



Romanov News Новости Романовых

By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky

№111

June 2017



In memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. Murdered June 12, 1918 in Perm.



On 7th of June the Interregional Public Forum "Elisabeth legacy today" (Moscow-Perm-White Mountain) started in Moscow

The Interregional Public Forum "Elisabeth legacy today", Moscow-Perm-White Mountain", arranged by the Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society (ESSES), supported by the Government of Moscow, and blessed by Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, was held June 7-12, 2017. It started in the historic center of Moscow - in the Moscow Diocesan House.



Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, born Princess of Hesse-Darmstadt, was the older sister of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. In 1884, she married Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, brother of Emperor Alexander III. In 1905, after her husband's death from a terrorist bomb, the Grand Duchess "retired" from the world. She founded the Martha and Mary Convent in Moscow, whose sister primarily assisted the sick and care for them.

In the summer of 1914 Elizabeth Feodorovna went on a pilgrimage to the Urals. On July 11th she arrived in Perm. She visited the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, the Assumption convent, but the main purpose of her trip was the Belogorsky monastery, where she met with Father Superior Seraphim. The news of the beginning of the First World War forced her to interrupt the visit, Elizabeth Feodorovna returned to Moscow to prepare the Martha and Mary Convent to receive the wounded. But four years later, she returned to Perm, no longer on her own wish. In 1918, the Bolsheviks sent Elizabeth Feodorovna into exile in Alapayevsk, which then was a part of the Perm province. Along the way, she spent a week in Perm, again in the Assumption Monastery. This is why this year's forum starts in Moscow and then continues in Perm.



From left - Vladimir R. Legoyda, Alla Y. Manilova, Anna V. Gromova, and Sergei V. Mironenko

Representatives of the Ministry of Culture, Government of Moscow, the Moscow Region Government, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, managers of museum, archives and regional cultural and pilgrimage centres - Alla Y. Manilova, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation; Alexander N. Gorbenko, Deputy Mayor of Moscow in the Government of Moscow on regional security and information policy issues; Sergey V. Mironenko, Scientific Supervisor of the State Archives of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Historical Sciences ; Vladimir R. Legoyda, Chairman of the Synodal Department for Relations between the Church and the Society and the Media; Abbess Elisaveta (Pozdnyakova), Mother Superior of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy; and Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, Great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III attended ceremony of opening of the Forum.



A special event was the presentation of the book by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Dr. Peter Stegnyy "Chief of the skite. Life and Fate of Abbot Serafim Kuznetsov." The new book focuses on the fate of Abbot Serafim Kuznetsov, his stay in the Urals in the years 1919 -1920, the transfer of the coffins of the Alapayevsk martyrs through the fronts of the Civil War and how he brought the relics of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and her assistant Varvara (Yakovleva) to Jerusalem. Peter Stengiy told about the little-known facts from

the life of Abbot Serafim during his stay in the Holy Land; features of his personality, which appeared in the course of correspondence with various people, and the people who surrounded Abbot Serafim in the later period of his life.

Also, PhD Vladimir F. Kozlov presented his book "Diocesan House in Moscow", which was about the house where the Forum took place.

Then followed several reports, including: Abbess Elisabeth (Koltsova), Mother Superior of the Holy Elizabethan Kaliningrad Women's Monastery - "The Elizaveta heritage on the land of Kaliningrad". Abbess Innokenty (Popova), Mother Superior of the Seraphim-Znamensky Skete (Domodedovo) - "The voice of joy is eternal and you will receive it!" The spiritual path of the humiliation of Tamari ". The nun Smaragda (Zykova), Acting abbesses of the Holy Elisabeth Convent in Alapayevsk - "St. Elizabeth's Monastery in Alapayevsk".

Yu.A.Vetoshkina, Head of the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Culture - "Religious tourism and pilgrimage in the Moscow region".

Abbess Anastasia (Mordmilovich), Mother Superior of the Kazan Maiden Women's Monastery (Kaluga) - "Memory of the Imperial Family in Kaluga".

Igor

Marina Vladimirovna Zaporina, Head of the cultural center of the Ostashevo manor (Moscow region) "Ostashevo is a pilgrimage and tourist route for the memory of the Imperial family"

An exhibition - "Charity in history. The contribution of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Red Cross activities in the Russian society" was presented in the Hall of Moscow Diocesan House. Earlier it was shown in the United Nations Office at Geneva, Vienna and Moscow.



Paul E. Kulikovsky being interviewed by the TV channel "Spas".



Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdR23HjoWp0>

After the greetings and presentations was held an excursion around the Diocesan House.

In the afternoon was a sightseeing program, taking the forum participants to the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society's museum, the estate of Khitrovo, and the Novospassky Stauropegial Monastery, with an excursion to the Tomb of the Romanov boyars.

The Moscow Diocesan House

Is an object of cultural heritage, located in Likhov Lane, Moscow. Since 2015 its the main building of Saint Tikhon's Orthodox University, and the University's Fundamental Library and Museum.

Construction of the house began in 1901 on land owned by the Society of Lovers of spiritual enlightenment. Moscow Diocesan House was created as a centre of religious education, education, publishing and missionary activity. On November 5, 1902 House was consecrated the and on 30th of December the church of the Apostolic Prince Vladimir was consecrated.

During the liturgy, Governor General of Moscow Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and his wife Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna arrived in the Diocesan House. After the liturgy, accompanied by Bishop Mozhaiskogo Parfeny (Levitsky) they were acquainted with the House, visited all the institutions and society, and expressed their approval.

Up until 1918 the Moscow Diocesan House had an unusually active life. Every week, several events took place here: Orthodox theological readings for workers (Christmas and Easter), rates - Pastoral, Psalomnicheskie, Missionary, Women's Theological, congresses, meetings, celebrations of religious and secular anniversaries.



In August 1917, the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church moved to the Diocesan House. in was made the historic decision on the restoration of the Patriarchate in the autumn of 1917. Council work lasted 13 months.

In 1918, the first memorial service was made there for the murdered Imperial family.

June 15, 1922 the Diocesan House was finally closed and its museum collections looted, and decorations of the St. Vladimir Church destroyed.

July 29, 2005 the Russian government decided to "accept the proposal of the local religious organization - the donation of the property for the operation of educational institutions of the Russian Orthodox Church, the building of the Moscow Diocesan House.

February 19, 2010 the first liturgy was served in

the lower church of St. Patriarch Tikhon and martyrs - members of the Local Council. December 17, 2014 was consecrating and lifting of the cross and dome of the bell tower of the house church of St. Vladimir.

July 26, 2015, Patriarch Kirill performed the rite of the Great Blessing of the upper house church of Prince Vladimir in Moscow Diocesan House and celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the church.



Patriarch Tikhon in front of the St. Vladimir Church in the Diocesan House in Moscow, where he was elected on June 21st, 1917.

Perm

Perm is a city and the administrative centre of Perm Krai, in Russia, located on the banks of the Kama River in the European part of Russia near the Ural Mountains. Population in Perm is about 1,0 million.

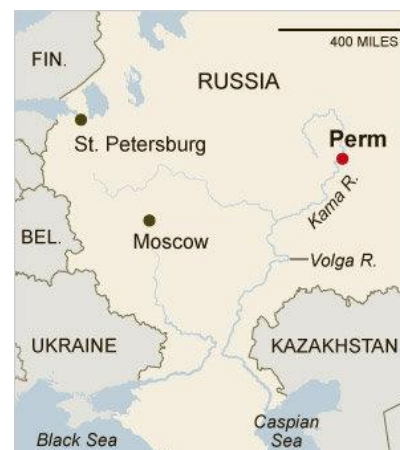
Perm was first mentioned as the village of Yagoshikha (Ягошиха) in 1647; however, the history of the modern city of Perm starts with the development of the Ural region by Tsar Peter the Great. Vasily Tatishchev, appointed by the Tsar as a chief manager of Ural factories, founded Perm together with another major centre of the Ural region, Yekaterinburg.

In the 19th century, Perm became a major trade and industrial centre with a population of more than 20,000 people in the 1860s, with several metallurgy, paper, and steamboat producing factories. In 1870, an opera theatre was opened in the city, and in 1871 the first phosphoric factory in Russia was built. In 1916, Perm State University was opened.

After the outbreak of the Russian Civil War, Perm became a prime target for both sides because of its military munitions factories. On December 25, 1918, the Siberian White Army under Anatoly Pepelyayev (who acknowledged the authority of the Omsk Government of Alexander Kolchak), took Perm. On July 1, 1919, the city was retaken by the Red Army.

In the 1930s, Perm grew as a major industrial city with aviation, shipbuilding, and chemical factories built during that period. During the Great Patriotic War (World War II), Perm was a vital centre of artillery production in the Soviet Union. During the cold war, Perm became a closed city.

Now the city is a major administrative, industrial, scientific, and cultural centre. The leading industries include machinery, defence, oil production, oil refining, chemical and petrochemical, timber and wood processing and the food industry.



In relation to the Romanov family are some of the milestones:

- * 1602 was killed Mikhail Nikitovich Romanov in Nyrob - some 300 km from the city Perm - on the order of Tsar Boris Gudonov.
- * September 30 - October 3rd, 1824 Emperor Alexander I visited Perm
- * May 21, 1837 Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaievich (later Alexander II) visited Perm
- * August 8, 1868 Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich visited Perm.
- * July 10, 1873, Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich visited Perm.
- * July 11, 1914, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna visited Perm.
- * On 7 May 1918 Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna was arrested in her convent in Moscow, and sent to Perm. Then she was sent to Yekaterinburg, and finally to Alapayevsk, where her earthly life ended on 18 of July 1918.
- * On March 7 1918, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary Nicholas Johnson were arrested in Gatchina and imprisoned at the Bolshevik headquarters in the Smolny Institute in St. Petersburg. On March 11 1918, Michael and Johnson was sent to Perm. On June 12 1918, the leader of the local secret police, with the acceptance of local Bolsheviks, kidnapped them. In the early hours of June 13 1918, they were both shot in a forest outside Perm.

June 8, in Perm - the roundtable on "Route of memory of the Imperial family - 2018"

With the blessing of His Eminence Methodius, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur V International Interregional public forum "Elisabeth legacy today 2017. Moscow-Perm" started in Perm.

On June 8 at the Cross Church of St. Mitrofan of Voronezh in Perm was held a prayer service at the beginning of a good cause, after which Reverend Methodius, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur consecrated the northern chapel of the church - in honour of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.



After the service, Metropolitan Methodius greeted and congratulated the participants of the forum from the beginning of its work and gave a pastoral word:

"I want to congratulate you, dear fathers, brothers and sisters, with today's remarkable holiday, with the beginning of the V International Interregional Public Forum, dedicated to the Martyr Elizabeth, her spiritual heritage and the memory of those who in the Perm earth were glorified by the Lord. I want to express my sincere joy over the fact that this Forum is being held in the Perm region. I sincerely wish the participants of the event every success and God's help, I wish that in the course of the Forum have been opened for us a new, previously unknown to us, pages of history, but more importantly, I want to wish that the Forum has strengthened in our hearts and minds the firm conviction that our chosen path is indeed the path that merciful and righteous Lord has defined us.

I am very glad that the work of the Forum opens with a wonderful event - the consecration of the chapel in honour of Martyr Elizabeth. The wonderful and charming chapel in which we are, is the former home church of the ruling bishop of the Diocese of Perm. It was visited by the great and wonderful people while staying at Perm land. In this church, Grand Duchess Elizabeth prayed and received communion from this point began her first visit to Perm. This church was visited by St. John of Kronstadt.



Today, we offered our prayers for the good work and that the Lord may bless the successful Forum, to make it useful for each participant.

Then Metropolitan Methodius personally greeted the chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Fund "Elisabeth Sergeis Educational Society" Anna V. Gromova:

"I welcome you, respected Anna Vitalevna and I want to thank you for your courage, because that's a good thing that you are organizing and promoting it requires great effort and perseverance. The Educational Society, which you headed, is an encouraging beginning for many of us. Doing what you do, for many years fruitfully engaged, is in our daily lives a living image of our predecessors, great firmness in faith, love and genuine service to the Fatherland. To do all this requires



work, patience, skill, stamina, desire and a deep faith in the work that you do. I wish to make your stay happy and good at Perm earth and make you feel the warmth of our mutual relations, to make you feel that the Lord is among us, if we pray to him and call his holy name."

On behalf of all the delegates of the V International Interregional public forum "Elisabeth legacy today 2017. Moscow-Perm" A. V. Gromova presented His Eminence a beautiful liturgical Gospel.

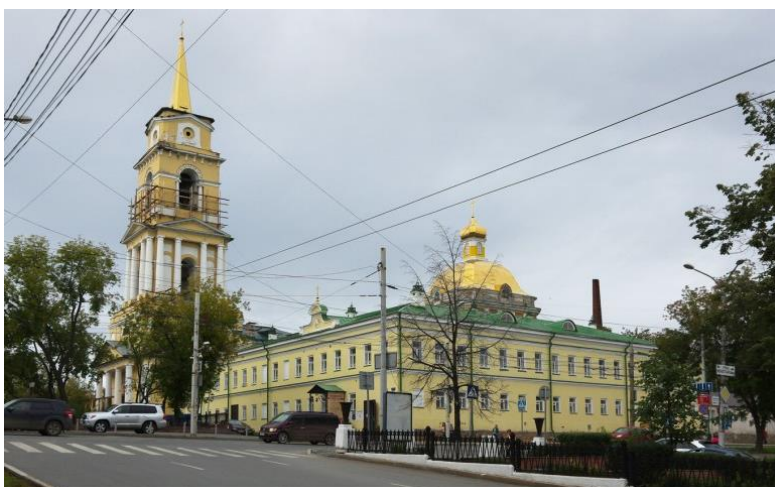


At the end of the festive events in the Cross Church of St Mitrofan Voronezh sounded songs performed by the choir «Musica Aeterna».

The Bishop's Compound in Perm

The first Governor of Perm General H.E. Kashkin, wanted to equip the city entrusted to him, and drew attention to the old Transfiguration Monastery in the village Pyskor and decided to transfer this ancient monastery into the city of Perm. March 31, 1781 on Imperial decree the transfer was approved. Only 12 years later, on May 25, 1793 was consecrated the chambers in the "two suites" and the house of the Cross Church of St Stephen of Perm, as well as chambers for the monastic brotherhood. Funds for the construction were derived from the sale of property from Pyskorsky. On masonry was dismantled bricks from the monastery church, which was floated on barges along the Kama River.

In 1798, construction began next door on the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral, which joined the Church of the Cross of St Stephen, a three-storey stone building, as well as farm buildings into a single church-administrative complex.



In 1836 with the blessing of the Archbishop of Perm and Verkhotursk Arcadia (Fedorov) the Phillips Stefanovsk church at the Bishops House was renamed into St. Mitrofan of Voronezh. Bishop's house and the house church served not only as a permanent place of residence, the prayers and the administrative work of the diocesan bishop, but the missionary and educational centre of the Perm diocese.

After the Bolshevik coup in October 1917 in the Perm government nationalized the entire city block, including the Bishop's house.

The building returned to Perm diocese in 2007. After the necessary repairs in the Cross Church worship resumed in 2008.

With his appointment to the chair of the Perm Metropolitan Methodius (Nemtsov) in 2010, repair work continued in the house of the Bishops. Under a layer of paint restorers discovered and cleared surviving mural depicting Archbishop Mitrofan of Voronezh and St. Stephen of Perm and other saints.



Smyshlyaev House

In the historic building - House of D.D. Smyshlyaev (now Perm Central Library named after Pushkin) - a roundtable was held in the afternoon, dedicated to the development of regional tourism and pilgrimage routes in memory of the Imperial Family.

Smyshlyaev House, in the historic centre of Perm, is named after its owners in 1842-1864 - merchant Dmitri E. Smyshlyaev and his son Dmitri D. Smyshlyaev. On 26 (14) September 1842 a fire completely destroyed the original house, built in the 1790s, and new house was built by them.

In 1864, they sold the house and went to Palestine. Then there was the Perm City Duma. In 1876, in the space on the second floor a city public library was established.

It is believed that this house is depicted in the novel "Doctor Zhivago" by Boris L. Pasternak as "Yuryatin City Library". The fictional town was based upon Perm, near by which Pasternak had lived for several months in 1916.

The round table "Route of memory of the imperial family - 2018. Regional pilgrimage and tourist routes"

The meeting was attended by delegates of the Forum, arriving from Moscow, Perm historians, ethnographers and experts in the field of education and tourism. The event was prepared with the support of the Administration of the Perm Region and the Perm diocese.

The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of ESES Ph.D. Anna V. Gromova opened the roundtable by thanking the Administration of Perm Region and Perm diocese. At the beginning of the round table many greetings



were read and given by delegates of the Forum; O.S. Yarilova, director of the Department of Tourism and Regional Policy of the Ministry of Culture; Y.A. Utkin, chairman of the Perm City Duma; S.Y. Sidorov, the director general of "Tyumen museum and educational community" in Tyumen region.



"Together with the pilgrim centre, the ROC and the best representatives of the Russian tourism industry, we have set ourselves optimistic plans to form a cultural-historical route by this Fall. In 2018, these routes should be in force "- said Olga S. Yarilova, the director of the Department of Tourism and Regional Policy of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

She said that the perpetuation of the memory of the Imperial family is an important area of work of the department with the Church and subjects of the Federation. In Perm, where Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich was killed, there are only a few projects connected with his name. For example, there are a permanent exposition "Romanovs in Siberia", project "Prisoners of Freedom", a Museum of the Imperial Family in Tyumen. It not only helps people to learn about the tragic period of our history, but also attracts tourists to the region. More than 200 thousand people visit these places.



In Perm, there are temporary exhibitions in museums. This is not enough. According to the plans of the Department of Tourism, all these regional projects should be merged into one."



Paul E. Kulikovskiy said -

"Respected Anna Vitalievna, Brothers and sister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to once again see so many familiar faces, on yet another pilgrimage on the route in memory of Saint Elizabeth Feodorovna organized by Elizabeth-Sergei Educational Society.

This time the pilgrimage brought us to Perm, a city I have not visited before. Until recently I knew only for a few things related to Perm and the Romanov dynasty.

However, my guess is that many people know even less and for many pilgrims and tourists new information will make them more interested in coming here. So, there is clearly a task in informing about these events, and arrange routes that makes it easier to visit these places.

- This is exactly what the Elizabeth-Sergei Educational society is now doing. Connecting all the locations related to the Imperial family's path to martyrdom - from St. Petersburg and Moscow, to Tobolsk, Yekaterinburg, Alapayevsk, and Perm.

