



Romanov News Новости Романовых

By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky

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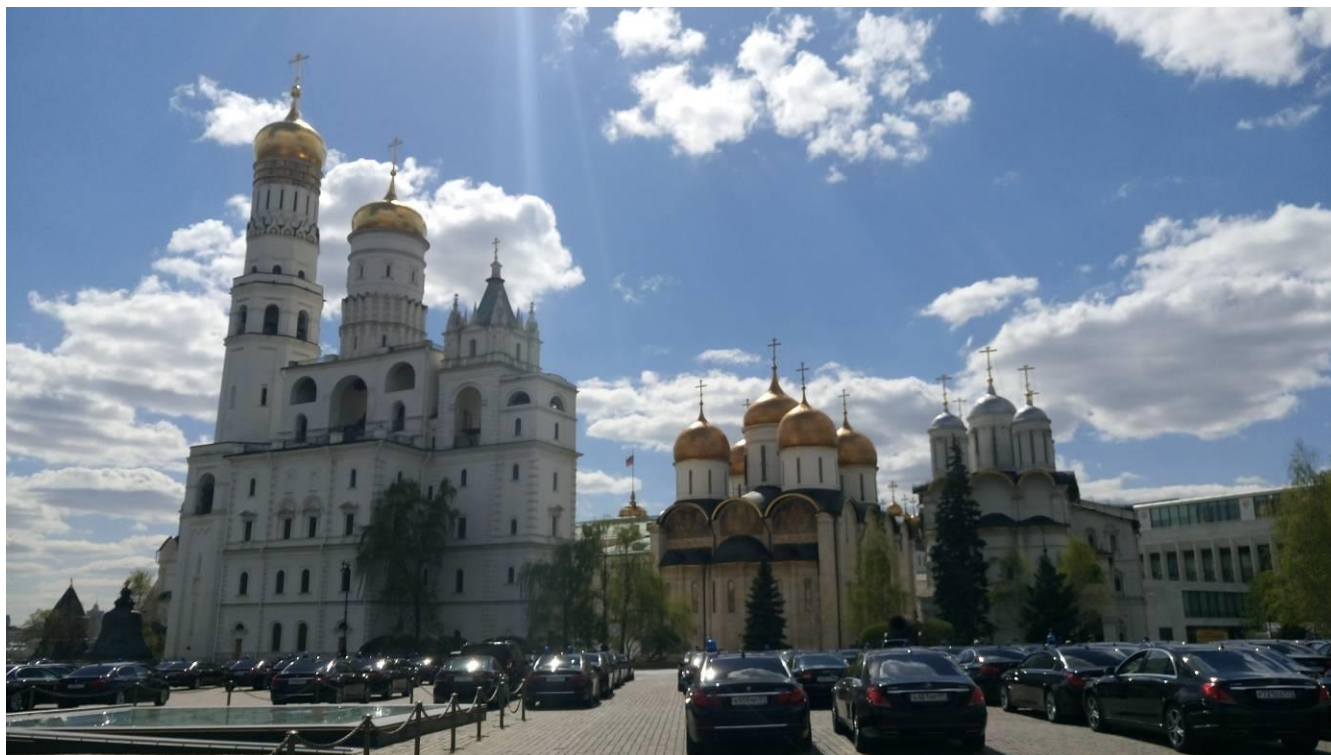
May 2017



Recreated Cross in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich opened in Kremlin

May 4, 2017, Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill took part in the opening ceremony of the monument, reconstructed on the site of the murder of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in the Moscow Kremlin, near the Nikolsky gate.

Acting on President Putin's decision, the Elizabeth-Sergei Educational Society and the Russian Military Historical Society organized the restoration of the memorial.



Moscow Kremlin on May 4th 2017



17 (Old style 4th) February 1905, the Moscow Governor-General, Commander of the Moscow Military District, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was moving in a coach through the territory of the Moscow Kremlin from the Senate Square to the Nikolsky gate. In 65 steps (35 meters) from the Nikolsky tower his carriage was blown up by a bomb thrown by the terrorist Ivan Kalyaev. The Grand Duke died on the spot.

The remains of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, with military honours were immediately transferred to the Chudov Monastery, where he was buried in a specially constructed tomb.

The Fifth Kiev Grenadier Regiment (Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was its chief) put a temporary wooden cross on the spot death of their commander. By the foot of the cross, people began to throw money to create a monument to the Grand Duke. The widow of Sergei Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, consented to the installation of a permanent cross-monument on the site of the death of a spouse. Specific conditions for the construction of the

monument was that it was made solely on public donations. To implement the project of the monument and the fence, was invited famous artist Victor M. Vasnetsov, personally by Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The drawings were approved by Grand Duchess and Emperor Nicholas II. Inauguration of the monument, the cross was April 2, 1908.

May 1, 1918, the memorial cross was demolished with the direct participation of V.I. Lenin. This was the first monument in the Kremlin, demolished after the revolutionary events.

The tragic fate awaited also the Chudov (Miracles) Monastery. It was destroyed in 1930. Despite this, the tomb of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was preserved below the surface.

In 1995, by decision of the President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin, and with the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II, the remains of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich were ceremonially reburied in the Novospassky Monastery.

As it turned out originals design materials of Vasnetsov for the memorial cross was preserved, which has allowed to recreate it with absolute historical accuracy.

Works on the reconstruction on the historic site of the cross in memory of the tragic death of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich were initiated by the order of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the autumn of 2016.

November 1, 2016, to the 152th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, the ceremony of consecration of the foundation stone was held.



And then, on May 4th 2017, the opening ceremony of the recreated cross were to start.



Most of the guests met at the office of the RVIO (Russian Military History Society), where about the 100 persons were taken in their well known yellow buses all the way inside the Kremlin.

Passing a checkpoint, we were escorted to the hall under the Senate building, where refreshment were waiting. Initially constructed from 1776 to 1787, it originally housed the Moscow branch of the Governing Senate, the highest judiciary and legislative office of Imperial Russia. Currently, it houses the Russian presidential administration and is a highly secured and restricted area closed to the public.



From left - Elena A. Agapova, Anna V. Gromova, Sergei V. Stepashin, Bishop Mark of Ryazan and Mihaylovskiy - Paul and Ludmila Kulikovskiy, Margarita Stegny, Sergei V. Mironenko, and Bishop Mark.



From there the guests walked the 100 meters to the area in front of the Nikolsky Tower. There the Cross was standing without cover, the Presidential Guard were lined-up and about 50 representatives from the media and the clergy stood ready.

A little later, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill arrived and then the president of the Russian Federation Vladimir V. Putin.

The ceremony was attended by Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, who represented the relatives of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, Minister of Culture of Russia, Chairman of the Military Historical Society Vladimir R. Medinsky; Moscow Mayor Sergei S. Sobyanin; Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Fund revival of traditions of charity and philanthropy "Elisabeth Sergius Educational society" Anna V. Gromova; Chairman of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergey Stepashin; Presidential advisor on culture Vladimir Tolstoy; Chairman of the Financial and Economic Management of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan Mark of Ryazan and Mihaylovskiy; Deputy Managing Moscow Patriarchate, governor of Novospassky Stavropegic Monastery Bishop Sawa; Dean of the Odintsovo district of the Moscow Regional diocese Archimandrite Nestor (Jiliaev), director of Russian Military-historical Society Vladislav Kononov, director of State Historical Museum Alexei Levikin, and scientific director of GARF Sergei Mironenko.

His Holiness made a doleful litany on the spot death of Sergei Alexandrovich. Prayers were lifted up for the repose of the soul "of the deceased servant of God, the ever-memorable Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich." Then the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church performed the rite of consecration of the monument-cross.



His Holiness was joined by Secretary of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in Moscow, Archpriest Vladimir Divakov and rector of the Patriarchal monastery churches in Zaryadye of Moscow, Archpriest Vyacheslav Shestakov.

Liturgical songs were performed by the choir of the monastery Novospassky (Director S.B. Popov).



Patriarch Kirill addressed the guest with a word:

"Your Excellency, dear Vladimir Vladimirovich! Dear participants of the ceremony and also the Paschal spiritual ceremony!"

We have now consecrated the cross, replacing the cross that was installed on people's donations by our pious ancestors on the site of the murder of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, and then demolished by the revolutionary power. It is symbolic that the cross was the first monument in the Moscow Kremlin, that was destroyed after the revolution. In 10 years Chudov monastery located on the territory of the Kremlin was destroyed, where the Grand Duke was buried. For more than 20 years ago, his remains found peace in the Novospassky Monastery.

A cross - is not only a symbol of victory over death, but also the approval of the value of human life in its highest, almost incomprehensible sense of the word. Here in the heart of our country, in the ancient Kremlin, it was committed not just a political murder. The Grand Duke was not killed because he was a bad governor-general. His care for the residents of

the city is well known. The name of his wife Elizabeth Feodorovna, the German princess, who took Orthodoxy and later glorified among the saints relates to best traditions of Russian charity. This act of terrorism has once again been thwarted by the very value of human life. The driver of the Grand Duke, a simple man, was also killed by a bomb; he had no relation to the class struggle or other ideas, which nourished many people at the time, and which supported a soulless machine of revolutionary terror, which killed many people.

Recently a monument to Prince Vladimir, Baptist of Russia was opened next to the Kremlin, it has become an event, filled with special meaning. Civilizational choice of the Prince spiritually transformed the peoples of Russia. In the place where the murder of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, was made the opposite choice - in favor of the contempt for the value of human life, in favor of ready to bring on a bloody altar of political upheaval the lives of people.

Recreating the Cross in memory of Sergei Alexandrovich is an act of restoration of historical justice. But justice - this is not a linear search of who is right and who is wrong. Probably, there is no family in the area of Russia, which were not divided at the time the revolution. And today, we must learn from the Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna, wife of Sergei Alexandrovich, who forgave the murderer of her husband. After all, in the end, it is such manifestations of mercy, love and sacrifice that keeps the unity of every human community, whether it's family, the people or the state.

This year we commemorate the tragic century of revolutionary events. It is important that lessons of fratricidal strife will give us moral strength to see in compatriot brothers and sisters, help to go forward, overcoming the difficulties, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I congratulate you on this wonderful event."





The next speaker was the President of Russia Vladimir V. Putin:

*"Your Holiness, ladies and gentlemen,
Today, we remember events more than a century distant from us. On February 4, 1905, a terrorist threw a bomb that killed Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.
This crime was one of the harbingers of the dramatic events, turmoil and civil war that would engulf Russia, bringing tremendous losses, genuine national catastrophe, and threatening the existence of Russia's very statehood.*



There is never any justification for violence and murder, not matter what political slogans they use. The Grand Duke's death shook Russian society back then and people from all backgrounds saw it as a tragedy. The memorial cross raised at the site of this cruel vengeance was a symbol of sorrow and regret. It was raised at the people's will and funded solely by public donations. Outstanding Russian artist Viktor Vasnetsov took part in erecting the memorial, and the Grand Duke's widow, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, gave her blessing to the memorial.

I should say a few words separately about this remarkable woman. She worked tirelessly and was active in charity efforts. The Russian Orthodox Church conferred sainthood on her. She did not leave the country even during the darkest days

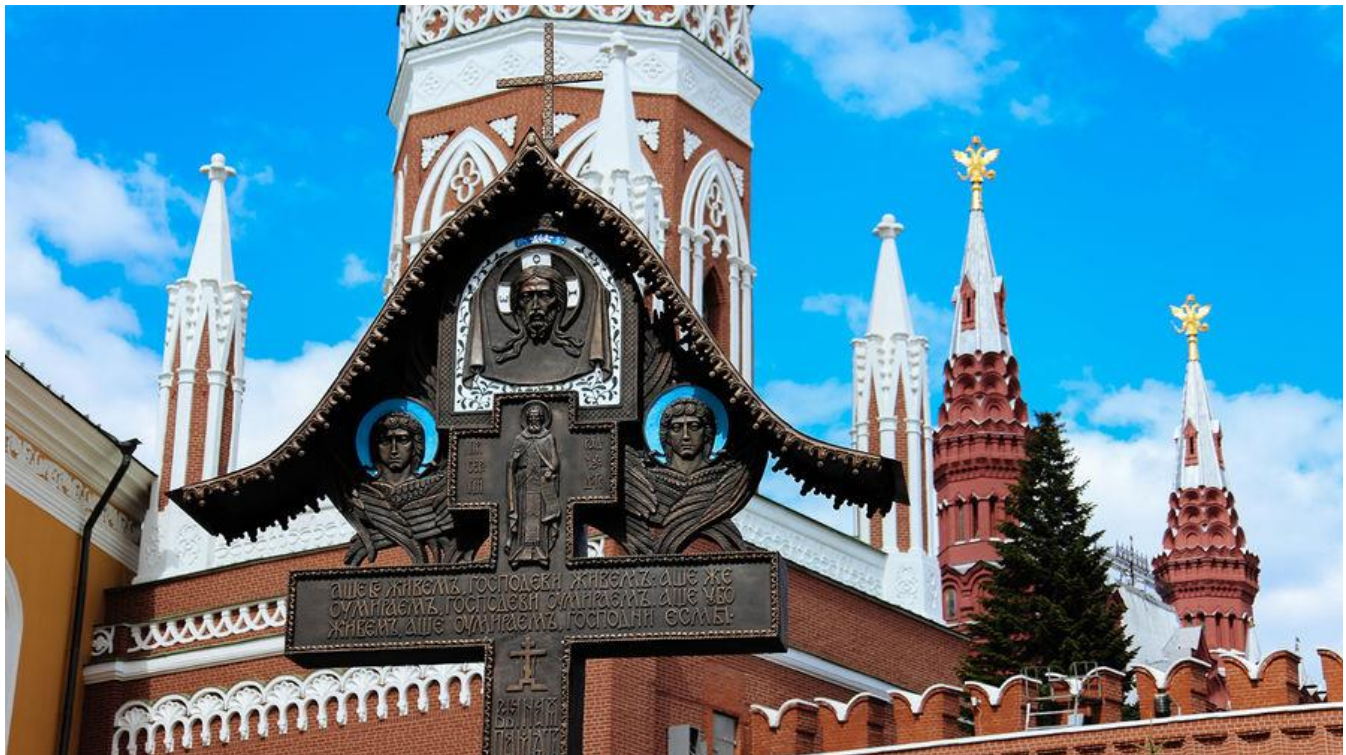
and to her death remained true to the ideals of Christian forgiveness and love. The cross raised on this site bore, too, the mark of her personality, destiny and inner spiritual strength.

This cross was among the first monuments destroyed after the revolution. The Chudov Monastery in the Kremlin and countless other monuments around the country met the same fate. In the end though, truth and justice always prevail.

Today, we see how churches are rebuilt, monasteries open anew, and holy places that were lost are returned. Russia's history is regaining its unity. We treasure each page in this history, no matter how difficult. These are our national spiritual roots.

The cross raised in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich's death has been restored to its historical place. It stands as a symbol of the price we had to pay for hatred, division and hostility, and reminds us that we must do everything we can to preserve our people's unity and harmony. Today, we should say again that we only have one Russia, and no matter what our individual views and positions, we must all defend and look after this Russia, make our people's future, the happiness of our people and our children and grandchildren our priority.

I thank sincerely all who took part in restoring this memorial.
Thank you very much."



- Videos: 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hd17wOBKuYA>
2) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/175649/
3) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2884721#>
4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpC-qJN1wM4>
5) http://www.1tv.ru/news/2017-05-04/324733-v_kremle_torzhestvenno_otkryli_krest_v_pamyat_o_velikom_knyaze_sergee_aleksandroviche
6) <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1425126/>
7) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/115341/>
8) <https://russian.rt.com/russia/news/385978-putin-pamyatnik-knyazyu-sergeyu-aleksandrovichu>
9) <http://www.5-tv.ru/news/125745/>



In connection with the recreated Cross in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in Kremlin, on May 4th, 2017, a book "Cross of the Grand Duke" was published by the Elizabeth-Sergei Educational Society. Anna V. Gromova presented the book to the President Vladimir Putin at the end of the opening ceremony on May 4th.

In hard cover, its 224 pages, with lots of original b/w photos and newer color photos, tell the story of the life of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, born 1857 as the 5th son of Emperor Alexander II, until his murder in 1905 by a terrorist, and the history of the cross erected in Kremlin in his memory in 1908, on the location of his murder, and the recreated cross in 2017.

