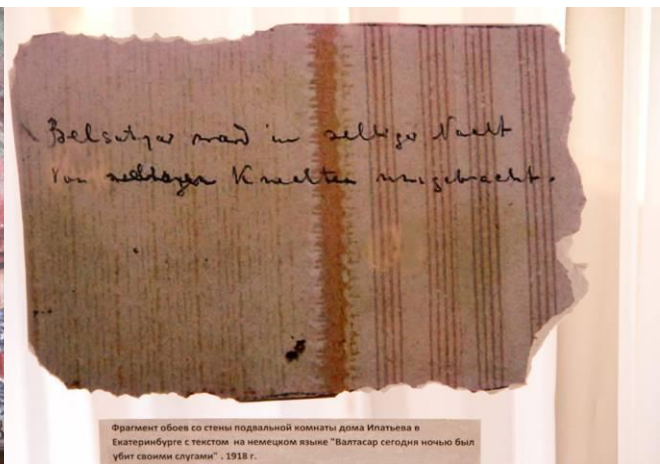
Also guests of the Royal residence can enjoy the photo exhibition "Children of the Emperor Nicholas II", opened in the building of the former palace of Baron Fredericks. The exhibition features many photographs from personal albums of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and her close friend's maid of honor Anna Alexandrovna Vyubova, unique and rare photos from private collections.



In addition to exhibitions, the Livadia Palace guests are invited to a newly opened guided tour - solarium of Livadia Palace. The visitors have a unique opportunity to climb to the roof of the Palace by the spiral staircase, which is located around the elevator shaft. With the help of special equipment, guests can enjoy the spectacular scenery of Yalta.

"Dedicated to the Royal Martyrs..."

In Livadia Palace there is the exhibition "Dedicated to the Royal Martyrs..." timed to the anniversary of the tragic shooting of the Royal family in Yekaterinburg on the night of 16 to 17 of July 1918. Tourists can see a series of photo-documents, telling not only about the tragic events in Yekaterinburg, but about the abdication of the Emperor and following detention in Tsarskoye Selo, and Tobolsk.



"The Romanovs - Statesmen of Russia"

The exhibition presents interesting items donated to the Livadia Palace and Park Museum-Reserve. Among them rare books devoted to the stay of the Romanov dynasty on the Russian throne, as well as a reprint of the album on the life of the Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich. A number of items presented in the windows, were presented personally by Natalia Poklonsky, the prosecutor of the Republic of Crimea.

Also on display there are wooden carvings by folk artist Yuri Peresyphkin. The small sculptures capture Russian Emperors who committed titanic work in the creation, development and prosperity of the state. The exhibition is located in the ceremonial hall of Livadia Palace.



Monument to the Greek volunteers in the Crimean War opened in Sevastopol

After more than 160 years monument to Greek volunteers who fought in the Crimean land alongside Russian soldiers against the Turks opened on Russian soil. The initiator of the installation of the monument was the Greek Foundation for Research, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the Russian military-historical society (RVIO) in conjunction with the Charitable Foundation of Ivan Savvidi.



The monument is made after a sketch from 1864 by Aristide Hrisoveri, initiator of the Greek legion, and St. Petersburg's sculptor Nicholas Morgan, a graduate of the Imperial Academy of Arts, but then the work on the installation of the monument stopped due lack of funds.

The Greek Legion stormed and held the defense of Sevastopol in 1855 - they were famous for their courage and freedom-loving character. It is said about them, "armed to the teeth." They especially did not wear uniforms, while remaining in their national costumes, so the enemy, that is, the Turks, could better see them in action.

The Greek Legion consisted of volunteers who came from Greece to support Russia in the Crimean War. Its number was 1,200, of which more than 600 soldiers were killed, 730 were awarded medals "For the Defense of Sevastopol" and 31 people became a knight of the highest military award - the Order of St. George.



Video - 1) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154126/

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV0FtPTMzRA>

3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEvyNcCHDqo>

"Lies sells better than the truth!"

The media loves Royal imposters and nobody seems to care that they are contributing to falsifications, lies and are hurting the family involved.

In July was shown a new "documentary" on the Russian TV channel NTV, which claimed that the Tsarevich Alexei was living in Brazil - they called it a "historical mystery thriller" and introduced him with these words - "Nicholas II called him his son, and the Bolsheviks wanted to find and destroy him. Is it true that the last Emperor had an illegitimate child? That the Heir to the Russian throne was able to escape? Who was actually the old man, who all his life was hiding in Brazil under an assumed name? To the 98th anniversary of the murder of the Royal family is a historical mystery thriller."



In the media were also replicated the science fiction writer Sergei Zhelenkova's claim, that "the shooting in the Ipatiev house on the night of July 16/17, 1918 was staged. The Emperor managed to escape with his family. Not far from the Ipatiev House was a factory. In 1905 the owner in case of capture by revolutionaries dug an underpass. The Imperial Family was moved through the secret passage with the blessing of Metropolitan Macarius."

And then his fiction continues - Tsarevich Alexei was taken under the wings of Stalin and grew up as Alexei Nikolayevich Kosygin, who became Prime minister in USSR!

But nothing is really new in this case. Here is an article from 1965 by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's son Gury Kulikovsky on the same theme. Years afterwards communist disinformation fed rumors that members of the Emperor's family had survived. The conflicting rumors about the fate of the family allowed impostors to make spurious claims that they were a surviving Romanov.

Grand Duchess Olga's small home in Cooksville was also a magnet for Romanov impostors whom both Olga and her husband Nicholas considered a menace. They had visited the most famous of claimant Mrs Anna Anderson in 1925 in the hope that maybe someone from the Imperial Family had survived but it was not to be. This testament from Kulikovsky was written after the death of his mother probably to counteract the impostors claiming kinship with the Imperial Family.

In 1927, a private investigation funded by the Empress' brother, Ernest Louis, Grand Duke of Hesse, identified Anderson as Franziska Shankovskaya, a Polish factory worker with a history of mental illness. After a lawsuit lasting many years, the German courts ruled that Anderson had failed to prove she was Anastasia, but through media coverage, her claim gained notoriety.

In 1991, the bodies of Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, and three of their daughters were exhumed from a mass grave near Yekaterinburg. They were identified on the basis of both skeletal analysis and DNA testing. The bodies of Tsarevich Alexei and the remaining daughter were discovered in 2007. Repeated and independent DNA tests confirmed that the remains belonged to the seven members of the Romanov family, and proved that none of the Emperor's four daughters survived the shooting of the Romanov family.

A sample of Anderson's tissue, part of her intestine removed during her operation in 1979, had been stored at Martha Jefferson Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia. Anderson's mitochondrial DNA was extracted from the sample and compared with that of the Romanovs and their relatives. It did not match that of the Duke of Edinburgh or that of the bones, confirming that Anderson was not related to the

Romanovs. However, the sample matched DNA provided by Karl Maucher, a grandson of Franziska Shankovskaya's sister, Gertrude (Schankovskaya) Ellerik, indicating that Karl Maucher and Anna Anderson were maternally related and that Anderson was Shankovskaya.

Guri Kulikovsky - 'Royal Russian Impostors'

"If you or I will persist in claiming to be Napoleon, George Washington, or the King of Siam, we are likely to wind up in a padded cell. On the other hand, dozens, dozens of people during the last forty years impersonated Russian royalty, and not merely did they get away with it, but some even made a living out of it.

Right now, in the United States, a man and a woman are suing each other. Both claiming to be a son or a daughter of the Russian Czar, and denouncing the other party as an impostor. However, they are not the only fake pretenders to the Russian royalty.

The mystery with which Russia was always surrounded in the minds of Westerners, the reluctance of the Soviet regime to divulge details concerning the execution of the Imperial Russian family, hope of Russian émigrés that at least one member of the Imperial family survived and escaped, - all were understandable reasons why many, in whom some Romanov characteristics were traced, were readily accepted as a "miraculously saved" Grand Duke or Grand Duchess.

The final act of the Romanov dynasty came the night between the 16th and the 17th of July, 1918; the last scene of this drama took place in a damp basement in a town called Yekaterinburg, on the Siberian side of the Ural mountains.

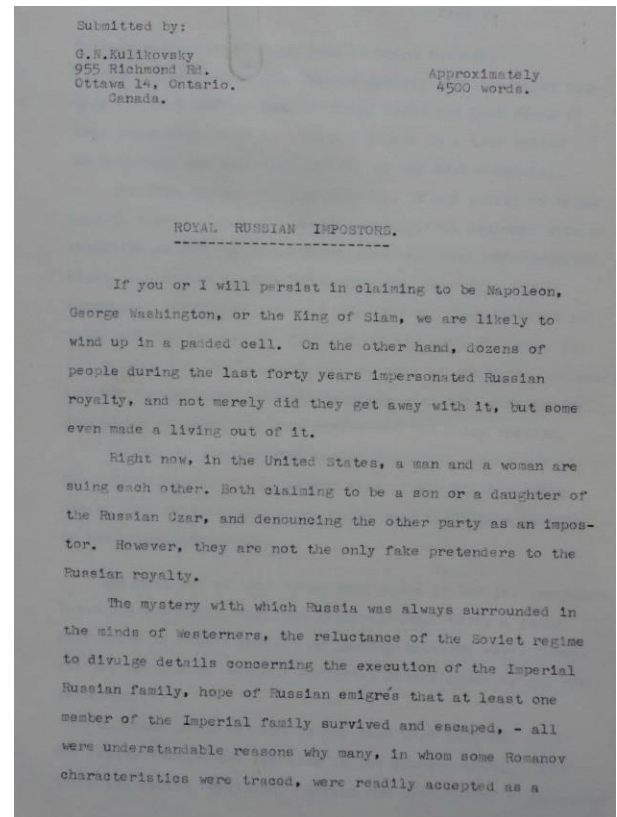
The last Russian Emperor Nicholas II was guilty of being born to bear a superhuman responsibility, but equipped with an intelligence only slightly above average. That unforgettable night he was shot with his wife, his four young daughters, and his 14-year-old son, who was then too sick to walk, and was carried to his death in his father's arms. Doctor Botkin, the family physician, as well as the cook, the maid and the footman were executed together with this unfortunate family for no other apparent reason but for being present.

