



# Romanov News Новости Романовых

*By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky*

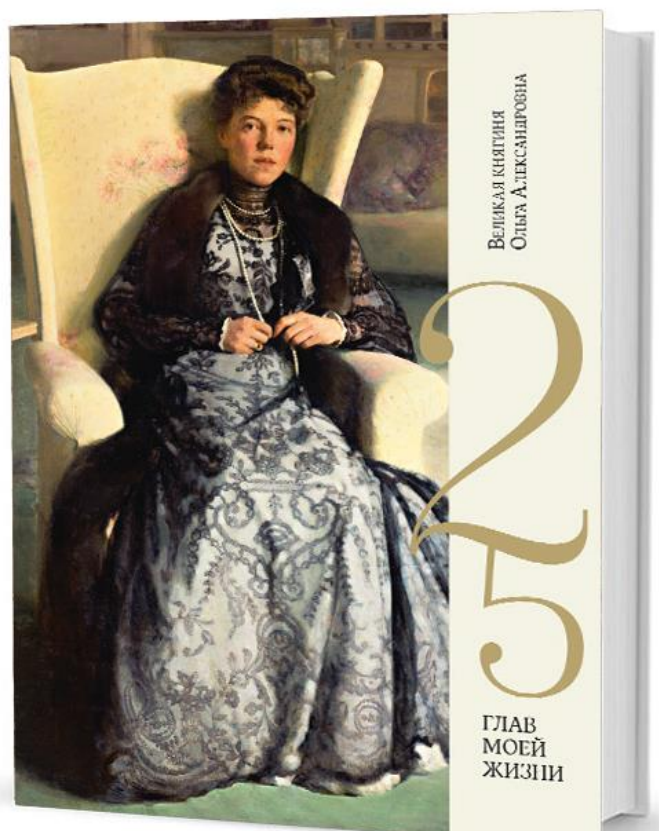
**№106**

January 2016



Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Alexander Palace, 1905 - By Peter Neradovsky

## Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - "25 Chapter of my life" published in Russia



The cover of the Russian version of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's "25 Chapter of my life"

The book was published in Danish in 2006, the day before the start of the reburial of her mother, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, in Denmark - who was about to be reunited with her beloved Sasha, Emperor Alexander III in the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral, Russia.

The original material is from a series of articles written by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and published in the Danish publication "BT" between 22nd March and 21st April 1942, under the title "The Grand Duchess's Memoirs". These articles were based on the Grand Duchess' handwritten notes, mainly in Danish.

In 2010, it was translated into English, had additional text and photos added. It then found a larger audience and is still selling. A second English edition is now being considered.

Now, finally, the Russian version has been published.

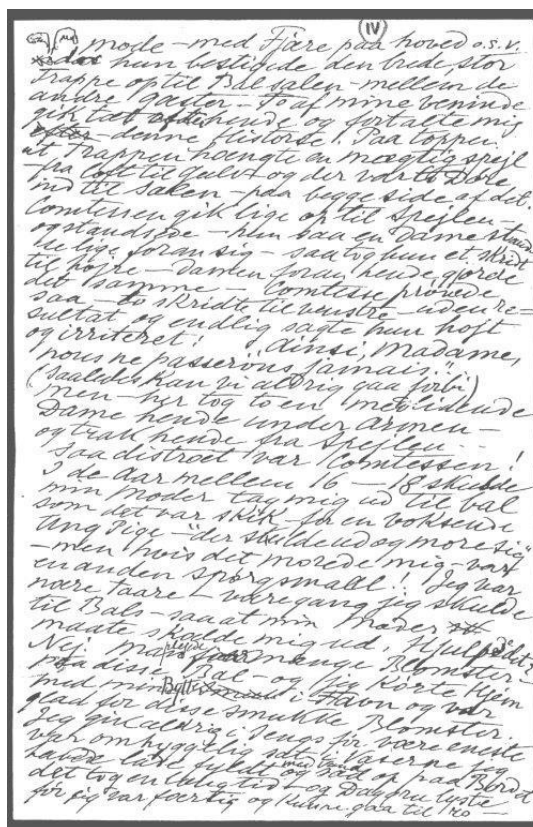
Publisher: Kuchkovo Pole, Moscow. Hardcover. 320 pages.  
ISBN: 978-5-9950-0747-0

For the first time in Russian is published the memoirs of the last Grand Duchess of Russia, the younger sister of Nicholas II Olga Alexandrovna, dedicated to her life in Russia before emigrating to Denmark in 1920.

The book gives her very personal view of the events in the history of Russia, contains many notable details about the life of the imperial court and famous historical figures.

The memoirs reveal the image of a charming, cheerful, artistically gifted person. Firmness of spirit, a deep faith in God, courage and dignity, helped her to take on her share of the most tragic ordeals - the loss of loved ones and forced separation from her Motherland.

In the book, is for the first time published rare photographs from archives and private collections, as well as presented samples of her artwork.



One page of the original hand written manuscript of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna



## The feast of the Nativity of Christ, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow



January 7, 2017. The press service of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

On the night of 6 to 7 January 2017, the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill celebrated at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow, a series of Christmas worship - Great Compline, Matins and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Before starting the service, Patriarch Kirill addressed on TV the viewers on the holiday.



His Holiness was joined by: Metropolitan Arseny of Istra , the first Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in Moscow; Archbishop Sergiy of Solnechnogorsk , head of the Administrative Secretariat of the Moscow Patriarchate; Bishop Tikhon of Podolsk ; Resurrection Bishop Sava , the first deputy governor of the Moscow Patriarchate, the governor of the Novospassky monastery; Schema-archimandrite Eli ( Nozdrin ) ; Archpriest Mikhail Ryazantsev , sacristan of Christ the Saviour; clergy of Moscow.

Chairman of the Russian Government Dmitry Medvedev and his wife S. Medvedeva attended the service.

Liturgical chants performed Patriarchal Choir of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior (regent Tolkachev IB).



During the Divine Liturgy after the augmented litany of the Russian Orthodox Church there was pray for peace in Ukraine.

Christmas Message of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill archpastors, pastors, deacons, monks and all the faithful children of the Russian Orthodox Church announced Archbishop Sergius of Solnechnogorsk.



The altar of Christ the Saviour Patriarch Kirill and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev exchanged congratulations.

After the Liturgy, His Holiness once again congratulated the clergy and the flock on the occasion:

"Your Eminence, and Grace! Reverend fathers, dear brothers and sisters! I heartily congratulate you on the great feast of the Nativity of Christ. On this day, believing heart especially feels the presence of God.

The Lord came into the world two thousand years ago, revealing the Holy Spirit to His Church, He will never leave us. He is constantly with us, and that the New Testament is different from the Old Testament, that the Orthodox faith differs from other faiths - we confess God's presence in our lives. We are saved not by human wisdom, we are saving the Divine presence. In order for God to feel no need to be a special person, do not need to strain your superhuman powers, only cardio you need to pay to the Lord's prayer, and He answers that prayer, he touches our mind, our heart, He makes us peaceful, joyful, happy and strong. In this and builds our faith in the Lord. And this is the strongest argument personal experience with God, no one has ever throughout two thousand years of Christian history could not rob people.



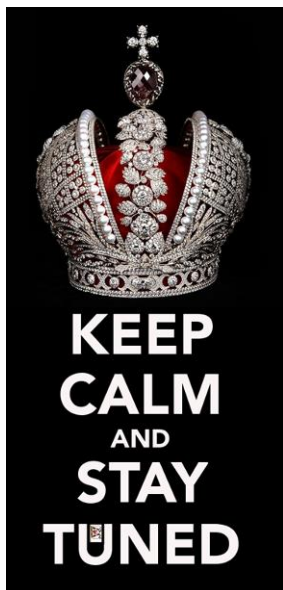
Today we especially feel the Divine presence and ask the Lord does not leave us on the paths of our lives. Each has its own prayer: someone prays for healing oneself or loved ones, someone needs assistance in learning, in work, in difficult circumstances, someone like our soldiers, we need God's help to save the life and health while we call peace, but it is for so many of our fellow citizens who defend the Fatherland in the near and distant approaches, peace is not. Each has its own prayer.

We believe that the Lord hears our prayers. The basis of this belief is the date of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, true Epiphany in human history, and for each of us. Amen".

Thousand of worshipers have gathered in the iconic Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow for the Orthodox Christmas service headed by Patriarch Kirill.

Video of the full service -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wzc3uvub34>



## The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

### Church will announce results of examinations of “Ekaterinburg remains” in second quarter of 2017

Moscow, January 4, 2017 - Abbot of Moscow's Sretensky Monastery, Bishop Tikhon (Shevkunov) of Egorievsk has reported when the results of Church assessments in the criminal case of the deaths of the members of the Royal Family will be known. “We hope that, as the work is quite voluminous and the report will be quite large, somewhere in the end of the second quarter of the year we will be able to present the results: the investigators—to the investigative committee, and we—to the upcoming hierarchical council,” announced Bishop Tikhon, a member of the Church's commission for studying the results of the examinations of the “Ekaterinburg Remains,” in an interview with Interfax.

As for whether or not the remains will be acknowledged as holy relics, according to him, “only the Bishop's council will make the final conclusions.”

“Intense work is ongoing. They're carrying out a genetic examination in the best laboratories in the world. They're completing a very voluminous and highly interesting anthropological examination with fundamentally new data—I can't yet say what. The institute of anthropology, criminologists, and anthropologists are all involved,” said the interviewee. “It's an historical examination involving our leading historian-archivists, and criminological experts.”

Bishop Tikhon called the new team of investigators in this criminal case “very professional.” “They have already uncovered several interesting, and fundamentally important things. As the matter is not yet closed, we don't have the right to disclose the details of the investigation,” he added.

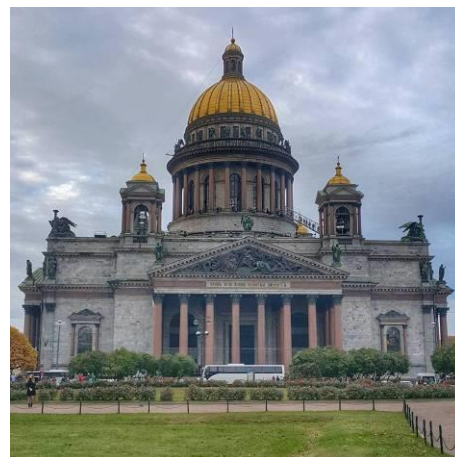


## St. Isaac cathedral's transfer to the church - why now?

On 18 January, The Moscow Times ask “why now” in an article (“Heavenly Real Estate”), about the transfer of St. Isaac Cathedral to the Russian Orthodox Church. The answer they provide in the article is surprising.

### *“Why now?”*

It is not the first-time controversy around the question of St. Isaac's ownership has arisen in the city. Burov (Nikolay Burov, the museum's current director) says this debate goes back 150 years, when the cathedral was first built. In prerevolutionary Russia, the church's Synod asked the imperial government to transfer St. Isaac's from the jurisdiction of the interior ministry to the full control of the church - but it repeatedly refused to do so. Burov sees echoes of the same debate in today's Russia.





Only last Spring, city authorities rejected a church request to hand over the building on economic grounds. Then, local church authorities grew quiet and did not protest the decision. Yet, less than a year later, the St. Petersburg government appears to have made a U-turn.

"This could only have come from the Kremlin," says Andrei Desnitsky, an expert on the Russian Orthodox Church. "It looks like an exchange for a favour," he adds. Desnitsky believes the timing of the affair is no coincidence. As Russia enters the centenary year of the Russian revolution, the state will be looking to emphasize national unity over rifts. The Kremlin may be looking to stage a show in which it needs church support.

One of these shows could be burying the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria, which were found in Ural forest, separated from the rest of Russia's murdered royal family. Funerals for the pair were repeatedly scheduled and repeatedly called off by the church, which does not recognize the remains as authentic despite scientists largely agreeing on the matching DNA. "Burying them could be a strong political signal for the state this year," says Desnitsky. In order to do so, the Kremlin would require church participation. Gifting St Isaac's to the Patriarchy could convince it to agree. Burov, too, cannot help but draw the parallel to the centenary. "I am a statesman not a revolutionary, but I do not think this is the right way to mark this jubilee," he says. "

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### Imperial uniforms of Prince George A. Yurievsky in Denmark

In January, while in Denmark, Prince George A. Yurievsky (Jr.) had arranged a meeting at the Royal Arsenal Museum (Tøjhusmuseet), to see his grandfather's Imperial Russian uniforms, on display and in storage there.

Prince George Yurievsky's wife Elikonida, the deputy director of the State Hermitage Museum George Vilinbakhov, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, and Russian Embassy attache Vasili Ryabin, joined him for the visit and were welcomed by Jacob Seerup, curator at the museum.

