



# Romanov News Новости Романовых

*By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky*

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## New monument to Emperor Nicholas II in Kuzbass

On August 26, a solemn opening of the monument to the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II took place on the square of the Palace of Culture and Art in Leninsk-Kuznetsky. A group of local parishioners, supported by the Kuzbass Metropolis, suggested to install the monument to Nicholas II and the idea was approved by the regional administration.

The town of Leninsk-Kuznetsky is located in the western part of the Kemerovo region, in the southeast of Western Siberia.

The appearance of the monument to the Emperor in Leninsk-Kuznetsk was commented in Kuzbass Metropolis.

"At one time the lands where Leninsk-Kuznetsky is located today were the so-called Cabinet lands of the reigning Emperor. When reserves of coal were found in the area, it was reported to the Emperor and he personally ordered to create a society for its extraction. So the Russian-Franco-Belgian-German Society KopeKuz was founded and industrial development began. It served as the basis for the appearance of Kolchugino and Leninsk-Kuznetsky".

The monument, whose total height is about 5 meters, was created by the Novokuznetsk architect Pavel Timanov and the sculptor Yevgeny Potekhin, the author of the sculptural composition to the Monk Sergei Radonezhsky in the village of Shkolny in Prokopyevsky district.



The opening ceremony began with the unveiling of the monument, followed by the consecration performed by His Eminence Aristarchus, Metropolitan of Kemerovo and Prokopyevsky, co-served by Protopriest Vitaly Makarov, priest John Pavlyuk and deacon Vyacheslav Lansky.

Alexander Zelenin, deputy governor of the Kemerovo region, Valentin Petrovich Mazikin, Hero of Kuzbass, Vyacheslav Telegin, the head of the Leninsk-Kuznetsky town attended the ceremony. The choir of the Church of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Church of the Russian City of Leninsk-Kuznetsky participated in consecration rite. All priests of the Leninsk-Kuznetsk deanery prayed during solemn ceremony.





Metropolitan Aristarkh said that the installation of the monument to the last Russian Emperor is timed to the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the persecutions against the Russian Church, and to the coming centenary of the murder of the Imperial family.

Metropolitan also noted that the revolution of 1917 was a turning point in the history of Russia: not only the constitutional structure of the state was changed, but also the mentality of the Russian people, who had lost Christian values. The Metropolitan expressed the opinion that the installation of the monument to Nicholas II is a good thing that will help to restore historical objectivity.

Metropolitan Aristarkh awarded participants and initiators of the installation of the monument. He presented the commemorative signs "5 years of the Kuzbass Metropolia" to V.N. Telegin, the head of Leninsk-Kuznetsky and the deacon Andrei Froshkayzer, the clergyman of the Resurrection Church of Leninsk-Kuznetsky. The other participants of the installation of the sculpture received Bishops' letters of gratitude.

Videos - 1)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=98&v=bFw0RKCxVkl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=98&v=bFw0RKCxVkl)

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGF6yO6q4-w>

3) <https://www.mreporter.ru/reports/192243>



## **The head of the Romanov Family Association M. Romanov-Ilyinsky: "There is no throne to inherit in Russia"**

August 21, 2017. Interfax - Since August 1, 2017 The Romanov Family Association were headed by Prince Mikhail Romanov-Ilyinsky. M. Romanov-Ilyinsky told Interfax how the elections were held, about his attitude to the acute issues of Russian reality, in particular, the problem of recognition and burial of the remains of the Imperial family, the discussion around the restoration of the monarchy and the film "Matilda".

### **- When were you elected president of the Association? How did this procedure go, were there other candidates?**

Due to the fact that the members of the RFA live in many countries, and there is no event in near future where all the members could meet, the election of a new president of the Association was held by electronic voting. The voting in the election closed August 1, 2017. There were no other candidates announced in advance, but when voting the members can cast their vote for any person that is a member of the RFA.

I was honoured by receiving all the cast votes. After having served eleven years as the Vice President of the Association, I now follow in the footsteps of Princes Dimitri Alexandrovich, Vasili Alexandrovich, Dimitri Romanovich and Nicholas Romanovich, as the president of the Romanoff Family Association.

### **- What is the activity of the Association today? What are the main goals and objectives of the Association? How many members are in the Association and where do they live?**

The main activity of the RFA is to strengthen the links between the family members. There are twenty-two members and six Honorary members. We live in Russia, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, England, and the U.S.A. This makes regular meetings difficult and we have to facilitate communication, education, and alignment of opinions in other ways. It is my goal to identify more opportunities for more members of the family to travel to Russia as well as to assist in facilitating those visits. This is clearly an internal activity, so the public will not notice this.

Another activity is charity. We have a fund called "The Romanov Fund for Russia." It was created in 1994, and since has provided humanitarian help to Russia and more distant regions, including some in Central Asia. I would like to identify charitable causes that are compatible with the Romanov Family, both historically and currently. I was raised not only to believe in *Noblesse Oblige* but to live according to it as well. I have served for more than thirty years as a volunteer helping many organizations.

At the moment, our main goal is the burial of the remains of the last Imperial family. It is my hope that soon we will be able to make more of our goals public, allowing our work to be followed and known by the public.

### **- Does the Association have claims for property on the territory of the Russian Federation or Russian property abroad? Is there any desire to get some special status in Russia?**

No, the members of the RFA do not have any claims for property in Russia or anywhere else. We are aware of one relative who continues to ask for special status. For us, status is not something you ask for, but something that we already have.





Actually, however, the Romanov family already has a special status in Russia. You cannot talk about Russian history without mentioning the Romanovs. We are already a part of Russian history and heritage. Let us not forget our relatives that were canonized by the church.

**- Recently Metropolitan Hilarion, in fact the second man in the leadership of the Moscow Patriarchate, declared that he considers the monarchy to be a positive form of government. And the Church is ready to take part in the discussion about its return to Russia. What is your attitude to this idea?**

Metropolitan Hilarion was answering a question from the moderator in the TV program "Church and Peace," on the Georgian Patriarch Ilia II's statement about the possibility of the restoration of the monarchy in Georgia. I think Hilarion's comment was his personal thinking and not a reply on behalf of the church.

Over several thousands of years, Monarchy has proven to be a successful form of government, and some states have gone from monarchy to another form of statehood and back again. There are positive and negative sides of to all forms of government.

Regarding a Monarchy in Russia, I don't believe restoring the Monarchy would be in the best interest of the people of Russia today, but of course it is possible that it could change in the future.

As there is no throne today, it makes no sense to discuss who could occupy a none existing throne. All the members of the RFA agree that all questions concerning the form of government in Russia, and consequently, all matters of a dynastic character have been transmitted to the will of the Russian people based on "general, direct, equal and secret voting" by the Manifest of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, which followed the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II. For us, this means, we will not enter into debates about eventual individual "rights" of this or that individual member of Association.

**- This year in St. Petersburg, the main public topic was the question of the ownership of St. Isaac's Cathedral. In your opinion, given that St. Isaac's Cathedral until 1917 belonged to the Imperial family in fact, do you need to change the current status of the museum and transfer it to the Church?**

I am aware of the heated discussion talking place, particular in St. Petersburg. This topic has not been discussed among the members of the RFA, so I cannot offer an opinion on behalf of the RFA.

**- How do the Association evaluate the first meeting between the Patriarch of Moscow and the Pope of Rome in the history, as well as the meetings of the Patriarch and other bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church with the members of the Romanovs' House, Maria and George?**

Regarding the Patriarch and the Pope meeting, this is a good thing. The personal exchange of thoughts and ideas is usually the best form of communication.

It is the same thing regarding Maria and George's meetings with the clergy of the ROC. We are pleased to see people are seeking the help and support of the church.

**Do you think that Maria and George are impostors? Why do they pretend for the throne? Is it possible any cooperation between your Association and the Madrid house?**

The position of the RFA has always been that Maria Vladimirovna has no right to call herself a "Grand Duchess" or the "Head of the Imperial house" and her son George is a Prince of Prussia (his father is Prince Franz Wilhelm of Prussia), not a Grand Duke and not a Romanov.

As said, there is no throne in Russia for anyone to be the heir to. Those accepting her and her son as heirs must either be misinformed or are turning a blind eye to the inconvenient facts.

At present I think any cooperation is highly unlikely.

**"You are a believer." What, in your opinion, can offend the feelings of believers? Can the film "Matilda" (director Alexei Uchitel, Nikolay II and Matilde Kshesinskaya, the premiere be scheduled for November 2017) be insulting to believers? Will you see this movie?**

What offends one person and not another is something I cannot address. However, to attack publicly what is considered holy, either directly or indirectly, will generally offend the feelings of believers.

I have not seen the film. I will probably have to see the film if I keep getting asked about it.

What I do find offensive is fiction that is represented as truth. Many movies have been made about the Romanov family, and several of them falsified events and were insulting to my family. We do not accept it, but reality is, that still today some uses lies, myth and propaganda to slander the memory of our family.

**- What position do you occupy in the matter of burial of the Imperial remains? We are talking about the remains already buried in Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg and the remains of the Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria.**

The members of the RFA have, since the late 1990s, believed the remains found at Porosenkov Log are those of the Imperial family. Most of us participated in 1998 in the funeral service in Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg. The later investigations, including those now made under the supervision of the ROC have not changed our position, on the contrary we believe that our position has been confirmed again and again.

The discovery of the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria in 2007, raise a new issue, as in the meantime - in August of 2000 - the ROC canonized them as Passion-Bearers. This mean we can no longer have a "normal" funeral, as it was done in 1998. For us it is important that the Church recognize the remains as holy relics. We then hope we will be able to reunite the relics of Alexei and Maria with the relics of their family in the Peter and Paul Cathedral, according to traditions and with the participation of the church.

**- You live in the United States of America. In Russia it is considered that in recent years something like "anti-Russian hysteria" has unfolded in the US. The media allegedly broadcasts a negative image of Russia, President Putin, and in all the American troubles are looking for "Russian hackers." Is it really the picture painted by the American media? What do Americans think about this, what are they talking about it in private conversations?**

I don't believe there is any "Anti-Russian Hysteria" taking place in the USA. There are serious questions and several investigations to determine if the Russian Government helped President Trump to be elected. Many Americans believe this to be true while many believe it to be false and then others don't really care.

**- How do you follow life in Russia: TV, the Internet, personal correspondence? How often do you visit your historical homeland? What can you say about modern Moscow and St. Petersburg?**

I mainly follow life in Russia via the internet, but do now and then talk with friends in Russia. My first trip to Russia was in 1989 and since then I have visited it an average of once a year. The last time I was in St. Petersburg was in July. I came to attend the memorial service for the Royal Martyrs on July 17th in the Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, as well as to visit friends.

I am impressed with how life has improved since 1989, particularly in Moscow and St. Petersburg. It is always a joy to visit and see the continuing restorations of our historical heritage. One example, of so many, is the Alexander Palace which I am looking forward to visit when its renovation will be completed.

The changes I have witnessed since my first visits to Russia during Soviet time are amazing. I believe that change is generally a good thing yet there are some things that have endured for so long, they are destined to remain unchanged. If Russia can maintain this balance of old and new, the next thirty years is going to be an historical and exciting period of growth, discovery and expansion.

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## 100 years ago Nicholas Alexandrovich and family arrived in Tobolsk

In July 1917, the Provisional Government decided to take the Romanov family to the distant city Tobolsk. The departure was set for the night August 13/14, at midnight. Nicholas II's family gathered in the semi-circular hall of the Alexander Palace, where the windows are overlooking the park. The travel trunks, boxes, and suitcases were gathered in the centre of the Mountain Hall. The servants could be heard sobbing. Only at dawn, they were filed into trucks and several private vehicles arrived for the family members and their caretakers.

The journey begun on August 14 (August 1 Old style), at 5.30 in the morning.

Forty-six court attendants voluntarily accompanied the family, making, in all, a party of fifty-three persons, exclusive of the military escort. It took two trains to accommodate the travelers, their baggage, the government representatives, the jailers and soldiers.

The two trains headed east under the flags of the Japanese Red Cross, through Perm, to Tyumen.

August 14, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*'The whole family was lodged in a good sleeping car, with guards on both sides. I went to bed at 7:45 [a.m.] and slept lightly until 9:15 [a.m.]. It was very windy and dusty in the car. It was 26 degrees. We took a walk during the day with our guards and gathered flowers and berries. We ate in a restaurant, with food cooked by an excellent East Chinese cook.'*

The Imperial Family left Tyumen on August 17, on the steamship "Rus", and arrived in Tobolsk in two days, on August 19. But instead of moving into the Governor's house same day, they had to spend a week on the steamer, as the governor's home and other houses intended for the suite and guards were not ready.