The eleven corpses were burned and ashes spread around the neighborhood. No gravestone marks their final resting place. An Yekaterinburg disappeared from the map, - in 1924 it was renamed Sverdlovsk.

The next act of this drama took place in Berlin, two years later and 200 miles away from Yekaterinburg. Here, a young girl tried to commit suicide by jumping into the river Spree. She was brought to hospital suffering shock, amnesia, and tuberculosis.

A German woman patient in the same ward believed that she recognized Romanov features in the young unknown. This woman was readily believed. Before the War she was a dressmaker in St. Petersburg. This made her an expert on Russian affairs in the eyes of other patients, although she probably never saw any of the young Grand Duchesses at close range, if she had seen them at all.

This "discovery" helped the young amnesia patient suddenly to regain her memory enough to



remember that she was Grand Duchess Tatiana, the second daughter of the Russian Emperor. She could also remember that during the execution at Yekaterinburg she was only wounded. She was rescued by two soldiers, two Polish brothers, - her story goes on, - who brought her out of Russia. She married one of them, thus becoming Mrs. Tchaikovsky. Later, her husband and his brother vanished without a trace, and in desperation she jumped into the river.

As soon as the press picked up the news of her "identity", many saw and "recognized" her as a Grand Duchess; others were disappointed.



Baroness Isa Buxhoeveden, a lady-in-waiting to the mother of the young Grand Duchess, hurried from England to Berlin in the hope of seeing alive a member of the family which she knew so well and loved so much.

When the Baroness entered the hospital room, the former amnesia patient hid her head under the blankets. But the resolute Baroness did not travel from England to be brushed off that easily; with a sharp tug she pulled the blankets aside.

"Ah! - she exclaimed, - but this is a short woman, and Tatiana was as tall as I!"

Then she added in afterthought, - "Anastasia was short, not Tatiana."

That day Mrs. Tchaikovsky discovered that she was Grand Duchess Anastasia.

With the fall of the Russian monarchy, in 1947, one might think that there was no advantage in impersonating a descendant of the Russian Imperial family. Mrs. Tchaikovsky (later known as Mrs. Anderson) was the first impostor after the Revolution to claim to be a Grand Duchess, but by no means the only one. My mother, the Grand Duchess Olga (sister of Nicholas II) had counted between 50 and 60 such impostors, both male and female. However, even after her death in 1960, new ones continued to appear.

Mr. Pierre Gilliard, the Swiss tutor of the Imperial children, his wife, the former Alexandra Tegleva, who was Grand Duchess Anastasia's nurse, also travelled to Berlin, but they too were disappointed in finding a stranger. Together with the Baroness, these people were among the last to see the assassinated members of the Imperial family, two years previously. They followed as far as Yekaterinburg, but survived only because they were jailed separately there.

But those who wanted to believe Mrs. Anderson to be Anastasia , claimed that owing to her terrible experience she changed beyond recognition (in two years!), and the fact that she couldn't recognize any of the mentioned persons meant nothing, her memory being weakened by the shock.

When it was disclosed that kind-hearted distant relatives of the Imperial family supported Mrs. Anderson financially having heard that the poor woman was destitute, and that she might be Anastasia, the rumors received new strength. Among such relatives must be mentioned Prince Valdemar of Denmark, brother of Empress Marie Feodorovna (grandmother of Grand Duchess Anastasia), a very kind old gentleman, who regularly sent her money, and also Duke George de Leuchtenberg, who later offered her hospitality in his castle Seon in Bavaria.

In 1925, Grand Duchess Olga, sister of the last Russian Emperor, decided to go herself to Berlin to clear up this matter once and for all. She firmly believed that this was the only proper way to settle this entire mess of contradictory evidence by believers and non-believers of the identity of Mrs. Anderson. Grand Duchess Olga was always so close to the daughters of her brother that she had no doubt that, regardless how much Anastasia would have changed, she would always feel it in her heart, whether she was facing the true Anastasia or an imposter.

Both her husband, Colonel Kulikovsky, and her mother Empress Marie Feodorovna advised her against the trip to Berlin. They pointed out that her confrontation with Mrs. Anderson would resolve nothing, as people would still believe only what they wanted to believe anyway. Nevertheless, she went there accompanied by her husband and the Gilliards were to meet her there.

This is how Grand Duchess Olga tells in her own words about the interview with the woman, who today still claims to be her niece.

"Unhappily, it was arranged that we were to stay at the Danish legation with a diplomat, Mr. Zahle, - the man who thought he had found my niece. He had given her presents and often visited her, insisting she was Anastasia.

"When Mrs. Gilliard and I went next morning to the sanatorium, Mr. Zahle accompanied us. He told me that she knew nothing of our arrival. He just wished to be present at our meeting.

"He must have been greatly disappointed, as nothing unusual happened. The poor invalid was not a bit like my niece. She stammered "Das ist meine Tante" /This is my aunt/. I spoke Russian, - she answered in German, - a language my nieces could not speak.

"Zahle left us, saying we were to stay until lunch time, and should return in the afternoon again. I asked her many questions about herself. She kept her hands covering her mouth, as she had no teeth, and told me they had been pulled out by a dentist in Berlin. She was honest in telling me that they were not knocked out by a rifle-butt, as Zahle had told me. She told me also, that he had told her the day before, that she would have a pleasant surprise the following day. - "a visitor from Denmark" and now would not be alone anymore.

"When we returned to the Danish legation", the Grand Duchess continues her narrative, "We told Mr. Zahle that he was mistaken, and who this poor woman was, we couldn't say, but she was not Anastasia. Zahle became angry and very disagreeable, and insisted that we had to stay at least a few days longer in order to hear her speak about her past. We wanted to leave the same evening, but he would not hear of it."

In their next interview, the Grand Duchess became convinced that "the poor invalid knew nothing of the intimate life of 'her parents', no pet-names, no family jokes, she could only repeat to me, what various visitors told her...Only things from memoirs, newspapers etc...that anyone knew.

Having returned from Berlin, Olga was surprised to read in newspapers that she had recognized Mrs. Anderson as Anastasia. When she denied this, she was not believed. It was now whispered that she was ordered by her mother to deny her "recognition."

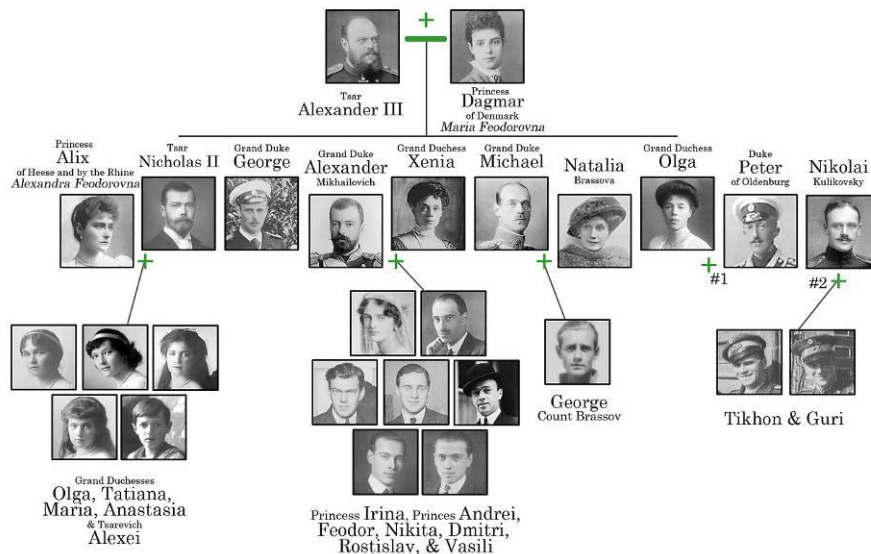
Her husband and her mother were right after all. One person, at least, benefitted from this episode - Mr. Zahle was decorated by his king for special endeavors on the behalf of the Royal family.

The false Anastasia, or Mrs. Anderson, turned out to be a gold mine for journalists and various sensation mongers. Numerous articles were written about her both in Russian émigré periodicals, and in non-Russian press. I have seen several books about her, one written by Mrs. Anderson herself, probably ghosted.

The thought that one or more of the Imperial Russian family had escaped the assassination at

Yekaterinburg was a dream and a secret hope, not really shelved, by many Russians, who never came to any terms with the new Communist rulers, nor with their emigrant status. Even if an escaped member of the Imperial family did not constitute a restoration of the monarchy and a return to the good old days, still any blunder of the Communist regime in Moscow was a testimony to its weakness and a promise of an early collapse.