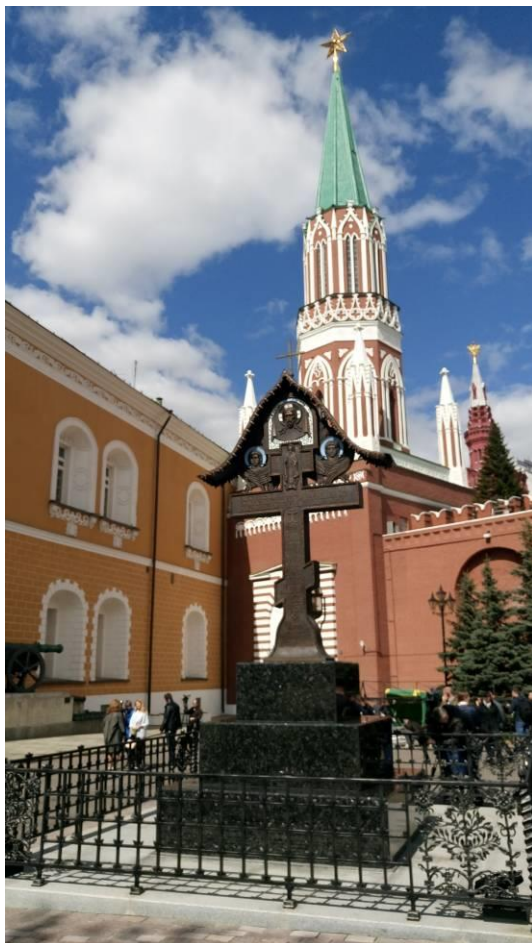




Top - Governor of Moscow Region, Anna Gromova ESES, Sergey Stepashin and Elena Agapova, IOPS.
 Left - Anna Gromova giving an interview after the opening.
 Right - Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy at the opening.

The response in the media after the opening ceremony was positive, with many reports on TV (as can also be seen by the large numbers of videos available) and in the press. Many noted Putin's words about unity - "We only have one Russia, and no matter what our individual views and positions, we must all defend and look after this Russia, make our people's future, the happiness of our people and our children and grandchildren our priority", while others "painted" a picture with headlines like - "Lenin - destroyed, Putin - he restored".

The event was also seen as a reminder of the terror following the 1917 revolution. On the eve of 2017 sounded a lot of scary forecasts - "a new revolutionary sentiment is awakening". However, now it looks more and more likely the opposite. The 1917 events have become a reminder of how it turned to terror and spare no families. Russia is on its way to learn to accept itself and its history in its entirety. Russian society and the state are learning to move forward, avoiding the mistakes of the past. It has been repeatedly pointed out that the adoption of the country's history in its entirety is important, with all its contradictions and complexities. The idea is simple, but effective - a purely evolutionary course of development, without revolutions and national disasters, will be best for Russia and all Russians!



The Minister of Culture V. Medinsky did not speak at the ceremony, but wrote instead an article. A part of it is brought here:

"Memorial Cross on the site of the death of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, brother of Emperor Alexander III. This is not just a monument, restored after 99 years after it was destroyed. This is another episode of restoration of historical justice, the historical memory of the unity and continuity of our history. Especially revealing is it right now - in the year of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

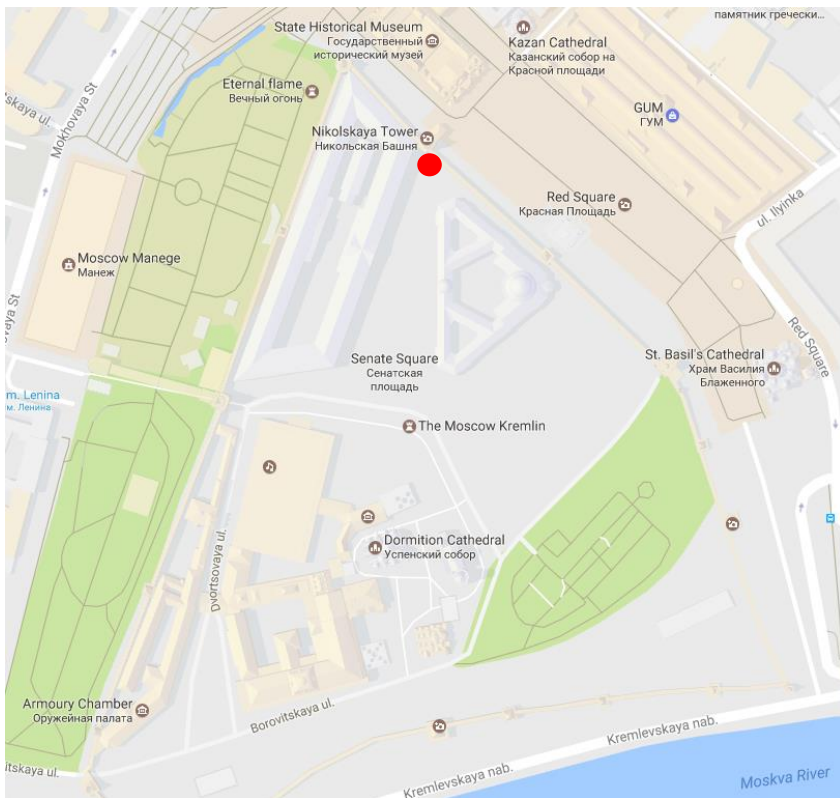
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Today the reconstruction of the cross in the heart of our state - symbolical gesture. This monument itself is a sad lesson of denying the past. Studying objectively the revolution, and the Soviet era, with all its tragedies and achievements, we should learn. We see that the attempts to distort historical memory lead to no good. It is no coincidence, I think, the most striking achievements of the Soviet period fell just at a time when the government refused to overthrow country's history and, on the contrary, tried to restore the historical, cultural continuity. This is an important lesson for us: it is impossible to build the future by destroying the past.

The second lesson is obvious, too. We all remember how finished the terrorists Socialist-Revolutionaries. After all, political terror - it is a crime not only against specific

individuals and not even against a particular political regime, a crime against the state and against the people as such. Loosening and finally destroying Imperial Russia, terrorist bandits were buried at the cemetery of the infamous history. But, alas, with them there were millions of not only innocent, but the best, the brightest, the most active Russian citizens.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Elizabeth Sergius Educational Society, which, together with the Russian military-historical society has helped make a good thing. Memorial Cross to become not only a symbol of the memory of the mayor of Moscow, but Russia and the testimony of unity, a visible reminder of the ideology of non-violence and the destruction of historical heritage. For, without the past - no future!"



The Cross in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich is located in the Kremlin, next to the Nikolsky Tower (and gate), - shown by the red dot in the map to the left.



The Relics of Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth arrived in Russia's Northern Capital

A reliquary containing the hand of Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth arrived in St Petersburg, Russia, on May 6, 2017, brought from the Synodal Cathedral of Our Lady "of the Sign" of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in New York City by Protopriest Andrei Sommer. The box also contains relics of Holy Martyr Nun Barbara, the Grand Duchess' aide.

Greeting the holy relics at the airport were: His Grace Bishop Nazary of Kronstadt, Prior of St Alexander Nevsky Lavra; Protopriest Alexander Sorokin, President of the Diocesan Information Department, and other clergymen of the Diocese of St Petersburg. A moleben was held at Holy Trinity Cathedral at the monastery, where the relics were brought, after which worshipers were given the opportunity to pray before and venerate the relics.



"One hundred years ago, revolution broke out in our glorious city," said Vladyka Nazary. "Many still view that as a worthy achievement, which means that reconciliation has not yet taken place within our society. I am inclined to call the Revolution a great catastrophe, which befell not only Russia in its present borders but the entire territory of the Russian Empire," he stressed. "This Revolution lay the foundations for division. The only positive outcome of that period was that the Patriarchate was restored in Russia."



Vladyka Nazary called upon every person who came to venerate the relics to ponder this question. "History has a way of repeating. We must pray to God and the New Martyrs who suffered under the godless regime that nothing of the sort ever happens again," said the hierarch, adding that a day earlier, on the very site where Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, the spouse of St Elizabeth, was martyred in Moscow, a memorial cross was erected. "I don't know if this is a coincidence or not, but it is very symbolic. We are talking about reconciliation and unity, these are not only words, and we must actively strive for unity."

Protopriest Konstantin Golovatsky, Head of the Diocesan Youth Department, said to a correspondent of "Voda Zhivaya" news service, that these relics were brought to Russia as a result of the bonds between young people in St Petersburg and in the USA.

"The delegation of St Petersburg youth has several times in the last couple of years attended the St Herman Conference in the Eastern American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. These events are devoted to St Herman of Alaska in late December, and in 2016, gathered over 200 delegates. A

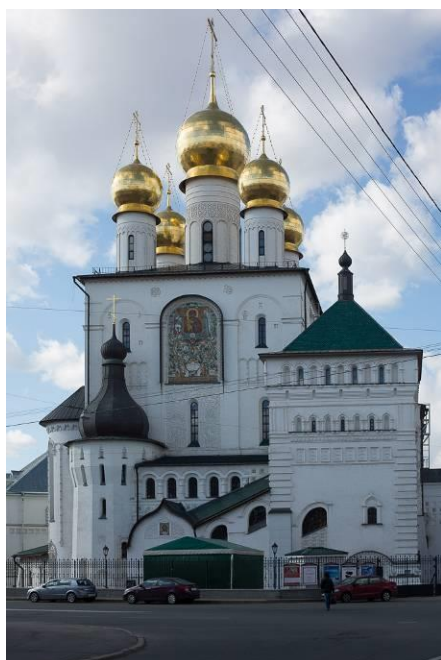
delegation of Orthodox youth from America has also visited us. They had the idea of bringing the relics of St Elizabeth on the hundredth anniversary of the Revolution,” he said.

The visit of the relics was made possible with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of ROCOR, and His Eminence Metropolitan Varsonofy of St Petersburg and Ladoga.

The relics of St Elizabeth and St Barbara are found at Gethsemane Convent in Jerusalem, in the Church of St Mary Magdalene. In 1918, the remains of the Grand Duchess were brought from Alapaevsk, where she and her companion were martyred, through Shanghai to Jerusalem, where she had wished to be interred. In 1981, after the canonization of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, the hand of the Grand Duchess and a portion of the relics of St Barbara were brought to the USA.

Video -

https://life.ru/t/life78/1005483/v_pietierburgh_priviezli_kovchiegh_s_moshchami_kniaghini_ielizaviety_fi_odorovny



The relics of Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Nun Barbara moved to the Cathedral of St. Theodore

Ark with the right hand of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and relics of the Martyr Nun Barbara was moved on May 9 from the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra to the Cathedral Theodore Icon of the Mother of God.



Prince Dimitri Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky spoke at the Russian Nobility ball in New York

On May 5th, the Russian Nobility Association in America had arranged its annual Spring Ball in The Pierre Hotel, in New York City.

Among the many noble guests were Prince Dimitri Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky and his spouse Jeanne and Prince Michael Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky with his spouse Debra, his daughter Alexis. The Romanoff-Ilyinsky brothers are grandsons of Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich, son of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich.

At the Spring Ball Prince Dimitri Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky made a welcome address which in the following days caused some remarks in the social medias on the internet.

But, let us first have the full speech - "It is time....."



*The Romanoff-Ilyinsky brothers with spouses.
Photo by: Roman Makhmutov*



Prince Dimitri Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky speaking at the Spring Ball. Photo by: Roman Makhmutov

Prince Dimitri Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky - "Mr. President, Members of the Board, My Brother Prince Michael Pavlovich Romanoff Ilyinsky, and Honoured guests,

Why? Why Are we here? To dance? Yes. To socialize? Yes. For a greater cause? Yes!!!

As we all know, 100 years ago, a Revolution tore Russia apart, and that many, including most of our families, were forced into exile.

Our grandfather, the Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich, was involved in the murder of Gregory Rasputin. His exile to the Persian front saved his life. Ultimately,

he lived in France, England, and even in the United States. He married an American, our grandmother, Audrey Emery and therefor our family came into being. I know the journey that brought us here.

But why? Why are WE here?

Why are we all gathered at this ball? The Russian Nobility Ball. Is it nostalgia? Romance? Duty? Perhaps, it is all of the above.

As Prince Alexis Sherbatoff, an honorary president of the Nobility Association, said many times throughout his life and I quote, "We are STILL here". Though it's been 100 years since the revolution, despite all the changes, not only in the world around us, but within our own communities, and most importantly, within our own families, we Are still here. We are here to honour the past, we are here to continue its traditions and we are here to prepare for the future.

The Nobility Association was founded in 1933 as a non-political organization. And now, in such trying political times between our two great countries, The United States of America and the Russian Federation, it has become more important than ever to honour the Nobility Association and its

commitment to the ties that bind us all together, rather than to exaggerate our differences. It's amazing how history does repeat itself. September 16th, 1917 our Grandfather, the Grand Duke Dmitri, wrote in his dairy "Everything is so uncertain that I try not to think about tomorrow. I try not to think about it, and live as I live."

It is time for all of us to come together in support of the Nobility Association and its principles.

It is time for the Romanoff family to set aside 19th century arguments and work together to do what the family can to help Modern Russia.

It is time to thank our Cousin Maria for all her efforts in Russia and all the goodwill she has generated. Amazingly, Cousin Maria has visited Russian over 100 times in 25 years and has painstakingly continued the great traditions of her family line.

It is time to thank my brother Michael Pavlovich for all he has done, and for the Romanoff Family Association to respect the fact that he is the current elected head.

And it's time for the Romanoff Family Association to open its doors, to re-energize itself, and to allow other family members to join.

It's time to publicly thank our cousin Paul Kulikovsky who continues to educate our family, and all those who are interested, in Romanoff family history and current family events through his writings in "The Romanov News".

But remember, tonight, we are here for a very special cause, and that is, to help and to support the Nobility Association in all it's wonderful endeavours. We all need to participate and do our part to help better our world.

Nownow it's time to become involved.....

I wish you all a wonderful evening. Enjoy yourselves, and thank you."

Great! - that Prince Dimitri Pavlovich made a speech at the ball. He stood up and showed that the Romanovs are STILL here and have something to say. Let us hear more from family members!

Starting from the end, the mentioning of Romanov News is of course very much appreciated. Wonderful it is being expressed in public.

The Romanoff Family Association (RFA) do need to move forward. The present "stand-by mode" of the Association, means lost opportunities, fading support, and is making the work ahead more and more difficult. It is indeed time for action.

Prince Michael Pavlovich has been the Vice-president, since the last years of the period when Prince Nicholas Romanovich was the President, and it seems now only natural to accept him as the new President. The important issue here is that the Association needs to move, to show it is STILL here and is relevant. So, I am happy that Prince Dimitri Pavlovich is pushing this issue. A decision is needed!

The mentioning of "our Cousin Maria" was a surprise. The first one notes is that she is not referred to as "Grand Duchess", but as a cousin.



Paul Kulikovsky and Prince Dimitri Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky at the Romanov Boyar House in Moscow, 2013

Due to the mentioning of Maria Vladimirovna, it was quickly disseminated by pro-Kirillovich supporters on their websites, blogs and groups in social networks under different headings as a "Senior Member of the Romanoff Family Makes a Plea for Unity" to "Morganatic descendants recognized the supremacy of Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna", and the controversy was then bobbling.

This is properly too much wishful thinking from the pro-Kirillovich supporters. "To set aside 19th century arguments and work together" is properly what they refer to, but this says in no way that Maria is accepted as "Grand Duchess", is recognized a "head" of the family, or anything else than let's work together - I only see Dimitri Pavlovich holding out a hand towards Maria Vladimirovna, as a member of the Romanov family.

The issue is on the table and the comments were very sceptical, summed up as - "is unity possible?" Even the pro-Kirillovich supporters sounded sceptical and asked - "What will be the result of this noble call for unity? What will be the reaction of the Head of the Russian Imperial House? What will be the reaction of Prince Michael Romanoff Ilyinsky, leader of the RFA, and of various Romanoff's in the RFA, like cousins Olga Andreievna and Rostislav Rostislavich? What will be the reaction of various non-Romanoff relatives?"

(As a side note, it is funny how Michael Pavlovich is referred to as Prince, while Olga Andreievna and Rostislav Rostislavich are not with title.)



I (Paul Kulikovsky) would very much like to see the Romanov family united, also with other descendants - ex. Prince George Yurievsky -, or at least working together on projects where there are common goals.

But I am also very sceptical and I will be very surprised if Maria Vladimirovna even is going to reply to this idea. As far as I know, her idea of a united family, is that all others acknowledge her as the Head of the family, which is a condition few, if any at all, would accept.

But let's see. Will she accept the "bridge" proposal or will she maintain her "wall"-project? Can she surprise us?

What could "push" the issue forward is that both Maria Vladimirovna and the RFA look weak in the eyes of the Russian authorities, the Russian Orthodox Church and the general public, when they can not agree on anything among themselves. Together, they could have greater influence on many more cases in Russia.

