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By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky

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*"NICHOLAS II. LAST DAYS"
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The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

Bishop Tikhon (Shevkunov): Version of the "ritual murder" of the "Ekaterinburg remains" is also being checked

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On the 100 anniversary of the 1917 revolution, in the Imperial Conference in Sologubovka, the Hierarch told about the preliminary results of the "Yekaterinburg remains" study and the circumstances of the murder of the Imperial Family.

As reported, March 16 on the 100-year anniversary of the forced abdication of Emperor Nicholas II, in the Leningrad Region International Conference "Veneration of the Holy Royal Passion and glorification of the Tsar's servants in Russia and abroad", took place in the village at the station Sologubovka (Leningrad Region).

The forum was attended by 5 bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church and several priests from various dioceses. The conference participants reside in Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia and the United States, in different regions and cities of Russia - St. Petersburg, Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Pskov, Ryazan, Petrozavodsk, Leningrad, Vladimir, Yaroslavl, Murmansk, Tver and Kaluga regions.

The conference was attended remotely by Bishop Tikhon (Shevkunov), whose presentation was held via Skype. He spoke in detail about the study of so-called "Yekaterinburg remains".

The bishop recalled that the investigation concerning the circumstances of the foul murder of the Imperial Family and the issues raised by the "Yekaterinburg remains" started with the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill.

September 23, 2015 with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill was established Churches' Commission headed by the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofy. Commission's strategy was defined by His Holiness Patriarch. "Its main principle became an independent comprehensive highly professional expertise, including genetic, anthropological and historical trends. In this regard, members of the Commission should solve the task of the organization and the use of mentioned above said complex anthropological, genetic and historical expertise of "Yekaterinburg remains" and the presentation of scientific argumentation regarding their belonging or non-belonging to murdered family of Passion-Bearer Emperor Nicholas II and those who accompanied him in prison"- said Bishop Tikhon.

According to him, "the need for a new investigation was due to, inter alia, by the fact that there were serious reasons to doubt the objectivity of the previous investigation, which began in 1993. First of all, it turned out to be associated with procedural violations committed by the investigation team with researched materials. Materials as withdraw samples and transporting them for further studies were not executed properly.



Alternative versions were not considered. Over the past 20 years, new scientific achievements allow more accurately answer questions. That is why the organization of a new material for the investigation of genetic examinations required to obtain a full procedural certainty, that would be no doubt in belonging or not belonging of the samples to any other person". "It is this aspect of the investigation, which began in 1993 - continued the Bishop - which was one of the most squabble, exposed to justified criticism, expressed also by professional legal community."

The Investigation commission should conduct genetic research. The samples sent to study in order to avoid fraud, were encrypted and submitted to the laboratory, among others, there were also numbered samples known not to belong to the Imperial Family.

To identify the skeleton number 4, which, according to some researchers, belong to Passion-Bearer Nicholas II, it was necessary to obtain a comparative genetic analysis of the particle remains of his father - the Emperor Alexander III, as well as other genetic material - blood on the shirt in which the Heir Nicholas Alexandrovich was during the attempt on his life in Japan in 1891.

Full anthropological examination of "Yekaterinburg remains" was also one of the task of the commission.

The examination held by leading scientists who do not belong to one or another camp. These top-class experts who can ensure the objectivity of the study.

Criminal investigation of the murder of members of the Russian Imperial House resumed at the end of 2015 by the General Department for investigation of particularly important cases of the Investigative Committee under number 252/40451615. Senior investigator for particularly important cases Colonel of Justice Marina Viktorovna Molodtsova is in charge of investigation, the deputy chairman of the Investigation Committee, Major General Igor Viktorovich Krasnov oversees the investigation.

"To date, 12 expert opinions received from the designated 25 expertise. Obtained results sometimes entail the need for the appointment of another expert direction to clarify certain issues" - said the speaker.

Within the framework of the criminal case at the end of 2015, the tomb of Emperor Alexander III was opened. "Naturally, we carried it out with all the necessary ecclesiastical rites, - assured the Bishop, - reading the Psalms, singing dirges. Samples of the remains of Tsar Alexander III and "Yekaterinburg remains", located in the fortress" were extracted for genetic research.

Bishop said that "the first particle of skeleton number 4 were taken not only from the bones but also the skull. Previously genetic studies of materials taken from the skull have not been made. Thus, the skeleton number 4, which some researchers believe, belongs to the Emperor, Nicholas II, will be examined at the level of the skeleton bones, and at the level of the skull bones. "

"Of course, there is a certain ethical and church-ethical problem. For the first time, in any case, in the Russian Orthodox Church, there is the identification of the remains of the purpose of, inter alia, the recognition or non-recognition of the remains of the holy relics by the methods of genetic expertise. Usually we know how the recognition of the remains of holy relics takes place. But we asked our canonists, historians. Day before yesterday I talked about it with the Bishop of Germany and Great Britain Mark, and he is a very, very educated, the head of our church-canonical Commission of Inter-Council Presence. He said that for the martyrs the time, miracles and immortality are optional. This is what we were told by our canonists and Bishop Mark of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. Of course, the question still would stand. Simply, we inform you about those requests and responses that we have received. Because we are, of course also concerned about it"- confessed to Bishop Tikhon.

Blood samples from the so-called Japanese shirt of Tsarevich Nicholas Aleksandrovich were obtained by State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation with the participation of members of the Patriarchal Commission. All samples taken for genetic examination were sealed and brought to the patriarchal residence in Peredelkino. "We had to provide

samples for genetic research and produce complete genomes to the two of the world's leading laboratories to decipher the genome. By the way, also for the first time during the research we are receiving a complete genome of the remains offered to study. " For the purity of the experiment to each of the two laboratories, (to which the Russian Orthodox Church has sent samples for research) were sent 10 samples - studied the remains and the remains of other individuals of the same burial time, presented by anthropologists. Russian Orthodox Church and the Churches' Commission sent the samples to two European laboratories, "the name of which we have by the blessing of His Holiness do not disclose." All samples were numbered personally by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, and then encrypted samples in special containers were brought to the referred laboratories. Scientists immediately began work on the isolation of DNA from them. Experts do not know which remains among presented are identified.

The same study again carried out in the laboratory of the American famous geneticist Professor Eugene Rogaev. The same study, the fourth of its kind, conducted by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation at its base.



According to Bishop Tikhon, "genetic examination are nearing completion. Due to the fact that genetic examination carried out on the full genome, then, of course, it has a longer period of time than what has been done before. Physical and chemical examination are assigned."

Bishop unveiled one result of examination, which does not apply to the criminal case: "We have asked our investigators to take hair samples from the exposed remains of Emperor Alexander III, in order to carry out criminological examination on the alleged poisoning of Alexander III». Expert judgment reads as follows: "Toxic substances in the material were not found."

The results of physicochemical forensics are obtained. Experts of FSB Institute of Criminology Centre of special techniques were entrusted to carry out this examination.

In a criminal case complex historical and archival expertise was assigned, a number of experts was commissioned - archivists, historians, Bishop Tikhon represents Church is in this commission. "All the experts - said the Bishop - were warned about criminal responsibility in accordance with Art. 307 of the Criminal Code for giving false conclusion. So, we are responsible - the experts - and has a special state responsibility, and, of course, - the church, because the Expert Council includes Orthodox, Church people."

Investigative Committee was requested to provide access of the expert group to the closed archives of the Russian Federation. Special files were opened, former closed party archives and the archives of the FSB and the Prosecutor's Office.

"It should be noted that all unanimously stated that examination, which was carried out under the previous government commission headed by Nemtsov, was not comprehensive, complex and reliable. From a professional point of view, it raises many questions and complaints. In this case, the investigation team has been formulated a list of questions, which were, practical plan for historical and archival work of the commission ", - said the speaker. "Besides, - he continued - we have received a number of questions posed by a group of independent experts. These questions gave me the chief editor of "Russian folk line" Anatoly Stepanov. They are included in the research of the Investigative Committee and the Historical Commission, in particular. Thus, Anatoly Stepanov and his colleagues have thrown us two or three dozen of questions. And as previous questions give rise to new questions, so if we were given a year, we would be grateful and would understand what could we do during a year. We do not realize how much time we will be given. "

In order to solve the issues raised before the complex historical and archival commission now is to systematize more than two thousand sources on the topic, including abroad. "We found out where is last volume Sokolova case. It is located in the United States. Now the Investigation Committee is negotiating to obtain a copy of the original"- said Bishop. The duration of this examination is related to the large volume of documents to be restored.

Bishop Tikhon, speaking of the studies carried out in this case in the 90's and 00-ies by the Resolution Assistant Sverdlovsk regional prosecutor Volkov and prosecutor-criminalist Solovyov, noted with regret that not all the documents found. The search for these documents is difficult because of the lapse of, for some of which expired more than 20 years.

Judicial examination of hand-writing of Yurovsky's notes and fragments of poems of Heine on the wall of the cellar of Ipatiev house will be conducted to review original documents in the framework of the investigation. Visits were carried out in conjunction with criminology experts from the FSB Centre of special equipment in Ekaterinburg in the Documentation Centre of public organizations of Sverdlovsk region (former party archive) and the State Archive of the Russian Federation. "It is important to note that all the documents presented for examination are considered and secured in a criminal case in full compliance with the Criminal Procedure Law. Extremely important remark. Because this is the main point to argue, that makes very, very vulnerable, so to say, the previous investigation", - said the speaker again.

As part of the historical-archival and anthropological forensic examinations, alternative versions are used proposed by Academician Alexeyev from Ekaterinburg and forensic Grigoriev from St. Petersburg.

At the moment, the Captain Malinovsky report was analyzed for the first time. It was kept as a part of Bahmetev archive in the United States Columbia University. This document is dated June 26, 1924 and signed by Malinovsky. "I think very few people know about this document. This is a new document, which was discovered during the investigation, it is very interesting"- said Bishop. The report contains a description of the circumstances of taking Ekaterinburg at night from 24 to 25 July 1918 and inspection of Ipatiev house and Ganina pit. The report said that after the liberation of Yekaterinburg from the Red Army a group of 12 officers from the headquarters of the Yekaterinburg garrison took initiative in research of the area of Koptiyaki village. This group also included valet Chemodurov, doctor Derevenko, close to the Imperial Family, as well as a student-researcher. Morning July 27, 1918 Lieutenant Sheremet'yevsky came to the headquarters of the Yekaterinburg garrison and presented several items of clothing and three small gems. He said that he was hiding from the Bolsheviks and lived in the village Koptiyaki 16 miles from Yekaterinburg. Malinowski group study was conducted from July 30 to August 1, 1918 in Four Brothers tract of Ganina pit. In this case, it is necessary to take into account that Malinowski group, then - Sheremet'yevskiy conducted search activities in Four Brothers tract in hot pursuit, 10 days after the events in Ekaterinburg, while the investigator Sokolov inspected this place almost a year after the incident."

Questions, put by the expert group regarding anthropological expertise: to hold a new anthropological examination, pay attention to the signs of the chopped and stab wounds, check archives of the Imperial Family with respect to fractures, cracks, bruises and other sharps injuries that could leave traces, check all of the cervical vertebrae of a skeleton number 4, as well as a list of all the available bones in this and other skeletons. "I must say that a large group of anthropologists worked for a month in Peter and Paul Fortress. It was the world's first professional anthropological study, and it gave an extraordinary amount of interesting results" - said Bishop.

It is necessary to carry out a study of the skull number 4. It is necessary to find out whether there is sword's dent on the skull that was done to the future Emperor in Japan in 1891. It is necessary to raise the archives of the Imperial Family dentist and compare their data with the "Yekaterinburg remains". It was decided to make an anthropological study of the bones, which are issued for the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria.

Such scholars as doctor of medical sciences, director of the State Organization "Russian Centre of Forensic Medical Examination" Kovalev, renowned researcher, honoured scientist, doctor of medical sciences, professor, forensic medical examiner Leningrad region Popov and others were invited to carry out examinations including proposed by the Russian Orthodox Church. Many professional people, high professionals.

Regarding the remains and teeth of skeletal corpses, to complement obtained data at the present time it does not stop the collecting of medical records and dental cards of Nicholas II' family which are necessary for a more objective resolution of the issues presented to the experts-anthropologists.

Questions raised about forensics. Forensics is planned to solve the issue related to the possible ritual nature of the murder of Nicholas II's family. For forensics, it is necessary to have preliminary conclusion of historical and archival expertise. Now almost all the necessary historical documents were obtained for this expertise. In the near future, it will be assigned. So-called cabalistic signs found in the basement of the Ipatiev house will be subject of expertise. Already prepared decryption of two teletype tapes in 1918, located in the State Archive of the Russian Federation and have not yet been deciphered. Control re-decoding of digital telegrams about the murder of Nicholas II is going on now.



February 1, 2016 members of the historical commission and the Investigation Committee met with members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. The meeting was attended by Metropolitan Hilarion, Archbishop Mark, Archbishop Gabriel, Archbishop Michael of Geneva, Archbishop Agapit of Stuttgart, Bishop of Canberra and George Nicholas Manhattan. The following questions were raised: Did ROCOR represent on the examination finger of Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna? It is believed that personal belongings of the Imperial Family, was exported by investigator Sokolov in a blue box and now kept in USA? " Foreign bishops replied to these two questions," - said Bishop.

For the first time, ballistic examination was carried of two pistols confiscated from various museums, previously owned by Medvedev (Kudrin) and Ermakov. This examination made by experts from the FSB Criminology Institute of Centre of special techniques.

New materials are discovered during the investigation. US citizen Peter Sarandinaki, who helped in the 90 years in the organization and carrying out genetic examinations with the participation of US expert, was questioned as a witness. Copies of his archival materials, including expert opinions of anthropologists and geneticists were seized as part of the research. Interest in his documents due to historical ties of his family with the investigator Sokolov.

Bishop Tikhon said that overall the results of research will be presented with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch on the judgment of the Holy Synod and the Council of Bishops, maybe even the Pomestny council. "Regarding timing. We understand that in the very near future we will present the results, if not there will be any new circumstances found. It all depends on the Patriarch and the Holy Synod, when they bless to prepare these documents - maybe in the summer or fall, I do not know, and to submit for consideration. The second question - when will be closed research of the Investigation Committee. Genetic research is nearing completion. Let's not talk about the timing, but I think a maximum of a year and a half", - said the Bishop.