The Royal Arsenal Museum is a museum of military history charting the military history of Denmark from the 1500s to today. The museum was officially founded in 1928 on the basis of the historical collections held by the Danish army, some of which go as far back as the Renaissance period in the 1500s and 1600s. In 1604, Danish King Christian IV moved his armoury to the newly built arsenal. It was to function as an arsenal, and to store all the weapons of the king and kingdom when Denmark was not at war. This makes it the only secular building in Denmark to have served the same purpose for such a long a period of Danish history. Since 1990 the museum has focussed on changing its profile from being a museum on the history of weapons to be a specialised cultural history museum on Danish military history.

In 2004 The Royal Arsenal Museum and The Royal Danish Naval Museum were amalgamated under the name National Defence Museum. The exhibitions of both museums are, however, still independently managed under the auspices of the new umbrella organisation.



*From left: Vasily Ryabin, Attache at the Russian Embassy in Denmark, Ludmila Kulikovskaya, Paul Kulikovskiy, Princess Elikonida Yourievskaya, Prince Georg Yourievsky, Museum curator Jakob Seerup, Deputy director Hermitage Museum George Vilinbakhov,*

What makes the Museum particular interesting, seen with Russian eyes, is its magnificent collection of Imperial Russian Uniforms, donated to the museum in 1942 by General-Major Paul Goudime-Levkovitch. He was a former Chamber-Page to Emperor Alexander III, officer in the Imperial Army, and at the outbreak of the Revolution a Military Attaché in Athens. In exile after the Revolution, he lived in France, England, Turkey, Greece and ultimately in Denmark, and assembled a large collection of uniforms, weapons and other military-related items.



In 1943, in the midst of World War II, by train it was transferred to the Royal Arsenal Museum in Copenhagen. Paul Goudime-Levkovitch stayed for a time in Copenhagen (from 1943 until 1953), where he helped to register the collection that he had donated to Denmark in remembrance of the Danish-born Empress Maria Fedorovna, which he had served as a page in his youth.

A part of the collection went on display in the end of 1990s and at other occasions were a bigger part - up to 140 of the uniforms - assembled in an exhibition. At present is only 5 on display, together with orders, medals, books, a sculpture and additional uniform hats.

In the collection there are two uniforms of Prince George Alexandrovich Yurievsky (12 May 1872 - 13 September 1913), the oldest son of Emperor Alexander II from the marriage with Princess Catherina Mikhailovna Dolgorukova. It was these that we had come to see.

Jacob Seerup first told us the history of the museum, while showing us around in the newly renovated museum. When approaching the glass cabinets with the Imperial Russian Uniforms on display, he told about their history. A journalist from the Danish newspaper "Berlingske" arrived and wanted to have a few words.

"The visit underlines the collection's importance" said Jacob Seerup, and told he is currently writing a book about its history.





Prince Georg Yourievsky said - "It is rare that we have the actual objects seen in photographs from the family's time in Russia. It's a great experience to see my grandfather's uniform, while I in the photos can see him in the same uniform. My family grew up under the chaotic conditions of the First World War and the revolution in 1917, and it was not much, under the dangerous circumstances, that got out of Russia."

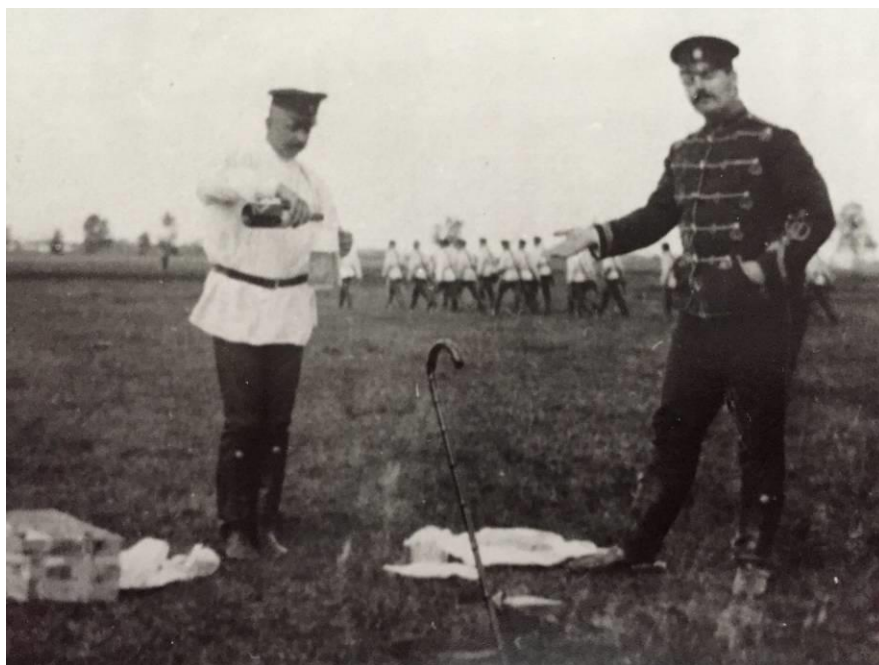
Of the uniforms of Prince George A. Yurievsky is one on display in public, while the other is in storage. The "red" uniform, which is from the Russian Imperial Guard Hussar Regiment, has a rich gold braiding. Over jacket - called dolman - is white with brown fur crew, and the corresponding hat is also in brown fur with the imperial rosette in the middle. The pants are blue with gold embroidery, and the sabres bag is also decorated with gold embroidery.



*Prince George Yourievsky wearing the "red" uniform - the gala uniform of the Lieb-Guard Hussar regiment and the same uniform in the Royal Arsenal Museum in Copenhagen.*







*Prince George Yourievsky wearing the daily blue uniform. Even if you are in the field, is there always time for champagne... Right - Prince George Yurievsky and Jacob Seerup with the "Blue" uniform.*

After seeing the uniforms on display we went to storage space under the roof of the Arsenal. "Tons" of objects were lying everywhere, on tables, on the floor, while the most precious were placed in special closets. Prepared for our visit, the "blue" uniform was hanging ready on a rack. It was in pretty good condition, but not perfect. It was clear that this one had been used more.

While being in the storage area, Jacob Seerup also showed to us the Russian uniform of King Christian IX, the Cossack uniform of Timofee Yashick and his hat, which he was wearing at the funeral of Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna in 1928 - a special detail of the hat, is that it has its red cross in the top is covered with a black cloth, especially for the funeral - Jacob Seerup told.

He also showed us a part of their collection of orders, medals, jetton and other small related items.



## ***Prince George Alexandrovich Yurievsky***

George ("Gogo") was the first child of Princess Catherine and Emperor Alexander II and was born in the Emperor's study on 12 May 1872. The father happily wrote "The Lord is so generous. I praised God, in tears I thank Him". Three more siblings later followed: Olga, Boris, and Catherine. In 1878 Alexander secretly had his children legitimated with noble status under the name "Yurievsky". At the marriage of George's parents' eight years after his birth, he gained the style of Serene Highness.

The Empress Maria Alexandrovna (Alexander II's first wife) died on 8 June 1880, and her widower promptly married Catherine on 6 July 1880.

The newly married Princess Yurievsky and her son made their first official appearance on 4 October during a military review of the Cossacks, with George wearing a Cossack uniform.

After his father's assassination George, along with his mother and sisters (brother Boris died the year he was born) went to live in Nice, France. He studied at the Lycée Condorcet, and graduated from the University of Paris, Sorbonne in 1891 with a bachelor's degree.

His half-brother, Emperor Alexander III would not let George join the army or live in Russia, but allowed him to join the Russian navy as a midshipman.

Emperor Nicholas II, the new Tsar, was more kindly disposed to George, and allowed the prince to move back to Russia, where he transferred from the navy to serve a commission of lieutenant in the regiment of the Hussars of the Guard. He retired after a few years with the rank of captain upon his marriage.

On 11 February 1900 in Nice, he married Countess Aleksandra Konstantinovna von Zarnekau, described by some as "a very beautiful woman".

After their marriage, the couple planned to reside in a St. Petersburg palace that had been built by Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolayevich and purchased by his brother Alexander II for his morganatic wife; Catherine in turn passed it down to their son. George and Aleksandra had one son:

- Alexander Georgievich Yurievsky (20 December 1901- 29 February 1988), who married Ursule Anne Marie Beer de Grüneck and had son named Hans-George (b.1961).

The couple became unhappy, and Aleksandra subsequently divorced him in 1909.

After a long and incurable illness, Prince George died on 13 September 1913 in a private hospital in Marburg, Hesse. He was buried at St. Elizabeth's Church in Wiesbaden, Hesse, Germany.



*Prince George Yurievsky. The fur-lined coat is not in the collection, but the fur hat is*





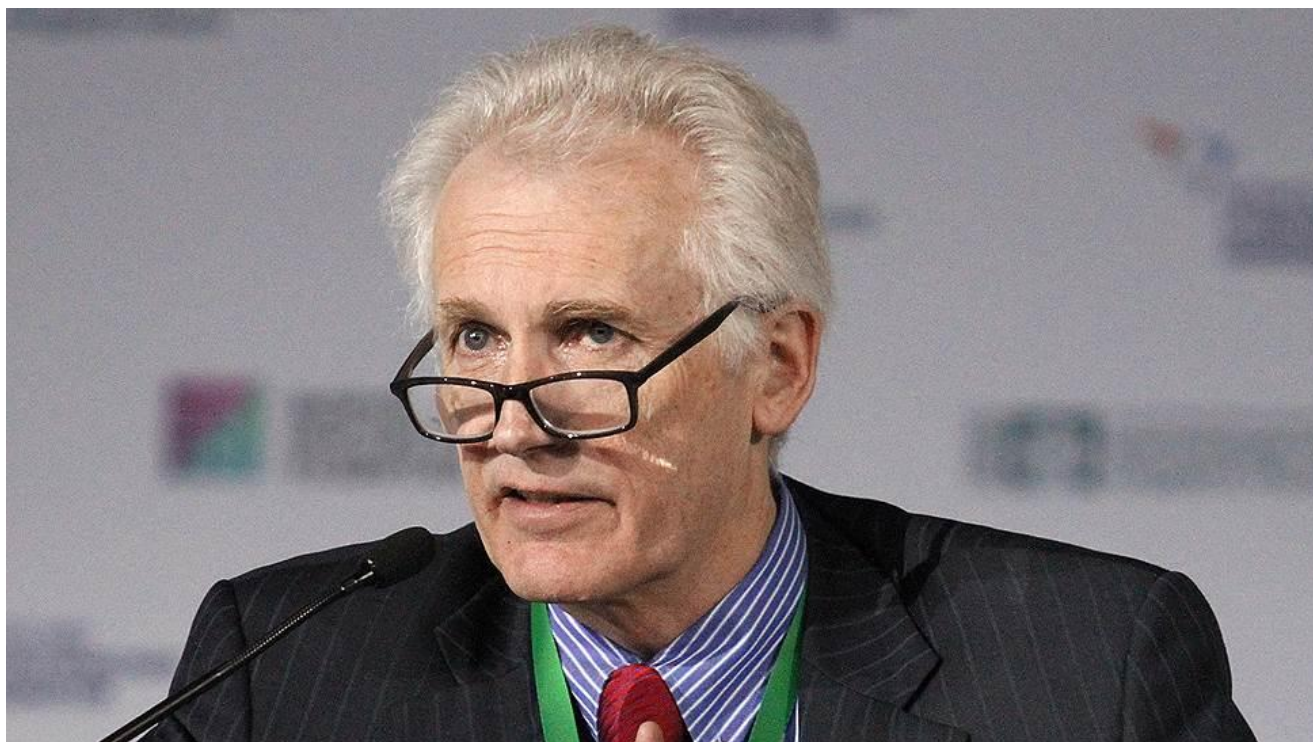
## No reconciliation without repentance

01/16/2017, "Ogonyok" magazine №2 and Kommersant

*Why the contemporary Russian elite cannot be considered the heirs of ancient Russia.*

Heir to two noble lineages, Stolypin and Sluchevsky, descendant of the first wave of Russian emigres following the Revolution, President of the Non-commercial partnership "Stolypin Center for Regional Development", Nikolai Sluchevsky shares with "Ogonyok" his views on how the Revolution divided the Russia and how the reconciliation between the 'reds' and 'whites' continues to be impossible.

In order to understand what is happening in Russia today it is extremely important to understand what happened then, in the watershed period of 1917. In part this can help answer the question: does there remain anything in common between the community of the White émigré Russians and the post-Soviet Russians of today?



*Nicholas Sluchevsky, Director of Stolypin Centre for Regional Development. Photo: Vladislav Lonshakov, Kommersant*

It is important to note that, in this context, when I speak of the 'émigré community' I am quite specifically referring to the descendants of the 1st wave – those that left immediately after the Revolution. The 2nd through 4th waves are distinctly different from the 1st wave in that they all had experienced life in the Soviet Union directly, albeit during different periods. I also wish to make clear that, obviously, I do not speak for the entire White émigré community. (This last statement did not appear in the Russian version).