August 17, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"The train went almost to the pier, so that we only had to get off and go down to the ship. Our ship was called "Rus." They began the transfer of our things and it continued all night. Poor Alexei was again resting, God knows how. The pounding and uproar lasted all night and almost overcame me. We left Tyumen about six o'clock."*



August 18, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"During the trip along the Tura, I slept very little. Alix and I had one very uncomfortable cabin and all the girls were together in the fifth cabin down the corridor. Further toward the bow were a good sitting room, and a small cabin with a piano. Second Class is under us, and this is where all the soldiers from the First Regiment who are travelling with us stay. All day we went topside, and stayed in the pleasant air. The weather was overcast but dry and warm. In front of us was a mine sweeper and behind another steamship with the soldiers from the 2nd and 4th Infantry Regiments and the rest of the baggage. We stopped two hours to load firewood. Toward night it got cold. We have our kitchen staff here on the steamship. Everybody went to sleep early."*

August 19, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"We navigated toward Tobolsk. I got up late because I did not sleep very well with all the pounding and stopping. During the night we went from the Tura to Tobolsk.*

*The river was wider and the banks were higher. The morning was fresh and during the day it got quite warm when the sun came out. I forgot to mention that yesterday before dinner we passed by the village of Pokrovskoe, the home of Gregory [Rasputin]. All day we walked and sat on the deck. At 6:30 we*

came to Tobolsk, although we could only see it for fifteen minutes. On the bank many people were standing; that must mean that they knew about our arrival. I remember the view over the houses and churches on the mountain. As soon as the ship had put into shore, we began to unload our baggage. Valya, the commissar, and the commander started off to examine the house which was our destination and the accommodations. On their return we learned for the first time that our lodgings were empty, without any furniture, dirty; and that we could not move in. Therefore, we had to wait back on the ship for them to bring in the necessary baggage for sleeping. We ate a little and joked about the strange inability of the people to arrange even our lodging and went to sleep early. "

August 20, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"I slept well. The rain and cold had returned. We decided to remain on the ship. Some squalls came up, but at 1 o'clock the weather cleared up. The crowd continued to build up on the pier and the nearby bank. Some had their feet almost in the water and went back inside only when it rained.*

*A lot of work has gone into houses, cleaning and bringing the rooms into presentable appearance. All of us and the guards wanted to go some place farther up the river while we waited. We ate lunch at 1 o'clock and dinner at 8 o'clock. The kitchen in the house had already been fixed up, and our food was brought to us from there. All evening I went with the children around our cabins. The weather was cold, with a northwest wind."*

August 21, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"I slept well and got up at 9:15. The morning was clear, and later the wind began to blow and again it swept up some squalls. After lunch we went up along the Irtysh river about ten miles. We landed on the right bank and went for a walk. We went through the bushes and crossed a small stream. We climbed a small bank, from where we had a wonderful view. The ship came up to us, and we went back again to Tobolsk. We landed at 6 o'clock on the other pier. Before dinner I took a bath - the first since the 31st. of July - thanks to that I slept wonderfully. "*



August 22, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"The weather became nice and warm. During the morning as always a train of people came into town. Marie had a fever and Alexis left arm hurt a little. Until lunch I spent all my time and enjoyed the sunshine. At 2:30 our ship went to the other side of the river and was laying in a supply of wood, and we went for a walk.*

*The walk was very hot. We came back to the ship at 4:30 and returned to the other side. Some of the inhabitants were boat riding and sailed in front of us. The guards from Kronstadt went to stay in their lodgings in the city."*

August 25, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"Alexei only slept a little. During the night he moved in with Alix. His ear was better, and his arm only ached a little now and then. Marie is better. The day became quiet. All morning I walked around the deck.*

*We went up the Tobol and put ashore on the left bank and went along the road and returned along the river with various difficulties but in a good mood. At 6 o'clock we returned to Tobolsk, and with a loud crash ran into the pier, breaking some of the railings on the side. The day was hot."*

On Sunday August 26 (old style 13th August) 1917, the Imperial Family moved from the steamship "Rus" to the governor's house in Tobolsk.

After living one week in the cabins on the boat, and using the waiting time to walk along the Irtysh River meeting the locals, they could finally walk to the house, except Alexandra who went in a coach.



August 26, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"We got up a little early, and the last things were quickly packed. At 10:30 I went with the children, the commandant and the officers to our new dwelling. We surveyed the entire house from basement to roof. We occupied the 2nd floor and the sitting room beneath it. At 12 o'clock the furniture arrived, and a priest sprinkled all the rooms with holy water.*

*We had lunch and dinner in our new house. We set about to examine the house in which we are living. Many of the rooms were still not furnished and had an unattractive look. Then we went to the so called garden, a poor vegetable garden. We examined the kitchen and the sentry's quarters. Everything had a strange, abandoned appearance. I unpacked our things in the reading and dressing rooms, which are half mine and half Alix's. We passed the evening together. We played bezik."*

August 26, Alexandra Feodorovna wrote in her diary:

*"I looked around this house and the other one, which is completely unprepared. I've been unpacking things and putting our rooms in order. Then I rested. There was a thunderstorm in the afternoon."*



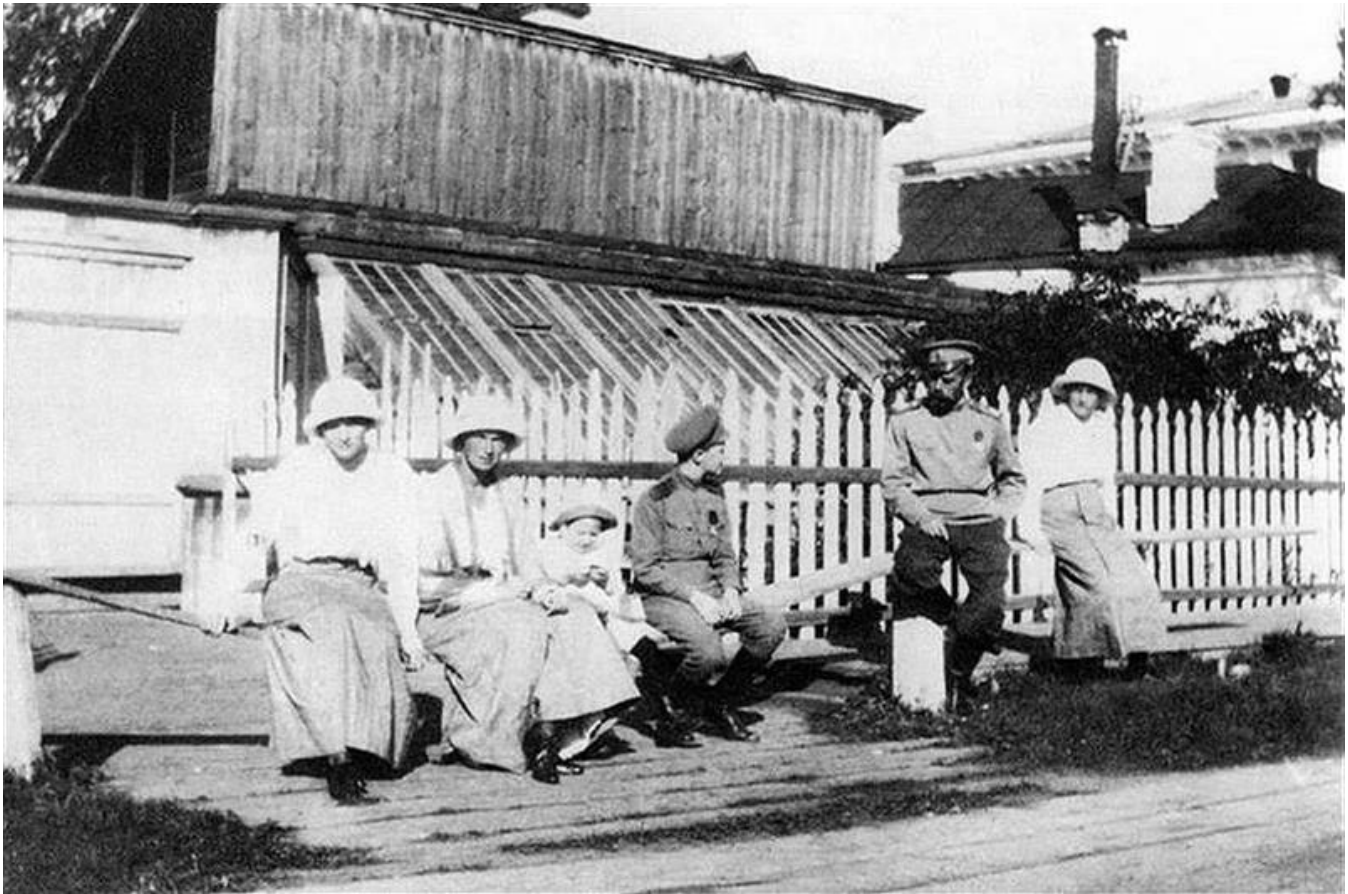
*"From the 13th of August 1917 to 13th of April 1918 Tsar Nicholas II with his family stayed in this house in exile"*

The Governor's house, also known as Kuklin House is a building in the lower part of the city Tobolsk - below the Tobolsk Kremlin (Podgora) - next to the river. The house was built by merchant Ivan Kuklin in the 1790s, but after he went bankrupt in 1817, the house was confiscated by the authorities and became the seat of the governor of Tobolsk Governorate.

The two levels house is a big white stone mansion, with a balcony over the entrance. It had electricity and running water, but there was no sanitation. The house was warm and bright.

The house was renamed to "Freedom House" and the street in front of it was renamed to "Liberty Street".

The first room on the lower floor to the right, if you walk down the hall from the front, was for the officer on duty. Next to it was Demidova's bedroom. Next to it were - Gilliard's room and the dining room. Opposite the officer room was a room of valet Chemodurov. Next to it was the pantry, and then two rooms, where maid Tutelberg, nanny Tyeglev and her assistant Ersberg lived. Above the bathroom there was stairs to the top floor. The office of the Nicholas was in the corner room. Beside it was the hall. One of its doors went into the hallway, which divided the house into two parts. The first room to the right, if you walk from the hall served as a living room. Next to it was the bedroom of the Emperor and Empress, and then - the Tsarevich's room



*Sitting on the fence, towards the road, outside the greenhouse, Olga, Tatiana, a boy called Tolya (Anatoly -, the son of a housecleaner from Tobolsk), Alexei, Nicholas and Anastasia.*

August 27, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"After yesterday's thunderstorms until dinner, today's weather was cold and rainy with a strong wind. All day we unpacked photographs of the Journey of 1890-1891 [his trip around the world]. I brought them on purpose so that in my spare time I could put them in order.*

*We said goodbye to the commissar, who is leaving for Moscow. I took a walk in the garden; the children were swinging in the new swings. We spent the evening by ourselves."*

August 28, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*'Since they did not allow us to go on the streets, we could not go to the 11 o'clock service at church. After lunch we went into the garden for almost two hours; Alix went out, too. The weather was warm, and about 5 o'clock the sun came out; we sat on the balcony until 6:30. I continued to sort the photographs of my long journey."*



August 29, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

*"It was a nice, warm day. Now every morning I drink tea together with the children. We spent an hour in the so-called, garden and the larger part of the day on the balcony, which is warm from the sun. Until tea I pattered around in the garden. The children played on the swings."*

August 30, Nicholas II wrote in his diary:

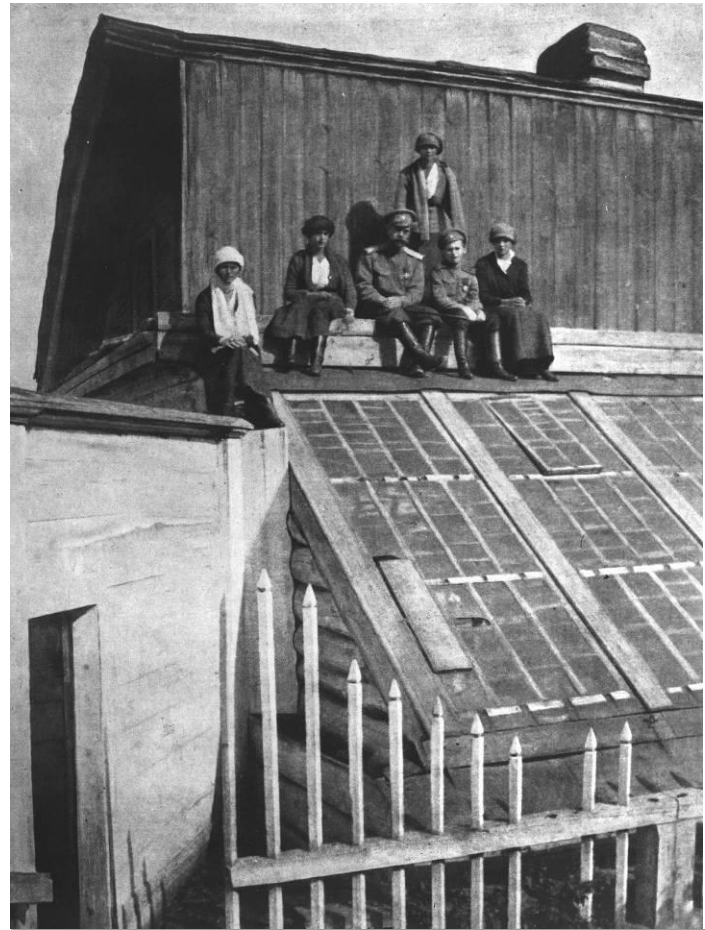
*"It was a wonderful day - in the shade 19 degrees and on the balcony 36 degrees. Alexei's arm hurt. During the morning we spent an hour in the garden and during the afternoon two hours. Yesterday I began to read L'île enchantée. During the evening we played dominoes, Alix, Tatiana, Botkin, and I. During tea time, a large thunderstorm came up. It was a moonlit night."*

Later, Nicholas II told about the travel in a letter to his mother Empress Maria Feodorovna, dated September 19, 1917:

*"My dear, deeply beloved Mama, Finally, I have the opportunity to write to you. I very much hope that this letter reaches you and finds all of you, my dearest ones, in good health. I think of you and them every hour. I know what you are going through, and how you all suffer for our poor, ravished Russia! But I will not write any more about this, as our opinions and feelings are the exact same!"*

*A few hours before our departure from Ts[arskoe] Selo, I had the great joy of seeing Misha for half an hour, in the presence of Kerensky and the captain of the guard. I do not know whether Misha wrote to you about our meeting?*