"In December (2017), I think - Bishop continued, - we make a report where will be all the basic answers to all possible raised questions. Not at all questions you can answer, some questions apparently will be

remained. But we, I think, of course, will be able to give an answer to the main questions that will enable us to judge in this case, the belonging of Ekaterinburg remains or not belonging to the Imperial Family and some of the circumstances of the murder. But then, in order to make a decision, I think, materials will be presented. But some minor details you can continue to study. But the main answer, of course, will be given. "

The bishop said that the version of the salvation of the female part of the Royal Family is worked out, supported by academician V.V. Alekseev: "This version we know and we make specifically a short film about how all of these studies and investigation are taking place. We interviewed Academician Alekseev, this version is known to me. Personally, I as a man who touched it, absolutely do not believe in this version. Bolsheviks, of course, didn't leave any survivors. But the version is checked. I especially do not believe in all sorts of sensational Vatican documents, especially enveloped by some mysterious world secrets." "All known sources we drew - he continued. - We have literally hundreds of "hypothetical" evidences, hundreds of choices, assumptions relating to those or other persons who have declared themselves to be rescued children of the Emperor Nicholas II. All this is studied in order to give a reasoned answer to these questions. "

In conclusion, Bishop Tikhon said that until now, with this report was acquainted only one person - Patriarch Kirill.

On the 100 years' anniversary of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II

In Russia, the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II and the following "February Revolution" was marked in several small events. But in reality, there was nothing to commemorate, and for different group there were different reasons. The February Revolution is nothing special for the Communist, who see the October Coup as the big event. Monarchists see it as the start of the collapse of their world. The official Russia is not commemorating any revolutions. And the public in general is not interested in their own history!

On TV was shown a few documentaries and around the country were held some round-table discussions and exhibitions.

The TV channel "Kultura" on March 16 premiered the documentary film "The case of abdication of Nicholas II: the last document of the Empire", which provided a unique opportunity to see and understand the documents relating to the abdication of Nicholas II.

The film "Before the court of history" is one of the most paradoxical of films in Russian history. It is built on a dialogue between historian Sergey Whistlers with Vasily Shulgin, the Russian politician of the State Duma who took the abdication of Nicholas II.

The program "The observer" was dedicated to the date of the abdication of Nicholas II from the throne.

And on March 17 was shown Gleb Panfilov's "The Romanovs: An Imperial Family."

All very innocent. But then happened the unexpected.

The head of Crimea Sergey Aksenov, on the TV channel "The first Crimean" on March 14 said ***Russia needs a new form of government - monarchy!***

"The monarchy as form of government is necessary for Russia ". The kind of democracy, in the form in which it is presented by the Western media, we do not need... Today, in my opinion, Russia needs a monarchy," said Sergey Aksenov.



«When there is no unity of command, comes collective irresponsibility. Therefore, when there are external challenges, pockets of resistance internal, you need to take more rigid measures... Today, in my opinion, Russia needs a monarchy».

«Democracy, in my opinion, today, under present conditions, despite the fact that we have an external enemy, is superfluous. I don't mean democracy as it is understood by normal people, as permissiveness, as many interpret the mode of democracy».

«Why do I say that I'm a soldier of the President? Because while there is an external enemy, in my view, unity of command is necessary. Today the President should have more rights, until, sorry, dictatorship», – said Aksenov.

Member of the Public Chamber Iosif Diskin believes that such statements are unconstitutional. "The highest official of the Russian Federation cannot be allowed to make anti-constitutional statements ... Any ideas can be discussed, but a senior official of the Russian Federation can not come up with ideas to change the Russian Constitution, to which he swore".

Member of the Public Chamber Elena Sutormina also critical reacted to Aksenov ideas to revive the monarchy in Russia, noting the emotional expression.

"I believe that it is an emotional statement. We have the Constitution, according to which we have long been living, we have a structure - President, the government ... The most important thing - it's the Russian people, for them it is all done, and to go back to the monarchy, well, sorry, we have already passed these stages".

The head of the Presidential Human Rights Council (HRC), Mikhail Fedotov does not see any legal or any other reason to change the form of government in Russia and the return of the monarchy.

"We have a constitution, and it involves a republican form of government. Let us learn to live according to the constitution. To the monarchy, we said goodbye a hundred years ago, and returning to it would be a step backwards."

"It is necessary to take into account the fact that a monarch - is the anointed of God, therefore, we have to return to the Regal throne or someone from the House of Romanov, or someone from the kind of Rurik, I do not see any legal or any other grounds for these changes".

Even the Russian president got involved in the discussion. His Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov told that Vladimir Putin "very cool" refers to discussions about the introduction of monarchy in the country.

"The President has repeatedly said on this account, he, shall we say, without optimism refers to such ideas," he said.

That made the head of the Crimea Sergey Aksenov back track and said that his words about the necessity of the monarchy in Russia was taken out of context. This statement he made on TV channel «Russia 24».

«The conversation was not about form, not about what we need to change the constitutional order, and the authority. And I cited certain analogies that, for example, if our President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin in the Soviet Union led the process, I am confident that the Union would not have collapsed » -said Aksenov.

The head of the Crimea also noted that a strong leader could affect the situation in Tsarist Russia 100 years ago.

«I did not talk about the change of the constitutional order - I was talking about Vladimir Putin, and not the system. He should be President for life» - summed up the politician.





A Levada-poll - what does Nicholas II's abdication mean for Russia?

The Levada Center is a Russian non-governmental research organization, who regularly conducts opinion polls. In the end of February, the following poll was publicised.

The question was - On 15 March 1917 (2 March according to the old calendar), Russian Emperor Nicholas II abdicated the throne. 100 years later, opinions differ regarding this event, which put an end to the Russian monarchy. With which of the following points of view would you most agree? (One answer)

	Mar.1997	Mar.2012	Jan.2017
The fall of the monarchy was a progressive step forward for Russia	16	9	13
The fall of the monarchy lead to a loss of Russian national and government glory	23	25	21
The positive and negative consequences of the fall of the monarchy balance each other out	19	18	23
Never thought about it	29	36	32
It is difficult to say	14	12	11

Another Levada-poll conducted in March 2017 asked several interesting questions:

Some argue that Russia need to move forward and not stir up what happened in 1917. Others say that the need to know about the period is great, as not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Which of the following statements most accurately express your point of view? (One answer)

	Mar.17
We need to move forward and not to stir up what happened in 1917	34
We need to know more about this period, in order not to repeat the mistakes of the past	44
Study of the past is not harmful, but in our current situation, it does not meet the needs of the time	20
undecided	3

Do you agree or disagree with the fact that the October Revolution ...

Caused serious damage to Russian culture?

	Oct.90	Mar.17
I agree	69	49
Disagree	17	41
undecided	14	10

Caused serious damage to the peasantry?

	Oct.90	Mar.17
I agree	68	48
Disagree	20	42
undecided	12	10

Caused serious damage to religion and the Church?

	Oct.90	Mar.17
I agree	85	69
Disagree	6	19
undecided	9	12

How big losses for the country caused the overthrow of the autocracy?

	Oct.90	Mar.17
Very large	11	34
Not very much	56	52
Undecided	33	13

How big losses for the country caused the disappearance nobility?

	Oct.90	Mar.17
Very large	30	42
Not very much	45	45
Undecided	25	14

What do you think would happen to our country, if the Bolsheviks failed to capture / retain power in 1917?

	Oct.02	Mar.17
It would have restored the monarchy of the Romanovs	22	19
The power would be captured by other extremists, opportunists, who would bring even more disasters to people	26	32
The country would go the way of Western-style democracy	22	16
Russia would be waiting for the collapse and loss of independence	14	14
Undecided	16	20

"Monarchy for Russia: a hundred years later"

March 23, the Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VCIOM) presented the data from a study on the attitude of Russians to the monarchy.

The share of Russians who say they do not mind, or even are for the monarchy is at 28% of those surveyed: in 2006 - 22%.

Of these there are 6%-points "for the monarchy in Russia and see a man who could become the monarch", while the 22%- points are "not in principle against the monarchy, but did not see the man who could become the monarch".

Those categorically against the existence of a monarchical form of government in Russia today is 68% of Russians.

At the same time, when you reply to a direct question about what form of government is better suited for the Russian state today, only 8% says a monarchy, where power is inherited, while 88% - Republic (from 82% in 2013).

Conventionally, those who tolerate the monarchy (not "against" or "for the monarchy"), more than the average for the sample, include young people (among 18-24-year-olds not in principle against the monarchy 33% among 25-34 year olds - 35%), residents of Moscow and St. Petersburg (37%) of active Internet users (33%), supporters of non-parliamentary parties (34%).

Respondents who would support the restoration of the monarchy in Russia, most often explained by their desire to see the position when power belongs to one person, that is the traditional system for our country, a large order and stability. The main arguments of the opponents of the monarchical form of government: a commitment to democratic principles, negative assessment of the era of autocracy in Russia.

Director of Research Department of VCIOM Stepan Lvov comments it this way: "Return to the past, in the archaic, history with its ups and downs and tragic pages - such associations do many Russians at the thought of restoring the monarchy. In this case clearly shows that the older, "Soviet" generation resists this idea much more than younger people, for which the monarchical form of government is one of the permissible. In the minds of young people monarchy is not opposed to freedom and democracy, but it is attractive because of its rationality and efficiency. It is not excluded that the "anti-monarchist vaccination" of the Soviet period, will cease to operate along with Soviet a generation.

What form of government do you think is suitable for the Russian state to the greatest extent? (close-ended question, one answer, %)		
	2013	2017
The monarchy, in which the supreme power is inherited	11	8
The Republic, in which the ruler is elected by voting in elections	82	88
Difficult to answer	7	4

Which point of view of the monarchy in Russia is closer to you the most? (close-ended question, one answer, %)			
	2006	2013	2017
I am for the monarchy in Russia and see a man who could become the monarch	3	4	6
I am in principle not against the monarchy, but do not see a man who could become the monarch in Russia	19	24	22
I am against the monarchy in Russia	66	67	68
Difficult to answer	12	5	4

Which point of view of the monarchy in Russia is closer to you the most? (close-ended question, one answer, %)												
	All the respondents	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-59 years	60 years and older	Moscow and St. Petersburg	City-million Residents	More than 500 thousand Residents	100-500 thousand d.	Less than 100 thousand d.	Villages
I am for the monarchy in Russia and see a man who could become the monarch	6	7	7	4	8	3	7	5	4	7	5	6
I am in principle not against the monarchy, but do not see a man who could become the monarch in Russia	22	26	28	25	21	13	thirty	21	24	21	17	22
I am against the monarchy in Russia	68	64	58	67	68	79	62	71	69	67	72	66
Difficult to answer	4	3	7	4	3	5	1	3	3	5	6	6

Please explain why you are for the restoration of the monarchy in Russia? (open-ended question, not more than 3 answers, % of those who are not against the monarchy)	
	All respondents, 2017 *
In power should be one person	10
This is the traditional system for Russia	8
It would be more order	8
It guarantees the stability of the country	5
It would be better for the people	4

Our country needs a firm hand, our people have such a mentality	4
The monarch cares about the country and not about himself, he feels more responsibility	4
There will be less corruption	3
The heir to the monarchy from birth is prepared to run the country	3
From the religious point of view	1
Democracy in our country itself is not effective	1
In the UK is still a monarchy, and all is well	1
Other	5
Difficult to answer	50

Please explain why you are opposed to the restoration of the monarchy in Russia? (open-ended question, not more than 3 answers, % of those who are against the monarchy)	
	All respondents, 2017 *
Better when the ruler is chosen by people, I for Democracy	16
We've been through this, it's an old form of government	13
I do not like the idea of transferring power by inheritance	9
I do not see who could be the monarch	5
I am totally against the monarchy	5
Inheritance of power will not give the best leader	4
Power should not be concentrated in the same hands	4
Monarchy acts in the interests of the minority	4
I do not know what it is - to live under monarchy, incomprehensible form of government	2
Will give social inequalities, people will live worse	2
I do not see the point	2
There is no guarantee that it will be better than it is now	2
In humans, there is no freedom	1
The mentality of people has changed, we can not live in a monarchy	1
It's impossible	1
It will be a mess	1
Power should be replaceable	1
I am now happy with everything	1
The monarch can not be removed from power if he does not perform its duties	1
This is an inefficient form of government	1
Other	2
Difficult to answer	29

* According to the survey on 17-18 March. Volume 1,200 samples. The statistical error of not more than 3.5%.

The Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia sent a message on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the tragic events in Russia

New York: March 10, 2017

The Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church received a special message on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the tragic events connected with the revolution in Russia and the beginning of the era of the godless persecution. According to the Office of the Synod of Bishops, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York Hilarion blessed, in connection with the approaching 100th anniversary of the phenomenon of the "Reigning" Icon of the Mother of God, to announce the below-mentioned letter from church pulpits in the second week of Lent.



"Beloved in Christ, brothers and sisters!

This year the whole world, and first of all we are, remember the greatest tragedy of the XX century, which turned the fate of millions of people. This tragedy has touched virtually every Russian family, wherever it was. We remember a century of bloody and destructive revolution in Russia. Because of the betrayal of the government and generals Emperor was forced to abdicate, and then there was a chain of inevitable events: the death of the state, the martyrdom of the Emperor himself, and August Family, brutal fratricidal war, unknown hitherto in the Russian persecution of the Orthodox Church and faith in God.

In 1909, Petr Arkadevich Stolypin said, "Give the state 20 years of peace inside and outside, and you do not recognize today's Russia." The Russian Prime Minister was to live for about two more years. He was killed in the presence of his Sovereign in Kiev theatre in 1911.

The fact that Russia is moving forward literally by leaps and bounds, and realized far outside of our homeland, namely in the United States. In November 1914, it was released «National Geographic» magazine remarkable number dedicated to Russia. Comprehensive socio-economic studies have shown that the time was talking about Stolypin, all major indicators of growth Russia will come to such a level that it would no longer be stopped. It stopped her only by the revolution organized and supported by the Western countries. Our fatherland was not given and 20 days of rest. In this regard, it should be remembered that today's relentless hounding by the Russian "Western civilization" existed 100 years ago, and a lot before. The world hated the Russian Empire, the successor of the Holy Orthodox Russia. No loyalty duty as an ally, not constant readiness to cooperate with the Russian rulers did not help. Typical expressions of the famous British politician Lord Palmerston: "How hard it is to live in the world, with Russia when no one is at war." Saying it refers to the mid-nineteenth century, but, unfortunately, have not been heard.

And in the early twentieth century, St Macarius (Nevsky), Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna, warned: "We are going through troubled times. There were hard times in Russia, but then it was not as bad as it is now. Then there were all for God, everyone wanted to know what he pleases, and no longer is. Then there were for the King. Now, not that again. Now voices heard blasphemous against God and against His Anointed plans ...".

The educated class in Russia, brought up in the tradition of the so-called Westernism, perhaps with suicidal stubbornness pushed Russia into the abyss, strongly declining Russian people to renounce their faith, their King and Fatherland. Involuntarily come to mind the words of the psalmist David: "When anger is in his heart there is no God" (Psalm 13: 1.).