Allow me to begin with the main question: do the White emigres resemble the 'post-Soviet' Russians? Are we all still the same people as described in (pre-revolutionary) classical literature or not? My answer is no, we are categorically different people, albeit speaking the same language. The experiences that each of these groups went through after the Revolution is radically different. Our respective values have split, our relationship to our history and traditions bear little resemblance to each other, and the way that we perceive ourselves is also completely different. It is hard to imagine the possibility of any deep 'understanding' between us. Having said that I do not mean to imply that there should be no dialog between us, or, indeed, joint efforts to develop our relationship. However, our significantly different starting points and respective world-views cannot be underestimated. 1917 was

not merely a historical episode but, in fact, the end of one history and the beginning of another. In a certain sense the Soviet Union and its admirers today relate to Tsarist Russia as a murderer does to his victim – with all attendant consequences.

I recall the famous Churchillian quote: 'nothing separates the Americans and British more than our common language'. This fully characterizes the state of relations between the White émigré community and today's post-Soviet Russians. (Note: post-Soviet Russians refers quite specifically to those old enough to have been schooled and raised in the Soviet Union, not today's youth) It does appear that we mouth the same words: 'the rebirth of Russia', 'getting up off of our knees', 'Holy Russia', but the reality is that we understand these words in completely different ways. We connect these terms with different things entirely.



Perhaps the clearest example of this lack of understanding, evoking shock in much of the White émigré community, lies in the question of 'reconciliation and redemption'. In today's Russia the standard view is along the lines of: some of my ancestors fought on the side of the 'Reds', while others on the side of the 'Whites', but in the end it doesn't matter because each fought for the glory of Russia. Therefore there should be peace (reconciliation) between us! For the 100 year anniversary of the Revolution the government appears to have ordered all celebrations to be promoted in this 'reconciled' tone. For 'us' this is completely unacceptable (again, I speak for myself and those who think as I do). Quite simply, there cannot ever be reconciliation without redemption and while today's Russia promotes this line of reconciliation without redemption, 'we' will continue to consider the country 'cursed' until such time as there is a national redemption (also missing in the original Russian text is the statement that I do not refer to ALL post-Soviet Russians thus; in fact there are far more post-Soviet Russians with historical knowledge and traditional values very much intact and in concert with 'our' own, than would appear at first glance.) While the government continues to insist that 'all cats are grey', and the Stalin myth remains popular, Russia will not find redemption. We will continue to have people in power extolling the human sacrifices made during Soviet Russia as being for the glory of 'great Russia' – and there certainly were many who died heroically for Russia during WWII - but why, in the 21st century, must 'glory' and 'greatness' be defined solely in such military tones, and what of the innocent victims of the gulags? Let me be perfectly clear - such 'reconciliation' is pure evil and dishonour all the innocent victims of Bolshevik Russia. Such 'reconciliation' destroys any moral compass a nation can have. What is there to say? Lenin's attempt to create a new 'Soviet' man was largely successful. Orthodox symbols, traditions, icons were wholesale exchanged for new, Soviet ones. Nevertheless, the ideas and principles carried in the historical tradition simply did not translate into this new paradigm. Service to God, Tsar and the Motherland were substituted by total subservience to the State, a fundamentally different concept. Not everyone today would understand the difference between service and subservience. This substitution of basic values with which so many citizens of Russia today grew up is likely to remain with us for the foreseeable future.

Many of today's political and intellectual elite are attempting to recreate, at least to their own satisfaction, a 'Russian identity'. They hope to restore the 'historical memory' or, to be more precise, use this 'historical memory' to expand their own Soviet identity which, for some reason, no longer suits them. For these 're-constructors' and schemers the use of symbols and images associated with the White Movement are a very valuable resource for gaining legitimacy for their own ambitious schemes. In fact, to view the spawning of such chimera is, for many of us, very painful. What 'reconstruction' can there be without a profound, emotional period of adjustment, without a spiritual debt paid to the 1000 year traditions of ancient Russia? Without an honest appraisal of what was good and what was bad?



Let's take, for instance, a seemingly trivial thing, such as the headscarves worn by so many women upon entering an Orthodox church. Most people believe that this is our native and ancient tradition but it is nearly completely absent in the White émigré community of my parents and grandparents. This was a primarily peasant tradition which rarely migrated to the cities. Today, however, most women have adopted this custom under the 'protection' of Holy Russia. (Author's note: viewed as fashion I have no problem with this, but when churches prohibit women from worshipping if they lack such head covering, that I have a major issue with. Once again, it is about subservience, not service.) The source of this custom is apparent – at the time of the Revolution some 80% of the citizens were peasants, and the imagery associated with peasant life after the Revolution was preserved and extolled, while the life of anyone who could be called bourgeois or aristocratic was reviled and erased from the public memory. (I've been called arrogant and high-minded for making this observation.) In the end one can legitimately orient one's identity towards peasant culture and creatively develop it, but all the options should be available and there should be freedom of informed choice by the individual. However, in any case, one must give an honest answer to oneself – for what reason are we 'restoring' something and what, exactly, are we restoring?

Russia, of course, has long-suffered for its 1000 years old adherence to myths and 'sacred legends' rather than on objective historiography. Myths are likely just as popular with the White emigres as with post-Soviet Russians, but the motivations that lie behind such myth creation are quite different. In the beloved mythology of the Soviet Union – from 'getting up off our knees' to the restoration of great power status – there is virtually no space for the person, the individual as a valued contributor to the motherland. Only as a symbol does the person matter. Contemporary Russian mythology is directed at the masses (purely Soviet), calling on them to band together against 'common enemies' which, of course, are everywhere. It is assumed that the individual is not called upon to serve based on status (as a citizen) but on 'situation' (e.g. threats), and this is a nuanced difference connected to the loss of personal responsibility.

To summarize my, regrettably, quite harsh comments, I must state that the contemporary Russian elite cannot by any means be considered the heirs of ancient Russia (Lenin saw to that) and native (historically speaking) Russian values.

Paradoxically, today's Russian elite have more in common with the contemporary American elite which, by all appearances the Russian elite wants to emulate. No historical consciousness, which for centuries informed Russian governance, can be seen in today's Russia.

For this reason, the future is far from clear and the horrors of the recent past remain so fresh. Without redemption these horrors cannot be truthfully recalled (and, hence, vanquished). Under these conditions the White emigres have a humble mission: like the medieval Catholic monks who preserved knowledge and culture for better times, so must we keep these artefacts of our history and culture and preserve them for better times.



## From myths and lies - to support of terrorism

By Paul Kulikovskiy

On the Eve of the commemorations of the Russian revolution, it is not a surprise that old myths, lies and propaganda about members of the Romanov dynasty is being repeated in the Russian media - old habits die slow.

But that these media now fade into complete darkness and allows their authors to turn these myths into praise of terrorism and to make a hero out of a terrorist, is clearly a step over the line and must be stopped.

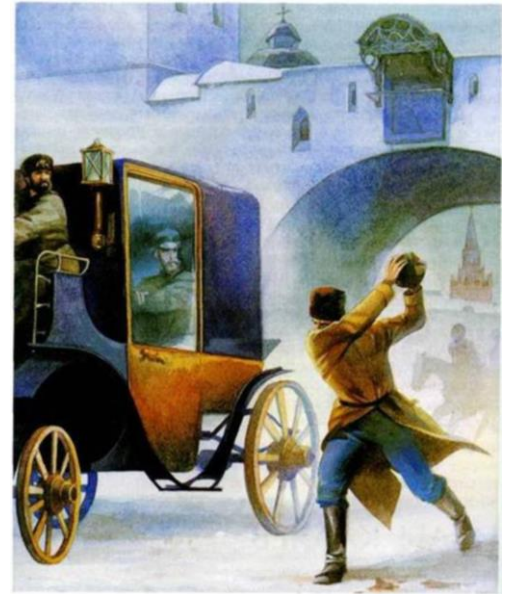
One must wonder what the chief editor is thinking when an article praising a terrorist lands on his table for review. Does he not understand that he could become an accomplice in spreading extremist propaganda?

The President of the Russian federation Vladimir V. Putin recently at his annual press conference - "when we now recall the 1917 events and when we will mark the centennial of the revolutionary events ... we must work toward reconciliation, convergence, not division".

President Putin also clearly says it is a top priority for Russia to fight terrorism, both abroad and at home.

It only gets worse, when one such media is an official publication of the Moscow Government, more precisely the Department of Cultural Heritage of Moscow. Their main mission is "to implement.... meaningful and informal dialogue with the readers....., as well as residents and guests, of the widest age group, not indifferent towards the monuments of history and culture of Moscow."

In "Moscow Heritage No 4 (46) for 2016", published in early January 2017, there are two articles about Grand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich, as he was the Moscow mayor - or General-Governor, as they were called then - in the years 1891 - 1905. Both articles are very negative about him as a person, and not really addressing his work as mayor of Moscow or what he did for its citizens. It is Alexei Cherepanov's "Moscow mayors and governors-general. 1891-1913" and the article by Alexei Zarubin "Prince Khodinskiy. Strokes to a portrait."





The focus is on Grand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich being responsible for the Khodynka tragedy, and the heroic achievement of the "poet" Ivan Kaliayev (the terrorist).

None of these articles are provided with any scientific apparatus or references to archival documents. Neither can we assume the ultimate truth from an opinion of a fictional character - Butler Athanasius Ziukin from the novel "The Coronation" by novelist Boris Akunin!

It all ends with what in the last article is referred to as a funny episode - after the Grand Duke was blown into pieces by a bomb - "Some people were joking that "the Grand Duke finally had showed his brain.""

Such a publication, which is one-sided and deliberately denigrated activities of an authoritative public figures, is particularly harmful in the centenary year of the Russian Revolution, when restrained, thoughtful assessment and a balanced approach to the historical past is the key to the unity of Russian society and the future of Russia.



*The tomb of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in Crypt of the Romanov Boyars in Novospassky Monastery in Moscow*

## **Spiritual deterioration of Russian people led to Bolshevik revolution, faith revived at turn of XX and XXI centuries - Patriarch Kirill**

January 30, 2017. Pravoslavie - The 1917 October Revolution was the result of the spiritual degradation of the Russian people, according to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill.

Speaking to the State Kremlin Palace, the Patriarch emphasized, "The events of 1917 and the dramatic consequences that followed had profound spiritual causes. The fundamental break in the traditional way of life - I am not talking about the administrative or political model, but about the spiritual and cultural self-identity of the people - became possible only because the daily life of people, first of all among the elites, lost something very important," opening the 25th International Nativity Readings, dedicated to the one hundredth anniversary of the Revolution.



As reported on the official ROCOR site, he went on to explain that, despite their material well-being, the people lost their true faith in God and came to disdain the traditions their ancestors had struggled for, which led to political and social divisions taking precedence over national unity and cultural cohesiveness.

Despite the great apostasy of the twentieth century, the Patriarch also spoke of the hosts of New Martyrs, now numbering over 1,700, who became "a spiritual foundation upon which faith has been reborn in our lands."

"The main lesson we must glean from the last century is that we cannot build human life and society without God. Such societies, in the words of Holy Scripture, are 'houses built upon the sand,'" the primate underlined.

In closing the work of the forum held January 25 - 27, the Nativity Readings "1917 - 2017: Lessons of the Century" released a summary document in which they noted that the turn of the twentieth to twenty-first centuries was a time of renewal of faith for the Russian people and the Russian Orthodox Church, building on the foundation laid by the New Martyrs.

