



# Romanov News Новости Романовых

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*The Mosaic Egg, 1914. Imperial Easter Egg by Faberge*

## The Mosaic Egg, 1914

The Royal Collection - Technically one of the most sophisticated and extraordinary of Fabergé's Imperial Easter Eggs, the Mosaic Egg retains its 'surprise'. It takes the form of a medallion painted on ivory with the portraits of the five children of Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra on one side and a basket of flowers and their names on the other, on a stand surmounted by the Russian imperial crown, held within the egg by gold clips.

The egg was the Tsar's Easter gift to his wife in 1914, but the original invoice was destroyed and the cost is therefore unknown. The Tsarina's monogram and the date 1914 are set beneath a moonstone at the apex of the egg.

It comprises a platinum mesh into which tiny diamonds, rubies, topaz, sapphires, demantoid garnets, pearls and emeralds are fitted – perfectly cut, polished and calibrated to fill the spaces. This extraordinary technical feat is all the more impressive because the platinum is not welded but cut. The five oval panels around the centre of the egg feature a stylised floral motif, replicating the technique of petit-point.

In the list of confiscated treasures transferred from the Anichkov Palace to the Sovnarkom in 1922, the egg is described thus: '1 gold egg as though embroidered on canvas'.

The designer, Alma Theresia Pihl, was inspired to produce the needlework motif when watching her mother-in-law working at her embroidery by the fire. Alma Pihl came from a distinguished family of Finnish jewellers employed by Fabergé. Her uncle, Albert Holmström, took over his father August's workshop and was the workmaster responsible for the production of this bejewelled egg.

The egg was confiscated in 1917 and sold by the Antikvariat in 1933 for 5,000 roubles. It was purchased by King George V from Cameo Corner, London, on 22 May 1933 for £250 'half-cost', probably for Queen Mary's birthday on 26 May.

Gold, platinum, enamel, rose and brilliant diamonds, rubies, emeralds, topaz, quartz, sapphires, garnets, moonstone. Size 9.5 x 7.0 cm. Now in "The Royal Collection" in UK.



See it in a short video here - <https://vimeo.com/107469303>







## Easter service in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow

On the night of 15 on April 16, 2017 at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill celebrated Easter services - Midnight, procession, Easter Matins and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Zlatoust.



His Holiness was joined by Metropolitan Arseny of Istra, the first Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in Moscow and several Archbishops and Bishops.

Russian President V.V. Putin, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and his wife, and Moscow mayor S.S. Sobyenin attended Easter service at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, as well as Interior Minister V.A. Kolokoltsev; Chairman of the Assembly of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs L.E. Slutsky and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Andrei the First Called Foundation V. Yakunin.

During the service, the choir sang the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ the Saviour (Director I.B. Tolkachev) and the Chamber Choir of Christ the Saviour (Director S.N. Sokolovskaja).



To the singing of verses "Your Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour" has been made a procession around the Church of Christ the Saviour.



By tradition, on Easter night the Holy Fire from Resurrection Cathedral (Holy Sepulcher) in Jerusalem was brought in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. It was delivered by a delegation headed by V. Yakunin and the Bishop of Krasnogorsk Irinarkhov.

Patriarch Kirill for the Easter Vigil Catechetical read the words of St. John Chrysostom on the Holy Easter, then lit a candle from the Holy Fire and handed them over to the participants.

Addressing the believers, His Holiness said: "Christ is Risen! Just out of the Holy City of Jerusalem brought the Holy Fire descended now in the Holy Sepulcher. I thank all those who have worked to bring this Holy Fire. Every year this honourable mission undertaken by the Fund of St. Andrew. May the blessings of God that comes from the Holy Sepulcher in the form of the Holy Fire, is above all of us."

Easter Gospel (Jn 1: 1-17) was read in 21 languages. His Holiness Patriarch began reading the Gospel, about the incarnation of the Word of God in the Greek and Latin languages, then the concelebrating clergy continue reading in Hebrew, Slavonic, Georgian, Arabic, Sanskrit, Russian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, Tatar, Gagauz, Latvian, Estonian, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese.

After the augmented litany of the Russian Orthodox Church was prayed for peace in Ukraine.

Archbishop Sergius of Solnechnogorsk read the Paschal Message of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill to Archbishops, Bishops, monastics and all faithful children of the Russian Orthodox Church.

After the service, His Holiness once again congratulated the participants on Easter:

"All of you, fathers, brothers and sisters, I cordially congratulate with Lightest and Saving Feast of Easter! Christ is Risen!

We heard today the words of St. John Zlatoust: Christ is the light and no darkness is not able to absorb the light or destroy. What kind of light? It is the light of God's word. This word can be ignored, it could be ridiculed, to pretend that it does not exist. But this word exists, and no darkness is not able to abolish it.

Lord, who gave His life for us, risen for our salvation, but save us from evil, strengthen the faith, live in harmony and love. Amen! Truly Christ is Risen! "







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

### No real news

During the month of April there have been no news in the case of the "Yekaterinburg remains" and the "burial" of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna.

But it does not prevent people to "discuss" at meetings, and there seem to be a consensus in these discussions, that the Church's investigation is in reality finished, all important genetic and historical examination are done, and they all points to the conclusion - the "Yekaterinburg remains" are those of Emperor Nicholas II, his family, and servants.

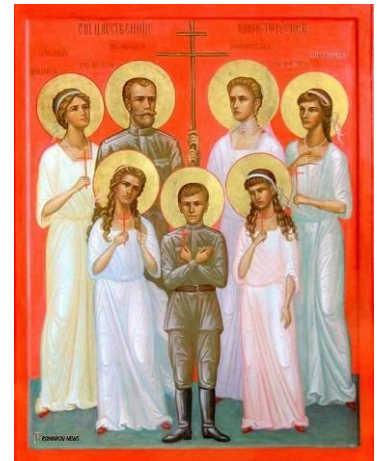
So why is the church waiting with the announcement of the result?

There are many guesses. The internal formal decision making process in the Russian Orthodox Church is cumbersome as it has to go through certain steps

at specific times (the Holy Synod, the Council of Bishops, maybe even the Pomestny Council), to gather support, which only happens rarely, unless the Patriarch makes an extraordinary council. It looks like the Patriarch will not carry the burden of the decision alone, as it will for sure upset many of the church followers - the most hardcore believers, who for many years has been fighting against the acceptance of the "Yekaterinburg remains". The church needs time to prepare the clergy and its followers to the facts, to change their "mode of mind".

Others point to the practical process following the announcement of the "Yekaterinburg remains" being the Holy Royal Martyrs. Then opens a multitude of practical problems - Like what is to happen with the relics? Some have talked about the need to build a new church for the Holy Royal Martyrs, one that might even be located in Yekaterinburg! They point to the fact, that there is little space left in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg. Being relics they are not to be buried, but placed in a coffin above ground, allowing worshippers to worship them. This requires a lot of space and the St. Catherine chapel is then estimated to be too small.

Creation of a new church, or an addition to the Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul, will of course take time, and it can not be started before the announcement that the remains being relics, as that will be "telling before hand what is to come". Another possibility is to use a church already under construction or at least planned, and in fact a new church is presently being planned in Yekaterinburg - the Feodorovsky Mother of God on the lake, quite close to the Church on the Blood. Or the Church could decide to put the relics into a temporary location, like in St. Isaac Cathedral, while waiting for a final solution to be decided.



The formal status of the Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul in the Fortress in St. Petersburg is in itself an issue. At the moment, it is a museum and the ROC is of course not "pleased" with that. Recently there has been a conflict on the transfer of the St. Isaac Cathedral to ROC. One critic of this has mentioned, that Sts Peter and Paul is going to be part of a "deal" between the ROC and the authorities. If the relics of the Holy Royal Martyrs are to be located in the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral, then the formal status is to be changed, from museum to church and the ownership transferred to ROC.

This is only "gossip", speculations in lack of a transparent process, and it seems like we will only know by the middle of 2018 according to the present process of the Russian Orthodox Church what will really happen.



## Obituary - Princess Janet Romanoff

Janet, Princess Nikita Romanoff, died in Cairo, Egypt on January 28, 2017 at age 84. She was born Janet Schonwald in Oklahoma, daughter of Emanuel Schonwald and Ethel Diamond. She married HH Prince Nikita Romanoff, grandson of HH Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, elder sister of Czar Nicholas II and HH Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich. They had one son, Prince Theodore born in 1974. Prince Nikita and Prince Theodore both predeceased Princess Janet.

Talented in many fields, she attended Barnard College and Stanford University where she met Prince Nikita while pursuing her PhD. Her PhD published in 1974 as a book entitled "V.V. Rozanov" which was critically acclaimed by scholar Professors Yuri Ivask and George Kline and writers W.H. Auden and Robert Lowell.

She lived in New York City most of her married life and was a patron of the Russian Children's Welfare Society, the Russian Monuments and Culture Fund, the Russian Nobility Association and The Russian Theological Fund. She collaborated with the Mission of the USSR and the United Nations on an exhibit of photos of Czar Nicholas II and his family. She co- sponsored, with Dr. Gilbert Darlington, head of the American Bible Society, an exhibit of Russian icons at the Society's headquarters. She was also a member of the Cosmopolitan Club in New York City.



Princess Janet made a number of trips to Russia where she met distinguished historian and ecologist D.S. Likhachev and participated in bringing the poet Joseph Brodsky to America. Janet also organized a historic interview with Alexander Kerensky, head of the Russian Provisional Government of 1917. After the death of her son, Prince Theodore, in 2007 she moved to Egypt and made Alexandria her home. She became a philanthropist and benefactor of children's education. Her legacy of charitable involvement, her love of literature and culture will be long appreciated. Princess Janet is survived by her sister Barbara Brookes, a niece and nephew, and their children. Janet Romanoff was cherished by all that knew her; she will be profoundly missed and remembered with great admiration and love.

A memorial service was held at Our Lady of the Sign Cathedral at 75 East 93rd Street, NYC on April 24 at 5:30pm.



## Olga Nicholaevna Kulikovskiy visited Dagestan

April 25, Olga Nicholaevna Kulikovskaya-Romanova, widow of Tikhon N. Kulikovskiy - a nephew of Emperor Nicholas II - arrived in Khunzakhsky District, Dagestan, where she visited the Araninskoy fortress built by Emperor Alexander I. She examined the hospital site of the fortress, the Khunzakh plateau and walked on the square of Naib Imam Shamil-Khadzhimurat.



The guest was received in Khunzakh area with bread and salt. On a tour, she saw local attractions, including the memorial "Ahulgo" and she was awarded the title of honorary citizen of Khunzakh area. The guests got acquainted with copies of the artists of the Caucasian War: A portrait of Imam Shamil, Field Marshal Bariatinsky, Emperor Alexander II, and, of course, the main decoration of the memorial, a reproduction of the panorama Frantsa Rubo "Taking Ahulgo village."

Olga had for long planned to visit Dagestan, as it was here her mother was born. The fact is that Olga's grandfather served as a Russian Military medic in the Araninskoy fortress from 1888, where the hospital was located.

She shared her impressions: "I have always considered it unattainable. Now, finally, it is like a miracle happened. For me it is the connection of times. One hundred years have passed since my grandfather went away - he served here, my mother was here probably before. I thank you for your attention and the warmth with which I was received and from my side I promise to leave to you inherit copies of historical documents and track record of my grandfather. "

At the centre of the traditions of the peoples of Russia, men in uniforms and ladies in satin - showed Ball dancing from the times of Romanovs. But the party was not over, for Olga Kulikovskiy was sang songs in the Avar language and she continued to receive gifts.

In the Dagestan National Museum of Ethnography, she exclaimed "My mother has the same buckle!" - while examining the jewellery collection of vintage ornaments.