One of the more lengthy and critical comments came from Ivan Matveev, Petrozavodsk, who wrote on Facebook, May 8th - (start quote):

"I would like to ask what kind of "painstakingly continued the great traditions of her family line"? If we talk about the presentation of fake medals, titles, ribbons, and other spillikins, then Maria Vladimirovna and Co. successfully succeeded and continued the tradition of her grandfather and father. I have been offered over the entrance to the "Office of the HH" to get an award - "In the international market since 1924".

The division in the Romanov family was the fault of one person - the Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich, son continued his policy, and today actively is pursuing the granddaughter. For Maria Vladimirovna reconciliation can be only one: the Romanovs friendly crowd come to bow to acknowledge its full headship, and the son and heir as the crown prince. Does it goes with the Romanovs?



Today there is the aggravated crisis in the family, there is no direct inheritance from the "competitors". Deaths of Nikolai Romanovich and Dmitry Romanovich have left no male offspring, so their claims have moved to distant branch, which was not been as active as the brothers and replacement is not yet announced. Of course, the desire to smooth over the conflict in the family can and should of course be welcomed, but we should remember that back in 1980, Prince Nicholas Romanovich met with Prince Vladimir Kirillovich (father of Maria Vladimirovna) to settle family friction. Vladimir Kirillovich said that he is ready to accept the Romanovs as Romanovs (he always believed that they are not entitled to the name of the Romanovs), and even recognize their princely titles. But the deal was quickly intervened by Leonida, and all negotiations have been phased out, and after Vladimir Kirillovich "awarded" his grandson George the grand duke title, it became impossible. I think that it is appropriate to give a couple of quotes of Maria Vladimirovna, who very sincerely spoke of her relatives.

"The attempts to challenge my right is made by people who, in the first place do not belong to the Imperial family, and secondly, they do not know any of the relevant laws or think that others do not understand these laws."

"They (the other Romanovs) have no right to express their thoughts and suggestions about the burial of the remains. They can only come and pray at their tomb, as well as any other Russians who wish to."

In September 2006, during the reburial of Empress Maria Feodorovna, the whole family gathered in St. Isaac's Cathedral for a solemn memorial service. Maria Vladimirovna and her entourage sat in the bushes and waited for the Danish Crown Prince, when he came with his wife, so they could go together to the Cathedral and make a spectacular impression. The late Nicholas Romanovich tried through Ivan Artsishevsky to ask Maria Vladimirovna Romanov, to stand with the rest of the family, but it was narrated that 'Her Majesty', is not willing to stand alongside these morganatic descendants, it is not in compliance with her status.

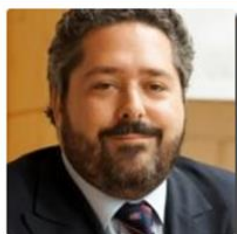
(End quote)



Romanov descendants banned entry to Ukraine

10 May. Obozrevatel - Maria Vladimirovna and George Michailovich have been listed as criminals in the Ukrainian Center "Peacemaker". This is evidenced by an entry in the "Purgatory" website on May 10.

Романов Георгий Михайлович / Романов Георгій Михайлович / Romanov Georgij Mihajlovich



Дата рождения: 13.03.1981
Страна: Испания
Адрес: г. Мадрид



Незаконное пересечение государственной границы Украины.

Поддержка и популяризация российского оккупационного режима на территории АР Крым.

Романова Мария Владимировна / Романова Марія Володимирівна / Romanova Mariya Vladimirovna



Дата рождения: 23.12.1953
Страна: Испания
Адрес: г. Мадрид



Незаконное пересечение государственной границы Украины.

The descendants of the Romanovs are accused of illegally crossing the state border of Ukraine and of "support and promotion of Russian occupation regime in the Crimea".

As reference is mentioned that Maria Vladimirovna arrived May 16, 2016 in the peninsula on the occasion of the 100th anniversary since the last visit of Emperor Nicholas II to Crimea.

The next day, May 11th 2017, the Ukraine website Politeka informed with reference to the site "Peacemaker", that for an unauthorized (by Kiev authorities) trip to Crimea and praising Russian aggression in Ukraine are on the blacklist also included citizens of Denmark Dimitri Romanovich Romanov and Dorrit Romanov.

They all have now become "persona non-grata" in Ukraine.

This is sad!

One wonders how quick and effective the Ukrainian authorities work. It took them more than a year to come to these conclusions. More amazing is, that they have now included a person who reposed almost half a year ago.

Memorial plaque to Prince Dimitri Romanovich opened in Feodosia

In "Feodosia special boarding school", in Crimea, was inaugurated an information plaque commemorating Prince Dimitri Romanovich.

According to the press service of Feodosia City Council, in 2006 as part of his visit to Feodosia the Prince presented to pupils of the boarding school 80 digital hearing aids, at the time both scarce and expensive.

The initiator of the installation of a memorial plaque was the chairman of the Club of history lovers Konstantin

Vinogradov. Material assistance came from the City Council deputy Natalia Yan'shin.



"At the end of last year, Dmitry Romanov passed away. We got the idea to open a memorial plaque in honor of his visit to Feodosia. We are very pleased that the opening of the information plaque is precisely today, the day of the birth of the Prince, which would be '91 years. It is a tribute and gratitude for the charity, which he left on our Feodosia Earth 10 years ago"- quoted the historian in the press service of the City Council.

Princess Olga Romanov told about the life of the family estate in the UK

May 21, 2017, RT - The only daughter of Prince Andrew Romanov, grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Princess Olga told in an interview with RT about the hereditary estate of the royal Provender in the English county of Kent and its popularity with the tourists.



"Provender belonged to my relatives on the maternal side. When my mother married dad, he moved to her estate. She belonged to the third generation of our family as residents in Provender, and I - as the fourth. My mother died in 2000, and my father - in 1981"- said the Princess. She said that the restoration of the manor began 15 years ago when the house was in poor condition.

According to Princess Romanov, now the estate is open to visitors and is very popular with tourists.

"We are now re-branded. Luckily Provender is a very popular destination. We have often guided tours, but we need action"- she said.

At the same time, according to the Princess, tourists come more to see her, and not the home.

"When they call to book a trip, they are wondering whether it will be carried out personally by me" - she said. Olga Romanova said that most tourists come to the estate from the United States and Russia, who are interested in antiquities and archaeology.

"But some of them really want to look at me - in jeans, with hay in my hair and smelling of horse," - she added.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABFXnw2_f1Y

**К 150-ЛЕТНЕЙ ГОДОВЩИНЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОГО ОБЩЕСТВА КРАСНОГО КРЕСТА**



The conference "150 years of charity. Russian Empire"

May 17 at the House of the Russians Abroad named after Alexander Solzhenitsyn, an international scientific conference "One and a half century of charity. Russian Empire", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Russian Red Cross Society, was held. The conference was organized by the "Elizabeth-Sergei Educational society", the House of the Russians Abroad named after Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Society of the Red Cross (the old organization), with the participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and with the support of the Government of Moscow.

Leading specialists from Russia, France and Serbia participated in the conference. The conference discussed issues related to the activities of the representatives of the House of Romanovs and charity communities in the Russian Red Cross Society, the problem of women's ministry, ROKK international initiatives and more. In

addition, it addressed the history and current activities ROKK (the old society), formed in Europe after the elimination of ROKK in Russia by the Bolsheviks.

The conference started with greetings from Vitaliy I. Suchkov, Head of the Department of National Policy and Interregional Relations of the Moscow Government; Vladimir R. Legoyda, Chairman of the Synodal Department for the Relations of the Church with the Society and Media, Moscow Patriarchate; Archpriest Vladimir Roshchin, the head of the Department for the work with public organizations of the Synodal Department for the Relations of the Church with the Society and Media, Moscow Patriarchate; Bishop Sawa of Voskresensky, Vicar of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; Alexander O. Chubaryan, Academician, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Scientific Director of the Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences; Mikhail A. Lipkin, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Director of the Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences; Count Sergei A. Kapnist, Chairman of the ROCC (old organization), France; Magne Bart, Head of the regional delegation of the International Red Cross in Russia, Belarus and Moldova; Raisa T. Lukututseva, chairman of the All-Russian public organization "Russian Red Cross"; Anna V. Gromova, Chairman of Fund "Elizabeth-Sergei Educational society" and Viktor A. Moskvina, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Director of the House of Russians Abroad named after Alexander Solzhenitsyn.



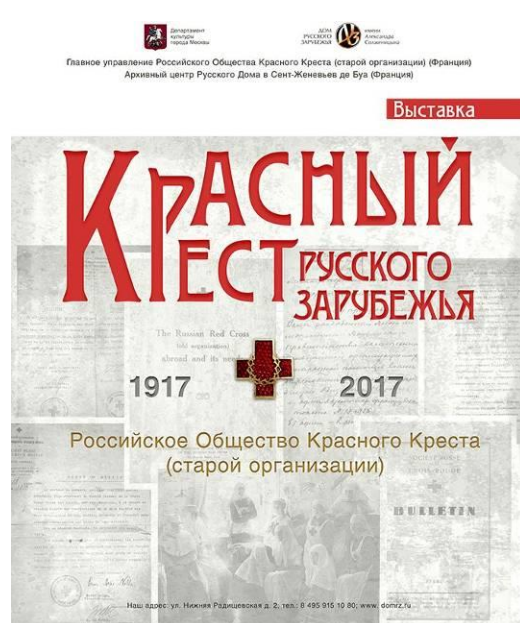
Among the reports of particular interest were "Empress Maria Feodorovna and the Red Cross" by Julia V. Kudrina, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Senior Researcher, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences;

- "The Russian Red Cross Society between the Revolution of 1905 and the First World War (1906-1913): statistics and activities" by Galina N. Ulyanova, doctor of historical sciences, leading researcher of the Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences;

- "The Moscow branch of the ROCC under the aegis of the governor-general of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna (1891-1905)" by Anna V. Gromova, PhD (History), Senior Researcher, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences;

- "The Russian Red Cross Society and the Provisional Government of 1917" by Count Sergei A. Kapnist, Chairman of the ROCC (old organization);

- "A brief review of the materials of the Russian Red Cross Society (the old organization) kept at the Center for Russian Archives in Saint Genevieve de Bois" by Nikita A. Kuznetsov, PhD (History), Leading Researcher of the Department of Military Historical Heritage, House of Russians Abroad named after Alexander Solzhenitsyn.



After the conference opened the exhibition "The Red Cross of the Russian Diaspora. 1917-2017", which will be held at the House of the Russians Abroad from 18 of May to 31 of August, 2017.

The exhibition is timed to the 150th anniversary of the "Society for the care of the wounded and sick soldiers", later renamed "Russian Red Cross Society", and the 100th anniversary of the emergence of the Russian Red Cross Society (the old organization) - one of the oldest organizations of the Russian emigration, that have continued its activities so far.

The exhibition presents unique exhibits and documents from the collections of the House of Russian abroad and the Archive Centre of the Russian House in Sainte-Genevieve-des-Bois, which tells the history of the society and its operations in Russia and in emigration.



Cross procession in memory of the heroes of the First World War



On May 5, 2017, cross procession and church commemoration was held at the All-Russian military Fraternal Cemetery of heroes of the First World War, which is located in Sokol, Moscow. The commemoration was timed to the memory of the eve of St. George the Victorious - the heavenly patron of Russian army.

The Fraternal Cemetery was established in 1915 on the initiative of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky were among the participants, which gathered at the Chapel of the Transfiguration, where is buried the Commander of the Imperial Russian Army Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaevich. The chapel is designed by the renowned architect A. Shchusev in 1918.

About 30 priests from the northern part of Moscow and even more clergy, nuns, sisters of mercy, Cossacks, some dressed in uniforms of First World War and many more participated in the Easter greeting and the panikhida.



From the chapel, they all went in a cross procession all around the Memorial park and cemetery complex, and returning to the chapel of the Transfiguration.

There several speeches were held, the first by the well known Archpriest Dimitri Smirnov. Then a capsule with earth from the battle grounds in Kaliningrad region - "which is saturate by the blood of Russian soldiers during the First World" - was placed in the wall of the chapel.

All the participants could then lay flowers at the entrance to the chapel and enter the chapel to pray.



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

The Russian Orthodox Church find it difficult to name a time when the church unveil the results

May 26. Interfax-Religion - The Russian Orthodox Church find it difficult to tell a time when the church unveil the results of the examinations of the "Yekaterinburg remains". On the question of when it will be known and made public the results of this work, the head of the Patriarchal Council for Culture, Bishop Tikhon (Shevkunov) told the "Interfax-Religion": "When it will be the will of the Patriarch, the Holy Synod, and maybe the Council of Bishops."

With regard to the recognition or non-recognition of the remains as holy relics, the bishop said that "the final conclusions will only do the Council of Bishops."

In March 2017 Bishop Tikhon said that overall the results of research will be presented with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch for the judgment of the Holy Synod and the Council of Bishops. Unofficially this is now planned to happen on June 15th, 2017.

in March, Bishop Tikhon also said a report will be made "where will be all the basic answers to all possible raised questions" and it is said to be planned for December 2017.

The 160th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was celebrated in Moscow



More than 500 people attended the panikhida and celebrations, which took place on the main square of the Novospassky monastery in Moscow.

Before the start of the panikhida in the church of St. Roman the Melodist in the crypt of the Romanov Boyars, the governor of the Novospassky Monastery Bishop Sawa addressed the audience with a pastoral word, in which he noted that the life of the ever-memorable Grand Duke was special.

"As you know the Grand Duke managed 90 public institutions and was included in the board of trustees of even more" - said Bishop Savva - "Sergey Aleksandrovich was a founder of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, which still exists and continues to organize the stay of pilgrims from Russia in the Holy Land".

The bishop warmly thanked the Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine society Sergey V. Stepashin, who keeps the memory of the founder of the society and continues Sergei Alexandrovich work.

About today's positive and negative comments about the Grand Duke's personality, Bishop Savva said that for the Orthodox Christian believers, it is very important that his wife was Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, whom became later a Martyr.

"Elizabeth Feodorovna now prays to the heavens for Grand Duke Sergei" - said the Bishop - "And I think that the Grand Duchess is for us a sign of special favour of God to Grand Duke Sergei. For, as we know from the wedding rites, they sanctify each other. And Grand Duchess Elizabeth sanctifies now Grand Duke Sergius, a pious man."



Bishop Sawa then called on the faithful to utter prayer of the heart of the Grand Duke and headed the ministry of the panikhida (funeral lithium).



After the service, flowers were laid at the tomb of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. On the sides of the tomb stood cadets of the Moscow Presidential Cadet Academy named after M. A. Sholohova

Then Bishop Sawa invited the Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergey V. Stepashin to say some words.

Sergey V. Stepashin - "Dear Bishop! Brothers and sisters! Today we remember Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. May 11, 2017, he would be 160 years old. When he headed the Society, and became mayor of Moscow, he was only 25.

Thus, June 3, 1882 on the proposal of Emperor Alexander III he was to organize our society. This year it will be 135 years old. During his time and his wife Elizabeth Feodorovna, who succeeded him, more than 100 Russian schools were built in the Holy Land, 12 farmsteads and several hospitals. Ordinary citizens, and it is about 60-70 thousand people pro year, at virtually no cost could come to the Holy Land. That is why today the Middle East, Syria, and Damascus, where I was recently, Lebanon, Jordan and, in fact, Palestine remember and know Russia as a country that has come with the good, the culture, the study of Russian language and the construction of schools."

Sergey V. Stepashin noted that the Grand Duke was one of the best Moscow mayors: "Recently, I talked about him with Sergei Semenovitch Sobyenin, how the Grand Duke was engaged in housing and communal services, which today is very important, he was engaged in making roads, cleared the streets and houses of the criminal element and introduced the first tram in Moscow."

Sergey V. Stepashin concluded saying the Grand Duke was an outstanding mayor, a soldier, a man who has done much for our country, and finished with the words: "Dear Sergei Alexandrovich, we remember you. And when we remember a person, he is alive for us. Thank you!"

He then presented to the library of Novospassky monastery Sunday School the latest publications of the society.

Then the floor was given to the Chairman of Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society Anna V. Gromova, who noted "all of Moscow bears traces of the works of the Grand Duke".

"He is a stunning example of service, life exploits for the glory of the Fatherland, the Orthodox Church and his people! - said Anna Vitalevna and wondered why he was so hated by the revolutionaries.

"For the Orthodox faith, for what he was consistent confessor of Christ on this earth and his actions, his charity, and his wonderful marriage - a marriage of love, understanding – that is also his deeds when he walked in the footsteps of Christ, that is his deeds which he brought to the throne of God. And that is why the atheists hated him. "

Anna Vitalevna, in turn, expressed her joy on the occasion of the restoration of historical justice with the recreation in the Kremlin of the first shrine destroyed during the revolution. "May 4, a replica of the



cross in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, on sketches by the artist Vasnetsov, was restored at the historic site."