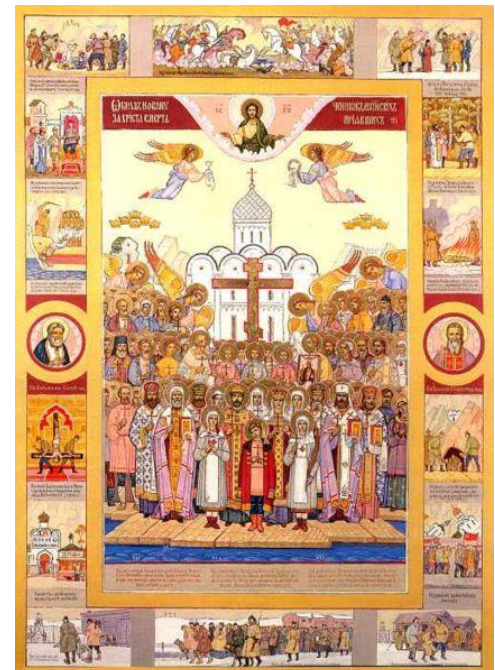
The document contains eighteen points, summarized here:

1. Despite the catastrophes of the twentieth century, the Lord ever guides His people towards salvation, as witnessed by the spiritual transformation that began in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries;
2. The root cause of the revolutions, civil war, and repressions was the loss of sincere faith, replaced by philosophies and political ideas from outside;
3. The New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church showed fidelity to Christ by their blood, making possible the revival of faith and Church life;
4. The restoration of the patriarchate in 1917 on the eve of the revolution was providential, with St. Tikhon's becoming a symbol of faith and fidelity to Tradition;
5. The providence of God is also seen in the Russian emigration, which led to many new people accepting the Orthodox faith;



6. The Great Patriotic War was a special challenge for the Church, inspiring Russians to understand the importance of spiritual foundations in life;
7. The Russian Church's patriotic position during the war helped change the state's attitude towards Orthodoxy, allowing for greater Church activities, although without wholly eliminating the Church-State conflict;
8. The increased repression of the late fifties and early sixties are an indicator of the internal contradictions between the Soviet government and the Church;
9. The 1988 1000 years anniversary of the Baptism of Rus' was a new milestone for the nation, with the government abandoning the policy of atheism and discrimination against religion;
10. It should be recognized that Christian values persisted despite atheistic pressures, as evidenced in literature, art, and cinema;
11. While giving a just assessment of the crimes against the faith and the Church, the sacrifice of many people in the realms of science and technology and education must also be recognized;
12. The 1990s were a time of spiritual freedom with millions returning to Christ, thousands of churches and monasteries opening, and theological education being revived;
13. However, a serious problem also arose in the same period, with calls for secular reformation to replace the former atheism. To this the Church opposed the Gospel message through all possible channels;
14. The collapse of the united government in the early 1990s led to various ethnic, social, economic, and cultural problems, through which the Russian Orthodox Church continued to stand with the people;
15. To strengthen ties between countries with a common history and culture, it is necessary to strengthen the rule of the Russian Orthodox Church as a unifying institution and guarantor of the spiritual tradition;
16. An important role should belong to the Church in the process of uniting society to preserve spiritual, cultural, and human relations;
17. Representatives and leaders of political and social forces should take responsibility for the consequences of their actions, and the bases of any reforms should be the consolidation of the people, and the preservation of traditional spiritual and moral values;
18. It should be noted that the Russian Orthodox Church is the only social institution to continue uninterrupted in all periods of Russian history, thanks to the Church's foundation in Christ the Saviour.

Patriarch Kirill also noted that, despite the good work of the Nativity Readings, more work is to be done in examining the twentieth century Russian history, requiring "a systemic, balanced understanding of the reasons and consequences of the events," based on an exhaustive and honest evaluation.



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## "Tsar Nicholas II" exhibition in Masaryk castle in the Czech Republic

In early 2017, it will be 100 years from involuntary abdication of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II. About him will tell the exhibition, the only one in the Czech Republic, and look closer at the difficult life of the last Russian Tsar, who along with his wife, children and servants was assassinated in 1918.

Tsar Nicholas II acceded to the throne of the largest country in the world - the Russian Empire in 1894. He took on himself the daunting task of governing the whole of Russia. His task was big and immediately he began to make reforms. These resulted in the introduction of universal suffrage for all citizens of the Russian Empire and the establishment of the Russian parliament - the Duma. It was followed by an economic rise of Russia, which before the First World War was the largest in the history of the empire. The other side of the industrialization was social tensions among workers, which led to the first revolution in 1905. Then came the entry into the First World War. The Tsar himself was under pressure to abdicate, which he finally succumbed to in the beginning of 1917. After the abdication of the Tsar, he and his family was jailed and executed in 1918.

Visitors can see in the exhibition the personality and life of the last Tsar. The exhibition is not only the period of the reign of the Tsar, but comprehensively to the whole of his difficult life. In the exhibition, will be presented unique exhibits directly associated with Tsar Nicholas II.

The exhibition begins Jan. 27 and runs until May 28 in Masaryk Museum in Hodonín.



## "Selfie" of Grand Duchess Anastasia was "recreated" in Georgia

27/01/2021. Sputnik - In Georgia was "recreated" one of the first "selfie" in the world, made more than a hundred years ago, by the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaievna, the youngest daughter of Emperor Nicholas II, in the family palace in Borjomi (Samtskhe-Javakheti).



The Grand Duchess photographed herself in the mirror in 1913 and then send the picture to a friend. She used a Kodak Box Brownie and was holding it in her hands. This brand contributed to the development of photography. It was a cardboard box with a lens, which made two-inch photos on a 117-mm roll film.

The photo Anastasia sent in a letter to the friend with the caption: "I took a picture of myself looking in the mirror. It was not easy, because I shake my hands."

This image is considered to be the first selfie in Tsarist Russia, and possible the first selfie in the world, made by a teenager.

This recreation of the frame in Georgia took a group of 35 Russian and Ukrainian photographers at the Palace of the Romanov, who visited the country in the framework of a photo tour company. For the project the photographers took a woman model, dressed her in a white shirt, reminiscent of the attire the Grand Duchess has in the famous photo, put her in a similar position and gave into her hands a camera. Comparison of the two frames one can see and appreciate in the Borjomi municipality page.



## The exhibition of paintings "Tsars Road "

January 19, an exhibition of artists from the Odintsovo branch of Moscow Region Artists Union was presented in Moscow Regional Duma. The exposition called "Tsars Road" is dedicated to the memory of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, and other members of the Romanov family.





## The Treasure Guardian: Keeping the Kremlin Jewels Safe



Jan 14, 2017, By Anna Mongayt, The Moscow Times

For 15 years Yelena Gagarina, has done her best to preserve and expand the collection of Tsarist-era treasures.

People might think that a museum situated at Vladimir Putin's front doorstep could not have a care in the world. But here lies the paradox: living next to the symbol and seat of Russian power creates its own problems.

Comparable in significance to the Tower of London, Versailles, Château de Chambord or Kensington Palace, the Kremlin museums were founded in 1806 by Emperor Alexander I as a place to house the treasures of Tsarist Russia.

Today, they share their living space with Russian history, a medieval castle and an acting Russian President. This is not a desirable situation for a museum, admits the museums' director, Yelena Gagarina.

The museums are necessarily cramped, and struggle to cope with visitor numbers. The ubiquitous Presidential Guard makes wearying demands for official passes at every turn. Each step

requires approval from the commandant's office. And the museums can only remain open until 6 p.m. at the latest (other museums "on the outside" sometimes work at night.)

Moscow's other premier visitor attractions have it comparatively easy. The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Tretyakov Gallery have grown to become whole mini-districts devoted to art. People constantly speak and write about them. The Kremlin Museums, however, are necessarily cloaked in relative silence, and live a very different life.

There are other difficulties. For example, there is no way of maintaining temperatures inside the ancient chambers in order to display fine paintings, scrolls, or wooden objects. That said, conditions are perfect for exhibiting the Kremlin's many other priceless pieces - its collections of diamonds, gold and silver items and textiles. Russian Emperors, and the foreign ambassadors who brought so many of the items as gifts, spared no expense on these artisan masterpieces.



"We are always greatly limited in what we can exhibit," says Gagarina. "We can't show collections of oriental works or icons, since they are enormous. There's no space to display or properly restore the stunning banners in our collection. But just imagine their beauty - made from silk and decorated with exceptionally sophisticated embroidery."

Gagarina has on multiple occasions tried to move the museum beyond the walls of the medieval fortress. In the most recent attempt, authorities promised to build a new facility right next to the Kremlin on Borovitsky Hill. However, leaders found the idea of erecting a controversial monument to Prince Vladimir too alluring, and so his statue now stands on the site of Gagarina's proposed museum. Gagarina did, however, receive a consolation prize. By presidential decree, the Kremlin Museums will now receive part of the building on Red Square right in front of St. Basil's Cathedral.

This new space will house facilities for storage, restoration, and temporary exhibitions. Eventually, part of the Patriarch's Palace and Armoury exhibitions will be relocated there.

The Armoury building inside the Kremlin walls will, however, retain a large proportion of its current exhibits. The royal carriages, for example, will stay where they are, because it is simply too problematic to dismantle and reassemble them elsewhere. The Armoury will add exhibitions of state regalia and coronation ceremony items to augment the current collection of medals, which date back to the time of Peter the Great.



This is not the first time that President Vladimir Putin has intervened to play a central role in Yelena Gagarina's life. As is well known, the president sees himself as the guardian of Russia's greatness. His choice of Gagarina - the daughter of Soviet hero Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space - to take care of some of Russia's most historic relics is no accident. Fifteen years ago, on the 40th anniversary of that historic spaceflight, the president paid a home visit to offer her the job. At the time, Gagarina was working as a specialist in English book graphics for the Pushkin Museum.



From time to time, Putin drops in to view the collections under Gagarina's watch.

"The last time the president stopped by, we showed him a large collection of state orders and medals that a private individual had donated," Gagarina says. "The President took great interest. It was the same in pre-revolutionary times. Tsars closely followed the expansion of the collection and did not allow just any old thing to be included."

Only rarely do the Kremlin museums have an opportunity to augment their collections. It is, after all, difficult to rival the extraordinary resources that were made available to the Russian Emperors. The Kremlin museums, for example, house 10 Fabergé Easter eggs - famous masterworks that once formed part of the Russian Emperor's treasury. In 1922, part of this treasury was sold at export auctions, but Fabergé eggs still adorn the exposition of the Armory.

Adding another Fabergé masterpiece or two to the collections is no simple matter. No matter how much the art market may have slipped into crisis, works created by the world-famous jewellery brand still attract eye-watering prices.

Gagarina, however, has developed a few tricks for reaching out and acquiring valuable new exhibits without dipping into state coffers.

"When we stage commercial exhibitions of contemporary works, we ask jewellery houses to leave us a historical item, one with both a name and an interesting story as our compensation," Gagarina says.

"So, when we organized a Cartier exhibition, they gave us a diamond brooch from the 1930s. We did an exhibition for Buccellati, and so now we have a Buccellati original. We staged an exhibition for Carrera y Carrera, and they gave us one of their original pieces too."

The museums have also benefitted from the generosity of various collectors and philanthropists. Just recently, major collector Andrei Leonidovich Khazin left a chain that had been awarded to the last Russian Emperor, Nicholas II, by Queen Victoria. By tradition, such gifts are returned to the Royal Chapter House in Britain after the death of a monarch. But the revolution struck, and the chain was passed from one Soviet institution to another, before being sold in a Stalin-era sale, from where it ended up in Khazin's collection. It was not a straightforward process to transfer the piece to the museum collection, however. "According to the rules, this piece should have been returned to the U.K. and the property of the Crown," says Gagarina. After long and complex negotiations, however, a way to allow the chain to remain on display in Russia was found. The chain would be "returned" to Queen Elizabeth, who would then "return" it back to the museum to use indefinitely.

"[Queen Elizabeth] wrote a wonderful letter saying that she wanted as many people in Russia as possible to see this chain and to recall the tragic story that occurred to a member of her family 100 years ago," says Gagarina.

Following Perestroika in the late 1980s, the descendants of the Romanov family have visited the Kremlin Museums on several occasions. They admired the crown jewels of their ancestors, stood gazing for a long time at Monomakh's Cap, the oldest of the crowns currently exhibited, and stared in wonder at the family jewels. They have also issued claims of ownership.

The Russian State is unlikely to ever recognize the claims. For Gagarina, the Royal descendents are just tourists, "no different" from the 2.2 million other visitors the museum receives every year. (This is about 400,000 more than the Kremlin can easily handle.)

In recent years, a huge wave of Chinese tourists has descended on the Kremlin, far outnumbering the previous flows of American visitors.



*The chain - an award from Queen Victoria to Nicholas II - went through the whole adventure. Kremlin Museum*

The Chinese visits are usually organized by Communist labour unions. Most of these tourists are elderly, and still remember the period of Chinese-Soviet friendship. "They always ask where Lenin and Stalin lived, and are disappointed when I tell them that the Lenin exhibit has been moved to his residence at Gorki Village near Moscow," Gagarina says.

The sensibilities of these new tourists are also markedly different from those of previous visitors. "[The Chinese] are completely uninterested in Russian churches and religious art, which they find boring and incomprehensible, but they like everything connected with weapons and state regalia," Gagarina says. "They love to take photos next to the Tsar Cannon."

Like other museums housing Royal treasures, the Kremlin museums serve as the guardian of Imperial ceremony. First and foremost, this means coronations. Gagarina, however, says that she isn't satisfied with the Kremlin Museums' coronation exhibition.

"We had to put it in very small rooms, but it requires a grand scale," she says. "It is impossible to present a coronation in 200 meters of space."

And coronation is only part of a monarch's life cycle. Royal weddings, births, and the baptism of heirs are no less important moments. "I am particularly interested in state funerals, which are increasingly becoming a focus of research around the world," says Gagarina. "I'm certain that, one day, people will be lining here to see the funerals too."