But even in the most difficult times of persecution, the Lord will not leave his people. Thus, in the current year, we note another, no less important, the 100-year anniversary - the restoration of the patriarchate in Russia. This happened at a time when the Primate and sympathizer of the whole

Russian Church was especially necessary. The enthronement of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of All Russia, the Confessor, was held on November 21 / December 4, 1917 at the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin, on the feast of Presentation of Mary. But before, on the day of the abdication of God's Anointed, the Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, 2/15 March 1917 our nation was revealed marvellous image of the Mother of God "Reigning" as evidence that the Immaculate Lady does not take care of his suffering Russia, anciently called house of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Now, when in the words of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, "The Lord changed his temper justice with mercy towards Russia", all Russian people given Him the opportunity to return to their Orthodox roots. We need now to understand their history and understand the reasons for which Russia fell on the trials. One of the causes of these tragic events is the fruit of oblivion and neglect of the Christian faith and a departure from the divinely instituted authority. We are in any case impossible to justify the perpetrators of destructive revolution. One of the Russian people's character reconciliation with the Lord would be the release of Red Square from the remains of the main persecutor and tormentor of the XX century and contrition put a monument to him. These are all symbols of misfortune, tragedy and collapse of our God-given Power. The same should be done and with the names of cities, regions, streets that are still deprived of their historical names.

During hard times the Russian Church Abroad always considered it their sacred duty to speak the truth about Russian history, which was not possible in the Fatherland, and, perhaps above all to remind the Russian people on the way of the cross of the New Martyrs. It is not a matter of politics, as is sometimes believed, namely, the question of the spiritual conscience. We really should be how to better know the history of the feat of Russian New Martyrs and Confessors. And then, we trust, the Russian people itself, following the dictates of conscience, will come to the conclusion that in his blessed city of the country, there is no more space for characters of godless authorities and the names of the godless.

Ten years ago, the Great consecration of the church on the Butovo site, the ever-memorable Metropolitan Laurus, addressing the audience said: "Here the land abundantly watered by the blood of martyrs and dotted their bones, and yes it will be the throne of Christ our God. About the persecutors of the Church of Christ for a long time the Prophet said: "We have seen the sinner expanded as Thou Lebanese cedar, and behold not baa and not having found his place (Ps 36: 35-36)." Yes, blotted out the memory of them in people's hearts, and Christ Church on Russian soil stablish for ever! ". We call on all our congregation as well and all the Orthodox Russian people in the homeland and the diaspora: the coast, as the apple of an eye, handed to us by the Lord the gift - the holy, saving the Orthodox Faith, always bearing in mind the words of Christ: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. "(Matt. 6, 33). Amen.

With love in Christ,

- + Hilarion, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church.
- + MARK, Archbishop of Berlin and Germany.
- + Kirill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Secretary of the Synod of Bishops.
- + GABRIEL, Archbishop of Montreal and Canada.
- + Peter, Archbishop of Chicago and Mid-America.
- + NICHOLAS, Bishop Manhattan, Assistant Secretary Synod."



Patriarch Kirill: to make the right conclusions from the lessons of the past century

March 15, 2017, the day of the 100th anniversary of the finding of the Mother of God "Reigning", Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill made the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in the Church of Our Lady of Kazan in Kolomenskoye in Moscow. Upon completion of the Liturgy, the Primate addressed the faithful with a primatial word.



"On this day the forced abdication of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich from the Russian throne took place. Without going into the details of this tragic event, we can only say that without efforts to build a happy, fair, prosperous life, it cannot bear fruit, if associated with crime and suffering."

"Those who took power from the Tsar, gave it to an even more radical force, and we know how ended that tragedy. Bloody and terrible civil war, time of the dictatorship and mass repression, a bloody war that killed millions and millions of lives.... But then the state collapsed, broke a great country ... And you have to be blind and unable to see the cause-and-effect relationships, so as not to come to a simple conclusion: in the injustice, through fraud, through malice, through death a state can never achieve good results."

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"By God's grace we can in the year of the 100th anniversary of the unrest, without any political comments, look at this page of national history. We turn it over, remembering the martyrs, confessors,

innocent victims, but also the heroes of labor and military glory. We prayerfully remember the story of the century and ask the Lord, to the prayers of His Blessed Mother, the Sovereign whose image was revealed 100 years ago and our country, and each of us went ahead in accordance with God's moral law to the crime, the innocent victims of a lie, slander, deceit, evil and trust in the deceitful words never again become the driving force that is changing the lives of our people. We will ask the Queen of Heaven to incline mercy to all of us, but above all to the younger generation. God grant that under no circumstances will it happen to them, as well as all of us draw the right conclusions from the hard lessons of the past century, " - said Patriarch Kirill.

Visit of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill to the exhibition "Reigning Protectress of Russia" in Kolomenskoye

March 15, 2017, after worship in the Church of Our Lady of Kazan in Kolomenskoye in Moscow Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill visited the exhibition "Reigning Protectress of Russia. On the 100th anniversary of Emperor Nicholas II's abdication and finding in Kolomenskoye the icon "Reigning"", which takes place in the exhibition halls of Kolomenskoye.



"Nicholas II. Last will of the Emperor " - A documentary.

In the case of the abdication of Nicholas II and now, 100 years later, there are a lot of white spots. Scientists are still arguing about whether indeed the Emperor abdicated voluntarily, or was forced? For a long time the main reason for doubt was an act of abdication - a simple sheet of A4, carelessly executed, and signed in pencil. In addition, in 1917, this paper has disappeared and was found only in 1929.

The film presents the results of many examinations, in which the authenticity of the act has been proven, and provides unique evidence of the person who received the abdication of Nicholas II - State Duma deputy Vasily Shulgin. In 1964, documentary cinematographers filmed his story, film survives to this day. According to Shulgin, the Emperor himself declares them upon arrival, "I thought to abdicate in favor of Alexei", but after decided to abdicate on behalf of his son in favor of his brother Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.

What the Emperor thought and felt, signing abdication for himself and for his son? The events of the last days of the Russian Empire in the movie are recreated on the basis of original documents of the period - letters, telegrams, and the Emperor Nicholas II's diaries. From the diaries, it implies that Nicholas II was confident that after the abdication his family will be left alone. He could not anticipate that signs of a death sentence for himself, his wife, daughters and beloved son. Less than a year and a half after the events of February, on the night of 16 of July 17, 1918, the Imperial Family and their entourage, were shot in the basement of the Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Acwf_f8lqUI

Discussion about the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II from the throne

The issue is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the abdication of Nicholas II from the throne, which was one of the key events of the February Revolution and marked the beginning of the disintegration of the Russian Empire.

Guests in the studio: historian, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Chief Specialist of Russian State Archive Zinaida Peregudova; doctor of historical sciences, professor, director of the Institute of Russian History Yuri Petrov; Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor of the School of History of the Higher School of Economics Mikhail Davydov . Moderator: Andrey Maksimov.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/20918/episode_id/1478619/video_id/1601067/



Mikhail Leontiev makes a comment to the 100 years' anniversary of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II

Video - <https://www.1tv.ru/news/issue/2017-03-15/21:00#8>

Foundation of Royal Martyrs church laid at site of Tsar's abdication

Moscow, March 15, 2017. Pravoslavie - On March 14, Metropolitan Eusebius of Pskov and Porkhov celebrated the rite of the founding of a church in honour of the Holy Royal Martyrs at the station in the city of Dno, where on March 15, 1917, Tsar Nicholas II signed his abdication in favour of his brother Michael.

His Eminence was assisted by the deputy abbot of the Holy Annunciation-Nikandrov Hermitage Archimandrite Seraphim (Ivashchenko), abbot of St. John the Theologian-St. Savva of Krypetsk Monastery Igumen Savva (Komarov), and others. Governor Andrei Turchak of the Pskov region and monastics and faithful from throughout the area were in attendance.

Metropolitan Eusebius addressed the crowd before beginning the rite, stating, "Today we remember an especially sad day for our Russia—the removal from power of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II. It is a sorrowful day."

"The reign of Emperor Nicholas was in the line of his predecessors from the days of Prince Vladimir and our holy compatriot, the right-believing Russian Princess Olga. Tsar Nicholas maintained, adorned, edified, and expanded Russia, caring for its people," the hierarch stated. "But there was also the influence of special worldly forces which overtook Russia like a hurricane and beheaded it, promising Heaven on earth. But, probably, they will not receive the Heavenly Paradise."

Metropolitan Eusebius also expressed the hope that this day would mark a new era of prosperity in Russia, overthrowing the horrors of the previous century. "And whatever may be said about the Emperor Tsar Nicholas, we know one thing—he loved his people, he loved God, and he was committed to the holy Orthodox faith of his ancestors and did not change in the difficult times for the Russian people and the Russian homeland. Let us beseech the Lord for His blessing on the beginning of our building here on this place a church-monument," he continued.



Then His Eminence celebrated the rite of the foundation of a new church, seeking the blessing of the Lord on the house of God and those who will build it, during which the entire foundation was sprinkled with Holy Water. Together with the Pskov governor, the metropolitan also laid a foundation stone.

Following the celebratory rite, His Eminence again addressed the people, encouraging them to bring to the church their zeal, their heart, their love of country,

and their love for their pious ancestors, "and may God grant that this building would be successful, well-pleasing, and memorable, serving for the benefit of all, for both the living and for our descendants," he concluded.

Prince Rostislav Romanov - Nicholas II was faithful to Russia

March 14, TASS - The representative of the younger generation of the Romanov family, Prince of Imperial Blood Rostislav Rostislavovich, great-grandson of Nicholas II's sister Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, answered questions from TASS on the hundredth anniversary of the abdication of the last Russian Emperor.

Interviewed by Dmitry Gorokhov

- How do you, Your Highness, a descendant of the Romanovs, look at the events that took place 15 (2) in March 1917?

- On this day, a hundred years ago with the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II from the throne on his own behalf and on behalf of his son ended the story of the Romanov dynasty in Russia. And even with the height of the time I find it hard to think of this dramatic event, without feeling sorrow. If we turn to the past, we will see that history has always consisted of stages. Before, these stages were much longer than in the new era. Often, events in different countries is an indicator of the general development in the regions. Looking at the events of the early twentieth century, we will see the abolition of many monarchies long before 1917. For many decades flows operated, aimed to such changes. In many countries, the end of the dynasty took place in different forms. But in Russia, it was extremely tragic, not only for our family. Shocks induced the whole of Russia to suffer.



- The Emperor could save the family by move to England. But Romanovs did not get such an invitation from London...

- I think that Nicholas II would have never left Russia. He loved it, he was faithful. Russia, too, was family for him, and he will never be able to leave it. Let us now return to the trends of the early twentieth century, when many monarchies had problems. Maybe that would explain the instructions of London to the British ambassador in Russia George Buchanan: "His Majesty's Government would not insist ..." At that time in England, nor the Imperial family nor the British government could not have foreseen the consequences. Parts of the Romanov family managed to escape violence and gradually start a new life in other countries. But they were never able to return to their homeland and were forced to end their life in exile, scattered around the world.

- What is the image of Nicholas II retained in your family?

- The older generation of our branch of the Romanovs were very close to the Tsar. My great-grandmother, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna was the sister of the Emperor. My great-grandfather, the founder of Russian Air Force, and Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich was his son in law. My father, Prince of Imperial Blood (the senior) Rostislav Rostislavovich tried to raise me and my brother and our sister in the tradition of the dynasty, following its values. For him there was nothing more important than family, and in this he was much like the late Sovereign. One of the Tsar's character traits was the attention to other people. He never lost his temper, always remained steady, calm. This is a great gift.



- Senior among the descendants of the Romanov, Prince Dimitri Romanovich (1926-2016) did much to bring a decent burial of Tsarevich Alexei Nicholaevich and Grand Duchess Maria. Today's family refers to these plans?

- In January, together with other relatives, I was in Copenhagen at the farewell ceremony for Prince Dimitri Romanovich. We decided at the same time to continue the work, which the head of the House has given so much of his energy.

Senior in our family - Prince of Imperial Blood Dimitri Romanovich - believed that the children of the Emperor should be buried along with parents and sisters. And then the Imperial Family will be able to rest together after so many tragic years.

Christian debt is one of the reasons why the family calls for a burial of Imperial children with their parents. Dimitri Romanovich hoped that the tragic page of Russian history will be turned over in his lifetime. Unfortunately, he did not live up to that point. But we believe that he will see it from the sky.

- You are a representative of the younger generation of the Romanovs. What does it mean for you to belong to this family?

- I often think about it, discuss it with my family. I think it is very important to preserve the legacy of the family, represented by the members of the Romanov family Association and the charity fund.

We, the Romanovs, we are proud of our dynasty's contribution, left as an inheritance to eternal Russia. The role of the dynasty is not forgotten.

That's why our Association is so dear to us. It helps to maintain family ties, serves as a reference in this regard to the roots and values of the family, which should never be forgotten. It defines our main goal at this point, our commitment, which was sacred to the late head of the family Dimitri Romanovich: burial in the cathedral of the Peter and Paul Fortress Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich and his sister, Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna.



Russia has gone through great trials, but has kept its soul.

We must always remember, through which tests passed Russia. It is also important to help those in need. I will always be grateful to the late Dimitry Romanovich because he created the Romanov Fund for Russia to come to the aid of those in need.

- You visited Russia for the first time when you were twelve years old. How do you feel today in Moscow and St. Petersburg?

- In Russia, I don't feel like a guest. Coming in both Russian capital, I feel at home. Russia has gone through great trials, but has retained its soul. And no matter what I did, I was everywhere lead by the Russian soul.

"Russia needs leadership - whether Tsar or President"

15 March. Tagesanzeiger - Prince Georg Yourievsky says the Russian Revolution would not have taken place if the reforms his great-grandfather Alexander II would have been pulled through.



"The ideal state system for Russia would be a modern constitutional monarchy," says Georg Yourievsky.

Georg Yourievsky talks with Zita Affentranger

A hundred years ago the last Russian Tsar has abdicated. You are a Prince of the Romanov dynasty. What do you think about it?

A lot. The families are slowly dying out. Many Romanov branches have no descendants or only female offspring. That it would have been quite different if the war, and the revolution would not have been. Then today there would be a Russian court, perhaps similar to the one in England.

Your great-grandfather, Alexander II is considered to be Tsar-Liberator. Could he save the Tsardom?

After the defeat in the Crimean War Alexander II realized that Russia needs to be reformed. The most important reform was the emancipation of the serfs, so he is also called the Tsar-Liberator. My great-grandfather wanted to introduce a constitutional monarchy modelled on the British example. But it didn't happen because he was murdered 1881. That was the beginning of the end of Russian Tsarism.

After that the will to reform was over?

The attack was a shock to his son Alexander III. He retreated into himself, actually lived in fear. led an anxious life. Instead of consistently address such challenges of time, as the industrialization, he redeemed many of his father's reforms. The last Tsar, Nicholas II was here more opened. But the social development lagged behind industrialization. And the revolution then developed.

In which degree does this unwillingness to reform bring the revolution? Could it be prevented?

Yes, the Revolution could have been prevented. Even Nicholas II could have turned things around if he had decided to address the deferred reforms. But he was convinced that everything had to be as it was. He was a deeply religious man, he believed in the old classic Tsardom at which you should not change anything. This has also blocked him.

In 1991, you made your first travel to Russia. It was banned before, or you did not want?