Museum workers surprised her not only with rare exhibits, but also the story of the house belonging to the Imperial family, built in the second half of the XIX century on the Gunibsky cliff. It is said that in this area there is no lung disease, and the reason is the perfectly clean air and high altitude above sea level - about 2000 meters. Emperor Alexander II, was recommended to build in Gunib for his son Paul Alexandrovich, who's was sick. So, on the Gunibsky cliff appeared a two-storey house in European-style. Grand Duke Paul lived there for a short time, got bored and left Gunib. In the Gunibsky branch of the National Museum are today kept furniture and other household items that have been brought to Gunib from St. Petersburg.

On April 29 was reported that Olga Nicholaevna Kulikovskaya-Romanova had received the church Order of St. Euphrosyne of Moscow, Second degree.

She was awarded by His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, for great merits in the revival of spiritual heritage of Russian culture and Christian charity, and in connection with the 90th anniversary of the Chairman of the Charitable Fund "Program is to help Russia". At the Easter service the Patriarchal award was presented to Olga Nicholaevna by His Eminence Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturys.

Video - <http://rgvktv.ru/obshchestvo/45491>



## "The Last Empress. Documents and photographs"

April 26, 2017, the exhibition "The Last Empress. Documents and photographs", dedicated to Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, opened in Moscow at the Exhibition Hall of the State Archives. The occasion was the State Archives own 25th anniversary of creation (since a name change from USSR archives), and its 25th anniversary of cooperation with "ELAR" (a digitizing company).



In the first room, where is the main part of the exhibition, several cameras from Russian TV channels were standing ready and many guest already filled up the room. In front of the large poster with the name of the exhibition were placed two microphones. Director of the State Archives Larisa Rogovaya greeted Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky, and a little later arrived the scientific director Sergey Mironenko with Princess Maria Vladimirovna and her entire entourage, including driver. Then started the opening ceremony.

Larisa Rogovaya welcomed all to the opening of the exhibition, and then followed Maria Vladimirovna, starting with the famous phrase - "what can I say.....".

Sergey Mironenko tried to explain why "The Last Empress" was prepared - "Many people do not understand and asked: " Why, Alexandra? Did she play such a prominent role in the history of our country? And I try to explain that we are returning history. A story that has been forgotten for decades, which has been distorted. The State archives contain 1500 photographs of the Empress - there were made a lot, and many survived.

A century after the tragic death, the last Empress of Russia remains little-known to a wide circle of Russians." - said Sergey Mironenko.



Also, the head of the Federal Archival Agency Andrey Artizov and the director of ELAR Sergei Balandyuk were speaking.



"The exhibition is held in the year of the 100th anniversary of the two Russian revolutions. The documents and photos will help visitors plunge into the pre-revolutionary years, to try to understand the many deeds of Nicholas II in a difficult time for Russia. For the first time in a small exhibition area, visitors can see thousands of electronic copies of documents, access to documents of the State Archives through the internet and form their own view on the role of Alexandra Feodorovna in the history of Russia " - said Sergey Balandyuk.



*Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky*

From the archive fund "Alexandra, the wife of Emperor Nicholas II", which includes about 700 cases of original documents and photos, totalling about 60.000 pages of documents, in the State Archives, were created this exhibition.

The exhibition shows only a small part of all these documents and photos, but much more can be seen online in the extended exhibition (after registration and paying a small fee for access).

Link - <http://reader.garf.su/exposition/expo-garf-032017/>

In addition to the original documents and photographs, and real objects, there are several interactive panels with digitized documents and film about the most important stages of the life of Alexandra Feodorovna, attributed in many cases and provided with annotations.



The first exhibition room is the largest and shows the life of Alexandra Feodorovna, more or less in a chronological order.

- 1) Princess Alice of Hessen;
- 2) Marriage; 3) Family; 4) Entourage of the Empress; 5) Spirituality and charity; 6) Political influence; 7) Periods of wars; 8) Revolution; and 9) Details of privacy.

All along the walls photos with annotations hangs. In the middle stands a glass display case, where several objects as documents, photos in frames, Easter egg, diary, letters, etc are placed.

In one corner is made a small office inside glass walls, allowing visitors to see what is going on - scanning of photos from albums.

The next room, much smaller, contains some photos of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna inside glass (or plastic) frames and hanging in strings from the ceiling. In the centre, in a glass display case is a painting of the Empress, said to be the favourite picture of Emperor Nicholas II of his wife - as he always took it with him on trips.

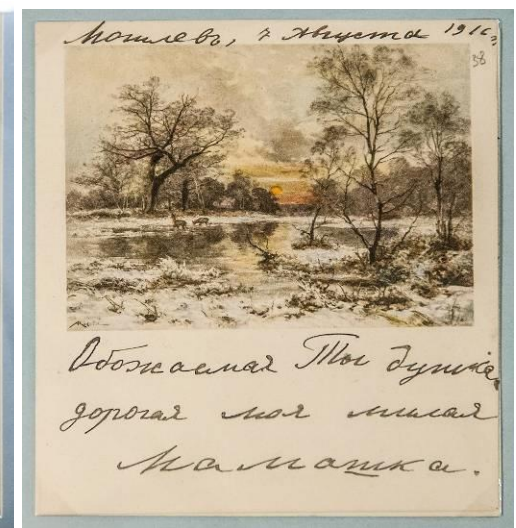
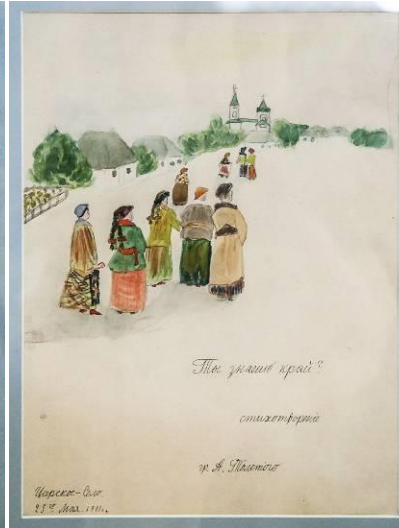
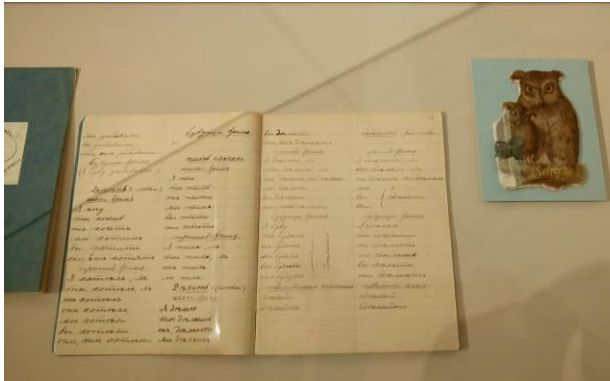
The third room contains a large screen and chairs for viewers, set up as in a cinema. Here runs an 8-part film, with photos, text, original news reel and private films, and a narrative about the Empress life.



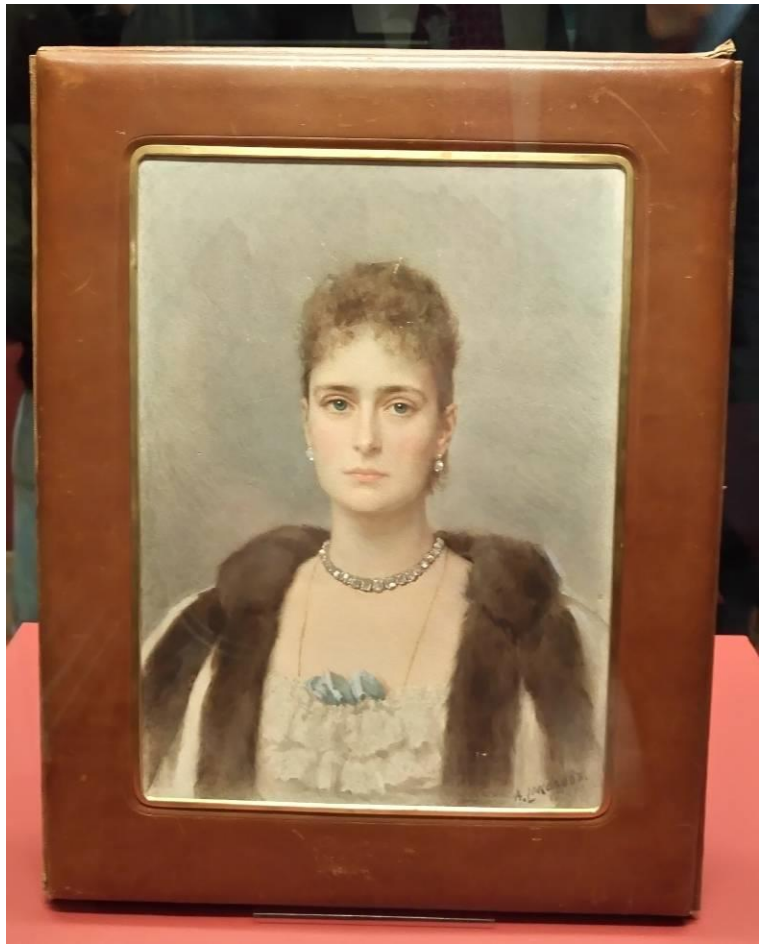


















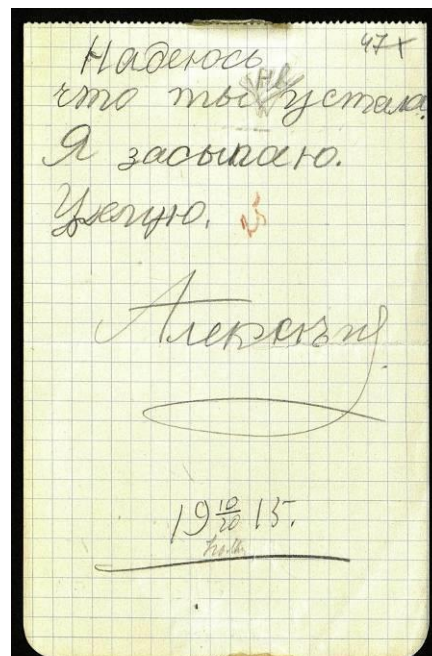


The exposition includes telegrams, working papers, diaries and correspondence of Empress Alexandra and Emperor Nicholas II. "The complexity of the exposure of personal documents Alexandra Feodorovna is that most of them are written in English and German" - says Sergey Mironenko.

"They loved each other truly, they had very gentle, warm relations, and writing convey such feelings. From these letters, we understand how she lived before she moved to Russia, how she was brought up, what she read, what music she loved", - said Larisa Rogovaya, director of the State Archives.

"Unfortunately, we have no images of the Empress from the "Tobolsk" period, and the last photo we show is the wall of the house Ipatiev, where are the traces of bullets, by which the family of Nicholas II was shot...

The original of Alexandra Feodorovna's last diary, in which the last entry was made on the eve of the execution, is not there. The original is now on exhibition in Amsterdam. However, it can be seen in digital form on a screen.



*Note written by Tsarevich Alexei Nicholaevich, 19 October 1915 - "I hope you are not tired. I am falling asleep. Kiss. Alexei"*



*Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna (dressed as a nurse), and Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaevna, visiting a hospital, 1915.*





At the opening of the exhibition all guests was presented a beautiful album "The Last Empress" - kind of a catalogue for the exhibition, but not with photos of everything in the exhibition - prepared by the State Archives and the publishing house "Kuchkov Pole." It is in about A4-size, contains 250 photos over 262 pages, many photos are "full page", and all in black & white.