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### **The Livadia Palace opens three new unique expositions**

The exhibition "Books from the imperial estate Livadia" tells about one of the sections of the printing fund. In addition to the main library of the Imperial family in Tsarskoye Selo, in Hermitage, there are several small, and, in particular, in Livadia estate there was artistic, religious, regional literature, many books on the history, archeology and the nature of Crimea. The exhibition for the first time shows unique albums with photos of interior items of Livadia Palace. Thus, the albums "The estate of His Imperial Majesty Livadia" and "Grand Palace" is located in the library, serving as technical services of the estate, but after the revolution, they were transferred to the "Taurica" Library, and in 1994 - returned to Livadia. Also in the museum are photo albums, books with bookplates "Livadia" estates, rare editions of the XIX-XX centuries.

In addition, an exhibition "Livadia N.P. Krasnov", which demonstrates objects from the museum: facade drawings and pieces of furniture, interior design, business and engineering buildings, the park and the surrounding countryside, watercolor sketches of the architect Nikolai Krasnov, and documents related to the construction of a new palace.

At the same time, opens the exposition "Livadia I. Monighetti". In 1861, Hippolyte Monighetti was invited by the Empress Maria Alexandrovna to Livadia for the restructuring of the former home of Leo Pototski and the construction of several buildings on his own projects: Little Palace, Holy Cross Church and farm buildings. The exhibition shows photographs of the first August owners of Livadia, a copy of an engraving by an unknown artist with the image of the old palace. Also in the exhibition, can be found photos of palace interiors, scenes of life in the family of





Nicholas II, Livadia during the last visit to the old palace. Paintings by artists V.D. Orlovsky and N.P. Zebek complement the idea of the end of XIX century in Livadia.



### Prince Youssouppoff's Fabergé's egg is on display

18 January. Le Point - It is a fascinating historical treasure that watchmaker Parmigiani exhibits on the International Fair of Haute Horlogerie: the egg of Prince Youssouppoff. In spite of its great age, the egg always has the odds. Restored by the workshops of Parmigiani Fleurier ten years ago, the egg of Fabergé Prince Youssouppoff attracts the curious on the stand of the most Italian of Swiss watchmakers. With its base in onyx, its rubies, its diamonds, its gold, its golden silver enamelled of translucent rose on a guillochage undulating ... How not to be impressed?



#### *A life of unprecedented splendour*

This goldsmith's piece was once offered by the charismatic Prince to his wife, Princess Irina of Russia - the only niece of Emperor Nicholas II - on the occasion of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, as evidenced by the number XXV which is based on the clock. Great landowners and industrialists flourishing, connoisseurs and collectors of art, Youssouppoff, second biggest fortune of the empire behind the Romanovs, led a life of an unheard-of splendour. But at the dawn of the Bolshevik revolution, Felix Youssouppoff entered history. He was indeed involved in the disappearance of Rasputin, whose evil influence precipitated the fall of Imperial Russia.

Having fled the October revolution, the princely couple, partly despoiled of their possessions, exiled themselves in Paris in the Roaring Twenties. In 1924, decided to find the fortune that was in their rank, they founded in Paris a couture house called Irfé, which largely contributed to the predominance of the "Russian theme" in the French fashion of the time. Thus, in memory of the trials that marked their twenty-five-year wedding, the prince offered his wife in 1939 a quite symbolic gift. A precious egg, derived from the manufacture of a descendant of a French jeweller exiled as a result of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which, thanks to his art, made his fortune in the kingdom of the Tsars. The egg, which is now part of the Maurice-Yves Sandoz collection, was deposited in the workshops of Parmigiani Fleurier for restoration in 2007.



#### *The egg or the cat*

For Michel Parmigiani, a specialist in the restoration of haute horloger pieces before founding the manufacture that bears his name, the diagnosis is quickly posed: "For rich and fragile as it is, the part is fairly little damaged. Its mechanical movement of quality has undergone natural wear and tear. Nevertheless, the shutdown system has undergone an unfortunate transformation. "Once repaired, the rotating time indication of the Yousoupoff egg has made its way into the house to reappear as the table clock Le Chat and la Souris," explains Flavien Gigandet, spokesperson of the brand. This animated piece presents a lateral circle which moves in twelve hours, whereas the fixed claw of a cat carved in a block of obsidian serves as a clock index. "Thanks to this exceptional object of which he is freely inspired, the egg Yousoupoff knows a second life. "

In the original article is a video -

[http://www.lepoint.fr/montres/l-oeuf-faberge-du-prince-yousoupoff-ressort-de-l-ombre-18-01-2017-2098280\\_2648.php](http://www.lepoint.fr/montres/l-oeuf-faberge-du-prince-yousoupoff-ressort-de-l-ombre-18-01-2017-2098280_2648.php)

#### **The exhibition "The engravings with the views of Saint-Petersburg and ships on the Neva river"**

The exhibition "The engravings with the views of St. Petersburg and the courts on the Neva River" to the 25th anniversary of the return to St. Petersburg's historic name and 300th anniversary of M. I. Mahaev, runs until February 15, 2017 at the Central Naval Museum (St. Petersburg).

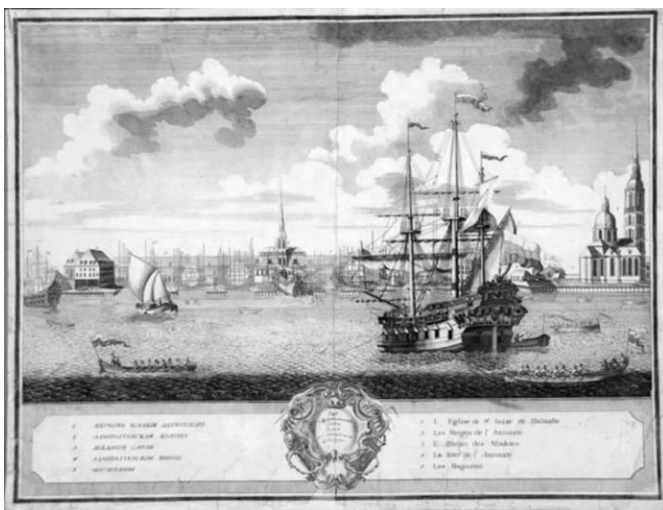
The exhibition features a reprint of the album "The plan of the capital city of St. Petersburg with the image of the most illustrious avenues", published by the works of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and Arts in St. Petersburg in 1753 to the 50th anniversary of St. Petersburg.





From generation to generation, from century to century the popularity of prints from this tome is not quenched, and the relevance of and the main idea of its creation takes more and more new forms. Renaming the city and its streets, then the return of ancestral names in the history of the northern capital of our country reflects the history of modern and contemporary time.

16 sheets of the album were engraved on the drawings of Michael Mahaev. Many articles and monographs, books and albums, devoted to the biography and works of M. I. Mahaev from F. G. Berenshtam, A. A. Fedorov-Davydov, Y. I. Gerstein and A. A. Sidorov to G. N. Kamelov, M. A. Alekseeva and K. V. Malinovsky, give detailed descriptions of the city and the sequence of works on creation of the famous album of 1753. Studying the life of M. Mahaev it is supplemented the information on the wizard, and refined features of the playback architecture of the city in his works, but the marine component goes by the wayside.



This exhibition aims to talk about the symbolism of marine symbols of St. Petersburg, to remind the sea capital, embodied in the compositions of M. Mahaev. The exhibition for the first time in more than 70 years features half models of ships of the time. Each of them held a scientific attribution with results that can be found in the labelling for these subjects. It is also presented sculptural figures, reconstructing the form of clothing sailors and officers of the Russian fleet from the time of Anna Ivanovna to Catherine II.

Specially for the exhibition it was printed the album "assembled" on the scale and form in which it was presented to the Empress Elizabeth, and then in the European monarchic collection. Plan with 12 views of St. Petersburg has been printed in the May 1753 in edition of hundred copies and is intended "as a gift overseas ambassadors and envoys and gains at outlandish courts of the Russian ambassador to Vienna, The Hague, Dresden, envoys in Warsaw, Hamburg, Danzig, Copenhagen, London, Stockholm, and royal library in Berlin, Dresden, Copenhagen, London, Paris, Stockholm".

100 copies of our publications show the evolution of the use of the lens effect and prototype printing. In 1753, M. Makhaev used the camera obscura to display on paper, and the author of prints of 2016 used when printing images on a sheet with pigment chromotype. This fact brings together two masters, as well as the beginning and the end of an era of photos.





## Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



### *Painting ordered by Emperor Nicholas II*

This large-scale painting created by Rudolf Franz in 1914 called "Boyars leaving for hunting (hunting of Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich)."

Emperor Nicholas II, who was a big fan of hunting, personally ordered the picture of the painter. May 23, 1914, it was taken to the Alexander Palace, where it was until 1928. Then it was sent to the State Fund for sale abroad. But the circumstances were such that it remained in the country and from 1930 decorated the interiors of the hotel "Astoria". In 1990s, when there began a reconstruction, the painting was donated to the museum. In the end, it returned to its historic place in the Alexander Palace.



Rudolf Franz (1831 - 1918) - painter of "hunting scenes", animals, and landscapes. From 1859 he first lived and worked in St. Petersburg. He worked only on the orders of the Royal family. He painted scenes of hunting, greyhounds and beagles, and falconers. His compositions are dynamic, expressive silhouettes, air space, an easy brush.



### *300 years of stone-made Tsarskoye Selo*

Three centuries ago, in 1717, began the construction of the first masonry residence at 'Sarskaya Myza', which later became the Great Palace of Tsarskoye Selo.

In 1710, Peter the Great had presented his future wife Catherine (see left, click to enlarge) with six myzas (estates with farm buildings), including 'Sarskaya Myza'. No descriptions or images of that formerly Swedish estate survived. It had a wooden mansion and service buildings on the hill where the Catherine Palace stands now. The river Vangazi down the hill was dammed, forming a large pond that later became the Great Pond. Water from the pond powered a mill which lasted until the 1720s. Catherine I, the new mistress of the estate, ordered its restoration and then expansion and redevelopment. One of her first concerns was to build a mansion chapel (the Catherine Church), and then a wooden Church of the Assumption in 1716. From that moment, the estate was no longer referred to as a myza but documented as a village, Sarskoye or Tsarskoye Selo.



According to the architectural historian Anatoly Petrov's book *The Palaces and parks of Pushikin* (1969), the tsarina's stone mansion was started in 1717. Referring to a record of supplies delivery to stonemasons staying in Sarskoye Selo 'at the mansion construction and stonecutting sites since the last year of 717", Petrov refuted earlier conclusions based on a document found by the historian Ilya Yakovkin (1764–1836), which was an order of 29 April 1719 'to send to the tsarina's mansion construction in Sarskaya Myza the stonemasons that were there the last year of 1718'.

Therefore, started in 1717, the 'stone chambers' of Catherine I were designed by architect Johann Friedrich Braunstein. Their appearance was captured in the mansion's garden façade drawing and floor plans, done by the painter Nicolay Lanceray from a wooden model kept in the Museum collection until 1941. The drawing and plans were published in the book *Tsarskoye Selo* during the reign of Empress Elizabeth Petrovna by Alexander Benois in 1910.



*Фасада первого дворца въ Царскомъ Селѣ  
съ садовой стороны.*



*Чертежъ Н. Е. Лансере по модели, хранящейся въ Царскосельскомъ Арсеналѣ.*

Alexander Kedrinsky, whose life was dedicated to the Catherine Palace's restoration after World War II, in his book *The Great Tsarskoye Selo (Catherine) Palace in 1710–60: from a suburban estate to the state residence* described the interiors of the stone mansion:

'The lower floor of the new stone-made palace had a vestibule lighted by two lamps, an antechamber on the right, then a corner chamber, a bedroom with a canopy bed, and a dressing room. To the left of the vestibule was a bedroom, a dressing room, and a bath room which was soon removed.'

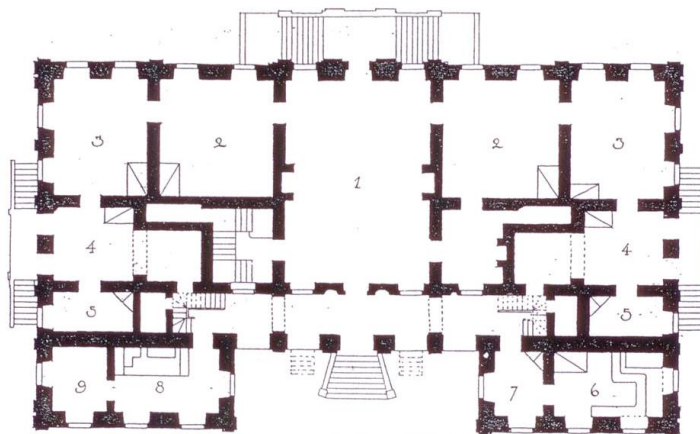
'The upper floor housed staterooms. The centre was occupied by a hall with red-curtained windows and with pictures, mirrors and tapestries on French fabric lined walls. On the right and left were staterooms followed by two corner chambers. The corner rooms were adjoined by bedrooms: Tsar and Tsarina's one with a canopy bed on the left and the Grand Duchesses' on the right. The bedrooms were adjoined by dressing rooms and corner rooms with imitation of marble painted canvas-lined walls.'