I did not try to travel there. My father survived two assassination attempts in exile. He was born in the 1900's. He had lived through all these disasters, the world wars, the revolution. He had given up hope that he could return again to Russia. He died in 1988 and didn't see the dramatic historical change. I was the first of the family, who returned to Russia.

You had never seen the country before, how was this "return"?

It is one of the great highlights of my life. As I stood on the land of this country, I have realized that it is my country. I never thought that you could feel so connected to a country, although I was never there before. That was heartbreaking. The people were very cordial, very opened and interested.

There are two noble hearts in you. The family of your great-grandmother actually from Kiev. How do you see the conflict between Ukrainians and Russians?

This separation is very sad for me. The roots of my great-grandmother, Dolgoruky, goes back to the Kievan Rus, in the actual primeval Russia, and to the original Rurik Tsar Kin. That's why I'm having trouble trying to divide Russia and Ukraine. For me this is a single whole.

Vladimir Putin sometimes evokes to Old Tsarist Greatness. He, as once Catherine the Great, has brought the Crimea to the Russian Empire. Is the Crimea really "holy" for Russians?

For many, Crimea is exactly the same, and it is very, very important for a lot of people. There are emotional, religious and strategic reasons. Black Sea Fleet is stationed in Crimea, and my great-grandfather also already fought there in Crimean War. This territory has been defended with blood. In the West people have forgotten it too easy.

The annexation has brought Russia big trouble...

America can make whatever it wants in the world and doesn't care. It is hypocritical when the United States speak of violations of international law. Their own violations are so serious that this story about Crimea seems almost funny. After the coup in Ukraine in 2014 no one knew what the new leadership intends to do in Crimea. Russia had to respond decisively to prevent deaths. And Putin did it quickly and elegantly.

Are the sanctions viable means of dealing with Russia?

Not at all. Sanctions are basically a nonsense. They bring nothing and cause great economic damage on both sides. Sanctions create counteraction. It brings the game to a sandbox level. And those who know Russia, know that sanctions are completely counterproductive. They have welded together the country. And whom they hurt? Billionaires who have companies all over the world, you can not hit with sanctions. The victims are small and medium-sized companies that are not on the sanctions list.

One would simply has said, that's okay?

No, but you would have to seek solutions through diplomatic channels, and at political level. A change of power would have to run politically correct. For example, as a result of new elections. Instead, Western countries have supported the coup in Kiev.

How should one then deal with Russia?

Accept that it has different ideas, different values, different opinions, a different lifestyle, a different religious and cultural background. You have to understand the other side, do not always see everything through Western spectacles, not behave as you know everything. Without lifting sanctions nothing will change. If Switzerland wants to make something positive here, they could cancel the measures and bring the parties back to the table.

Tsarism, communism, socialism, democracy and autocracy now. Which model fits?

A combination. Russia needs a strong leader, no matter what system, whether tsar or president, no doubt. Without full power and a strong personality, you can't lead such a complex, heterogeneous and big country. We're talking about hundreds of languages and ethnicities, all religions are represented, there are eleven time zones – there is no chance for cosy talkative democracy.

Rather?

The ideal state system for Russia would be a modern constitutional monarchy in which the Tsar is a factor of stability and security. That would match the history of Russia. In the short term, it may not be realistic. But in the long term thoughts and ideas will appear and as a monarchist I am convinced about it.

Georg Yourievsky

Georg Yourievsky is the last great-grandson of a Russian Tsar. His family lives in Switzerland, where the today 55-year-old was born and raised since 1957. He studied, including Zurich, worked for many in the IT industry and now in art and real estate. After the fall of the Soviet Union the direct descendant of the Romanov dynasty in 1991 first travelled to Russia. Since then he has visited the country regularly. The Princely House Yourievsky goes back to the second marriage of the Russian Tsar Alexander II (1818-1881) to Princess Ekaterina Dolgoruky, whose family is directly descended from the old tsarist family of the Rurik.

Russian Imperial porcelain Easter eggs

Is on display at "Paine Art Center and Gardens" in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA, from February 11, 2017 to June 4, 2017.



Featuring more than seventy finely painted porcelain Easter eggs dating from the nineteenth century through the early twentieth century, this exhibition highlights the tradition of exchanging exquisite, decorative eggs among the Russian royalty and aristocracy at Easter. The intricate eggs were commissioned by the Romanov family from the Imperial Porcelain Factory in St. Petersburg as gifts presented to those in attendance at the Imperial Court and at the festive rituals held throughout Easter time.



Encompassing a wide range of styles from Baroque to Rococo and Art Nouveau, the elaborate designs include a variety of motifs: religious miniatures; flowers, birds, and other themes from nature; landscapes and city scenes; ornamentation derived from medieval and Old Russian designs; and imperial monograms. The exhibition includes a special selection of Red Cross Easter eggs presented by members of the Imperial family to soldiers and officers during World War I.

All of the Easter eggs and accompanying documentary materials on display are on loan from the remarkable private collection of Raymond Piper from Plymouth, Wisconsin.



A monument to Emperor Alexander III will be at Livadia Palace

March 15, Yalta - In Livadia on the site, where was the palace in which died Emperor Alexander III, (nowadays a tennis court), will be established the monument. This was reported by the director of the Livadia Palace Museum Larisa Dekusheva.

"At this moment, we are preparing the site. The initiative belongs to the Union of Artists of Russia, which gives us the monument "- said Dekusheva.

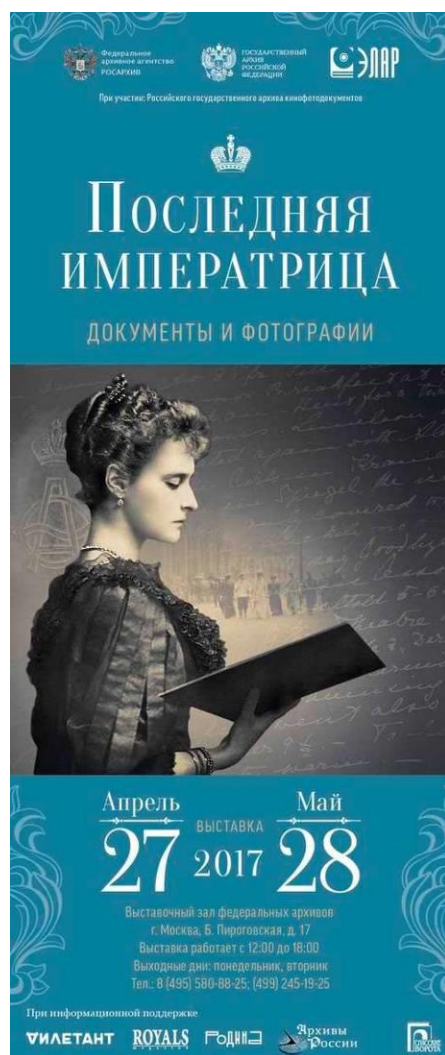
According to the director of the museum, the author of the monument is an artist from Moscow. However, the author's name and the parameters of the future of the monument is not yet known. (Romanov News can inform that the Moscow sculptor Andrei Kovalchuk is involved).

Also, Dekusheva is sure that the demolition of the tennis courts should not greatly upset the fans of this type of active recreation.

"If they want to play tennis, let them go to the stadium. I think that for the Crimea the installation of the monument to Alexander III is a more significant event than tennis courts, "- said Dekusheva.

Historical and documentary exhibition "The last Empress. Documents and photographs"

An exhibition dedicated to the Russian Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, nee Princess of Hesse-Darmstadt, open on April 26 at the Exhibition Hall of the Federal Archives. The exhibition is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the State Archive of the Russian Federation and the 25th anniversary of the corporation "ELAR". It presents original photos of Alexandra, made by both professional photographers and members of the imperial family and their retinue.



Get acquainted with the documentary heritage of the last Empress and her family will be possible not only in the original, but also on the interactive screens in the exhibition hall, as well as through the Internet in a special section of the electronic reading room Assembly of the Russian Federation - "Archives of the XXI century". This new format showcase a broad user audience of archival documents, developed by corporation "ELAR". For the first time through the use of interactive touch screens, visitors will see almost all the personal fund of Alexandra Feodorovna, which is stored in the State Archive, which is more than 60 thousand pages of documents. The original pictures, as well as other documents tell about the life of Princess Alix from her birth in 1872 to the tragic death of the Empress in 1918.

Especially for the exhibition multimedia film was prepared which includes photographs, letters, diaries, drawings of Alexandra and her family, as well as newsreels.

During operation of the exposure in one of the rooms it will be shown how to digitize archive document.

April 26, 2017 State Archive of the Russian Federation celebrates its 25th anniversary. It was established in 1992 and is the successor of the Central State Archive of the October Revolution and the Central State Archive of the RSFSR. Archive included in the State Register of especially valuable objects of cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation. In the same year, 25 years and marks the largest Russian enterprises for the digitization and creation of information resources - the corporation "ELAR". Their anniversaries they decided to celebrate by a joint exhibition project



His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent awarded the Ludvig Nobel Prize

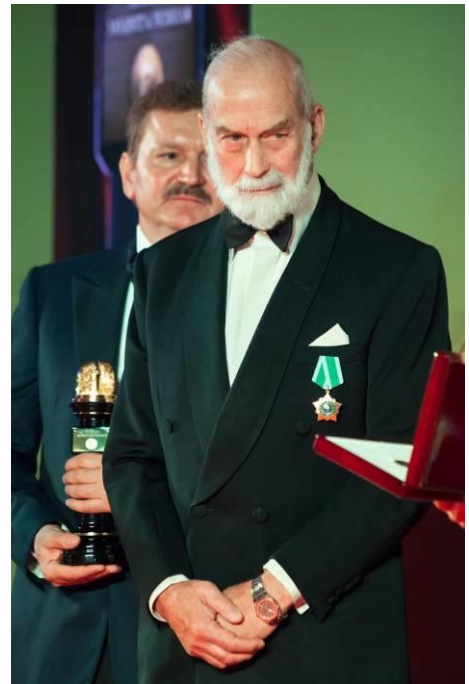
On March 26, 2017, the heads of Ludvig Nobel Foundation - Jaroslav Golko, Anna Yakovleva and Eugene Lukoshkov - organized and conducted the XII awarding ceremony of the Russian Ludvig Nobel Prize. The solemn ceremony was held in the State Complex "Congress Palace" of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, located in Strelina.

On this day, the prize was awarded to His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight of the Order John of Jerusalem, Honoree member of Romanov Family Association, who arrived specially for the ceremony in St. Petersburg at the invitation of Ludvig Nobel Foundation.

The presentation of His Royal Highness can be seen in the following video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZtbFyOeAdE>

The title of laureate of the Russian Prize Ludvig Nobel Foundation were also awarded to : Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Honored Worker of the Diplomatic Service of the Russian Federation, Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov; People's Artist of Russia, Academician of the National Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences of Russia, Member of the Russian Union of Writers Vasiliy Borisovich Livanov; People's Artist of the Russian Federation, Honored Worker of Culture of Poland, Member of the Russian Academy of Arts, sculptor Grigory Danilovich Yastrebenetsky and People's Artist of Russia, Laureate of the State Prize of the Russian Federation, Professor, Academician of the Russian Academy of Education, the composer Sergei Mikhailovich Slonimsky.

Among the honored guests at the ceremony, who came to congratulate the recipients, were: the twelfth world chess champion Anatoly Karpov ; the playwright, historian, writer Edvard Radzinsky; Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, State Counselor of Justice of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Law, Colonel-General Sergei Stepashin; Chairman of the Presidium of the International Council of Russian Compatriots, Rector of the Paris Conservatoire named after Sergey Rahmaninov Count Peter Sheremetev; Executive President of the "Franco-Russian Dialogue" Association, Chairman of the Association "Society of the memory of the Imperial Guard" Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy ; Prince Dimitri M. Shakhovskoy and Paul Rodzianko.



Tsarevich Alexei' shirt was brought to Elista

The relic was placed in Kyoto with the icon of martyrs and placed in the Kazan Cathedral Elista before the Divine Liturgy, which made by the Archbishop of Elista and Kalmykia Justinian. To it was also brought the Icon of the Mother of God the Reigning, sanctified by the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

Archbishop Justinian said that bringing to Kalmykia the shirt of Tsarevich Alexei is timed to the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Way of the Cross of Martyr Tsar Nicholas and his family and many other martyrs and confessors whose points of reference was the day of the Emperor's abdication March 15, 1917 of the year.



This nightgown shirt belonged to the last Russian Tsarevich Alexei Nikolayevich. This fact gives the undoubted value of this thing. In itself the shirt is typical for that time, clothing for children and adolescents ", - noted the archdiocese. As explained in the press-service, the shirt of Tsarevich Alexei, along with other personal belongings of the Imperial Family was brought to Tobolsk. Among those who arrived with the Romanov family was a servant Smirnov, who managed to stay alive and escape abroad, he kept the shirt.

Video - 1) <http://stv24.tv/novosti/obshhie/12955/>
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzVwqBVox3U>

"The Romanov Dynasty" in Japan

The 100th anniversary of the tragic revolutionary events in Russia is remembered, not only in Russia. Memorable exhibitions and other events are held in Europe, China and in Japan. A country, to which rushed a wave of Russian emigration, as is was a country, which the Russian revolution did not touch.

In Tokyo, at the Museum "Oriental Library" (Toyo Bunko), opened already on January 10, 2017, the exhibition "The Romanov dynasty". It is an exhibition organized by the museum itself, and its idea came to the "Oriental Library" two years ago.

The exhibition is based on materials from the museum's archives. The Japanese wanted to show the ups and downs of the Russian Empire, show their perception of the East, and the exhibition slogan can be translated as "Russian in Japan and Japan in Russia."

The exhibits cover not only the past century, but also the preceding century, the reign of the Romanov dynasty. Visitors can learn the history of Russian-Japanese relations from Peter I to Nicholas II, and the story of the love between the two nations until the fall of the Russian Empire.



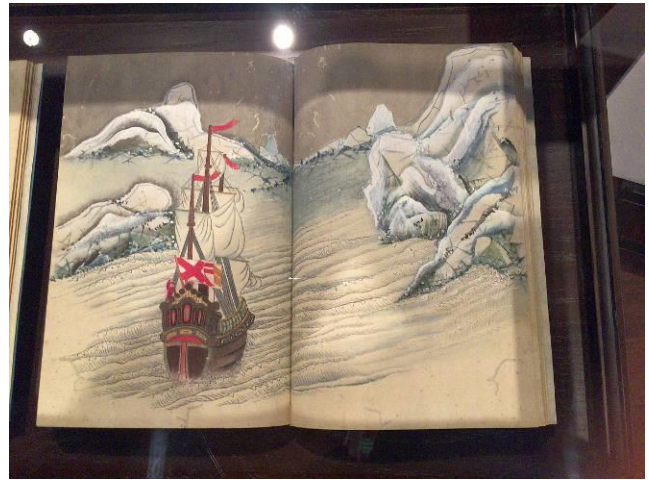
The exhibition features the original Japanese prints dedicated to the emergency landing of Putiatin in Japan in 1855, and the subsequent construction of the schooner on which the Russian sailors were able to return to Russia. It was the first experience of scientific-technical cooperation between Russia and Japan. You can also see maps of the XVII and XVIII centuries, books in Russian and Japanese, in

particular, the first edition of "The Brothers Karamazov" by Dostoevsky, which is known and loved in Japan.