Entrance to the exhibition is free, exposure and access to the documents on the site will be opened until May 28, 2017

Videos - 1) [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/175129/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/175129/)  
 2) [http://www.1tv.ru/news/2017-04-26/324240-v\\_gosudarstvennom\\_arhive\\_otkrylas\\_unikalnaya\\_vystavka\\_lichnyh\\_veschey\\_i\\_pisem\\_imperatritsy\\_aleksandry\\_fedoro\\_vny](http://www.1tv.ru/news/2017-04-26/324240-v_gosudarstvennom_arhive_otkrylas_unikalnaya_vystavka_lichnyh_veschey_i_pisem_imperatritsy_aleksandry_fedoro_vny)  
 3) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2882211>

## More news from the State Archives

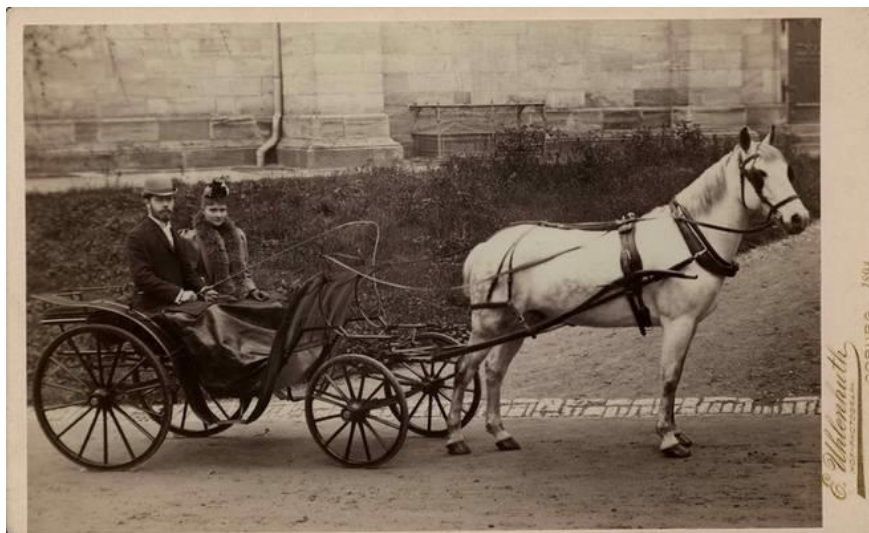
### ***New book about Alexandra and Nicholas***

Staff at the Archives are preparing to publish correspondence between Empress Alexandra and Empress Nicholas II until 1894, i.e. before the engagement. The book will include correspondence from the period when they first met, and show how their relationship developed. It is telling about the daily life of the Imperial family and the future

Empress. Alexandra wrote to Nicholas, what she is interested in, what kind of music she was listening to. Like, Wagner was a frequent guest in their house in Coburg.

His first known work, she listened to in this house. Alexandra played music all the time, loved to sing. She wrote to the Grand Duke about what she read. And all their letters are numbered, so when they wrote the answers, it is clear to which letter it was a reply, and you have the entire course of the general discussion.

Publishing is planned for end of this year.



### ***A new Romanov exhibition***

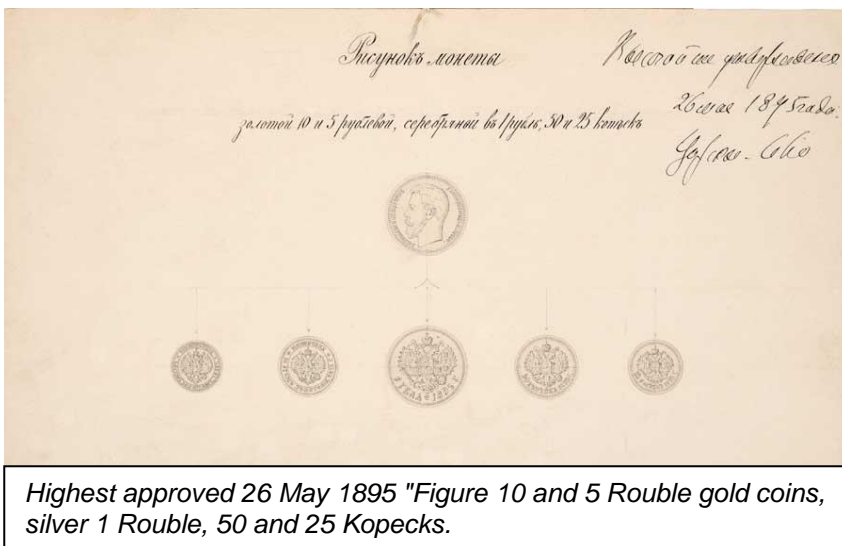
At the end of the year the State Archives planning to hold an exhibition dedicated to the Romanov family relations with the Vatican. Its experts have already visited the Vatican archives, and are now making identification of documents from other museums and archives. They have already received consent to participate in this exhibition from many museums. It will be a very interesting exhibition about how relations of the Imperial family since the 16th century and until the last days, with the Vatican was built.

## The exhibition "Gold for the rouble." On the 120th anniversary of the monetary reform S.Y. Witte



Historical-documentary exhibition "Gold for the rouble" On the 120th anniversary of the monetary reform S.Yu. Witte " opened in the Exhibition Hall of the Federal Archives in St. Petersburg on 26 April. The exposition is dedicated to the anniversary of the reform, enshrined the introduction to the Russian empire gold standard of the rouble, the free exchange of banknotes for gold (gold monometalism).

January 3, 1897 Emperor Nicholas II signed a decree on the minting and release into free circulation of gold coins of denomination of 15 roubles (imperial) and 7 roubles 50 kopecks (half imperial). In the course of the reform of the Russian rouble has appreciated in both the domestic and foreign market and until 1914 remained one of the most stable and reliable currency in the world. Due to the reasonableness of actions, a clear legislative provision, the support of Emperor Nicholas II currency reform of the Minister of Finance S.Yu. Witte was the most successful for the entire period of modern history of the Russian Empire.



*Highest approved 26 May 1895 "Figure 10 and 5 Rouble gold coins, silver 1 Rouble, 50 and 25 Kopecks.*

The exhibition will show museum objects - state bank notes, coins of various denominations, coin holders, wallets, bust and watercolour portrait of S.Yu. Witte.

Considerable space is devoted to expose the life path of S.Yu. Witte (1849-1915), his work as Minister of Communications and Minister of Finance, Chairman of the Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Russian Empire. The exhibition will also feature a noble family lineage of Witte.

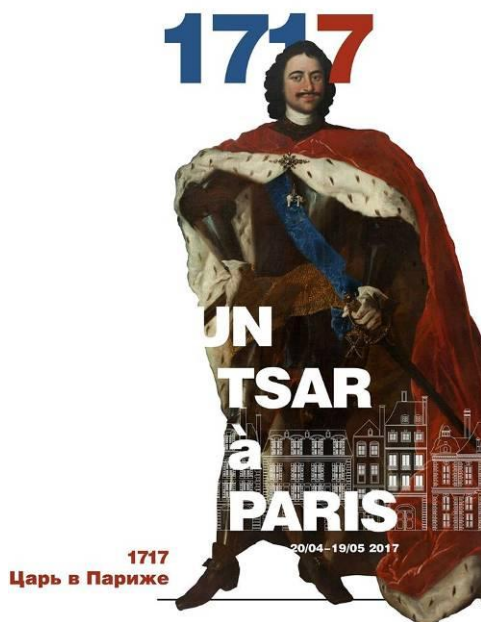
Of particular interest are reform materials 1895-1897, notes and reports of S.Yu. Witte, Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II, address of S.Yu. Witte at the general meeting of the State Council on the need for monetary reform with the aim of strengthening the monetary system in Russia, the nominal decree of August 29, 1897 about the basics of credit cards issuance, which failed to settle the amount of paper money in circulation in accordance with market needs, personal files supporters and opponents of monometalism, diaries of society lady A.V. Bogdanovich with recordings of conversations of prominent public figures with S.Yu. Witte and its reforms.

The exhibition will run from April 26 to June 29, 2017



## "A Tsar in Paris - the 300th anniversary of Peter the Great's visit to France"

April 20, 2017 the International Petrovsky Congress opened in Russian spiritual and cultural centre in Paris and an exhibition project from Peterhof Museum-Reserve, dedicated to the outstanding event in the long history of Russian-French relations - "The Tsar in Paris. The 300th anniversary of Peter the Great's visit to France."



On April 21, 1717, Peter I crossed French border, and after sixteen days arrived in Paris. An almost two-month stay the Emperor in France was the main event of the second Grand Embassy in 1716-1717.

The route of the Parisian walks of Peter I was personal. The Emperor looked at the main attractions of the capital, sailed in a boat under the bridges of the Seine, walked in the Tuileries garden and looked at Paris through a telescope from the Notre Dame tower.

France interested Peter I as an art capital of Europe. With his characteristic practicality, the monarch was interested in the question of organization of artistic production. He has twice visited the factory of French brothers Gobelins, and in the same year in St. Petersburg founded the first Russian manufactory to produce tapestries for the palace interiors.

The emperor visited Versailles, where Peter I was particularly interested in the work of fountain system. During the trip, Peter and his approximate kept diaries and making sketches. In fact, they took home the "whole of France on paper."

The knowledge and the baggage of cultural experiences form the basis of subsequent transformations implemented by Peter I - changes of fashion, etiquette and ceremonies of the court. Cultural expansion was supported by the arrival of the Russian service of the French experts of various profiles, which largely determined the character of Peter's St. Petersburg and Peterhof.

The exhibition project is based on prints, drawings, images of museum objects from the collection of the Museum-Reserve "Peterhof". The exhibition is complemented with unique documents from the Archives of the French Academy of Sciences, National Library of France, the Association of National Museums - Grand Palais, Archive of Foreign Policy of Russian Federation, the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts and private collections.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/174529/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/174529/)

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### **Monument to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna to appear in Alapaevsk.**

15 April. Obl.TV - A three-meter high sculpture to be established near Holy Trinity Cathedral, where relics of the Saint are stored in an ark.

"This is the third stage of the work, a sculpture in the magnitude of 3.5 meters. "For another day, it will be modified and then can be modelled in plaster."

Sculptor Alexander Kokoteev worked for months on the monument. His studio looks as grand as the work itself. Scaffolding go up to the ceiling, otherwise it can not be reached. Artist in detail conveyed the bright image of the sister of the last Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Elizaveta Feodorovna is dressed in a nun's dress, holding a cross and a lily-flower as a symbol of purity and faith in God.

Alexander Kokoteev, sculptor: "When there was a tragic event - the death of her husband - she left the secular life, became a nun, and established the monastery of the Sisters of Mercy. She helped in every possible way the soldiers in the First World War, and the poor and children. So, her work was charity, she helped people."

The last days of life the Grand Duchess held in Alapaevsk. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of her death. In 1992, the Grand Duchess was canonized. Even before the monument will be presented to the public, it was examined by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye and representatives of the Ural branch of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, including Director of UMMC for General Affairs Vladimir Beloglazov.

Vladimir Beloglazov, director of UMMC on general issues: "The idea to erect a monument in Alapaevsk, in fact, belongs to Sergei Stepashin, chairman of the Palestinian Orthodox Society, and when the branch was created here, it was a year and a half ago, he then suggested to think about it"





The Grand Duchess was also Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. In Russia, this organization was established by decree of Alexander III in 1882. Its main mission today is the spiritual and moral development of people through Christianity. In the near future will the monument will be casted in bronze, and then it will be ready for installation, which will take place in the end of June 2017.

Video - 1) <http://www.oblty.ru/news/culture/itogi-nedeli-pamyatnik-velikoy-knyagine-v-alapaevske/>  
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEmOVydsiXM>

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## A monument to Emperor Nicholas II and Stolypin in Kuznetsk



In the town of Kuznetsk, Penza region, they are planning to immortalize in bronze Emperor Nicholas II and statesman Peter Stolypin. At the disposal "Penza-Press" was a sketch of the future monument.