She expressed hope that the Small Nicholas Palace, Chudov Monastery and Ascension Monastery will be restored: "For the Kremlin will bloom and shine like a true jewel. A true jewel, which has always been in the Russian history the crown of Russian Tsars. As said Emperor Alexander III - "Moscow - the Church, and the Kremlin - Her altar."

Next word the governor of Novospassky monastery gave to the People's Artist of Russia, founder and director of the Academy of Fine Arts and Watercolours Sergei Nikolaevich Andriyaka.

Sergey opened an exhibition dedicated to the memorial places of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, placed in St. Roman the Melodist church.

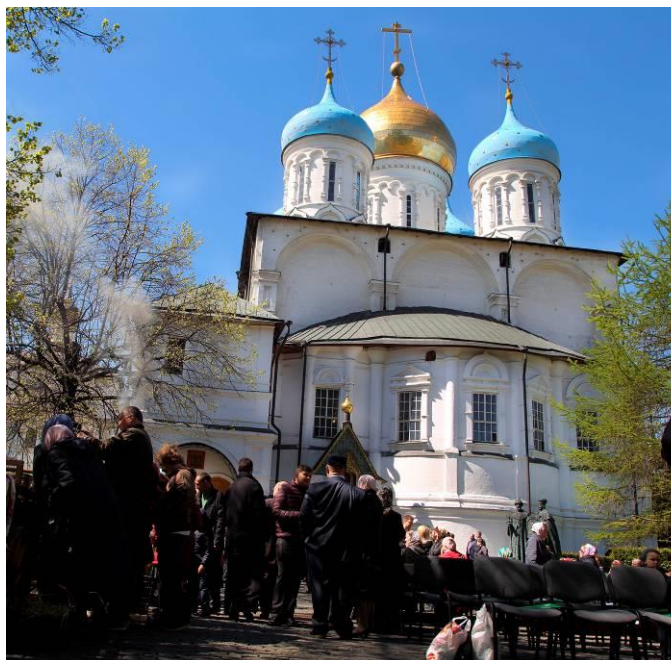
The exhibition presents a rather large panorama of Moscow from the beginning of XX century, which is made by Sergei Adriyaka. The rest of the works, are made by students and teachers of the Academy of Fine Arts and Watercolours.



Sergei N. Andriyaka telling about his paintings

After getting acquainted with the exposition the guests moved to the main monastery area, which had turned into a Historical Fair as those organized during holidays in the grand-ducal couple days in the Ilinskoe estate.

There a military brass band played the Preobrazhensky March and other favourite patriotic songs.





The atmosphere of folk festivals was recreated by the "Chernikov Workshop" under the direction of Olga Chernikova. In the historical market were presented not only household items and folk costumes of the era, but chickens, geese, goats, and rabbits were running in the green zone of the old monastery. Everyone had the opportunity not only to relax, watching the pets, but also to taste the fresh milk, cottage cheese and eggs, vegetables and fruits of the monastery's monastic farmsteads in Sumarokov and Miliukov.



Before the beginning of the literary and musical composition "The feat of love and service", Bishop Sawa welcomed the guests - "To pray for the repose of those who are buried here - this kind of heroism and our bounden duty. I would like to thank the guests who have come here, to these celebrations. Thank the musicians who today have pleased us with a solemn march, the cadets, who came today for the sake of these great celebrations to thank all those who organized and took part."

Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council on Rules and Organization Committee of parliamentary activity Sergey Popov greeted the guests on behalf of secular authorities - "Dear Bishop. Dear brothers and sisters! Today we are talking about our

historical roots, our memory. There are certain positive developments in terms of the fact that we are returning to their historical roots, their heroes, who created our earth, our Russia. It is very important that we here remember these great men - Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and his wife Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna."

The final appeal was a congratulatory word by the representative of the House of Romanov Paul E. Kulikovskiy - "As a great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, I'm a relative of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. And so, on behalf of the living relatives of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, I want to



thank Bishop Sawa for a remarkable event in this wonderful place. I also want to thank the head of the Russian Imperial Orthodox Palestine society Sergey Stepashin and Anna V. Gromova, for the fact that they do not just keep the memory of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, but also the entire family of the Romanovs."

"During ten years, I have come here and every time can see more and more people coming to these memorial events, and in particular the days that are associated with the memory of Sergei Alexandrovich, so I want to thank all those who came today in the Novospassky monastery, helping us with keeping the memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and the Romanov family. Thank you!"



Photos by Stepan Doronin

The celebration continued with a concert, the main component of which was the literary and musical composition "The feat of love and service" written by Irina V. Plotnikova, researcher and director of the Museum of New Saviour Monastery, the originator of the multivolume collection "The Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich Romanov. Biographical materials." The musical part of the composition was performed by the festive male choir of Novospassky monastery directed by Stanislav Popov.



Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_nB-v5KyU

Birthday anniversary of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich celebrated in St. Petersburg

By Dmitry Grishin

11-13 May jubilee celebrations dedicated to the 160th anniversary of the birth of the first President of IOPS passed in the "small homeland" of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, in St Petersburg and Tsarskoye Selo. The events were organized by the Sergius Memorial Foundation (Moscow), headed by historian Dmitry Grishin.

The central event of the festival was a gala evening called "Shining Knight", held in the former residence of the Grand Duke - the Sergius Palace (Beloselsky-Belozersky), which brought together about four hundred guests. The Chairman of Sergius Memorial Foundation (SMF) historian Dmitry Grishin, Archpriest Andrei Longvinov (Kostroma), artist and associate professor of the Russian Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture of Glazunov, Konstantin Gorbunov, leaders of the St. Petersburg House of Scientists, the Russian Imperial Union-Order, state, public and religious organizations attended the celebration.



For the evening was organized a one-day exhibition "August patron of the arts", dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna by contemporary artists was on the display.

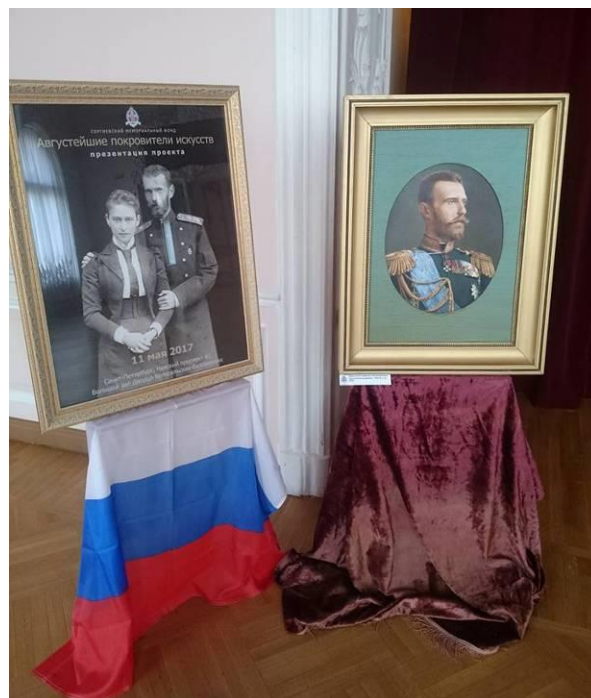


The concert program included performances by the winner of international competitions Anna Kovaleva (piano), laureate of international contests Larisa Govorov (soprano) and Elena Kaverin (piano), as well as children's and youth choir of St. John Damascene, St. Petersburg Cathedral of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God (director Irina Boldysheva). String chamber quartet performed works of foreign classics. Concert highlight was a dramatic scene from "Evgeniy Onegin" by A.S. Pushkin, - a reconstruction of the performance delivered by the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in his palace on the day of the birthday of Alexander III in 1890. In the role of Tatyana Larinoy then made the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and the role of Evgeniy Onegin performed Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich.

Gala evening hosted a presentation of a new portrait of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, made for Sergius Memorial Foundation by member of the Russian Union of Artists Olga Palatov and member of the Russian Union of Artists, a professor at the State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and System Architecture, Sergey Pichahchi.



Memorial event in St Petersburg ended with laying flowers to the graves of the parents of the Grand Duke, the Emperor Alexander II and Empress Maria Alexandrovna in the Peter and Paul Cathedral Peter and Paul Fortress.



Celebrations continued in Tsarskoye Selo, where the fund delegation visited the Zubov Wing of Catherine's Palace - the birthplace of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. On the Kazan Cemetery the Fund delegation laid flowers at the grave of Admiral Dmitry Arsenyev who was mentor of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6p1XvocbN78>

160th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was noted in Tsarskoye Selo

May 13, the 160th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was commemorated in the Church of the Sign (Znamenskaya) in Tsarskoye Selo. Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, was born in the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo, and was baptized in the palace church of the Resurrection. Znamenskaya church in the XIX century belonged to the palace parish.



Requiem was performed by cleric of Catherine's Cathedral, which is attributed to the Sign Church, Fr Cyril Melkonyan. Board members of Sergius memorial fund, and citizens of Tsarskoye Selo came to honor the memory of the Grand Duke. Portrait of Grand Duke, and ark with a part of the uniform he was wearing at the time of the assassination in 1905 were in the church during worship.

Chairman of Sergius Foundation Dmitry Grishin expressed the hope that the good activities of the Grand Duke will be known to as many people as possible. He recalled that on May 4 memorial cross was consecrated in the Kremlin at the site of Sergei Alexandrovich assassination.



The Last Romanovs: Discoveries in Russia and Britain

The Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society in the UK is organising a Symposium on the theme:

“The Last Romanovs: Archival and Museums Discoveries in Russia and Britain”

This event will take place at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, on the 20th of June 2017 and will involve speakers from The Royal Collection and The Royal Archives, The Russian State Archives, The Museums of the Kremlin, Osborne House Museum and also some prominent historians and authors from Russia and UK.

The Symposium will be dedicated to the memory of members of the Romanov Royal House assassinated in the course of the Russian Revolution, the centenary of which is this year. Some of them are venerated by the Russian Orthodox Church as martyrs.

The aim of the Symposium is to present the latest developments in the studies of the Romanov Imperial family based on archival and museums research. The theme of the Symposium has attracted many prominent historians and specialists from the United Kingdom and from Russia who will speak about the relationship between the House of Romanov and the House of Windsor during the last hundred years before the tragic events of 1917-1919; about the personalities of the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and her sister Empress Alexandra Feodorovna (both of them Queen Victoria's grand daughters), Emperor Nicholas II, his uncle Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich (Elizabeth's husband), Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna (of Edinburgh) and others. Their lives will be presented through letters, state documents, photographs, film and art objects of the time. There will be a presentation of some new discoveries never before seen.



The Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society is an independent British educational charity which was established by a group of historians and enthusiasts. During the last year the Society has organised six public events dedicated to the memory of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth and other members of the Russian Imperial House, including the exhibition “Members of the Romanov Imperial House during the First World War” which was seen by HRH Prince Charles during his visit to the Russian cathedral in London in December 2016.

Pilgrimage dedicated to the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Romanovs

The Society of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov in UK is arranging a pilgrimage on the 1st of July 2017 to the Isle of Wight to visit places associated with the last Romanovs and their close relatives.

The programme includes:

10.30 Crossing by ferry from Portsmouth to Fishbourne

11.30 – 12.30 Whippingham Church, Cowes. Tsar Nicholas and Family Memorial, Princess Alice (Ella's mother) memorial, the grave of Victoria Mountbatten, Marchioness of Milford Haven, (Ella's sister)

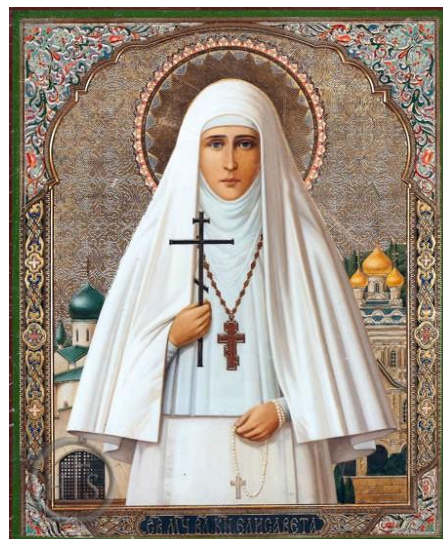
12.45- 14.00 Lunch at East Cowes, Yacht Club, Promenade.

Places visited by the Imperial family.

14.15 – 17.30 Osborne House. Summer Palace of Queen Victoria.

Guided tour by the Curator dedicated to the relationship between Romanovs and Windsors, the history of the Romanovs' visits to Osborne, art and photo collection of Osborne House reflecting Queen Victoria's attitude to the Hesse-Darmstadt family, childhood of Princess Alice and her daughters Victoria, Elizabeth and Alexandra, royal exchanging of gifts etc.

18.30 – 19.00 Departure to Portsmouth



In addition, a part of the group is staying in Ryde for the next day 2nd of July where they are going to see Bonchurch, a place connected with St Boniface (8th century). There is an ancient church and spring near the sea. St Boniface started his mission on the Isle of Wight and later became famous as a missionary and the Enlightener of the Germans.

Cost is £98 for the crossing, both ways, for a car. Osborne House £21 for the Guided tour. If you are member of English Heritage – £7.50. Donation for the GDER Society -- min £10.

Birthday commemoration of Emperor Nicholas II in Yekaterinburg

On May 19, the 149th anniversary of the birth of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II was commemorated in the Urals capital.

At midnight, a solemn liturgy began in the Church on Blood and in the morning Divine Liturgy performed in the memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs.

In the afternoon, there was held a family prayer service with the Akathist to Saint Royal Martyrs. The prayer service was headed by the spiritual father of the family protection centre "Cradle" and the Orthodox service of charity Archpriest Eugene Popichenko.

Meeting with the well-known historian, researcher of the life of Nicholas II and the era of his reign, Peter Multatuli was held in the conference room of the Church-on-Blood.

In the evening, there was the lecture "Pskov Gethsemane. Tsarskoye Selo imprisonment" dedicated to the centennial of the overthrow of the monarchy in Russia.

Spiritual and educational center "Imperial" opened the exhibition "1917: Russia and the revolution". The exhibition presents original documents, weapons, decorations, household items, photographs, postcards, stamps, coins, bank notes in 1917.

The main event of the day was announced to be the Imperial Ball in the House Sevastyanov, which bring together talented high school students, winners of national and international competitions.

The head of the Sverdlovsk region Eugene Kuyvashev and Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye welcomed the participants of the annual Imperial Ball.

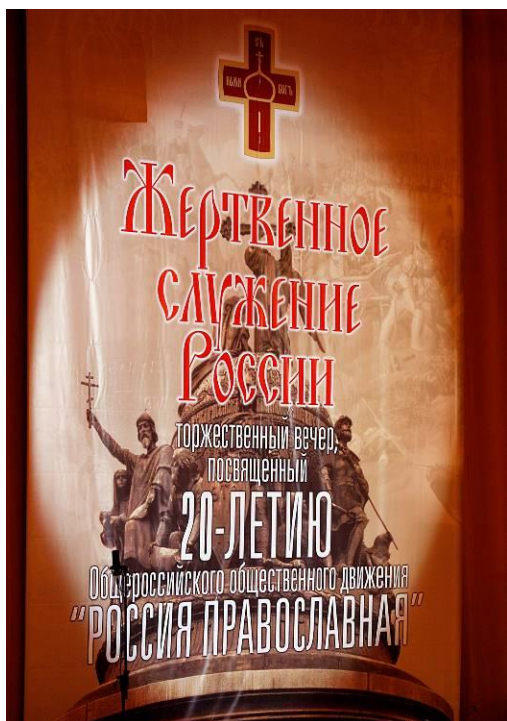
Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye addressed participants in the Imperial Ball with the Easter greeting: "Look at your happy, beautiful faces, and I want to say on this Holy Easter and the birthday of the emperor the most important word: Christ is Risen!" Honouring the best graduates traditionally taking place on the day on the birthday of the last Russian Emperor, martyred with his family and servants in Yekaterinburg. The Emperor Nicholas II, who is probably the most slandered Emperor of Russia. There were a lot of lies and myths around his name. It is important for us that you study his story. The best indicator of the situation in the Russian Empire and for evaluating the activity of governors in tsarist Russia, is an indicator of population increase. During the reign of Nicholas II, the population of the Russian empire has increased for more than 50 million people."

Metropolitan Kirill thanked Eugene Kuyvasheva who graciously greets members of the Imperial Ball at the Governor's residence. "This is the best room in the city", - said the Metropolitan under the majestic arches of the Hall of Columns of Sevastyanov House.