*We were supposed to leave on the night of 1st August, at one o'clock, but actually left the Alexander Palace at 5.30 am! We and our things had been awaiting departure since 11 pm in the circular room. The delay occurred on account of the desire to keep the time of our departure secret; neither the trucks nor the train had been ordered on time. We were exhausted by such a lack of organization, thanks to which the children did not sleep at all, but now remember various details of that night not without laughter. The trip passed smoothly and quite comfortably; only we were supposed to cover up the windows at all the stations. Our train was allegedly carrying an American mission, but they nevertheless knew that it was us at the stations and said so to the sentries accompanying us. Every day, we stopped somewhere for an hour, and took a walk along the railway line.*



Maria, Anastasia, Nicholas, Tatiana, Alexei, Olga on the roof of the greenhouse at the Governor's house in Tobolsk

*At Tyumen, we transferred to the large steamship Rus, and arrived in Tobolsk in two days. But instead of moving into the town that evening, we had to spend another week on the steamer, as the governor's home and other houses intended for the suite and guards were impossible to live in. Again, as a result of the secrecy surrounding our arrival, nothing was ready! Finally, on Sunday 13th August, we moved from the steamship into our house, the children, the others and I on foot, Alix in a coach with Tatiana one step behind. We all fitted in and have arranged ourselves in the house very well. Concerning walks,*

*things are not quite so good. There is essentially no garden, it consists entirely of an allotment; besides that, a small space has been partitioned off in front of the house, part of the street; we walk there and play various games. A stroke of luck is the sun, which shines here the whole day and is still remarkably warming. Fortunately, it has been a wonderful autumn, there was cold and rainy days, but few, and mostly was dry and sunny. The air is excellent, one can breathe easily. All walks outside the partition are forbidden! Meanwhile, the surroundings on the hill are beautiful, as far as we can see from the windows, how one longs to walk there!*

*We have been to the Annunciation Church closest to the house twice for mass, the other services are held in our hall.*

*When everyone arrived, we all caught cold, and have only now got better, only poor Alix still suffers from facial neuralgia.*

*I will write to you more often. Goodbye, my dear Mama. We all hug you tightly and warmly. God be with you all.*

*Endlessly loving you  
Your Nicky."*



*In front of the Governor's house in Tobolsk, the four Grand Duchesses to the left, Tsarevich Alexei walking, a guard, and Nicholas Alexandrovich are standing to the right.*



## In Tyumen, a cross was erected in honour of the martyrs Nicholas II and family

A hundred years ago, on August 17, 1917, the last Russian Emperor arrived in Tyumen. In Tyumen, in memory of this event, on August 18, a cross was erected in honour of the martyr Nikolai and his family.

Now a cross rises not far from the intersection of the Tobolsk tract with the district road. One day a church will appear in honour of the martyrs of the Imperial family. Romanovs were twice in Tyumen: in August 1917 and May 1918.

In the future, new microdistrict will appear near the Tobolsk tract. It will be called "Gubernsky", and will accommodate more than one hundred thousand inhabitants. The church, which will be erected in honour of the martyrs of the Imperial family, will become a place of worship for the inhabitants of the new part of the city.



Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYA1iluVIWM>

## Tobolsk remembered the arrival

In memory of the arrival of the Royal Martyrs in Tobolsk, a Divine Liturgy took place in St. Sophia Cathedral. From the St. Sofia Cathedral of the Tobolsk Kremlin the participants in a procession went along the streets of R. Lyuxembourg, Khokhryakov, and Kirov to the Alexander chapel, where a prayer service was held.

Priests, seminarians, parishioners of the churches of the city went with banners and icons from Sofia to the Alexandrov Chapel, the very one that was visible to Nicholas II and his household from the windows of the Governor General's house. A lot of people gathered in the Alexander Garden, not only of different ages and professions, but also representing different denominations.



*"Prayer for Russia. Holy Martyrs in Tobolsk" - painting by Ivan Reipolsky*

The event happened a hundred years ago united people of Tobolsk. Arriving at the Alexander Garden, people spoke out against the bloody violence and evil, which happened in the twentieth century. Faithful addressed the Royal Martyrs in prayer, who showed the world the model of Christian love and humility. Metropolitan of Tobolsk and Tyumen Demetrius called on the Orthodox to peace and love. Above the square, the many-voiced "Holy Royal Passion-Bearers, pray to God for us" were heard. And there was everything in this phrase: the strength of faith, the plea for forgiving those who committed the bloody crime, the desire to find in the heart a true Christian love, sacrificial and forgiving.

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## Historians want to find the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich with the help of new archives

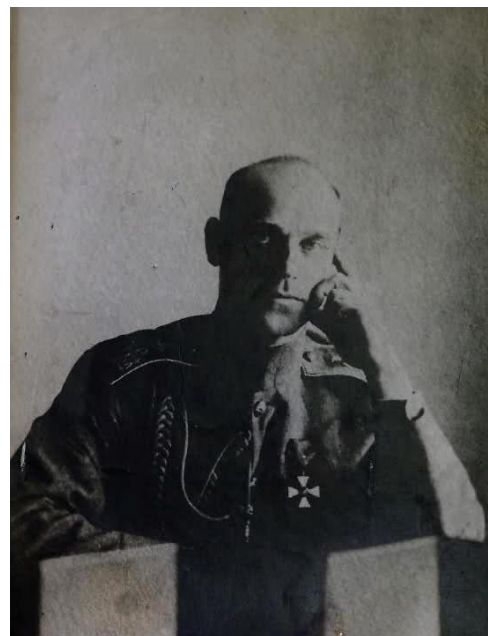
August 23. V-Kurse Perm - Historians hope to find the burial place of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich with the help of the Presidential Archive. In connection with the merging of criminal cases of the murder of Michael Alexandrovich and members of the Imperial family, the former archive of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee will be opened. No one still saw the documents stored there.

Researchers hope to find testimony of investigators who in the 1920s came to Perm to investigate the murder of the Prince and his secretary, told the historian Peter Sarandinaki in an interview with the radio "Echo of Perm".

According to him, everything is dug up and there is a pipe at the site of the murder of Michael Alexandrovich. The historian wants to know by whose orders this was done, it will help to know whether the remains were found and what was done to them.

### "Englishman Brian Johnson" - wrong!

August 23 - AIF-Prikamye - New information appeared in the case of the murder of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his secretary Nikolai Johnson. The great-nephew of Nikolai Johnson, Vladimir Bystrov came to Perm from the Czech Republic. He was invited by an international expedition to search for the remains of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.



*Vladimir Bystrov (left) in the Perm state archive.*

Vladimir Bystrov spoke with Perm investigators, who are researching the historical murder.

In Perm, he told the details of the genealogy of the Grand Duke, who for a century was known as the Englishman Johnson, who accepted Russian citizenship. Now it turned out that Johnson was not an Englishman or even a foreigner, but ... a Russian.

His ancestors are from Poland. In Russia they lived from the 18th century.

Director of the Perm state archive of social and political history Sergey Neganov said that documents confirming the Russian genealogy of Nikolai Johnson were transferred to the archive by Vladimir Bystrov.

The real name of Nicholas is Jonson. It is assumed that the letter "D" was added for the sake of a joke. In the circle of friends Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich called Secretary Johnny, probably, and there was a theory about the English origin of "Johnson", which was actively supported by the Bolsheviks, who consider the Prince secretary to be an English spy.

As the director of the archive explained, the employees of the investigation committee and the archive study and process the received documents. Upon completion of the work, they will be presented to the public.

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## **Tikhon N. Kulikovsky, a nephew of Emperor Nicholas II, was born 100 years ago**

A plaque in honor of Tikhon Nikolaevich Kulikovsky was unveiled on the facade of the former "Ai-Todor" Palace - now children's building No. 2 of the sanatorium "Ai-Todor" - in Gaspra, Crimea. He was a grandson of Emperor Alexander III, oldest son of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, and the nephew of Emperor Nicholas II.

The director of the sanatorium "Ai-Todor" Dmitry Bednov, told that about 50 people took part in the ceremony, including State Duma deputy Natalya Poklonskaya, Olga Nikolaevna Kulikovskaya-Romanova, deputy of the city council of Yalta, representatives of the clergy who initiated the installation of the board.

"This is our history, such things can only be welcomed, this is the memory of our land," - said Bednov, commenting on the installation of the memorial plaque. He added that earlier the second building of the sanatorium was historically known as the "Children's Palace".

*"On August 12/25, 1917, Tikhon Nikolaevich Kulikovsky-Romanov was born in this Ai-Tudor estate. A worthy representative of the Romanov family, honorary chairman of the Charity Fund of Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, grandson of Emperor Alexander III, nephew of Emperor Nicholas II," is written on the memorial plaque.*



Natalia Poklonskaya, a member of the State Duma, took part in the opening ceremony of the plaque - "This is important not only for me, it is important for every person who loves and respects his own history and homeland, who calls himself a citizen of the Russian Federation. Today's event was held on the centennial anniversary of the birth of Tikhon Nikolayevich. It is necessary to pay attention to such things and not allow anyone to spit on our history"

## **100 years ago - the birth of Tikhon in the words of his grandmother Empress Maria Feodorovna, at Ai-Todor, Crimea, 25.08.1917:**

*"Suddenly, my glorious Cossack Polyakov ran into the room and congratulated me on the birth of my grandson! I immediately called my car and rushed to Olga . Xenia came to her before me. I felt great joy and felt true bliss when I saw how happy Olga was with the birth of her baby. Glory and thanks to the Lord that everything ended so well! The doctor was late. He arrived immediately after the baby's birth, but Madame was very pleased and proud that she coped with everything alone. The poor Kulikovsky was absolutely not himself after all these terrible troubles. We all embraced and congratulated each other."*



## Tikhon was remembered in Ramon

The evening "Boyar Tikhon", dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Tikhon Nicholaevich Kulikovsky-Romanov, was held in the People's Museum of the Princes of Oldenburg in Ramon, Voronezh region.

During the evening stories were told about the life and work of Tikhon Nicholaevich, the Ai-Todor estate in the Crimea, where Tikhon Nikolayevich was born, and an interesting story about how once, sitting on the balcony in her estate Olgino, the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna gave a vow to the Lord if she ever had a son, then to call him Tikhon. After many years the son was born and was named Tikhon.



The unique album "The Adventures of Three White Bears" was presented, in which Olga Alexandrovna have made drawings of her children Tikhon and Gury as small boys. The guests got acquainted with the memories of the Grand Duchess "25 Chapters of My Life", published this year under the editorship of the grand nephew of Tikhon Nikolayevich, Paul Kulikovsky, and heard excerpts from this book.

## In memory - Tikhon Nicholaivich Kulikovsky

Tikhon Nicholaivich Kulikovsky was born 25 August 1917 in Ai-Todor, Crimea, as the first son of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and Colonel Nicholas Alexandrovich Kulikovsky of the hereditary nobility of the Voronezh province.

His grandmother, Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna wrote in her diary - "Just the other night, when I felt completely lost, my dear Olga gave birth to Baby, baby son, who brought in my broken heart such an unexpected pleasure ... I am very pleased that the Baby came just at the moment when the grief and despair I suffered terribly."

Tikhon was named in honour of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk.



Together with his mother, father and his brother Gury (born 1919), he escaped the Russian revolution, and arrived in Denmark in 1920.

Tikhon was brought up in the Russian spirit, spoke Russian very well, and met with many refugees from Russia, since his parents' house gradually became the centre of the Russian colony in Denmark. He was educated in the Russian high schools in Berlin and Paris.

Tikhon Nicholaivich served in the Royal Danish Guard. In 1948 he resigned from the service with the rank of captain, as the family was about to emigrate to Canada.

In 1942 Tikhon Nicholaivich married Agnete Petersen, the daughter of a shopkeeper in Ballerup, Denmark. They divorced in 1955. In 1959 he married Livia Sebesteyn, with whom he had the daughter Olga Tikhonova (1964). Livia died in 1982. In 1986, at the age of 69, Tikhon Nicholaivich married for the third time, with Olga Nicholaievna Pupynina.

Tikhon worked in the Ontario Department of Highways for many years.

Tikhon never recognized dynastic rights of the Kirillovich-branch of the Romanovs (the descendants of Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich).

He was an honorary member of the Romanov Family Association and the "arbiter" of the Supreme Monarchic Council (Chairman of the Board).



In 1991 he organized the Charity Foundation named after Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.

Tikhon was also a trustee of the Orthodox Brotherhood in the name of the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II.

Tikhon was in the early 1990s, the closest a relative of Emperor Nicholas II, and his genetic material was supposed to be a strong argument in the identification of the remains of the Imperial family. But he refused to provide the material to the experts, considering that the investigation is conducted not at the proper level, by incompetent people and organizations, and shortly before his death, even made a public protest against attempts to "pass for remains of the Royal Martyrs the obscure bones found in one of the Ural graves."

However, samples of his blood taken during an operation, have been retained and transferred for investigation by DNA-expert E.I. Rogaev. His studies shows a hundred percent probability of relatedness between Tikhon and "the man who owned the skeleton number 4" - the remains of Emperor Nicholas II.

April 6, 1993 Tikhon was admitted to Women's College Hospital in Toronto after he had suffered a heart attack. April 8, after the second operation on the heart Tikhon Nicholaivich Kulikovsky died.

The funeral was held April 15 in the Holy Trinity Church in Toronto and the same day he was buried in the North York Cemetery, next to his mother, father and second wife Livia.



## **The birthday anniversary of Tsarevich Alexei was celebrated in Yekaterinburg**

From 11 to 12 of August, events dedicated to the celebration of the birthday of Tsarevich Alexei were held in the Church on Blood and in the spiritual and educational centre "Tsarsky" in Yekaterinburg.

August 12, 1904 the only son of the Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, the heir to the throne of the Russian Empire Tsarevich Alexei was born in Peterhof. He was the fifth and very long-awaited child of the Imperial couple. His parents fervently prayed for him, including during the celebrations dedicated to the glorification of St. Seraphim of Sarov in 1903.