In addition to the old documents and objects, there are modern copies, for example, a copy of a photo which Prime Minister Abe of Japan presented to President Putin in December.



Reviews of the exhibition is extremely positive both from visitors and from the media. About the event wrote major Japanese newspapers like Yomiuri, Nikkei, Asahi, Tokyo and Sankei.



In Belgorod there will be a monument to Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna



During the traditional salon of the metropolitan in Belgorod, a preliminary acquaintance with the projects of the future monument took place.

The event was dedicated to the Great Lent. Meeting the guests, Metropolitan John called it "spiritual spring" - a time when the Orthodox not only observe moderation in food, but improve and strengthen their spirit.

A bright moment was the presentation of the projects of the monument to the passion-bearer Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna Romanova, the eldest daughter of the last Russian Emperor. Moreover, the guests were able to vote in favour of the layout they liked.



"Empire of Faberge" - Sketches for unique silver jewelry.

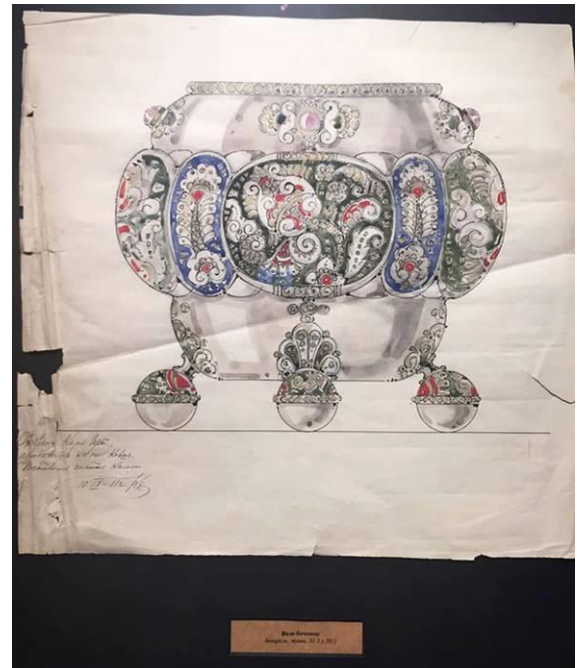
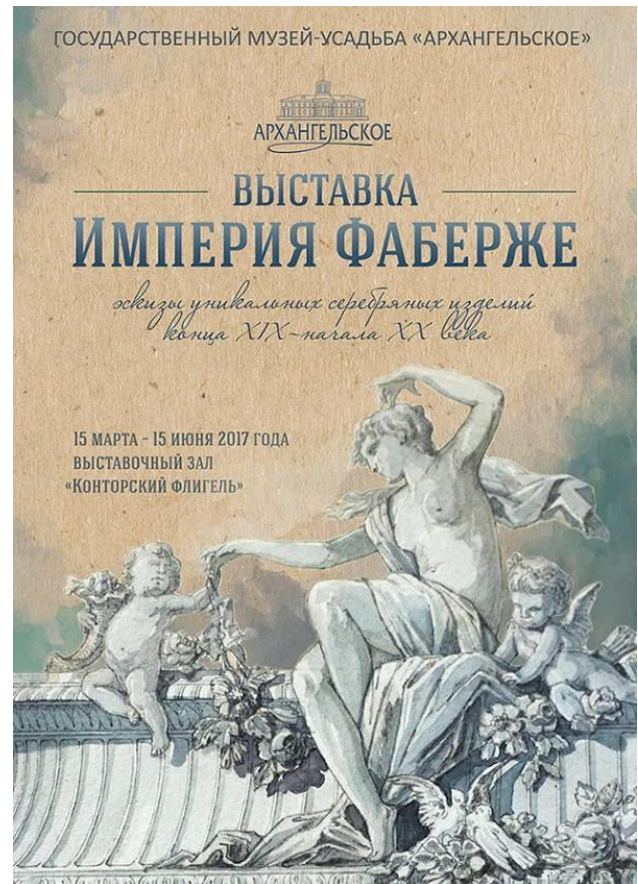
Museum-Estate "Arkhangelsk" March 15 - June 15, 2017

Year 2017 marks a double anniversary - the 175th anniversary of the founding of Faberge and the 130th anniversary of the appearance of its Moscow branch, who made a significant contribution to the history of the vanished Faberge empire.

The exposition is devoted to the little-known side of Faberge work. Dinner sets, gift buckets and bowls, toilet equipment and desktop accessories, fifty design projects for major silverware are presented at the exhibition from a private collection.

Annotated drawings, - is the involvement of the audience in the creative process of artists. Developed projects embodied in St. Petersburg, but the majority of those represented in the exhibition space are sketches made in the Moscow branch of the company.

The predominance of the neo-Russian style products is the main difference between Moscow and St. Petersburg. Wizards do not simply copy the patterns of ancient art, but sought to convey the impression of the last epic in the item to create an instance. The subjects were fairy tales, epics and historical events.



Designers, by the definition of the main masters of the company, "artists and composers", following the principle to connect the unconnected, have revived the lost art "Quattro Colour", or "four-color gold" and silver enamelling.

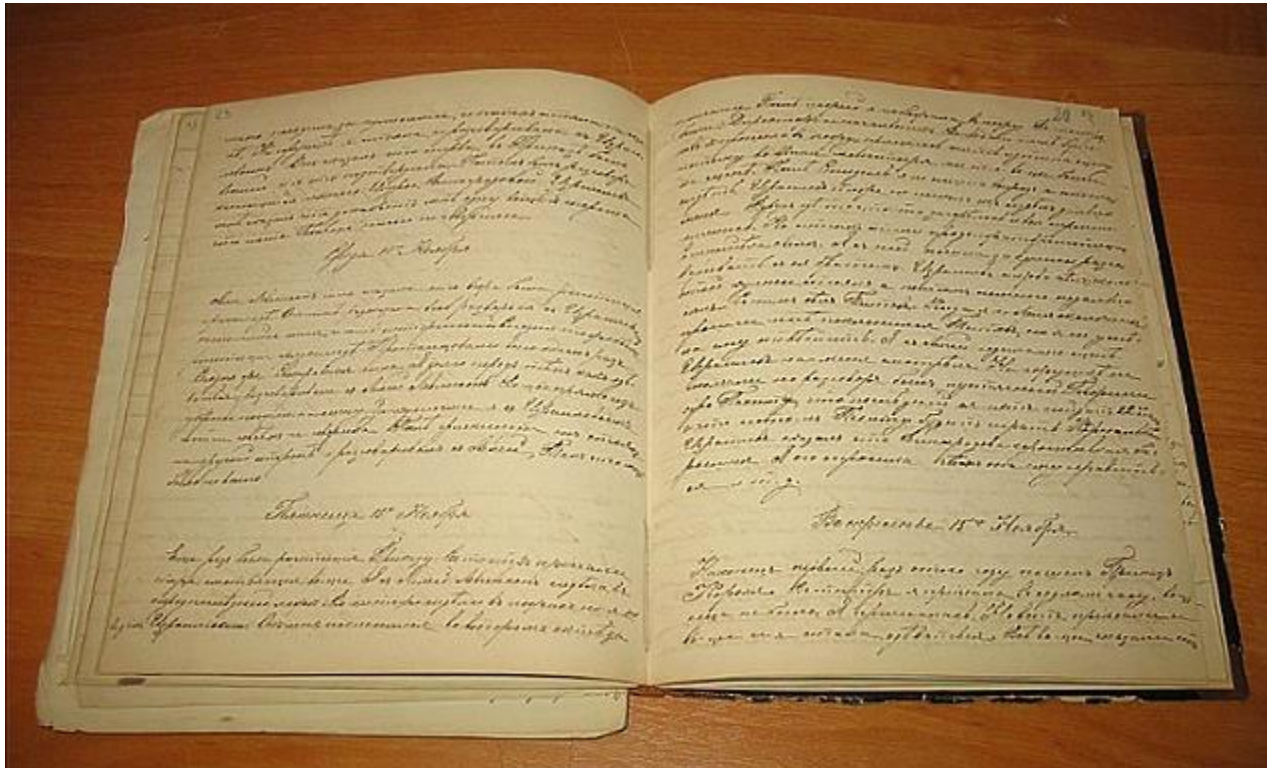
Graphics Collection ensures the uniqueness of the models, the breadth of assortment, a variety of forms, techniques and ornamentation published under the label of "Faberge" creations.



Ballerina's diary reveals her affair with Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich

22 March. Daily Mail - An intimate diary and letters penned by Ballerina Matilda Kshesinskaya have been published for the first time.

Matilda Kshesinskaya was 17 when she met the future emperor, and two years later began a passionate affair. The relationship between the Tsarevich - later Nicholas II - and the dancer is well known but the diary extracts and her drawings of her royal lover, which 'survived by a miracle' according to a Moscow newspaper, appear to show her deep love for the royal whose abdication exactly 100 years ago led swiftly to the Bolshevik Revolution.



The diary of Matilda Kshesinskaya which has unearthed the new revelations about their love

Kshesinskaya tells how her 'crush' on him developed to a first kiss and finally to her giving in to his demands.

'I was wearing a blue costume, flowers, lily... very elegant,' she wrote of the day the pair first met in 1890 after a performance by her ballet school when she admitted she was 'flirty' talking to him.

A few months later he eyed her through binoculars at a performance in a royal summer palace, and confessed that 'at every opportunity I glance at the heir' - as she called him.

Predicting their future illicit relationship, she said that staring at him from afar 'won't be enough for me, I'll want more, that's my personality. I'm afraid of myself.'

A commoner, she recorded how a friend of the crown prince confided that Nicholas was still a virgin and 'hasn't been with anyone yet' but also 'that I could see him if there was someone not too scared to arrange a date for us'.

On 4 January 1892 at her theatre, she saw Nicholas and said she forgot about everything that was around her.

She wrote: 'I was so very happy when the heir approached me and gave me his hand. I felt his long handshake, I replied with the same and looked him right into his eyes.'

'I can't explain what happened to me when I got home.'

'I couldn't eat, I ran to my room, and was crying because my heart was in such pain.'

'For the first time, I realised it wasn't merely a crush, as I thought earlier, but it's that I love the heir deeply and madly and will never be able to forget him'.

By March that year, aged 23, he suddenly appeared at her home in St Petersburg, the tsarist capital, after she had been told his friend would visit her.

'The heir had tea, and he stayed till around 1 am - but these two hours passed in an instant,' she wrote.

'He wanted to go to the bedroom but I didn't let him,' she wrote.

They agreed to exchange letters and he insisted on more meetings with her, and soon he asked her to be on first name terms.

'When the heir left, I was in shock, I could still hardly believe what happened,' she wrote.

'I got to know him better, I was charmed by him even more....

'God, it all happened so fast, like in a dream.'

Some days later, she was told to expect a late-night visit, but it was midnight before he came.

'Without taking his coat off, he came to my room where we greeted each other and kissed for the first time,' she recorded.

'I got a present from the heir, a wonderful bracelet.

'Today is the 23rd, exactly two years since the school play when I got to know the Heir and got a crush on him.

'For the first time in my life I had such a miraculous evening. Or night, to be more accurate. The heir was here from 11.30 pm until 4.30 in the morning.

'These hours passed so fast. We talked a lot and today, too.

'I didn't let the heir to the bedroom - and he made me laugh a lot when he said that if I am afraid to go there with him, he'd go alone.

'First, when he arrived, I was very uncomfortable talking to him on first-name terms.

'He has such beautiful eyes, I'm just going crazy.

'The heir left when it was around sunrise.

'We kissed goodbye several times. When he left, my heart was broken.

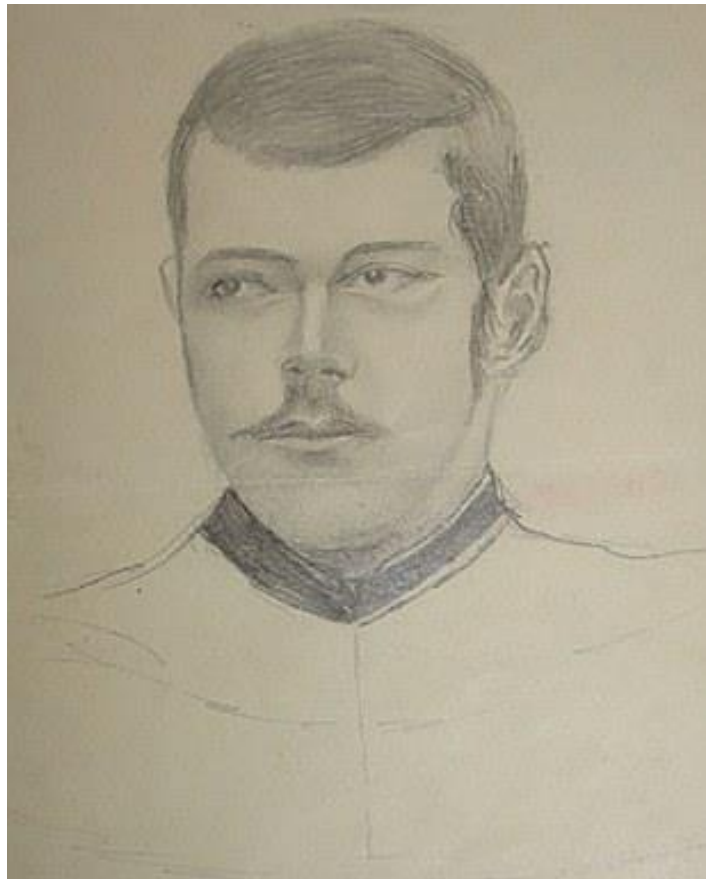
'Oh, happiness is so fragile. I always think it's the last time I'll see him.'

Soon she was wracked with jealousy.

From the stage, she spotted him pointing his binoculars at another dancer.