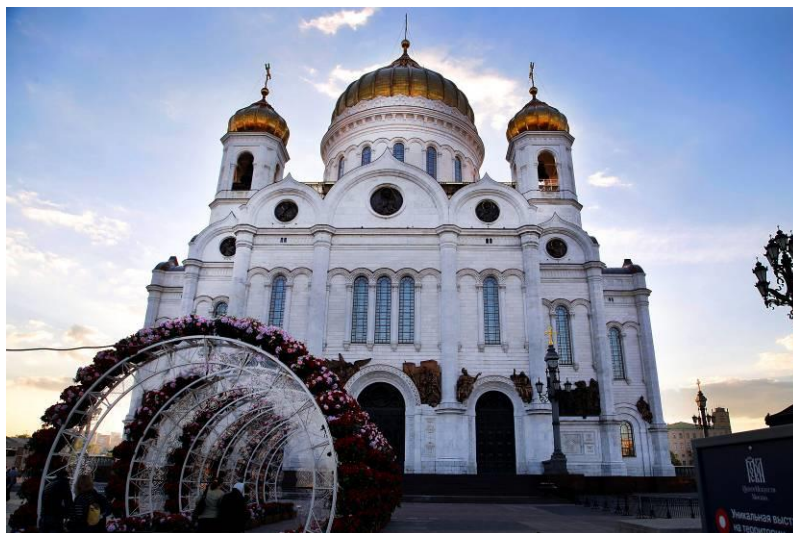
Video - <http://www.obltn.ru/news/culture/galantnyy-vek-v-ekaterinburge-proshyel-imperatorskiy-bal-dlya-shkolnikov/>



The Russian public movement "Russian Orthodox" celebrated 20 years anniversary



In the Church Council Hall in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, in Moscow, on May 18th a grand celebration took place under the headline "Sacrificial service to Russia" with a concert, documentary about the history of the Movement and medals awarding.

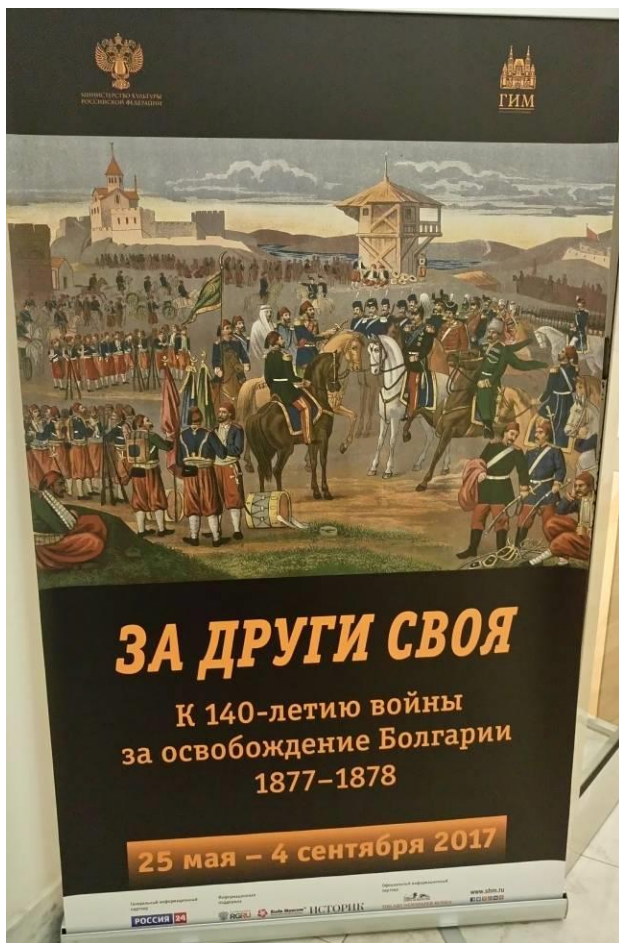


Bishop Savva, governor of Novospassky Monastery and vicar of his Holiness Patriarch Kirill, read a greeting to the guests from his Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russias. The management of the organization "Russian Orthodox" was represented by Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Ostapchuk, Chairman of the Central Council; Sergey Vitalevich Smirnov, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; and Mihail Mihaylovich Ivanov, Member of the Board of Trustees. Among the many guests were Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky.



The Movement was created with the blessing of the late Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II in 1997, and has since been working for the revival of spiritual and moral values in Russian society.





"For our friends" - an exhibition about the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878

24 (12) April 2017 marked the 140th anniversary of the beginning of the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878. In world history, this war has become unprecedented in sacrifice "for our friends" - the official title of the exhibition. Russia paid a high price for the liberation of Bulgaria, the independence of Romania, Serbia and Montenegro. Tens of thousands of Russian soldiers buried in mass graves in the Bulgarian lands.

May 25th, in the State Historical Museum, Moscow, opened an exhibition dedicated to "the war for the liberation of Bulgaria". Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, Ambassador of Bulgaria, Mayor of Plevna Georg Spartan, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, were among the guests attending.

At the opening, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said that among those who participated in the war, was his ancestor.

"A cousin of my great-great-grandfather, Major-General, he was called Vyacheslav Kupriyanovich, he participated in the war, as chief of staff of the Terek Cossack Army. Therefore, as one of his relatives, I

want to say that we will never forget the great feat of the Russian soldiers".

The mayor of the city of Plevna, the city in which was one of the decisive battles, told that the local children do not know the mayor's name of their city, or the Bulgarian president's name, but about "the White General" Skobelev they know everything.

The exhibition presents weapons and uniforms, awards, famous and unknown heroes, regimental colors, award silver trumpets, documents, maps, books, trophies, paintings of famous artists, wearable crosses and icons found on the battlefield, as well as memorabilia. Among them - the uniform of the Emperor Alexander II and two icons, presented to him in 1877 in Bulgaria, the uniform of Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich (the future Emperor Alexander III), and saber and personal belongings of General M.D. Skobelev.

There are many magnificent paintings - among them are paintings by V.V. Vereshchagin, V.D. Polenov and P.O. Kovalevsky, who were at the war theater, as well as A.D. Kivshenko, N.D. Dmitriev-Orenburg, N.E. Sverchkov, P.A. Sukhodolsky, N.P. Krasovsky, who created impressive paintings, based on documentary material. Many of these works were made by order of Emperor Alexander II and decorated the Military Gallery of the Winter Palace.





Particularly noteworthy is photography and graphic reportage of the 1870s. During the war, writers, journalists, artists, photographers and representatives of various Russian publications, such as "World illustration", "Niva", "New time", "Official Gazette", were reporting from the front. These publications, along with authentic photographs and lithographs can also be seen at the exhibition.

Of special note is the unique photos of F. Duschek - a court photographer of King Carol I of Romania. Nameless soldiers, General Staff officers, generals, diplomats, grand dukes, including Commander of the Danube army Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich and Emperor Alexander II were in his photographic lens.

Another special item is the sabre of Emperor Alexander II. It was donated to the Emperor by the officers of his Leib-Guard Convoy. It is said this sword was with the Emperor on 1st of March (old style), 1881, the day of his death. On the hilt of the sword can be seen traces of the explosion that killed him. This shows how important this sabre was to Emperor Alexander II. In July 1881, the sabre was donated by Emperor Alexander III to the cathedral for preservation. (Which cathedral is not mentioned).







"Avenue of Rulers" opened in Moscow

May 26, the "Avenue of Rulers" was opened in Moscow, Petroverigsky Lane 4, on the square next to the "Museum of uniforms" of the Russian Military Historical Society (RVIO).

The opening was attended my Minister of Culture and Chairman of RVIO Vladimir Medinsky; Minister of Education and Science Olga Vasilyeva, President of the Russian Academy of Arts Zurab Tsereteli; and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky.



Medinsky said - "Today we open an unusual exhibition. We would like students to come here, as this is a good place to start classes. For the first time in our history, we can see a series of rulers of Russia - from Rurik until the head of the Provisional Government - to consider how they look, to read, when they lived. We do not disrupt this historical continuity, we have a history and its one and indivisible."

Vasilyeva said - "It is necessary to know your history, because "without the awareness of belonging to history and culture, people do not have future."

Tsereteli said - "I am ready to create more and more. And I promise that I will add here another eight sculptures. It is important to remember all of our Tsars and rulers!"

Then the scientific director of the Russian military-historical society Mikhail Mjagkov made a tour of the busts. The musical entertainment was provided by the "The State Academic Russian Folk Ensemble" named after Lyudmila Zykina.

The 33 busts made in bronze by Zurab Tsereteli and include "Rulers" of Russia, from Rurik, over the Romanovs to Alexander Kerensky. Well, there are most of them. Some are missing, like Empress Catherine I and Emperor Peter II. Later will come busts of the Soviet leaders and the first president of Russia Boris Yeltsin.



The 33 put up now are actually in two alleys and include: Rurik, Olga, Vladimir Svyatoslavich, Yaroslav (the Wise), Vladimir II (Monomakh), Yuri Vladimirovich (Dolgoruky), Andrey Yurevich (Bogolyubskii), Vsevolod, Alexander Yaroslavovich (Nevsky), Ivan Danilovich (Kalita), Dmitry Ivanovich (Donskoy), Vasily, Ivan III, Vasily III Ivanovich, Ivan IV Vasilyevich (the Terrible), Fyodor Ivanovich, Boris Fedorovich Godunov, Mikhail Feodorovich, Alexei, Sofia, Peter I Alexeyevich, Anna Ivanovna, Elizaveta Petrovna, Peter III Feodorovich, Catherine II, Paul I Petrovich, Alexander I Pavlovich, Nicholas I Pavlovich, Alexander II Nicholaevich, Alexander III Alexandrovich, Nicholas II Alexandrovich, Georgiy Evgenevich Lvov, and Alexander Fedorovich Kerensky.

The bust will stay there for 2-3 years, while another building of RVIO is being renovated on Nikitskaya Street, then the plan is they will be moved to the new place.

Video - <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2892443#>



The two alleys of busts of Russian rulers - from Rurik (862) to Kerensky (1917)



The busts of Emperors Nicholas II, Alexander III and Alexander II, by Zurab Tsereteli

Russian revolution - hope, tragedy, myth at the British Library in London until 20th August

By Sue Woolmans

Here is another well staged, extensive exhibition in London, seamlessly following on from the revolutionary art that was shown at the Royal Academy earlier this year. London has really majored on the revolution with another smaller exhibit on Moscow architecture at the Design Museum, and an extensive series of lectures at Pushkin House. In fact, there is also an extensive series of lectures to accompany this exhibit including Helen Rappaport, Douglas Smith, Dominic Lieven and Katya Galitzine.

Walking in to the BL exhibit, you are faced with a series of panels hanging from the ceiling, red in colour of course, depicting life in Russia before the revolution - the life of the peasants mainly. This is pretty effective though the transparent panels could perhaps have been less transparent, which would have made the images easier to see. And there's film of same too, some taken by Joseph-Louis Mundwiller who filmed the Tsars family.



Room 1 is "The Tsar and his People" which described the state of Russia in 1913 - the 170 ethnic groups that made up the extensive Empire, the taxes that the poor had to pay, the collective ownership of land and the 15% of the population who worked in terrible urban conditions. Most effectively there was a diagram of a pyramid showing a mass of workers at the bottom holding up those who ate what they produced, who in turn held up those who shot them, who held up those who lied to them, who held up those who rule over them. There is a section on the Coronation with the usual film we have seen before, which the exhibition declares is probably the first moving footage filmed in Russia. By 1907 films of the Imperial family were being released to cinemas and we are treated to 1913 tercentenary and WW1 films I hadn't seen before. The first

photographer and cameraman appointed to the court was Boleslaw Maluszweski and in 1900 C.E. Hahn's company also got filming rights. The main message of this room was that the Empire lacked the infrastructure to support industrialisation.



Room 2 is "The Last Days of the Monarchy" - we know this story very well so I don't need to repeat it in this newsletter but there were some exciting items to see. A playbill for Lermontov's "Masquerade" at the Alexandrinsky theatre in 1917 - a gala for the actor Yuriev who was about to retire. Both the Emperor and Tsarina Maria Feodorovna gifted him gold cigarette cases - the last ever Imperial gifts given. And a photograph taken by Bulla of Estonian soldiers demonstrating in St P - Bulla's wife was Estonian and they soon emigrated to Estonia leaving his famed studio in the hands of his sons. Romanov News's editor would have loved to see the letter from Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna to Maria Feodorovna in Ai-Todor dated 3/8/17 asking after her health and detailing her plans for the day. Olga also comments on the national situation "I wonder what will happen next in our poor country! It is awful. If a civil war will begin in the army and in the home front".

So, cue the next room about the Civil War, and a rather wonderful electronic map that shows Russia as all white in 1917 then gradually turns the country red bit by bit as the war continues, a timeline running along the bottom of the map as well. Very effective. Each side issued propaganda. A collection of White leaflets collected by Russian journalist Ariadna Tyrkova-Williams and her British partner, journalist Harold Williams, just appeared to insult the Bolsheviks but didn't offer any sensible economic alternatives. Red propaganda addressed Allied troops calling on workers of the world to stick together and fight the bourgeoisie as the return of the Tsar would not be welcome to ordinary Russians.

Room 4 explained just how nice it was to have said Bolsheviks in power. I was quite stunned by a photo showing the bed where the founding member of the Kadets, Fedor Kokoshkin, was found murdered by the Cheka. Although it was black and white, the full horror of the amount of blood was ghastly. A lovely propaganda poster declared that churches and synagogues were rich institutions so people should just go and grab their gold. And photos taken by Fridtjof Nansen, representing the League of Nations, showed the starving of Russia as the New Economic Policy kicked in. Needless to say, the fate of NII and family in Ekaterinburg also featured.

So where did this leave Russia in relation to other countries? It seemed that countries around the world initially welcomed the revolution, then as the Bolsheviks withdrew from WW1 and started their Red Terror, the world realised that this was a country that could turn out to be a threat to world peace. Hindsight is a wonderful thing; but at least the exhibit finished on the works of Blok, Mayakovsky, Pasternak, Akhmatova and Eisenstein.

This is a "warts and all" exhibition about the Revolution, to quote another revolutionary. Very well worth visiting. There is a catalogue but it seems far more Revolutionary than Romanov.



Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3W34hRvI9M>

Proposal to establish a monument to the representatives of the Russian Imperial House murdered by the Bolshevik authorities in 1918-1919

In connection with the approaching 100-year anniversary of the assassination of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich (from 3 March 1917 to 5/18 January 1918 - Emperor Michael II Alexandrovich) in Perm, the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg, as well as Members of the Russian Imperial House in Alapaevsk and Petrograd, the Fund of Memory of the New Martyrs of the Romanov Imperial House proposes to establish in St. Petersburg a monument to all Members of the Imperial Family, destroyed by order of Soviet power in 1918-19.

It seems that this monument should be installed on the territory of the Peter and Paul Fortress, since the Imperial and Grand-Ducal Tombs are located in the Fortress' Peter and Paul Cathedral. Besides that, in the night from 24 to 25 January 1918 the Grand Dukes Pavel Alexandrovich, Dmitry Konstantinovich, Nikolai Mikhailovich and Georgy Mikhailovich were shot at the Kronverksky polygon, located behind the fortifications near Golovkin -Bastion.

It is no secret that most of the life of all Members of the Russian Imperial House is connected with St. Petersburg, so if it is not possible to install the monument for any reason on the territory of the Museum-Reserve "Peter and Paul Fortress", it can easily be installed in any of the central parts of the city.

Description of the Monument

The foundation of the monument - are seven steps, made in the form of concentrated rings, symbolizing the seventh month of the year in which the murder of the Royal Family and Alapayevsk Martyrs occurred.

The lower part of the monument is made in the form of a rough rocky relief, symbolizing Perm, Ural and Petrograd Calvary.

According to the idea of the creators, the monument in its form resembles a church bell that, if installed on the Cathedral Square, in the Peter and Paul Fortress must be combined with its original purpose, and if it is installed outside its walls, its shape will be associated with the bell as a symbol of the memory of generations.

The middle part of the monument is made of red-brown granite and consists of 11 figures in niches of a rectangular-semicircular shape. In each of these niches is placed one full height figure of each of the ten Members of the Russian Imperial House, and of the Alapaevsk Martyr - Prince Vladimir P. Paley. Under each of these niches, there are bronze plaques of rectangular shape, with the names and dates of life of each of the New Martyrs represented on them.



According to the dynastic order, the figures of the New Martyrs will be arranged in the following order:

- Grand Duke MIKHAIL ALEKSANDROVICH (Emperor Michael II Alexandrovich) (1878-1918);
- Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna (1864-1918);
- Grand Duke PAVEL ALEXANDROVICH (1860-1918);
- Prince of the Imperial Blood JOHN KONSTANTINOVICH (1886-1918);
- Prince of the Imperial Blood KONSTANTIN KONSTANTINOVICH (1890-1918);
- Prince of the Imperial Blood IGOR KONSTANTINOVICH (1894-1918);
- Grand Duke DMITRY KONSTANTINOVICH (1860-1919);
- Grand Duke NIKOLAI MIKHAILOVICH (1859-1919);
- Grand Duke GEORGI MIKHAILOVICH (1863-1919);
- Grand Duke SERGEI MIKHAILOVICH (1868-1918);
- Prince VLADIMIR PAVLOVICH PALEY (1897-1918).