But the stubborn refusal to recognize Mrs. Anderson, or any other imposter, by any close relatives was a puzzle to many, who insisted in believing in a miracle. Various explanations were invented. For example, it was remembered that a certain coldness existed in relations between the dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna, at that time still living in her native Denmark, and her sister-in-law the assassinated Empress Alexandra. This was pointed out as the "real" cause, why a miraculously saved daughter of the Czar was not recognized by her grandmother and aunts.



Inspired by similar stories, an Estonian doctor, whose name I prefer to leave to oblivion, claimed in her book, that she knew from "first-hand information" that on several occasions Empress Marie Feodorovna had tried to poison her little grandson, Grand Duke Alexis. To make her story more sensational, this Estonian doctor tells that the poisoning of the throne-heir was carried out by means of a poisoned enema.

Later, however, a universally understandable cause was found - money! Big money! The

personal fortune of Nicholas II consisting of several million pounds Sterling in the Bank of England. Naturally, the old Empress didn't want to share her son's fortune with her grandchildren.

However, it is somewhat hard to explain why both the dowager Empress, and her two daughters lived and died without ever trying to claim these millions. Were they so rich that a few millions more or less did not matter? By no means! They all were occasionally in financial difficulties. But they knew that Nicholas II spent his entire personal fortune for the defense of his country in 1914.

In 1928, new rumors started to circulate that the Emperor and his family were rescued and now living in a retreat "awaiting the call of the repentant Russian people." Nobody saw the Emperor, not any member of his family, and as a matter of fact nobody was actually impersonating the Emperor.

A certain George Polyakov arrived, in 1928, from the Soviet Union. His first stop was the Holy Mountain Athos in Greece. Athos is an island with an all-male population consisting mainly of monks, hermits and people connected with the monasteries.

Polyakov's mission there is obscure; however, Greek authorities evicted him after a three-month sojourn as a suspected Soviet agent. Polyakov moved to Paris, where he associated with numerous Russian émigrés. He claimed to have seen the Emperor on Mount Athos, and launched a successful collection for the needs of the Emperor. The president of the Russian Monarchist Council in Paris, A.N. Krupensky, checked with the authorities on Mount Athos, and received information that they had a monk Constantine of Russian origin, who resembled strikingly the assassinated Emperor, but this monk never dreamed of impersonating anybody.

Polyakov fled to Yugoslavia. Here he persuaded a rather well known émigré poet, Serge Bekhteyev, to

continue his unscrupulous work. Now they proclaimed that the entire Imperial family had been rescued, including the Emperor's brother Grand Duke Michael. Not to make the story too suspiciously rosy, he added a tragedy to the good news, and told that the Emperor's only son, Grand Duke Alexis, died of a kidney disease February 17th, 1922.

Bekhteyev accumulated a sizeable sum of money for the Imperial family, who "suffered great financial hardship." Many Russians were so happy about the good news that in their rejoicing they didn't ask why the Emperor had chosen Mr. Bekhteyev as his messenger of all the people, and not his mother, or his sisters, or any of his former generals or ministers. His swindle was, however, soon denounced and he disappeared without trace.

Motives of Polyakov and Bekhteyev are easy to understand - money; maybe also a short period of glory and importance, which to small people sometimes are more important than wealth. Similar motives have guided many other impostors, who started to appear almost everywhere and were too numerous to count.

There were several "Olgas" and "Tatianas" in France. There was even an "Anastasia" in Tokyo. She created so much stir there that the Russian bishop in Tokyo was asking help to keep peace in his diocese.

But the first one - Mrs. Anderson, alias Tchaikovsky, was the most persistent impostor. Her case received new impetus, when Hollywood released a film based on her life called "Anastasia", starring Ingrid Bergman and Yul Brynner.

In the film version, however, we are clearly made to understand that the "Anastasia" is the true Grand Duchess and is recognized as such by her grandmother. The film company did more than that - they actually paid Mrs. Anderson a sizeable sum for permission to release the film.

The latter fact appeared to many to be an official stamp of recognition of Mrs. Anderson's authenticity. While in reality, this was merely a precaution taken by the film company. Now any rivaling pretender would have to sue Mrs. Anderson for the fee, and not the film company.



The film "Anastasia" gave a new momentum to the impostor epidemic, each new pretender retelling basically the same story with a new twist to make it more plausible than the story of her predecessor. The stories had to be better and better; so many years after the Yekaterinburg disaster, it is constantly more difficult to explain, why they played possum all these years, and why they avoided so stubbornly all their survived relatives or former friends. However, the gradual dying out of all the relatives, and people who knew the real Grand Duchesses before the Revolution, made the confrontations less and less likeable, and the years permitted the impostors to look less and less like the good-looking girls they were impersonating.

During her sunset years, Grand Duchess Olga, who moved to Canada in 1948, was bothered by a whole battery of impostors. There was one Mrs. Smith in Chicago, who claimed to be Anastasia, and whose layer would phone from there insisting that his client should be officially recognized. There was one obviously insane person in a small Quebec village, who was discovered as Anastasia by a gullible local police chief. Then there was a lady in Montevideo, who claimed to be a Grand Duchess. She wrote a letter accusing the true Grand Duchess Olga (sister of the Czar), of being an impostor; but having discovered her boner, she disappeared from the scene.

One day a "Grand Duke Alexis" came from New York to visit Grand Duchess Olga and her husband Colonel Kulikovsky at their small home at Cooksville, Ontario. He brought along a manuscript describing how he escaped from Yekaterinburg, how he was educated by two generals in Siberia, then brought to France and told not to "reveal" himself before he was fifty. He had no real explanation why he should stay anonymous that long. Incidentally, he didn't speak one word of Russian.

He insisted that his manuscript be read, and Colonel Kulikovsky read it. Later the Colonel told him bluntly:

"It is a very well written story, but do you expect us to believe it?"

"You mean it doesn't sound true enough?"

"Certainly not."

To the colonel's surprise the impostor said:

"Too bad, but do you think it is believable enough to be printed?"

I haven't seen his story in print yet.

I am often asked: "How do you know that Mrs. Anderson is not Grand Duchess Anastasia?", or "How can we be sure that the entire Imperial family was murdered in Yekaterinburg?"

To me the most convincing fact indicating that Mrs. Anderson is not the true Grand Duchess Anastasia is obvious from her confrontations with persons, who knew the real Anastasia intimately, such as the Gilliards, Baroness Buxhoeveden, and last but not least her aunt and godmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. All these persons are known to me to be of the highest integrity. They all loved the late Anastasia and would have given everything to see her alive. The mere idea that any of them would have rejected her because of some gain or outside threat is absurd.

Grand Duchess Anastasia spoke Russian and English, and had a good knowledge of French, while Mrs. Anderson could speak only German with a strong North-German accent. The young Grand Duchesses were brought up by a mother who was fanatically religious, and observed the rites and customs of the Russian Church to a detail; therefore it is very revealing, when Mrs. Anderson surprised Grand Duchess Olga and others on several occasions with her unfamiliarity with elementary religious customs. She turned out to be Roman Catholic and unfamiliar with any other religion.

Doctor Kostrizky, the last court-dentist, who was still in possession of plaster impressions of the jaws of his Royal patients, had an opportunity in 1927 to compare them with Mrs. Anderson's plaster impression and declared, that they had nothing in common.

To answer the second question: "How can we be sure that the entire Imperial family perished in Yekaterinburg?" - we can enumerate a long list of evidence and data. I will point out just a few here, which are sufficient in themselves.

The advance of White Russian armies under the command of Admiral Kolchak precipitated the murder of the Imperial family. It is, therefore, not surprising, that Yekaterinburg was liberated from the Reds shortly after the Emperor's death. Admiral Kolchak appointed judge Sokolov, a man of the highest integrity, to investigate the case. Sokolov reconstructed the murder in detail and presented a full report to the Admiral; later also to the dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna, who left Russia in 1918. I have seen a copy of this report, which leaves no doubt about the fate of the entire family.

Mrs. Anderson describes in her book "I Anastasia" her escape and speaks of empty streets and pitch-black darkness, forgetting that the streets were far from empty, as 10,000 Red soldiers were brought to

town shortly before to prevent attempt of escape or rescue. Neither were the streets pitch-black - in July you can read a newspaper at Yekaterinburg at midnight.

T.H. Preston, a British consul in Yekaterinburg during the Revolution, testified in a sworn statement that the escape was impossible. The complete text of Mr. Preston's sworn statement is published in an appendix to the book "The Last Grand Duchess" by Ian Vorres. /Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York 1965/.

Richard Haliburton, an American, tells in his book that in 1933 he visited Yekaterinburg, where he found Yermakov, one of the murderers of the Imperial family. Yermakov retold his gruesome tale of murder in all its details. Mr. Haliburton told this Yermakov that in America lived Anastasia, who had miraculously escaped death. To this Yermakov commented: "I have spread Anastasia's ashes along five versts (approximately 3 miles) of road. If anybody wants to know where she is, you tell this to them in New York."

In a current court case in Hamburg, Germany, Mrs. Anderson raised a claim to an alleged fortune of her "father". On that occasion, a German citizen, Erik Wollenberg, was called as witness. Mr. Wollenberg testified that in 1929 he met Beloborodov, who was in charge of the execution squad, and it was his duty to check that all the members of the family were dead. Beloborodov thought it ridiculous that anybody might have escaped.

Several other repatriates of defectors testified to the same purpose.