The mansion was completed in 1723 and a valuable document was written by a clerk named Alexey Lukoperov the same year. His Description of Sarskoye Selo gives many details about the Empress' old wooden residence and her new stone-made one, with its interior furnishings and service outbuildings (stables, cattle and poultry houses, etc.).

The size and functionality of Catherine I's estate significantly differed from those of Peter I's residences. Sarskoye Selo was neither a "fun castle" nor a country house, but an estate retaining many Old-Russian features. The mansion was adjoined by a garden in the southeast and a large forest-like Menagerie with wildlife and game for the imperial hunt in the north and northwest. Then, with only limited-scale construction, the estate showed no signs of its future prosperity.

As Ilya Yakovkin wrote in his Description of Tsarskoye Selo, or a Guide for its visitors, 'These stone chambers stood unexpanded and only with some necessary reworks, until 1743. Then Empress Elizabeth I ordered to expand them on both sides, so the rooms, including large halls, totalled sixteen on the upper and same on the lower floor. The stone chambers were flanked with two wings. The right one, towards the church, had six rooms on the upper and eight on the lower floor. The left one had eight rooms on both floors. Then the former stone chambers were named the Middle House and the stone-made additions became the Right and Left Wings.'

*Первый этаж.*

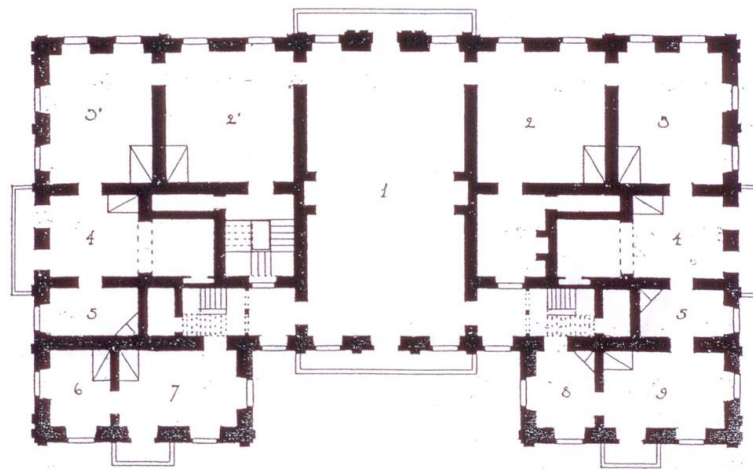


Первый дворецъ въ Царскомъ Селѣ.

Чертежъ Н. Е. Лансере по модели, хранящейся въ Арсеналѣ.

„Нижнія палаты“: 1) сѣни, 2) передняя палата и палата „гдѣ кофе согрѣвають“, 3) вторыя палаты, 4) спальни, 5) уборныя, 6) мыльня, 7) передъ-мыльня, 8) кухня, 9) скатертная.

*Второй этаж.*



Первый дворецъ въ Царскомъ Селѣ.

Чертежъ Н. Е. Лансере по модели, хранящейся въ Арсеналѣ.

„Верхнія палаты“: 1) залъ, 2) переднія палаты, 3) вторыя палаты, 4) спальни, 5) уборныя, 6) наугольная палата, 7) четвертая палата, 8) и 9) палаты, убранныя мраморомъ.





## "Emperor Nicholas II" gives guided tours in Mogilev

The perfect gift for Christmas - a new tourist route "Walking with Nicholas II at Mogilev" - is prepared by employees of "Mogilev Regional Tourist" organization for visitors to the city.



Two groups of tourists from Moscow - 40 people each - the first fortunate to meet in Mogilev by last Russian Emperor. They were very pleased to communicate with a representative of the Royal family. They photographed with the Emperor and worried that he could be frozen in his thin jacket.

Director of the company Elena Karpenko says: "Unfortunately our city on the Dnieper River has played a tragic role in the life of the Emperor/ Here he loved to walk on foot through the streets, stroll along the Provincial Square, now Square of Fame.

Mogilev housed the General Headquarters of the Russian army, and Nicholas II came here to say goodbye to his staff officers immediately after the abdication."



History teacher of secondary school № 5 Andrew Makaev, dressed in stylized military suit colonel in the Russian tsarist army conducts the tours of the new route Mogilev. For the first time, the Emperor's costume taken from the town's House of Culture, local drama theatre helped with the makeup for unusual tour guide.



The new route is quickly gaining popularity. Even before the debut of the "Emperor" three groups of Russian tourists wished to meet him. Travellers from the Baltics also are interested in opportunity to talk with Nicholas II. Although this is only the beginning - an orientation, a pilot project on abbreviated scenario: the welcoming speech of the Sovereign, a small tour and photos on the memory. But the preparation is going on for its next stage: Emperor ordered a suit, and by the spring of a new creative tour of the city will be much longer, from three to four hours. During

tour "Emperor" hold tourists on their favourite streets of the old town, guests will get acquainted with the exposition of the history of the museum dedicated to the Romanov dynasty, will see awards, photographs and other exhibits of the period of their rule. Also, tourists will have the tea party in the company of his majestic escort.

Exclusive route Developers expect that these excursions will attract to the city on the Dnieper many foreign tourists. Of course, according to the forecast, most of all Russians are interested in the opportunity to visit the pre-revolutionary Mogilev, but it is possible that guests from abroad, as well as Belarusians will join them willingly.



December 21, 2016, the Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Icon of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan of Vladivostok and Primorsky Benjamin, and in coordination with the Border Service of the FSB, accompanied by Igor Smykov, Archpriest Igor Talco, Igor Chernozatonsky and Eduard Smirnov visited the border outposts located near Lake Khasan and at the junction of the borders of Russia, North Korea and China. Border guards were informed about the Reign of the Holy Tsar Nicholas II and His Miracle Myrrh-Streaming Icon. All Orthodox border guards were able to venerate the Miraculous Icon.

Before the Guarding Cross, at the very border of the state, was read akathist to Saint Emperor Nicholas II. Rector of the Church of Cyril and Methodius, Archpriest Igor Talco was awarded the medal "Ivan D. Volkov. For Loyalty to one's Oath".

The award was handed over by the Chief of the Orthodox Army Mission Igor Smykov.

Holy Tsar Nicholas has been pleased to visit the Far Eastern borders of Russia, abundantly watered with the blood of Russian, by His Miraculous Icon.



The Monastery Museum Ganina Yama near Yekaterinburg will open in February 2017 a unique exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the abdication of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. The exhibition "Russia at the turn of epochs. The removal from power of the Emperor" tells about the events at the railway station in Pskov, as a result of a conspiracy 4 (15) in March 1917 in the "Proceedings of the Central Executive Committee of Soviets of Workers' Deputies was published "Manifesto of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II from the throne."

Still many historians express doubt regarding this "Manifesto". For example, Professor Vladimir Lavrov has repeatedly visited the monastery at Ganina Yamat, and on the basis of the study of the notes says - "the document, discovered in 1929 and now stored in the State Archive of the Russian Federation - it is not the original renunciation. There is no doubt about it."

The exhibition is organized by the Museum of the monastery at Ganina Yama in conjunction with the Museum of History, Science and Technology Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk railways.

Currently, the museum staff examine the documents of the time, pick up for it interesting artefacts, and it should open on the eve of the tragic for Russia centennial.



Exhibition dedicated to two anniversaries opened in the northern capital. The conclusion of the Treaty of Jassy and the travel to Crimea by Catherine II. The exhibition - more than a hundred items about the history of the peninsula since the end of the XVIII century to the present day.

Russia's victory over Turkey and the Crimea was the subject of numerous commemorative medals minted at the St. Petersburg Mint, with cameos works of English masters. Especially for the exhibition at the Rumyantsev Mansion a collection of Turkish weapons of the XVIII century was brought from the Hermitage and valuable exhibits from the museums of Simferopol and Sevastopol. Also on display are paintings by British artist Hatfield, who accompanied Catherine II on the trip to the Crimea.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/163927/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/163927/)





In St. Petersburg, the griffins on Bank bridge - according to legend, "guardians of the city" - were sent for restoration. For two centuries, the winged lions were badly affected by rain, snow, and temperature changes. The former splendor symbols of the Northern capital is promised to be returned by next year.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/164326/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/164326/)



In the construction of the house of the Tsarevich in Tomsk will be engaged a new contractor. According to the government procurement website, the completion of the work will be handed to the Tomsk company "Stroydommontazh-M." Recall that in Semiluzhki was conducted a reconstruction of a road pavilion, where in the late 19th century the future Emperor Nicholas II stopped during a trip. According to the project, this should be a log building on a pile foundation, with two rooms, built in strict accordance with its historical ancestor. The previous contractor had to complete the work last summer. But the builders only laid the foundation and set a frame. Due to the disruption of timing was announced a new auction for more than two million roubles. It is expected to be ready the beginning of autumn this year, and the local history museum will be opened there.

Video - <http://www.tvtomsk.ru/vesti/company/22074-stroitelstvom-doma-cesarevicha-nikolaya-zaymetsya-novyy-podryadchik.html>



An ark containing relics of saints who died for faith under soviets to be carried across Russia to mark 100th anniversary of October revolution. The relics of new martyrs who died for faith after the revolution in Russia will be brought to the dioceses of the Moscow Patriarchate in a special arc. "The ark will be brought to all dioceses of the Russian Orthodox Church," Metropolitan Varsonofy of St. Petersburg and Ladoga was quoted as saying by the local metropolia.

The arc is now being made, the metropolitan said. It will contain the relics of all new martyrs whose remains have been obtained. The event will be held to mark the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution.

The names of several dozens of people who died for faith in the years after the revolution are now known, and over 1,000 of them have been called new martyrs. Among them are Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra Feodorovna and their five children.

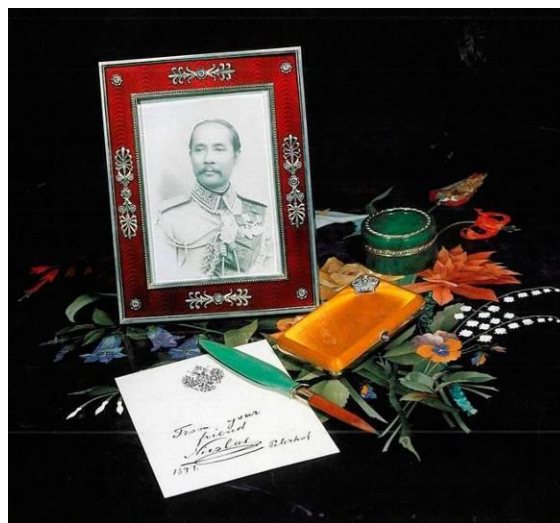


In 2017, it is the 120th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Thailand. A lot of bright, interesting and important, remarkable and important events and meetings at all levels is planned for the coming year, which will be marked by the celebration of the anniversary of the friendship between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Russian Federation.

To celebrate, is planned to recreate exactly the palace hall where the meeting was held of the King of Siam Rama V and the Emperor Nicholas II in 1897.

We aim to fully convey the spirit of the times through the furniture and decor and to fill the room with atmosphere of friendship and understanding that have arisen between the King Chulalongkorn and Emperor Nicholas II. We will make the royal menu and dishes that were then served to the royals.

The installation is created in the main office of Thai-Russian Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok.



State Duma deputy Vitaly Milonov (UR) has prepared a bill supplementing the list of memorable dates in Russia Day of Remembrance of the February Revolution of 1917. In Russia anniversaries

defined by the federal law "On the days of military glory and anniversaries of Russia." Now there are 15, including the memory of five historical events - Day of the Baptism of Rus', the day of remembrance of those killed in the First World War, the day of the October Revolution, the day of the Great Patriotic War and the end of World War II.

"It was the February Revolution was the true catalyst of the tragic events that have shaped the history of our country in the last century. Unfortunately, because of the ideological constraints of the communist era the role of the February Revolution was devalued to a certain "bourgeois" level. However, the true meaning of those events had for our country key value", - said the source.

The parliamentarian said that proposes to establish a day of remembrance of the February Revolution of March 2 - the day of the abdication of Nicholas II from the throne of the Russian Empire. "That day the Tsar abdication became the starting point for the great multitude of tragic events," - said Milonov.



Russia and Belgium are preparing to celebrate in the coming year the 300th anniversary of the visit of Peter the Great, said Russia's Ambassador to Belgium Alexander Tokovinin.

"We are currently working on drawing up a program that would allow celebrating in 2017 the 300th anniversary of the visit Peter the Great to Antwerp, Liege and Spa", - Tokovinin said.

According to him, now Russian side cooperating with the authorities of these cities "to work out the possibility of a worthy way to celebrate this event, which will highlight that between our peoples there are indeed very old deep relations that have taken place even before Belgium acquired the status of an independent state".