Events started with an all-night vigil on August 11, on the eve of the celebration of the birthday of the passion-bearer Alexis in the Church-on-Blood.

Next day were Divine Liturgy in the Church-on-the-Blood, and Moleben to the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in the Church-on-the-Blood.

Master class - "Making paper soldiers" was arranged for children in the centre "Tsarsky". The teacher Vladimir Artemiev told about the favourite games of Tsarevich Alexei and teach the children how to make soldiers from paper.

The documentary film "Heavenly Angel - Alexei" was shown in "Tsarsky" and a photo exhibition "With Love for Russia" - in the Church-on-the-Blood.



A round table dedicated to the August family was also held in the Church on Blood. At the meeting the participants got acquainted with 40 letters from Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich and Princess Alice - later Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra. The mission was to show the beauty and height of their relationship - the image of an Orthodox family, when love is stronger than death.

The 40 letters were prepared for expressive and sensual reading by young men and girls, with further discussion at the round table.

## **A prayer service for people suffering from haemophilia was served in Novospasky monastery in Moscow**

On August 12 - the birthday of the holy martyr Tsarevich Alexei - the most famous haemophilia patient in Russia, whose ancestors are buried in the Tomb of the Novospassky Monastery - was served a prayer service for the health of those suffering from haemophilia.

To the service according to tradition came the children from the wards of the Moscow branch of the Russian Society of haemophilia, their families and doctors. For the fifth year in a row on this special day a prayer unites all in common prayer and a desire to support each other, to share the difficulties together and have small pleasures.

As the vice-president of the All-Russian Society of Haemophilia Nadezhda Ivanovna Arkhipova noted, haemophilia patients who faithfully and hopefully turn to God undoubtedly experience miraculous healings.

The icon of the Tsarevich Alexei was delivered specially for the moleben in the Novospassky Monastery. It was painted by the iconographers of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra in 2014, and since has become the main shrine of the Society.





At the end of the service, Igor Alexandrovich Polishchuk addressed the audience on behalf of the parents. He noted the importance of this day for all who are connected with haemophilia: "Tsarevich Alexei is the heavenly patron of our sons, brothers and fathers." We greatly esteem the Tsar's family, because this holy family went through a difficult way of interacting with this disease. At that time there were no medications and doctors who could help. There are medicines, doctors and people who, united in the Haemophilia

Society, understand all our difficulties and do a lot for all of us. Today we read the notes with names that were sent for prayerful remembrance from all parts of our country and even from abroad. And this moleben has been taking place not only here, in the Novospassky Monastery, but also in other cities of Russia, as well as abroad."

Diary of Emperor Nicholas II on August 12, 1917:

*"Today our dear Alexei turned 13 years old. May God give him health, patience, strength of spirit and body in the coming difficult times. We went to Mass and after lunch to the service in which they presented the icon of the Virgin. Somehow it was especially warm to offer prayers to Her Holy Image together with all our dear people."*



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

### The Russian Orthodox Church continues to publish investigation material

In August on the web site "Orthodoxy" several articles have been published under the headline: The Church Commission for the Study of the "Yekaterinburg Remains":

- August 4, "That night there was no burial"
- August 9, "Professor Vladimir Trezubov: "I think we worked with the remains of the Imperial family"
- August 9, "Was it possible to create a "false Imperial grave"?"
- August 11, "On the trust in the genetic examination of the so-called "Yekaterinburg remains"



## A monument to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Perm

August 24, 2017, the grand opening of the monument to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna took place in Perm, in the square in front of the building of the Elizabethan Hospital (Ekaterininskaya St., 224), near the Assumption Monastery.

Before the ceremony, the bronze figure, 2.6 meters high on an 80-centimeter pedestal, was covered with a transparent cloth. The honourable right to open the monument was given to pupils of the Perm Cadet Corps named after the hero of Russia Feodor Kuzmin.



Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna twice stayed in the Perm province: in 1914 on a pilgrimage and the tragic days of 1918, when she was transported through Perm to the city of Alapaevsk. In 1914, she visited the Uspensky Women's Monastery, located near the Elizabethan Hospital, and in 1918, when she returned to Perm as a prisoner, she stayed at the monastery for a week.

Proposals for the installation of memorials to the Romanov family in Perm had been expressed many times by the scientific and religious public of the Perm region. The very idea, practical advice and organizational help in installing the present monument to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Perm came from the chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, Anna V. Gromova. This initiative was adopted by the Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Mefody and the Administration of the Governor of Perm Krai. Further to the implementation of the idea was connected the Perm community in Perm, which offered organizational assistance.

The sculptor of the monument is vice-president of the International Fund of Slavic Literature and Culture, president of the Centre for Artistic Casting, member of the board of the Perm community of Ukraine Vladislav Ivanovich Meshchangin. Sculptor Meshchanguin was born in Solikamsk, studied in Perm, graduated from the Perm Military Aviation Technical School, served in the Armed Forces in various positions, and have been always remembered in his native land. He was one of the first to join the ranks of the Perm association in 2005, in 2007 he became a member of the Board of the Association, becoming responsible for the patronage and military patriotic work with the



youth. Meshchangin is the author of monuments to Generalissimo Alexander Suvorov, Marshal Georgy Zhukov, Prince Dmitry Donskoi, as well as the monument to St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, installed on Sobornaya Square in Perm, on September 1, 2015.



The monument to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna is made of bronze and the pedestal is of dark red granite. There is a cross in her right hand and in the left she holds a scroll with the motto: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." On the monument there is the inscription - "Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna".

Metropolitan Mefody of Perm and Kungurskiy, the acting governor Maxim Reshetnikov, the head of the Perm Dmitry Samoilov, the chairman of the Perm City Duma Yuri Utkin, Chairman Elizabeth Sergei Educational Society" Anna Gromova, representatives of the Perm Community and clergy attended the opening ceremony of the monument.

The figure of Elizabeth Feodorovna is facing the entrance to the hospital. According to Anna Gromova, the Grand Duchess blesses those who need help - sick and suffering people.



At the opening ceremony of the monument, Anna Gromova announced that the city of Perm was officially included in the Russian national pilgrimage and tourist route in places of memory of the



Imperial family. The family history of the Romanovs is closely connected with the Perm Krai. In the memory of the Imperial Family, V International public forum "Elizabeth heritage today. Moscow-Perm-White Mountain. 2017" was held in Perm on June 8-12, 2017. The forum participants discussed the creation of a new spiritual and educational pilgrimage route, which will unite the memorial places of representatives of the Romanov dynasty. The first memorial tour will be held in 2018. It will be timed to the 100th anniversary of the martyred death of the Imperial family.



«We are not just opening a monument, we are returning to Perm names of people who have been forgotten for a century, but make up the cultural and spiritual code of the Perm region," said acting governor Maxim Reshetnikov. - The statue of Elizabeth Feodorovna is a monument to all people who formed here an atmosphere of mercy, philanthropy, caring for those in need. These are values that are now being revived. I'm sure this monument will be another symbol of the fact that the region is reborn».

The monument was personally consecrated by the Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Mefody. "Today we glorify in bronze a woman who devoted herself to serving the good, her fellow man," said Metropolitan Mefodius. - Born a German Lutheran princess, Saint Elizabeth became for us an example of a truly Russian Orthodox spirit."

- Video - 1) [http://rifey.ru/news/perm/show\\_id\\_58029](http://rifey.ru/news/perm/show_id_58029)  
 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwvbqK-xra4>  
 3) <https://vetta.tv/news/society/v-permi-ustanovili-pamyatnik-elizavete-romanovoy/>



## Monument to Emperor Alexander III was installed in Simferopol for private funds



August 22, on Pushkin Street 33 in Simferopol, near a private house, patrons established a monument to Alexander III. The initiator of the bust is the private entrepreneur Vladimir Shpatakov, and creator of the bronze monument is the Kiev sculptor Oleg Razdevych.

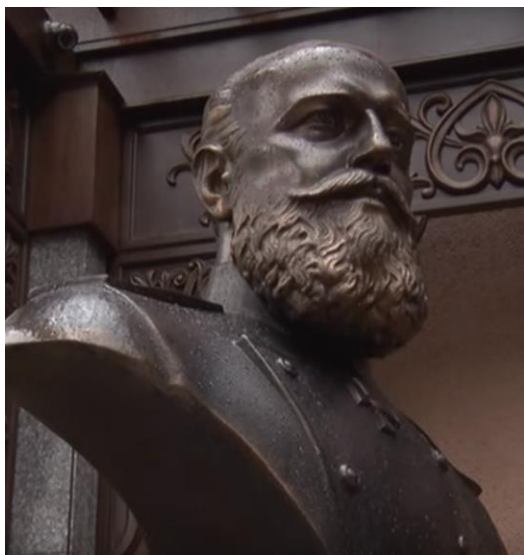
"This is our small gift to Simferopol. It is installed near the house where I was born and raised. I want people to know what the Peacemaker did for Russia, he was one of the best sons of our Fatherland, I will be pleased if people come to him.

I would like our people to remember that we are heirs of Orthodox Russia. In Simferopol there are many monuments to Lenin, to other figures of the communist era, but there is not even a street that bore the name of Alexander III" - said Shpatakov and added that in addition to the bust, the street will be decorated with a stand with a small exhibition about the life and activities of the Russian Emperor.

The monument is located at the end of the house and is installed in an arbour from Siberian larch. The base of the bust are made of gray granite and marble. The monument itself is made of bronze. Near the monument there is a memorial plaque mentioning the main milestones of Alexander III.

Among the guests there was also the head of the NGO "Russian Unity" Elena Aksenova. For her, the figure of the Tsar-Peacemaker - one of the favorite in Russian history.

"I came today to share the joy with the creators of this holiday. Alexander III - I consider a great man, for me he is the most positive and right Emperor. I would very much like our country to acquire such rulers in the future and it seems to me that Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin has something in common with Alexander III, "Aksyonova expressed her opinion.



Not so long ago, the bust of Alexander III was installed near the Massandra Palace, another large monument should soon appear near the Livadia Palace.

Video - 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5Ng2nfMZhw>  
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKDDaa8eol>







## The golden eagles returned to the gates of the Winter Palace

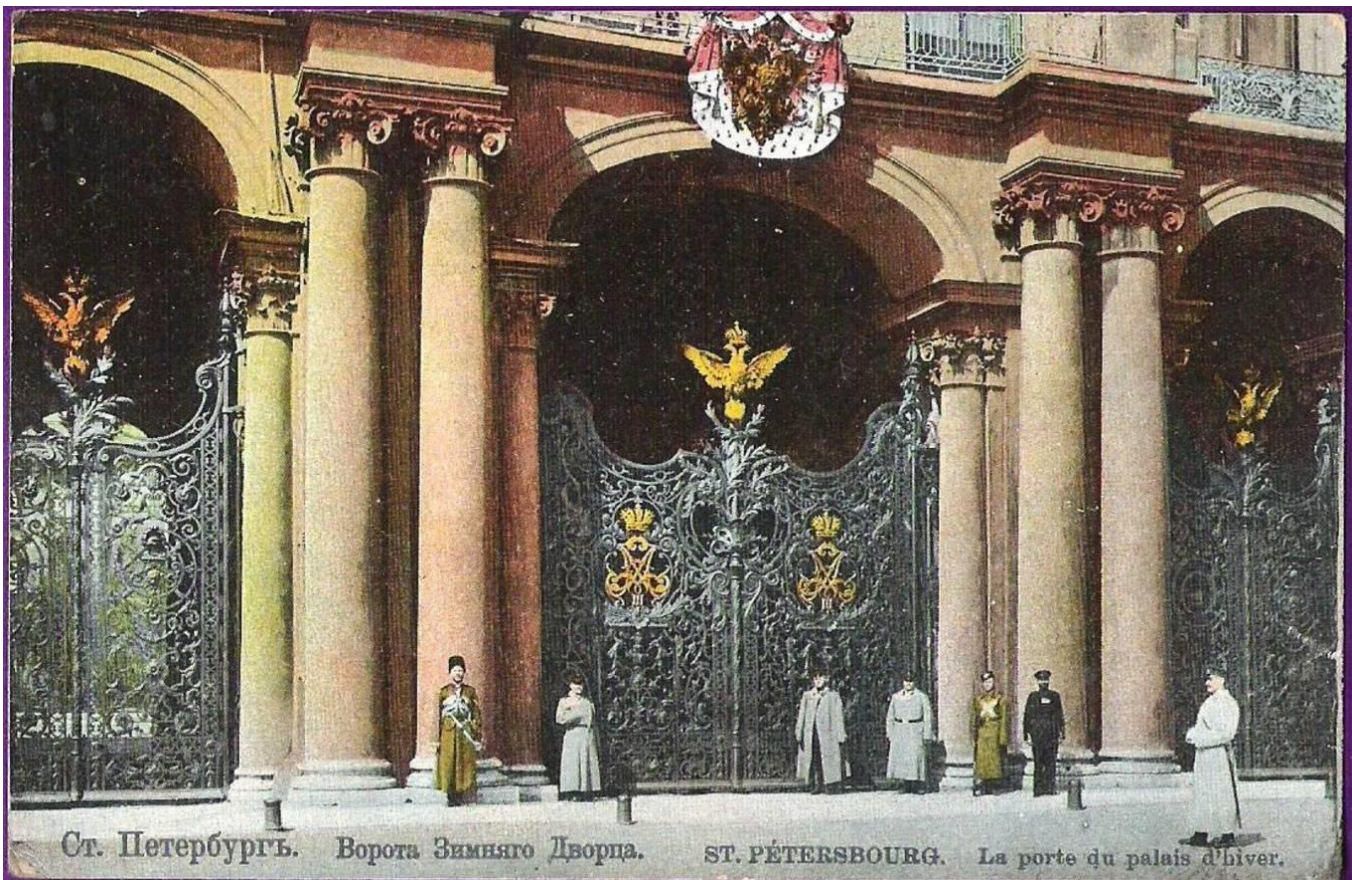


In August 2017, after the restoration, the two-headed eagles returned to their historic site, the main gate of the Winter Palace. The decision to dismantle eagles and monograms for the restoration of gilding was adopted in 2016 at the Restoration Council of the State Hermitage. Works carried out by the restoration company "Museum Technologies" under the architectural and methodical supervision of the Department of History and Restoration of Architectural Monuments of the Hermitage. The deformation of the deformed fragments and the complete re-gilding of the surface of all figures and monograms were carried out in the restoration process.