Considering all the available information on this subject, there is no doubt that the Emperor Nicholas II and his entire family perished in Yekaterinburg. No matter how much one would like to believe the opposite, facts remain facts.

All the impostors who have appeared until now have avoided as the plague, all the survived members of the Russian Imperial family (their grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins). They also tried to avoid anybody who was closely associated with them (doctors, servants, palace guards, old friends, etc.).

Except for Mrs. Anderson, impostors did not start to appear before at least ten years after the Yekaterinburg murders. For various illogical reasons they tried to associate only with strangers, often pretending that they didn't know the whereabouts of their kin. This is exactly the opposite of how the real Grand Duchesses would have behaved. Having led a rather secluded life, they would feel lost among strangers, particularly foreigners, and would lose no time in coming into contact with their closest relatives. As time went on, every new impostor had greater and greater difficulty to invent a plausible explanation for the long silence.

In the later years, rumours about the fantastic fortunes of Czar Nicholas placed in banks abroad, particularly in England and America, were for some reason renewed. Several sharpsters wrote or phones the aging Grand Duchess Olga, and maintained that they knew exactly where these fortunes were deposited, and how they could be made available to her. These gentlemen were quire "reasonable" about their fees - willing to work on a fifty-fifty basis.

Knowing well that there was no money of her brother's abroad, the Grand Duchess always politely refused such help. She understood perfectly that, once a written agreement was given into the hands of the unscrupulous people, they would not waste time chasing the nonexistent money, but would raise

money from gullible people who, attracted by the distant glitter of the fabulous Romanov millions, would help to finance the "legal proceedings" for their retrieval. Maybe you believe that nobody is so gullible? Then have a look at what happened when the last Grand Duchess died.

Grand Duchess Olga, the youngest sister of Nicholas II, lived her sunset-years in Canada, where she was known as a hard-working artist and housewife. She lived a modest and frugal life, but to many people she still was a living symbol, and her mere existence acted as a bulwark against some would-be impostors. She died November 24th, 1960.

In 1964, "Manchester Union Leader", whose motto is "There is nothing so powerful as truth", announced: "Russia's Czar Lives!" However, the article immediately declaims its own headline and points out that the Czar is dead, but not in 1918, but in 1942: We are then told, that the entire Imperial family was saved and lived abroad. Why the Emperor never got in touch with his mother or his sisters is not explained; perhaps the author of the story never knew about their existence.

The Grand Duke Alexis, the article continues, has lived in Poland under the name of Colonel Goleniewski; recently he migrated to USA. He is now joined by all his sisters. His youngest sister Anastasia is nobody else but Mrs. Smith from Chicago, whose lawyer had been pestering the Grand Duchess Olga before. The brother and the sister had a touching meeting in the office of Robert Speller & Sons, New York, publishers of Mrs. Smith's book: "Anastasia: An Autobiography.!"

This mutual recognition is practical to both. Mrs. Smith has to prove that she is Anastasia to get royalties for her book. Colonel Goleniewski wants to be recognized as the true Grand Duke Alexis to support his claim for \$400 million dollars, which allegedly are left by his father in American banks. Whether he really believes in the existence of this fortune, or is counting on financial assistance to claim "his paternal inheritance", only he can tell.

However, this picture of family bliss did not last. Most imprudently, Mrs. Smith stated in her book that she was the sole survivor of the Yekaterinburg massacre. This statement makes Colonel Goleniewski an impostor. She "acknowledged" him as her brother without realizing the consequences. Now she claims that the other is an "invention" of the Speller & Sons Co.

In Moscow, "Red Star" of January 14th, 1955, claimed that Goleniewski was a "creation of the American Intelligence Service."

Apparently, Mrs. Smith had realized that the \$400 million dollars are less certain than the royalty cheques. Unfortunately, she cannot have both, as the survival of other members of the family contradicts the contents of her book.

Colonel Goleniewski having this re-lost his new-found sister, found himself another ally in the body of "Anti-Communist Action Society" of Philadelphia, who, for services he has done to the United States intelligence service, believe that supporting his cause as the "true Grand Duke Alexis" and to denounce Mrs. Smith as an impostor is the least they can do.

The entire matter boils down to the unfortunate truth, that the gullibility of even intelligent and well-meaning people reaches often comical proportions. Our desire to protest and help helpless persons, who are repudiated by their closest relatives is no noble and great that we forget to check the two obvious questions, namely, why "their relatives" are really relatives?

The protagonists of the drama, which unfurls now on the American soil before us, have contradicted themselves by their actions and statements so many times that one is tempted to say after a closer study: "You had a good try at fooling us, but you have still a long way to go!"

The End."

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



The exhibition "The Kochubey Family Mansion: "Home of Gentry" in Tsarskoye Selo"

July 16, 2016 the exhibition «The Kochubey Family Mansion: "Home of Gentry" in Tsarskoye Selo» opened in Tsarskoe Selo. The Museum for the first time turned to the topic, revealing the "roadside" of the Imperial residence - the life of the local environment of its crowned owners. For the first time the items and furniture from the mansion of Kochubey are presented on public display. The exposition in the Zubov Wing of Catherine's Palace has more than 100 items - paintings, bronzes, furniture, porcelain, sculpture, giving an idea of the bygone everyday life and unique atmosphere of a "noble nest." It is a large-scale joint exhibition project of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo", and the National Research University "Higher School of Economics", a division of which - The Management Training Center - is located in the former mansion of Kochubey (Pushkin, St. Radishcheva 4).

The number of true masterpieces - bronze mantel clock in the style of the second rococo - a fine example of the most famous bronze products of St. Petersburg of the middle - second half of the XIX century by Felix Chopin. Since 1843 and for over 40 years, his factory was the largest producer of art situational bronze, worked on the orders of the Emperor and the grand yards.

Floor vase era of Art Nouveau with the image of a winter landscape (Russia, Saint-Petersburg, 1910) performed at the Imperial Porcelain Factory and has all the artistic features characteristic of the porcelain works of this time. The painting probably made by one of the leading artists of the porcelain manufactory Grigory Zimin (1875-1958), who created a large number of sketches with landscape scenes and masterly owning technique of under glaze painting.

The author of the marble bust of a woman under a veil (Italy, Rome () 1881?.) was outstanding sculptor of the galaxy of Russian "italyanistov" Victor Brodzsky (1826-1904). His work is distinguished by virtuosity of marble processing, the ability to use all the textural possibilities of the material. Works of Brodzskoy is an example of good taste, the classical correctness of forms and expressive images. The main staircase of the Catherine Palace is decorated with two sculptures of Brodzskoy: "Sleeping Cupid" and "Cupid Awakening"

The exhibition also presents the chair of the Tsarevich Alexei game room in the Alexander Palace. Representatives of several generations of an old noble family Kochubeev served at the Imperial court. State Councillor and Master of Ceremonies of the Imperial Household Vasily Petrovich Kochubey (1868-1940) decided to build at Tsarskoye Selo, near Catherine Park, a magnificent mansion. At the beginning of the last century these plans were embodied the architect Alexander Tamanov. According to the project we created a true neo-classical masterpiece: with luxurious facades and exquisite interiors. House of Kochubey features the best traditions of the "noble nest".

In November 1912 the architect moved away from manual work on the mansion because he was categorically opposed that his work was oversaw by engineer Vladimir Langvagen which Kochubey appointed attorney. Architect-artist Nikolai Lancere continued interior design.. "My dear Kohl! - Taman wrote - If you smile, this work - to take; I have no complaints have neither to you, nor to other architects, no matter who took this job." In 1913, the Lanceer began to work on the interiors of the mansion together with architects Vsevolod Romanov and Vsevolod Yakovlev and completed their clearance in 1914, not departing from the original plan of Tamanov.

According to the memoirs of contemporaries, "the mansion was filled with music, laughter of children, sonorous voices of guests and extraordinary hospitality of owners." Vasily Petrovich Kochubey was



born in Zgurovka (Ukraine). In 1892 he graduated from St. Petersburg State University "in the category of Natural Sciences". He was fluent in seven foreign languages, five of them were eastern. He was married to his second cousin Barbara Kochubey, they had eight children. Kochubey was the richest landowner - only in Poltava and Chernihiv provinces he owned about 15 thousand acres of land (16 350 hectares).

From 1910 V.P. Kochubey was the main master ceremonies of the Imperial Court. In 1911, he received from Emperor Nicholas II "highest resolution" on the construction of the mansion in Tsarskoye Selo. He lived in it since 1914. He inherited from his father a collection of paintings, drawings, bronzes, furniture, minerals and a unique library and continued to replenish the collection. After the revolution, the first Commissar of Education Anatoly Lunacharsky offered Kochubey office in the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

Vasily Petrovich replied: "I swore an oath to the Emperor and will not work for other government." Thereafter Kochubey family during the day was forced to leave Russia. Kochubey emigrated in 1918. According to legend, leaving your house Tsarskoye Selo, Vasily Petrovich left a note in the hallway: "From Russia received – to Russia is returning." V.P. Kochubey died in 1940, buried in Warsaw at the Orthodox cemetery. The mansion was nationalized. In 1927, it is located House of veterans of the 1905 revolution. In 1941-1944, during the occupation of Pushkin, the building housed Gestapo. In 1947-1948 the mansion was restored and adapted to accommodate the holiday homes for the workers of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the Communist Party. The joint history of the mansion Kochubey and St. Petersburg branch of the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" (HSE - St. Petersburg) started in 2012 - then building and located therein Management training center joined the university as a unit of additional vocational training. For the St. Petersburg branch of the HSE valuable historical object and collected therein collection of unique works of decorative art and painting was evident immediately. For a long time, this heritage has been demonstrated only to participants of educational programs and activities organized by the center for training leaders of the HSE. However, developing the already established tradition of outreach projects, today the HSE sees its task not only the preservation of cultural values, but also familiarity with them a wide range of visitors. The exhibition runs until 30 of September 2017.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154590/



Chairs of Tsarevich Alexei could return to the Alexander Palace

Original chairs that were included in the interior of the play room of Tsarevich Alexei in the Alexander Palace might be returned to their historical place in 2018. This was reported by the deputy director of the St. Petersburg Higher School of Economics Tatiana Meshkova. The three chairs in question are at the moment in the palace of Kochubey in Tsarskoye Selo, and this palace is located in the operational management of the Higher School of Economics.