A colour photograph of ballerina Matilda Kshesinskaya wearing a yellow dress and jewellery



Portrait of Nicholas II by Matilda Ksheniskaya

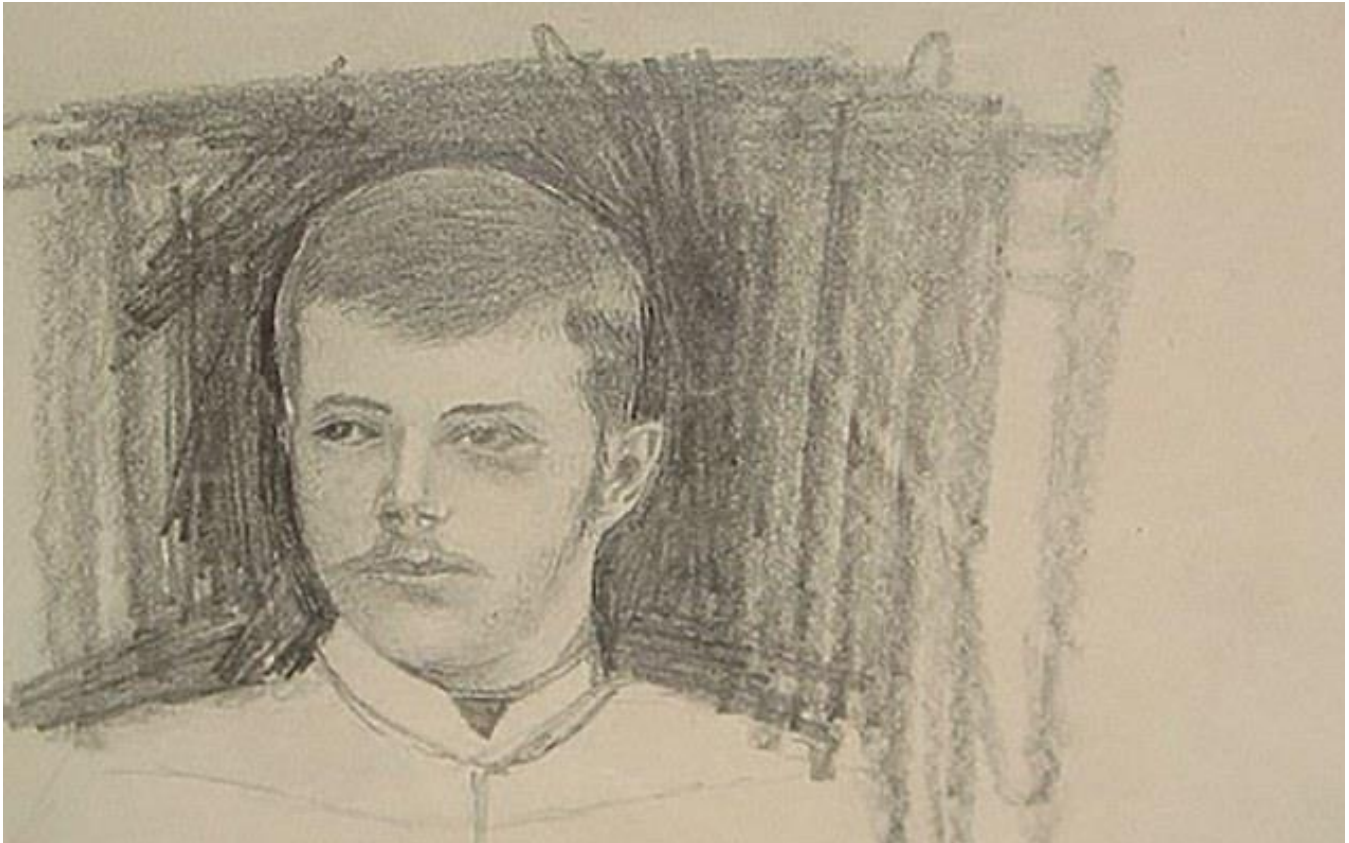
'Something saddened me,' she told him. In a letter that she wrote him, she said: 'Nicky, with every day my love to you becomes stronger! I'd want you to love me as much as I love you.'

'Sorry, Niki, but I don't believe you love me. Perhaps, I am wrong but most likely I'm not.'

'It always happens so: everything you achieve seems impossible, and if starts to come true, it feels like it's a lie. I madly like your photo cards in Onegin's costume. Want to kiss you. I have many things to ask you and tell you. Kissing you tight and, as you like, three times.'

Then she matter-of-factly recorded the first time they slept together.

'The first day of Easter. In the morning, I got a letter from Nicky, (and) around 10pm he came to me and stayed until around 2am. All evening we were together. Nicky has been to my bedroom for the first time. He liked it - and my dress - a lot. And I was very pleased Nicky paid attention to it. I had a wonderful evening. We talked a lot and were remembered the past.'



A sketch of a young Tsar Nicholas II drawn by Matilda Kshesinskaya - found in the diary

There was always danger in their meetings.

On 11 April, she said: 'Nicky stayed at mine for quite a while, he wanted to stay longer. But was afraid to because he's now living with Papa (Tsar Alexander III) in the Zimny ('winter') palace where it is dangerous to return to very late at night. Everyone is a spy there.'

She wrote: 'Nicky liked my dress again. I really like that he pays attention to the dress, it is so good when men understand it. Niki was at mine until 5 am.'

She records this exchange which highlights the impossibility of their relationship lasting because he was expected to marry a royal.

But once he asked her asked her: 'Would you like to marry me?'

'And when I said it is impossible and that I never wanted to, Nicky asked: 'Is it better like this?' He stressed some phrases. For example: 'Only things that are nearly impossible are good and worthwhile'.'

She wrote: 'Nicky brought me a brooch, but I refused it. I don't want anything from him, I only want him to love me. I want to keep this clean, holy feeling to him.'

He left on a long trip to military camp and later Denmark, and already his forthcoming marriage to Alexandra, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, was being planned.

Drafts of her letters show she wrote to tell him of her jealousy.

'I keep remembering the last night I spent with you, when you, dear Nicky, lay on my couch. I was admiring you.

'You were so dear to me at that moment and I was so jealous of you for that woman, who will soon have the right to shower you with her caresses. [She means Alix of Hesse and by Rhine, future Empress Alexandra].

'But remember Nicky, no one will love you as much as I do.

'Tell me, Nicky, when you get married, will you totally forget your Panni?' (his name for her derived from the word meaning 'lady' in Polish and linked to her Polish origins).

She crossed out words which read 'or at least occasionally remember about me. I will never demand impossible things! I want to know it now, [when] you are not afraid to tell me the truth. If yes, we need to stop all this immediately.'

She describes herself as 'hotly loving' him.

She said: 'I had such a passionate desire to be always with you. To this desire is joined terrible jealousy for (his wife-to-be).'

In July, she wrote a letter promising him: 'On Thursday I will dance good, and then I will wear a very pretty dress, and I hope that you like me. Madly and passionately loving you, your Panni kisses you hard.'

As their enforced break-up neared, she expressed her frustration but also sought to make him jealous. according to her letters.

'Sorry, Nicky, but I do not believe that your feeling to me is as deep as mine to you....

'I'm glad that you begin to feel jealous. It pleases me so much.'

The diary and letter extracts were published this week by newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets, which reported that they are in the possession of the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum. They cover the period from 1886 to 1893, and her other diaries are lost.

Scandal also engulfed her after she engaged in relationships with two Grand Dukes of the Romanov family: Sergei Mikhailovich and his cousin Andrei Vladimirovich.

In 1902, she gave birth to a son, Vladimir, but it is unclear which of these royal lovers was the father.

Some 19 years later she wed Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich.

She performed for the last time aged 64 at a charity event with The Royal Ballet at Covent Garden.

She died in exile in Paris aged 99 in 1971.



A colorized photo Matilda Kshesinskaya

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Tray by Fabergé acquired by Tsarskoye Selo

The Martial Chamber of Tsarskoy Selo will have a Carl Fabergé piece of World War I era, which the Museum has never had before.

Auctioned by Oliver Coutau Begarie in Paris and purchased by the Museum, the brazen ashtray with Russia's relief coat of arms is inscribed 'War of 1914' and originates from a special series of objects produced by Fabergé during the war.

Responding to a fall in demand for jewellery, Fabergé had to adapt his workshops to the needs of wartime with products destined for the frontline. His mechanical plant in Moscow made purely functional items from inexpensive and practical materials, such as brass, copper and alloys. Those were basically field cooking and eating wares like mugs, pots, pans, samovars, kettles, kerosene stoves, basins and washbowls.



Fabergé also produced award items, such as brazen ashtrays, cup holders and cigarette cases with the Russian coat of arms and memorable inscription 'War of 1914' and 'War of 1914–1915'. Those were awarded to soldiers and officers of the active army when Emperor Nicholas II visited the theatre of military operations. Soldiers' articles were inexpensive and very practical.



According to Ms. Yekaterina Stadler, Metalwork Collection curator, 'It is noteworthy that, despite their utilitarian purpose, relatively cheap materials and large volumes of production, all those objects were distinguished in quality and elegance, and they were repeatedly praised for that by Russia's military department.'



Scots Dragoon Guards in Tsarskoye Selo

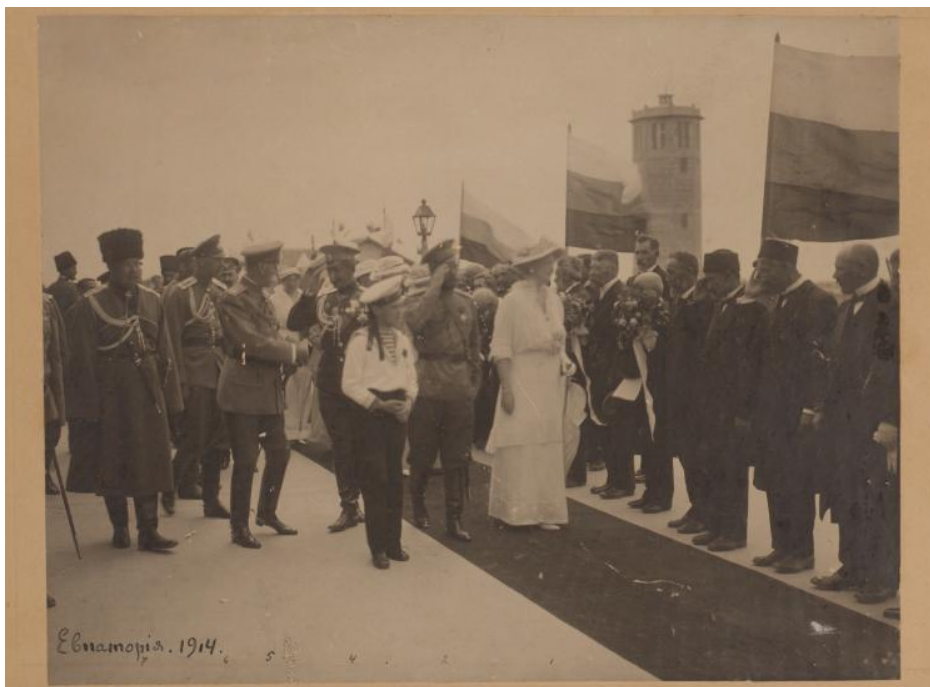
On April 8, to "Tsarskoye Selo" museum-reserve will arrive delegation of retired commanders of the Guards of the Royal Scots Dragoon Regiment. The guests will give to the museum a gift, a uniform of an honorary commander of the regiment.

Honorary commander of the Scots Greys was Emperor Nicholas II. In the museum's collection stored a dress uniform of a colonel, presented to the Emperor (in which he is depicted in the portrait by Valentina Serov). In 2013, representatives of the regiment presented as a gift to the museum original uniform boots early XX century - they did not have a complete historical dress uniform.

The delegation is headed by Brigadier Jameson (Brigadier Melville Jameson) - chairman of the regimental museum of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Edinburgh). The delegation also includes: Colonel Phillips (Colonel Andrew Phillips) - the former commander of the regiment, now headed by the regimental association; Major McLean (Major Robin Maclean) - Chief Curator of the Regimental Museum; Senior officer Trotter (John Trotter).

This is the first official visit of the delegation of the regiment in Tsarskoye Selo for more than 120 years.

Gathering of visitors and the press will be at the Golden Gate of the Catherine Palace. On the square will be Scottish military performances by a brass band. Guests at the Palace will be meet by Choir "Anthem." The event will be attended by cadets.



A photo....

Visit of the Imperial Family to Evpatoria, Crimea. The year written on the lower left says 1914.

On the reverse - a list of persons in the photo: His Imperial Majesty Nicholas II, Her Imperial Majesty Alexandra Feodorovna, His Imperial Highness Heir Alexei, General Kniagevich, Baron Fredericks, His Highness Prince Igor Konstantinovich, and Count Grabbe.

Bust of Emperor Nicholas II streaming myrrh?

The State Duma deputy, former prosecutor of the Crimea, Natalia Poklonskaya said that a bust of Nicholas II began to stream myrrh on March 2.



Poklonskaya told about the incident with the bust of Nicholas II on the TV channel "Constantinople". It is a monument erected in the square at the chapel not far from the building of the Crimean prosecutor's office, where previously worked Poklonskaya. People began to come to the bust with children to "make them" and to heal, added the deputy of the State Duma.

Nor scientists or anyone could explain "a miracle. And that's in the centenary [of the February Revolution]. See how! Sovereign helps us in fact. They died for us to make Russia prosperous and great. We have to do it," - Poklonskaya said.

The Church condemned the mockery of the news that Nicholas II bust streaming myrrh

March, 6. Interfax - Head of the Synodal Commission for the Causes of Saints Bishop Troitskiy Pankraty criticized bloggers and journalists who ironically took the news about Nicholas II bust was myrrh streaming in a church in Simferopol.

"In cases of myrrh streaming or similar unusual phenomena associated with the Church, contemptuous mockery or, on the contrary, enthusiastic exaltation completely irrelevant of course, requires thorough testing of these phenomena, but before the official confirmation or refutation should follow the wise advice of the holy fathers. Do not accept or reject ", - writes the bishop on his page on the social network.



In the Bulgarian town Svishtov (Veliko Tarnovo region) there is a scandal because of the decision of the local authorities to establish a monument to Russian Emperor Alexander II in honour of the 140th anniversary of its liberation from the Ottoman yoke.

According to TV Nova, the sculpture (8.5 meters in a height) was presented to the city by "The Balkan Centre for Development and Reconstruction." The Council of Svishtov community adopted a decision to install the monument on 21 February.

Supporters of the decision say that Russia liberated the city and the country from the Ottoman yoke. In turn, opponents believe Moscow's actions during the Russian-Turkish war was a conquest.

Some residents of the city believe that the installation of the monument to Emperor Alexander II - not the best idea, because it is a symbol of another country, and may not be a manifestation of gratitude to the soldiers who participated in the war.



Work on the creation in Diveevsky Monastery of a monument to Nicholas II and his family is in accordance with the planned schedule. Currently, the first phase of its construction - a monument made in clay, the last adjustments are made to it for the further work with bronze.

Scheduled inspection of the monument will be on April 10. It will be attended by the Metropolitan of Nizhny Novgorod and Arzamas, and founder of the Foundation of St. Basil the Great Constantine Malofeev.

According to the plan, the monument should be installed at the Cathedral Square of the monastery in August 2017.



Peter the Great's ship "Poltava" is being recreated in St. Petersburg. It was the first large ship built in St. Petersburg, the first battleship of the Baltic Fleet. A replica of the legend of Peter's epoch becomes real. It is planned that the ship will be a museum, but it can sail and is built in full compliance with the requirements of the current Maritime Register.