The first gate, leading from the side of the Palace Square to the courtyard of the Winter

Palace, was executed according to the project of Yu.M. Felten in 1771. It was a wooden gate, located in three arches from the southern facade of the building, connecting the Great Courtyard of the Winter Palace with the Palace Square. The gates were panelled.

With the accession of Paul I at the turn of the XVIII-XIX centuries, work is underway to replace the main gate. They are made of the same material, but are painted in a "military" splitting - with alternating white and black stripes and thin separating red lines.



Ст. Петербургъ. Ворота Зимняго Дворца. ST. PETERSBOURG. La porte du palais d'hiver.



By the middle of the XIX century the gate was dilapidated. In 1884, the question arose about replacing wooden gates with metal ones. Projects of large and small gates were compiled by the palace architect N.A. Gornostayev.

According to the project approved by Alexander III, the manufacturer, F. Melzer, was instructed to produce gate templates. In his workshop wooden models in full size with stucco decorations were made. The models were installed for viewing first in the arena of Anichkov Palace, and then in the Winter Palace.

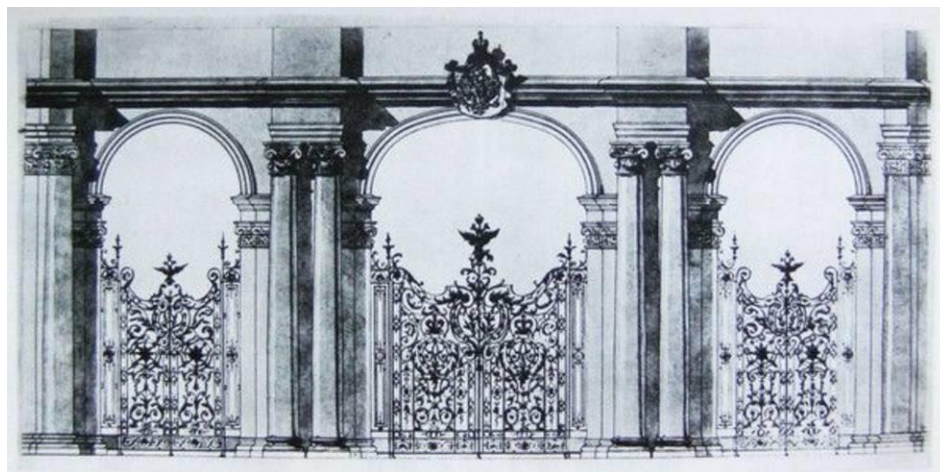
Massive openwork gates made of wrought iron with overlaid decorative elements of black and non-ferrous metal were made at the St. Petersburg iron foundry of San Galli.



The new metal gates, crowned with gilded double-headed eagles, stood just over 30 years. After the February Revolution of 1917, according to the verdict of the Provisional Government, the power birds and monograms were dismantled and irretrievably disappeared. When Sergei Eisenstein filmed his "October", where soldiers stormed the gates of the Winter Palace - there were no eagles for them for a long time, these were models ...

The idea to recreate the historical view of the gates of the Winter Palace arose in the second half of the twentieth century. Sculptor S.G. Lebedev based on the iconographic material performed plasticine models of lost parts of the gate. Zinc mods were cast on their basis. The production of eagles from sheet copper by the method of knockout was performed by the artist-restorer of the State Hermitage A.N. Gerasimov. And the restoration of the gates of the Great Courtyard of the Winter Palace was the final stage of the program "The New Entrance to the Hermitage."

Original appearance of the main gate of the Winter Palace was found in 2003, for the days of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg.









## **The exhibitions "The Hermitage Encyclopedia of Textiles. History "and" Hermitage encyclopedia of textiles. Restoration"**

July 28, 2017, two exhibitions were opened in the main halls of the Winter Palace, one of which is devoted to the history of fabrics, the second - their restoration.



"Today we are opening two stunning exhibitions full of different beauties and different meanings," said Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director General of the State Hermitage at the opening ceremony. - We show our tremendous collections, as well as the work of restorers in the sphere in which it is absolutely necessary. Fabrics are a mystical and ancient thing: the human life is determined by the Parks, which spin the thread of fate. These exhibitions of textiles have become to some extent final: they are connected with the 80th anniversary of the Laboratory for the Scientific Restoration of Tissues, as well as timed to the congress of the International Society for the Study of Old Textiles, which will be held in St. Petersburg in September. And today we provide an opportunity to see collections of fabrics in all their luxury. "

The Georgievsky Hall of the Winter Palace presents the best samples from the textile collections of the State Hermitage: tapestries, carpets, embroideries, lace, fabrics and costumes of countries of Western Europe, Russia and the East. Here you can see the tapestry "The Godfather Fey" never left the walls of the Winter Palace, which was presented to Nicholas II personally by French President Félix Faure. Among other valuable gifts to the Russian Imperial House are trellises, exactly three hundred years ago brought by Peter I from Paris. A rarity is the full suit of the Chevalier of the English Order of the Garter, donated to Alexander II by the Queen Victoria of Great Britain. By unique exhibits it is possible to carry a suit of Eugenie Bogarne, stepson of Emperor Napoleon, brought to Russia in 1839 after the wedding of his son Maximilian and daughter of Nicholas I Maria.

The exhibition also shows samples of the dress costume, military and court uniforms: dresses of Catherine II, Maria Feodorovna, the wife of Alexander III and the last Empress Alexandra Feodorovna created by the hands of talented Russian and foreign masters and leading fashion houses in Europe and Russia of the 18th and early 20th centuries. In addition to military uniforms, the exhibition features vivid examples from a beautiful collection of banners.



Along with items from the Winter Palace and other Royal and Grand Duke's residences, works from collections of Russian aristocrats are kept in the Hermitage collection. Especially rich were the collections of the Princes Yusupov, which included first-class tapestries, lace costumes, among them a luxurious wedding veil with the arms of the Yusupov family and Count Sumarokov-Elston.



The collection of oriental textiles in the Hermitage includes rare and interesting monuments. Russian Tsars kept a large number of Chinese silks and embroideries in their treasury. Many products were presented as diplomatic gifts. For example, a woven silk tapestry with a picture of a crane was donated to Peter I by the Chinese Emperor.

Persian and Turkish velvet of the 16th century can be seen in Russian church vestments, the mantles embroidered in the XVII century by Russian masters. Spectators also have a rare opportunity to get acquainted with the luxurious oriental carpets woven in the workshops of India, Iran and the Caucasus.

Video -

[http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/184888/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/184888/)





## Monument to Empress Catherine the Great was unveiled in Luga

On August 12, to the 240 anniversary of Luga, a monument to the founder of the city Catherine the Great was erected. The monument of the Empress is located at the intersection of Volodarsky Avenue and Victory Street.

On behalf of the governor and the government of the Leningrad region, the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Leningrad Region for the Agro-Industrial and Fishery Complex Sergey Yakhnyuk congratulated - "The holiday is an opportunity to return to history, and today we paid tribute to the historical memory - we opened a monument to the founder of the city of Luga, Catherine II. Returning to history, I want to say a big thank you to our veterans - those who defended the Luzhskaya land from the enemy, and those who work for its welfare today, as well as our youth, for the future of the Leningrad, Luga land. The Leningrad region today is the leader in the development of the economy.

In honour of the round festive date, guests and residents of the city were pleased with the large-scale celebration program, which began with a historic costumed procession of the city organizations. There was also a children and a folklore program, and performances of the Historical Reconstruction Club with show battles, rock bands, the People's Artist of Russia Vasily Gerello. Colourful fireworks finished the holiday program.







## "The Yacht Standart and the Family of the Last Russian Emperor

The exhibition "The Yacht Standart and the Family of the Last Russian Emperor" is based on memoirs and original photographs from the personal archive of N. V. Sablin, captain 2nd rank, who served on board the Standart yacht from 1906 until 1916.



The exhibition is organised by the State Russian Museum and Exhibition Centre ROSPHOTO in St. Petersburg, located at the Yard Building Exhibition Hall, 2nd floor, and runs through 28.09.2017.

A significant part of these photographs were made by the co-owner of the K. E. von Ghan & Co. photo studio, a famous Russian photographer A. K. Yagelsky, Court Photographer to His Imperial Majesty. He was entitled to make

photos of the Imperial Family. The exhibition includes photographs by the K. E. von Ghan & Co. photo studio, as well as remarkable documentary shots taken on board the imperial yacht. Besides photographs, the display features original letters of Emperor Nicholas II, written on board the vessel, watercolours and a collection of postcards devoted to the Standart yacht log book, and a variety of other unique documents.

Photographs taken on board of the Standart yacht will be presented to the broad audience for the first time. Visitors will have a chance to get a glimpse into the private life of the Imperial Family through these little-known photographs, which were meant to be kept away from prying eyes, hence their sincerity and frankness.



The exhibition project is carried out in partnership with the Russian State Archive of the Navy, the Russian State Film and Photo Archive, and the Central Naval Museum.

We hope the exhibition "The Standart Yacht and the Family of the Last Russian Emperor" will let citizens and guests of Saint Petersburg get an insight into the little-known part of Russian history.





Video - 1) <https://topspb.tv/news/2017/08/2/bort-1-carskih-vremen-v-peterburge-otkrylas-vystavka-o-zhizni-imperatorskoj-semi-na-yahte-shtandart/>  
 2) [http://www.rtr.spb.ru/vesti/vesti\\_2014/news\\_detail\\_v.asp?id=22406](http://www.rtr.spb.ru/vesti/vesti_2014/news_detail_v.asp?id=22406)

## The exhibition "Saved relics. Two centuries of glory"

July 1st 2017, the Museum of military uniforms RVIO in Moscow, opened the second part of the exhibition "The Saved Relics. Two centuries of glory." The first visitors of the exhibition were the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Russian Military Historical Society Vladimir Medinsky, the Minister of the Government of Moscow, the head of the Department of Culture of Moscow Alexander Kibovsky, and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III.



Vladimir Medinsky said - "The Ministry of Defense decision was made upon our request to transfer from the storage of the Museum of the Armed Forces in the Moscow Region several hundred items that were in terrible condition there: uniforms, hats and other items of historical military uniform. Thanks to Sergei Shoigu and Anton Gubankov, these items were transferred to the Russian Military Historical Society, which carried out the restoration. Experts from three leading organizations worked on it: GosNiir, named after I.E. Grabar and ROSIZO."



Restoration lasted almost a year, and in February 2017 the exhibition with samples of the Russian military uniform of the XVIII - XIX centuries received the first guests. Today, the new expanded exhibition was opened.

Visitors will see more than 50 new exhibits representing the stages of the evolution of the military uniform: from a beautiful spectacular but slightly unsuitable uniform for warfare to the practical in manufacturing and comfortable to wear uniforms during the reign of the Emperors Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II.





An addition was a unique collection of mini sculptures by Alexander Voronov, dedicated to the Russian Imperial Guard of 1906-1917, a period when the ceremonial uniform was returned to raise the prestige of military service.



## Monument to Emperor Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexei in Novosibirsk was attacked with axe

1 August . Pravoslavie - Novosibirsk police are looking into the damage inflicted on a monument to Tsar Nicholas II and his son Tsarevich Alexey, installed in July at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

According to police, a 31-year-old Novosibirsk man placed a ladder against the newly-consecrated monument, and, having climbed up it, dealt several blows with an axe. Security officers happened to pass by at the time and were able to detain the vandal and hand him over to the police. Motive and cost of damages are yet to be established.



The head of the Tsarevich in the monument, which was apparently the target, is currently covered over by a cloth. The statue of the Emperor himself was not damaged.

The monument had only just been opened on the square in front of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Novosibirsk on July 16, the day before the Church commemorates the holy Royal Martyrs. It was consecrated by Metropolitan Tikhon of Novosibirsk and Berdsk. The consecration was also attended by Bishop Paul of Kolyvansky, the dean of Novosibirsk churches Archpriest Alexander Novopashin, and the clergy of the Novosibirsk Diocese.





## 40 years ago Ipatiev's house ceased to be a state monument

3 August. Information portal Yekaterinburg - The most tragic page of the history of the Romanov dynasty is inextricably linked with the history of Yekaterinburg - the last days of Emperor Nicholas II and his family, as you know, passed in the mansion of engineer Ipatiev.

In Soviet society, the attitude towards this event was, to put it mildly, ambiguous, as a result of which the fate of the Ipatiev House was not easy. It was a state property until August 1977, when the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR decided to exclude the mansion from the list of historical monuments of national importance. Demolition took place in September.



The stone two-story mansion was built in the late 1880s and in 1908 was bought by the Russian civil engineer N. N. Ipatiev

In Ipatiev House, the Imperial family stayed for 78 days, from April 28 to July 17, 1918. During their stay there, the Bolsheviks called Ipatiev House - The house of special purpose. Nicholas II, Alexandra Fedorovna, their children, Dr. Botkin and three servants were killed with the use of cold and firearms without trial and investigation. The execution of the Imperial Family took place in the basement of the house on the night of July 16-17, 1918.