We have seen in Yekaterinburg how even a tragic event is attracting pilgrims and tourists. even up to 100.000 visits in a few days. It is all about how one put these events into a historical context. Some of us need a place to go to, a place to heal our pain, to find answers, to reconcile with the past, etc. While other just have a curiosity to see a historical location.

For me it is both historical, educational and spiritual important.

But I also hope our pilgrimage will contribute to the city becoming more aware of the potential here with regards to pilgrimage and tourist routes and that we may contribute with ideas on how it could be further developed - that is, if the city is interested.

I know only a little about the 2nd stay of Saint Elizabeth Feodorovna in Perm and assume many of you are in the same situation. Her stay in Perm was short, only a few days. But there are some information. In Perm, the Grand Duchess, with her two sisters - Varvara (V.A. Yakovlev) and Catherine (E.P. Yanyasheva) were placed in the Uspensky Monastery - a place she had visited earlier, in the summer of 1914.

There exists a postcard from Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna addressed from Yekaterinburg to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Perm, dated May 17, 1918, it says:

"Risen Indeed! Kiss you darling three times. Thank you very much for the eggs, chocolate and coffee. Mom gladly drank the first cup of coffee, delicious. It is very good for her headaches. We learned from the newspapers that you were removed from your convent, we are very sad for you. It is strange that we were in the same province with you, my godparents. We hope that you can spend the summer somewhere in the country, in Verkhoturys or in some monastery. My address: Yekaterinburg. Regional Executive Committee. To the Chairman who will transmit to me. God be with you. Your loving goddaughter "

The day before, 16 May, Emperor Nicholas II wrote in his diary the following sentence:

"This day received from Ella from Perm coffee and chocolate Easter eggs."

I understand that at the Permian Medical Center soon will be put a monument to Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. This will be a joyful event. Much appreciated. But for sure there is more to tell about the Grand Duchess in Perm? I expect we will hear more today and tomorrow.

The stay of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in Perm is better known, and there is already a memorial plaque on the hotel from where he was kidnapped.

I know that a monument to him has been discussed for some time, but so far a positive decision has not been made. I sincerely hope it will happen soon, as it would be right to hold the unveiling on the 100 years anniversary of his murder here.

The most difficult part for me, relating to Perm, is that the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and Nicholas Johnson is still not found. I understand there is a lack of accurate information and that the surroundings of Perm is an extensive area to search, but it is important for me and my family, and I believe for all of Russia, that his remains are found and are given a Christian burial.

This bloody chapter of Russia's history cannot be closed before the last of the Imperial Family who was murdered in the 1918-1919 is found and buried.

I know searches have been going on and are continuing again this year. I pray for Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich's remains to be found soon.

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of you for coming - particular to those who are working in or supporting the various organizations connected to the Martyrs of Imperial Family. Please continue your good work, it is much appreciated.

Many thanks you to the Administration of the Perm region and the church for its support.

And as always a low bow to the Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society, headed by Anna Vitalievna Gromova, not just for having arranged the pilgrim tour here, but for all they are doing in enlarging our historical memory and inspiring people to deeds of charity and mercy.

Thank you."

There were many interesting reports, among them: Priest Anufriev - "Veneration of the Royal Martyrs in Perm Region"; Elmira N. Tukanova, Director of the "Center for Tourism Development of the Sverdlovsk Region", Yekaterinburg - "From the Spiritual Capital of Siberia to the Spiritual Centre of the Urals (Tobolsk-Verkhoturys)"; Nelli A. Zenkova, scientific director of the Foundation "Acquisition" Perm - "A great Romanov historical and cultural pilgrimage route in the Perm region. Dream or reality?"; Andrey A. Matkin, art. Teacher of the Department of General History of the Perm State Humanitarian and Pedagogical University - "Routes of the Imperial family in Perm: churches, houses, streets"; * Pavel S. Shirinkin, PhD (geography), associate professor, head of the chair of socio-cultural technologies and tourism of the Perm State Institute of Culture - "The potential of symbolic resources in tourism (on the example of the Perm Region)" and Konstantin G. Kapkov, PhD (history, theology) - "The Museum of Memory of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II in Livadia", and presentation of the book "Spiritual world of Emperor Nicholas II and his family"



In the breaks, reporters made interviews with the participants of the Forum.

Perm, June 8 - AIF-Kama region. - Perm was the venue of the Fifth Inter-regional Social Forum "Elisabeth heritage. Moscow-Perm-White City. 2017". Among the guests of the forum - Paul Kulikovskiy, a representative of the House of Romanov, great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, the great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, an honorary member of the Association of the Romanov family. Paul E. explained that he has a special reason to visit the city of Perm.

"I wanted to see the city, where Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich spent his last days and was killed. Try to understand the mood of the city. Also understand why so little is done in order to find the remains of Mikhail Alexandrovich. At a distance, I do not understand "- remarked sadly representative of the August House.

"After talking with the Perm inhabitants, I might find the answers. Maybe it's a political situation that is not conducive to open discussion and active search for the remains of Michael, maybe lack of resources to search activities, maybe there are other causes. It is very difficult to understand why even foreign teams come to Perm, and is searching for the remains, but there is no Russian team with state support. Realizing for ourselves the problem with finding the remains of Michael Alexandrovich, I will be able to find out how I can be personally useful and what could be done with my help."

June 8, Perm KP. - "When I shared with my family plans for a pilgrimage in Perm, I heard: "Oh, you're going to the city, where Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich was killed" - says Paul Kulikovsky.

"I hope that my visit will help push the search. Maybe my wife and I are a little naive, but we decided to express our point of view, our wish to intensify the search, we hope that some will listen and it will spur some into action".

On the side-lines of the Forum, Paul Kulikovsky and his wife Lyudmila talked with local ethnographers, trying to figure out the details of the search of the remains of Mikhail Alexandrovich. Specify whether they should visit those places.

"In Perm, I was very warmly received, - says Paul E. - "I've talked to people, and I have positive impressions of our stay in the city".

In the evening, in the large hall of the Perm Regional Philharmonic the jubilee concert "Light of the White Mountains" was held, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Holy Cross Cathedral of St. Nicholas Belogorsky Monastery.

The gala event was attended by the Head of the Perm Archdiocese Eminence Methodius, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur, and the acting Governor of Perm Region M. G. Reshetnikov, participants and guests of the V International Interregional public forum "Elisabeth legacy today 2017. Moscow-Perm".



In the middle are sitting - Governor Maxim G. Reshetnikov, Anna V. Gromova, Metropolitan Methodius, and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky

June 9, the forum continued in the conference hall of hotel "Ural"

In concert hall "Forum" of "Ural" hotel located centrally in Perm city, the Elizabeth-Sergei Educational Society had arranged the second conference.



Opening of the Forum, the head of the Perm Region, Maxim G. Reshetnikov talked about the restoration at Belogordsky (White Mountain) monastery - "it will be a great gift for the anniversary of all believers in the region. It took a lot of time and effort to restore the monastery and make it even more beautiful than a hundred years ago. Thanks to all those who were not indifferent, one of the most revered shrines of the Urals remains a centre of spirituality, a source of strength and inspiration to do good deeds", - said the head of the region.

"The most tragic events in the Imperial family's history happened here in the Urals, and we feel a special responsibility and ownership in this regard. Therefore, we are obliged to keep our history, transmit its lessons to our children and grandchildren, as well as think about the perpetuation of the memory. "

"At one of the Permian hospitals named after Elizabeth Feodorovna a monument will be installed, and the hospital will continue the tradition of enlightenment and compassion preached by the Grand Duchess" - said Maxim Reshetnikov.

"In the centenary year of the revolutionary events once again it is important to recall, and to reveal the history of our Motherland. Orthodox believers and not only believers but also intellectuals, all those who are interested in history, we would like to know more about Elizabeth, about her suffering. This is our history, it should not be forgotten. For it is impossible to treat one-sided, or cross it. Knowledge of our history - it is a guarantee that we looked confidently and truthfully into our future", - said the Metropolitan of Perm and Kungurskiy Methodius.





On behalf of the Perm diocese the Metropolitan thanked the ESES for the organization of the Forum on the land of Perm and awarded Anna V. Gromova, for her work in the recovery of the memory of Elizabeth Feodorovna, the Gold Medal of I degree of St. Stephen, noting that this is the highest award of the Perm Region.



"I am very pleased that the Forum is being held in this very important year for Perm, the century of the consecration of the Belogorsky church, in the year of the 200th anniversary of Archimandrite Antonin Kapustin, who had an invaluable and unrated role in the Russian presence in the Holy Land. Yesterday we held a round table on the pilgrimage, and the establishment of the route of the Imperial family in the Smyshlyaev House. Today will be a presentation of the book by Peter Vladimirovich Stegnyy dedicated to the abbot Seraphim Kuznetsov, who during the Civil War of 1919-20, took the remains of the Venerable Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Varvara to the Holy Land,"- said the chairman of the Supervisory Board of the ESES, Anna V. Gromova.





Vitaliy I. Suchkov, Head of the Department of National Policy and Interregional Relations of the City of Moscow greeted the participants on behalf of Sergey Sobyenin, Mayor of Moscow.

Paul Kulikovskiy in his greeting said:

"Your Beatitude, Mr. Governor, respected Anna Vitalevna, Brothers and sister, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think it is very important to commemorate what happened in 1918 - particular the murders of the Royal Martyrs, other Romanovs, their entourage and the many other innocent people that was killed. It is a sad fact, that these events which happened some 100 years ago is still today an open wound in the soul of Mother Russia.

The society is split, as some think it was a triumph, while other calls it a tragedy. I think one of the ways forward, is to cut away the propaganda, lies, falsification, gossip, myth, and focus on what happened to the people of that time. To understand the "naked truth" and accept it, is the all important element in a healing process, a process that might lead to reconciliation and further ahead to a stronger and more healthy society.

The facts of the murder of the Imperial Family is common knowledge, and I assume someone else will tell more about it.

But few knows how many people were killed just because of their loyalty to the Imperial Family and how the families of these former servants, totally innocent people, also were repressed, even into the 1930's.

It is still a mystery for me, how a so called "class struggle" could kill so many working-class people and nobody did anything.

Four of the servants that were killed with the Imperial Family are today to some degree known: Doctor Eugene Sergeevich Botkin - now a passion-bearer, maid Anna Stepanovna Demidova, valet Alexei Yegorovich Troop, and the cook Ivan Mikhailovich Kharitonov.

Peter Stegnyy made another presentation of his book "Chief of the skite. Life and Fate of Abbot Serafim Kuznetsov", and he was also awarded the Gold Medal of I degree of St. Stephen by Metropolitan Methodius, for his contribution to the study of the history of the Perm region.



But many more people voluntarily followed the family into exile, helped the dethroned Emperor and his family, or had some other kind of contact with the Imperial Family and was killed. And maybe even more cruel - if it is possible - were the killings of completely unrelated people on falsified claims.

Let me revert to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and Perm.

On 9 March 1918 at a meeting of the Soviet, People's Commissars passed the decision to exile Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich Romanov to Perm. Together with him in Perm as exiles were his personal secretary Nicholas Nicholaevich Johnson, valet Vasili Feodorovich Chelyshev and driver Peter Yakovlevich Borunov.

Without investigation, trial or any official inquiry into the question of their guilt, Michael Alexandrovich and Nicholas Johnson were executed. Furthermore, the fact that their death was by execution, was covered up by the authorities of Perm, who announced that they were shot while trying to escape.



Material was falsified against 37 people, for "helping organize the escape-attempt of M.A. Romanov." In accord with the decision of 9 October 1918 of the Cheka of the Perm Region, on the charge of organizing the "escape-attempt", those 37 innocent people were shot, including: The driver Borunov, the valet Chelyshev, Peter Ludvigovich Znamerovski, Vera Mikhailovna Znamerovskaya, Seraphima Semeonovna Lebedeva, Sergei Nicholaevich Smirnov, Maltsev, etc.

This also happened in other places - like in Ekaterinburg, in June-July

1918 without accusation, trial, or legal verdict, were shot: Vasili Alexandrovich Dolgorukov, Ivan Dmitrievich Sedne, Ilia Leonidovich Tatischev and and Klementi Grigorievich Nagorny - the famous "sailor-nanny" for Tsarevich Alexei Nicholaevich.

There are very few stories of escape from death. But one is from Perm - Anastasia Vasilievna Hendrikova, Ekaterina Adolphovna Shneider and Alexei Andreevich Volkov were sent from Yekaterinburg to Perm after the murder of the Imperial family, where they were sentenced by the Perm Cheka to execution, without any accusation. On the night of 3–4 September 1918, Hendrikova and Shneider were shot near Perm.

Only Alexei Andreevich Volkov managed to flee, as he simply run away on route in the forest to the place of execution. Volkov eventually made his escape from Russia through Vladivostok and in 1922, he settled in Estonia, where he died in 1929.

Besides the 18 Romanovs, were at least 24 loyal servants killed.

The 43 remaining members of the Romanov family suffer repression, and finally had to flee their motherland, and so did more than 39 loyal servants with them.

These people also deserve to be rehabilitated, and to be remembered for their selfless devotion and loyalty.

All these people are of course just a fraction of all those killed in those years. Many more were killed during the Red terror. But here today we are focusing on those who "Endured to the end" among the entourage of the imperial family.

Eternal memory!

Thank you for attention!"



Posters with information and photographs, telling what happened 100 years ago was placed outside the Hall.

The central place in the conference was reports dedicated to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and the investigations of his death in Perm. Probably, everyone was wondering whether there is any tangible evidence of the stay of Michael Alexandrovich in Perm. This question was answered by the head of the department of history of the Perm regional museum Svetlana G. Neganova.

"There is the information that after the Grand Duke was murdered, his watch was taken by one of the executioners Ivanchenko and the watch of Secretary Johnson by Markov (also one of the executioners). Also, some things have been handed over to Alexey Pleshkov, who was chief of Motovilikhinskiy police and later was shot by Kolchak. The authorities demanded the transfer of these items to the museum. But the question arises: are these things still there? No! Because today in the collections are four gold watches and none of them fit the description of the watch of Michael Alexandrovich".

According to her, there was a joke in the museum that somewhere in the funds is lying the pants of the Grand Duke. "The fact that they were in a museum of the revolution, is ironically writes Arkady Gaidar in his essay "The legacy of the old dynasty." He says that the museum staff were outraged that this exhibit entered the museum. Unfortunately, today we can not say where these things disappeared. The fact is that in 1931, the Museum of the Revolution was closed, the museum structure has changed: things got new numbers. In books, and in receipts, we can not find these things. I dare to suggest that it was thrown out.

At the same time, I want to make another version: in 1941 for the Red Army, due to a shortage of uniforms, from the museum were seized skivvies. And there is an act on the cancellation of the Red Army underwear for men. Among the things written off were items without inventory numbers." - said Svetlana Neganova.

Svetlana Sidorova, director of "Tobolsk Historical and Archival Museum" informed about the work going on in the Tobolsk Governor house, which is being prepared to open as a museum in memory of the Imperial Family's stay there in 1918.

The abbess Maria (Vorobyeva), from the Holy Dormition Convent of the city of Perm, told about "The Cross Road of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna".

Nelia A. Smirnova, gave more details about the "Stay of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Perm".

Lev V. Prekokov, Chairman of the Perm regional branch VOOPlIK, organizer of the Romanov Readings in Perm, presented the report "Ural Golgotha": Romanov days in Perm - a journey of 10 years".

The movable exhibition of archival documents "Kidnapping and murder on the night of June 12-13, 1918 in Perm of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich" was presented by Sergey V. Neganov, director of the Perm State Archives of Social and Political History (PermGASPI).



Archpriest Alexei Marchenko, Doctor of History, Head of the Department of Church History and Canonization of the Saints of the Perm Diocese, Director of the Perm Orthodox Classical Gymnasium, told about "The spiritual life of the Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich (according to the testimony in Perm)". He also mentioned, that he is collecting material for a case of canonizing Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

Ludmila A. Lykova, doctor of historical sciences, chief specialist of RGASPI, Head of the Expert Group of the Commission Historical and Archival Examination of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, presented "Documents of the investigation of N.A. Sokolov about the Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich".



Sergey V. Neganov, director of the Perm State Archive of Social and Political History (PermGASPI), listed the different "Versions of kidnapping, murder and concealment of the remains of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his secretary N.N. Jonson in Perm on the night of June 12-13, 1918."

Galina I. Shevtsova, PhD (History), head of publishing and exhibition programs of Elizabeth-Sergei Educational Society, presented her

book "Princess Elena Petrovna and representatives of the Serb mission in the Perm prison in 1918 in Memories of the manager of the affairs of Prince John Konstantinovich, S.N. Smirnov".

Yuri A. Zhuk, Doctor of Law, President of the Memorial Fund of the New Martyrs of the Romanov Imperial House - "The godless power of the slain" - the Holy New Martyrs of Russia's Anastasia (Countess A.V. Hendrikova and E.A. Schneider.

Nun Evstafia (Morozova), a resident of the Alexander Nevsky Novo-Tikhvin Monastery in Yekaterinburg, assistant to the chairman of the Commission for the Canonization of the Saints of the Yekaterinburg - "Christian understanding of the deed of Countess A.V. Hendrikova. Little-known documents and new sources".

And many more reports - "The adjutant of the Emperor Nicholas II", "Perm acquaintances of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich: new finds and work on mistakes", "The Royal Doctor Derevenko", and "The history of preservation of the documents of the so-called "Kalashikhin Affair".

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKria3C8i5E>

Perm State Art Gallery Museum - or rather the Cathedral of Transfiguration

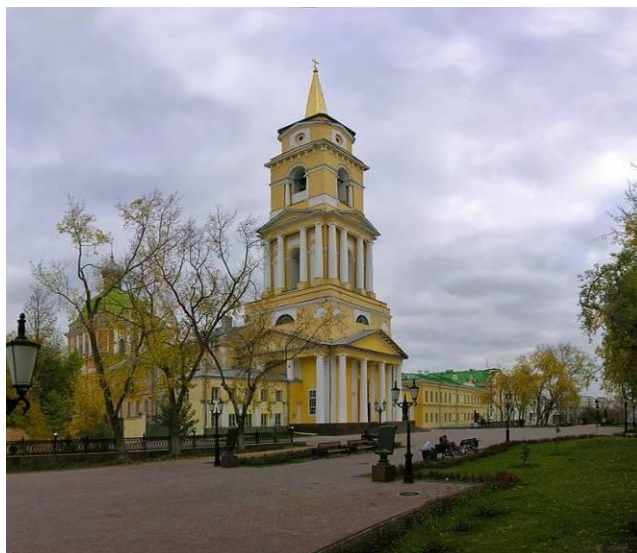
Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky took the opportunity to visit the Perm State Art Gallery Museum - a special place for at least two reasons. It is located in the building of the Transfiguration Cathedral, and it has a unique collection of Russian religious wood sculptures.