The sketch of the monument was made in the Military Artists Studio named after M.B. Grekov. As planned, the monument is made of bronze. Nicholas II and Peter Stolypin are portrayed full-length on the move.

"It is planned to establish the monument this year, but until there is an agreement with the authorities, there is attention to the details", - said the head of the press service of the administration of Kuznetsk Natalya Babushkina.

The idea of the monument arose in 2014. The monument symbolizes the meeting of the last Russian Emperor and the governor of Saratov in 1904 on the platform of the station in Kuznetsk.

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## "Dmitry Zhilinsky. The inner circle."

12 April, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy attended the opening of an exhibition of the Russian painter Dmitry Zhilinsky in Tretyakov Gallery (on Krymsky Val, Moscow), dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the artist's birth. There are about 60 paintings and drawings, including some sketches.

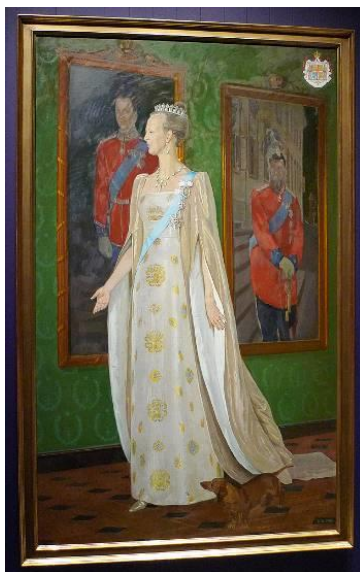
Attending were also the Danish Ambassador to Russia Thomas Winkler, as Zhilinsky has a special connection to Denmark, which the Ambassador told about at the opening.

Zhilinsky painted a gift from the Russian Government to the Danish Queen (as Head of state of the Kingdom of Denmark) in 1993 on the occasion of the 500 years' anniversary of relations between Denmark and Russia. The painting shows the Queen Margrethe II standing in front of portraits of her father King Frederik IX and Tsar Alexander III (as painted by Valentin Serov in 1898).

The exhibition presents a sketch of the painting.



Below there is the finished version of the painting of the Queen and it was followed by similar paintings by Dmitry Zhilinsky of the Prince (consort) Henrik, Crown Prince Frederik and Prince Joachim.





## St. Petersburg's Winter Palace ransacked after the Bolshevik Revolution

28 April 2017. The Art Newspaper - Images from the archives of the Hermitage museum are on show at London's Calvert 22 Foundation for one weekend only

The Bolsheviks stormed the Winter Palace in St Petersburg on the night of 25-26 October 1917. Dramatic images of St Petersburg's ransacked Winter Palace after the Bolshevik Revolution are going on show in London for one weekend only. Calvert 22 Foundation, which supports contemporary art from Russia and Eastern Europe, is exhibiting around 20 photographs (enlarged reproductions of the original prints) from the archives of the State Hermitage Museum, which has occupied the Baroque former residence of the Russian tsars since October 1917. The partnership underpins a year-long season of events marking the centenary of the Russian Revolution.

The display traces the rapid evolution of the palace from the centre of celebrations for the ruling Romanov dynasty's 300th anniversary in 1913 to a symbol of the destruction of the old regime. The still-new medium of photography captured the meeting of Russia's moderate interim government in the library of Tsar Nicholas II after the February Revolution, the preparation of works of art for evacuation and the all-female battalion that defended the palace against Lenin's Bolsheviks. A number of the prints only entered the Hermitage archives in the 1990s as a gift from the widow of the author P.F. Gubchevsky, who wrote the museum's historic guidebook.

The Museum After the Revolution opens today (until Sunday 30 April) as a visual counterpoint to a conference of the same name co-organised by the foundation and the Hermitage (28-29 April). With a keynote address by the museum's director, Mikhail Piotrovsky, and panel discussions on topics such as the legacy of the imperial jeweller Carl Fabergé, Soviet museum policy in the 1920s and the collective silence around the Prague Spring in 1968, the event explores the impact of the Russian Revolution on museum collections across the former Soviet bloc.



ЗИМНИЙ ДВОРЕЦ  
Кабинет Императора Николая II  
после обстрела дворца в ночь  
с 25-го на 26 октября 1917 года.

THE WINTER PALACE  
Nicholas II's Study  
after the Gunfire  
on the Night of October 25, 1917



## **"Pierre Gilliard: The last days of the Romanovs" at the Photo Museum in the Hague until June 11th**

By Sue Woolmans - There are over 50 photos in this rather stark exhibition in the Photo Museum in the Hague. I say stark because the black and white photos are hung in white mountings, on white walls, in one long row around 3 rooms. Minimalist, probably trendy. Cosy it wasn't - perhaps it was to emphasise the tragedy of what happened to the Imperial family. I rather felt it was a disservice to Pierre Gilliard whose snapshots would have been pasted in albums in cosy chintz rooms in a Russian palace.

The snapshots themselves were all copies, probably 4 times or so original size which was nice - I could see any details I may have missed when the photos have been reproduced in books - for example the famous photo of Nicholas and his children on the roof of the Tobolsk governor's mansion. In this original shot I could see the railings Gilliard was leaning over to take the photo. The captions were useful - accurate dates and places always useful.

I assumed though was not told, that they were Gilliard's original wording (certainly some matched those in "13 Years at the Russian Court". There was little that was new - one shot of Gilliard in his study in Livadia for example; another picture of him with his first Imperial employer - the Princess von Leuchtenberg who married secondly Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich Jnr. There were some classic Gilliard photos that we all know that were absent too - no Tsar shovelling snow for example. The timeline on the wall told us that Gilliard had to ask both the British Consul and a French General to help him get the photos out of Siberia safely.

The exhibition signage proudly proclaimed it was created by the Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne on the basis of unpublished materials from Gilliard's archive. This seemed a little inaccurate. A complete archive of Gilliard's photos, notes and journals are preserved at the above mentioned museum and also at the Cantonal and University Library in Lausanne. No catalogue, no postcards. An opportunity missed commercially and really throughout the exhibit - much more could have been made of the photos, Gilliard's story and his writings. As I said at the beginning - stark!





## Photo exhibition of the Russian Tsar held in many Serbian towns

Belgrade, April 12, 2017



In Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, was held a series of exhibitions entitled "Towards a Russian Tsar. The Romanovs - the royal service." The project aims to acquaint the Serbian public life with the sacrificial service of the family of the last Russian Emperor - Tsar Martyr Nicholas II and his family. Exhibition is organized by the Belgrade studio "Russian Tsar" with the support of the Moscow Sretensky Monastery and the portal "Pravoslavie.ru". Since August 2016, the exhibition has been in various cities and towns more than 20 times.



*Left - Opening of the exhibition in the National Museum in Uzice. Right - Opening of the exhibition at the Museum of Herzegovina, Trebinje*

The awakening of the memory of the Royal Martyrs is of particular importance in the new 2017, which marks 100 years since the beginning of the great Russian tragedy, and in 2018 - the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Emperor and his family ranked as Russian and Serbian church canonized.

Martyr Tsar Nicholas and his family especially loved the Serbian people. The exhibition is of great interest. The exhibition has opened cultural evenings, at which representatives of the Serbian Orthodox

Church and the museum tells about the life and ministry of the Royal family, and the role of Nicholas II in the history of the Serbian people.

Exhibition presents black-and-white photographs from historical archives and personal album of the Romanov family.

In the Serbian capital Belgrade, the exhibition took place in the churches: The Ascension, St. Aleksandra Nevskogo, St. Serbian Saints, Ann. Peter and Paul, St. Martyr. Trifon, St. John the Baptist, the community Mirijevo.



*The exhibition at the Russian House in Belgrade*

### **Faberge egg missing 'surprise' reunited**

Apr 9, 2017. Jamie Stengle, Associated Press. - This photo provided by the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences shows a Faberge egg and a jewelled elephant designed to fit inside it. The two items will be reunited for the first time in almost a century thanks to a loan from Queen Elizabeth II to the museum. The exhibit opening Monday features the elephant that was only in recent years discovered to have been the egg's missing "surprise."

"It's a really good opportunity to see the two together and marvel at Faberge's workmanship," said Caroline de Guitaut, a curator at the Royal Collection Trust.

De Guitaut announced in 2015 that she'd discovered that the small elephant in the queen's collection was created by famed Russian artisan Peter Carl Faberge. "It had been sitting there in many ways in plain sight, minding its own business in a display case," she said.



The Imperial Diamond Trellis Egg, originally an Easter gift from Russian czar Alexander III to his wife in 1892, belongs to a Houston couple whose private collection of items created by Faberge is housed at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.



The reunited pieces will be displayed in a new gallery showcasing more than 600 Faberge items from Dorothy and Artie McFerrin that have been part of the museum for several years.

Joel Bartsch, president of the Houston museum, said the elephant will remain on display there for a year before returning to England.

De Guitaut said the elephant caught her eye because it seemed to match the published description of the missing elephant. Upon careful examination, she eventually figured out that the tower on the elephant's back had a lid and found the Faberge mark on the inside rim.

"I did feel quite sort of giddy, kind of dizzy and a little bit faint," de Guitaut said.

She said the two items were believed to have last been together when the Russian government sold them around 1922.

De Guitaut said the elephant, which walks and moves its head when wound, was purchased in 1935 by King George V, apparently with no knowledge that it was Faberge.

She said Faberge only made 50 eggs for the Russian royal family and only 43 are documented.

Video - <http://abc13.com/society/faberge-egg-reunited-with-missing-surprise-/1859989/>

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## Archives and books on Soviet-era art sell-offs allegedly seized from Hermitage

A curator at the museum says the confiscation is "deeply abnormal" but an official statement maintains that work is being done to "improve" how the documents are stored.

19 April 2017. Sophia Kishkovsky,  
The Art Newspaper.

Among the masterpieces sold off were Raphael's Alba Madonna, which was purchased by Andrew Mellon, the American banker and industrialist for nearly \$1.2 million, a record sum at the time

A curator at the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg has claimed that government authorities have seized archives and books at the institution's shops related to the Soviet's sale of art nationalized after the Bolshevik Revolution to Western collectors, sparking fears of an attempt to rewrite the country's history. The museum, however, has denied an official ban of the material, saying that work is being done to "improve" how the archives are stored.



Last Thursday, 13 April, Alexey Larionov, a curator of Dutch, Flemish and German drawings in the museum's department of Western European fine art, posted on Facebook that he could no longer keep silent about news that was being discussed "in every corner of the Hermitage". According to Larionov, a committee of auditors—officially from the Ministry of Culture, but it was believed that most were actually "representatives from other agencies"—came to the Hermitage a couple of weeks ago to investigate

claims that the museum had been “publishing “secret” documents over the course of many years’.” Larionov says they were referring to “eight fat volumes” published by the Hermitage starting in 2006, based on the museum’s archives of Soviet government art auctions planned and carried out in the 1920s to 1930s.

The fledgling regime was looking for fast cash at the time to jumpstart the country’s industrialization, and targeted art from Tsarist collections, including those of Catherine the Great, who founded the Hermitage. Among the masterpieces sold off were Raphael’s Alba Madonna, which was purchased by Andrew Mellon, the US banker and industrialist for nearly \$1.2m, a record sum at the time. He ended up donating it along with 20 other paintings he bought from the Soviet government to create the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. Other works of nationalized art are also at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Larionov says that because of the auditors’ decision, the Hermitage’s books about the incident are now “banned from sale and seized from kiosks” and that the next volume planned in the series has been blocked from publication. He also claims that the relevant documents in Hermitage’s archives have been seized, sealed and taken away and that similar operations have taken place at the State Historical Museum and State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow. In comments to The Art Newspaper Russia, the Pushkin museum denied that similar events had occurred there, but said that “what is happening at the Hermitage right now is a very complicated story”.