KGB Chairman Yuri Andropov was concerned that foreigners visiting Sverdlovsk paid too much attention to the house. Approximately in 1978, the year of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas II and the 60th anniversary of his execution. These anniversaries draw the attention of the foreign press and radio stations. Therefore Andropov appealed to the Politburo with a proposal to demolish the house.

The Central Committee of the CPSU took the decision in August 1975. However, the final directive was postponed and was adopted only in 1977. By early October 1977, the Ipatiev House finally ceased to exist.



In the 90s a chapel appeared in its place in honor of Grand Duchess Elizabeth; it still exists. The memorial complex was completed with a cross and a commemorative plaque, and in the immediate vicinity the Church on Blood in the name of All Saints, in the Russian Land was built. A monument in memory of the family of the last Russian Emperor was erected at its stairs. The street on which the church is located is recently renamed Tsarskaya. Every year, the capital of the Urals hosts the festival "Royal Days", which gathers tens of thousands of pilgrims from all over Russia and abroad.

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## Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



### *New sections in museum "Russia in the Great War"*

On Thursday, August 3, in the Military Chamber of the State Museum "Tsarskoe Selo" in Pushkin, the renovated museum "Russia in the Great War" opened its doors to visitors. Four new sections were added to the existing 14 sections. They are dedicated to the Caucasian Front, the Galician operation, the defence of the Osovetz fortress, the life of Petrograd in 1917 and other pages of this period of Russian history.



The exhibition is mainly based on the original items of weapons and every day life of the participants of the First World War, documentary and photographic materials from the funds of the museum-reserve Tsarskoe Selo. In particular, among the exhibits - the entire line of machine guns of that time, uniforms of different countries, awards, personal belongings of warriors in the Great War, weapons, photographs, documents. The compositional centre of the exposition is a replica of the French fighter Newpor-17.



The first stage of the museum "Russia in the Great War" was opened in August 2014. This was one of the most ambitious and symbolic events timed to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The first museum in the modern history of Russia dedicated to this tragic period of history was housed in the building of the State Chamber of War, conceived by Emperor Nicholas II as a pantheon of military glory.



*An archive of the Romanov family was handed over to Tsarskoe Selo*

In the archive there are more than 200 documents and photographs that date back to the period from 1860 to 1928. The archive was put up for auction in London, while the names of the sellers were not disclosed.

It is assumed that he/she could be in the family of the descendants of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna - sister of Emperor Nicholas II. The task of museum workers was to prevent the division of a unique collection. After the appeal of the museum for financial assistance, the Romanovs archive for Tsarskoye Selo was bought by Sberbank.

"Symbolic acquisition, as a rule, with time correspondence, telegrams, photographs - all this somehow spreads to the hands of private collectors. As a result, they disappear," said Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky.





The archive includes letters, photographs, telegrams and drawings associated with several representatives of the Romanov dynasty: Emperor Alexander III, Empress Maria Feodorovna, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Of great interest are the letters of the famous historian - Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich to Prince George Dmitrievich Shervashidze, written in 1917 - 1918. Letters of the British Dowager Queen Alexandra to Grand Duchess Xenia and photos with Christmas wishes of 1928 from the British King George V testify to the warm attitude of the king and queen to Xenia.

Approximately half of the archive relates to the Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna - the daughter of Alexander III and Maria Feodorovna, sister of Nicholas II.

The documents can be divided into several blocks:

- Letters from Empress Maria Feodorovna to her daughter, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna. All of them are stored in a linen envelope (it is known that Maria Fedorovna kept letters and documents in such envelopes). In addition, there is a picture of a church or a castle made by Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich. This is evidenced by his monogram "AA" and the date: "April 10, 1866 St. Petersburg." Tsarevich sent a picture to Dagmar in April 1866.

- 36 telegrams of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna to her daughter, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (1888-1913), including 6 telegrams in a separate envelope, signed "Father's Telegrams of 1894" (the period of his illness before his death). Telegrams from 1888 to 1892, despite the tightness of the text, convey a touching affectionate attitude of Alexander III and Maria Feodorovna to children. Telegrams for 1894 were sent from Belovezhsky Palace and Spala during the last stay of Alexander III in these places.

The collection also includes telegrams from the Dowager Empress Maria Fedorovna to Xenia, dated 1903 and 1913 (mainly from Denmark).

- Letters from Xenia Alexandrovna to her brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich from the beginning of the 1880s to 1914. They are written on their own forms with the monogram of Xenia Alexandrovna, and the forms of palaces, hotels, where the Grand Duchess was.

Among them - children's letters on the sheets, decorated with vignettes. In her letters to her brother Xenia always affectionately calls him "my dear Misha."

The letters of Xenia in 1913, when Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich was in exile in Europe due to a morganatic marriage with Natalia Sergeyevna Brasova, are addressed to "Mr. Brasov."



The last letter of the collection is dated November 23, 1916. Grand Duke Michael sent it to Xenia from Ai-Todor (Crimea). All family quarrels have subsided by this time, and he finishes the letter with the words: "Natalia Sergeyevna thanks you very much and sends greetings, and I embrace you tightly. Heartily loving you, Your Misha. "

- Letters from the Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich (Xenia Alexandrovna's husband) to the Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, from 1894 to 1906, and the letters of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich to Xenia Alexandrovna (1913); Answers to the letters of the sister.

- Documents written by Nicholas II: note to Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna and thanksgiving speech of the Life Guards to the Jäger Regiment.

- Letters from Alexandra Feodorovna. In the correspondence the Empress calls Xenia dear chicken, and herself - an old chicken. Alexandra Feodorovna writes in English, she is necessarily interested in the health of the children of Xenia Alexandrovna.

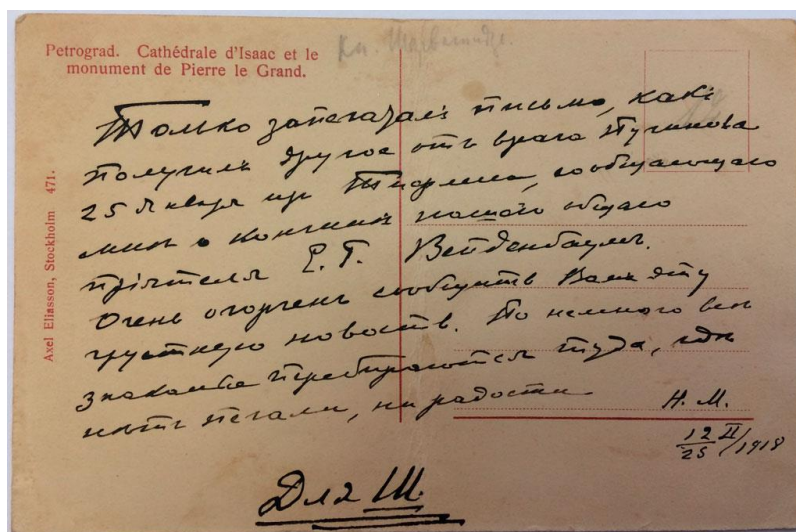
- Several letters from the Queen of Great Britain Alexandra (1844-1925), which belonged to Xenia Alexandrovna aunt. Letters date back to 1919-1922.

- Letters to Prince George Dmitrievich Shervashidze from the Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich, from the son of G.D. Shervashidze, Dmitry Georgievich Shervashidze and some other addressees, dating from 1917-1918.

Three letters and a postcard from the Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich (1859-1919) - a historian, the son of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich. The author describes in detail the situation in Petrograd and throughout the country. The letters mention Trotsky, Kerensky, Lunacharsky, Lenin. Envelopes without postage stamps, because in connection with their content, the letters were transmitted personally.

A postcard from Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich, dated February 25, 1918, ends with the words: "Now all our friends are ready to go to places where there is neither sadness nor joy."

In addition to the fact that the collection of documents has a great historical value, it is also interesting from an artistic point of view. Many letters have exquisite monograms of members of the Imperial Family. The archive includes 20 photographs of members of the Romanov dynasty, including portraits of the Empress Maria Feodorovna, the Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II, the Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna. Archives of the Romanovs are of great interest for research work. It will be kept in the museum's funds. The museum plans to involve actively documents and photographs in the exhibition and publishing activities.



- Video - 1) [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/185065/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/185065/)  
2) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2916815>  
3) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1884179/>



August 10, the head of Perm approved the installation of a plaque in memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich visit to the private philharmonic society "Triumph". The proposal for perpetuating the memory of Mikhail Romanov was made by the manager of the private philharmonic "Triumph" Julia Balabanova. According to the project, the board will be located at the entrance to the "Triumph" from Lenin street.

"Yes, Triumph is not the only building in Perm, where was the member of the Romanov family, who was tragically killed. But the idea was approved unanimously by the members of the council. The owner of the building Alexander Fleginsky will take care of all expenses for installing the memorial plaques," said Igor Lobanov, head of the regional organization Union of Journalists.



1903 Imperial ball to be recreated in Toronto. October 20, 2017 Russian Congress of Canada and the Slavic Cultural Community "Svetoch" organize a grandiose Alexander Boyar Charity Ball in Toronto.

The Alexandrovsky Ball is a unique project. It was created to unite the Slavic Cultural Society "Svetoch" from Montreal with the State Museum-Reserve "Tsarskoe Selo", and the main idea of this large-scale project was the return of historical values from abroad to the Motherland.

This year the ball will be held for the first time in Toronto, it will be the 11th in Canada, and the last Imperial ball of Russia in 1903 will serve as a prototype for it.

By tradition, only 100 tickets for the ball will be sold, and they are already on sale.

Detailed information for guests and participants is available at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/188649201661901/permalink/202686256924862/?pnref=story.unseen-section>

The ball will be held in the elite Elite Grande Banquet Hall restaurant at 1126 Finch Ave. W. Unit 7, Toronto.



In Canada, a chapel is to be built in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs. The chapel in memory of the martyrdom of the Holy Royal family will be erected in the Canadian city of Jackson's Point, Ontario. The chapel will be built at the local church of the Smolensk Icon of the Mother of God in memory of the tragic events, the 100th anniversary of which will be celebrated in 2018, tells the site of the church.

On August 6, 2017, on the day of the 60th anniversary of the coming to Jackson's Point, the consecration of the foundation stone of the future chapel was accomplished. Consecration was done by Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York Hilarion, assisted by the Archbishop of Montreal and Canadian Gabriel.

With the initiative to build a chapel in honor of the Royal Passion-Bearers, the father superior, Maxim Abroskin, spoke. It is planned that it will be built to the mournful date in July 2018.

As part of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the parish, Metropolitan Hilarion also handed over to the church the fragments of the relics of the holy Patriarch Tikhon and the Reverend Herman of Alaska.







The most expensive Russian diamond "dynasty" is on auction. A precious stone weighing 51.38 carats, the company Alrosa calls the largest and cleanest diamond, cut in the history of jewelry business in Russia.

In November this year, Alrosa launches a unique collection of five diamonds of its own cut. All of them were made from one diamond weighing 179 carats, mined in 2015 by a kimberlite pipe "Nyurbinskaya" in Yakutia. It was decided to assign the diamond to the name "Romanovs" - in honour of the Imperial House, which in 2013 celebrated its 400th anniversary. And each diamond from the collection is called one of the dynasties of the Russian Empire, which influenced the development of Russian jewellery art. So, a round diamond of 16.67 carats was named "Sheremetevs", an oval stone of 5.05 carats is named "Orlovs", "Vorontsovs" is a diamond in the shape of a pear weighing 1.73 carats and "Yusupovs" - a stone weighing in 1.39 carats.

Diamond "Dynasty" weighing 51.38 carats of traditional round shape, has the characteristics D, VVS1, and the quality of the cut is Triple Excellent, the highest possible.



In Gatchina restorers will recreate the monument of the era of Paul I - Constable. For a long time the stone obelisk of the 18th century was in a deplorable state and then a lightning strike. Now money for recreation was found, but the forces of nature continue to build obstacles. The highest obelisk in Europe in the 18th century - or rather, what is left of it now - is hidden behind the scaffolding and grid. The so-called Constable was set here by Emperor Paul I in memory of his journey to France in 1782.

A Connable is the highest military position at the court of the French Kings. But influential people, like high monuments, often attract lightning to themselves. This happened with the monument in the late XIX century.

"To the extent that we carry out the restoration, it has not been carried out since 1889. Then it was hit by lightning, and it was completely destroyed to the pedestal - then there was no protection from lightning", - explained the head of the contractor company Mikhail Ninburg.

Later it was restored and a century and a half later the Great Patriotic War began. Instead of a golden ball, symbolizing peace and wealth, a swastika appeared on the monument for a short time.

The obelisk stood for several decades, but then it literally began to crumble - the vibrations from the traffic flow passing through affected it. Restorers began to save the monument in February 2016.

"It was February-March, the stone was frozen all over. There was accumulated water, it froze, the stone collapsed and crumbled, "- said the restorer Roman Korablev.

The workers first dismantled the stele almost to the very bottom, and then began to erect it again according to ancient technology. The stones are stacked on top of each other without steel reinforcement. The only thing that keeps them together is the mortar and stone locks.

Completion of the obelisk was planned for this summer, but the famous Pudozh stone suddenly became a deficit - an underground source undermined the quarry. The one who comes out victorious - water or stone, it depends on how long the restoration will last.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/184867/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/184867/)



August 11, a well-known cartoonist sharply ridiculed Nyasha-Poklonskaya. The cartoonist Sergei Elkin laughed at the attempts of the former "prosecutor" of Crimea Natalia Poklonskaya to protect Nicholas II. The creation, he published on his Facebook page.