This is a rare case in which the building of a Cathedral has not yet been handed over to the church. An agreement was signed in 2011, but are awaiting a new building designed by renowned architect to be built, in which the gallery can move.

In accordance with the decree of Emperor Paul I of 23 (12) December 1796 the Tobolsk Government was split into the two provinces Perm and Tobolsk, creating the need for a cathedral in Perm. The building of the cathedral in the name of the Transfiguration of the Lord then began (consecrated in 1818). Here the big iconostasis of Pyskorsky Transfiguration church was placed. Bells were also taken from the former Pyskorsky monastery and raised to the belfry of the cathedral in 1831.

In 1933 the cathedral was closed and reconstructed into an Art gallery. In the middle of the museum can still be seen the huge iconostas, going up through the different floors.

The collection of 50,000 items includes works of Russian, Western European art of various artistic schools, styles and trends XV-XX centuries. Special is the collection of antique ceramics of ancient Egypt, Tibetan bronzes, arts and crafts of Japan, India and China. The pride of the gallery are icons of the Stroganov School and the unique collection of Perm wooden sculpture, about 400 monuments of XVII - beginning of XX century. These wooden sculptures fully reflect the evolution of Russian sculpture art.



June 10 - Belogorsky, White Mountain Monastery

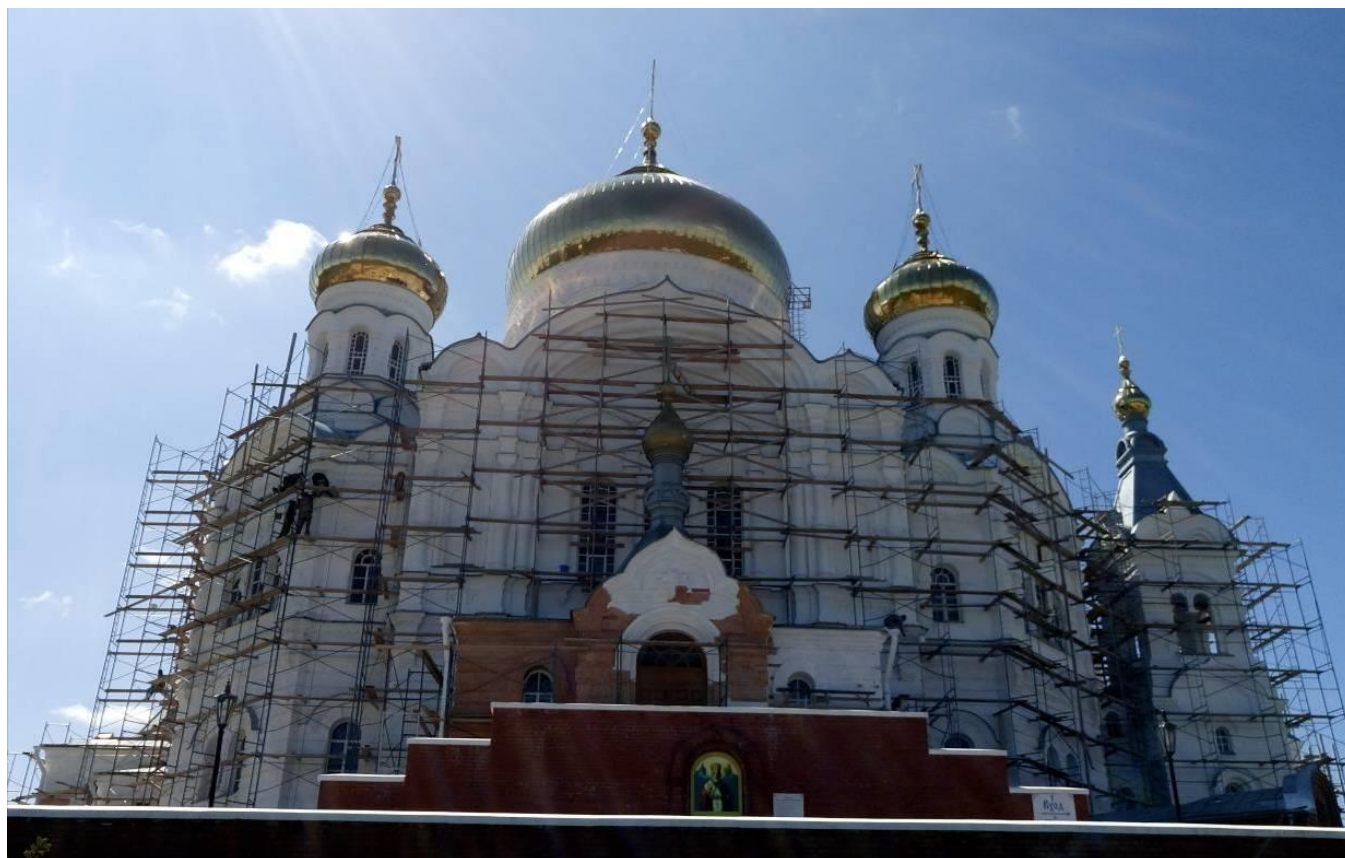
100 km from Perm, there is the Belogorsky St. Nicholas Monastery, on Belaya Gora (White Mountain). Construction of the first wooden church on this place was completed in February 1894 and there was also opened a school for orphan's boys.

In November 16, 1897, the wooden church burnt down. Construction on the new, two-story, stone church began in June 1902. Laying a new stone church (Holy Cross Cathedral) was held on July 7 (June 24) 1902. Construction of the church to accommodate 5000 people lasted for 15 years. Chief engineer of the project was E. I. Artomov, and the building material was supplied by the monastery's own brick factory. The consecration of the church lasted from June 7 to 9, 1917 and was attended by 30 thousand people.



Tragic events happened in the monastery in 1918. On August 12, 1918, the Bolsheviks tortured and threw the monastery's Archimandrite Varlaam into the river Kama. From August 1918 to January 1919, the Bolsheviks tortured and executed 34 monks of the monastery. In March 1923, the monastery was completely closed.

Reconstruction of the monastery began in late 1980s, and the main part are to be completed this year for its 100 year anniversary, however according to plan further work is assumed to continue for 5 more years.

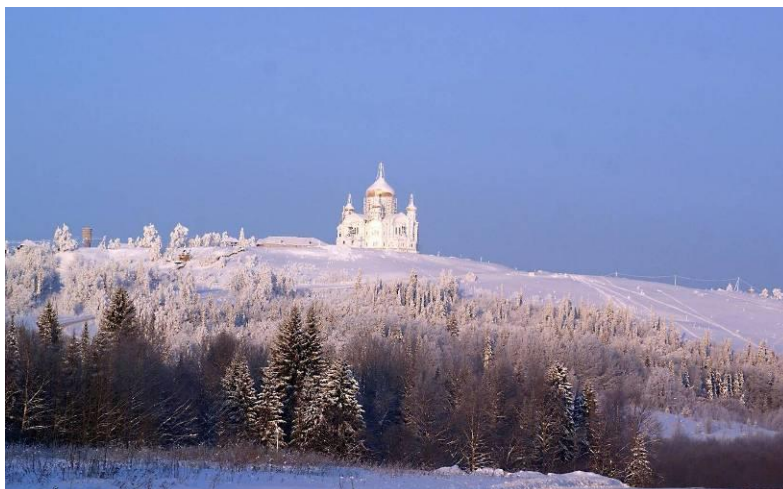


And why is it called White Mountain? Well, it is located on a mountain which for a long part of the year is all covered in snow.

Next to the church stands the "Tsar's cross", 11,65 meter high. A wooden cross was established April 29, 1891 in honour of the miraculous salvation Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich from the attempt on his life in the Japanese city Otsu. But in 1901 during a string storm the cross was destroyed.

September 4, 1901 the white metal "Tsar's Cross" was installed on the site of the former and consecrated.

September 27, 1998 the cross was recreated after photographs.



White Mountain





In the Cathedral of the Holy Cross work is still ongoing in the upper church, but a four levels' iconostas is in place - a replica of the historic iconostasis - and on its left side there is a wonderful icon which includes Tsar-martyr Nicholas II and Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna. in the cathedral are also several other icons of the Royal Martyrs and Martyr Elizabeth and Nun Vavara.

To the right of the iconostas, in the corner of the Cathedral, there is a part of the original floor - in red and yellow tiles - kept visible, surrounded by the new white and black marble tiles



In the evening, the Governor Maxim G. Reshetnikov had invited Anna V. Gromova, Margarita and Peter Stegnyy, Sergei Mironenko, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, to the annual Stroganov Award ceremony, taking place in the Organ Hall of Perm Regional Philharmonic. The award is given for outstanding achievements of Perm people, famous for their good deeds to their native land and its inhabitants.

A special award was given to Baroness Helene de Lyudingauzen (Elena Andreevna Stroganov), for the recovery of historical memory and justice, as well as noting all the best qualities of Elena as a worthy successor of Stroganov traditions. The award ceremony was accompanied by movies and artistic performances.

June 11 - Feast of All Saints in the Holy Trinity Cathedral



Sunday, June 11, on the feast day of All Saints, His Eminence Methodius, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur served Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Cathedral.



From archival documents, it is known that in August 1842 Permian Gradsckij society on the proposal merchant 2nd guild Yegor Ivanovich Shavkunova wished to erect on Sludka hill a three-altar church with two aisles. Y.I. Shavkunov took the main costs associated with the construction. The construction was completed by his son Petr Egorovich Shavkunov.

In 1849 one of the chapels of the church was consecrated in the name of the Great Martyr St. George. South chapel was consecrated on 21 (9) of June 1850 in the name of St. Elijah the prophet. November 1 (October 20) 1857 was consecrated the high altar in the name of Holy Life-Giving Trinity.

February 28, 1944, on the decision the Holy Trinity Church on Sludka was transferred back to the Russian Orthodox Church, and on 25 May re-consecrated by Bishop Alexander (Tolstopyatov) and became the main church of the Perm diocese. For a long time, in the entire city of Perm, with a million people, there was officially only this Church.

In 2004 internal and external repair and restoration works was initiated.

After the service, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur greeted the participants of the V International Interregional Public Forum "Elisabeth legacy today 2017. Moscow-Perm", its organizer Anna V. Gromov, and Paul E. Kulikovskiy.



In memory of Hendrikova and Schneider

After lunch, it was time for a sightseeing tour of Perm, visiting historical sights and museums related to the Romanov family.

The main event became the territory of the Yegoshikha Cemetery, where Catherine A. Schneider (a tutor at the court) and Anastasia Hendrikova (Lady-in-waiting at the court) were killed on September 4, 1918.

The bodies of Hendrikova and Schneider were recovered by the White Army in May 1919, and were reburied in the Yegoshikha Cemetery. However, their graves were destroyed when the Bolsheviks regained control of the city and their final resting place remains unknown.

Church of the Assumption of Our Lady

On the territory of the cemetery there are two churches. The first we visited was the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady.



On the place of an existing church in 1784 a new wooden church was built, but already in the 1820-ies it was in decay. Therefore, in the autumn of 1823 it was decided to erect a new stone church, and it stood completed in 1832.

By decision of the Executive Committee of the Perm City Council on September 15, 1989 the building was handed over to the Russian Orthodox Church.

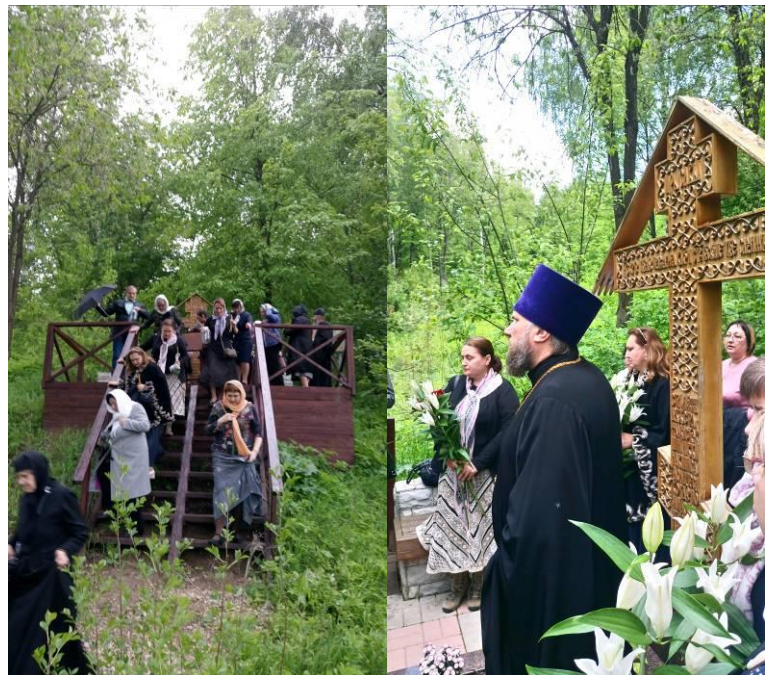
The church of the Assumption of the Mother of God was built rectangular. Refectory and the porch of the Church overlap with cross vaults, and the main building of the church is covered by arches of brick. Apse and quadrangular temple topped by onion domes and church bell tower - an octagonal tent canopy. The church is decorated with ornate columns, belts, zakomaras and innovative features.

A short walk from the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, is a small wooden plateau with a cross on, supposedly where Catherine A. Schneider and Anastasia Hendrikova were killed.

A prayer was held and white lilies were placed at the cross.

All Saints Church

The other church in the Yegoshikha Cemetery is the All Saints Church. The initiator of its construction was the Perm Mayor merchant of 1st guild Dmitry Emelianovich Smyshlyaev on 13 (1) November 1823. However, only in 1832 its first stone was laid and the construction ended December 11 (November 29) 1836.





The church is built in the style of Russian classicism of the beginning of XIX century, it has a rotunda with a large dome and north and south porticos. The bell tower is located on the west side of the main building and has a classic shape with elements of baroque. On the second floor above the porch another church placed, joined to the main church by a semicircular hole.

Church of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God

A smaller and newer church is the Church of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God, which was consecrated in October 25 (12) 1908. It is said that Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna prayed in this church while living in the convent next door.

The brick church was built in the estate of the Holy Dormition Convent. Architect of the project is not known, however, researchers have put forward different names including Yu. Skavrovsky, V.M. Vasnetsov or V.A. Pokrovsky. It is known that such artists as S.I. Vashkov (wood carved iconostasis sketches and utensils) and N.K. Roerich (icons for iconostasis, and most likely the majolica panels "Kazan Mother of God," on the east and the "Christ Pantocrator" on the northern facade of the church) worked on the interior the design of the church.

In 1918, all the buildings of the monastery were municipalized and in 1921 all the utensils, iconostasis and icons were transferred to Perm State Museum, and in 1922 transferred - to the newly established Art Gallery.

In 1974, it received the status of a monument of national importance. In 1985 the building was transferred to the balance of the regional museum, which began its restoration.

In 1995, the church was given a free use of the newly formed Holy Dormition Convent.

Church is square in plan with a semicircular apse and a basement, which is equipped with a crypt. Above the arched doorway forged metal hood on the brackets. In the same vein, the other decorated facades - a triple arched window south façade, apse with majolica image of the Kazan Mother of God in the curly frame made of limestone.





June 12 - Memorial Day of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich

The day of memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich is commemorated on June 12 in Perm. With the blessing of His Eminence Methodius, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur, moleben was first held in the Holy Trinity Monastery of Stefanov and then the traditional penitential procession started from there to the chapel of St. Prince Michael Tversky (this saint is revered as the heavenly patron of Michael Alexandrovich) in Chapaevsky area 7 km out of Perm city.

December 20, 1790, the wooden church in the name of the Most Holy Trinity in Perm was consecrated. Funds for the construction of the church were donated by the smelter workers. A quarter-century later, the wooden building of the church was in a dilapidated state.

Bishop of Perm and Yekaterinburg Justin gave the order on 22 December 1816 to build in Motovilikha a new stone church. The construction of its building followed the project of the provincial architect Vasilyev, and was financed at the expense of artisans and lasted until 1828. The consecration of the new church in the Holy Trinity Monastery of Stefanov was held 27 (15) March 1836. South chapel was dedicated to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and the North in honour of the Assumption of the Virgin. The building was decorated with carvings and innovative features and combined elements of ancient and Byzantine styles.

May 15, 1936 the Holy Trinity Cathedral was closed. All his priests were arrested and deported to the camps, where they died.

Restoration of the church began in 1994 and on December 3, 1994 in the chapel of the Assumption was the first service. December 4, 1999 the dome and cross were installed, belfry received the main bell weighing 1300 kg. April 26, 2000 the bell tower was crowned with a tent.









To the memorial service at the St. Prince Michael Tversky was brought the very heavy chains from Nyrob, with which had been held captured Michael Nikitich Romanov in 1601-1602, and now is a holy relic.



After the memorial service to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich participants of the Forum "Elizabeth legacy today. 2017" were invited to visit the museum "New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia."



Returning to the city, next visit was at Perm State Archive of Social and Political History, where the Forum participants could get acquaintance with materials and documents about the death of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. There were many documents related to the killers and other who was involved in the murder.



The last commemoration scheduled was at memorial plaque installed on the building of the former hotel "Korolov's Rooms", the last address of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. There the participants of the Forum, together with His Eminence Methodius, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur, laid flowers.





The former hotel "Korolov's Rooms" - built on money of merchant Vasili Ivanovich Korolov - on the Siberian street 5, is today at the disposal of the Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet, and has the status of a hostel.

In 2015, the premises were acknowledged unfit for habitation, and the building in an emergency state and subject to demolition or reconstruction. At the same time a state contract was signed with the engineering and construction firm "Finist" for the development of scientific and project documentation for restoration. Nothing was done. And in 2016 the Ministry of Culture has unilaterally terminated the contract. Work on the use of the building as a cultural object is complicated by the fact that the first floors are occupied by individuals and used for shops and salons.



The plan now, is to create a museum in memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. It is however unlikely that it will be a full-fledged museum. Perm historians acknowledge that there are none personal belongings of the Grand Duke in their museums and archives. Many of them were in the hands of the participants of the killing and events of that time, some have transferred to the museum. But since they at the time did not represent any ideological value, they were not properly accounted for and registered, finally they disappeared.

After 20 years in the hands of local lore was only one part of the Grand Duke toilet - a linen item. But it disappeared in 1941. The only hope is that some objects might still be in private collections.

The regional Ministry of Culture is preparing a proposal for the creation on the basis of "Imperial Rooms" at least two memorial rooms.