According to a summary of one of the books in the series on the Hermitage’s website, the “unprecedented in scale” art sales, which were kept secret at the time, “took place against the background of significant changes in the museum... The appointment of [Communist] party nominees to leading posts, the restructuring of exhibitions in accordance with the principles of Marxist-Leninist ideology, the repression of employees as a result of the so-called purge of the museum apparatus in 1931. The documents presented in this volume reveal the atmosphere of those years when the Hermitage collections were being sold off.”

The Hermitage, however, has denied that there is a ban on the book series. “There are no official bans on the publication of archival materials kept in the State Hermitage,” the museum says in a statement posted on its website and Facebook page. “Just as there has been no decision by some “commission”, mentioned by the Facebook user about the withdrawal of books in the Pages of the History of the Hermitage series.” Sources close to the museum’s leadership told The Art Newspaper Russia that the incident had been “exaggerated” and that the investigation was based on the fact that some declassified documents were reproduced with the “secret” label.

According to the museum’s statement, “the State Hermitage is working to improve the system of archival storage of all documents in accordance with current legislation. This work is being carried out in keeping with state policy and the decisions of the President of the Russian Federation in this sphere.”

In his post, Larionov described the situation as Kafkaesque or Orwellian, and asked if the reasoning behind the seizure was “bureaucratic madness, or a paranoid desire to rewrite history?” After the Hermitage released its statement, Larionov added in a postscript that the key facts of the books seizure “can hardly be refuted”. But if it turned out to be a bureaucratic mix up and the archival documents and books were returned to the museum, “I will be very happy. Although I won’t stop considering the whole story as deeply abnormal.”

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## Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



### *Honouring the last Tsar*

On 8th April 2017, the Museum received a group of former Commanding Officers of Britain's oldest surviving Cavalry Regiment, which had the honour of having Tsar Nicholas II of Russia as its Colonel-in-Chief (hover over pictures to see captions, click to enlarge).



The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys), formerly known as The Royal Scots Greys, have a unique historic connection with Russia which they still treasure. The Regiment was raised in Scotland in 1678, on the order of King Charles II, by Lieutenant-General Thomas Dalrymple (1615-85) who served Tsar Alexis of Russia during 1660-65. Some 200 years later Grand Duke Nicholas, the future Nicholas II of Russia, was appointed as the Regiment's Royal Colonel-in-Chief by Queen Victoria on the occasion of his engagement to her granddaughter, Alix of Hesse, in 1894. The Royal Scots Greys officially visited St Petersburg

in 1895 and had a gala dinner with His Imperial Majesty's Life-Guards Hussar Regiment in Tsarskoye Selo on February 5th. Their representative, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alfred Welby, attended Nicholas' coronation in May 1896.

Nicholas' original Scots Greys Mess Uniform (see right) is a remarkable piece in the Tsarskoye Selo collection. In this uniform, the Tsar posed for his portrait by Valentin Serov, his personal gift to the Regiment in 1902. In 2013, it was completed with the late 1920s uniform boots donated by the Regiment.

This official visit of the Scots DGs to Tsarskoye Selo is the first time in 122 years. The leader of the delegation, Brigadier Melville S. Jameson CBE (above, 2nd from left), is the Chairman of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Regimental Museum in the Edinburgh



Castle. As the Producer of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo during 1994–2006, he initiated the participation of military orchestras from Russia and later contributed to the Spasskaya Tower tattoo in the Red Square in Moscow. At Tsarskoye Selo he was accompanied by Colonel Andrew Phillips, a former Regiment Commander and currently the Head of the Regimental Association, Major Robin Maclean, Curator Emeritus of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Regimental Museum, and Senior Officer John Trotter.

The Scots DGs were greeted by the Tsarskoye Selo Brass Band and Russian military cadets in the Main Courtyard of the Catherine Palace. Then they proceeded into the Antechambers for the presentation to the Museum of a Mess Uniform of a Colonel of the Regiment (see left), made by the Regimental Tailors Dege & Skinner in Savile Row, London.



The title 'Colonel of the Regiment' is an honorary appointment conferred by The Queen upon senior Regimental officers who have commanded the Regiment. The title holder is the guardian of Regimental traditions and customs and the titular head of the Regimental family, serving and retired.

This type of Mess Uniform appeared in the British Army in about 1845. This is an example of the style traditionally worn by cavalry regiments – with the jacket fastened at the neck but worn open to show the waistcoat with its gold lace and embroidery. Other cavalry regiments wear different colours but the scarlet jacket with its yellow cuffs and the yellow waistcoat are unique to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, yellow being the regimental 'facing' colour. The high-waisted trousers, a.k.a.



'overalls', buckle underneath the boots, to which spurs are attached on the heels. Regimental officers wear two yellow cloth stripes on their overalls and spurs with 'swan-necks' but the Colonel of the Regiment is the exception – he wears a single wide stripe of gold lace on his overalls and straight-necked gilded spurs fastened to his boots. The thistle, embroidered on the yellow waistcoat, is the national emblem of Scotland and commemorates the Scottish ancestry of the Regiment.

At the throat is the badge of a Commander (3rd class) of the Order of the British Empire, military division ('CBE'; see picture above). On the chest is a group of miniature medals – the size which is worn in evening dress and Mess Dress: these are the CBE, the Campaign Service Medal, the United Nations Medal for service in Cyprus, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal 1977, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal 2002 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012.

The presentation ceremony was opened with the God Save the Tsar! hymn and closed with Nicholas' favourite Russian romance Shine, Shine, My Star, both beautifully performed by the vocal quartet Anthem.



#### *Donations from Customs Office*

On 27 April 2017 seventeen objects of cultural value, confiscated by customs in 2013–15, were handed over to the Museum by representatives of Russia's Ministry of Culture and North-West Customs Office. The handover ceremony was led by Director Olga Taratynova of Tsarskoye Selo and by Mr Sergey Bulavsky, Head of the Customs Office. Among the donated antiques are sabers, bayonets, crucifixes, an icon of St George the Bringer of Victory, a Luger P08 (Parabellum) pistol with a holster, and an American cash register. Some of the objects will be put on display at the World War I Museum.



The edged weapons include three nineteenth-century Spanish sabers from Toledo, a late nineteenth-century French light-cavalry sabre of the 1822 pattern that remained in service until 1961, and a ritual sword of the New York Masonic lodge made by W. Clauberg in Solingen, Germany, in the late nineteenth – early twentieth century.



The bayonets for the Austrian Mannlicher rifle and French Berthier rifle and a rare Portuguese bayonet for the Austrian Kropatscheck rifle will be great additions to the trench warfare display at the Martial Chamber.

An unusual and rare object is the National cash register (left and below, click to enlarge) produced in Dayton, Ohio, USA, in the late nineteenth century. The mechanical device in the Art Nouveau style is covered with polished brass and decorated with relief vegetative ornaments. Products by the National Cash Register Company were popular all over the world and particularly in Russia in the 1910s.

The North-West Customs Office earlier donated seized objects to the Museum in 2013 and 2011.



### Imperial Russian Family photo album on BBC's Antique Roadshow

In the famous British Antique Roadshow, sent on Sunday April 9, was shown a "most extraordinary collection of photographs that tell the poignant story of the last days of the Russian royal family, the Romanovs, while in captivity in 1917", as BBC tells it.

After being locked in a safe for years, Clive Farahar discovers a largely unseen collection of letters and albums from the Imperial Russian Family.

The owner tells that the letters belonged to his step-father's uncle, William Linton, who was working as an engineer in Yekaterinburg in 1918 and there the photo album was given to him by one of Empress Alexandra's maids. The maid asked to take the photograph album for "safekeeping. Please look after these, because if I am found with these I will be shot".



The photo album was looked through and contains a collection of photographs of the Imperial family, however of those shown none was really rare.

Another part was some letters, never shown before, which William Linton sent home. One of them says

"For the last two days, they have been pumping the water out of an old shaft in the forest, around which they found traces of the ex-royal family, and I think there is no doubt that their bodies will be found down at the bottom weighed down with stones."

Clive Farahar ends up valuing it all to GBP 65,000.

Video - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04zcvpm>

## ***"Emperor Nicholas II behaved impeccably and with dignity"***

In an interview published in the journal "Historian" on 24 April, Sergey Vadimovich Stepashin, the Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society told about many things. Here we bring the parts about the 1917 Revolution, Emperor Nicholas II, and the order to demolish the Lenin's mausoleum.

The conversation started with the revolutionary events of a century ago.

***- Was the revolution of 1917 inevitable, and when, in your opinion, the country passed the point of no return, beyond which options did not exist?***

- I believe that any revolution - a tragedy for the nation, it is scrapped, resulting in a lot of suffering, including totally innocent people. And it can not be and should not be

inevitable. Often, they argue about the role of February and October 1917 ... In this regard, I agree with our patriarch. During one of our

conversations he is right accents: "What revolution is it in October 1917? In October, the power was just laid down and the Bolsheviks just it picked up. And at the heart of everything what happened afterwards, were due to the events of February." That's where, in my opinion, was the point of no return.



***- What happened in February, from your point of view?***

- The events of February today we can say quite definitely. In addition to objective reasons, due to the fact that it was a transitional period in the development of the country, and at this moment all the contradictions sharpened, the subjective factor played the role.

Firstly, unfortunately, the Emperor acted inconsistently enough, especially after the 1905 revolution. It seems to be gone and constitutional reform, the State Duma was established, and it was already on the formation of a constitutional monarchy on the British model, but many democratic institutions, alas, not earned. Moreover, we can speak about a certain corrosion of the then government. It reminds me of 1991, I was a direct participant in these events, being the deputy of the Supreme Council, and how the whole country falls, I know firsthand. This is the first.

The second factor - is, of course, the war. Would there be no war - it is quite obvious - the revolution would not have happened. A huge military budget, lowering the standard of living in the rear, frequent failures at the front ...

***- That, at least, it seemed to many ...***

- That's it, it seemed! Public opinion in 1916 perceives the situation in this way. Although, if you think about it, all would be such failures! We keep forgetting that the war is practically not carried out on the territory of Russia. In contrast to the war of 1812 and in contrast to the Great Patriotic War, in 1917 we fought mainly on the outskirts of the empire - in Poland, the Baltic States. And the victory that was most likely is not far off - the enemy was exhausted. The result of this victory would, of course, spectacular for us - both from a geopolitical and economic points of view. At least Constantinople and the Straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles would have been Russian.

Since the war, or rather, the economic difficulties caused by the war - it was the second reason. It was also too subjective. After all, many tried to dissuade the Emperor from entering the war. And if he would not be involved in this campaign, everything would be different ...

***- This is a case where one mistake pulled a chain of serious consequences?***

- You could say that. Although the error was not only one. I believe that one more mistake of Nicholas II was his decision in 1915 to take over the functions of the Supreme Commander. You know he was not



so good at military. The need for frequent visits to the front prevented him to deal with domestic issues. He had to leave this post to the uncle - the Grand Duke Nicholas, and then he would always have a field for manoeuvre. But, he didn't.

Some personnel decisions of the Emperor were wrong. First of all, I mean the man who played a sinister role in the days when the country's fate hung in the balance. It was General Mikhail Alekseev, chief of staff of the Supreme Commander. The telegrams from the commanders of fronts, given to Nicholas in the fatal moment, calling the Emperor to abdicate, were initiated by Alekseev. It was, as they say, more than a mistake, it was a betrayal.



And, of course, provocation that took place in Petrograd played a role. Today, it's too obvious. As a result, they took to the streets hundreds of thousands of people in the capital. To me it is also reminiscent of 1991, and I'm talking about organized, from my point of view, the disruption of supplies of food, tobacco, alcohol, its reserves which still were in the country, despite the deficit.