The picture shows Poklonskaya, who stood up for protection of Tsar Nicholas II because of the scandalous film "Matilda".





August 1, 2017 in Moscow and the regions of Russia the memory of Russian soldiers who died in the First World War was honoured. People gathered and laid flowers at the monuments erected in recent years.



Same day, the Russian Historical Society, made a presentation of the portal "In memory of the heroes of the Great War of 1914-1918". This is a site where everyone can now find documents from federal archives about their ancestors who fought in the First World War. Search can be conducted by name or by the place where your relative allegedly fought. Link to web site: <http://gwar.mil.ru/>

Now the portal contains information about two and a half million servicemen of the Tsarist army. And in total it is planned to publish data on eight million participants of the First World War. Behind every such card is the tragic fate of a particular person, said Sergei Naryshkin, who before that opened an exposition devoted to the situation of Russia on the eve of the great upheavals. This is not only about the First World War, but also about the revolution, the centenary of which is celebrated this year.

"The contradictions that existed in society could not be eliminated by the efforts of politicians, and state authorities. The government and the main political forces could not consolidate the society.

The initiative was seized by radical political forces," - said Sergei Naryshkin, chairman of the Russian Historical Society.

The exhibition presents artifacts of that time, but mainly here you need to strain your eyes and get a grasp of the numbers and facts. And the conclusion is one: on the eve of the First World and subsequent revolutions, Russia, despite everything, was at the peak of its economic and financial development.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/184907/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/184907/)



August 4, 2017 in the Upper Garden of the State Hermitage Museum "Peterhof" opened the exhibition "Imperial Cast Iron", to the 180th anniversary of the railways of Russia and the 160th anniversary of the opening of the Peterhof Railway".

It introduces the history of the construction of railways in Russia - the first "pigs" connecting the capital of the Empire with Imperial residences, and tells about the arrangement of ordinary and Imperial trains, introduces the road life and fashion of the late XIX - early XX century. The exhibition is illustrated by an impressive number of rare documents, photographs and drawings stored in the archives and libraries of organizations participating in this project. The stands are decorated with specially made flags reflecting the history of the Ministry of Railways for the entire pre-revolutionary period.

The creation and development of rail transport in Russia is inseparably linked with the name of Emperor Nicholas I. Following the example of his great great-grandfather Peter I, he was able to look into the future of Russia. The unyielding will of the Emperor in this matter was the decisive factor in the creation of the first domestic railways - Tsarskoselskaya (1837) and Petersburg-Moscow or Nikolaevskaya (1851). The next railway was the Peterhof road (1857), which connected the capital of the Empire with the Imperial residence of Peterhof. Launched during the period of the Crimean War, which was difficult for the Empire, the Peterhof Railway was privately owned and was built with the money of Baron A.L. Stieglitz, a well-known industrialist, banker and philanthropist.





The exhibition "The Alexander Palace in Tsarskoe Selo and the Romanovs" opened after re-exposure of a dozen new exhibits from the State Hermitage Museum, "Tsarskoye Selo" and the State Archives of the Russian Federation.

Among them the personal diary of Princess Alice of Hesse for 1894, in which she also wrote, among other things, a mysterious cipher, she invented, drawings of the children of Nicholas II, photos of the Imperial Family made by Pierre Gilliard, the teacher of the French language until 1917, miraculously preserved in an ideal condition Imperial military uniforms and much more.

The exhibition will last until January 2018.

In the photo - the uniform of an officer of the Life Guards Horse Artillery, owned by Emperor Alexander III (from the historical collection of the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoe Selo).



A Fabergé photo frame with a photo of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, by the master Mikhail Perkhin, was shown in the Dutch version of "Antique roadshow" - Tussen Kunst en Kitsch.

Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79rMZIAvapU>



Presentation of a future monument to the Imperial Family was held in Pushkin - a satellite city of St. Petersburg. The monument is a group composition: 7 members of the Romanov Imperial House at a bench.

Moleben in their honor was served by one of the initiators of the monument Protopriest Gennady Zverev.

Evgeny Korolev - general director of the creative workshop: "This monument is very complicated. These seven separate figures are united into one whole, into one community."

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBlwKNHkX8U>





The movie "Holy Tsar in Livadia 1902-1914" is showing Livadia tradition dating back to 1911, when the Emperor Nicholas II and his family held a premiere of the first Russian feature film about the Crimean War - "Defense of Sevastopol", which became one of the most important productions in the history of the national film industry. On August 26, the rare and unique films shot in Yalta, Livadia, Oreanda was shown. The film consists of 25 plots from the period from 1902 to 1914, most of which are private and official chronicle: a parade, after receiving the personal and family survey - celebrating the name day of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and Easter. Some of the stories are for the first time shown to the general public.

Footage archive and documentary film will acquaint viewers with relatives and approximate of the Imperial family: the Grand Dukes, maid of honor Anna Alexandrovna Vyrubova, Minister of the Imperial Court Count Vladimir Borisovich Fredericks, Admiral Konstantin Dmitrievich Nilov, a teacher of the Imperial children, Pierre Gilliard, physician Eugenie Sergeevich Botkin, and many others: Court ladies, various civil and military ranks of the Russian Empire. The documentary film was created based on the materials of the Russian State Archive of Film and Photo Documents.

The residents and guests of the resort were invited to a free viewing of the "Holy Tsar in Livadia 1902-1914" on the ground in front of the home of Baron Fredericks.

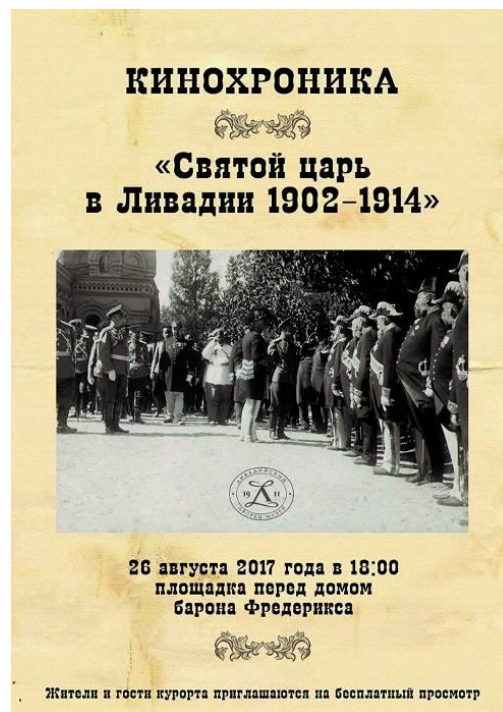


August 29, 2017 in front of the House of Baron Fredericks, at the Livadia Palace in Crimea, was a solemn presentation of the virtual inter-museum project "Romanovs in Tsarskoe Selo." The virtual exhibition will acquaint you with the history of the stay of crowned owners in Tsarskoe Selo from Elizabeth Petrovna to Nicholas II.

The exhibition consists of seven sections, representing more than 100 exhibits from the historical collection of the State Museum-Reserve "Tsarskoe Selo".

Tablets with a virtual project was placed in the Exhibition Halls of the House of Baron Fredericks.

The event was opened by the Crimean philharmonic society, and Ksenia Seliverstova, an employee of the department of scientific and educational programs of the State Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "Livadia Palace-Museum" informs.







A number of Moscow estate estates, churches and other objects will be included in a new interregional tourist route dedicated to the memory of the Romanov dynasty, the press service of the Ministry of Culture of the Moscow region reports.

"In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Culture of the Moscow Region has become involved in the formation of a new interregional tourist project "The Imperial Route ", said the Minister of Culture of the Moscow Region Oksana Kosareva. She explained, the route is timed to the 100th anniversary of the martyred death of the Imperial Family and called to unite the memory of the Romanov dynasty. The interregional tourist route will include Moscow, Moscow region, St. Petersburg, Sverdlovsk region, Perm region, Tyumen region.

The Moscow region's new tourist route is planned to include the Arkhangelskoye museum-reserve, the Church of the Saviour of the Holy Face in the Usovo village, the Resurrection New Jerusalem Monastery and other objects connected with the history of the Romanov dynasty.

The interregional tourist project "The Imperial Route" will be presented for the first time at the international tourist exhibition "Vacation - Leisure 2017", which will be held from September 19 to 21 in Moscow.



From August 20 to August 24, the State Secretary of the Vatican P. Paroline will visit Russia on a working visit. During the official visit, he is scheduled to meet with Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov. On the bilateral agenda, there is cooperation in the sphere of culture, humanitarian ties, science, education and medicine occupies a central place. This year the State Tretyakov Gallery hosted a unique exhibition from the collections of the Vatican Museums "Roma Aeterna. Masterpieces of the Vatican's Pinakothek. Bellini, Raphael, Caravaggio. " Another significant event is the historical and documentary exhibition "Romanovs of Russia and the Vatican, 1613-1917" planned for the opening in December of this year in Moscow.



A video presentation of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Darmstadt.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebg9z-CIpFE&feature=youtu.be>



The oak dining room of the Yusupov palace on the Moika was returned to its historical appearance.

In St. Petersburg, the restoration of the interiors of the famous Yusupov Palace on the Moika has been going on for five years already. Now visitors can see another room of the palace - the oak dining room. 70 percent of the interior of the palace has been renewed. This year they plan to complete the restoration of the main facade.

In the oak dining room even the chandelier is of oak. It was made by Russian masters. And, by the way, it was the first electric lamp in the palace. The parquet is complemented the interior set. True, all its beauty became visible only after the restoration.

"When the restorers began to clean it, we saw that there really are seven different kinds of wood. Each centimeter was manually cleared," said Deputy Director of the Yusupov Palace on the Moika Natalia Pankrashkina.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/187256/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/187256/)



In Mogilev, opposite the town hall, a memorable sign was set for the headquarters of Emperor Nicholas II during First World War. The city administration has decided to perpetuate this fact. It is a stone plaque on a stone pedestal, showing the buildings of the headquarters, a bell with the portrait of the Emperor and an inscription in Belarusian and Russian languages. It is put on the oldest square of the city, now called the Square of Glory, among several other Soviet memorials. So far, there has not been a grand opening.

Original a monument to Emperor Nicholas II was proposed, but the Experts committee discussing the initiative was divided. Some insisted that the initiative should not be aimed at the perpetuation of the Russian autocrat, but only for the celebration of a historical fact, that headquarters was situated just in Mogilev.

"I do not feel that I did something bad. I'm not afraid of criticism about the creation of the plaque. If it is something to be afraid of, you should not do anything, - says the creator of the plaque, Mogilev sculptor Andrei Vorobyov . - In my opinion, this memorable sign is a compromise version of the

monument to Nicholas II. I tried to convey the spirit of the time in the composition. On the plaque - a cabman, the buildings of the provincial administration and a bell with the image of Nicholas II."



English Heritage's only Russian cannon, made in 1826, returned to Berwick last week after extensive restorative works.

Gifted to the town in 1858 as a trophy of the Crimean War, it has since been preserved as a key historical artefact and takes pride of place on the ramparts.

The recent conservation works will protect the cannon from harsh coastal weather conditions, keeping it preserved for future generations and continuing its long tradition of care.

Created in Alexandrovski, Russia, the cannon bears the Imperial arms of Russia, and has a shot weight of 18lbs. The top of the barrel is testament to its heritage, displaying a Russian double-headed eagle.

After being captured at Sebastopol in 1856, the gun was set on a carriage, specially constructed for it to a Russian pattern by the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich.

This was commissioned following talks between Captain Gordon of Berwick and Secretary Major-General Peel of the War Office in 1858, on the occasion of the government's proposal to no longer use Berwick as a military station.

In a letter from the War Office, it is stated that General Peel specified this was to be treated with great care, saying the cannon is to be a 'trophy of the late war, for the correct mounting and careful preservation of which General Peel feels confident that he may rely on the public spirit of the inhabitants of the place'.

Ever since, the cannon has been kept at Berwick, surviving the great scrap page scheme of the Second World War, as it was too important to be destroyed.







On September 6, 2017, the State Historical Museum and the ANNA NOVA jewellery house will open an exhibition timed to the 205th anniversary of the Battle of Borodino, at which unique sets of interior chess "1812" will be presented.

Chess "1812" - a jeweller's masterpiece, representing the real participants of the Patriotic War. The work includes 32 figures, among them the Emperors Alexander I and Napoleon I Bonaparte, their retinue - Kutuzov, Barclay de Tolly, Bagration, Platov, Murat, Davout, Ney, Poniatowski, as well as pawns - soldiers of Life Guards Regiment, grenadiers of the Imperial Guard (Old Guard) and military musicians. Weapons, orders, signs and ribbons, available to the characters, meet their status and correspond to historical patterns. Jewellery is so thin that tiny swords and cleavers are removed from the scabbard, pistols and guns have cocked hammers.

Figures in height of 12 cm are executed from blackened silver and gold and are established on jade pedestals. In the decor of the characters 6,687 diamonds, 9,363 rubies and 3,245 sapphires of different colours, fixed in the most complicated technique of the pave, were used.

Work on chess was carried out for about three years, twenty-five specialists took part in it.

The set also includes a chess table, a pair of chairs and a drawer for storing figures, made in the style of the Empire. The chess board - a table top made of white and black jade.





A photo of the monument to the Nicholas II and family, that opened on the Cathedral Square of the Diveevo Monastery on July 31, 2017.