Videos - 1) <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1437583/>

2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1818238/>

3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFuiWat-UVg>

4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJVtU2YkGVM>



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

Meeting on the Yekaterinburg remains in the Patriarchal Residence in St. Daniel's monastery

June 14, 2017. The press service of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. In the Patriarchal residence in St. Daniel's Monastery in Moscow a meeting on establishing the identity of the Ekaterinburg remains was held under the chairmanship of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill. The meeting was attended by the delegation of the Russian Federation Investigative Committee headed by Chairman Aleksander Bastrykin, as well as members of the special church commission to study the results of the investigation of the remains found near Yekaterinburg, led by the Chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofy.

During the meeting Reports on the conduct of an expert examination in the criminal case was heard, prepared by representatives of the Investigative

Committee and the expert community.

The Russian Orthodox Church appreciates the objective nature of the investigation of the issue of establishing the authenticity of the remains found near Yekaterinburg.

Taking into account the desire of the Church to have a guarantee of exclusion errors in determining the origin of Yekaterinburg remains, the Investigative Committee appointed complex examinations, including historical, genetic, anthropological, aimed at identifying the victims undeniable.

Bishop Tikhon - Investigation of "Yekaterinburg remains" revealed a lot of new facts

June 15, TASS - Representatives of the Investigative Committee told Patriarch Kirill at a meeting in the Danilov Monastery on June 14 about the interim results of the identification of the remains, which presumably belong to the family members of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II. The meeting was attended by members of a special commission to study the patriarchal research results of the remains.

After the meeting in the Danilov Monastery, the vicar of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Bishop of Yegoryevsk Tikhon (Shevkunov) made a short interview.

- Bishop Tikhon, how was today's meeting, who took part in it, and what questions, in addition to the report of the Investigative Committee, were discussed?

- The meeting with His Holiness Patriarch was devoted to discussion of the interim results of the investigation of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation about the murder of the imperial family and of the results of the commission of the Moscow Patriarchate, studying the same subject in the framework of the task set by His Holiness the Patriarch. From 2015 we carried out a new study and previous expertise on the subject. Special focus was made on the most thorough historical examination. Both experts, historians and the Investigative Committee prepared questions to this research. The list of questions submitted to the Patriarchal Commission also by members of the public.



- Who are the members of the public submitted questions to the Commission?

- It is well-known researchers in his field: Leonid Bolotin, Anatoly Stepanov. They handed a list of questions to the patriarchal commission. These are very interesting subjects and issues. They were taken to the study, along with the rest.



- It is known that some members of the public, including mentioned historian and publicist Leonid Bolotin, adhere to the version that the Romanov family's remains do not exist and are not going to recognize the results of the examination, whatever they may be. As the church refers to the debate about the authenticity of the remains?

- The tasks of the Patriarchal Commission, the Secretary of which I am is not part of the recognition or non-recognition of the remains. The mandate given us by the Holy Patriarch, is to work together with the investigators to conduct an independent, objective and verifiable examination of the case on the murder of a family of saint martyrs and their faithful companions. Results of examinations - forensic, genetic, anthropological and historical and archival will be submitted to the judgment of the church.

Judgment on ecclesiastical reverence or disrespect "Yekaterinburg remains" as the holy relics authorized to make only the conciliar mind of the Orthodox Church. Prior to this, all other

judgments, of course, can take place, as research continues today and, therefore, continues a very important discussion. This can only be welcomed. In what form these opinions are expressed - the question, if I may say, to the genre of the same discussion: in Russia debate often takes place in a very categorical and severe forms. Nothing unusual in that I do not see.

- The meeting with the Patriarch took place behind closed doors, but it would at least you can in a general way to talk about its outcome?

- Interesting facts in the reports and statements, in the debate and presentations were so many that if they wanted in a short interview I can not retell it: meeting the Patriarch lasted about five hours. Now we simply have no right to disclose the secrecy of the investigation: all the experts allowed to put in our Code of Criminal Procedure and the subscription commitment.

But here, for the fact that it was after a meeting with the management and experts of the Investigative Committee, here I can tell you that might be of interest to all who are watching this topic. At the conclusion of the meeting it was proposed and agreed to request the Investigative Committee permission to publish the materials, in which the examination is completed. The Commission will also ask the RF IC assumptions for permanent and external experts prior to completion of the investigation to give interviews and comments on the issues and topics, to which answers have been received. We look forward to the consent of the Investigative Committee, and then it will be possible to organize a wide variety of forms of constructive discussion on new and previously held the facts and versions.

- Detect whether during the investigation, examination and investigations previously unknown facts, and when it will be possible to see the first publication of the examination results?

- Yes, I found. And a lot of them. This is all that can be said so far. If the resolution of the Investigative Committee is received, then the first publication you could see this summer.

Yekaterinburg Diocese want to rebury the remains of members of the Romanov dynasty



The Sverdlovsk region started to prepare for the visit of Patriarch Kirill, who will visit the region July 16-18, 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of the Romanov Imperial family. Yekaterinburg diocese have made several proposals, in particular, to rebury in Yekaterinburg the remains of the Romanovs, killed in Alapayevsk.

On June 6, Acting Sverdlovsk Governor Yevgeny Kuyvashev had a meeting with the working group on preparation of the visit of Patriarch Kirill. At the meeting, in particular, the proposals of the Yekaterinburg diocese were discussed. One of the most significant - the proposal to rebury in Yekaterinburg remains of members of the House of Romanov, killed July 18, 1918 in Alapayevsk. It is, in particular Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, and the Princes' Konstantin, John and Igor Konstantinovich.

In addition, to return the historical name Voznesensky Prospekt to the now named Karl Libkneht street, which leads to the Church-on-Blood. They also ask to give the diocese the property of the chapel and the land from the "Tsar's" Church on the Blood, and to allocate a plot of land next to the church for the construction of a training centre for Sunday school, singing choir Oktoikh and ensemble Sylyshki.

British Royal family are invited to Yekaterinburg for the century of the murder of Nicholas II and family

June 16, 2017, Interfax - Yekaterinburg Mayor Evgeny Roizman has sent an invitation to members of the British Royal family to attend events commemorating the centenary of the martyrdom of the Imperial family, which will be in 2018.

The invitation was delivered through the British ambassador in Russia Laurie Bristow.

"Inasmuch as the British and Russian crowns were bound by blood, Roizman conveyed through the ambassador an invitation to the members of the British Royal Family to attend the 'Royal Days' events in the Ural capital," reads a message on the mayor's site.

Interestingly, it was King George V of Britain himself, the cousin of Tsar Nicholas II, who denied asylum to the Russian Imperial family after the Mensheviks overthrew the Tsar. The Romanovs remained in Russia, going to their martyr end.

The meeting of the Ekaterinburg city head with the British representative took place in Ekaterinburg's Misha Brusilovsky Museum.



There will be many commemorative events connected with the execution of Tsar Nicholas II and his family throughout 2018 in the Sverdlovsk Region. An All-Russian pilgrimage route will be opened, bringing travellers to the Church on the Blood in Ekaterinburg, built over the spot of the Ipatiev House, where the family was martyred.

The "Royal Days" festival of Orthodox culture is an annual event timed to coincide with the date of the execution of the Imperial family in July 1918 in Ekaterinburg. The program begins in June, culminating in the procession in the night of July 17 from the Church on the Blood to the place where the family's holy relics were discarded in Ganina Yama, which gathers thousands of pilgrims from around the world. Members of the Imperial family, as well as Dr. Eugene Botkin, and three other servants accepted a martyr's death on the night of July 17, 1918 in the house of engineer Ipatiev in Eekaterinburg. The Royal Martyrs and their servants were canonized on November 1, 1981 by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and on August 20, 2000 by the Moscow Patriarchate.

The ROC is ready to engage in dialogue on the restoration of the monarchy in Russia

July 1 - RIA Novosti - Monarchical model of political system has many supporters among the Orthodox believers and the Russian Orthodox Church can participate in the discussion of the restoration of the monarchy in the country, when it will begin, said on Saturday the head of the Department for External Church Relations (DECR) of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan Volokolamsk Hilarion.



"Inside of the Church there are people, there are groups of people who advocate the restoration of the monarchy, and I think that if our society is ever ripe for discussion of this issue, the Church in this discussion will take an active part", - said Metropolitan Hilarion on the air program "Church and peace" on TV channel "Russia 24", answering the question of the moderator, to the statement of the Georgian Patriarch Ilia II about the possibility of the restoration of the monarchy in Georgia.

The head of the DECR noted that in this case, expresses his personal opinion, and recalled that the monarchical form of government, "the man anointed to the kingdom of priests" and "does not get a mandate from the voters to the board at any particular time, but receives a sanction from God through the Church to its rule, "which" is for a life as long as he does not hand over power to his heir. "

"This, of course, is the form of government, which positively established itself in the history of and which has many advantages compared to any elective forms of government", - said Metropolitan Hilarion.

He reminded that the Church is neutral with respect to any chosen people of government forms. "The Church refers to any government loyally as long as the power does not begin to call for actions that are contrary to Christian morality," - said the hierarchy.



Video - <http://www.vesti.ru/videos/show/vid/721816/cid/1/>

Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society celebrated its 135 years anniversary

June 2, 2017 in the Hall of Church Councils of Christ the Saviour in Moscow the assembly of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society and celebration of its 135th anniversary was held.



The Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society was established June 3, 1882 by decree of Emperor Alexander III on public initiative of government and church leaders and members of the House of Romanov. The first chairman of the Society was Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, and after his death the Society was headed by his wife Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

The society throughout its history have been carrying out humanitarian, educational, peacekeeping and scientific missions aimed at the preservation of spiritual ties between Russia and the Holy Land, the heritage of Russian Palestine, the strengthening of the Russian Orthodox presence in the biblical region, as well as the development of friendly relations with the countries and the peoples in the Middle East.

Historical traditions are preserved and multiplied in modern conditions, IOPS' activities are being successfully implemented in the Middle East. The society at present carries out humanitarian and educational projects, returns once lost Russian property, defends the rights of Christians, is engaged in pilgrimage, research and publishing activities.

The assembly was attended by 161 delegates from 38 regional offices in Russia and 27 delegates from 28 foreign branches, including from the CIS countries, Middle Eastern countries, the Mediterranean countries and the European Union.

The assembly started at 10:30, with reports on the work of the Council of IOPS for the period 2012-2017, auditors report, adoption of changes and amendments to the Charter of IOPS, and then elections, where Sergei V. Stepashin was re-elected as the President of IOPS.

In the presidium Stepashin was accompanied by the Patriarchal Vicar of the Moscow diocese, Metropolitan Krutitsy and Kolomna Juvenal.

Sergei V. Stepashin in his speech noted that the "Sergei House" in Jerusalem is returned to Russia and after restoration is re-opening on July 18. Now work is underway for the return of other facilities previously owned by the society, including the Elizabethan monastery. This year the Society will open monuments to Elizabeth Feodorovna in Perm and Alapaevsk.

The society is expanding to all regions of Russia with full-fledged branches and is also growing internationally, new branches in Jordan and in Bari (Italy) are the latest. There are now 21 foreign offices and one in England is in the plans.

In conclusion, Sergei Stepashin formulated the task of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society for the next five years: education, the return of sacred objects, work with youth, protection of Christianity and Christian values not only in the Middle East but also in Europe, including Russia.

Deputy Chairman of the IOPS Elena Agapova highlighted the most important aspects of the international activities of IOPS, the subject of protection of Middle Eastern Christians. She noted that our brothers in faith daily are exposed to the most brutal violence, persecution from the very cradle of Christianity. Christians are constantly exposed to massacres and other obscurantists, barbarians destroy shrines, churches, crosses and burned ancient manuscripts ... sought to turn into ashes unique monuments of ancient Palmyra. In the eyes of the whole world in the Holy Land there is the great tragedy of the great religion, a true genocide of Christians in Syria and Iraq.



Elena Agapova told that the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society for several years has raised its voice at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), where the society has a consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, as well as the OSCE, Council of Europe and UNESCO. We are actively doing everything possible to attract the world's attention to the tragic situation of Christians in the Middle East.



The next speaker, a member of the IOPS Council, Natalia Narochnitskaya gave her historical perspective, highlighting the major civilizational challenges facing humanity in recent years and which, one way or another, find themselves in the IOPS performance. In particular, the problem of the protection of Christian values, the Orthodox faith not only in the Middle East but throughout the world.

The head of the St. Petersburg branch of the IOPS, the general director of the State Hermitage Museum, a member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy

of Sciences Mikhail Piotrovsky noted that the IOPS has a wealth of experience that can be useful now. In our time, the deep academic research must be translated into a kind of knowledge, because not all people in the world know that the Middle East - is Christianity - and it is not a religion of minorities.

Ending the official part were a ceremony awarding individual members for their deeds through the last 5 years and last, but not least, was Paul E. Kulikovsky honoured with the acceptance of becoming a member of the IOPS.



Paul Kulikovsky then made a short speech:

*"Your Beatitude, respected Sergei Vadimovich, brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen!
I congratulate you with the 135 years anniversary since the society's establishment and its 25 years anniversary since its renaming back to an imperial society.*

*Many thanks for the honour of accepting me as a member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.
I am happy to join the Society, which my grandfather's grandfather Emperor Alexander III created, and in which many other of my relatives were members. For*

me it seems only natural to continue the family tradition and become a member.

It is a pleasure for me to join the many respected members in your - I may now say ours - activities, which I think are no less important today, than 135 years ago - maybe it is even more important now! I share the society's concern for the Christians in the Middle East and our orthodox heritage there. I think the IOPS has an important role to perform with its "soft power" and with its long history of coming to the Middle East, not with swords or missiles, but with culture and education.

Finally, let me take the opportunity to thank all those who have, or still are, contributing to the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. From Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Vasili Nicholaevich, to Sergei Vadimovich, Elena Alexandrovna and all of You - Many thanks"



At 15:00 started the grand celebration in honour of the 135th anniversary of the IOPS, with the arrival of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill; the chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan Volokolamskiy Hilarion; Chairman of the Financial and Economic Management of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan of Ryazan and Mihaylovskiy Mark; Chairman of the Synodal Committee for Cooperation with the Cossacks, Metropolitan of Stavropol and Nevinnomyssk Kirill; Metropolitan of Barnaul and Altayskiy Sergiy; Bishop Podolskiy Tihon; head of the Moscow Patriarchate by foreign institutions Bishop Bogorodsky; Archpriest Nikolai Balashov; the Russian Minister of Culture V. R. Medinsky; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the IOPS, Chairman and President of PJSC "Transneft" N.P. Tokarev; the Minister of tourism and antiquities of the State of Palestine Rula Maya; representative of the Patriarch of Antioch and All East at the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan Niphon (Sayqal); Heads of the Fund Ludvig Nobel, Anna Yakovleva and Eugene Lukoshkov; Hero of Russia, cosmonaut S. A. Volkov, and many public figures, friends and partners of the Society.

Stepashin welcomed the audience and read out greetings from President V.V. Putin and Prime Minister D.A. Medvedev.

There was also shown a video greeting from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia S.V. Lavrov.



The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill addressed the participants of the meeting.

Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkuD3aVmgh0>

As a gift to the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society His Holiness gave a copy of the painting by G.I. Semiradsky "Christ with Martha and Mary."

Stepashin thanked His Holiness the Patriarch for participating in the ceremony and presented a painting to His Holiness, "Holy Sepulcher", created by Anastasia Artemova, a student of the Moscow Academic Art Institute.

The Deputy Chairman of the IOPS, and representative in the Holy Land I.R. Ashurbeyli donated to the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society relics of St. Queen Helena.

The heads of the Fund Ludvig Nobel presented a framed lithography showing Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Maria Feodorovna, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, Emperor Alexander III, Grand duke Vladimir Alexandrovich and Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich.

Then followed a concert with different artists, including Yuri Rozum.

Ending the celebration, a gala reception was held in the refectory of Christ the Savior.



Bust of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich unveiled in Moscow region



June 8, 2017 a bust of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was unveiled and consecrated in St. Nicholas Berlyukovsky Monastery on the Romanov's Walk of Fame.

The event was held within the framework of the joint project of Nicholas Berlyukovsky Monastery of the Moscow diocese, the charity fund "Revival of Cultural Heritage", the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society and the "Russian Alley of Glory".

During the last six years in the monastery eight monuments of Romanovs: Emperors Alexander I, Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicolas I, Nicholas II, Paul I, Tsarevich Alexei Nikolayevich and Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich has been opened and consecrated. All of the monuments on the Romanov Walk of Fame made by the sculptor Alexander Alexeevich Apollonov.

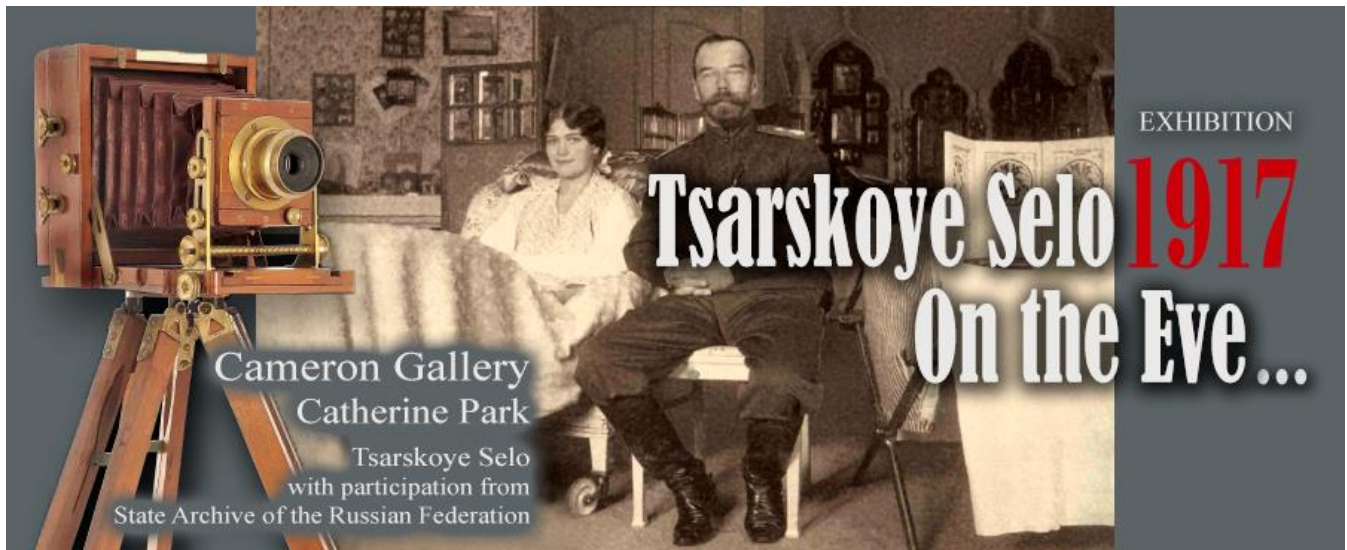
Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergei Vadimovich Stepashin with a delegation of IOPS members arrived to the celebrations connected with the opening and consecration of the monument.