Exactly three years have passed since the keel was laid. Now is almost ready the Gun deck - where there is the first of fifty guns.

Decor for the aft of Poltava - a work of art. All these handmade products. Each of these elements is not just decoration, but support of a deeper meaning.

It is planned that already this year, "Poltava" will be on the water, and within two years it will be finally finished

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/170589/



March 15, 2017 - At the Memorial Complex Church "The Savior on Waters" in St. Petersburg, was held a ceremony dedicated to the Russian Imperial Navy sailors who have remained faithful to the oath, St. Andrew's flag and its Emperor to the end, and who died from internal enemy in February 1917 in Helsingfors, Kronstadt and the Petrograd.



April 23, in Alexandrovsky theater, in Helsinki, the musical drama "Endure to the End" will be presented. The drama and music is dedicated to Nicholas II and his family. The play touches upon the theme of love, life and execution without trial and investigation of the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. Throughout the world, there is a growing interest in the national wealth of the Russian State, and the theme of the most important historical turning point - the fall of the Romanovs' house is especially exciting for the Russians and guests of the country in the anniversary revolutionary year. A hundred years ago, the revolution in Russia moved the country to a course of completely different moral and ethical values. Today we can safely say that any revolution lead to destruction, chaos and trouble. And this conclusion can be made regarding any state in the world. Today in Russia the time has come for repentance and awareness - what significance was the life sacrifice of the family of Nicholas II and those who were with them until the end. Today it's time to realize that a destructive path for any country will lead to the loss of high moral and moral values. The play "Endure to the End" is presented in the genre of musical drama by the director of the Mariinsky Theater - Olga Malikova.



An exhibition of the Tsarevich's visit to Tyumen opened at Kolokol'nikov museum. The exhibition in Tyumen museum complex is dedicated to the 180th anniversary from the date of visit of Tsarevich Alexander Nikolayevich. 2017 marks 180 years since the first visit to Siberia and Tyumen of a representative of the Romanov dynasty - the Grand Duke and heir to the Russian throne, later Emperor Alexander II.



State Historical Museum in Moscow have announced several interesting upcoming exhibitions: In **May - September - "For his friends." By the 140th anniversary of the War of Liberation of Bulgaria 1887-1888**". The exhibition is based on chronological order and covers the entire period of the war: 12 (24) April 1877 - the date of the signing of Alexander II Manifesto on the war with the Ottoman Empire, and 1 (13) July 1878 - the final day of the Congress of Berlin, revised upward conditions of San Stefano peace treaty. The exhibition presents a unique memorial monument, autographs, graphic and sculptural portraits of war heroes, uniforms, weapons combatant Russian and Turkish armies, the national dress of the Balkan peoples, cards and awards. The exhibition will be complemented by paintings of contemporary war. In **September - January 2018 - "Russian generals of the Napoleonic wars."** Everyone knows the Military Gallery of the Winter Palace, there are more than 300 portraits of the generals of the Russian Imperial Army, made by the English artist J. Doe. There are also multiple graphics of Russian generals of 1812, most of which are now little known to the general public. The purpose of the exhibition - to acquaint the public with graphic portraits of Russian generals, who have proved themselves in the era of the Napoleonic wars, which drew such masters as Louis de Saint-Aubin, F. Vendramini and others.

In **October - January 2018 - "Kuban Cossacks"**. The exhibition is dedicated to the bright phenomenon in the country's history - the Russian Cossacks, its military history, traditions and culture. Historical monuments of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries provided from the collection of one of the oldest museums in Russia - Krasnodar State Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve, created by an officer of the Kuban Cossack Army Yevgeny Dmitrievich Felitsin in 1879. The exhibition includes paintings, sculptures, uniforms, maps, banners, awards, weapons, documents, memorial items. Artefacts from the collection of the Historical Museum and private collections will complement the exhibition.



An exhibition of porcelain dolls, depicting all the Tsars and Emperors of the Romanov dynasty, was opened on March 6 on the territory of the Izmailovo Kremlin. The collection was created over the years by the best artists on the basis of work by Olina Veottsel. The height of the dolls is 80 - 100 cm, and they are entirely handmade. Costumes for them were made in the most historic ancient techniques of cutting and sewing, as well as antique materials. Izmailovo is not chosen by chance, as there once was located patrimony of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich.



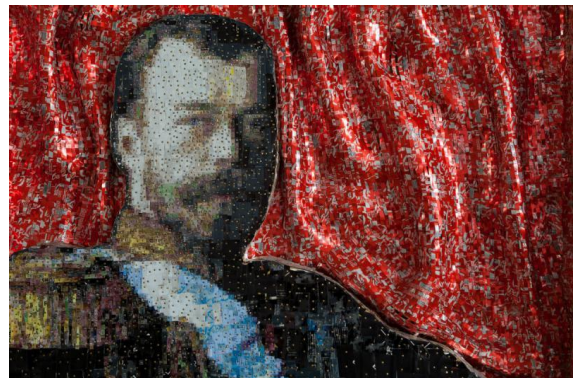
The Russian Church official is sure that Lenin's body should be buried when there are enough preconditions for it. "I believe that Lenin certainly should be moved out and I am sure this question will be settled sooner or later," head of the Synodal Department for Church, Society and Media Relations Vladimir Legoyda said on Dozhd TV channel. According to him, it will take place "when it doesn't give grounds for splits." Legoyda does not agree that "sometimes they make a touchstone of it: if you are an Orthodox Christian, you should demand to bury Lenin's body, if you don't agree that he should be buried tomorrow, then what an Orthodox Christian you are." The church official also gave his personal evaluation of Stalin's personality. Answering the question whether he considers him "an executor", Legoyda said, "from my point of view, yes."



The museum-reserve "Tsaritsyno" in Moscow, opened an exhibition of Nikos Floros. It presents seven portraits of family members of Nicholas II, handmade from pieces of aluminum cans in the style of surreal pop art. Video - 1)

https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/169207

2) <http://mir24.tv/news/culture/15772090>





The Samson fountain in Peterhof is among the 10 most beautiful fountains according to BBC. From Geneva to Osaka, Jonathan Glancey picked out the most stunning designs and shimmering water features from around the globe.

On 27 June 1709 – on St. Samson's Day - Peter the Great crushed the invading armies of Sweden's King Charles XII at Poltava in Ukraine. The centrepiece of the Grand Cascade of 64 fountains stepping down from



Peterhof, Tsar Peter's palace, to the Baltic near St. Petersburg along an arrow-straight canal is Francesco Rastrelli's fountain crowned since 1802 with a gilded bronze sculpture of Samson wrestling a lion by Mikhail Kozlovsky. The lion symbolised Charles XII, Samson the victorious Russian Tsar. They were a perfect aesthetic foil to Peter's operatic ochre and white palace, a 1730s riposte to Versailles. In the 1940s, the German military wrecked the palace. They stole the statue of Samson, replaced in 1947 by a replica by Vasily Siminov. Restoration of the palace continues. Seen through plumes of sparkling water, Samson is now said to represent civilisation triumphing over brutality.



"Olga and the revolution" in Ballerup Egnsmuseum, Denmark, from Tuesday, June 13 (Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's birthday) to Friday, December 22.

The museum marks the 100 years of the Russian Revolution by exhibit Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's paintings that otherwise are at storage. In the exhibition, there will continually be changing pictures, focusing on the revolution, Soviet-era and Russian tradition.



In the end of February TV Channel "Russia" presented the 12-part series "Catherine. The Rise", a history of the fate of Empress Catherine the Great. Many tales and myths made about her, or should we say rumors - but how was it really? Catherine is in a brutal struggle for power, declares war, suppress insurrections ... on her shoulders - the burden of power. In her hands - the fate of Russia. But the woman always remains a woman. Love - passionate, pain, dangerous - lives in her heart and pushing to make risky steps. What price was paid to the Empress' happiness?

Video - Part 1:

https://russia.tv/video/show/brand_id/60754/episode_id/1472338/video_id/1592665/viewtype/picture/

(Scroll down on the page to see the links to the rest of the parts)





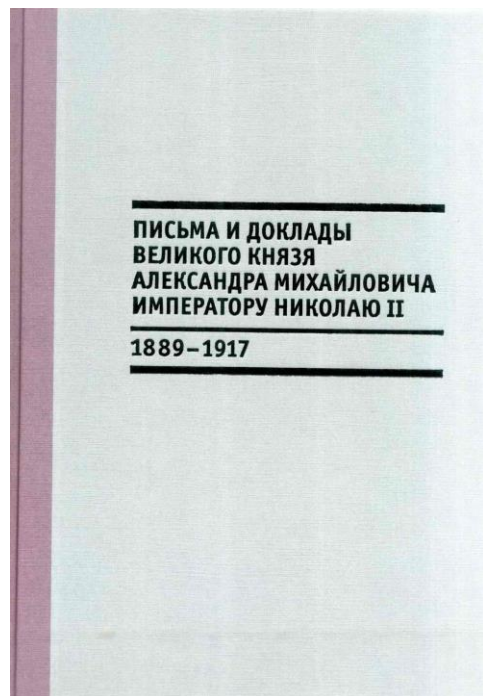
In Sokolniki, Moscow, opened the 26th Old Timer-Gallery, showing cars from the Russian roads before 1917. Among the exhibits are both the first domestic cars and the car dearly loved by Emperor Nicholas II - the French Delaunay-Belleville.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfXIIIQDci0>





Collection of Documents "Letters and reports of the Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich to Emperor Nicholas II. 1889 - 1917 "



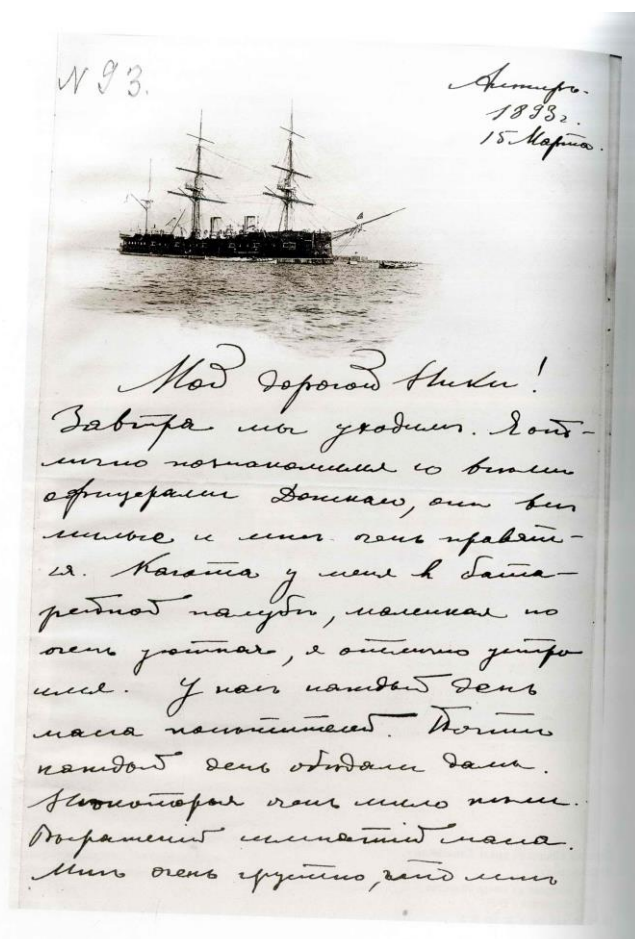
On April 12, 2017, the Collection of Documents "Letters and reports of the Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich to Emperor Nicholas II. 1889 - 1917", dedicated to the political, military and social activities, one of the most prominent figures of the last Romanovs, has been prepared by the State Archives of the Russian Federation and released by publishing house "Kuchkovo Pole" and the Foundation "Communication epochs."

Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich (1866 - 1933), grandson of Nicholas I, cousin of Alexander III, great-uncle of Nicholas II and the husband of his sister Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna has left an imprint on the history of the national navy and air force. Irrepressible, ebullient Grand Duke temperament manifested in various fields. Trying to influence Russia's domestic and foreign policy and military construction, Alexander wrote a number of papers and reports to the Emperor, many of which have been discussed in government circles and played a significant role in the development of important policy decisions.

Published materials allow to have a fresh look at the little explored problem in the history of Russia in the late XIX - early XX century, the fuller picture of the state of Russian naval and merchant marine, shipbuilding, transport, economy and finance, public administration. The letters and reports are well manifested the world of the Grand Duke, his understanding of the role and place of Russia in the world.

After the February Revolution Alexander emigrated, he continued his public activities, lectured, wrote books on religious and philosophical questions. He died in France in 1933.

The book was prepared for publication by officers of the study and publication of documents Assembly of the Russian Federation candidates of Historical Sciences by PhD (History) B.F. Dodonov, V.M. Khrustalev (editor), and V.D. Lebedev (executive editor).



The publication is intended for researchers of the history of the Navy and Air Force, foreign policy, economic history, teachers and students, all those interested in domestic history.

The book was published with the financial support of the Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency in the framework of the Federal Target Program "Culture of Russia" (2012 - 2018 years).



Pages: 656. ISBN# 978-5-9907284-6-2

Bookplates and the Romanov family

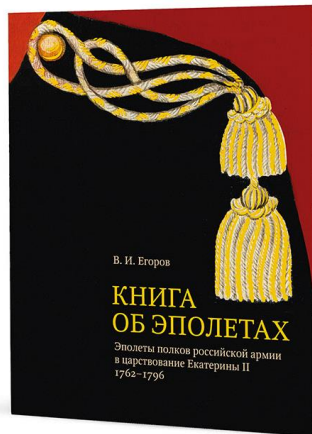


The book is by far the most complete and detailed descriptions of more than 500 bookplates and variants owned by 89 members of the Romanov family and their palaces and manor libraries. It presents 284 Ex-Libris, and provides portraits of the owners of bookplates and other graphic materials. The book is equipped with extensive commentary and pointers.

It is intended for historians, culture experts, employees of libraries and museums, collectors and bibliophiles, for anyone interested in the history of Russian culture. The book "Bookplates and the Romanov family" is a fundamental work in the field of equibrastic; it has value as a scientific reference book. Simple bookplate defining owner of publication, will reveal many interesting and informative episodes of the cultural life of Russia.

272 pages. ISBN# 978-5-91215-126-2

A book on the epaulettes: epaulettes regiments of the Russian army during the reign of Ekaterina II. 1762-1796



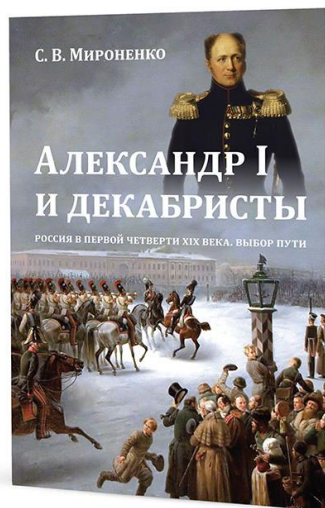
The book of Investigation written by military historian V. I. Egorov, the chief specialist of the Russian State Military Historical Archive (Moscow), is dedicated to the shoulder straps or epaulettes in the Russian Imperial Army at the time of Catherine the Great. For the first time under one cover, are collected over 160 paintings from the epaulette RGVIA funds and collection of military charts of the State Hermitage. Their bright palette complement the archival documents on the approval, manufacture, modification epaulette samples in 1763-1796 years: the decrees of the Military Collegium, reports of field marshals, generals, colonels, clerical and household paper.