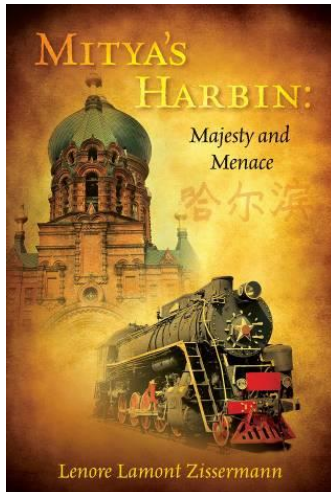


Video - 1) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAY\\_228mgc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAY_228mgc)  
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ1yEAL9sig>





## "Mitya's Harbin: Majesty and Menace"



Lenore Zissermann recently published the memoirs about the lives of her White Russian husband Dimitry ("Mitya") and his family while they lived in or near the city of Harbin, China (in what the was called "Manchuria") during the 1940s and 1950s. The book is titled "Mitya's Harbin: Majesty and Menace".

The Chinese village of Harbin was developed as an industrial centre by the Russians and Soviets, and it was during the time of Imperial Russia that this process began, with the support of Tsar Nicholas II. Mitya's father and grandfather both worked for the Chinese Eastern Railway which was headquartered in Harbin, and the family experienced The Bolshevik Revolution, Japan's occupation of Manchuria, the Soviets' expulsion of the Japanese in 1945 and the detentions and arrests of White Russians which followed, Chinese civil war, the Chinese Communist Revolution of 1949, and the eventual exits of most Russians from Harbin beginning in the late

1950s as Sino-Soviet relations deteriorated.

In addition to the true story, comprised of 422 pages, the book also includes: 29 photographs; a 47-page chronology of historical events relative to activities of the Chinese, the Japanese, the Russians, and others in the region; extensive source information; a bibliography of 178 items; and an index. The book is available on Amazon.com, on Amazon.co.uk, and on other sites. If anyone has any questions about the book, please feel free to email the author Lenore Lamont Zissermann at: [lezisser@outlook.com](mailto:lezisser@outlook.com).

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## Princess Olga – A Wild and Barefoot Romanov

by HH Princess Olga Romanoff, due for publication October 2017



A pre-proof version of the text has been received for review, and it will appear in the September 2017 issue of Romanov News, available early October timed to the book-release.

The press release says - "In remembrance of the centenary of the Russian Revolution and the tragic end of the Romanov Dynasty, HH Princess Olga Romanoff's memoirs are to be published by independent publishers Shephard-Walwyn. The hardback is due out in October 2017. Princess Olga – A Wild and Barefoot Romanov is very much a human interest story, told with humour by a down to earth woman struggling to make ends meet in the 21st century. The upkeep of her historical childhood home Provender House, in the English countryside, is indeed a constant daily battle for this modern-day princess."

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Did you know....



*... That in June 1917, Grand Duke managed to get to Finland, but desperate to be reunited with his family after four years of separation, he made the mistake to ask new Soviet government for permission to leave the country. On 3 April 1918, he was arrested and brought back to Petrograd under the escort of Red Guards.*

**3 photos - Grand Duke George Mikhailovich and Crown Princess Viktoria of Sweden, Cannes circa 1894**

Set of three snap shot style photos of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich of Russia (1863-1919). The first two show him with Crown Princess Viktoria of Sweden nee Baden (1862-1930), whilst the last one shows him with two unidentified persons, in Cannes circa 1894. In the following a double story inspired by these 3 photos.



**Grand Duke Michael Nikolaevich**

George was the fourth child of Grand Duke Michael Nikolaevich of Russia and a first cousin of Emperor Alexander III. He was a General in the Russian army in World War I. During the Russian Revolution, he was imprisoned by the Bolsheviks and shot by a firing squad, along with his brother, Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich, and his cousins Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovich and Dmitry Konstantinovich.

In his youth, George had some permanent damage to his leg, which prevented the active military career he would have wanted; nevertheless, he served in some limited capacity in Her





Majesty's Lancers. When World War I broke out, he went back into the army as a lieutenant general. In 1915, he was appointed as aide-de-camp to the commander in chief and Nicholas II employed him as supervisor of operations. In this position, he had to report to the Emperor about the general situation on the front. He found terrible disorganization in all levels, particularly at the rear of the army, he exposed a lot of corruption, making some enemies with his reports. To help with the war effort, he also organized a private hospital in his palace in St Petersburg.

In March 1915, George Mikhailovich was appointed patron of the 4th Kabansky Sentry Battalion. The same year, he was sent in a mission to Japan, then an ally in the war against Germany. First, he visited Korea and from there, he took a ship to Japan. At the beginning of 1916, he returned to Russia by Vladivostok, and on his way back inspected the situation in the Far East. Later, he was sent to visit German and Austrian prisoners of war. Early in 1917, he was sent to visit the Russian army corps in Bessarabia and Romania; on his way he visited Empress Maria Feodorovna in Kiev and in Bucharest, Queen Maria of Romania, whom he had once wanted to marry. He came back to Mogilev, the headquarters of Nicholas II. He was in St Petersburg at the start of the revolution.

In 1916, convinced of the imminence of the Revolution, George tried to persuade Nicholas II of the need to grant a constitution. He was at Gatchina when Nicholas II abdicated. With the fall of the monarchy he resigned from his military post on 31 March 1917. He wanted to go to England but the British government had forbidden the entrance of any Russian Grand Duke. Prince L'vov, the first post-imperial prime minister of Russia, refused George's request to let him leave the country. Three months after the fall of the Romanovs, George was allowed by the provincial government to leave for Finland, whence he hoped to escape to Sweden and find his way to his family in England.

In June 1917, he managed to get permission to go to Finland and rented a villa at Retiervä, a small village. In the winter of 1917, he left Retiervä because the house was too cold and went to live in Helsingfors. In January 1918, he was informed that Nicholas II and his family were sent as prisoners to Tobolsk. Eventually the situation took a turn for the worse in Finland. Desperate to escape and be reunited with his family after four years of separation, he made the mistake to ask new Soviet government for a new passport and permission to leave the country. This eventually sealed his fate. On 3 April 1918, he was arrested and brought back to Petrograd under the escort of Red Guards.

Initially he was just required not to leave the city. Because his palace had been occupied by the Red Army, he went to live in the house of his former secretary. The following month the Petrograd newspapers published a decree ordering all the Romanovs to report to the Cheka, the Soviet secret police. Grand Duke George went with his secretary and had an interview with Moisei Uritsky, one of the Bolshevik leaders of Petrograd. He was allowed to remain free, but shortly thereafter the Bolsheviks decided to send the members of the Romanov family, who had complied with the previous registration, into internal Russian exile. George was summoned again now to be sent to Vologda.

When he arrived at Vologda, he was met at the station by a commercial agent in whose house he was to live. It was a tiny house and George felt in the way of his host who lived with his wife and four children. He found another house that belonged to a rich merchant and was well treated by the owner. He shared exile with his brother Nicholas and with his cousin Dmitry Konstantinovich. They could move freely around town and visited each other frequently. On the morning of 14 July, two days before the murder of Nicholas II and his family, a car with four heavily armed men arrived and collected the Grand Dukes from their lodgings; they were arrested and interned in a small, walled village prison, where they could be more easily guarded. Rumors of the assassination of the Tsar reached them while they were there. During these months George Mikhailovich frequently managed to smuggle letters to his wife, the last one dated 27 November 1918. His wife unsuccessfully tried to buy out his freedom and that of the other three Grand Dukes for fifty thousand pounds through the Danish minister in St Petersburg.

Grand Duke George wrote to his wife in England, "We were each given a cell, and later on were joined by Dmitry. I saw him arriving through the iron bars of my window, and was struck by his sad expression. The first twenty-four hours were hard, but after that, they luckily allowed us to have our camp beds and also our clothes. There is no one in the prison but we three". He informed that they were guarded, by

soldiers from the Baltic provinces. "They treat us like comrades, and have not locked our cells after the second day, while they allow us to walk in the small garden in the courtyard. Our food is brought from outside." While imprisoned, rumors of the Tsar's assassination reached them; this seemed to indicate the worst and Grand Duke George was, of the three Grand Dukes, the more pessimistic. On 21 July, all of the exiled Grand Dukes were again transferred from Vologda back to Petrograd. In the former Imperial capital, the men were quickly imprisoned with six other detainees in a cell at Cheka Headquarters.

Upon arrival, George Mikhailovich and the other Grand Dukes were questioned at length by Moisei Uritsky, the Chairman of the Petrograd Cheka. Grand Duke George wrote, "Dmitry asked Uritsky why we were imprisoned, and his answer was that it was to save us as the people intended shooting us at Vologda, an explanation hard to believe." The prisoners were photographed, and then moved to the Kresty prison. Shortly thereafter, they were transferred to Shpalernaya prison, where they would remain for most of their incarceration. Here each had his own private cell, if only seven feet long and three feet wide. Their only furniture was a hard iron bed. The Grand Dukes were permitted to exercise a half-hour to 45 minutes twice a day, although the personal contact allowed in Vologda was denied them here at first. Their wardens, all of whom were soldiers, treated them well; they even helped George Mikhailovich to smuggle out letters. After several days, they were all allowed to gather in the courtyard and were permitted some provisions from the outside such as fresh linens and cigarettes. Their day began at 7am when they were awakened by the steps in the hall of their jailers and the clank of their keys in the door. Lunch was served at noon, which consisted of dirty hot water with a few fish bones on it and black bread. The lights were turned on in the cells at 7pm, although as the winter approached, the prisoners had to sit in darkness until that time. The meetings of the Grand Dukes during exercise gave them opportunity to exchange a few words.



Some of their relatives made frantic efforts on their behalf to obtain their release through Maxim Gorky who was sympathetic and asked Lenin to set them free, but the order release the Grand Dukes came too late.

There are no eyewitness accounts of the execution. What is known is based on versions that are derived from second hand information. Whilst they vary on the details, they are similar in content. At 11:30 pm on the night of 27/28 January, guards awoke George Mikhailovich, his brother Nicholas and his cousin Dmitry in their cells at Shpalernaya prison, telling them that they were going to be moved and they had to pack their belongings. They initially assumed that they were going to be transported to Moscow. Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich even thought that they might be set free, but George told him, that more likely they were heading to another place to be shot. They had an ominous hint of what was going to happen to them, when at the time of departure, they were told to leave their luggage.

The Grand Dukes were loaded into a truck that already held four common criminals and six Red Guardsmen. At 1:20 am on 28 January, they left the prison. They drove towards the river by the Field of Mars, where the truck stalled. While the driver was trying to restart it, one of the convicts tried to run and was shot in the back as he fled. The truck eventually began running again, and they drove to the Peter and Paul Fortress. The prisoners were roughly pushed from the truck into the Trubetskoy bastion. They were told to remove their shirts and coats, despite the fact that it was almost 20 degrees below zero. By then they had no doubt what was about to occur and the Grand Dukes embraced each other for the last time.



Soldiers appeared carrying Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich on a stretcher. They were then each escorted, with a soldier on each side, towards a trench that had been dug in the courtyard. As they passed the cathedral of St Peter and St Paul where their ancestors were buried, the Grand Dukes blessed themselves. The prisoners were lined up before the ditch, in which there were already thirteen bodies, Nicholas Mikahilovich, who had been carrying his cat, handed it to a soldier, asking him to look after it. All of the Grand Dukes faced death with the greatest courage. George and Dmitry prayed quietly. Grand Duke Paul, who was very sick, was shot on his stretcher. Grand Dukes Nicholas, George and Dmitry were killed by the same blast. The fusillade of shots sent them reeling into the trench, joining the other bodies in the mass grave.

### ***Crown Princess Viktoria of Sweden***

Princess Viktoria married in Karlsruhe on 20 September 1881 Crown Prince Gustaf of Sweden and Norway, the son of King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway and Sofia of Nassau. The German Emperor and Empress were present at the wedding, and marriage was arranged as a sign that Sweden belonged to the German sphere in Europe. The marriage was popular in Sweden where she was called "The Vasa Princess", because of her descent from the old Vasa dynasty, and she received a very elaborate welcome on the official cortege into Stockholm 1 October 1881. On 1 February 1882, Victoria and Gustaf visited Oslo, where they were welcomed with a procession of 3,000 torch bearers.



She and Gustaf were brought together by their families and their marriage was reported not to have been a happy one. Their marriage produced three children. In 1890–1891, Victoria and Gustaf travelled to Egypt to repair their relationship, but it did not succeed, allegedly due to Victoria's interest in one of the courtiers, and she repeated the trip to Egypt in 1891–1892. After 1889, the personal relationship between Victoria and Gustaf is considered to have been finished, in part, as estimated by Lars Elgklou, due to the bisexuality of Gustaf. She suffered depression after the birth of her first child in 1882, and after this, she often spent the winters at spas abroad. She would continue to spend the winters outside Sweden from that year until her death. By 1888, her winter trips had made her unpopular, and she was described as very haughty. In 1889, she had pneumonia, and was formally ordered by the doctors to spend the cold Swedish winters in a southern climate. She had conflicts with her parents-in-law about her expensive stays abroad.

She greatly disapproved of the marriage between her brother-in-law prince Oscar and her lady-in-waiting Ebba Munck of Fulkila in 1888. She is described as strong-willed and artistically talented. She was an accomplished amateur photographer and painter and she also sculpted. On her travels in Egypt and Italy she both photographed and painted extensively, and experimented with various photo-developing techniques, producing high-quality photographic work. She was also an excellent pianist and, for example, could play through the complete Ring of the Nibelung by Wagner without notes. She had a good music education and in her youth she had turned the notes on court concerts for Franz Liszt. Her favourite composers were Schubert and Beethoven. She was also described as a skillful rider.

Victoria became Queen-consort of Sweden with her father-in-law's death on 8 December 1907. As queen, she was only present in Sweden during the summers, but she still dominated the court. She arranged the marriage between her son Wilhelm and Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna of Russia in 1908. She was also devoted to various kinds of charity, in Sweden, Germany and Italy.