In the main cathedral of the monastery Christ the Savior a requiem service for the repose of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was led by Bishop Roman of Serpukhov.

After the service, the consecration of the monument to Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was held. The right to solemnly remove the veil was granted to S. V. Stepashin and A. N. Panin. To the foot of the monument several bouquets and baskets of flowers were laid. Bishop Roman made consecration of the monument.

On a large granite, memorial plaque are engraved the words of the editor of the newspaper "Moscow News", Vladimir A. Gringmut about the death of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich - "We did not protect the person whom us, Russians, he served as an example of integrity and steadfastness of their true beliefs, selfless loyalty to the ideals of the Emperor Alexander III. Dutifully Russian Grand Duke, he did not go to any compromises with the enemies of Russia, and that is why they are just focused on him his hellish malice, seeing him as a reliable ally Russian Tsar."





The exhibition "Tsarskoye Selo. 1917. on the eve ... "

The museum-reserve "Tsarskoye Selo" opened the exhibition of "Tsarskoye Selo. On the eve of 1917...", in the Cameron Gallery. The exhibition reflects the turning points: the life of the last Russian Emperor's family under arrest in the Alexander Palace, and the establishment of the Imperial residence of the museum.



The exhibition tells about the life of the residence of Tsarskoye Selo in February and October 1917, in the period between the two revolutions. This is the time when one era finishes - monarchical - and a new one starts, full of revolutionary upheavals. Residence in Tsarskoye Selo still exists, but has lost its

Imperial status. The Last Russian Emperor and his family lived in the Alexander Palace as citizens arrested by the Provisional Government Romanov. In spring 1917 the Kunsthistorisches Commission organized in the Imperial Palace in Tsarskoye Selo inventory of nationalized property and the creation of a museum in the former residence.



The exhibition presents the material of art-historical commission, photographs, works of art and decoration of the Catherine and Alexander Palaces, "witnesses" of the events of 1917, as well as memorabilia of the Imperial family.

In the section devoted to the Imperial Russia, you can see full dresses of crowned owners of Tsarskoye Selo, uniforms, personal belongings and letters, as well as newsreels beginning of XX century, in which one of the personal cameramen of Nicholas II, Alexander Yagelsky, captures significant events in the life of the Court.

The tragic pages of the abdication of Nicholas II and the arrest of the Royal family illustrates the unique materials from the collections of the State Archive of the Russian Federation - acts of renunciation, the Provisional Government meetings magazine (at the exhibition presented in a digital format). Photos are also included in the exhibition, which will tell about family life during its arrest at the Alexander Palace.

Already before the Emperor left, in May 1917, order was given to create artistic and historical commissions to work in suburban palaces "for receiving, registering and organizing both from an artistic and business sides of all movable and immovable property of the former palace administration".

The Commission in Tsarskoye Selo was headed by architect George Lukomsky. The main task of the commission - drawing up inventories of new additions (on the basis of the documents from 1860s and 1910s), which in fact became the first museum inventory books and catalogues. An important part of this

large-scale and extremely time-consuming work was to create pictures of the most valuable objects and interiors of the palace. In 1917, the photographer Andrew Zeest made colour photographs of the interiors of the Catherine Palace, and after the departure of Nicholas II's family into exile - the personal rooms of the former owners in the Alexander Palace.



Visitors can see, the new inventory and inventory cards designed by Kunsthistorisches Commission; autochromes of Andrew Zeesta; and drawings showing the placement of furniture and objects in the residential part of the Alexander Palace.



One section is dedicated to the evacuation of the museum treasures to Moscow in the autumn 1917. In connection with the coming of the German troops in Petrograd on the orders of the Provisional Government, the most significant items of the Tsarskoye Selo Assembly in September-October 1917 were sent to the Moscow Kremlin, where they were stored for five years.

Art historian Alexander Benua gave a fair assessment of the work of art-historical commission: "All of us have witnessed the amazing phenomenon that the most critical moments of the Russian Revolution took place almost without prejudice to the historical and artistic monuments ... We are again able to visit the Tsarskoye Selo, Pavlovsk, Gatchina, Oranienbaum and Peterhof and enjoy all their beauty, as if nothing had happened, knowing that the best and most interesting side of the disappeared were imprinted and for us and for future generations."

The work carried out by the Commission under the leadership of George Lukomsky allowed June 9, 1918 to open to the Catherine Palace to the public, and on June 23 - the staterooms Alexander Palace and the pavilions "Hermitage", "Admiralty", "Concert Hall", "Arsenal" and others. The former Imperial residence became museums.

A catalogue was published for the opening of exhibition.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/180810/

See also the old video of the visitors to Alexander Palace in 1918 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSn_tCHxuMo



Back to basics: the granddaughter of Felix Yusupov met with the actor Vladimir Koshevoi

Yusupov Palace, as it is known, was acquired by Boris Nikolaevich Yusupov for 250 thousand Roubles in notes in 1830. And five generations of the family lived there until 1917. It is fair to say that in addition to the Yusupov Palace on the Moika was another 56 palaces throughout Russia.

Revolution messed things up. The family left the country to return to their ancestral homeland in the XXI century. In St. Petersburg, the Princess Xenia Yusupova met with actor Vladimir Koshevoi. He will perform the role of Felix Yusupov - the grandfather of the famous Princess - in a performance that will be shown in the home theatre of the Yusupov Palace.

She lives in Athens and considers herself a Greek, although she is a direct descendant of the Yusupov, Sheremetev and Romanov. It is not surprising that the arrival in the ancestral home is always an important event for her. But this time the journey through the Yusupov Palace on the Moika was especially exciting. Because Xenia Nikolaevna came with her daughter and granddaughters, and because she saw not just the fine restored mansion and the house. But in a way, she saw the beloved grandfather Felix Yusupov.

Xenia Nikolaevna: - "For 9 years I did not come. Not because I did not want. Life is so evolved. It was painful to me. I love to come to St. Petersburg and Yusupov House."

Surprise for Xenia Nikolayevna was the meeting with Vladimir Koshevoi, who twice had the opportunity to play Felix Yusupov - in the movie "Conspiracy" and the TV series about the life and fate of Grigoriy Rasputin.

This Fall Koshevoi again have to return to the image of the legendary Prince - this time at the theatre at the Yusupov Palace. So, the actor tried to learn firsthand more about Yusupov.



Vladimir Koshevoy, actor - "I think we have a mystical relationship with Felix. I am very pleased that she said in my ear, that we have very similar eyes. And I know you're very kind, Xenia Nikolaevna said."

It is in this - the good, impractical, direct, like a child, a man has an inner beauty - Felix Yusupov appeared in Xenia' Nikolaevna story about him.

Xenia Nikolaevna - "He always said the good that we have, it's good that we give".

Granddaughter of Felix Yusupov knows that a lot of mystery in history, who may never be disclosed. Her famous grandfather did not talk about that December night in 1916, when he killed Rasputin.

Xenia Nikolaevna - "As someone who was wonderful, could he do it? Third - maybe it's not him. Fourth - maybe, we'll see. But I adore him".

It remains to wait for the winter and see a play about Felix Yusupov. Xenia Nikolaevna is going to be at the premiere.

Video - <https://topspb.tv/news/2017/06/27/vozvrashenie-k-istokam-vnuchka-feliksa-yusupova-vstretilas-ispolnitelem-rol-i-velikogo-knyazya-vladimirom-koshevym/>

Monument to Emperor Peter the Great opened in Liege

June 21st in the centre of Liège, the opening ceremony of the monument to the Russian Emperor Peter the Great was held.



Installation of the monument was a joint initiative of the regional authorities and the Peter the Great's Fund, which was implemented with the assistance of the Russian Embassy in Belgium, Rossotrudnichestvo, "Gazprom", "Lukoil" and other organizations.

The chairman of the Belgian "Peter the Great Foundation" Valeriy Dvoynikov, this event is timed to the 300th anniversary of the second big tour of Peter in Europe, which took place in 1717 and took place on the territory of Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands (which owned most of the present-day Belgium) and France.

At the opening ceremony, the Russian Ambassador in Belgium Alexander Tokovinin said: "In June 1717 almost to the day 300 years ago, the Russian Emperor arrived in Liege from Namur, after crossed Prussia, France and the Netherlands. This trip marked the entry of Russia into European politics as one of the leading players".

"Today we were able to complete this project which has received broad support of the city authorities of Liege This monument will be a perpetual reminder of the origins of friendship between Russia and Belgium. History should serve us not only a lesson, but also as an example for the future".

Deputy Mayor of Brussels Pierre Strassar said: "Peter the Great' second trip to Europe was a vector of peace and friendship between Europe and Russia, which is forever an integral part of European civilization."

The bronze statue of Peter I in the three-cornered hat, with a sword, holding his right hand over his heart, made by Alexander Taratynov is 2.4 meters in height.



Videos - 1) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/118397>

2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1824059/>

The "manipulated" documentary about Emperor Alexander I and Saint Feodor Kuzmich

The documentary film "War and Peace Alexander I. Blessed Elder. Who is he?" was sent on TV Russia 1, in the night between June 18/19, at 00:30. The 52 minutes documentary was made in 2016, but premiered only now, and very late at night (It was even shown one hour later than the programmed time). It is made by Elena Chavchevadze, with support of the St. Basil the Great Fund.

The film is said to be devoted to the study of the Siberian elder Feodor Kuzmich and the question is - Was he Emperor Alexander I? However it was not really a study, but more like a presentation of all the "signs" of why Feodor Kuzmich was indeed Emperor Alexander I.



In the documentary participated Paul Kulikovsky, however his position - that it is just a legend - was not presented, and in fact his words were cut and manipulated in the translation from English to Russian to show that members of the Imperial family, in this case specified by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, believed that this legend to be true. This is in itself a falsification, which was clearly mentioned by Kulikovsky in the recording of the documentary, but it was not mentioned in the final version of the documentary.

The proof of this was supposedly an icon of Feodor Kuzmich placed next to the portrait of her father, Emperor Alexander III, in Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna' house in Canada, which was claimed by one person that his father saw and told about. Even after Kulikovsky provided proof by photos of there was no icons at all of Feodor Kuzmich, the documentary still claimed it to be true.

You can see the documentary here - https://russia.tv/brand/show/brand_id/61971

Paul Kulikovsky in the recording to the documentary said the following (which was not included):

I do not believe in the legend

I have heard about the legend that the elder Feodor Kuzmich is said to be Emperor Alexander I, however I think it is just that - a legend. I think there is no evidence that prove this is more than a legend. Some people and even historians are questioning Emperor Alexander I's death and his burial, trying to say that he did not die, that it was all arranged by himself. They say that he was tired of ruling Russia, felt remorse about his father's death, and that was the reasons why he wanted to leave his Royal life. Maybe he had these reasons to leave this life, but that does not make him into Feodor Kuzmich.

And anyhow I do not believe he even considered this "kind of abdication". Alexander I was very dedicated to his service to Russia and proved this during the long war with Napoleon. He was not a quitter, not even at the most difficult time in his life. I believe he died in 1825 in Taganrog.

It is also claimed that Alexander I's tomb in the necropolis of the Romanovs, in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul is empty. But it was also said that the tomb of Emperor Alexander III had been already opened many times and last year we learned it was not true.



I would like to know the truth about my relatives. So, should there be any evidence provided in the future that Feodor Kuzmich was indeed Emperor Alexander I, I will be happy to change my position.

Romanovs and the legend

It has been said that the Romanovs believed that Feodor Kuzmich was Alexander I, but they kept it a secret. I see it differently - They did not believe the legend and because of that they did not talk about it. Why should they?

After the death of Feodor Kuzmich in 1864, Semyon Khromov (A merchant from Tomsk, in whose house Feodor lived) went from Tomsk to St. Petersburg, and wanted an audience with Alexander II, claiming he had things that belonged to Alexander I. Alexander II refused to meet him. When Alexander III became Emperor, Khromov tried once more. Alexander III said he did not believe Feodor Kuzmich was Alexander I, but if he really believed the items belonged to Alexander I, then he should hand over the items and now they are in the State Archives.

Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich, a contemporary to Emperor Nicholas II, was an eminent historian, wrote several books about Alexander I and got very interested in this legend. However, after his investigation he published his research in a book in 1907 and concluded that the story is a legend. I might remind that he had unlimited access to all archives, including the private Romanov archives, and made investigations in Tomsk. I think his conclusion in this case must be considered one of the most important.

There are also people who claims that my Great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of Nicholas II, have said she believed in the legend. That I find very difficult to believe. She never said she believed the legend to her family and neither did her two sons Tikhon and Guri, or for that matter any of her other descendants, including me.

There are several books written about Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, many of her letters have survived, and so has some of her diaries, and none of them even mention Feodor Kuzmich.

I also think it is strange that if people thinks this was kept a secret in the Romanov family, why on earth would Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna tell an outsider?

I think people are making up stories to support this legend in lack of evidence and unfortunately the name of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna is being misused in connection with this case.

Should the legend be stopped?

One could ask if this legend should be stopped and if so, how? I kind of like legends, as they keep the memories of these persons alive by attracting attention to them and spread the story to new people. It's like the legend of Grand Duchess Anastasia, the daughter of Emperor Nicholas II, which tells she survived the awful killing of her family in Ipatiev house in Ekaterinburg. I have never believed in it, but I still like the old movie with Ingrid Bergman and the recent animation that were made about her. As modern fairytales they attract a lot of people to be interested in the Romanovs and then they will also become interested in the more serious questions - Like, why are the remains of the Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria not yet buried?

So, I am not all against this legend, even when I do not in believe it. If people want to believe, then it is their choice. If the legend continues then let it. Just do not put false words in the mouth of members of my family.

If someone wants to close this question, then I think a DNA test could be one way to go. However, I doubt it will happen, as I understand that the people who likes this legend, do not believe in modern science, as it is the same people who do not believe in the DNA results in the case of the remains of Emperor Nicholas II and his family. I am afraid, if a DNA test will not show a result to their liking, then they will claim it to be wrong.

I do believe that Emperor Alexander I is in his tomb in St. Peter and Paul, but would not be happy if his eternal peace is to be disturbed. And with the legend in mind, if there are remains in the tomb, believers in the legend will anyhow say it is not those of Emperor Alexander I, so why open it at all.

However, to open the tomb is not necessary, there are remains from Alexander I in various archives. Pieces of his hair can be found in the State Hermitage and in the State Archives, and I have been told that it is difficult, but possible, to extract DNA from hair.

And even that may not be needed, as DNA samples of Romanovs already exist.

So, the only remaining question is the remains of Feodor Kuzmich - is it actually his remains that is in his tomb and can any DNA be extracted from it?

Once there is DNA samples from Feodor Kuzmich it will be easy to compared it with male Romanov descendants, to see if he is related, as according to the scientists, the straight-line male Romanov descendants has a very special DNA. It will of course not confirm exactly who he is - if he is Alexander I - but it tells if he is a Romanov relative. That for me will be the end of this story.

Plaque commemorating Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich unveiled

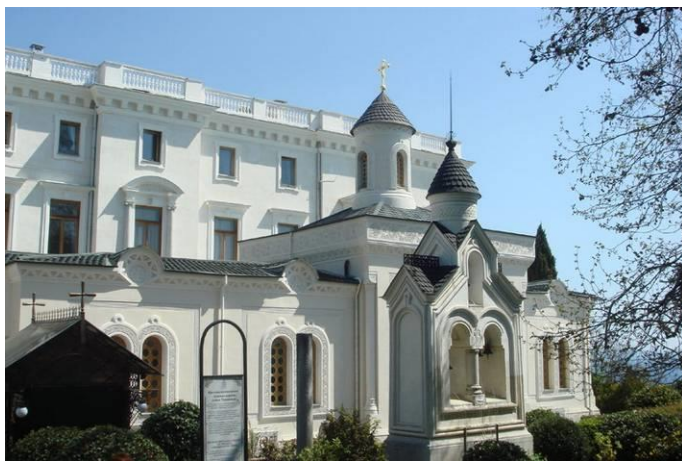
In a solemn ceremony on June 20, a plaque to Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich was opened on the facade of the Museum of history of the city. Opening of the plaque was preceded by procession from the Cathedral Odigitrievsky. Mayor of Ulan-Ude participated in the event, congratulating the participants with the important event.



Museum in memory of the family of Emperor Nicholas II opened in Livadia

On June 18, in the Holy Cross palace church of the Romanov family in Livadia (Crimea) with the active support of Taurian seminary was established a "Drevlekhranilishche", a museum in memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs.

The collection of the museum includes original photos of Emperor Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicholas II, Empresses, grand dukes and the clergy, state seal of Emperor Paul I in a silver ark award the Grand Duke Nicholas after the defense of Sevastopol - the Order of St. George, gold and silver lapel medal of St. George Cross. In the exhibition can also be seen autograph of confessor of Emperor Nicholas II, large silver and bronze table medals for the coronations, marriages and death of Russian monarchs.



According to the website of the Diocese of Simferopol, the basic principles of activity of the museum will be the scientific formulation of the case and demonstration of original antiquities. Particular attention is paid to the organizers of the narrative of the confessor of St. Martyr Tsar Nicholas II, as well as the military and sea clergy.

ОТКРЫТИЕ
**18/VI
2017**

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ДРЕВЛЕХРАНИЛИЩЕ МУЗЕЙ

ПАМЯТИ СЕМЬИ ИМПЕРАТОРА НИКОЛАЯ II

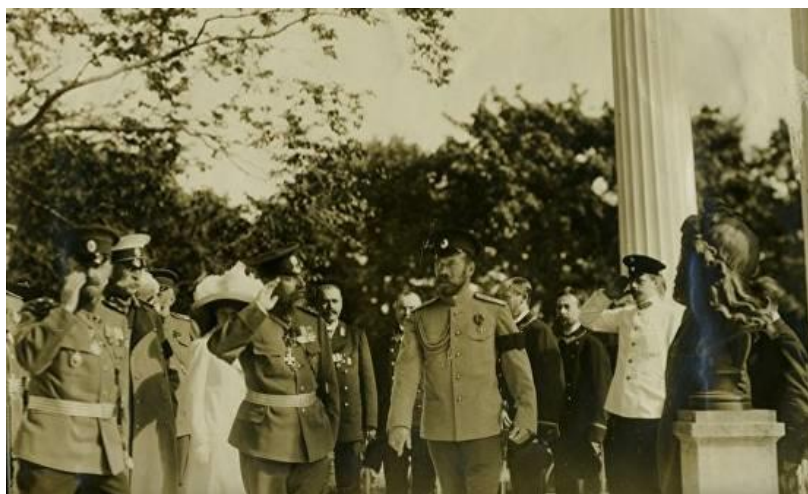
В коллекции музея подлинные материалы следственного дела по убийству Царской семьи и фотографии Государей Александра II, Александра III, Николая II, Императрицы, Великих князей и их духовников, государственная печать Императора Павла I в серебряном ковчеге, награда за оборону Севастополя Великого князя Николая Николаевича — ордена св. Георгия, золотые и серебряные натурные медали, Георгиевские кресты, автограф духовника Государя Николая II, большие серебряные и бронзовые настольные медали на коронацию, бракосочетание и кончину российских монархов.