"We are negotiating with the Museum-Preserve Tsarskoye Selo. The final decision about whether it will be on a permanent basis is still pending - Meshkova explained - We will proceed from the interests of the best possible safety".

"We do not own these items. The palace of Kochubey and all its objects of decorative art are owned by Federal Property Management Agency.

The first step to address the issue has already been made: the three armchairs of Tsarevich Alexei have joined the exhibition of 119 objects from the palace of Kochubey in the exhibition in Tsarskoye Selo.



The Marble bridge in Tsarskoye Selo is restored

The Marble Bridge in the Catherine Park, one of the most memorable symbols of Tsarskoye Selo, is finally open to public after restoration.

Built in the 1770s, the bridge was also known as Palladian. It was inspired by bridges in the English parks of Stowe and Wilton following a famous design by the Italian architect Andrea Palladio. The bridge underwent post-WWII restorations in 1953, 1983 and 1990, but was badly vandalized soon afterwards and deprived of its decorative spheres, several balusters and most of the coping slabs. It was not until 2015 that the Museum could finally allocate funds for the restoration.



After nearly a year of cleaning the bridge's marble and granite surfaces, all the surviving decorative elements were put back and the lost ones were carefully re-created. New nine spheres and ten balusters were carved from gray and pale blue marble in the Urals, where the original items had come from. The most time-consuming was restoring a deformed pillar and the simulated marble ceiling lining. The contractor, the Heritage restoration workshop, carried out the work for RUB 16,500,000 paid by the Museum.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154790/



Bust of Tsarevich Alexei installed

July 7, 2016 monument to the Holy Passion Bearer Heir Tsarevich and Grand Duke Alexei Nikolayevich was opened and consecrated in St. Nicholas Berlyukovsky Monastery, Moscow diocese, on the Romanov Walk of Fame.



Portrait of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich by George Dawe was restored

The portrait of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich (1798-1848) - the youngest son and only child "born-in-purple" of Emperor Paul I and Empress Maria Feodorovna, as well as the owner of Pavlovsk from 1828 to 1848 - was made by the famous English painter George Dawe in 1823.

The portrait entered the Pavlovsk Palace-Museum collection from the Artillery Museum in very bad state. The canvas was damaged and had lost paint. In 2013, the painting was transferred to the Department of Restoration of Painting Institute named after I. E. Repin (Academy of Arts) to the student Catherine Martyanova.

The restoration of the portrait was accompanied by complex technological research. Because of this, it was found that a number of costume elements (epaulettes, aiguillette, medals on his uniform breastplate) was appended on top of an original painting, and whiskers was made as a thin glaze between two layers of lacquer. At the joint meeting of the Restoration Council of the State Museum "Pavlovsk" and the Academy of Fine Arts, it was decided to maintain these late items of historical significance. Therefore, further thinning of the varnish film was carried out manually under a microscope to bypass the boundaries of these areas and a smooth transition from the refined to the lacquer layer thicker.

All awards shown on the uniform of Mikhail Pavlovich, were obtained from 1828 to 1831. Among them there are the insignia "For the 15 years of military service", as well as a medal for assault on Warsaw. In addition, Mikhail Pavlovich was appointed Adjutant General, and from then on carried aiguillette and epaulettes with the Emperor's monogram. Indeed, the painting with the gold epaulettes when researched showed silver monogram "N I" under the crown. Fashion whiskers also date back to the reign of the young Nicholas I. Before the changes to the painting the portrait of Mikhail Pavlovich was to

the Russian-Turkish war of 1828. During this period, the Grand Duke was pictured without whiskers, and with a set of awards that was assigned to him at birth. This portrait type is often repeated by George Dawe, and these portraits are in the collection of the State Russian Museum and the State Museum "Pavlovsk". The fact that this portrait was painted by Dawe before 1826 indicates the presence of the artist in his studio in the Winter Palace. This interior was recorded by the Russian artist A.E. Martynov in 1826. Among the many paintings that filled the entire space of the room, is the well familiar portrait in the first row and is easily recognized by the gesture of hands folded on his chest, and dark uniform.



The question remains: who was the author of the amendments in 1831? English portrait painter George Dawe (1781-1829) came to Russia at the invitation of Emperor Alexander I, and worked there for about 10 years. Together with his assistants, A.V. Polyakov and W.A. Golike the Master created more than 300 portraits of the heroes of the Patriotic War of 1812 to the Military Gallery of the Winter Palace. In 1828, Dawe received the title of court painter and but soon after left St. Petersburg. In February 1829 he returned to Russia to paint a portrait of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich and to finish several portraits for the Gallery. But the sharply deteriorating health forced him to go to London, where he died in October 1829. Probably made in 1823 the Dawe portrait of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich was in 1831 supplemented by a number of important historical details in the studio master, where his assistants a few years have worked to completed the large order of the Emperor.

Restoration of Emperor Nicholas I handkerchief

In the Pavlovsk Palace tissues collection there is stored a handkerchief of Emperor Nicholas I of fine white linen with embroidered monogram "H I" (N I) at the corner under a crown. The exhibit was transferred to Pavlovsk Palace in 1951 from the State Museum of the Revolution, where it entered in 1928, from the archives of the Stroganov family. It was found among the papers of Count Sergey Grigoryevich Stroganoff (1794-1882), a statesman, collector, archaeologist and art patron. During the Russian-Turkish war of 1828-1829 Sergey Stroganov fought at Varna. Then he was appointed adjutant

of Emperor Nicholas I. The handkerchief was enclosed in an envelope with the inscription: "handkerchief of HHH Tsar Nicholas I".

The state of the handkerchief was not good: there were numerous spots on the fabric section, dark streaks, tight folds, corners deformed. The biggest challenge was to eliminate the dark spots. Restorer very carefully with a cotton swab dipped in a mild detergent solution, gradually weakened them, and then almost completely removed them. Then with the thinnest thread reinforced sections and, finally, eliminated the deformation. The handkerchief acquired its original white.



Romanov buzz



July 13, on the eve of "the Tsar's days" in Pakleyski-Kozell House, Yekaterinburg, was an exhibition of a single painting by Misha Brusilovsky - "The Emperor Nicholas II."

The painting will be exhibited at the Sverdlovsk regional museum until 14 August.



The suite building of an "Oldenburg museum" opened in Ramon. Permanent exhibition is dedicated to the Princely family Oldenburg - close relatives of the ruling dynasties of Europe and Russia. The new display has 140 rare objects and archival materials. At the opening was remembered the indefatigable nature of Oldenburg, who in Ramon developed an infrastructure: open schools and hospitals, built new sugar factory, housing, launched confectionary, laid a railway line, was actively engaged in charity, education development. About this tells the exhibition, which is located in the suite building.

Video - http://tv-gubernia.ru/culture/v_ramoni_otkryt_svitskij_korpus_pervyj_muzej_rasskazyvayuwij_ob_oldenburgskih/





"Museums have their own destiny ..." - so is called the exhibition in the estate Rukavishnikov, which opened to the 120th anniversary of the Nizhny Novgorod Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve. (Opened July 7 (OS June 25) 1896.) The exhibition tells about the stages of its creation and reveals the treasures of its rich collection.

In 1894, in connection with the preparation in Nizhny Novgorod in 1896 XVI All-Russia industrial and art exhibition, a decision was made on the restoration of the Dmitriev tower of Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin and adapting it into a museum. Provincial and city officials were in favor of the creation a unified artistic and historical museum. In July 1896 the city and the exhibition was visited by Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. July 19 Their Majesties inspecting the city museum. In memory of the visit to a high tower and restored - Demetrius was founded medal, silver and bronze copies of which can be seen in the exhibition.

Another of the exhibits presented at the exhibition is a dish in which bread and salt was presented to Emperor Nicholas I during his visit to the Nizhny Novgorod region. And, for example, a married woman's hat - a rare thing - restored especially for the jubilee date - the 120th anniversary of the museum.

Video -

http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153894



On the eve of the solemn ceremony of handing over keys of the newly refurbished Alexander Hall (a part of the premises of the former St. Petersburg City Council) it is decided that the building is partially "move" to the State Monument Museum "St. Isaac's Cathedral." Not so long ago, Museum lost its concert and exhibition venue in Smolny Cathedral, and museum director Nikolai Burov suggested that the building on the corner of Nevsky Prospekt and the Duma Street will become a cultural space.