The spherical upper part of the monument stands on the circle made of bronze. There is the inscription: "IN THE MEMORY OF KILLED MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL HOUSE – PENITENTIAL RUSSIA". The pedestal is made of red-brown granite with the image of the Small State Emblem of the Russian Empire - Two-headed Eagle, in the center there is a Cross with the Thorns, surrounded by seven figures of the Members of the Imperial Family:

- The Emperor Nicholas II ALEXANDROVICH;
- The Empress ALEXANDRA FEODOROVNA;
- The Heir Tsesarevich and Grand Duke ALEXEI NIKOLAEVICH;
- The Grand Duchess OLGA NIKOLAEVNA;
- The Grand Duchess TATIANA NIKOLAEVNA;
- The Grand Duchess MARIA NIKOLAEVNA;
- The Grand Duchess ANASTASIA NIKOLAEVNA.



We express the hope that this project will meet the due understanding of all those who are not indifferent to the tragic part of the history of our Motherland, and we invite sponsors to support the project, since the project itself is an event of international historical and cultural significance.

Please send your feedback and wishes to our website:

Fund-Memory-Romanov@mail.ru or by phone: 8 (903) 197-19-97; 8 (967) 227-95-07.

Sincerely, President of the New Martyrs Fund of the Imperial House of Romanovs

Doctor of law Yuri Alexandrovich Zhuk

The Merchant Nazarov mansion - where stayed Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich - opened the doors

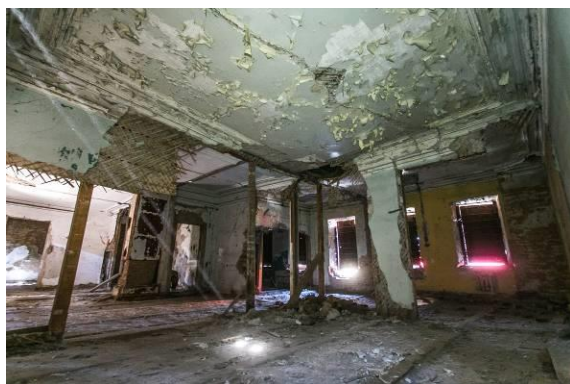
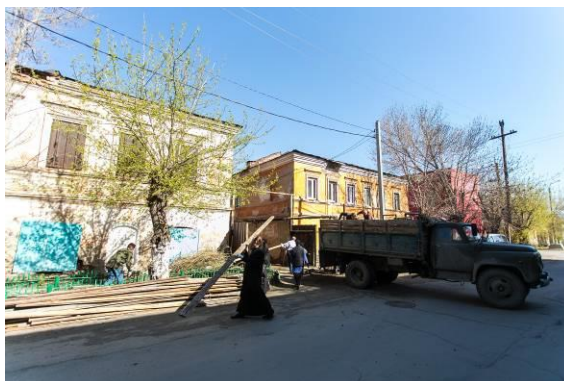
In the Old Town of Orsk, Orenburg Region, work began to restore the mansion of the merchant Nazarov in which more than a hundred years ago, in July 1891, Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich, later Emperor Nicholas II stayed.



The building stood empty for more than 25 years and it was a kind of emergency. The owner gave the building to the monastery of the Iberian Icon of the Mother of God.

According to Father Sergius, monastery confessor, there is to be done a lot of work. First of all, to solve the technical side of the issue. What is inside the building, is still unknown.

On the first day of the monastery novices and volunteers cleaned up in the local area.



Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Silvio Dagnini: The Architect, the Artist, the Builder

An exhibition in
Tsarskoye Selo

illuminates the life of the last court architect of the Romanov dynasty. Silvio Danini - the designer, builder, painter and even musician - known in history as the last court architect of the Romanov dynasty. And in the reign of Nicholas II, he transformed and modernized Tsarskoye Selo. Functionality and a convenient layout it is considered as important categories, as well as the beauty of the building. You can learn more about the life and works of Silvio Danini at the exhibition dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the architect's birth.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/175490/



About the royal hunt, Fike and donkey Vanka

Tsarskoye Selo for the first time
published a book for children. It

includes stories about the life of the imperial summer residence and its crowned owners. The book is called "Tsarskoye Selo. True stories for children. "

Text is written by Margarita Albedil - ethnographer, historian and theologian, author of several children's art books on Russian history. Artist Vitaly Ermolaev Illustrated the edition.

A fold-out of the Catherine Palace is made with retractable elements. The famous Amber Room is also represented in a large panoramic fold-out.



Among the 12 chapters there are "The gift of Peter I", "Sliding Hill", "Eighth Wonder of the World", and "Winter Fun". The chapter "The Menagerie", for example, tells about the pets of crowned heads, the donkey Vanka, the elephant that was looked after, with baked scones with butter and sugar, and in winter warmed with warm felt blankets.

КАТАЛЬНАЯ ГОРКА

Елизавета Петровна любила кататься с горки, поэтому в Царском Селе построили Катальную горку - единственную российскую аттракцион. На ней катались летом и зимой. Дети и взрослые поднимались на второй этаж здания и устанавливали в колесо на колеса. Выбирали скорость, колесика мчались вниз мимо заставленных лед. Деревянные скачки шли к большому кругу, а самый длинный - к острову на нем. Там можно было послушать концерты речной музыки.



"The Romanovs travel" - an Exhibition in Gatchina Palace

On May 18, the world celebrates the International Museum Day. On the holiday Gatchina Palace has opened the exhibition "The Romanovs travel", located in the Arsenal Block.

The exhibition "Romanovs travel" is dedicated to the owners of the Gatchina Palace, from Paul I to Nicholas II. Romanov's trip to Europe has not always had the character of pompous receptions. Often their travel program is not very different from that of contemporary traditional tourist program: as ordinary people, the royal ladies came to visit relatives, take the healing waters at the resorts, sightseeing, went shopping and brought souvenirs, which later decorated the rooms of their residences.



The exhibition tells about the European voyage of "Count and Countess of the North"; trips of Nicholas I and Alexandra in Germany and Prussia; departures for hunting of Alexander II, the voyages of the family of Alexander III, and Nicholas II's visit to France in 1896. In the halls will be presented three hundred objects from the museum collections and private collections: paintings and drawings, books, souvenirs, travel accessories, furniture, and costumes.



Video -

http://47channel.ru/event/V_Gatchinskoy_dvorcy_otkrilas_vystavka_Romanovy_puteshestviyut/

Exhibition of the royal passion in Serbia

15 May. Pravoslavie - From April 30 to May 14 in the Serbian town Sremski Karlovci was presented the photo exhibition "Towards the Russian Tsar. The Romanovs - a royal service", dedicated to the family of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II.

The organizer of the exhibition was the Sremska Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The exhibition in Sremski Karlovci has a special symbolic meaning, because this city was one of the main centers of Russian emigration in the period between the First and Second World Wars.

Here in Sremski Karlovci, was housed the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and the headquarters of General Wrangel.

The exhibition was opened in the Patriarch's chambers, where once the Synod was housed. Opening of the exhibition was accompanied by a cultural program, a performance of several choirs, starting with the national anthem, "God Save the Tsar" and Serbian anthem of "God of truth."

Opening the event, Bishop Sremskiy Vasily emphasized the huge role Russian exiles, especially the clergy and religious, have played in the renewal of the spiritual life of the Serbian Church and the then Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Great spiritual and cultural contributions of the Russian emigration in the life of Serbian society in the first half of XX century can not be overestimated.

Bishop also said that Sremski Karlovci with a special love today meets the Russian Tsar and pay tribute to the memory of the Royal Martyrs.

In the first days after the opening many visitors saw the exhibition it was visited by, so that it became a festive period and one of the main cultural events of the city.

To show the efforts of one of its moderators Professor Predrag Miodrag published a special catalog, telling both about the exhibition, and the family of the Royal Martyrs.

After Sremski Karlovci the exhibition "Towards the Russian Tsar" will continue its journey through the Eparchy of Srem and soon will be opened in Sid.



Montenegro's Serbs propose to put up a monument to Emperor Nicholas II

Putting up a monument to Emperor Nicholas II would mark Montenegro's permanent gratitude to Russia as the centuries-old benefactor

May 3. TASS - Serb National Council (SNC) that unites members of the community of ethnic Serbs living in Montenegro has filed a petition with the authorities of the country's old royal capital Cetinje to erect a monument to the last Russian Emperor as a symbol of gratitude to the Russian Emperor for centuries of assistance to Slavic people.

"We are turning to you with an initiative to erect a monument to Emperor Nicholas II Romanov of Russia," says the petition, a copy of which the SNC sent to the TASS bureau in Belgrade.

SNC leader Momcilo Vuksanovic told TASS the Council had sent an official letter to Mayor Aleksandr Bodanovic and the president of Cetinje city hall, Jovan Martinovic. It lists the historic landmarks in the Montenegrin-Russian relations, which started in 1711 when Emperor Peter I sent his emissaries to Montenegro.



The letter makes special emphasis on the permanent material assistance and political support that Russia accorded to Montenegro in the beginning of the 18th century, adding that it eventually led up to the rise of an independent Montenegrin state.

"Metropolitan Peter I bequeathed to his nephew, Metropolitan II, as he was dying: 'Pray to God and stay with Russia'," the petition reads. "It was with Russia's assistance that the Cetinje Monastery became the spiritual and, on top of that, legislative power centre. It was thanks to Russian aid that the first general school and printing house were opened in Cetinje in 1834 and the first Montenegrin calendar and then the first Serb abecedy was printed in 1835."

"During the reign of Prince Daniel [the first prince in the Petrovic-Njegos dynasty, on the throne from 1852 through 1860] Russia played the decisive role in the international recognition of the status of our country," the SNC said. "Russia continued helping Montenegro. This country would not have survived as an independent state without Russia's assistance."

"Putting up a monument to Emperor Nicholas II in Cetinje would mark Montenegro's permanent gratitude to Russia as the centuries-old benefactor," the petition said. "It would be an act symbolizing gratitude for all the good things Russia has done for us, and a signal that we have not forgotten our own history or identity," it said.

The latest census suggests that Montenegro, a country with a population of 622,000 has about 180,000 ethnic Serbs. The sad fact of the situation is that the newest state ideology in Montenegro assumes assimilation of the Serbs living there for a long time.

The numeric strength of the ethnic Serb population reduces with each new census as people are scared and have to conceal their real ethnicity.

Montenegrin Serbs are known to have the sincerest admiration of Russian culture and history among the Balkan Slavs. They respect historic ties with Russia and try to contribute to their development as long as opportunities avail themselves.

2017 souvenir sheet celebrates philatelist jeweller Agathon Faberge

On the opening day, May 24 an Agathon Fabergé stamp booklet was issued in Finland. Its circulation is 6 000 copies.

The booklet presents one of the most famous Finnish philately collectors, Agathon Fabergé (1876-1951). He was a Russian-born jeweller and philatelist. His father Peter Carl Fabergé created the Fabergé Easter eggs. The booklet is selling for 30 euros.



The main theme of 2017 philatelist exhibition is 100th anniversary of Finland's independence. The exhibition took place in Tampere on May 24-28.

Collectors from more than 40 countries will participate in this exhibition, being held under patronage of Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) and with International Federation of Philately (FIP) recognition.

Tampere Hall is the main venue for the exhibition. It will house the dealer bourse, the competitive exhibits and several invited exhibits. Among the highlights is what is considered to be the most important item of Finnish philately: a cover franked with four pairs of the 1856 5-kopec oval (Scott 1), from the collection of Gustaf Douglas.

The Finnish Postal Museum, part of the museum centre in Tampere, will host an exhibit of items from the royal collection of Queen Elizabeth II in conjunction with Finlandia 2017.

Each day of the exhibition will have its own theme: jeweller and philatelist Agathon Faberge (May 24), 100th anniversary of Finland's independence (May 25), Tampere (May 26), the Moomins and families (May 27), and the postal museum and Post crossing (May 28).





A film about Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was presented at the Cannes film festival. Documentary film about the life of Grand Duchess Olga Romanova-Kulikovsky in the Canadian province of Ontario, shot by a team of "Bulletin of Toronto", was presented in the pavilion "Canada" at the 70th Cannes International Film Festival. which opened on the Riviera in the middle of May.

The film "The Grand Duchess Olga in the Land of the maple leaf" tells the story of the Emperor Alexander III's daughter and sister of the last Tsar, Nicholas II, and her life in Canada as an agricultural immigrant. Fleeing after the Second World War from the danger of being expelled to the Soviet Union from Denmark, where she lived the last Russian Grand Duchess, who was born in the crowned Romanovs, Olga Romanova-Kulikovsky immigrated to Canada, where she spent her days remnant and is buried in a cemetery in Toronto.

The movie was directed by Director of "Vestnik Toronto" Igor Malakhov.



The opening of the museum of the Imperial Family in Tobolsk is slightly delayed. Earlier it was planned to open the museum in August this year. However, according to Natalia Vertyankin, acting director of the museum, the building's restoration deadlines are moved, so the Romanov Museum will be opened not before October 2017. Museum employees also want to prepare the exhibits more thoroughly, as well as carry out some repairs.



Novospassky Monastery in Moscow has launched a "Google Street View" project. Thanks to the virtual tour now anyone can see panoramic views of the monastery, as well as the interiors of churches and tombs of the boyars Romanovs.

See it here - <http://xn---7sbbf5aqftchdbghyfciau3qxa.xn--p1ai/palomnikam/virtualnyj-3d-tur>



May 11, 2017, rector of the St. Petersburg Theological Academy Archbishop Ambrose of Peterhof made the first Divine Liturgy in the Church of the Savior Holy Face in Winter Palace in modern history. During the service, Archpriest Vladimir Sorokin; cleric Prince Vladimir Cathedral, Archpriest Andrei Zhuk; Vice-rector for educational work of the Theological Academy monk Mark (Svyatogorov); Priest Gleb Sanyuk; hieromonk ahi Sergy (Smith) and Feodosy (Zhelnovachev); Priest Platon Shurigin; Archdeacon Kirill Zhuravlev; Deacons Anthony, Kirill Gorin and Vyacheslav Melnichenko co-served Archbishop.

Archbishop Ambrose stated, "We have glorified the Risen Lord in these Paschal days, in the church dedicated to His Image Not-Made-By-Hands. The connection between time and the history of our great Fatherland is felt here. Although this is a renewed church, the spirit of the past is present in it anyways, because it's impossible to remove from eternal memory the prayers and supplications of all the people

who have entered under the arches here, to receive a blessing for the very difficult but great task of managing the Russian state."

During the Liturgy, the clergy and parishioners prayed for the repose of the great rulers, Emperors, and Empresses of Russia, as well as the deceased heads and employees of the museum, and also the for the health of the current staff.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2cRXymXEMY&list=UUsh974EHZloLXzvfci-_Mq&app=desktop



A giant graffiti portrait of Field Marshal Mikhail Kutuzov opened on May 3 at the center of Moscow. The portrait on 400 square meters is placed on the house 5/6, Building 4 on Volkhonka street.

"This is the popularization of history, this is our 18th graffiti in Moscow, the first 10 were devoted to the Great Patriotic War, - said the executive director of the Russian Military-Historical Society Vladislav Kononov. Now we hope that the picture will please Muscovites and guests of the capital."

Grffiti is timed to the memory of the Field Marshal - April 28. On this day in 1813, Mikhail Kutuzov died. However, due to a rainy day the opening had to be moved. The historical portrait on the side facade of the five-story building is painted by an artist. It took him 12 days and about 600 bottles of spray paint.



The press service of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill has launched a site on bringing the relics of St. Nicholas in Bari from Russia for veneration by the faithful.

The site is here <http://www.nikola2017.ru/>

It will host the latest news on the presence of shrines in Russia, information for pilgrims to visit the relics, the schedule in Moscow and St. Petersburg, photos and videos. The relics of St. Nicholas left the place of permanent residence in the Italian city of Bari, for the first time in 930 years. In Russia, they will be on May 21 to 28 of July 2017.



Museum with a portrait of Emperor Nicholas II opened in Yekaterinburg. May 5 opened the museum of artist Misha Brusilovski. Currently in a small room are several dozen paintings by the masters of the brush, as well as personal belongings and documents.