Основные принципы деятельности музея: научная постановка дела и демонстрация оригинальных предметов старины.



On an interim basis, the exhibits will be placed in the Holy Cross Church of the palace. It is planned to transfer the museum exhibitions to the basement of the Ascension Church in Livadia (to be recreated) for permanent placement.

The opening of the museum exhibition was held June 18 and was attended by the head of Yalta administration Andrey Rostenko, Secretary of the Simferopol and Crimean Diocese, Archpriest Alexander Yakushechkin, rector of Holy Cross Palace Church, Archpriest Dmitry Gotskalyuk, Svetlana Sidorova, head of the Tyumen educational museum association, Gregory Manevitch from the Elizabeth-Sergei educational society, as well as representatives of the clergy, business and the scientific community.



Yakushechkin read out the welcome speech of Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimea Lazar, who in his address noted the special importance of the exposition for the education of moral values in the younger generation, and expressed confidence that "the museum visitors through photographs and museum exhibits will have an opportunity at least to a small extent to imagine through some bitter experiences and suffering Royal Martyrs had to go in the last century."

One of the organisers, Constantine Kapkov said in turn that the exhibits, in particular, includes personal photo albums of Emperor Nicholas II, letters of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - the sister of the Emperor, typed memories of the last confessor of the Emperor - Archpriest Athanasius Belyaev, who was shot in 1918, as well as coronation medals."

Video - <http://crimea-news.com/society/2017/06/18/299299.html>



Birthday anniversary of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna celebrated in Ramon

To celebrate the 135-year birthday anniversary of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, on June 13, in Ramon, Voronezh region, the Oldenburg Society gathered in the "Museum of Oldenburg", located in the All-Russian Research Institute of Plant Protection of Ramon District. There one of the rooms is allocated to the museum and it contains many photos of the people and places in Ramon related to the Oldenburg family.

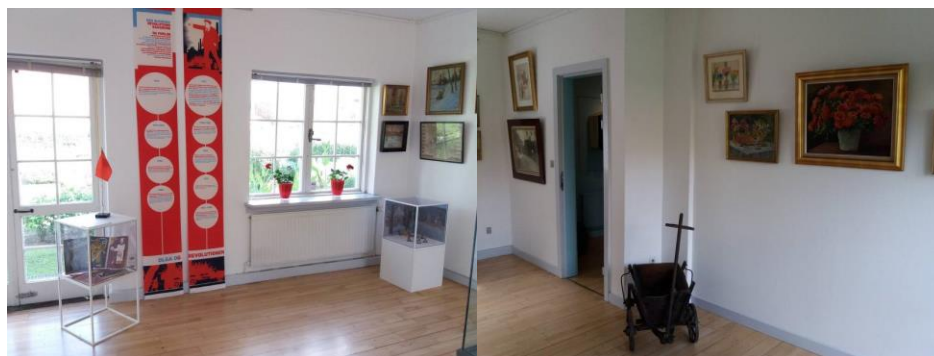
A special guest was the doll maker Natalia Skripnikova - who has made dolls of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and Prince Peter of Oldenburg - and she received a diploma from the Russian Nobility Assembly and the Voronezh provincial Noble Assembly for her personal contribution to the restoration of historical justice and education.



"Olga and the revolution"

On the 100 years anniversary of the tragic event in Russia and celebrating the 135 years since the birth of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the Ballerup Egnsmuseum in Denmark organised a small exhibition.

It shows a timeline of the events complemented with items, mainly paintings by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna made both in Russia and in exile, in Denmark and Canada.



"Luxurious' Imperial Holiday in the village Lokot

On June 11-12th a festival dedicated to the former owner of the Brasovo estate Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, brother of Emperor Nicholas II was in the Bryansk region, in the village Lokot. The celebrations were preceded by the traditional religious procession from the monastery Ploschansky Monastery and prayer in the church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors Russian.

In 2017, Russia remembers the events of a century ago. To the Bolsheviks and their leader Gennady Zyuganov the revolution of 1917 is now considered a holiday, but for the majority of Russian people - a tragedy that claimed the lives of tens of millions of people. A resident of the village Lokot Vladimir Zhuravkov told "Bryansk news" - "My grandfather was sent to the construction of the White Sea-Baltic Canal only because he had three cows. He loved animals and it saved his life - at the construction site he was assigned to look after the horses. During the day he worked, and at three o'clock in the night he got up and took out the corpses on a cart. They were promised Communist paradise - and this was how turned out their paradise, he said."

The regional festival "In the shadow of Brasovo Lanes" is dedicated to the House of Romanov. On the site of what used to be the park of the Brasova estate was musical and theatrical performance, telling about the happiest days in the life of Grand Duke Michael and Countess Natalia Brasova, and the tragic events of Russian history a century ago.



"Romanovs" on Moscow metro wagons

On the Moscow Metro line Serpukhovsko-Timiryazevskaya there are wagons with the image of Romanovs.

This is a part of a new metro theme "Russia - My history" - a joint project of the Moscow Metro, the city Department of Transportation and the Russian Military Historical Society, with the support of the Ministry of Culture.

"Themed wagons are intended to remind passengers of the greatness of our country and its important role in world history. Statements of famous people are to help passengers to look at the history of Russia from a new angle, and at the same time will show lessons of countrymen. Each statement or aphorism, is used in the design of cars, artistically illustrated", - said Deputy Head of the Moscow Metro Communications Aleksey Ilinykh.





Bust of Emperor Alexander III unveiled at Massandra Palace

Minister of Culture of Crimea Arina Novoselsk and the head of Yalta city administration Andrei Rostenko in Massandra Palace Museum opened a bust of Alexander III on 1 June.

The solemn opening ceremony of the monument took place as part of the festive event "Massandra Palace: from Royal residence to the present day" timed to the 25th anniversary since the beginning of Massandra palace as a museum.

In the welcoming speech, the Minister noted that the monument to the outstanding ruler of the Russian state, "The Tsar-Peacemaker" Alexander III opened in Massandra Palace - in the amazing and unique corner of Crimea, full of history, harmony and beauty for which it was created - but which, unfortunately, he did not see it in its final form.

"By opening this monument today, we pay tribute to Alexander III - a true son of his country, who gave Russia the peace inside and at the borders. Massandra Palace - is unique in its architecture and spiritual fullness of the place. We pay tribute to the author of this project- Maksimilian Egorovich Mesmaher, whose 175-year jubilee we are celebrating today"- said the Minister of Culture of Crimea.

Arina Novoselskaya also emphasized that exactly 25 years ago, it was decided to create a museum in the palace of Alexander III in Massandra, based on



the collection of exhibits from the collections of the Vorontsov Palace in Alupka and objects of the Crimean South Coast estates previously owned by members of the imperial family.

"Thanks to the hard work of our museum staff, our cultural heritage has been preserved and multiply, and the establishment is today one of the most visited tourist facilities in the Crimea. For us it is very important the fact that the preservation of our heritage attracts not only the professional museum community, but also concerned citizens of our country, including representatives of non-profit organizations ", - concluded the Minister.

The event was attended by the Director of Alupka Palace and Park Museum-Reserve Alexander Balinchenko, the great-grandson of the architect M.E. Messmacher Oleg Kondiain - who donated to the museum valuables that belonged to his ancestor, and photographs for the collection of the museum - representatives of the Foundation "Revival of cultural heritage" and the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.



Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimea Lazar made consecration of the monument.

In a slide show Massandra Palace was presented within the festive program: from the Royal residence until the present day. 25 years since the opening of the museum and a presentation of the film" The opening of Massandra Palace Museum June 1, 1992 ".

At the end there was a concert of the Chamber Orchestra of the Crimean State Philharmonic - "Musical

masterpieces of the chamber orchestra" (artistic director and chief conductor Denis Karlov, soloists Natalia Reshetova, Irina Borohovskaya, Nikolay Nazarov, Alex Zinchenko, Marina Gimán, and Arzy Medzhitova).

Massandra Palace was built in 1902 by the famous architect of the XIX century Maksimilian Egorovich Mesmaher. Foundation of the Palace was laid in 1880, when Massandra was owned by Count Semyon Mikhailovich Vorontsov, the owner of the estate in Alupka. He sold it to Emperor Alexander III, but it was not completed when he died in 1894 and the completion of the palace was done by Emperor Nicholas II, in the memory of his father, and kept the name - Alexander Palace.

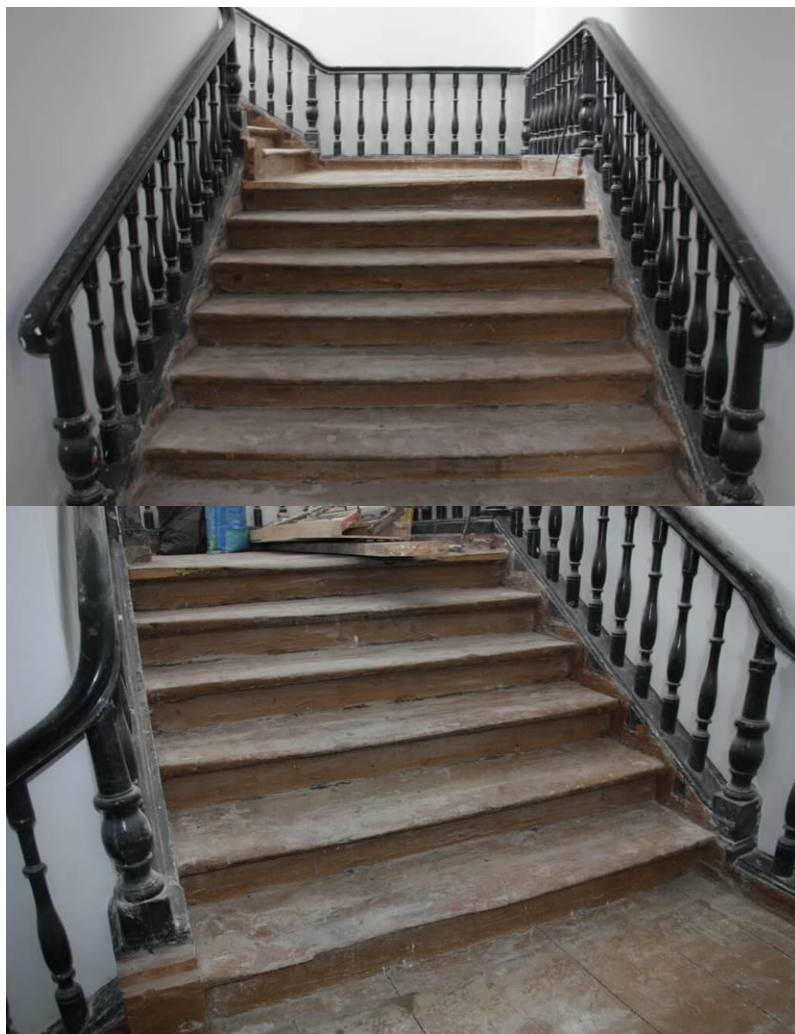


Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNF0k6f-qvI>

Original stairs found in the Governor-House in Tobolsk

Restoration project and creation of "the Memorial Museum of the Imperial family of Nicholas II" continues in the House of the Governor-General, located at Tobolsk, Mira Street, 10.

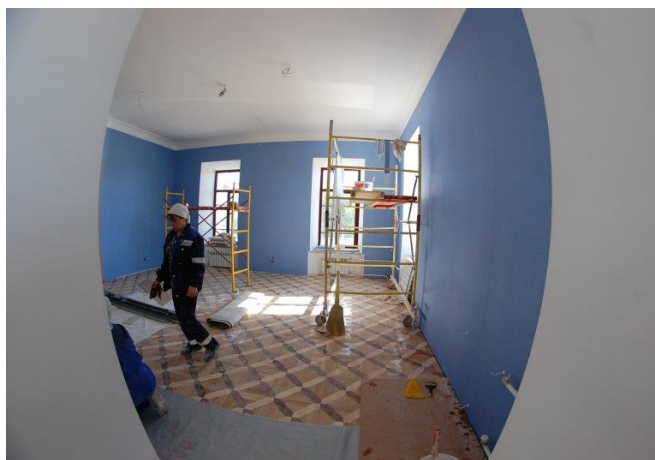
After the opening, which is scheduled for October-November 2017, visitors will be able to go up the stairs, on the boards which have been preserved since tsarist times.



"On these steps went the Royal Martyrs, and on a wooden sled was going Tsarevich Alexei. The baluster staircase survived almost 80%. They reveal to the visitor all the temporary layers to get a better feel of how many times they are updated. This discovery will make it possible for all Christians to find another Orthodox shrine," - said General Director Svetlana Sidorova.

The stair elements are preserved due to the fact that in Soviet times they were simply closed by adding new construction materials on top. And now to the joy of pilgrims, the work of restorers and builders it is a revitalization of the historical building.

The aim of the project is to perpetuate the memory of the stay of the family of the last Russian Emperor in Tobolsk. The House of the Governor-General - in the spiritual capital of Siberia - is the only surviving building in which Nicholas II's family stayed and spent the last months of their life in the spiritual unity. Therefore, it has a special value for Russia's cultural heritage, not only as a part of the future exposition of the museum, but also the place itself.



"In the study of Nicholas II and the great hall authentic marble window sills are restored. In addition, at the initial stage was detected a furnace heating system, which was also subjected to a restoration and as a result furnace and the furnace headset brought to its original view of the ".



Guests can go to the office of Nicholas II, which is restored based on surviving photographs. In the large hall, where the family spent a lot of time, will be recreated the iconostasis and put a piano. The red lounge of Alexandra and bedrooms will also appear in the building.

The wooden floor in the building is well preserved. It is not damaged by bugs and mole. Initially, the project includes a new parquet, but now this idea is abandoned. Restoration works are carried out with maximum preservation of authentic items.

According to first deputy director of the Tobolsk Architectural Museum Vladislava Dronov the Memorial Museum will not be fixated exclusively on the topic of the Royal family. The first floor will tell visitors about the revolutionary events and the citizens response to it. "Many tobolyaki supported the Imperial family, bringing food, going to the fence, took off their hats at the sight of the Emperor, who could be seen on the balcony, thereby showing respect and support" - she concluded.



Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7qGhio_cBo



Faberge exhibition in Yekaterinburg

On June 11, an exhibition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Museum of the History of stone-cutting and jewellery was opened in Yekaterinburg. Moscow Kremlin Museums congratulated its colleagues on the anniversary, with a joint project called "Carl Faberge and Alexey Denisov-Uralsky."

Attending the opening director of "Moscow Kremlin" Elena Gagarina said - "Not only Russian jewellery firms have used the product of the Ural stone-cutters, but also French jewellers have very actively used the works of masters of the Urals".



75 items of Faberge - a large part of the exhibits in one way or another connected with the Imperial family. For the first time an exhibition presents the cigarette case carved out of rhodonite and cufflinks with the monogram of Alexander III. They were created in 1891 by Yekaterinburg carvers.

A small salt-cellar was also cut from such a bright pink rhodonite, made at the Yekaterinburg lapidary factory in 1896 together with a rhodonite set for the rite of bread and salt to the Day of the Holy Coronation of Emperor Nicholas II. Subsequently, the dish was sold on the antiques market, but the salt cellar, fortunately preserved in the collection of the Moscow Kremlin Museums.



Another special piece is the last Easter egg made by Carl Faberge for the Imperial family - The Constellation Egg.

Supposed to be ready for Easter 1917, the egg was never finished due to the revolution. The egg, as it is known from a 1917 document, is made of blue glass with a crystal base, and the Leo sign of the zodiac is engraved on the glass. Tsarevich Alexei Nicholaevich was a Leo. There are stars that are marked by diamonds, and there is a clock mechanism inside the egg.

Also on display there are 29 products of masters and businesses of gold and silversmiths from the collection of the Museum of History of stone-cutting and jewellery in Ekaterinburg.



Videos - 1) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/178605

2) <http://www.obltv.ru/news/culture/bestsennaya-istoriya-v-ekaterinburge-otkrylas-vystavka-rabot-fabertzhe-i-denisova-uralskogo/>

3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOSrhwQVth4>



Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Tsarskoye Selo got seven items of the Raphael service

Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" got Three of the famous Raphael service Ikornitsa at the auction of the British auction house Tennants. Now in the museum's china collection - seven subjects of the most significant ceremonial ensemble of the late XIX - early XX century, made at the Imperial Porcelain Factory.



- Two years ago, we could not even dream we will become the owners of the whole set of items from the Raphael service. Of this magnificent ensemble, conceived and manufactured for Tsarskoye Selo, until recently they did not have a single product. Items from the Raphael service is rarely put up for auction. But it so happened that in recent years various auction houses put up one after the other, and we could not resist the temptation. We were lucky - we have won the bids and currently cup and saucer, plate and four Ikornitsa manufactured in different years are represented in our collection. Now we will look for new forms of porcelain masterpiece - said Deputy Director for Research of the State Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" Iraida Bott.

Ikornitsa – is tableware forms for oysters and seafood, served as an integral part of the table setting at the Russian court, since the XIX century. All three items are the outlines of a saucer with a conventional pen-cartouche-like shell - shape dictates the functionality of the object.

Traditionally decorated with ornamental objects and allegorical compositions based on Raphael Loggias consisting of arabesques, leafy garlands and images of mythological characters, located in the reserves and medallions.

According to the available brands on the bottom of the items made in gold and red colors, the Ikornitsa were made in 1900 and 1901.

Recall that in spring 2016 the museum's collection was expanded with a tea pair as a gift from the members of the Club of Friends. At the end of the same year the museum acquired at auction at Bonhams in London a dinner plate and one Ikornitsa.