The Alexander Hall after restoration looks the same as it was 100 years ago: the same decorations and moldings, even colors. It is still unknown when exactly the room starts to work as a cultural and educational center.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153804/



The Kronstadt sea forts maybe saved from destruction. "The state of the fort complex, the fact that it exists, is already surprising. This shows what kind of work did our great-great-great-grandparents, and it is precious, it says that we will stand for a long time" - recognized researcher of the Central Naval Museum Vitaly Pirogov.

The last 30 years the fort "Alexander I" - still known as "The Plague fort" - is abandoned. Now the fort is empty, hence it could be the basis for a truly unique museum.

The same thing is with all the other Kronstadt forts. Almost all of them, with few exceptions, over the last 30 years have moved from military facilities to the status of civilian. At the same time former owners simply left without bothering even about preservation of the forts.

In the near future the State Duma will consider the allocation of 30 million rubles for the initial emergency response work, and a full-scale examination of the foundations of the island forts. And then one has to wait for the first integrated project for the reconstruction and the modern use of the legendary Kronstadt fortress.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153887/



About the start of the sculpture competition of the Church in honor of St. Elizabeth in the Intercession-Streshnevo reported the website of the patriarchal monastery. The competition is initiated by the churchwarden of the church, deputy chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Igor Ashurbeyli.

The organizers formulated the mandatory requirements for the sculpture. This should be a sculpture in bronze, sitting or standing figure in full size. Holy Princess Elizabeth should appear

in the guise of a young woman in secular clothes or attire as Superior.

In addition to the sketch of the future monument, contestants are called to develop a project of artistic lighting and landscaping around the sculpture.

It is reported that the sculpture is to be ready in the Church in honor of St Elizabeth (Moscow, Ivankovskoe sh., D. 8, Building 5) on July 18, 2018.

See more here - <http://obitel-st-elisaveta.ru/news/article/otkryt-tvorcheskiy-konkurs-na-sozдание-skulptury-s-401768>



Rostov was puzzled by posters of apology to Emperor Nicholas II. Thus, according to official data, the shooting of the last Monarch took place on the night of 16 July 17, and not 17 to 18, as specified on the poster. Furthermore, Rostov noted that after the expression "Forgive us," according to the rules of the Russian language should be a comma.



The entire movie "Romanovs. Imperial Family" (in Russian) by Gleb Panfilov, from 2000, was shown on Russian TV on July 16. It is the history of the tragic death of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family. Cast - Alexander Galibin, Oleg Basilashvili, Alexander Filippenko, Aristarchus Livanov, Olga Budina and others.

Video -

http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/7241/episode_id/72186/



Finally, on July 19, TV Kultura broadcasted the interviews made on June 28, at Tsarisyno Palace, one which is with Paul Kulikovskiy, Great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III. It is about the exhibition "Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo and the Romanovs. The story to be continued" presented in the Museum-Reserve "Tsaritsyno". The Grand Palace in Moscow, which was never destined to be an imperial residence, took in its walls a unique collection of things that surrounded several generations of the crowned family.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154392/





The exhibition "The Imperial Family. The way of love" opened in Smolensk. This exhibition was created by the diocese of Mogilev Belarusian Exarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church and devoted to the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. Before coming to Smolensk, the exhibition has visited many cities in Russia and Belarus.

The exhibition presents more than a hundred rare photos of the Romanov family, and copies of paintings by famous artists, accompanied by documents, diaries and memoirs of contemporaries.



Russia's first monument to Tsar Ivan the Great (Terrible) will be opened in Orel on August 3, according to the governor Vadim Potomsky. The opening of the monument will happen two days before the 450th anniversary of the city, founded by the decree of Tsar Ivan.

"He founded 450 years ago, the city of Orel, very beautiful, great city, a city of great people, great writers," - said Potomsky and noted that the memorial was created at the expense of patrons and residents.

Six sculptors worked on the project. "Sculptors will be presented on the day when we will install a monument" - said the governor. But the famous sketch of the monument, you can see on the picture.



The "master of sand animation" Kseniya Simonova from Crimea has made a new sand story. The film "White Angel" is dedicated to the life and death of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9YvXtauTUY>



The church is being restored in Gatchina Imperial Palace. Church of the Holy Trinity in Gatchina Imperial Palace is a special place. For example, once the shrine of Malta was brought here. The domestic Church is the only preserved with the shape of the mid XIX century. However, its interior decoration has been lost in many ways. It is one of the best creations of the architect Roman Kuzmin. In redesigning in the middle of the XIX century, he was able to make the small room look like a large Neo-Romanesque basilica.

Since Catherine II all the Russian Emperors were praying there. One of the most dramatic pages in the history of the church is associated with the period of the occupation and the year 1944. During the liberation of Gatchina palace it burned, a lot of the interiors suffered, but the fire stopped exactly at the iron stairs of the palace church. Some attribute this to the features of the materials that were used by

Kuzmin, however worshipers see in this event a divine sign.

Under the arch are some images which museum workers knew for a long time, but only in 2015 after restoration they could unleash it for public. Parishioners were amazed - in the ceiling there are nested 96 of cherubs of eight different types (painting on cardboard, middle of the XIX century).

Restorers are preparing for the next phase of work.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/154440/



In Tiraspol, Bendery Local History Museum hosted the presentation of three new postal units, including the "100 years from the day of the Royal family visit to the city of Bendery".



In Tobolsk will open a Romanov family museum. It will be located in the house of the governor-general, where during eight months Nicholas II and his wife and children held in captivity. When restorers cleaned the house, they found the moldings, fireplaces and floors made in 19th century. It is decided to keep all of it. Restorers expect to complete the work at the end of 2017.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp6QRqScZq>



In Kaluga the date of opening Nicholas II bust was moved. On July 17, the day of the martyr's death of the Royal family, at the Central Park of Culture and Leisure in Kaluga, was planned to inaugurate a bronze bust of Nicholas II. However, on July 17 instead at the Trinity Cathedral was held a prayer service dedicated to the family of the last Russian Emperor at the bust immured in cellophane. The grand opening and consecration is now planned to happen on July 31 at 16:00.



Another video showing the exhibition "Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo and the Romanovs" at Tsaritsyno in Moscow.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_NpAkuEo5s



Central Park of Culture and Rest in Simferopol has received the official name of "Catherine's Garden". This was the decision at the regular session of the 49 Deputies of the Simferopol city council.

"We will restore justice and return the park to its historic name," - commented the head of the Crimean capital administration Gennady Baharev.

In April, he said Kryminformu that the administration supports the idea of renaming the Central Park of Culture and Leisure (Gorky Park) in Catherine's Garden. June 24 sculptures of Prince Grigory Potemkin Tauride and Vasili Dolgoruky Krinsky was set up on the pedestal in the garden, and on July 28 the bronze sculpture of Empress Catherine II was installed.

However the opening of the monument is postponed. It is completed to 95%, but - "between quality and speed, we chose quality. There are a lot of fountains, it is necessary to defend the concrete. You cannot rush it. We will not establish a specific time frame, simply complete the work" said the head of the administration of Simferopol Gennady Baharev.



On Russian TV was shown the documentary series from 2011, about Nikolai Sokolov, the investigator of the death of the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg. His role in the history of Russia, Sokolov described succinctly and simply: "I fell to perform an investigation of the murder of Emperor Nicholas II and his family. Within the rules I have tried to do everything possible to find the truth and keep it for future generations." See the 4 part here:

Part 1 -

http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/29054/episode_id/1315526/video_id/1495366/viewtype/picture/

Part 2 -

http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/29054/episode_id/1315763/video_id/1495768/viewtype/picture/

Part 3 -

http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/29054/episode_id/1316105/video_id/1496063/

Part 4 -

http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/29054/episode_id/1316455/video_id/1496666/viewtype/picture/



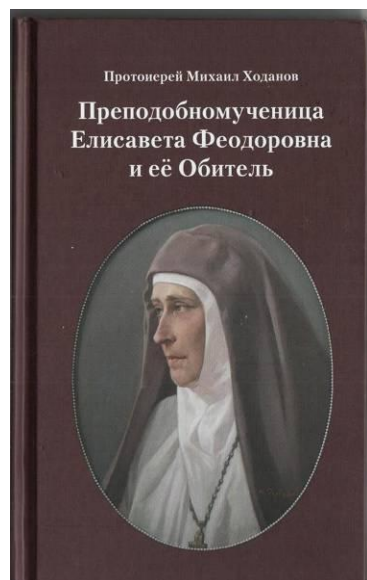
On 26 of July an exhibition of miniatures "Imperial Pavlovsk. Family heirlooms of Empress" was opened in Pavlovsk. It is timed to the 220th anniversary of his accession to the throne of Paul I and transfer of the ownership of Pavlovsk to Empress Maria Feodorovna.

The exhibition introduces 129 portrait miniatures from the collection of the second half of XVIII - the first third of the XIX century. "We give the audience a unique opportunity - director Vera Dementieva said - to see miniatures, which have never before been exhibited. They are placed in special display cases, optical equipment will help everyone to see the elegant painting on ivory, enamel or paper, including family portraits, made by Maria Feodorovna herself on milk glass.

The present decoration of the exhibition - the family tree diagram of Paul I and Maria Feodorovna, is reflecting the relationships of persons represented in the exhibition.



"Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna and her abode" presented in Moscow



On July 14, the presentation of the book "Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna and her abode" by Archpriest Michael Hodanova, was held in the reader's club "Orthodox Books" Pogodinskaya. The evening was led by Archpriest Vladimir Vigilyansky - Chairman of the Information Committee of the Diocesan Council of the City of Moscow, the abbot of the house church of St. Tatiana at Moscow State University.