- We have presented the world's largest collection of works by Misha Brusilovski. In total, the museum's collection is about 50 oil paintings and more than 200 graphic works. The earliest work - a self-portrait from 1948, and the latest - a picture of "The Emperor Nicholas II", made in 2016 - said the director of the art gallery "ART-bird" Julia Kruteeva.



In Belgium, began collecting money for the installation of a monument to the ruler of the Russian Empire Peter Alexeevich Romanov. It is planned that the monument will be installed in the port city of Liege.

It was in Liège Peter the Great arrived incognito in 1717. With a group of cadets Peter came to study the construction of warships.

Opening of the monument is scheduled for June 21 and is timed to the tour in Europe of the Sovereign. It should be noted that this is not the first monument to Peter in Belgium, the first was built during his lifetime in Brussels. However, the city of Liege has a strict local law under which it is forbidden to erect monuments to politicians. However, for the Russian Autocrat it was decided to make an exception, and now a monument in his honor will rise above the center of the historic city.



Representatives of the Yekaterinburg diocese gave the Serbian clergy an icon of Nicholas II. Bishop Sredneuralskiy, Vicar of Yekaterinburg diocese Eugene (Koulberg) gave an icon with the image of the Tsar-Martyr to the Serb Church of Dormition. At the end of the Divine Liturgy in the church the icon was transferred to the Bishop of Banat Nikanor.

According to Bishop Eugene, Emperor Nicholas II put a lot of effort to ensure that the Serbian people did not suffer from a hostile advent of other nations".

It should be noted, with the blessing of Patriarch Kyrill, Bishop Eugene headed a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church, which opened "Russian days in Serbia." The event is traditionally dedicated to the memory of tens of thousands of Russian immigrants who were in the Balkans as a result of the 1917 revolution and the subsequent Civil War in Russia.



In Moscow Kremlin, comprehensive restoration of the Assumption cathedral has started. The Cathedral is not in a dangerous condition, but it is time to restore it. Even for a layman on closer inspection it is clear that the frescoes have faded, some simply erased. Restoration is expected over the next 5-7 years. The Cathedral during this time will not be closed, as it's impossible with so many people from around the world who want to see the main church of Russia.

The restoration of the Assumption Cathedral requires huge funds. Today, the Moscow Kremlin Museums have signed an agreement with the company "Transneft", which will finance the work. During

the restoration research, also will be carried out. Oddly enough, the Assumption Cathedral is one of the Moscow Kremlin's most neglected monuments.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/176031/

Director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums Elena Gagarina has announced that the Dormition (Uspensky / Assumption) Cathedral is to be completely renovated, while the Chudov Monastery, destroyed in 1929-1930, will not be rebuilt.

"This topic is closed," Gagarina stated. "There will be no re-building on the territory of the Kremlin," she said when asked about the possibility of rebuilding one of the cathedrals of the Chudov Monastery. The Chudov ("of the Miracles") and Voznesensky ("Ascension") Monasteries once stood on the site of Building 14 of the Moscow Kremlin, until they were destroyed in 1929-1930.



In Donetsk, on May 9, 2017, an icon of the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II could be seen on the street.



The Romanovs continue setting records in the Hermitage Amsterdam. The Hermitage Amsterdam opened the exhibition "1917: Romanov & Revolution" in February. In March, the museum told that it had set a record with 50,000 visitors in six weeks. Now that record is broken, as there have been 100,000 visitors.

The exhibition tells the story of the family of Tsar Nicholas at the time of the revolution in 1917, this year it is 100 years ago. This exhibition is on view until September 17 and will be replaced in October by "Tsar' eyeballs", when the museum gets on loan sixty works by Dutch masters. As many as six paintings are by Rembrandt and some works will be seen again in the Netherlands for the first time in 350 years.



On May 19, the exhibition "Imperial Family. The path of love" was opened in Mogilev (Belarus). It is dedicated to the Royal family's stay in Mogilev, where, during the First World War from August 1915 to February 1918 was the General Headquarters of the Russian army.

Photos and reproductions of paintings of the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II are on display, accompanied by diaries, eyewitness testimonies, archival documents. The exhibition consists of materials from archive collections, museums and private collections held in Moscow, St.

Petersburg, Tsarskoye Selo, Livadia, Zlatoust, Mogilev, and fund of artist Paul Rizhenko.

The traveling exhibition, organized by the diocese of Mogilev and Mstislav of the Belarusian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) in the summer of 2015 was exhibited at various venues in the Russian capital. It then visited Kolomna, Kaluga, Nizhny Novgorod, Diveevo, Smolensk, Pskov, Polotsk, Vitebsk, and Shklov.



The idea of creating the exhibition came in 2013, when exhibition of photographs of the Royal family was brought to Mogilev from Tsarskoye Selo. With the arrival of representatives of Tsarskoye Selo Feodorovsky Cathedral, local history museums Chrysostom and Mogilev, local artists and benefactors, using multiple sources, have made a selection of photographs, paintings, documents, descriptions of crowned family' everyday life. Even in an incomplete form the exhibition was shown in Mogilev, Minsk, Borisov diocese, Orsha, and the Belarusian State University. In Mogilev the exhibition will run until July 2017.



The Donetsk artist Yuliya Petropavlovskaya has created a copy of a masterpiece in chocolate.

To work on the sweet piece of art the artist took 19 kilograms of dark chocolate. It is now on display in the Donetsk Art Museum.

It is a copy of the famous painting known as "Portrait of a woman with the gas veil", transferred by the State Hermitage to the museum in 1962.

Presentation of the painting and its double was held on the International Museum Day (May 18th). It turned out that the visitors waited for another

pleasant surprise. During the presentation of the paintings, the museum's director

Nadezhda Anischenko also announced a new discovery - "Today we present the painting "Portrait of a woman with a gas veil", which until recently was regarded as made by an unknown artist. But today we have learned who made it. It proved to be an outstanding Russian painter, court painter of Emperor Nicholas I - Timothy Neff - reveals the director of the museum.

- The girl in the painting is Grand Duchess Maria Michailovna - eldest daughter of Mikhail Pavlovich and Elena Pavlovna - said Marina Vladislavovna.

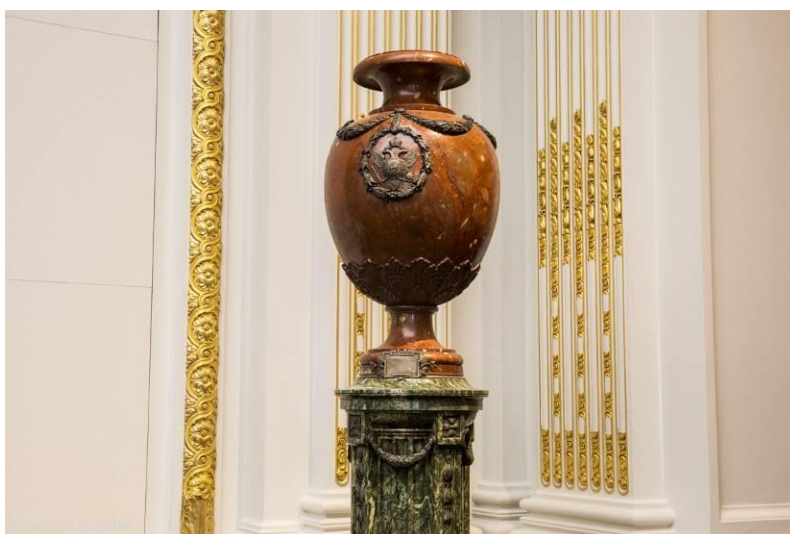


The New York Stock Exchange is celebrating its 225th anniversary this week, and a multimillion-dollar renovation completed in February pays homage to its past in every conference room. Walking around the exchange's many rooms above the trading floor, you'll see historical artifacts like a signed letter from Thomas Edison, a gift from Emperor Nicholas II of Russia, and a signed guitar from Jimmy Page.

Here is shown the Board Room with its monumental stone and silver urn that was a gift from Emperor Nicholas II of Russia in 1904.

See also the gift in the video below, from the 3:40 min.

Video - <http://www.cnbc.com/2017/05/17/this-single-paged-document-started-the-new-york-stock-exchange-225-years-ago.html>





A chapel in honor of Nicholas II to be built in Klin. On the initiative of Honored Artist of Russia Olga Kormuhina, with the support of Moscow Region Government and Administration Klin municipal area begins the construction of the chapel of the Holy Tsar-martyr Nicholas II. The consecration of the foundation stone at the site of the future chapel was held on May 19, at Klin, Leningrad highway, M-10.

The event was attended by Honored Artist of Russia Olga Kormuhina, head of the municipal district of Klin Alena Sokolskaya, dean district Archpriest Eugene, descendants of the Tchaikovsky, Taneyev, Klin deanery, Cossacks, Orthodox school pupils "Sophia", and local citizens.

It is expected that the memorial chapel is to be built in the shortest possible time and consecrated July 17, 2017 - the day of the execution of the Tsar and the Imperial family.

- For several years I was looking for a place for the chapel, and colleagues from the Public Chamber suggested: Klin, on the route Moscow - St. Petersburg, between the two capitals, - says Olga Kormuhina. - And as a good sign for me as a musician this is a place right in front of the house-museum of Tchaikovsky.

It is important that the chosen place in Klin is not accidental. It is closely connected with the Imperial family. There was revealed the miraculous icon of the Mother of God "Klinskaya" which honoured especially the Romanov dynasty. And Tchaikovsky was the favourite composer of Nicholas II and his family.

For the residents of Klin this event is a gift to the 700th anniversary of the city, which is celebrated in 2017.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UTmcUF2T9o>

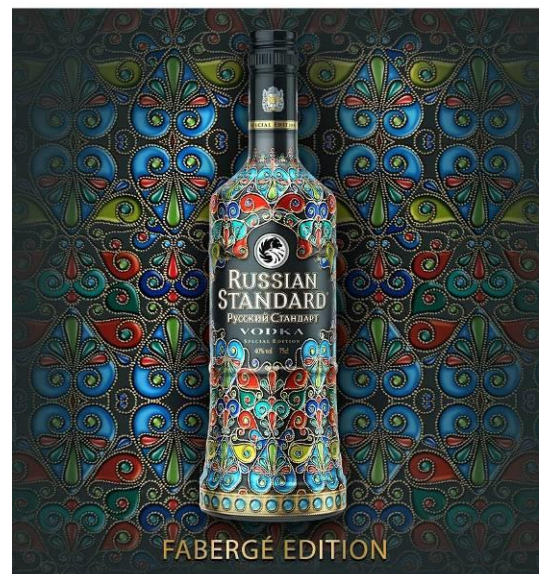


Russian Standard Fabergé Edition is the second in a series inspired by Fabergé art. The ancient technique uses intricate patterns incorporating enamels and gemstones used most commonly in jewellery-making and for decorating small objects.

Russian Standard has partnered with Reservebar.com to pre-sell the limited-edition bottle before it hits select stores in US and Canada next month.

"Russian Standard Vodka has a very loyal and devoted following in the US market – the Fabergé limited edition bottle highlights something unique and beautiful about Russian Standard's heritage," said Giulio Bertozzi, VP marketing for Roust USA.

Russian Standard Vodka Fabergé edition is available for pre-sale online at the Reservebar.com at an RRP of US\$23.00 per 70cl bottle.



Visitors and residents of the Moscow region will be able to see a unique exhibition "Gifts of the Romanovs" in the "New Jerusalem" in the fall. The museum and exhibition complex will collect ancient manuscripts, church furnishings, fabrics and other exhibits.

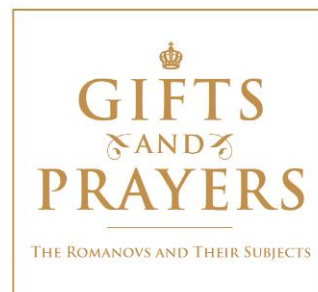
"We have a unique treasure," Gifts of the Romanovs" in the funds, which we are going to present in a permanent exhibition in the autumn, which, in our opinion, will bring together both historically and culturally two territories - monastery and museum and exhibition complex", - commented CEO of IAC Vasily Kuznetsov.



The Russian officer, whose remains previously was found during construction work in the city of Ardahan in the northeast of Turkey, turned out to be Lt. Col. Carl Rzhepetsky, citing a source in the local administration. Earlier the officer's remains were moved to the museum of the city of Kars for the study and identification. Initially it was thought that they belonged to the Russian Gen. Vasili Geyman, who participated in the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878. He was buried in Ardahan, because at that time the region was part of the Russian Empire. Meanwhile, more carefully examining of archival records, including Russian, the historians have concluded that the remains belong to Rzhepetsky. He served in 78th Navaginsky regiment, 20 rifle division First Caucasian Army Corps. Lieutenant Colonel died in 1894 from an illness. In addition, the Russian archives show that the tomb was discovered in the place where in the nineteenth century was a military cemetery in Ardahan. Scientists are confident in the accuracy of the identification of the deceased by 99%.
Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1809260/>



The Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis is opening the exhibition "Gifts and Prayers: the Romanovs and their subjects" on June 10. The exhibition presents exquisite objects from a private collection, and shows how the Romanov family of Russian rulers commissioned, used and distributed gifts to solidify its hold on power. It includes portrait paintings, military medals and orders, statuettes, icons, snuff boxes and objects made by Fabergé, among many other items.



The monument to Prince Peter Georgievich of Oldenburg will return in the end of 2017 to its historical place at the Mariinsky Hospital in St. Petersburg. The idea of recreating the monument occurred in 2005. The initiator was the Likhachev Fund and the Mariinsky hospital. According to the deputy director of the Fund Oleg Leikind, the recreated monument is based on three photographs of poor quality. Financial contribution has come from Huno Duke of Oldenburg, who lives in Germany, and "Rosstroyinvest", who also help with the installation and construction works. The Senator, member of the Russian Imperial House, Infantry General Prince Peter Oldenburg was known for his charity work. The grandson of Emperor Paul I in 1860 managed all the charitable institutions of Empress Maria Feodorovna, including the Mariinsky Hospital. His monument was opened at the Foundry Avenue, eight years after his death, in 1889. In 1930 the sculpture made by Ivan Shreder was destroyed.



Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



An auction based on lies and violation of copyright - William George & Co, London, UK, on May 28

This auction house is trying to sell some letters of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna using incorrect information and even lies. The auction house has been contacted, informed about its errors and violation of copyrights, but no response has been received so far.

The lot description has resulted in British newspapers have picked up the story and blown it even further out of proportions under headlines as "Revealed: Secret letters from Russian Duchess who escaped the Royal family's mass execution in 1918 but spent her life hating the British for not saving them from 'cold blooded devils'" (Daily Mail on May 26). Enjoying the British being upset, the Russian media also picked up on the story.

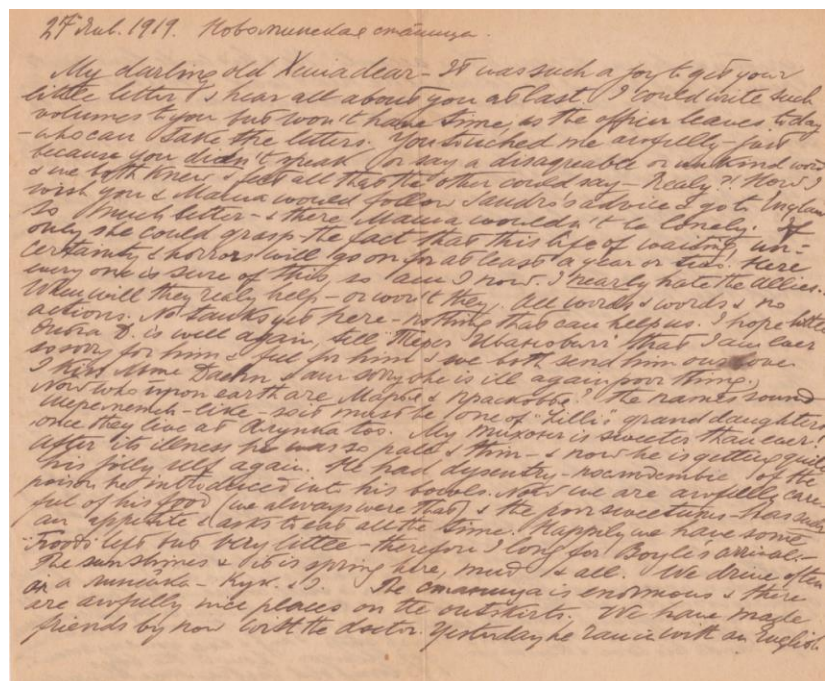
But let us start with the actual lot description:

Grand Duchess Olga correspondence to her sister Grand Duchess Xenia 1916-1920. A remarkable Romanov family correspondence.