Raphael service was made at the Imperial Porcelain Factory specifically for Tsarskoye Selo commissioned by Emperor Alexander III. Masters started to work in 1883, the ensemble of the project was developed under the leadership of the head the painting studio Leonard Schaufelberger. Every year, during the production of the service, new products were among the gifts for Christmas to the Emperors. Work on the service took 20 years. In 1903, the ensemble for 50 persons was fully prepared and kept in the storerooms of the



Serviznyh of Imperial Palace in the Palace Administration. A year later it was transferred to Anichkov Palace at the disposal of Empress Maria Feodorovna.

The set of seven items, which now has the museum-reserve "Tsarskoye Selo", allow to present a unique parade of porcelain set at exhibitions and in the halls of the Catherine Palace.



Tsarskoye Selo won a prize for a promotional video

Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" won the International Festival of audiovisual and multimedia products in the field of heritage FIAMP (Festival of Audiovisual International Multimedia Patrimony - F @ IMP 2.0) for creating a promo video for the Pavilion "Arsenal". The awarding ceremony was held at the Museum of Yana Amosa Comenius (Uhersky Brod, Czech Republic).

The Pavilion "Arsenal" Promo video tries to show it in a special romantic, chivalrous, medieval atmosphere. The creators of movie - young filmmakers - with director Aksinya Gogh. The music was written by composer Ivan Lubennikov. Film crew even spent casting for the role of a boy an adopted charming Oleg Chugunov.

Recall that in August 2016 the refurbished Pavilion "Arsenal" was opened for visitors, after more than seventy years in a dilapidated state.

Among the exhibited items (more than 400) - a famous picture of Horace Vernet "Tsarskoselskaya carousel", a bladed weapons collection, firearms XVIII-XIX centuries, and items of harness. Hermitage has provided from its collection for temporary storage rare exhibits, including the armour of the XVI century from the collection of Emperor Nicholas I, which once was in the Arsenal.



Watch the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jn6OdPZm2AQ>



Tsarskoye Selo acquired new exhibits for the martial chamber

Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" bought at auction items for the museum "Russia in the Great War" in the Martial Chamber. In August, there will be opened the third stage of the exposure. New sections will be devoted to the Caucasian front, Galicia operation, defence of the fortress of Osowiec, and updated the area dedicated to the Army and Navy.

At an auction by Carsten (Hamburg, Germany), the museum acquired the Order and the star of the Order of I degree Mecidiye. This is an order of the Ottoman Empire, established in 1852, by Sultan Abdul-Majid I.

This acquisition is a great success. Despite the



fact that the Order has five classes, of the first degree exist only a few. At the same time, this honourable award could wear only 50 people. We are pleased that the Martial Chamber visitors will be able to see such a rare thing, - says the custodian of the "Weapons" State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" Gleb Arlyuk.

The updated section dedicated to the Navy, was acquired at auction "Hermann Historica" a uniform of a British officer of the Navy (the 1900s, London). Prior to that, the museum was presented ceremonial uniforms of Nicholas II - English and German.

From the other European auction - Azur Enchères Cannes (Cannes, France) - two items: badge of a mine officer (Russia, the end of the XIX century) and a badge of an officer of scuba diving (Russia, the beginning of the XX century). These items also will be included in the section of the exhibition devoted to the fleet.



Mine officer class was created October 1, 1874 in Kronstadt as an educational institution, which trained experts-miners for the entire Navy of the Russian Empire. For the first six years of its existence 70 officers were prepared - specialists in mine case. During the First World War on the basis of Landmine class short courses for 36 officers were created in 1913 when it formed a school of radio technicians. In 1918, the Mine officer class, together with other similar classes and the officers' school was transformed into a class of compounds for the preparation of special commanders RKKF.

In 1906 Training Detachment diving was created. Graduates are awarded the title of diving officer and was given the right to wear a special chest "diving officer" sign. Sign of the end of the officer class diving approved by 26 January 1909. The Officers diving class recruited from 5 to 24 candidates per year. Just before World War I produced about 120 officers.



In addition to these items exposition «Russia in the Great War" Museum will join the Turkish military medal (1915), a sign on a hat with the words "for the difference in the Caucasus 1857-1859 '83rd Infantry Samursky His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich Regiment (1910), officer saber of the army of the Ottoman Empire in the sheath (the beginning of XX century), officer dagger of the army of the Ottoman Empire in a sheath (1916), Liaquat medal (the Ottoman Empire, the end of the XIX century), as well as photographs of the Grand Duke Nicholas Jr. (autographed, Tbilisi 1915-1917) and Nicholas II with the lower ranks parts in Headquarters (Mogilev, April 11, 1916).

In the last photo, purchased at auction, "Coins and Medals" (Moscow), Nicholas II is with the ranks of aviation detachment to guard the imperial residence. In the photo, there is Chief of Staff of the Supreme Commander of Infantry General Mihail Vasilevich Alekseev, the Minister of the Imperial Court and principalities Count Vladimir Borisovich Fredericks and the commander of the convoy Own Suites His Majesty, Major General Count Alexander Grabbe-Nikitin.



Nicholas II left memories of that day in his diary: "On April 11th. Monday. Wonderful day. After Mass went to the report. At 2:00 I went to Bykhov barracks, where at the regimental church in the birch grove I exchanged Easter greetings with the Cossacks and the lower ranks of all the parts in Moghilev - only 860 people. About 4 hours. Returned home and changed clothes, went up the river five miles away, and from there to the two-man team down. At 7 hours. Arrived George M [ihaylovich] detour armies of Western and Northern fronts. I engaged to tea in the afternoon".



Transfer of archive of the Romanov family

July 8 ceremonial transfer of the Romanov family archive to State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" will be held in the pavilion "Hall on the island". The archive includes more than 200 documents and photographs related to the crowned dynasty, and covers the period from mid-1860 to 1928. Sberbank provided the financial assistance.

In addition, at 12.00 a meeting of the Russian Ministry of Culture Board of Russia, chaired by Vladimir Medinsky will take place. The participants will discuss projects of Russian Ministry of Culture in the field of information, the concept of restoration industry reform, the prospects for the development of children's art schools and other issues. Programme also includes ceremony of departmental awards and signing an agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of Russia and Saint Petersburg State University.



Exhibition "Peter the Great. A Tsar in France, 1717" opened in Versailles Palace

On May 29 Vladimir Putin arrived in France. The head of state took part in the opening ceremony of the exhibition dedicated to the 300th anniversary of Peter the Great's trip to France, during which the two countries established diplomatic relations.

From 30 May to 24 September 2017, the Grand Trianon will feature the exhibition commemorating the tercentenary of the Russian Tsar's diplomatic visit to Paris and the surrounding area in May and June 1717. Thanks to an exceptional collaboration between the Palace of Versailles and the State Hermitage Museum, the exhibition presents more than 150 works - paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, tapestries, maps, medals, scientific instruments, books, and manuscripts – two-thirds of which belong to the prestigious museum in Saint Petersburg.



The exhibition traces this free-flowing journey step-by-step. Though ostensibly on an official visit, Peter I was an unpredictable force of nature who was largely a stranger to etiquette, flouting protocol on a number of occasions. His introduction to Louis XV in particular made a lasting impression: ignoring court ceremony, he lifted the seven-year-old child-king into his arms in a spontaneous gesture. We were able to retrace this voyage thanks in large part to the invaluable accounts of a number of memorialists, including Saint-Simon, the Marquis of Dangeau, and Jean Buvat. Though Peter's trip had political and economic objectives – such as an alliance with France against Sweden and the signing of a trade agreement - this reformist Tsar, the founder of modern Russia,

wanted above all to discover all that was most remarkable about France in order to adapt certain models to his Empire. During the two months, he spent in Paris under the Regency, his visits and discussions with the French influenced his thinking and shifted the direction of works he had initiated in Saint Petersburg and the surrounding area in 1703.



While in Paris, Peter went to the Academy of Sciences, of which he became an honorary member, the Observatory, and the National Mint, where a medal was struck in his honour. The Tsar also visited the Gobelins manufacture, which inspired the creation of a tapestry workshop in his new capital. He explored Parisian markets as a regular person, buying books as well as scientific and technical instruments. And as the result of exchange of prestigious diplomatic gifts Peter the Great received four tapestries based on the work of Jouvenet, now housed at the State Hermitage Museum.

The exhibition also highlights the Tsar's relations with French artists. Indeed, as early as 1716, he attracted several masters to the Saint Petersburg court, including Louis Caravaque (1684-1754), the architect Jean- Baptiste Le Blond (1679-1719), and ornamental sculptor Nicolas Pineau. During Peter's stay in France in 1717, two famous artists, Jean-Marc Nattier (1685-1766) and Jean-Baptiste Oudry (1686-1755), painted his portrait.

A warrior Monarch who enjoyed travelling, Peter the Great criss-crossed the globe for close to four decades, from the White Sea to the Caspian Sea, from the Netherlands to Moldova, from England to Persia. In the view of posterity, this extraordinary figure became one of his country's most consequential Monarchs, the creator of a new Russia.

Video - 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W2RblnYHGI>

2) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2892968>

3) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2893392>

4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbvUsYvpdCI>



Peterhof Museum presents Romanov exhibitions in Chinese provinces

June 11, 2017, the Peterhof Museum started showing 243 masterpieces of their collection dedicated to the Imperial House of Romanov in China. This is their first museum project with China.

The first part of the exhibition shows Chinese taste of Peter I. This includes painting by Dutch and Flemish artists of the XVIII century on objects related to the sea and the trellis.

Throne chair of Empress Catherine II, dessert service of the dowry of Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna, the objects of the service of the banquet made specifically for Peterhof, church

utensils and other rarities, and a whole portrait gallery of the imperial house are shown on the background of a photo-creation of the interiors of the Big Peterhof Palace.



In addition to the external life of the inhabitants of Peterhof, the Chinese audience can get acquainted with their life. Among the exhibits are embroidery kits and dresses for walks, maps and sports articles, and writing sets.

"Rarities of the House of Romanov. Imperial summer residence at Peterhof" will make a tour in China during the period of June 11, 2017 - February 28, 2018. It starts in the Museum of Modern Art in Chengdu, located in southwest China's Sichuan Province. According to Chinese officials, Chengdu Museum holds this exhibition within the framework of "One Belt and One Road", a series of exhibitions to expand cultural exchanges. In the Museum of Guizhou Province, from summer to end of year, and in Museum Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, next year.



Peterhof is already preparing with China the next exhibition - about porcelain collected by Peter I.

Video - https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d496a4e3349444e/share_p.html





Vandals poured green paint monument to Emperor Nicholas II in Pokrovsky Park in Vladivostok. "As shown by CCTV cameras, about 4:30 in the morning, of June 11, under the cover of darkness crept up two unknowns approached the monument, and poured paint". Parishioners have now washed bust. The monument to Emperor Nicholas II was opened in Vladivostok December 18, 2016. This is the second desecration. The first time it happened was on the eve of Christmas.



Novosibirsk regional authorities gave money for a film about Nicholas II. The film tells about the influence of the family of Nicholas II on the creation of Novo-Nikolaevsk, later renamed to Novosibirsk.

"The competition of socially significant projects made by socially oriented non-profit organizations, was conducted by the Ministry of regional policy. The grant amount was 145 thousand roubles" - told the head of the regional public fund of protection of consumers' Civil Patrol" Rostislav Antonov.

With this money, the film "The imperial family: history of influence on the emergence and development of the Novo-Nikolaevsk and the region as a whole" will be made.

"My goal is to promote regional patriotism, for people to learn more about their hometown. Also for Novosibirsk to be known to people from other countries. Start of the movie is scheduled from 1 June. "- said a member of the Public Chamber NGS director Alexander Bakaev.

New production will be a continuation of the films "Siberian kingdom: the hidden history" and "Siberian kingdom, new shore", which tells about the history of the Novosibirsk Region and Novo-Nikolaevsk, the director noted. It is expected that the new film will be ready by the end of the year.



The house of the Tsarevich in Semiluzhki will be opened in July. From mid-July in Tomsk one should visit Semiluzhki. There will be the house of the Tsarevich - a copy of a road Pavilion where the later Emperor Nicholas II stayed during his travels in Siberia.

Now the workers finish the interior trim of the house. They still have to build a porch and install windows. Opening of the house of the Tsarevich as a premise will be in the blacksmith festival. It is traditionally held during the second half of July.

Tourist in Semiluzhki can visit a single complex, which combines a new facility, House of Culture and a Cossack fort - it can be clearly seen from the hill on which the Pavilion of the Tsarevich stands. This hill, many experts call the highest point of the Tomsk region.

There are already contacts with museums in the city of Tomsk. If everything goes, thank God, smoothly, it will be possible to arrange exhibitions and more there.

Video - <http://pro-tomsk.tv/News/2017/5/31/Dom-cesarevicha-v-semiluzhkah-otkroetsya-v-iyule>



In front of the medical center "Hope" in Perm a statue of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna will be installed.

The statue is almost finished. According to the draft proposed, this figure will be made of bronze, a height of 2.6 meters on a 80-cm pedestal.

- It was decided to choose the figure of Elizabeth, as the building in front of which it is located is called the Elizabeth Hospital - said Duma deputy Igor Shubin.

- Elizabeth was sent from Moscow to Perm before her death. She was also the founder of the Convent of Mercy, was engaged in charity and medical work, so her image is chosen as a symbol of mercy. The project is expected to equip the area of the square in front of the Catherine 224, putting here benches, urns and lanterns.

Elizabeth Feodorovna was the sister of the last Russian Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, and was married to Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, who was killed in 1905. On the night of July 18, 1918 Elizabeth Feodorovna was killed by the Bolsheviks, dropped into the mine New Selimskaja in 18 kilometers from Alapayevsk. In 1992, the Russian Orthodox Church canonized her as a saint.



In St. Petersburg, on the Day of the City May 27th, an unusual exhibition was hosted. Anyone could admire the portraits of the Romanovs in an original show - all works have been knitted. The exhibition lasted only one day.



Ropsha Palace located in the Leningrad Region, is waiting for major changes. The building, founded under Peter the Great, has seen many of the Royal family. But by the beginning of this century, the building remained almost in ruins. And here's a new twist in its fate - Ropsha Palace will be recreated.

Restoration requires a multi-billion dollar investments. Such costs will take the company "Rosneft", the lease is now being prepared by the Ministry of Culture of Russia.

"It is assumed that the palace will leased for 49 years" - said General Director of the Museum-Reserve "Peterhof " Elena Kalnitskaya.

In 1990's the house burned a few times. To return it to a palace, according to expert estimates, at least five billion rubles is needed.

"The project will be made, which will take one and a half - two years. If financing will be uninterrupted, then, I think five years is enough to make Ropsha blossomed in all its glory" - says Elena Kalnitskaya.

Representatives of "Rosneft" stressed that the former residence of the Romanovs will not be surrounded by a fence topped with barbed wire, it will be opened for tourists.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/178086



The Bank of Russia, on June 1, 2017, puts into circulation a commemorative silver coin of 25 rubles dedicated to "Novospassky Monastery, Moscow". Coin has a circular shape with a diameter of 60.0 mm. Fine metal content 155,5 g purity, fineness 925, catalog № 5115-0132) in series "Architectural Monuments of Russia". With the obverse and reverse sides of the coin has a projecting rim on.

The obverse: the relief image of the State Emblem of the Russian Federation, there is an inscription: "The Russian Federation", "BANK OF RUSSIA", the face value - "25 rubles" and the date - "2017" designation of metal on the periodic table of elements D.I. Mendeleev fineness, trademark Moscow Mint and the precious metal content.

On the reverse side of the coin image: at the bottom - the ensemble of the Novospassky Monastery in Moscow, at the top - with the engraving of the monastery panorama, there are inscriptions: at the top along the rim - "Novospassky Monastery" between the images - "Moscow".

The side surface grooved coin. The coin is made of quality "proof". Circulation 1.5 thousand pieces. The coins are legal means of cash payment on the territory of the Russian Federation and must be accepted at face value in all kinds of payments without any restrictions.



A religious procession in memory of the last Russian Emperor and his family came to Vitebsk. Residents of Vitebsk greeted the pilgrims with icons, bread and salt, prayers and singing, which was headed by Vice-Rector of the Vitebsk Seminary Archpriest Alexander Lesovoy. According to "People's news Vitebsk", the procession started on May 27 in Mogilev. In Vitebsk the pilgrims remain until 4 June, and by 9 June the procession is expected to reach the border of Belarus.





Metropolitan Rostislav of Tomsk and Asinovskiy does not rule out that in the near future DNA testing may start on the remains belonging to the saint elder Feodor Kuzmich. According to legend, he could be Emperor Alexander I in hiding.

"There is a commission for the canonization of saints. The Patriarchate is apparently occupied with this issue, because I have received a letter, which asked for my opinion, as far as I and Tomsk congregation believe it is appropriate or inappropriate to conduct such an examination" - the Metropolitan said.

According to him, "in consultation with the clergy," he said that "such an examination he would not prevent."

"It would be interesting, in the end, to establish the truth, if it is possible for the Patriarch. According to unofficial sources, such an examination is prepared and, maybe in the near future it will take place" - the priest added.

Recall, that an old man, who called himself Feodor (Theodore) Kuzmich, arrived in Tomsk in 1837. According to one version, in fact, it was the Emperor Alexander I, who supposedly abdicated in favour of his brother, by faking his own death in Taganrog.



In the Livadia Palace a mini-exhibition dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Tatiana was opened. The exposition is presented in the framework of the comprehensive plan of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Crimea of commemorative and anniversary dates, important events and holidays, reports the press service of the Ministry of Culture. The exhibition includes photographs of the Grand Duchess on the imperial yacht "Standart", at Livadia, and in Tsarskoye Selo during the First World War. In addition to photos pre-revolutionary postcards with views of the Livadia Palace and Park can be seen.



The first Winter Palace celebrates its anniversary. The historical building was found in the 80-ies of XX century, just below the Hermitage Theater. Restorers have cleared the basement, which is now below the level of Neva river, recreated the courtyard and private quarters. Not only the walls and the historic masonry are preserved, but even paint, which 300 years ago was painted on the facade.

"This palace was a small two-stores building, which was designed by the Tsar Peter who did not like large rooms, and its architect was Mattarnovi. There are five rooms on the ground floor, five on the second, and the rooms are about 15-17 square meters, in the center there is a ship's ladder that led to the second floor"- . says chief curator of the Winter Palace of Peter I, Sergei Nilov.

The exhibition has real things. The dining room still has a special bottle of wine, found during the excavations - it is more than three hundred years. There is a restored English clock that Peter has

acquired during his first trip abroad. In total, there are about two thousand items, which was touched by the hand of the first Russian Emperor.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/179034/



Video about the coronation coach of Emperor Nicholas II, standing in the Hermitage collection of carriages.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UegpAy7itzg>



In honour of the 345th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Peter the Great Emperor, in the Izmailovo Museum-Preserve at the monument to the great Sovereign, a traditional gala gathering, organized by the all-Russian Fleet Support Movement took place on 9th of June.