The book is published by the Publishing House of the Moscow Patriarchate. It takes the view of a contemporary cleric on the significant event in the life of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, founded by Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna at the beginning of the XX century. In a concise and complete form it reflects on the life and works of the Martyr, the exploits of sisters and spiritual father of the monastery of St. Sergius Martyr (Archpriest Mitrofan Vasilyevich Srebryansky). The Abode is described since its inception to the present day, with data from the archives.

The publication of the new book, like her birth, and the presentation - like baptism, compared the head of the Moscow Patriarchate Archpriest Vladimir Silovyev. He talked about the importance of prayer to commemorate the Royal martyrs and Alapayevsk martyrs and recalled that the faithful appealed to them even "in the dark Soviet years", when they have not yet been glorified by the Church. Father Vladimir said about Elizabeth Feodorovna that there have been written a lot of books, "but there should be a lot."

Among the many books about the Martyr, this one occupies a special place, said the chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Fund "Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society" Anna Gromova. The new edition is favorably with those books that are a compilation of already published sources, as it "tells about the life of the Grand Duchess through the prism of the author's own life experience." The book "bears the stamp of the grace of the priesthood; it talks about Elizabeth Feodorovna in words of evangelical preaching." And although the heroine biography is stated "not in its entirety", its main landmarks are presented in the publication, said Gromova. According to her, it is important not only for lay people, but for secular readers and sometimes even for the followers of Elizabeth Feodorovna, who badly know her career: "Our Foundation, conducting its educational work, sometimes are faced with the fact that not even all the sisters in the Martha and Mary Convent know about the 20-years marriage of Elizabeth Feodorovna. They have this idea that German Princess came, something unfortunate happened to the Grand Duke Sergei, and after that the monastery was founded at once."



The book tells about the orthodox faith of the Grand Duchess (who converted from Lutheranism to Orthodoxy in 1891), her spiritual growth and about how important it was for the wife of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, said the representative of Elisabeth-Sergei educational society.

Deputy Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society (IOPS) Elena Agapova warmly thanked the author. According to her, the new book "contributes greatly to the spiritual safety of our society". It indicates that "interest in the deeds of Elizabeth Feodorovna never will be extinguished." "No matter how many generations, faced with this unique destiny, she will always inspire us to examples of mercy, charity, love for his fatherland, the Orthodox Church, for the country and neighbor. Elizabeth Feodorovna - it is for us a bright planet, and the traditions that she has laid, we will continue" - said E. Agapov.

Author of the book for the first time touched the relics of the Martyr in 1984, when, together with a delegation of students of MDA was in Jerusalem. Then many Russian seminarians cried, he recalls. This lively sense largely guided him in writing the book: "I wanted to put, all the love that I feel for her that she's remembered about me, sighed about me", - he said. After studying the historiography of Elizabeth Feodorovna, Michael found that there is no book about her written by a priest, and it prompted him to take up the hard work. In addition, he served on the courtyard of the Martha and Mary Convent Volokolamsk and "saw the feat sisters tried to revive for himself images of the past" for seven years. The priest had a chance to get acquainted with the nearest relative of his heroine - Princess Margaret of Baden, great granddaughter of Queen Victoria. This dialogue has allowed to understand the "special spirit" of people, which belonged to Elizabeth Feodorovna (Princess Margaret - Orthodox, she is disabled, moves in a wheelchair, but very brave, said Michael.).

Peter Multatuli presented in Yekaterinburg his books about the nature of Nicholas II

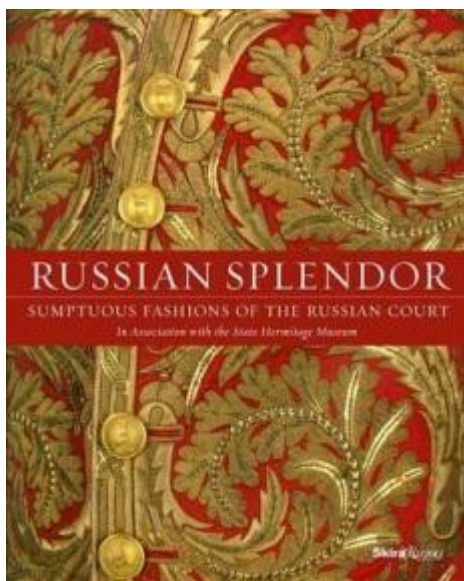
The books about the nature of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II was presented in Yekaterinburg by the great-grandson of the imperial cook Ivan Kharitonov, who was shot along with his family of the Romanovs in 1918, historian and writer Peter Multatuli.

In two volumes "Emperor Nicholas II: Man and Monarch" and "The Emperor Nicholas II: martyr", the author focuses on the nature of the last Russian tsar and his diary entries, told Peter Multatuli on the presentation of the book.



Video - https://videotass.cdnvideo.ru//tass/m2/uploads/v/26167.video_hd.mp4

Russian Splendor: Sumptuous Fashions of the Russian Court



Publication Date: 11/10/2016

Prerevolutionary Russia was renowned for the glamorous and luxurious lifestyles of the nobility, with their opulent palaces and glittering social life. Now, this lavish volume reveals the incredible clothing they wore, from everyday dress and ceremonial attire (traditional holidays, outfits and military uniforms) to dress for special occasions, including elaborate evening wear for theater and musical events and fancy masquerade balls. Celebrated for luxurious materials and impeccable craftsmanship, the dress of the Russian nobility was haute couture at its finest. With beautiful photography and details highlighting the hand-spun silks and lace and jeweled embroideries, Russian Splendor highlights the glamour of this gilded age and offers a fascinating window into a vanished world. Essays by Hermitage Museum curators, alongside historic Russian paintings and photographs, place the clothing in a historical context, revealing the rich cultural layers and artistic influences of czarist Russia.

Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky has been the director of the State Hermitage Museum since 1992 and has dedicated his career to making the treasures of the museum accessible to individuals and institutions around the world. Georgy Vilinbakhov, Evelina Tarasova, Tamara Korshunova, Nina Tarasova, and Julia Plotnikova are top researchers and curators at the Historic Costume Department of the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Format: Hardback. Number Of Pages: 448. ISBN10:0847849465 / ISBN13:9780847849468

Grand Duchesses of the Romanov dynasty



The book "The Grand Duchesses of the Romanov dynasty" return a few almost forgotten names of prominent women in Russia of the XIX century, the Grand Duchess, and then Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna, Maria Alexandrovna and, above all, Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna - wife of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich. It was she, the brilliant beauty Madam Michel, who arranged the most magnificent Petersburg balls, masquerades, and later - the intelligent and sophisticated evenings in the Mikhailovsky Palace.

She created - for the first time in the history of Russia - a Holy Cross community during the Crimean War. Her tireless support helped the development of musical culture in Russia and the opening of the St. Petersburg and Moscow conservatories, and a lot of needy and poor people got food and shelter.

The book also tells about the difficult, often tragic life in the "golden cage" of the Russian royal court of other great princesses and empresses.

Publisher: Nikitsky Gate, Moscow. Hard cover, Format: 130 x 200 mm, 336 pages. Isbn 978-5-00095-177-4

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



The Russian numismatic market set a new record - Trial coin with a portrait of Emperor Paul I bought for 215.5 million Rubles

At the second online auction of "Russian Numismatic House", an all-Russian record price was set, paid for one coin. This is a trial ruble in 1796 with a portrait of Emperor Paul I. After a long bidding starting price was exceeded three times and coin was bought for 215.5 million Rubles.



Portrait of Paul on a ruble coin is extremely rare and is known only in a few instances. One of them is kept in the State Historical Museum. Head of the department of numismatics State Historical Museum Igor Shirjakov, in his expert report confirmed the absolute authenticity of the copy sold. The portrait ruble was made in limited quantities, as it has not been approved by the Emperor for regular coinage.

The maximum price for a Russian coin was reached on the Swiss auction Sincona, which was attended by coin collectors from around the world. Then, again for a trial ruble, but of Ivan VI, was paid \$ 4.4 million. Price with portrait of Paul was about 3.6 mln. USD

The ruble in 1796 is one of the rare Russian coins which are of outstanding cultural and historical value, by scarcity did not yielding the widely known "Constantine" Ruble 1825, as evidenced by the impressive amount paid by the buyer. To date, this is the most expensive coin ever sold in the Russian auctions.