The assembly hall of the main building of the Kazan Federal University was renamed Imperial - in honour of Alexander I. This decision was taken unanimously at the Academic Council of the university.

In the words of assistant professor Dmitry Tumanov, the decision on renaming came into force on 12 of January.



The photo exhibition "The Romanovs and Imperial Petersburg in the photographs of Karl Bulla" opened in the Narva castle. The photo exhibition is presented in the framework of the celebrations dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the Narva Voskresensky Cathedral.

Ceremonial laying of the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Narva (1896) was dedicated to the official meeting of the two Emperors in Narva - Russian Alexander III and the German Wilhelm II. It was made Aug. 5, 1890 by Reverend Father Arseny, Bishop of Riga and Mitava, in the presence of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna, as well as other members of the Imperial family and many dignitaries. The foundation stone laid by the Emperor Alexander III.

Photographs are provided by the Fund historical photograph of Karl Bulla (St. Petersburg). The exhibition was organized in the Republic of Estonia by the non-profit Association of Russian Artists of Estonia. Curator of the International Cultural Exhibition Project Lily Kerr. The project is supported by: Embassy of Russian Federation in the Republic of Estonia and Narva and Peipsi Diocese of the Estonian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate.

The exhibition in Narva Castle is open from January 21 to February 21, 2017 .







In the Institute of restoration opened the exhibition "Metal structure". The work of professional restorers of metal products can be found in the exhibition hall of the Institute of restoration. the exhibition "Metal Structure" presents antiquities - from pitchers to weapons - restored by hands of the experts in department of conservation and restoration of museum GOSNIIR metal. Most of the curiosities are on display for the first time.

The most important exhibit, experts called the frame (oklad) of the icon of Peter and Paul, made in the XI century. Among the works that have not yet been sent to the places where they are stored is a ceremonial sword, made in 1814 in Sweden by a court gunsmith in honour of the annexation of Norway to Sweden.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/164765/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/164765/)



The Pavlovsk museum intends to restore Imperial greenhouses. Soon in the Pavlovsk Palace will be celebrated royally. With pineapple in lemon juice and peaches in honey. The State Museum-Reserve plan to restore the Imperial greenhouses. More than a century ago fruits and vegetables to the royal table were grown in these greenhouses, but for the last decade they were in ruins. There are several boxes of documents in the office of the architect of Pavlovsk museum.

Once the greenhouses were among the first buildings on the left-bank part of Pavlovsk. Remnants of the former luxury was bombed during World War II.

"I think that next year we will complete the development of documentation and God help us, that we will start in 2018", - commented the director of the Museum-Reserve "Pavlovsk" Vera Dementieva.

"There will be parking for cars, in order to enable people to go in and to see these greenhouses.



"Water in Christian art" is an exhibition in the Central Museum of Ancient Russian Culture in the name of Andrei Rublev. There is displayed a unique collection of monuments of XV - XX centuries, Russian and European art, the main motive of which is the water element. Without water, life on Earth would be impossible. Not coincidentally, that scientists primarily looking for its signs on other planets. "The study of ancient icons of Andrei Rublev,- says Museum employee Svetlana Kiryanova - is a fascinating journey into the world of meanings, allegories, symbols". One day she noticed a lot of space on the icons looking like water. Starting with such subjects as the rescue of drowning Peter, who walked on the water toward Jesus and began to sink into sea of Galilee, because of the lack of faith, ending with such complex theological point of view as the images of the Mother of God "Life-giving Spring".

"The scope of my scientific interests - the image of scenery in the icons. And water sources, of course, are included in landscapes. I for a long time traced how they were portrayed, their iconographical role has changed" - explains the curator Svetlana Kiryanova.

"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." It describes the first day of Creation Genesis. But then, throughout the narrative, in both the Old and the New Testament, water plays an important role. All life comes from it, but it also destroys the fallen mankind during the Flood. Noah's Ark is the image of the church as a ship of faith, ship of salvation.

Patron of seafarers Saint Nicholas and Russian saint - St. Basil of Ryazan, swam across the Oka River (and upstream) in episcopal robes. Mary of Egypt, which has passed over the Jordan, and Russian Zosima and Savvatiy of Solovki, founded a monastery on an island in the White Sea. Water, if you think about it, it is not by chance salutary from a purely worldly and the Christian point of view.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/164625/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/164625/)



Numismatist Club offer an overview of the silver coins in denominations of 1 rouble, during the reign of Nicholas II.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-3Zsmaw9A>



The house-museum in memory of the Romanov family will be opened in Tobolsk. Family stayed in this house in 1917-1918. Now there is a restoration of the building and household items. It is an object of cultural and historical heritage. In addition, pilgrims can come to visit the place where the canonized Romanov family and their servants spend some of the last months of their life.

Video - [http://vesti-yamal.ru/ru/novosti\\_kultury1/dom-muzei\\_pamyati\\_semi\\_romanovyih\\_gotovyat\\_k\\_otkryitiyu\\_v\\_tobolske159846#t20c](http://vesti-yamal.ru/ru/novosti_kultury1/dom-muzei_pamyati_semi_romanovyih_gotovyat_k_otkryitiyu_v_tobolske159846#t20c)



The Historical Museum opened an exhibition depicting the development in the Russian state control over the country's finance costs. The exhibits were collected from the very first official agencies that were responsible for the safety of the Treasury. There is real relics - documents, bank notes, revenue tickets, vintage counting machine.

Of course, the exhibition introduces managers who over the years have done a lot for the state financial system reform. Much was unknown, for example, it revealed that the structure, which is the prototype of the current Chamber of Accounts, appeared ten years earlier than has been assumed until now.

"We are supposed to celebrate the 360<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, but historians, along with my colleagues at the Historical Museum, identified documents in archives that just suggests that the first order on Counting was issued by Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich Romanov August 16, 1647. In fact, from this point on there is a readout of state financial in Russia in the broadest sense of the word,"- said the head of the Accounting Chamber Tatyana Golikova.

Video - [http://www.1tv.ru/news/2017/01/24/318405-v\\_moskve\\_otkrylas\\_vystavka\\_posvyaschennaya\\_istorii\\_schetnoy\\_palaty\\_rf](http://www.1tv.ru/news/2017/01/24/318405-v_moskve_otkrylas_vystavka_posvyaschennaya_istorii_schetnoy_palaty_rf)



January 20 at the media center, "Rossiyskaya Gazeta" was held a press conference in which was presented the program "Memory of the victims. Feb. 1917 tragedy". The press conference was attended by leaders of the fund Ludvig Nobel Anna Yakovleva and Yevgeny Lukoshkov, Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Sergey Stepashin, Deputy Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Elena Agapova, Chairman of the Presidium of the International Council of Russian Compatriots, rector of the Paris Conservatory named after Sergei Rachmaninoff Count Pyotr Sheremetev, executive President of the Association "Franco-Russian dialogue," chairman of the Association "Society of the memory of the Imperial Guard" Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy, head of the Synodal department for church and society, and the media Archpriest Dmitry Roshchin.

On 18 of February 2017 with the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill Ludvig Nobel Foundation, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Imperial Historical Club will hold Day "Remembrance of the victims. February. 1917 tragedy" in the Hall of Church Councils of Christ the Saviour Cathedral. The event will be attended by well-known historians, scientists, public and religious figures, representatives of the old noble families and artists.



The Public Council under the Ministry of Culture received over 20 thousand signatures against the movie "Matilda". The signatures are a protest against the new film by Alexei Uchitel "Matilda," about the relationship of the future Russian Emperor Nicholas II and prima ballerina Mathilde Kshesinskaia.



The head of the Public Council expressed confidence in the need to respond to these appeals, but did not specify what it is planning to do.

Now work on the movie goes on, and it should go to rent on October 25th, 2017, during the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution.



Soon we will know which place Omsk residents choose to install a statue of Peter the Great, that famous sculptor Zurab Tsereteli presented the city for its 300 years' anniversary. The Art expert council under the mayor pre-selected four of the most successful option for placing the gift, after which was launched an online voting for citizens.

So far, exactly one week before the end of the vote, participated in the survey about 2 thousand. Of the four possible locations for Peter the greatest popularity gained ground at the entrance to the City Council (Duma str. 1) - 698 people voted for it.



Exhibition "Heritage of Russia was opened in Moscow". Rare icons of the Romanov Royal family, objects and unique photographs from the personal archive of Golitsyn descendants. To get in one can only with the special permission or accreditation, because the exposure is in the State Duma.

Therefore, the main audience - the deputies, politicians and the descendants of ancient families. A photograph can trace the history of the princely family Golitsyn, from the pre-revolutionary period to the present day. Here are a unique picture of Lieutenant Golitsyn - the hero of a popular song about the tragic fate of the white officers, and the famous portrait of Princess Natalia Galitzine, which became the prototype of the Countess in "The Queen of Spades" by Pushkin.

Rare icons of 16-17 century anonymous masters from the North of Russia. Also, here you can see the icon of St. Nicholas, donated by Kolchak to Perm after the liberation from the Bolsheviks. And the icon of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas, who was with him at his coronation to the throne. The exhibition presents also other personal belongings of the Royal family. For example, nightgown of Tsarevich Alexei, embroidered with the monogram of the Romanov, and Faberge jewelry.

Video - [http://www.tvr.by/upload/video/25012109\\_\(1\).mp4](http://www.tvr.by/upload/video/25012109_(1).mp4)





Governor of the Pskov region Andrei Turchak on Wednesday, January 25, presented to Metropolitan Eusebius of Porkhov and Pskov an icon of St. Nicholas II.

The icon is for the future church, which will be erected at the railway station at the city "Dno", at the 100 years' anniversary of the massacre of the Royal family members.

The idea of building the church belongs to Metropolitan Eusebius. President of JSC "Russian Railways" Oleg Belozеров have agreed to allocate the required land, which has been recently given, said Governor Andrew Turchak.

Bishop thanked the Head of the region for the gospel and gift, noting that before the construction of the new church the icon will be donated to the university church of the Three Hierarchs. In addition, it will be part of the exhibition "The Imperial family. The Way of Love ", presented in the assembly hall of the Faculty of Russian Philology and foreign languages of the Pskov State University.



If you want to look in the eyes of the Romanovs, the murdered Imperial family of Russia, this spring you can go to the Museum of Photography in The Hague. One hundred years after the Russian Revolution and the subsequent death of the family the Fotomuseum shows seventy photographs of the Romanovs.

They were made by the Swiss Pierre Gilliard (1879-1962), the tutor of the children. He started in 1911 making photos of the family, where he became involved. He even went on holiday with them.

"His intimate, endearing and sometimes surprising images of boat trips and play parties show yet seemingly carefree years before the fateful end of the last Czar of Russia," says the museum.

The exhibition is from March 4 until June 11th.



In Tobolsk is in full swing the reconstruction of the "House of the Governor-General." This 18th-century building, where the Romanov family lived from 1917 to '18. The object of the cultural heritage will be a large-scale exposition, which will restore an exact copy of the environment in which lived the family of the last Russian Emperor.

The first floor of the museum planned to be for exhibition telling about the fate of the last crowned Romanov and the history of the building itself.

The second floor – for a memorial, a recreated interior, which was during the visit of the last Emperor and his family.

Now in the building is almost finished the repair work. It is planned to complete for August this year.

Video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4qsqXyv1\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4qsqXyv1_Q)





From 22 February to 18 March the exhibition "Large and small rubles. Money in the era of the Romanovs" will show coins of one ruble of the era of the Romanov dynasty from collection of Tula museum numismatics association.

The exhibition is an opportunity to trace the historical path of Russian money in general and the Russian ruble in particular. Among the items visitors will see such a rare coin as Sestroretsk copper ruble coin or the giant, the weight of which varied from 888 g to 1024 g, a diameter of 76 mm, and height - 35 mm. The obverse framed by a laurel wreath emblem of the Russian state - the two-headed eagle, a bird on its chest - a shield with a year of issue "1771"; on the reverse - print nominal value "ruble coin" and the Royal crown and framed by a laurel wreath; on the Edge - the inscription "Sestroretsk mint." The coin was to provide a paper money of Catherine II, but the mass production of the ruble was not successful. It was minted only a few dozen (!) test specimens.

**Рубль большой и маленький** 22.02 18.03

Деньги эпохи Романовых



На выставке будут представлены монеты достоинством один рубль эпохи правления династии Романовых.

Историко-мемориальный музей Демидовых  
Тула, ул. Демидовская, 9  
(4872)39-37-74

12+



"The visit of Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich on the ship" - by Vasily Ivanovich Bratanyuk, from Starokonstantinov (Ukraine). 2003.





More about the coming memoirs of Princess Olga Romanoff, from the press-release from her PR-agency: Charlotte Ellis Public Relations & Literary Agency.