The St. Basil the Great Fund has collected 8,392,637 Rubles for the construction of the monument of the holy family of the last Russian Emperor in the Holy Trinity Seraphim-Diveevo monastery.

However, it is only half of what is needed and the planned opening is in August 2017. So, your help is still needed.

<http://fondsvv.ru/activity/charity/pamyatnik-seme-poslednego-russkogo-imperatora-v-serafimo-diveevskom-monastyre/>



The spire of Sts Peter and Paul cathedral was examined. The symbol of the northern capital passed another test of strength. The famous angel on the 122-meter altitude was visited by experts to ensure its good health.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/179550/



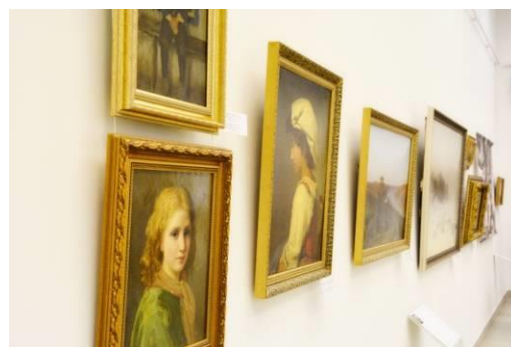
June 9 at the Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Karelia the exhibition "The Empress Maria Feodorovna - the artist and the collector" was opened. It is dedicated to the creativity and collecting activities of the wife of Emperor Alexander III and mother of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II Maria Feodorovna.

In Russia continuing a long tradition of family education in the palace, Maria Feodorovna took lessons from the wonderful Russian marine painter, an outstanding master of plein air painting Andrei Bogolyubov.

Possession of the art of painting helped the Royals to improve artistic taste, to instill in them an interest in the problems of art education. It was Maria Feodorovna and Alexander III's idea to create in St. Petersburg, the Popular Museum of Russian Art on the basis of numerous private collections of the Imperial family. These collections are further enlarged by the Russian Museum, which opened to visitors during the time of Nicholas II in 1898.

The exhibition provides an opportunity to the residents and guests of Petrozavodsk to see three works of Empress Maria Feodorovna and objects gathered from its collection of paintings of the second half of the XIX century.

The exhibition is complemented by the unique collection of Western European ceramics. The most interesting part of it make the faience and majolica of XVI-XVII centuries. These exhibits are a historical rarity.





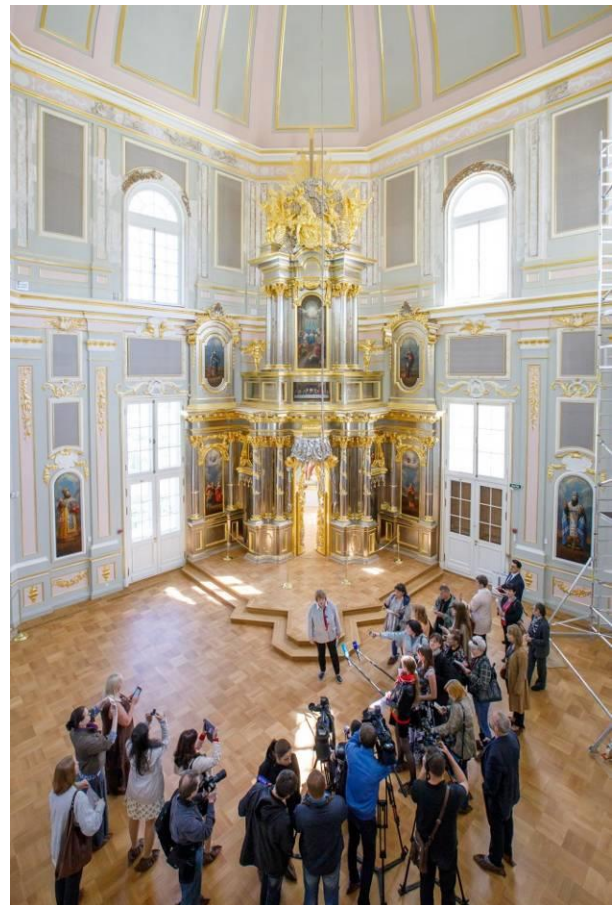
The exhibition "the Romanov dynasty coins" was opened in the regional office of Bank of Russia in Chita. Residents and visitors will be able to see in the Trans-Baikal Territory coins of XVIII - XIX centuries: the real Petrovsky ruble, a copy of the rarest of the nominal ruble of young Emperor John III - they were minted only in a few dozen copies. Original kopeck from 1845 is also on display. The symbolism of the Russian Empire can be seen on the coins from the reign of Nicholas I, and Nicholas II image on a silver 25 kopeck coin.

Visitors will also learn how to make money and what can be bought for them. What could be bought for a kopeck, and for three rubles? Answers to these and many other questions visitors will learn during the exhibition tour.



On June 15, was the first show after the restoration of the Oranienbaum court church, which occupies the western tower pavilion of the Big Menshikov Palace.

Among the surprise findings of the restorers was a fragment of the original wall painting "beautiful writing", dating back to the pavilion built in time to the 1720s, and a frieze middle tier, which could reveal the stucco decoration and even a pencil drawing of Antonio Rinaldi, finally determined the appearance of the interior of the Oranienbaum church in XVIII century.



The hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia have issued a joint epistle following their recent session in Munich that began on June 9. The epistle focuses on this year's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the bloody revolution that led to the death of millions at the hands of the atheist communists in Russia, fittingly calling again for the removal of the body of the bloody Lenin from the mausoleum on Red Square.

The Synod made the same call in its epistle read in all ROCOR parishes on March 12, the second Sunday of Great Lent: *"A symbol of reconciliation of the Russian nation with the Lord would be to rid Red Square of the remains of the main persecutor and executioner of the 20th century, and the destruction of monuments to him. They are all symbols of catastrophe, tragedy, and of the destruction of our God-given Sovereignty. The same applies to the cities, oblasts and streets which are deprived of their original historic names."*

The Synod's renewed call comes in the context of the choice facing every Russian, and every man, today to delve deeper into the spiritual life, or to drown in materialism, with the prayer, *"God forbid that we once again see the brutal consequences of the deceptive spiritual and moral choice of willingly*

sacrificing our souls to evil substitutions." In this regard, the hierarchs again call for Russia to remove all symbols glorifying its bloody past:

We once again raise the call to conscientious purification, not in the political sense, but for the sake of obtaining spiritual succession, gazing upon the path of the New Martyrs, and to bid farewell to the symbols of militant atheism, rid ourselves of the old glorification of murderers by naming cities and towns after them, streets and plazas, train stations and parks; we call for the removal of the body from the central square of the nation of the one whose name is connected with the establishment of the militant atheist state, which led to the sacrifice of millions of lives to its ideology.

The New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, who suffered at the hands of the system implemented by Lenin, were glorified by ROCOR in 1981 and not until 2000 by the Moscow Patriarchate. Moscow's canonization of the Royal Martyrs and all the New Martyrs was understood as a turning from its communist past, and a necessary prerequisite for the reunion between the MP and ROCOR which took place in 2007.



The All-Russian public movement "The People's Council" has called for the restoration of the chapel near the Spasskaya and Nikolskaya towers of the Moscow Kremlin.

"There are two ancient chapels standing near the Spasskaya tower, destroyed more than 90 years ago, that remain unrestored until the present day - Spasskaya and Smolenskaya - which were an integral part of the Moscow Kremlin's architectural ensemble. They received their names in honour of the icons on the Spasskaya Tower walls - the Saviour Made Not By Hands, and the Smolensk Saviour," reads the movement's appeal to President Vladimir Putin and Patriarch Kirill.

The chapels were built of stone in 1802, and torn down and rebuilt in 1812 as part of a new project. They were again dismantled and rebuilt in 1868 with the restoration of the Spasskaya Tower, and finally were demolished in 1925. There were another two chapels by the Nikolsky Kremlin Gates that were repeatedly rebuilt, and which were demolished in the same year.

"The question of reconstructing these chapels on their former historical place is a logical continuation of the restoration work recently done on the historical appearance of the Moscow Kremlin—the heart of Moscow and of all of Russia," the movement believes.

According to the "People's Council" representatives, the restoration of the chapels would be not only a significant spiritual and cultural-historical event in the life of Russia, "but an act of restoring historical justice."

They have also asked the President and Patriarch to promote the returning of the Khlynov (Vyatka) Icon of the Saviour Made Not By Hands, in honour of which the main tower of the Moscow Kremlin is named, to the inner wall of the Spasskaya Tower.



In Oranienbaum Great Menshikov Palace the famous "Rest Vorontsov was opened after restoration." In the second half of the XVIII century, a royal mistress of Emperor Peter III - maid of honor Elizabeth Vorontsova lived there. And now, after almost three centuries the state rooms regained their former Interior.

The luxurious state rooms, which appeared on the site of the modest office chambers, are virtually unchanged. "Exit" inconspicuous door in the back of the alcove is now adorns the prosaic inscription. In the middle of the XVIII century, the small closet was to hide the large palace secret.

"This door leads to a narrow spiral staircase that rose straight to the apartments of the Grand Duke, so he and his mistress could visit each other at any time", - explained the curator of the exhibition the Grand Menshikov Palace, State Museum "Peterhof" Irina Fedotova.

Lampshade of Giovanni Gianni, one of the leading masters of the modelling of the time, preserved to this day. The wife of the Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz was so pleased with stucco in the Rococo style, that at the beginning of the XIX century the last owners of the palace only carefully restored and completed the interior, highlighting its historical value.

The study of George of Mecklenburg-Strelitz is now recreated on archival photographs. All the furniture of the time is taken from the vaults of Peterhof.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/180908/



The Balyk Swiss company, specializing in the production of fish products, began selling smoked salmon fillet called "Tsar Nicholas No.1" in the EU market

The picture shows the advertising of the Swiss company's products at London's Heathrow airport.

On the website of the company is explained that the salmon fillet is cooked on prescription "of the royal family," but did not specify why it is named "Tsar Nicholas".

"After 1918, following the death of the Tsar family, this culinary delight sank into oblivion. But 30 years ago, the secret recipe was rediscovered, and today the world's most noble smoked salmon comes from the Toggenburg. In the Balyk smoked salmon

manufactory high up in Ebersol, a small village nestled snugly in the midst of an unspoiled hilly landscape, the "King of Fish" is smoked by hand and exported to countries around the world. Numerous Royal families in Europe – from Denmark to England and Spain – are regular and loyal clients. Today, Balyk is synonymous with the traditional salmon smoking method as practised at the court of the Russian Tsars. The manufactory smokes and refines selected salmon cuts according to the secret recipe of the last purveyor of the Imperial Court. The recipe was entrusted to Hans Gerd Kübel in 1978 by Israel Kaplan, the grandson of the purveyor to the Imperial Court."



Portrait of Emperor Alexander III for the first time presented in Vladivostok. Maritime Art Gallery is celebrating another birthday. In honor of this event in the gallery was unveiled a real discovery for the citizens with the presentation of the portrait of the brightest representatives of the Romanov dynasty - Alexander III.

Portrait is by the painter of the XIX century Alexey Korzuhin and have not been shown in Vladivostok since the opening of the Maritime Art Gallery. Made on an oval stretcher it finally has found a worthy appearance.

Eugene Egoshin correspondent: "The powerful figure of the Emperor embodied the greatness of Russia at that time. The main qualities of Alexander III - calm, thoughtful, strong will and the lack of intrigue. It is believed that the Emperor was captured in the central figure of Ilya Muromets of the famous canvas of Vasnetsov "Heroes."

It is known that the work of art in 1903, was donated to the Electrotechnical Institute in St. Petersburg - Alexander III considered its founder. During the Great Patriotic War, the portrait was evacuated, and after the war, from the capital's museums it was sent in remote areas. So, the masterpiece of Russian painting came to the collection of the Maritime Museum Art Gallery.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_u1JevK9MQ



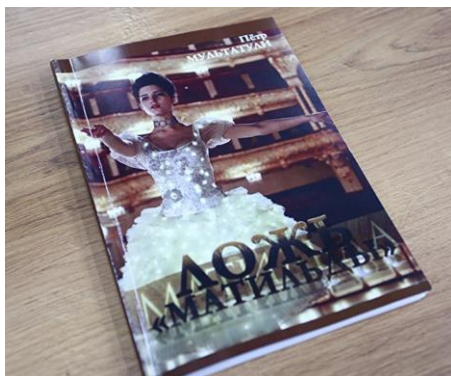


"Gold coins dating from the time of the reign of All-Russian Emperor Nicholas II"



By V. Yu. Sidorov and D. Yu. Sanin. Yaroslavl, 2017. 88 pages. 147h x210 mm.

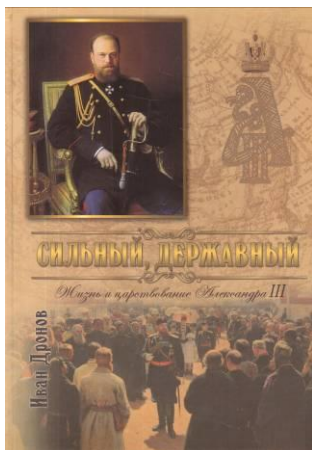
In Yekaterinburg was published the book, "Lies - Matilda"



The book "Lies - Matilda" is made by one of the researchers of the era of Nicholas II, Peter Multatuli, candidate of historical sciences.

"Lies - Matilda" is not really a book but a small pamphlet, it has only 60 pages. The publication is devoted to criticism of the film "Matilda" by director Aleksey Uchitely. The film has not yet released - the premiere of "Matilda" is scheduled for October 25 this year. The author has not seen the film and in the text Multatuli notes that the analysis is carried out based on the "scenario and two trailers".

A strong, Sovereign. Life and reign of the Emperor Alexander III



PhD (history) I.E. Dronov's book is dedicated to the famous era of the reign of Emperor Alexander III. Author fully describes the childhood of Tsarevich, during the formation of the personality of the future Emperor, political and spiritual environment in Russia in the years of his manhood. Emperor Alexander III became the head of the Russian Empire at the critical moment: a country ravaged by war and the embezzlement of public funds by "liberal" reformers deeply shocked by regicide, was standing on the edge of a precipice. "Russia for the Russian and in Russian" - the new principle of Alexander III laid the foundation of his domestic and foreign policy, with the help of Russia has turned into a powerful, economically and spiritually independent state.

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



The book "Antiquities of the Russian Empire", published on order of Emperor Nicholas I, makes £39,000

The book, binding four volumes, had been owned by Birmingham City University which decided it was no longer relevant to research. It contains 508 plates of Russian artefacts including crowns, costume, weapons and jewellery.

The Antiquities of the Russian Empire was published in Moscow by order of Emperor Nicholas I between 1849 and 1853.

The book, which fetched £39,000, has visible library stamps

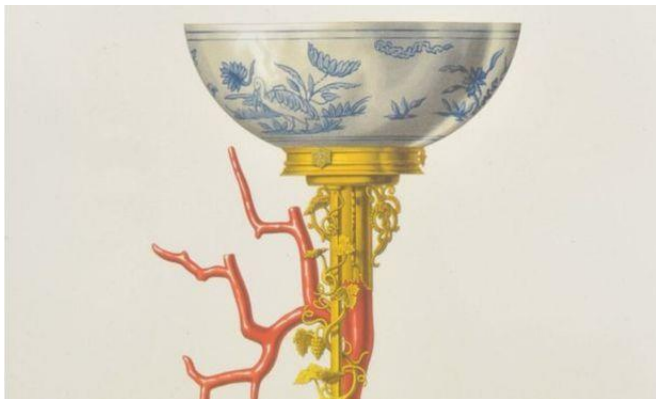
Chris Albury, senior valuer for Dominic Winter, which handled the sale, said: "In book terms, it's quite a lot of money to pay."

He said it "probably would have sold better if it was privately owned" as the ex-library copy was very much a working one, with "a few library stamps and not the prettiest binding".

Only 600 sets were made and according to Mr Albury, the one formerly owned by the university could be unique because of its English title and contents pages.

He said: "We haven't been able to find another copy with these pages anywhere else in the world."

The book is no longer deemed relevant to university research, so the book was sold.



\$1.27 Million Fabergé Flower Stuns Jewellery Expert on 'Antiques Roadshow'

Could this be the greatest jewellery find in the show's history?

June 23, 2017, ArtNet, Sarah Cascone.

A Fabergé flower study valued at an estimated £1 million (\$1.27 million) has joined the pantheon of the most expensive items ever appraised by Antiques Roadshow.

"We've had one of the most significant jewellery finds in 40 years of Antiques Roadshow history,"

Simon Shaw, executive producer of the long-running BBC series, told the Daily Mail.

The flower is about four inches tall, and has been incorrectly described by other news sources as a brooch. Jewellery expert Geoffry Munn, who appraised the rare piece, even went so far as to say the bauble could fetch £1.2–1.4 million (\$1.5–1.78 million) at auction.

There are only 80 known surviving examples of fruit and flower studies by Fabergé, which are typically presented in a rock crystal vase that appears to be filled with water. According to Christie's, they rarely come to market.



Jewellery expert Geoffrey Munn with Fabergé ornament he appraised at £1 million (\$1.27 million) for the Antiques Roadshow. Courtesy of the BBC/Antiques Roadshow.



Recent results, however, suggest that such a high-water mark might be difficult to achieve. A spray of Fabergé buttercups fetched just £350,000 (\$566,000) at Sotheby's London in 2013. The same year, a gold-mounted nephrite, purpurine, chalvedony, aventurine quartz, and a rock crystal piece depicting a hawthorne, designed for the company by Henrik Wigström, failed to find a buyer at Christie's London, according to the artnet Price Database.

Earlier this month, two studies, of enamelled cornflowers and turquoise forget-me-nots, also went unsold at Sotheby's London's "Russian Works of Art, Fabergé & Icons" sale, despite pre-sale estimates of £180,000 - 250,000 (\$233,000 - 323,000) and £250,000 - 350,000 (\$323,000 - 452,000), respectively.

The flower is similar to a gold, nephrite, enamel, and rose diamond Fabergé sculpture in the Royal Collection Trust named Japonica that was designed by Henrik Emanuel in about 1900. The piece was given to Queen Alexandra by Stanislaw Poklewski-Koziell - "perhaps the most prolific present giver the world has ever seen," according to the collection website - who purchased it at Faberge's London branch in October 1907 for just £52 and 5 shillings.

The Antiques Roadshow episode, which will not air until autumn, was filmed June 21 at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, England.



Fabergé, Japonica (circa 1900). Courtesy of Royal Collection Trust.