And plus, to this was what you have wonderfully written in January issue of "Historian" magazine - the position of the so-called "fourth power", the then media. It has never been never such a dirty attack on the government, as it was in the last years of the Russian monarchy. The same thing we saw in 1991. One to one. Remember? One to one ...

**- Then it was completely unbridled campaign to discredit the royal family. Still, I understand that in your opinion, Nicholas II as a politician was not up to the mark?**

- We have to be objective. I understand that the story has no subjunctive mood, but imagine what kind of development would get our country, if the last Emperor's father, Alexander III, founded, by the way, the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, (we are with you in its building), would not have passed away in the very young age of 49 years. He could still live 25-30 years. So, consider: 1924-1925 year, and Alexander III still on the throne. Believe me, it would be a different country. The subjective factor in Russia, where the role of the individual is always extremely high, is of paramount importance.

But the objective is, and to remember that after the abdication of Nicholas II a tragic fate was waiting. He behaved impeccably and with dignity - and as a gentleman and as a Russian officer, and as a Christian - accepted death with dignity.

**- Did Yeltsin's anti-Communist fuse touch you?**

- Touched! Boris Nikolayevich entrusted me to demolish the mausoleum. It was in 1998. I was on a business trip to England, we signed with Jack Straw - then Minister of Internal Affairs of Great Britain - an agreement on cooperation in the fight against corruption. Suddenly, I was summoned to Moscow.

I arrive, I go to him and already in office, Yeltsin said:

"Sergey Vadimovich, I have decided - we demolish the mausoleum of Lenin." I say: "Well, and what has the Ministry of Interior got to do with it?" He said that the

Interior Ministry should ensure order. "Well, - I say - I realized the task - Minister must carry out the orders of the Supreme Commander. The only Boris Nikolayevich, I do not guarantee that after this act I'll stay a minister and you - the president. "

He looked at me astonished: "Are you scaring me?" I say, "No, Boris Nikolayevich. I'm telling you the truth. Don't do that. If you trust me, listen to me - I'm talking to you honestly: don't do that. I beg you. It is not the time. In a Christian way, of course, Lenin's corpse can not be shown. It is a sin. But now is not the time to clean up the mausoleum, it is not necessary. It bothers you?" Yeltsin grumbled, but my arguments were heard.





## Skeleton of 'Russian general' found inside unearthed coffin in Turkey's Ardahan

28 April. Hurriyet Daily News - A coffin thought to belong to a Russian general has been unearthed during foundation excavations for a construction project in the eastern province of Ardahan, Doğan News Agency reported on April 26.

Workers found a coffin with cross on it during the foundation excavation for an apartment building in Ardahan's Karagöl neighborhood. They informed the authorities about the coffin and police took security measures around the excavation area.

Authorities from the Kars Museum later inspected the field, discovering a coffin and a skeleton with rotten boots and a coat.

Ünver Solaklıoğlu, an archaeologist at the museum, suggested that the skeleton could belong to a Russian general who lived around 140 years ago in the area, according to initial examinations.

"Police received a notice in the evening hours yesterday [April 25] that a coffin had been found during a construction excavation. We made necessary examinations in the construction area. We believe the coffin belonged to a Russian general who lived after 1878, based on the fact that Russians were settled here at the time ... The Russian soldier was found buried inside the coffin according to Christian tradition," Solaklıoğlu said.

Hundreds of locals flocked to the construction area to view the coffin and the skeleton after reports circulated on social media, amid rumours that gold and valuable historical artefacts were unearthed at the scene.

The skeleton will be transferred to the Kars Museum after the prosecutor's examination.

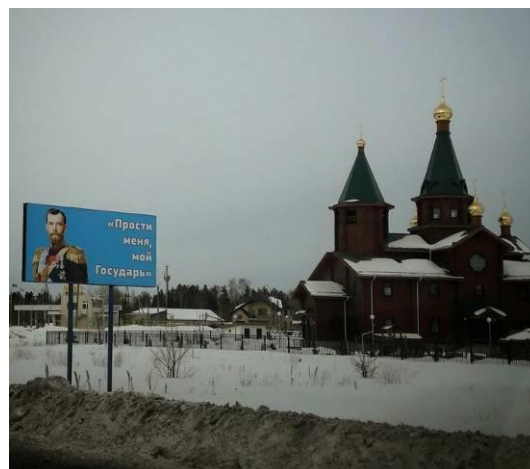






Placing an image of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II signed "Forgive me, my Majesty" on the billboard, located on the stretch of road M-7 Kstovo in the Nizhny Novgorod region is illegally. This became known during the meeting of the expert council on April 10, according to pr-service agency. During the meeting the issue has caused heated discussion, however, as a consequence the experts agreed that the image of the Emperor on the advertising object cannot stay. The primary cause of the case is a resident of the city of Kstovo, who pointed out that the message "Forgive me, my Majesty" is not a social advertising and cannot be placed on billboards.

The fact that billboards can be placed either commercial or social, or - during election campaigns - political advertising. In this regard, Council decided that the image should not be placed on the billboard.



The traveling exhibition "The Triumph of the Romanov Empire", organized by the charitable foundation of St. Basil the Great, dedicated to the 400th anniversary of the Imperial Dynasty, is shown in Dubensky branch of the Local History Museum named after I.D. Voronin in Mordovia.



A unique monument of the XVII century - carved wooden Royal Gates from Peter and Paul church on the Volga River - will for the first time in history be sent for restoration. Volga master's masterpiece miraculously was saved in 1937. When the church was destroyed, the iconostasis by a happy coincidence, was decided to be sent to a museum. Adding to the collection of the Yaroslavl Museum-Reserve, the monument has never been restored and continued to deteriorate. And just this year an attempt was made to restore it. Soon the Royal Gate will appear in its original form.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/174205/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/174205/)



From May 5 to 8, will of Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna will be in the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, St. Petersburg, and from 9 to 11 May - in Feodorovsky Cathedral, St. Petersburg.

May 9, Tuesday: 9:30 Meeting of the holy relics of Martyr Elizabeth Feódorovna in Feodorovsky cathedral (from the Alexander Nevsky Lavra).

10:00 Divine Liturgy in the upper church with the participation of male youth choir of the Eastern American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. 13:00 Prayer in the upper church. 18:00 Vespers in the upper church.

May 10, Wednesday: 7:00 Early Liturgy in the lower church. 10:00 Late Liturgy in the upper church. 13:00 Prayer in the upper church of the relics. 18:00 Vespers in the upper church.

May 11, Thursday: 7:00 Early Liturgy in the lower church. 10:00 Late Liturgy in the upper church. 13:00 Prayer in the upper church of the relics. 16:45 brief prayer before leaving for the airport



The Ambassador of Russia in Bulgaria A.A. Makarov participated in the opening ceremony of the exhibition "140 years since the beginning of the liberation of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878", prepared by the national society "Tradition" in conjunction with the museum of the Minister of Internal affairs in Bulgaria. Guests of the event was met by an honor guard, dressed in uniforms of Bulgarian militias and Russian soldiers.



Exposition shows original artifacts from the period of the liberation of Bulgaria - weapons, uniforms, awards and items for personal use of military personnel.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnWpeYRv0s>



"Easter greetings" book of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna is on display at Nizhny Novgorod Museum of Literature.

Video - <http://vestinn.ru/news/society/74916/>



Walks through the grand-ducal estate of "Kharaks" in Gaspra (Big Yalta) is being arranged. The route of the tour - the mansions, a Roman fortress I-III centuries BC, juniper grove with millennial shrubs, familiarity with the romantic story of first love of the Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich and other important events in the life of South Coast of the Crimea.

History of "Kharaks" begins with the acquisition of the estate by Grand Duke Mikhail Nicholaevich - a younger son of Emperor Nicholas I. Tourists will hear fascinating stories about the name of the owner, their descendants, and little-known historical facts about the plush toys and Bolshevik machine-guns. During the walk, it will be revealed the history of the church of Saint Nino in the Byzantine-Georgian style by the famous Yalta architect Nikolai Krasnov. Currently "Kharaks" area is included in the complex sanatorium "Dnipro". Excursion on its territory was held April 22 and lasted for 2.5 hours.



Unusual things related to the Imperial family. A portrait of the Emperor Nicholas II in stone, A Katana- samurai sword and an album of photos dedicated the 10th anniversary of the Tsarevich Alexei.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1eigKziGKE>



The arena (manege) is being restored in the famous stables at Peterhof Palace. This unique historical complex for many years was in disrepair - the recovery required new floor and roof. Only recently the restoration project was approved, and work started.

Palace stables are not much different from an Imperial Palace. It really is a luxury apartment complex and occupies an entire city block. It was built in 1855 on order of Nicholas I and designed by Nikolay



Benoiir in the English Gothic style. Complex "palace stables," called one of the best buildings of the famous architect. Nine huge towers at the corners, arched windows, battlements - it seems like a medieval castle. Truly royal conditions, but only for horses. This exemplary housing for 328 noble animals, stables, smithy, a veterinary hospital, haylofts, storage for fodder.

"This kind of palace for horses in Europe can be counted on the fingers - Versailles, Chantilly, Hofburg - and are in the list of top buildings for horses at European level." - says the Deputy Minister of Culture of Russia, Oleg Ryzhkov.

Imperial stables were used for other purposes until the First World War. For many years, the premises occupied hydrotherapy resort. Only a few years ago, complex passed to the Agency for Management and Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments. Work began on the restoration project. The first object - the largest building - an indoor arena.

"The state of the stables was poor for a long time - for three years - the building was not working. The main problem was that there was no central heating and, of course, the most difficult moment - the elegant ceiling, which we would like to keep," - the design director of the contractor Veronica Puzyrev. Carved ceiling is made of pine and painted oak. Now a heat gun is continuously working for it in the arena. Next summer, it is planned completely renovate the arena and restore the decor of the Imperial box, remove the Soviet parquet - put sand instead, turn the sanatorium cuisine into stables for ponies. If they get a half billion roubles from the budget. The next step - the creation of the museum. It is already known that its collection will include rich personal archives of the descendants of the Emperor's cavalry regiments.

"I knew and many other officers in exile - from the lower ranks to generals and for me it is even some kind of moral obligation to everything that can be done", - says Prince Alexander Trubetskoy, Chairman of the memory of the Association of the Imperial Guard (France).

And finally, the last stage will be the restoration of the rest of the stables and outbuildings. Fully restoration of the Palace stables will be completed in 2021.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/175307/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/175307/)



The relics of Nicholas the Wonderworker will be brought in Moscow from the Papal Basilica in Bari. This will happen for the first time in 930 years, said the chairman of the Department for External Church Relations Metropolitan Hilarion (Alpheus).

The relics will be in Russia from May 21 to July 28, 2017, Metropolitan Hilarion said on TV channel "Russia 24".

"Every year, hundreds of the faithful of the Moscow Patriarchate come to Bari to venerate the relics of the great saint of God - said Metropolitan Hilarion - However, for the majority

of Orthodox Russia it is difficult to do the long pilgrimage, so Pope Francis and Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill hopes that the prayer at miraculous relics of the saint will strengthen the faith in the hearts of people."

The agreement on infusing part of the relics of St. Nicholas from Italy to Russia was reached during a meeting with Pope Francis February 13, 2016 in Havana.

Nicholas the Wonderworker - patron saint of travellers, drivers, prisoners of war. He prayed for the health of children and young girls asking for a happy marriage. It is believed if you pray with faith and hope, help from St. Nicholas will come immediately.