The publication also contains other aspects, as the material and artistic culture associated with epaulettes: portraiture, routine patterns of uniforms of different types of troops, the few surviving original epaulettes of the officers and men of the second half of the XVIII century.

So, detailed and thoroughly the topic of regimental distinctions Catherine's army was not disclosed yet either in a special or in scientific and popular literature. "The Book of epaulettes" is of great interest to historians, professionals and for all lovers of Russian military history.

Kuchkovo Pole. Pages: 416. ISBN: 978-5-9950-0630-5

Alexander I and the Decembrists: Russia in the first quarter of the XIX century. Choosing the way



The book by the well-known Russian historian and archivist, scientific director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation, professor, head of the department of historical faculty of the Moscow State University named after M. V. Lomonosov Sergei Mironenko is devoted to the history of Russia in the first quarter of the XIX century. The author examines the problems of political history, tries to answer the question: why at that time, Russia did not become a constitutional monarchy, and had not made the abolition of serfdom. It seemed, it had all the prerequisites.

As the author argues, Alexander I understood the need for a radical transformation of its obsolete century foundations of Russian life - unlimited autocracy and serfdom. He ordered to prepare a draft of constitution on the Russian peasant question and its solutions. The advanced part of the then Russian society - the young officers, rallied in secret societies, tends to suggest the same. Decembrists did not immediately decide to achieve their goals by force. Just finally realized that the government retreated from the reforms, they decided on an armed uprising. It did not work for neither Alexander I, nor the Decembrists. What causes this? Finding an answer to this question is the subject of this book.

Kuchkovo Pole. Pages: 400. ISBN: 978-5-9950-0700-5

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Bruun Rasmussen Auctioneers, Copenhagen - The Zeiner-Henriksen's Collection

The Norwegian commercial attaché Richard Zeiner-Henriksen lived in Russia during the first half of the 1900s. Here he created an impressive collection that includes Russian icons, princely portraits, antique furniture, porcelain, silver and glass. The collection covers a large part of Russian history – from Ivan the Terrible in the 1500s over Empress Catherine II the Great in the 1700s to the last Russian tsar, Nicholas II, in the early 1900s.

Bruun Rasmussen will be offering about 90 auction lots from Zeiner-Henriksen's unique collection together with a number of Russian art treasures from other private collections – all presented in a separate auction catalogue.

Richard Zeiner-Henriksen (1878-1965) was a passionate collector with a particular interest in Russian icons. When his collection was at its largest, he had about 60 icons from the 16th-17th century. Some of these can now be found at renowned museums such as the Louvre in Paris, the National Museum in Oslo and the Bergen Museum Gallery. Many of these icons are also published in the book “Russiske ikoner i norsk og svensk eje” (Russian Icons in Norwegian and Swedish Ownership) by Helge Kjellin from 1956.



Zeiner-Henriksen's interest in Russian art and history arose from two longer stays in Russia in 1900-17 and 1922-31. The time in Russia was interrupted by the revolution and civil war that lasted from 1917 to 1922 and compelled Zeiner-Henriksen to return to Norway for a few years. When he and his family returned to St. Petersburg in 1922 they settled in the stately Saltykov Palace that lay close to the Winter Palace. It was built in 1784-88 by Giacomo Quarenghi – one of the city's famous architects – and was purchased in 1796 by Empress Catherine II the Great. Soon after she gave it to Field Marshal, Prince Nikolai Ivanovich Saltykov in gratitude for his teaching of her grandchildren, Zarevich Alexander (I) and Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich.

The House of Saltykov left its mark on the palace for generations until 1917 when the Soviet state took over the property. In 1922, the Zeiner-Henriksen family moved in on the second floor where parts of the House of Saltykov's furniture was still preserved. Richard and his wife Erica Zeiner-Henriksen had a common interest in the country's art and antiques. Richard collected icons, while Erica took care of the interior decoration of the family home. They supplemented their decor with many fine Russian paintings, furniture pieces and artistic crafts, which they bought in the years after the revolution where many Russians were selling their belongings due to lack of money and a declining interest in the country's history during the 1920s. When Zeiner-Henriksen finally left St. Petersburg in 1931, the family was allowed to bring all of the furniture from their apartment in the Saltykov Palace with them home to Oslo. It is some of these interior pieces and the private art collection that is now coming up for auction in Copenhagen.

Auction in Copenhagen

All the offered items from the Russian auction, including Zeiner-Henriksen's collection will be exhibited at our preview in Bredgade 33 in Copenhagen from 24-29 May. The Russian auction will be held in early June.

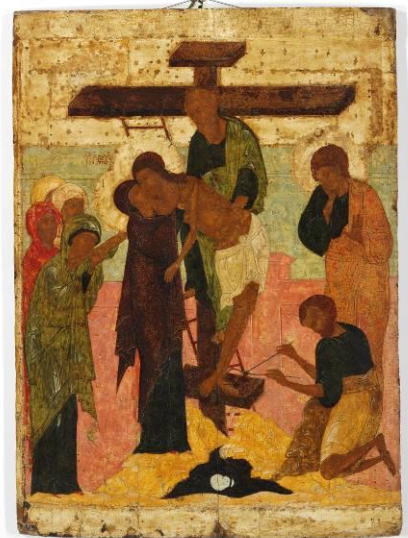
Exhibition in London

Selected highlights from this summer's Russian auction will be exhibited at the Danish Embassy in London in early June during "Russian Art Week" just before the auction in Copenhagen.



The archangel Mikhail

Large Russian church icon depicting the archangel Mikhail, the Novgorod School, 16th Century. Depth 34 mm. 127.5 x 55 cm. Estimate: DKK 800,000 to 1,000,000 (€ 110,000-135,000).



The decent from the cross

Large Russian church icon with the image of the descent from the cross, the Novgorod School, 16th Century. Depth 26 mm. H. 90.5 cm. B. 66 cm. Estimate: DKK 800,000 to 1,000,000 (€ 110,000-135,000).

Portrait of Tsar Paul I of Russia

Pietro Antonio Rotari, style, second half of the 18th Century: Portrait of Tsar Paul I of Russia as Tsarevich. Oil on canvas. 80 x 62 cm. Estimate: DKK 200,000-300,000 (€ 27,000-40,000).



Russian empire 'Bergère à oreilles'

Russian empire 'Bergère à oreilles' in flamed birch with mounts of gilded bronze. Stamped 'R.Z.H.'. The first half of the 19th Century. H. 100. B. 72. D. 74 cm. Estimate: DKK 150,000-200,000 (€ 20,000-27,000).

Shapiro Auctions, New York, USA, on March 18

A Russian Imperial porcelain plate, St. Petersburg, period of Emperor Nicholas I (1825-1855).

The lightly scalloped rim with a robin`s egg blue glaze, the white cavetto with a large, hand-painted Russian two-headed Imperial eagle, diameter: 24.5 cm (9 5/8 in.), blue underglaze Imperial cipher of Nicholas I on base.

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000



A Russian Imperial porcelain plate, St. Petersburg, period of Emperor Nicholas I, circa 1840s.

The cobalt glazed blue rim decorated with gilded scallops and C-scrolls, the white cavetto hand-painted with the Imperial double-headed eagle, diameter: 24.5 cm (9 5/8 in.), blue underglaze Imperial cipher of Nicholas I on base

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,000



A Russian Imperial porcelain plate, St. Petersburg, period of Emperor Nicholas II, circa 1909.

The cobalt-glazed rim with gilded scrolls, a hand-painted two-headed Imperial eagle adorns the white cavetto, diameter: 21.8 cm (8 1/2 in.), dated green underglaze Imperial cipher of Nicholas II on base.

Estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,000



Czerny's International Auction House, Sarzana, Italy, on March 25

A miniature helmet of the Tsar's personal guard, dating: circa 1900. Partially gilded and enamelled, silver helmet, used for a parade, with imperial eagle and badge, cockade, movable chin-strap. Stamped 'BC' and '84'. Used by officers as a glass for vodka. Height 7 cm.



A beautiful miniature charka, dating: circa 1900. Silver, partially gilded and enamelled, provided with imperial eagle with star and bandeau, cockade and movable chin-strap. Featuring stamps 'BC' and '84'. Used by officers as a glass for vodka. Height 5 cm.



[illegible]

Estimate: € 200 - € 300

Plaquette "In commemoration of the discovery of silver ore in the Kirghiz steppe. 1815". Signature medalist Kakowin. Copper, 165.00 g. Size 95 x 63 mm. Estimate: 200000-260000 Rubles / 3300-4300 \$



Award medal "For courage". Portrait of Emperor Nicholas I. Signature of medallist B. Alekseev. Silver, 56.51 g. Diameter 51 mm. Stamp on the eye of the French import "Swan". Established in 1807 to honour residents of the outlying national areas (mostly Caucasian) for military feats. Estimate: 450000-500000 Roubles / 6300-7500 \$

Badge "The death of
Emperor Nicholas I. Memory
of February 18, 1855".
Signature of medallist
W. Kullrich F. Berlin
Mint. Silver, 8.67
g. Diameter 27 mm.
Estimate: 85000-95000
Roubles / 1400-1600 \$



Medal "In memory of the
liberation of the serfs. March
2, 1861 "the Berlin
Mint. Silver, 7.47 g. Diameter
27 mm.
Estimate: 85000-95000
Roubles / 1400-1600 \$

Badge "The honour of the Franco-
Russian alliance." Unknown
Workshop, France 1890? Bronze,
gilding, 2.38 g. Diameter 22 mm.
Estimate: 4800-5500 Roubles / 80-90
\$



Medal "In memory of the visit by Emperor
Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra
Feodorovna in Paris 5-8 October 1896".
Unknown Workshop, France 1890? Bronze,
gilding, 6.22 g. Diameter 25 mm.
Estimate: 2500-3200 Roubles / \$ 40-50

Rare coins, Moscow, Russia, on April 22

Plaquette 1896. The visit of Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna in the Palace of Versailles

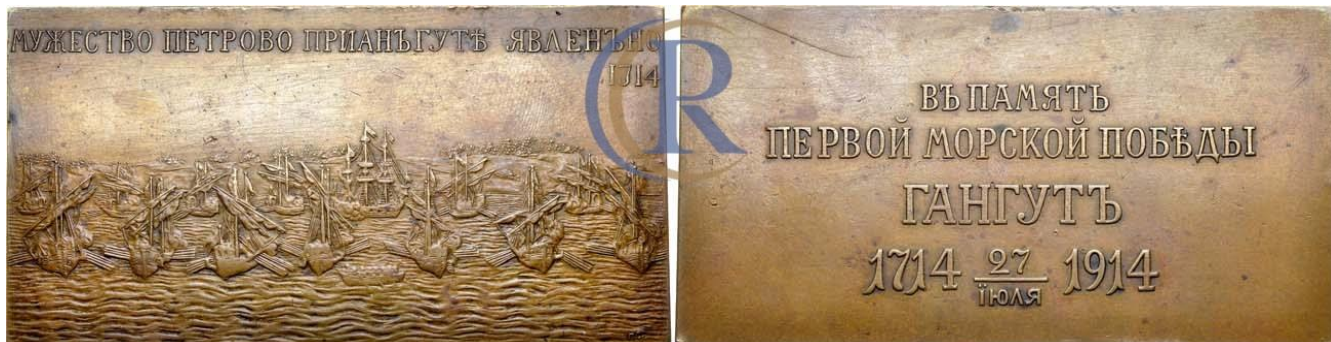
Silver. 62,71g. Size 59h43 mm. France, the Paris Mint. Medallist M. Lambert (reverse - beneath edged: "M. Lambert" Hallmarks on the edge at the bottom: Paris Mint (Horn of Plenty) and the hallmark «argent».

Estimate: \$ 700 (42000 Roubles).

Medal, 1914. In memory of the 50th anniversary of local self-government. Silver. 203,55g. Diameter 76 mm. St. Petersburg Mint. Medallist M. Skudnov (unsigned). The medal is in the original box. Estimate: \$ 2500 (150000 Roubles).



Plaquette 1914. In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Gangut victory for Chief of Naval Staff. Bronze. 158,12g. Size 97,5h50,5 mm. St. Petersburg Mint. Avers: PG medalist Stadnitsky (in the lower right corner of the "PS"). Reverse: SN medallist Distillates (unsigned). Estimate: \$ 1000 (60000 Roubles).



Did you know....



... the last words of the Romanovs...

Alexei I: "I would never have married had I known that my time would be so brief. If I had known that, I would not have taken upon myself double tears." 1676

Peter the Great: (1, written) "Leave all to..." (2, spoken). "Anna" He was calling his daughter's name but was unconscious when she returned to his room. He died the next morning. 1725

Peter II: "Get the sledge ready, I want to go to my sister." Spoken while delirious. His elder sister had died two years earlier at age 14. 1730

Peter III: "It was not enough then to prevent my reigning over Sweden, and to tear from my head the crown of Russia! They must have my life besides!" 1762

Paul I: "Gentlemen, in heaven's name, spare me. At least give me time to say my prayers." Strangled after refusing to sign his abdication. 1801

Alexander I: (1). "What a beautiful day." (2). "Give me the remedies that you judge necessary." 1825
Elizabeth Alexeievna: "Do not worry too much about me, but if I dared, I would like to follow the one who has been my very life." 1826

Nicholas I: "Now I shall ascend to pray for Russia, and for you all. After Russia, I loved you more than anything else in the world. Serve Russia." 1855

Alexandra Feodorovna: "Niki, I am coming to you." She's referring to her late husband, Nicholas I of Russia. She died in 1860, in the Alexander Palace.

Alexander II: "Home to the palace to die..." His guards heard him utter this phrase after he was attacked with bombs by anarchists in an assassination attempt. His stomach and legs were bleeding profusely and he died hours later in the Winter Palace. 1881

Alexander III: (1). "I feel the end approaching. Be calm. I am calm." (2). "How good!" as the priest placed his hands on his head after he received the Last Rites. 1894

After the collapse of the Romanov dynasty.....

Nicholas II: "What? What?" He uttered those words in shock after he was told that he, his wife, five children and four servants would be shot immediately. 1918

Sergei Mikhailovich: "Tell me why? I have never been involved in politics. I loved sports, played billiards, and was interested in numismatics." 1918

St. Elizabeth Feodorovna: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Those words were reportedly uttered by Elizabeth shortly before she was struck in the head and thrown in an abandoned mine shaft. 1918

Dmitri Constantinovich: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Spoken while he and other 3 Romanovs were being lined up to be shot. 1919

Olga Alexandrovna: "The sunset is over." 1960