*"Princess Olga – A Wild and Barefoot Romanov, by HH Princess Olga Romanoff. Due for Publication October 2017 to Mark the Centenary of the Russian Revolution and the End of the Romanov Dynasty.*

*No, this certainly isn't just another erudite book about the Romanovs. Many of these abound and though crammed full of thoroughly researched historical facts and dates, the average reader soon loses interest while wading through the overload of dry information.*

*Princess Olga – A Wild and Barefoot Romanov is very much a human interest story, told with humour by a down to earth woman struggling to make ends meet in the 21st century. The upkeep of her historical childhood home Provender House, in the depth of the English countryside, is indeed a constant daily battle for this modern-day Princess.*

*The feisty owner of the house, Princess Olga Romanoff, is the daughter of the eldest nephew of Tsar Nicholas II, executed with his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918, the tragedy that put an end to 300 years of Romanov dynasty. She is the fourth and youngest child of the late Prince Andrei Alexandrovich of Russia, born in the Winter Palace in St Petersburg in 1897, and the only child by his second wife Nadine Sylvia McDougall, from the distinguished Scottish family that founded the famous McDougall Flour.*



*The rambling 30 room Provender House, now open to the public, has indeed been witness to some extraordinary tales - many of them hitherto untold - handed down by Princess Olga's Romanov father, who'd changed the spelling of the family name, as did most of the family in exile, to escape Stalin's henchmen.*

*'Pa' fled turbulent Russia in 1918 together with his first wife, his mother Grand Duchess Xenia, sister of the Tsar, and his grandmother Her Imperial Highness Maria Fyodorovna. The fabled Romanov jewels that they were able to smuggle out had to be sold and the exiled family lived for some time at various grace-and-favour homes at Windsor and Hampton Court. The book is peppered with amusing anecdotes relating to the Romanov cousins, members of the British Royal Family.*

*The reader will also have a glimpse of the Princess's cosseted childhood. She was looked after by a number of nannies and then privately educated at home for fear of mixing with ordinary local children. "My mother was a frightful snob" says Princess Olga, who rebelled, and who still laughs about one of her mother's ambitions which was to marry her off to Prince Charles.*

*It was indeed an unusual upbringing with a snobbish and strict mother of Scottish and Scandinavian background, and a more relaxed and indulgent Romanov father whose occupation was stated as Prince of Russia on Olga's birth certificate.*

*Provender House is crammed full of fascinating Romanov memorabilia, from the crockery used by the Tsar and his family during their final captivity in Ekaterinburg, to the diamond blade penknife used for*



*scratching the news of Prince Andrei's birth on a window pane in the Winter Place – still there for visitors to see.*

*If only Provender House had ears! Well, it appears it has – stories heard within its walls will be revealed for the first time through the moving but never self-pitying voice of its courageous owner Princess Olga Romanoff, whose great sense of humour and no-nonsense attitude permeate the book throughout.*

*Princess Olga – a Wild and Barefoot Romanov will be initially published in hard back by Shephard-Walwyn, publishers of the biography of Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia, great grandmother of Princess Olga Romanoff and sister to the great grandmother of HM The Queen Elisabeth II of Great Britain, Queen Alexandra – two Danish Royal Princesses."*

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## Romanovs on the fronts of the First World



Participation in the First World War the immediate family of the last Russian emperor suppressed for many years in the country's history. Proposed book tells reader about the circumstances of the service of the Princes of the Romanovs on various fronts. By using archive documents, it describes their exploits, injury and deaths.

*Publishing house: Veche. Author Ilya Kovalev. Hard cover. 368 pages. ISBN 978-5-4444-4924-0*

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## In the Marble Palace



The book of Grand Duke Gabriel Konstantinovich Romanov "In the Marble Palace" - not just a memoir, but a very valuable source for the history of Russia late XIX - early XX century. The narrative covers the period from 1887 to 1918. Gabriel K. tells about events such as the coronation of Nicholas II, the death of P.A. Stolypin, the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Patriotic War and the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty, the first Russian Olympics, the beginning of World War I, the assassination of Grigory Rasputin, the February and October revolutions in Petrograd, and the beginning of the Red Terror. Much attention is paid to Gabriel K.onstantinovich, everyday life members of the Romanov dynasty, especially Konstantinovich branch.

The book was first published by Chekhov publishing house of in New York in 1955.

*Publisher: Veche, Moscow. Hard cover. 400 pages. ISBN# 978-5-4444-5703-0*

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## Under the hammer...

### *Romanov related items in Auctions*



***Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen,  
Denmark, on January 9***

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: still life with a potted plant, a bottle and a glass in a windowsill. Signed Olga. Watercolour on paper. Visible size 11 x 15 cm.

Estimated Price.: DKR 10,000 / € 1,350



***Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen,  
Denmark, on January 16***

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: Harvest scenery with houses and woman in the background. Signed Olga. Oil on cardboard. 31.5 x 40 cm.

Estimated Price.: DKR 6,000-8,000 / € 805-1,100



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: The tea table at Knudsminde, Denmark. Signed Olga. Watercolour on paper. Visible size 29 x 27 cm.



***Sotheby's, London, UK, on January 19***

Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna of Russia, after Nicaise de Keyser. 19th Century School. Oil on paper laid on board. Image: 9 by 7 cm.; 3½ by 2¾ in. Estimated Price: GBP 1,500 - 2,500.



***Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on January 23***

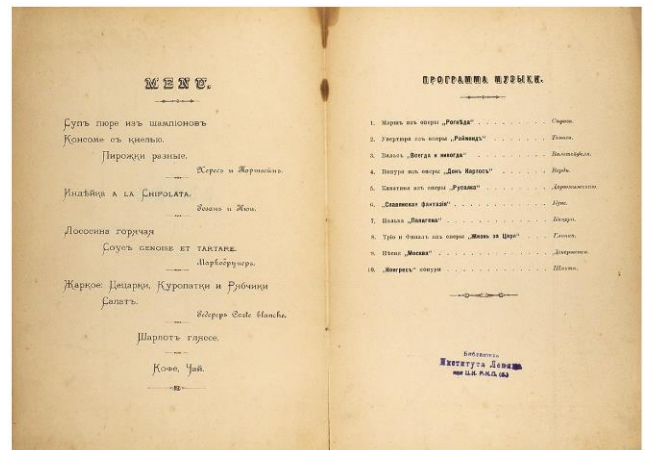
Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: A forest floor covered in colourful spring flowers. Signed Olga. Oil on canvas laid on cardboard. 60.5 x 50.5 cm. Estimated Price: DKR 10,000-15,000 / € 1,350-2,000





**Nikitsky, Moscow, Russia, January 26**

Menu for lunch 19 February 1889. 4 p. 20.8 x 14.5 cm. Publishing with an illustrated cover. Estimated Price: 35 000 - 37 000 roubles.



**Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on January 30**

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: Landscape with a thatched house at Knudsminde. Signed Olga. Oil on canvas. 46 x 55 cm.

Estimated Price: DKR 10,000-12,000 / € 1,350-1,600





**Kuncker, Berlin, Germany, on February 2**



Peter I the Great, 1682-1725. Gold Dukat 1701 (Cyrillic), Moscow, Münzhof Kadashevsky. 3:39 g.  
Armoured bust r. Laureate and tilted back jacket // Crowned double eagle with sceptre and orb in its  
claws, above crown.  
Estimated Price: 25,000.00 €



Peter I the Great, 1682-1725. 1/2 Rubel (Poltina) 1702 (Cyrillic), Moscow, Münzhof  
Kadashevsky. 14:26 g. Breast image r. Laureate and tilted back jacket // Crowned double eagle with  
sceptre and orb in its claws, above crown.  
Estimated Price: 40,000.00 €





Elisabeth, 1741-1761. Gold Dukat 1752, Moscow, Red Münzhof. 3.41 g. Crowned bust image r. with tilted back ribbon // St. Andreas is facing with the cross, to the sides of the year.  
Estimated Price: 50,000.00 €



Paul I. 1796-1801. Silver medal o. J. (1798), by C. Leberecht. Uniformed breast image r. with tilted back jacket // Crowned monogram. 49.69 mm; 49.90 g.  
Established March 12, 1798 by order of Emperor Paul I. Medal was awarded to Princes, khans, elders, and other superiors of the Russian Empire, as well as Serbs - for services to the government. Then subsequently awarded merchants.





Alexander III. 1881-1894. 25 kopecks 1889, St. Petersburg. 4.98 g. Bust r./Crowned double eagle with sceptre and orb in the claws, on the chest of St. George shield, and the chain of Order of St. Andrew.  
Estimated Price: 20,000.00 €



Nicholas II. 1894-1917. 50 kopecks 1903, St. Petersburg. 10:00 g. Bust l./Crowned double eagle with sceptre and orb in the claws, on the chest of St. George shield, and the chain of Order of St. Andrew.  
Estimated Price: 25,000.00 €

## ***Relics of Russia's Imperial past cause an auction room stir***



25 January. The Northern Echo. - FORGOTTEN in a cupboard for nearly a century, rare remnants from the Romanov years of pre-revolutionary Russia are about to go under the hammer in the Yorkshire Dales.

The three oyster dishes from the famous Imperial Raphael dinner service are coming up for auction at Tennants of Leyburn— and are expected to fetch between £15,000 and £20,000.

In the 1920s, an engineer from a Blackburn firm of boiler manufacturers travelled several times to post-revolutionary Moscow on trade missions.

And his relationship with his Russian counterparts must have been a success as he was bestowed with gifts before returning to his native Lancashire.

The Russian gifts were carefully stowed away in an old oak corner cupboard and lay undisturbed for almost 90 years, until his granddaughter began to research the items and turned to Tennants for advice.

Valuer Steve Stockton came face-to-face with the dishes at a valuation event at Bolton Abbey.

“It is said that you should always expect the unexpected, but sometimes as an antiques valuer, the unexpected is so rare, so beautiful, so unusual and so totally out of context that it simply takes your breath away,” he said.

The Raphael Service was the most opulent service produced by the Imperial Porcelain Factory in St Petersburg, and took over two decades to complete. Commissioned by Tsar Nicholas II in 1883 for the palace in Tsarskoe Selo, the design of the service was inspired by the classical interior decoration in Raphael's Loggias in the Vatican.

Also up for sale are a pair of Russian Imperial wine glasses from the service made for Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich, son of Nicholas I, which could fetch £5,000, and a set of six linen napkins bearing the royal cypher of Tsar Nicholas II, valued at up to £2,000.

They will be among the highlights of Tennant's spring five art sale on March 24 and 25.

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## Did you know....



... that the first general census that covered the entire territory of the Russian empire, except for Finland, was carried out as of February 9, (28 January), 1897.

That day were corrected the pre-filled questionnaires (of December 1896 - January 1897), which included the following information: name, surname or nickname, marital status, relationship to the owner (a relative connection, tenant, employee, servant, etc.), sex, age, status or class, religion, place of birth, place of residence or registry, the place of permanent residence, native language, literacy, employment, trade, fishing, major physical disabilities (deafness, dumbness, blindness, mental illness).

In the cities, the questionnaires were filled by tenants; in possessory estates, farms, in factories, as well as stations, wharves, and all kinds of vessels – by the owners of farms and hamlets, heads of factories, persons in charge of the stations, landing stages and vessels; in villages – by census-takers. The census brought into play about 150, 000 census-takers who filled more than 30 million forms. Even at the stage of preparation of the census December 4 (November 21), 1896 was established the medal "For the works at the first general population census of 1897" to be awarded for persons of both sexes, who took over the duties of census-takers free of charge.

Completed census papers were delivered to the Central Statistical Committee. The data were coded with special conventional signs and transferred to a separate personal punch card, which was used in the calculation with the help of electric calculating machines of H. Hollerith.

Data processing had taken almost 8 years. Beginning from 1899, census results were published for separate administrative units (provinces, regions, some cities), and in 1905 there were issued two combined volumes which reflected the results of the census across the entire Russia.

According to the first general census, the total population in the Russian Empire was 125,640,021 persons of both sexes.



Emperor Nicholas II established on November 21 (December 3) 1896, the medal "For the works on the first general census of the population".

It was intended to honour individuals, working for free as counters and organizers of the first national census of the Russian Empire in 1897.

Awarded to individuals of both sexes. Interior Minister Ivan Goremykin was given powers to determine the right of individuals to receive and bear the medal. For the right to wear the medal was issued certificates.

The medal is made of dark bronze. Diameter 29 mm. The obverse side of the medal in the centre has the monogram of Nicholas II, surmounted by the imperial crown. Around the monogram is depicted a laurel wreath of two branches. Between the laurel wreath and on the rim of the coin,

is the inscription "The first general census of population". On the reverse side of a horizontal inscription in five lines:

"FOR WORK  
ON THE FIRST GENERAL  
CENSUS OF POPULATION  
1897"

The ribbon to the medal was in white, blue and red, the colours of the Russian Empire flag.