His first miracle, according to legend, was the resurrection of a sailor crashed after falling from a mast. Nicholas was Archbishop of Myra. After his death in the middle of the IV century, he rested in his church. When in the XI century it was were captured by Arabs, Italian merchants took out the relics of St. Nicholas to Bari.

Video - <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2882870>





April 29, 2017 in Moscow, the third annual citywide celebration of charity and mercy "White Flower" was hosted in the Exhibition Center ENEA. It was organized by the Foundation of St. Basil the Great, the Association of Philanthropists "White Flower", the administration of ENEA with the support of the Government of Moscow and the Russian Orthodox Church.

At the celebration, there were 150 places to sell crafts made by the pupils of Sunday schools in Moscow and ten regions of Russia. Also, performances of children's creative teams, theatrical performances, master classes and other fun activities for the whole family, was organized for the guests of the festival.

Funds raised at the festival traditionally will be sent to help ward development centre for children with cerebral palsy "Elizabethan Garden" - a project of the Orthodox service "Mercy".



"Foma" magazine presents its new e-book, dedicated to the 400-year rule of the Russian dynasty Romanov.

The first of the Romanovs - Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich was enthroned on June 11, 1613 at the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin's by decision of Zemsky Sobor. 400 years of the Romanov dynasty reign Russia has experienced great events: the development of the vast eastern lands, the reunion of fraternal peoples, the foundation of the new capital - St. Petersburg, victory over Charles XII and Napoleon, the abolition of serfdom, an unprecedented cultural, scientific, technological and industrial development and much more.



These grand achievements, as well as the tragic events we have tried to reflect in the new electronic edition of "The Romanovs. 400 years of history. "

It also will be told about the history of relations between the dynasty and the church, the main events in the life of the Church during the reign of the Romanovs and members of the Imperial family, famous among the saints.

The book can be downloaded in a bookshop "Foma" magazine: <https://lavka.foma.ru/956/>

Also, users of digital libraries can download Gadgets "FOMA" in the Digital Library "Bukmeyt" and on our website Orthodox Library of the Missionary Department of the Moscow diocese, completely free.



The historic mansion in the Sarıkamış district, which served as mansion to the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II for hunting tours, will be restored and turned into a boutique hotel, the governor of Turkey's eastern Kars province told local media representatives. The building known as "Hunting Pavilion" or "Catherine's Mansion" will be handed over to the General Directorate of Monuments and Museums, which will undertake its restoration, Governor Rahmi Doğan said. After the completion of restoration works, it will be handed over to the Special Provincial Administration of Kars to be operated as a boutique hotel with 50 beds.





The news about the project were welcomed by the inhabitants of Sarıkamış district. Zekeriya Kaya, the mayor of Sarıkamış, told reporters that he was happy about the impending restoration of the building and that he expected it to be a significant contribution to tourism in the region: "[...] The locals have eagerly been waiting for this restoration," Kaya said.

Russian tourists in particular are expected to visit the mansion as the airport at Kars started to offer charter flights, Kaya explained. He added that the administration and the people of Sarıkamış would continue to offer any possible help and contribution.

The mansion was built in 1896, after Kars fell under Russian occupation as a consequence of the Russian-Ottoman war of 1877-1878. Although it is locally known as "Catherine's Mansion" it had been destined as a health resort for Nicholas' sick son Alexei, and generally served as a recreational ground and hunting facility for the Russian Emperor and his family. The architectural style, according to which the wooden building was erected, is called "Baltic."



"Romanovs" is a new project of the choir of the Sretensky monastery. History of Russia can not be imagined without a Royal dynasty, believe the creators of the program.

In 2017 the new concert and theatrical production of "Romanov" will tour in 21 cities, with the participation of the choir of the Sretensky Monastery, honored artists of theatre and cinema.

The unique product combines music and theatre, vocal and multimedia technologies.

The new product of the history of the Romanov dynasty will be represented in a unique scenery - a giant "living" iconostasis, where each image will symbolize the stone in the building of the Russian Empire. After all, the history of our country it is impossible to imagine without the Romanov dynasty - the Tsars and Emperors of ancient boyar family, which originated at the end of the VI century.

This production itself will become a brick, which will form the foundation of the historical memory and cultural heritage of Russia.



The small display is a fragment of the future exhibition "The Winter Palace and the Hermitage in 1917", which will be opened on October 25, 2017.



April 27 at the Grand Church of the Winter Palace Easter Divine Liturgy was conducted by Archpriest Vladimir Sorokin, prior of Prince Vladimir Cathedral.

During the service, was singing children's choir of St. John of Damascus Church at the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God conducted by the Regent Irina Valentinovna Boldysheva.

Special prayer petitions were lifted up to the Martyrs Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, and Tsarevich Alexei. According to the established tradition at the service of the church were commemorated all the Primates of the Russian Orthodox Church, all the rulers of Russia, all the governors of St. Petersburg, the Hermitage director since its inception in 1764 to date, all the abbots and priests of the Church, employees of the Imperial Hermitage, the State Hermitage, and those who works in it at the moment.

In his sermon, Father Vladimir welcomed all with the Easter greeting "Christ is risen!" And called all to share the joy of Easter.





On 5 May, the names of all those buried in the cemetery of the First World War heroes will be mentioned during a memorial service at the Fraternal Cemetery in Moscow.

Historians, public figures and believers among the inhabitants of the Sokol area in Moscow took the initiative to create a memorial in the federal territory of the Fraternal Cemetery. They were supported by the ROC. The cemetery opened in 1915, and 18 thousand people are buried there. Now at its place there is a memorial park complex for the heroes of the First World War.



On April 30 two procession in memory of the arrival of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in the Ural capital were organized in Yekaterinburg.

An official event of the Yekaterinburg diocese began at 07:00 at the worship cross near Shartash station. Next, the procession went to Kuibyshev - with a stop at the intersection of Eastern and Shevchenko, at the Church in honor of the Mother of God icon "Port Arthur". The column then moved to the Yekaterinburg old train station, at the Church of Our Lady "Sovereign" and ended at the Church on Blood, which was erected on the site of Ipatiev house where the Romanovs were shot.

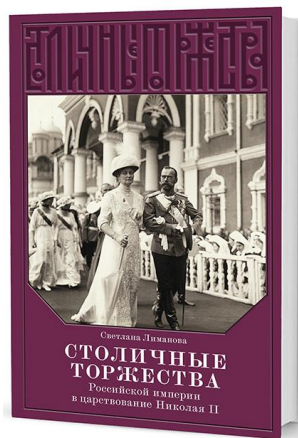
The "Memorial of the Romanovs" arranged an alternative procession and marched along a different route, which the organization considered historically correct. It began at noon on the location of crossing of Romanov and Uralsoveta (str. Cherry, 22a) and ended at the site of the historic circuits of the firing room in Ipatiev house. Because of disagreement with the position of the Russian Orthodox Church "Memorial" was lead by the bishop of the Catacomb Church Father Nikolai.







## The capital's celebration of the Russian Empire during the reign of Nicholas II



Book of historian S. A. Limanova (PhD) contains a detailed account of the different types of imperial celebrations in the XIX-XX centuries: Alexander III's funeral, coronation of Nicholas II, the imperial anniversaries, opening of monuments, meetings of heads of state - these and other ceremonies, attracts attention, arouses admiration, surprise ... and many critical judgments! Consolidation of all segments of the population, strengthening the prestige of the monarchy, the promotion of patriotism - these are the main goals that were set at the organization of the imperial celebrations. Looking at the celebration through the prism of urban life in the capital, the author tries to find out how often they were held? Who and how to deal with their organization? How does changing the familiar face and the rhythm of life in St. Petersburg and Moscow in the solemnities? What guided the audience to come? Which impressions have remained? Finally, to answer one of the key issues: how effective can be called the practice of holding such events?

*Author: S. A. Limanova. Publisher: Kuchkovo Pole. Cover Type: Binding. Format: 145h215. Pages: 360*  
*ISBN: 978-5-9950-0628-2*

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## Memories of the last Minister of Finance of the Russian Empire. In two volumes



Memories of the last Minister of Finance of the Russian Empire Peter Bark (1869-1937), is one of the most objective of all immigrant memoirs of the first wave of Russian emigration. Unique in its content, the book introduces a number of historical characters - Nicholas II, Grand Dukes, the Emperor's ministers, state and public figures of Russia, England, Germany, France, and also allows you to be in the heart of the Russian and international financial policy of the First World War. This edition is the first complete publication of memoirs, supplemented by a large array of applications, telegrams and correspondence with a number of well-known public figures. The publication is also provided with an introductory article, commentary, and indices.

*Author: Peter L. Bark. Publisher: Kuchkovo Pole. Cover Type: Binding. Format: 125h200. Pages: 1048.*  
*ISBN: 978-5-9950-0656-5*

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Under the hammer...

## Romanov related items in Auctions



### Auction House Litfund, Moscow, Russia, on April 27

600 sketches of jewellery by the Trade House Karl Faberge's Moscow branch. Two albums. The end of XIX - early XX century. Paper, graphite pencil, ink, pen, gouache. Album size: 31.5 x 45 cm and 18.3 x 22 cm.

The big album contains 495 sketches (sketches partially fixed on the pages of the original album, the precipitated sketches - in the new owners' mount). In the small album - 143 pages with thumbnails. On some pages of the album, there are a large sign "Faberge Moscow" in Russian or Latin letters.

In 2017 marks 175 years since the founding of the Trading House of Faberge and 130 years since the opening of its Moscow branch. In the article "Moscow Faberge" Ann Odom writes: " It is difficult to draw conclusions about whether the jewellery of the Faberge Moscow branch was made or objects of fantasy, because the preserved, apparently, is too little to be known to have been made in Moscow " ("Fab. Trade House Karl Faberge: court jeweller." Washington, DC 1993. S.108-109).

The albums are full of unique monument of art pieces that sheds light on the activities of the Moscow jewellers Faberge: there are sketches of necklaces, pendants, earrings, rings, brooches, pins and other jewellery.

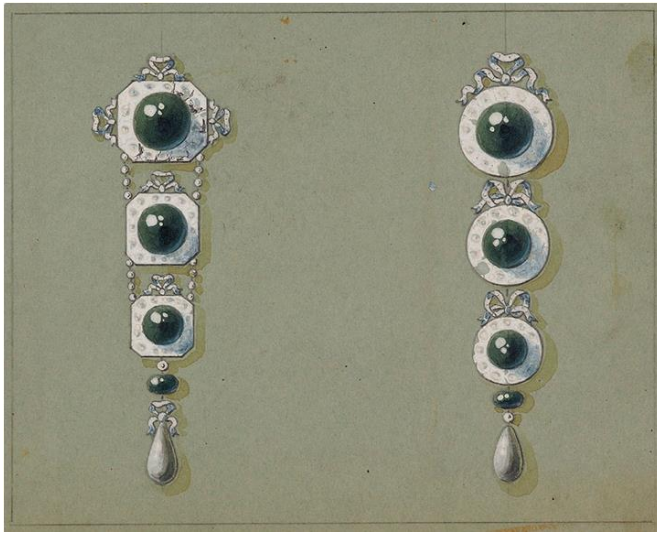
Most importantly, the albums prove that the Moscow branch was engaged not only in sale and purchase of jewellery, but also production. So, Moscow masters worked on a par with the Petersburg.

"Faberge customers were the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty, the representatives of aristocratic society, financial and industrial magnates. And the prices were "from the most affordable to the most expensive"." (T. Muntean "GOLD jewellery Faberge firm, found in the street Salsola" in the book "Faberge: Court jeweller" Washington, 1993. p.150.).



Estimate: 700,000 - 750,000 Roubles. Sold for 2.2 million Roubles.