At the "Hotel Monte Carlo Sales" on July 20



Gold corsage brooch adorned interlaced monogram of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch, brother of Emperor Alexander III, surmounted by the imperial crown set with two small diamonds. Original. Probably French work of the early twentieth century, with no apparent punches. H. 2, 5 cm - L: 5 cm. Gross Weight: 7 grams. Estimated Price: €1,500 - €2,000

Hotel des Ventes, Monte Carlo, Monaco, on July 20

Imperial snuffbox made by Karl Hahn, St. Petersburg, 1899-1908. Rectangular, with rounded corners, decorated on each side with a nephrite plaque kept in a yellow gold setting, finely carved in relief a garland of laurel, green leaves, gold alternate flowers in rose gold. The hinged lid is applied to the center of the monogram of Emperor Nicolas II with the Imperial crown surrounded by a laurel wreath beribboned retained by a knot on silver set with diamonds and pink rhinestones, at every angle appears double-headed eagle of the Romanov finely engraved silver set with diamonds and pink rhinestones, framed by fine grooves yellow gold applied to foliage branches. The main frame translucent red enamel guilloché background wave is applied to a crimped mesh diamond roses, surrounded by a garland of leaves in matte yellow gold. The main stones were originally diamonds subsequently replaced by rhinestones. Punches title: 56 St. Petersburg, 1899-1908. Punch goldsmith K. Hahn - Karl Auguste Hahn. Punch foreman Carl Carlovitch Blank, active from 1892 to 1909. L. 7 cm - L: 10, 5 cm - E.: 3 cm. Gross weight: 250 grams.
Estimated Price: € 80 000/100 000



This imperial snuffbox was offered by Emperor Nicolas II, most likely in 1901, during the second official visit of the Emperor in France, in Compiègne and kept since in the direct progeny of Armand Mollard. He was commissioned by the French government to the official organization of the reception of the Russian Imperial fleet at Toulon in 1893 as part of the Franco-Russian alliance talks. He was also a part of the delegation accompanying President Emile Loubet (1838-1929), during his official visit to St. Petersburg in 1902; then with the Chairman Armand Fallières (1841-1931) in Reval in 1908. On both occasions he also received Imperial presents: in 1902, a gold box made by Fabergé with the monogram of Nicholas II (signed by Michael Perchin), along with a silver tea service also made by Faberge and in 1908, another snuffbox made by Fabergé.

TimeLine Auctions, London, United Kingdom, on September 3

Alexander III (1881-1894) - Gold Medal for Dignity. With suspension loop. Obv: profile bust with inscription "B. M. Alexander III Emperor and Autocrat of All-Russia". Rev: Caduceus with legend "For Dignity. M. P. Academy. C. S." An awarded to graduates of the Moscow Practical Academy of Commercial Sciences; graduates also gained the hereditary title of honorary citizen. 22.75 grams, 28mm diameter..

Estimate: £1,500 - £2,000



Romanov News - Made in Russia



Did you know....



... That the Lackey Aloysius Trupp was Catholic, when canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad in 1981?

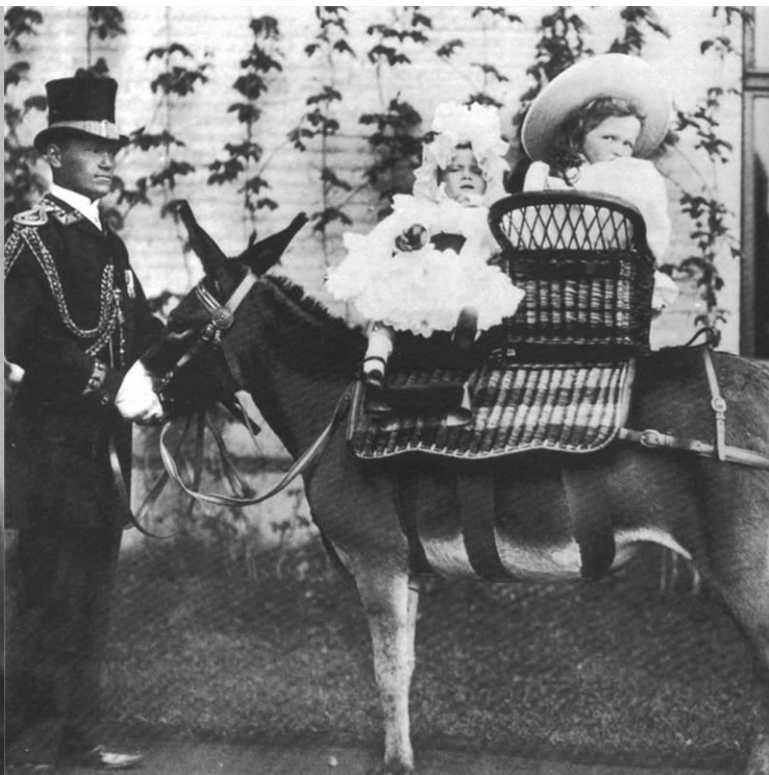
Almost 35 years ago, on November 1st, 1981, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad canonized the Catholic Aloysius (Alexei) Yegorovich Trupp together with the Imperial family.

He was among the four servants, who voluntarily followed into exile with Emperor Nicholas II and his family. Together with them Aloysius Trupp was shot in Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg on July 17th, 1918.

Parents of Aloysius were simple peasants. He was born 8th April 1858 in the village Kalnagals Rezhitskogo, Vitebsk province (now Barkava town of Rezekne region). Near the village there is a small cemetery called "Krievbirze", which translates as "Russian wood". There is buried representatives of several generations of the family Trupp.

When it was time to go into the army for his elder brother, he was just about to get married, so the 18-year-old Aloysius went to serve instead of his brother. The blue-eyed blond, with a height of about 180 cm, with a bright Scandinavian appearance was seen and accepted first into the Life Guards, and then, at the age of 37 years, he went into the service of the palace to the position of a lackey. In our time, the word "lackey" might sound insulting. But a century ago, it meant a person carrying out various tasks and being close to the Emperor - for such a career one can only dream of.

And there he stayed - in service of the Imperial family - to the end of his earthly life.

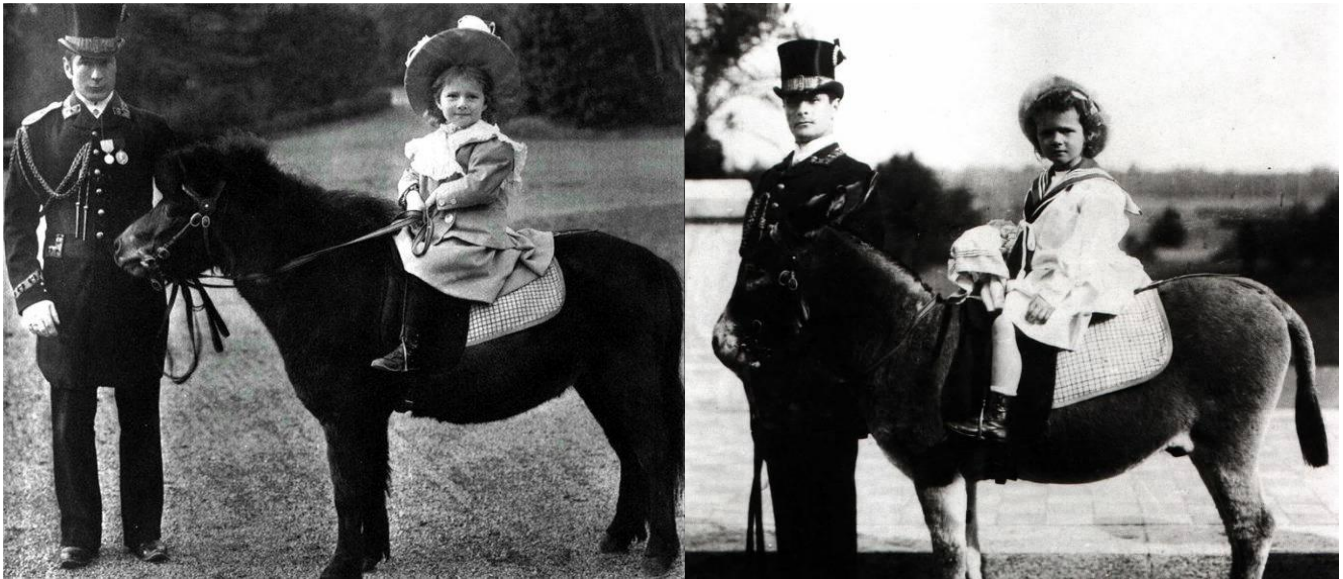


But as a catholic, how can he become a Saint in the orthodox church? - Well, some makes reference to the 20.000 Nicomedia Martyrs, commemorated on January 10 (Old style December 28) in the Orthodox Church. They were burned inside a cathedral in the city of Nicomedia by Emperor Maximilian in the year 302. They burned for coming to the service of the feast of the Nativity of Christ, and for the fact that they refused to leave the church, to renounced Christ. There are names of a few of them, but not

for all 20 thousand Saints! It is not known what was the measure of their piety and church-going, how often they prayed or gave alms, but the Church honors them as holy martyrs, and we appeal to them with prayers.

July 17 the Orthodox Church commemorates the Holy Royal Martyrs. In captivity in Yekaterinburg, also the servants was sincerely striving to embody in their lives the Gospel commandments, enduring their suffering with gentleness, patience and humility. In addition one has to note that the faithful servants voluntarily stayed with the Imperial family and bore the brunt of all the hardships and humiliation. In front of them more than once, as to the martyrs of Nicomedia, was opened the door and said, "You can leave, you are free." But leaving would mean the same as renunciation of faith and loyalty. They did not betray the Imperial family. For this they paid with their life, fulfilling the words of Christ: "There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Therefore, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad has glorified all prisoners in the Ipatiev cellar among the saints.



There is little information how lived the doctor and the three loyal servants, but there is none about any evil that they committed during their lifetime or of any actions that would denigrated them as Christians. On the contrary, the material available about their life and death, shows not only the highest quality of life for these people as citizens, but also that they lived a good, upright Christian life. About Aloysius Trupp is told, that when serving at the court, from personal funds he helped to repair and decorate the church in his native village.

The Lord sees everything and rose Trupp to the heights, allowed him to be in the basement of the Ipatiev house, and like the ancient martyrs, was baptized together with the royal blood. The Lord had already made his judgement.