*Written in English to avoid the censors with some Russian, French and Danish

*Written from Kiev where Grand Duchess Olga worked as a nurse caring for wounded soldiers 1915-1917

At this time, Grand Duchess Olga (Olga) was living with her mother, Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna, in the Maryinsky Palace in Kiev waiting for the annulment of her marriage to Prince Peter of Oldenburg. Also in Kiev is Grand Duchess Xenia's husband, Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovich, known as Sandro also was in Kiev. The letters include the visit of the Tsar in October 1916; the Tsar supported Olga and gave her an annulment so that she could marry Colonel Nikolai Kulikovsky. It is from their grandson that these letters have become available for the first time on the open market.



Each letter is accompanied by notes prepared by the Kulikovsky family noting important events written about in the letters. The letters from Olga to her sister Grand Duchess Xenia (Xenia) who remains in Petrograd during World War 1 include reference to Rasputin in January 1917. Events move fast and the February Revolution of 1917 brings an end to the letters for a period because the Dowager Empress, along with her two daughters and other members of the Romanov family move to one of their estates in the Crimea. The situation deteriorates in Russia after the Bolshevik uprising and the Armistice of 1918. This dangerous situation results in the assassination of the core Romanov family although Olga is the exception having married a commoner, Nicholas Kulikovsky; she has freer movement and

accompanies her husband to Novominskaya where Kulikovsky fights the Bolsheviks during their Civil War.

Olga's letters to her sister Xenia resume in January 1919 describing her simple country life. Grand Duchess Olga is sad that the Allies do not help Russia 'How I wish that you and Mama would follow Sandro's advice (Grand Duke Alexander, husband of Xenia) and go to England...if only she could grasp the fact that this life of waiting, uncertainty and horrors will go on.... I really hate the Allies...when will they really help- or won't they. No tanks yet here- nothing that can help us.' In February 1919, the situation is no better-Grand Duke Alexander was not allowed to enter Britain. 'I try to squash the idea: if really those devils could, in cold blood, kill all those innocent people (the Grand Dukes shot in Petrograd and Grand Duchess Elizabeth in Perm). Perhaps they have done the same with the beloved family (Tsar Nicholas, the Tsarina and three children) Oh no! no! it can't be.'

Olga and her family are forced to Rostov. By 1920, they are in the Kuban, the last piece of White Russian territory with the Cossacks. Olga has great admiration for the spirit, self-reliance and skills of the Cossacks. Her last letter from Russia in February 1920 is from the port of Novorossisk which is signed off 'Your loving old refugee sister'. The final letters in the archive both dated March 1920 describe their arrival in Prinkipo in Turkey. The last letter, written from Belgrade, shows how Olga longs to be somewhere quiet and looks forward to being reunited with her mother in Denmark. The correspondence of 52 letters is offered with signatures of Prince Peter of Oldenburg and Grand Duchess Olga.

Translation and interpretation by the key authors and internationally renowned specialists Coryne Hall and Karen Roth-Nicholls. With the advent of the Centenary of the Revolution in Russia, the shooting of Tsar Nicholas and the end of the first World War, these letters are important and tell the vital story of the Romanov family in this turbulent time.

Photos and family tree are for reference and not part of this lot.

Auctioneer's estimate 70,000 GBP - 100,000 GBP

Comments of Paul Kulikovsky

There are too many errors to address them all, but here is a few of the major ones.

"I really hate the Allies" is not a correct transcript. What makes it worse is then the newspapers are twisting it into she is hating the British, and even adds "spent her life hating the British", which is complete nonsense! This clearly shows how a feather becomes a whole chicken!

The letter is written in Novominskaya Village, 27th January 1919, and says the following in context: *"How I wish you & Mama would follow Sandro's advice & go to England. So much better - & there Mama wouldn't be lonely. If only she could grasp the fact that this life of waiting, uncertainty & horrors will go on for at least a year or two! Here everyone is sure of this, so am I now. I nearly hate the allies.... When will they really help – or won't they. All words & words & no actions. No tanks yet here – nothing that can help us..... "*

"It is from their grandson that these letters have become available for the first time on the open market."
- This sentence gives a false impression of the letters being sold by a descendant of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. These letters was sent to Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna and sold by one of her descendant long time ago. The seller now is an autograph/letter dealer in London, who bought these letters several years ago and now is in a hurry to sell them, as a book is about to be published based on the same letters.

It also states - "Each letter is accompanied by notes prepared by the Kulikovsky family". This is not true either. The notes are prepared by Coryne Hall and Karen Roth-Nicholls.

The lot is showing several photos and a family tree copied from the book "25 chapters of my life" by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, without asking for permission, which is a violation of copyrights.

Auktionshaus-Weiner, Berlin, Germany, on May 20

Medallion - pendant with a chain. Russia, end of 19 century, monogram of Emperor Alexander III. Under crown, master's mark "EK", gold mark "56" with city mark St. Petersburg, total weight with chain 26 g
Estimated Price: €3,500



Henry Aldridge & Son, Devizes, Wiltshire, UK, on May 20

Extremely rare pair of postcards written by Baroness Sophie Buxhoeveden, a lady in waiting to Empress Alexandra of Russia during the final weeks of Tsar Nicolas II and the Imperial family's life and exile in Siberia.

One mentions the Baroness being in the same compartment as "Nastenka" when they were being moved, the other refers to them awaiting orders. Nastenka was a nickname of Grand Duchess Anastasia but also more likely in this context it refers to Countess Anastasia Hendrikova. The Countess acted as a governess to the four Grand Duchesses and was executed by the Bolsheviks in September 1918, she was canonised by the Russian Orthodox Church as a martyr in 1981.

Baroness Buxhoeveden accompanied the Tsar and his family into exile in Siberia after his abdication and only survived due to her non-Russian sounding name. The cards are postmarked 22nd May 1918 in Tyumen in Western Siberia and 27th May in Ekaterinburg, the town where seven weeks later the Imperial Family were executed by the Bolsheviks.



Baroness Sophie Buxhoeveden, right, with fellow lady in waiting Countess Anastasia Hendrikova,

They are both written to Anna Ivanovna Meder of 12 Bogoyavlenskaya str in Tobolsk (former capital of Siberia). The first of the postcards bears the postmarks 22 May 1918 in Tyumen and 26 May 1918 in Tobolsk and reads:

"My dear Anna Ivanovna, I am in good health. I am in the same compartment with Nastenka. Hope you are healthy. Hugging you fondly. Please write to me."

This postcard bears the "Exam Radionov" censors mark.



The second even more poignantly is postmarked on 27 May 1918 at Ekaterinburg train station and reads:

"Dear Anna Ivanovna, hoping along with Andrey Ivanovich, awaiting orders I am in good health. Many Hugs, Izya"

(Izya was the nickname given to the Baroness by the Tsarina).



Any ephemera written by a member of the Russian Royal Household during this period is rare but to have a pair of postcards written so close to the date when the Tsar and his family were executed and in such close proximity to the event by someone so close to the family is exceptional.

Estimated Price: 800 - 1,200 GBP

Sotheby's, London, United Kingdom, June 6

Peter the Great: a rare porcelain figure, Miklashevsky manufactory, Volokitino.

Modelled after Frosté's portrait of the Tsar, standing at a cloth-covered table, wearing the sash and breast star of the Order of St Andrew, with sword and gorget, holding a quill, the table with books, an inkwell, and a document, with iron red factory mark and impressed number 6. Dimensions: height 28.3cm, 11 1/4 in.

Estimated Price: £20,000 - £30,000

Fabergé gold, enamel and hardstone study of cornflowers, circa 1910.

The cut spray with three capitula, their florets enameled in opaque blue, the anthers in pale purple, the receptacles in yellow-shaded green over engraved sepals, textured gold stems and leaves, in a carved rock crystal baluster form pot, apparently unmarked.

Dimensions: height 12.8cm, 5in.

Estimated Price: £180,000 - £250,000

Fabergé jewelled gold, turquoise and hardstone study of forget-me-nots, circa 1910.

The petals prong-set with turquoise beads centering circular-cut topaz or citrine fornicies, carved nephrite leaves, the cut sprig in a carved rock crystal pot with flared rim, apparently unmarked, in a leather A La Vieille Russie case. Dimensions: height 18cm, 7 1/8 in.

Estimated Price: £250,000 - £350,000



An Imperial presentation Faberge gem-set silver kovsh from H.I.M. Nicholas II. Oval, the high sides repoussé and chased with stylized peacocks perched on scrolls issuing from the mouths of mythical lions with fish scale bodies, the prow with a double-headed eagle above engraved cypher NII, set with two cabochon sapphires and two beryls, the pointed handle with reeded support, the base inscribed in French 'To Mr. Howard Thompson/ from H.I.M. Nicholas II/ 25 December/ 1905/ St Petersburg', struck K.Fabergé in Cyrillic beneath the Imperial Warrant, 84 standard, scratched inventory number 20085. Dimensions: height 24.4cm, 9 5/8 in. Estimated Price: £80,000 - £120,000



The monument to Emperor Alexander III: an important bronze equestrian portrait, after the model by Prince Paul Troubetzkoy (1866-1938), cast by Valsuani foundry, 1909. Dark brown patina, inscribed and dated 'Paul Troubetzkoy 1909', with impressed foundry mark. Height 56cm, 22in. Provenance: The Collection of the Artist, by whom given or bequeathed to his first-cousin-once-removed, Prince Youka Nikolaivich Troubetzkoy (1905-1992), in 1938. Thence by descent. Estimated Price: £80,000 - £120,000





3 Imperial presentation gold cigarette cases.
Work master Henrik Wigström, St Petersburg, 1908-1917.
Samorodok texture, the lid applied with an Imperial eagle set with rose- and circular-cut diamonds with circular-cut ruby eyes, cabochon sapphire thumbpiece, struck with work master's initials and Fabergé in Cyrillic, 56 standard, Soviet control marks.
Dimensions: width 9.8cm, 3 7/8 in.
Estimated Price: £6,000 - £8,000

Probably French, circa 1910.
Samorodok texture, the lid applied with a rose-cut diamond-set Imperial eagle, cabochon ruby thumbpiece, with obliterated marks, apparently French.
Dimensions: width 9.5cm, 3 3/4 in.
Estimated Price: £4,000 - £6,000



Work master Michael Perchin, St Petersburg, circa 1895. The lid and base of alternating pink and green gold rays and concentric reeding, the lid applied with a rose-cut diamond-set Imperial eagle, cabochon ruby thumbpiece, struck with work master's initials and Fabergé in Cyrillic, 56 standard, scratched inventory number 44298.
Dimensions: width 9.5cm, 3 3/4 in.
Estimated Price: £12,000 - £18,000



An Imperial presentation silver and gold chatelaine and watch, Charles Oudin, Paris, circa 1890.
Cast and chased as two Imperial eagles, the watch suspending from a ribbon inscribed in Russian 'For Love and Fatherland', the watch face inscribed 'Ch Oudin/ Palais Royal 52', the movement numbered 25418, the chatelaine hook with illegible French maker's mark, Russian import mark, scratched number 5284 and inscribed 'le tout/ 1500'. Height 16cm, 6 3/8 in.
Estimated Price: £8,000 - £10,000



Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 9

Portrait of Tsarevich Paul Petrovich of Russia (1754–1801), from 1796 Tsar Paul I of Russia, son of Tsar Peter III of Russia and Tsaritsa Catherine II the Great of Russia, dressed in a red jacket, gold embroidered vest and lace collar, bearing the cross of the Imperial Russian Order of Saint Anna as well as the star and blue ribbon of the Imperial Russian Order of Saint Andrew, holding an ermine cloak. Unsigned. Oil on canvas laid on canvas. 80×62 cm. Régence revival frame, 19th century.

Estimated Price: €20.000 - 27.000



Portrait of Grand Duchess Alexandra Pavlovna of Russia (1783–1801), daughter of Tsar Paul I of Russia, with loose hanging curly hair and a red-green silk bow, dressed in a green dress with laces and a red-green silk sash, bearing the star of the Imperial Russian Order of Saint Anna. Unsigned. Oil on canvas laid on canvas. 62×49 cm. Rococo revival frame, 19th century. Dmitri Grigorievich Levitsky's original portrait from the 1790s measures 62×51 cm and is located at the Palace Museum, Pavlovsk.

Estimated Price: €10.000 - 17.000

Portrait of Grand Duchess Catherine Pavlovna of Russia (1788–1819), daughter of Tsar Paul I of Russia, with loose hanging curly hair, dressed in a beige dress with laces and green silk sash, bearing the star of the Imperial Russian Order of Saint Anna. Oil on canvas laid on canvas. 62×49 cm. Rococo revival frame, 19th century. Dmitri Grigorievich Levitsky's original portrait from the 1790s measures 62×50 cm and is located at the Palace Museum, Pavlovsk.

Estimated Price: €10.000 - 17.000



Portrait of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich of Russia (1779–1831), Governor of the Kingdom of Poland, son of Tsar Paul I of Russia, dressed in a blue jacket, white vest and lace collar, bearing the cross of the Imperial Russian Order of Saint Anna as well as the star and blue ribbon of the Imperial Russian Order of Saint Andrew. Unsigned. Oil on canvas. Oval. 63×50 cm. Rococo revival frame, 19th century.

The Belarusian National Arts Museum in Minsk owns an identical portrait of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich, described as presumably a copy after Dmitri Grigorievich Levitsky, dated 1786 with unknown location. The Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow owns a companion portrait by Dmitri Grigorievich Levitsky dated 1787 of his brother, Grand Duke Alexander Pavlovich (1777–1825), from 1801 Tsar Alexander I of Russia. This portrait measures 60.5×50 cm. Estimated Price: €13.500 - 20.000





Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.
"Winter sun above a church in Russia". Signed
Olga. Oil on cardboard. 42×33 cm.
Estimated Price: €2.700 - 3.350

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.
"A forest glade at winter time, Russia". Signed
Olga. Watercolour on paper. Visible size 34×46
cm.
Estimated Price: €1.350 - 1.600



Portrait of Grand Duchess Xenia
Alexandrovna
A study. Signed and dated Makarov 1882 (in
Cyrillic) - Ivan Koznic Makarov. Oil on
canvas. 51×44 cm.
Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (1875–
1860), daughter of Tsar Alexander III and
Tsaritsa Maria Feodorovna of Russia.
Estimated Price: €6.750 - 8.050

Gold medal in memory of the death of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich.

A rare Russian gold medal in memory of the death of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich dated 1865, by N. Kozin (signed on truncation and below). 36 mm, 30.03 gr.

Obverse and reverse legends read: "Bless Faithful Sovereign Tsarevitch and Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovich Born in St. Petersburg 8 September 1843. / Thy will be Done. Died in Nice 12 April 1865."

Tsarevich and Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovich (1843–1865) was the elder brother of Tsar Alexander III and the first fiancée of Tsaritsa Maria Feodorovna.

Estimated Price: €2.400



Two Russian porcelain Easter eggs, decorated in gold on white ground, the one with Cyrillic monogram for Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, the other with Cyrillic monogram for his consort, Tsaritsa Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia. The Imperial Porcelain Factory, early 20th century. H. 6.5 cm. (2).

Estimated Price: €1.350



Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 12

Holger Lübbers: Dowager Empress, Tsaritsa Maria Feodorovna is being rowed ashore to Toldboden, Copenhagen, in 1906. Oil on canvas. 63x95 cm. Estimated Price: 10,000–12,000 Dkr.



Family Lassen's large collection of 158 photographs with the Russian Imperial family, Russian noble families and the Royal Danish family.

The collection contains for example portraits of Tsar Alexander III of Russia, Tsaritsa Maria Feodorovna, Tsar Nicholas II, Tsaritsa Alexandra Feodorovna, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Colonel Nikolai Kulikovsky and their two sons, Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna the younger, several group members of the Imperial and Royal family etc. In addition, several photographs of Tsaritsa Maria Feodorovna on her stay on the Crimea during the Russian Revolution 1917–1918, her visit to England in 1919 and finally from Hvidøre in Denmark; as well as some photographs from the family Lassen's estate in Russia. Most private recordings, other official. Many with person and place descriptions as well as dating. Some with greetings from Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. From c. 6.4x4.5 cm to c. 28x24 cm.

Seller's great-grandfather, Lassen, was a Danish estate manager in Russia. The father was employed at the Royal Court of Christian IX, and through Tsaritsa Maria Feodorovna and Tsar Alexander III of Russia he caused the son to create a future in Russian agriculture. Therefore, he became soon administrator of Ukrainian estates belonging to Tsar Alexander III of Russia's adjudicator, Count Musin-Puschin. Later, he also became administrator of estates belonging to Grand Duke Dmitry Konstantinovich of Russia. Some members of the Lassen family fled from Russian during the revolution in 1917, while seller's grandmother fled to Denmark in connection with World War II.