**Wooten & Wooten Auctioneers, Camden, SC, USA, April 29**

*19th century hand coloured portraits of Russian Tsar Alexander II and Tsarina Marie.*

The pair was brought back from Russia by Lucy H. Pickens and remained a personal favourite possession. Lucy's daughter Douschka was the God daughter of the Tsar and Tsarina. The prints are very well detailed and colours are bold and vibrant. They are housed in their original oval frames. They are featured in the publication "Leaves from A Family Album" (Holcombe & Greer) p. 54 and p.55. By Jack Thorndyke Greer 1975 Waco Texas.



**Lempertz, Cologne, Germany, on May 18**

*A portrait miniature of Grand Prince Paul I of Russia*

Gouache on ivory in a wood-backed silver frame. The frame with St. Petersburg hallmarks, fineness 88 zolotnik, unidentified maker's mark. 6.7 x 6.2 cm. Frame: 7.5 x 7 cm. Russian master, 19th C.; the frame St. Petersburg, ca. 1900.

Paul I (St. Petersburg 1754 -1801) was the only son of Grand Duke Peter Feodorovich Romanov III and his wife Catherine. He was Duke of Holstein-Gottorp from 1762 - 1773 and became Emperor in 1796 following the death of his mother Catherine the Great.

Estimated Price: €1.200 - €1.500



**Doyle, New York, USA, on May 25**

*Important Gold Minute Repeating Chronograph Hunting Case Pocket Watch*



Sennet Frères, Paris, circa 1889. Circular, the cover repoussé and chased with Emperor Alexander III on horseback and set with an old mine cut diamond, case no. 474759, factory signed cuvette No. 474759, the inside cover with a facsimile signature of Empress Maria Feodorovna, the white enamel dial with Roman numerals, sunken subsidiary seconds hand, railroad track indicator chapter ring and a calibrated chapter ring, pierced gold hands, center chronograph seconds hand, glazed back, push-button activated chronograph and repeat, with rose gold and platinum fob and chain, the fob depicting Helsinki harbor and inscribed in Russian Helsingfors VIII [August] 9 1885. Diameter 58.8 mm.

In August 1885, Emperor Alexander III (1845-1894) made his first official state visit to the Grand Duchy of Finland, then an autonomous part of the Russian Empire. The Emperor was accompanied by his wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna (1847-1928), Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (1868-1918), several close relatives and an entourage which included the Minister of the Imperial Court, the Minister of War, and a group of journalists from Russia and correspondents from American, British and Belgian newspapers. The size of the entourage indicated the importance which the Imperial family placed on the visit.

The party arrived on August 4 and stayed first at Lappeenranta, where the Emperor met with the Finnish call-up army and reviewed a large military parade on horseback. The party left Lappeenranta for Helsinki, where they spent August 8-10 with a busy program, which included viewing Viapori fortress, attending a choral concert and an art exhibition, followed by a ball held in the Emperor's honor.

The present pocket watch commemorates the first visit of Alexander III to Helsinki (Helsingfors). The watch fob depicts Helsinki harbor on one side and is engraved with the date August 9, 1885 on the other. The watch is further engraved with the facsimile signature of Empress Maria Feodorovna. The exact reason for presentation is unknown, but as the watch dates to circa 1889, it seems to mark an anniversary of the first state visit to Finland. The signature of the Empress would seem to suggest that the watch might have been given by her as a gift to her husband the Emperor.

Estimated Price: \$25,000 - \$35,000





*Fabergé Silver and Cut Glass Center Bowl*

Moscow, 1908-1917. Globular form, on a circular fluted base with ribbon-tied border on four toupee feet, rising to four curved pilasters supports with two foliate-capped loose ring handles, supporting a colorless cut glass bowl, the central band with a frieze of intertwined foliage and suspending laurel swags, the plain rim mount between stiff-leaf and laurel bands, marked throughout, in a later fitted wood case. Height 15 1/2 inches (39.3 cm).

Estimated Price: \$60,000 - \$80,000



Diamond-Set, Guilloché Enamel and Two-Color Gold Russian Imperial Presentation Snuff Box  
Mark of Carl Martin Weishaupt und Söhne, Hanau, circa 1860, numbered 2836, further scratched  
20345



Cartouche-shaped, with fluted baluster sides, the cover repoussé and chased with foliate scrolls and rosettes on a matted ground, centering an oval plaque enameled in translucent royal blue over a sunburst engine-turned ground, set with a silver-mounted diamond-set cypher of Empress Maria Alexandrovna beneath a Russian Imperial crown, within a gold border set with eighteen diamond-set flowerheads, the base centering a reserve engraved with a floral bouquet surrounded by scrolling foliage, in the original case, marked on flange and inside, also with St. Petersburg import mark. Height 1 1/2 inches (3.8 cm), width 3 1/2 inches (8.9 cm), depth 2 5/8 inches (6.7 cm).  
Estimated Price: \$12,000 - \$18,000

*Fabergé Silver Samovar*

With the work master's mark of Alexander Wäkeva (Väkevä), St. Petersburg, 1908-1917, scratched inventory number 5997  
Of urn form, with gadrooned lower section and stiff-leaf cast border, on a square pedestal and bun feet, with two upswept handles, with a detachable cover, the finials and spigot with replacement composite insulators, marked throughout. Height 17 1/2 inches (44.5 cm), approximately 139 ounces gross.  
Estimated Price: \$40,000 - \$60,000





Did you know....



... that Emperor Nicholas II was conferred several British honours - Knight of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, Royal Victorian Chain, colonel-in-chief of a regiment, Admiral, and Field marshal.

### ***Knight of the Garter - 1893***

Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (later Emperor Nicholas II) received the Garter's insignia in 1893, while he was in England to attend the wedding of his cousin, the Duke of York (later King George V).

***At the Court at Windsor, July 1, 1893.***

**T**HE Queen, as Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, has been graciously pleased, by Letters Patent under Her Royal Sign Manual and the Great Seal of the Order, bearing date this day, to dispense with all the Statutes and regulations usually observed in regard to Installation, and to grant unto His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Cesarevitch Nicholas Alexandrovitch of Russia, Knight of the said Most Noble Order, and duly invested with the Ensigns thereof, full power and authority to exercise all rights and privileges belonging to a Knight Companion of the aforesaid Most Noble Order of the Garter, in as full and ample a manner as if His Imperial Highness had been formally installed; any decree, rule, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.



*Emperor Nicholas II wearing the Garter's insignia*

### ***Colonel-in-chief of the 2nd Dragoons or Royal Scots Greys - 1894***

Shortly after his accession to the throne, the Emperor married Queen Victoria's granddaughter, who became Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, and soon afterwards, he was appointed

colonel-in-chief of the 2nd Dragoons or Royal Scots Greys, which had gained honours at Waterloo and had fought against the Russians during the Crimean War. The position of colonel-in-chief was rarely conferred, although the German Emperor had recently been appointed to the 1st Dragoons, and during Nicholas's lifetime, the distinction was granted to other sovereigns, including the Emperor of Austria and the Kings of Spain and Denmark.

***War Office, Pall Mall,  
7th December, 1894.***

***2nd Dragoons, His Imperial Majesty Nicholas II,  
Emperor of Russia, to be Colonel-in-Chief.  
Dated 8th December, 1894.***



Left - Emperor Nicholas II in the gala uniform of the Royal Scots Grey. Right - In the Admiral uniform of the British fleet, wearing the Garter's insignia and the Royal Victorian Chain

### **Royal Victorian Chain - 1904**

Emperor Nicholas II's uncle King Edward VII honoured his nephew with the Royal Victorian Chain in 1904 as a present to mark the christening of the Tsarevich Alexei. King Edward VII had created the chain at the time of his coronation as a special mark of royal favour, and by the time of the Russian ceremony, it was already held by several Sovereigns, including the German Emperor and the Kings of Denmark, Italy and Portugal.

*Chancery of the Royal Victorian Order,  
St. James's Palace, September 6, 1904.*

The KING has been pleased to confer on His Imperial Majesty The Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, and on His Imperial Majesty The Emperor of Russia "The Royal Victorian Chain."

### **Admiral of the fleet - 1908**

The Russian Emperor wore the Garter, Scots Greys uniform and chain when he met King Edward in the Baltic off Revel (Tallinn) in 1908, an event that was marked with Nicholas's appointment as an admiral of the fleet.

*Admiralty,  
11th June, 1908.*

Approval has been given for His Majesty Nicholas II, Emperor of all the Russias, K.G., to be appointed Honorary Admiral of the Fleet in His Majesty's Fleet.



### **Field marshal - 1916**

Six years after the Revel meeting Britain and Russia were united in war against Germany and Austria. While some of the Emperor's relatives forfeited their British honours – including the loss of Austrian and German Garters – important awards were sent to Russia to strengthen the alliance.

The New Year honours list of 1916 was headed by Nicholas's appointment to be a field marshal. The army's senior rank had been granted to a few Sovereigns in the past, although the precedents were unfortunate in light of what was happening in France and Flanders, as the German and the Austrian Emperor had both received the British baton.

Nicholas's insignia was delivered to him at the imperial headquarters in February 1916 by General Sir Arthur Paget, who said (The Times, 2 March 1916, page 6):

War Office,  
1st January, 1916.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been pleased to appoint His Imperial Majesty Nicholas II., Emperor of Russia, K.G., Colonel-in-Chief, 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys), Honorary Admiral of the Fleet, to be Field-Marshal in the Army.

*'By command of his Majesty the King, I have the honour to present your Imperial Majesty with the baton of a Field-Marshal of the British Army. My August Sovereign trusts that your Majesty will receive it as a token of his sincere friendship and affection, and as a tribute to the heroic exploits of the Russian Army. Though the distance which separates them has rendered it as yet impossible for the Russian and British Armies to fight shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy, they are united in the firm determination to conquer the enemy...'*

*'The British Army, who share his Majesty's admiration for their Russian comrades, welcome your Imperial Majesty as a British Field-Marshal, and the King is confident that the Russian and British Armies, in conjunction with their gallant Allies, will not fail to secure for their countries a permanent and victorious peace.'*

### **Order of the Bath - 1916**

The Emperor's second honour of 1916 was the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, which was intended to recognise the work of the imperial navy, just as his field marshal's baton had provided a tribute to the 'heroic exploits' of the Russian army.

In line with a practice that was introduced towards the start of King George V's reign, in connection with the appointment of foreign candidates for British honours, the imperial Russian honour was not published in The London Gazette.

The Bath insignia was delivered by the British ambassador, Sir George Buchanan, whose address at the imperial headquarters in October 1916 referred to the naval situation (The Times, 20 October 1916, page 7):

*'In spite of the great numerical superiority of the German Fleet, your Majesty's Baltic Fleet has repulsed with loss all its attacks on Riga, has carried out successful raids, and barred its entrance to the Gulf of Finland. Like the British Fleet in the North Sea, your Majesty's Fleet has kept watch and ward in the Baltic and, though still unable to fight in line, the two Fleets are acting together in close cooperation. British submarines, moreover, have penetrated into the Baltic, where they are proud to fight under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of your Majesty's naval forces in those waters.'*

*'In the Black Sea the Turkish Fleet, reinforced by the Goeben and Breslau, after several unsuccessful encounters with your Majesty's ships, have been driven into the Bosphorus.'*

*'In recognition of these services, and as a tribute of his admiration of the Russian Navy, the King has commanded me to present to your Majesty, as Commander-in-Chief of your Majesty's land and sea forces, the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Military Division.'*

The senior grade of the Order of the Bath had rarely been given to Russians before Emperor Nicholas II was appointed. The precedents included a civil GCB for Nicholas's uncle, Grand Duke Sergei

Alexandrovich, at the time of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee celebrations (1887), and military GCBs for the Emperor's brother, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich (1901) and his more distant cousin, Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich (1915).

(From the Gazette - "Russian honours: Emperor Nicholas II of Russia")

