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Alexander II Tsar-Liberator

The press conference about the exhibition "Alexander II Liberator. On the 200th anniversary of his birth."

March 12, a press conference dedicated to the State Historical Museum exhibition of the "Alexander II Liberator. On the 200th anniversary of his birth" was held in TASS head office in Moscow.

The State Historical Museum on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Alexander II will present the first large-scale monographic exposition dedicated to the activities of the Emperor, which should return to the Russian society the memory of this outstanding statesman.

The exposition will be open from April 4 to October 15.



The press conference was attended by Alexey K. Levykin, Director of the Historical Museum; Andrey D. Yanovsky, Deputy Director for Research; Konstantin I. Mogilevsky, Executive Director of the Fund "History of the Fatherland"; Evgeniy V. Pchelov, PhD (History), Archival Institute of the RSUH; Paul E.

Kulikovskiy, great-great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander II; Prince George A. Yurievskiy, great-grandson of Emperor Alexander II; Sergey V. Mironenko, scientist Head of GARF; and Alexander A. Kastravets, Advisor to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of United Metallurgic Company.

After the introduction of the speakers, a 3 minutes video presenting the exhibition project "Alexander II the Liberator" was shown.

Video - <https://mediashm.ru/?p=13756#13756>

"This is the first major monographic exhibition dedicated to Alexander II, not only in the Historical Museum, but also in our country," said Alexei Levykin, director of the State Historical Museum. He recalled that it was the Emperor Alexander in 1872 who decided to create the Historical Museum. According to Levykin, the exhibition about the Tsar-liberator is part of a series of projects related to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the SHM in 2022.

"We wanted to show not only the actions of Alexander II, but to trace the formation of his personality, to show him against the background of those global state tasks that the emperor had to solve throughout his life," the director of the SHM said.

"He carried out his reforms under criticism from the left and the right; conservative side, and at the same time, not simply criticism from Russian liberals, but with active opposition from the emerging revolutionary movement. The result of all this was his tragic death, which was perhaps the decisive moment for further historical development of the country," - said Levykin.

The basis of the exhibition is the collection of Historical Museum. The Tsarskoe Selo Museum-Preserve lent two children's uniforms of the Tsar. The State Hermitage presented two uniforms that were on Alexander II during the assassination of terrorists Karakozov in 1866 and Solovyov in 1879.



In addition, it will be possible to see a historical document - the constitution of Loris-Melikov, which the Emperor was to sign on the last day of his life, on March 1, 1881, and also a crystal cross made from the broken glass of the carriage of the Tsar.



Konstantin Mogilevsky, executive director of the fund "History of the Fatherland" noted that the interest of society on the eve of the jubilee always increases and the task of historians, to bring to the society their opinions.

Sergei Mironenko, the scientific director of the State Archives of the Russian Federation, called the exhibition unique, thanks to

which historical documents "that are usually considered dry, can be of great interest." As an example, the historian pointed to the correspondence between Alexander II and his future morganatic wife Catherine Dolgorukova; it shows that behind the seemingly inexpressive Alexander II lies the fire-breathing volcano of feelings.





Evgeny Pchelov, head of the department of the Historical and Archive Institute of the RSUH told that the figure of Alexander II is not fully appreciated by modern society. And yet, before the revolution, he was extremely popular, in tsarist Russia, most of the monuments were erected to him, and monuments stood all over the country, in ordinary villages and cities. They expressed the true attitude of the people towards their Liberator, especially many such monuments appeared in connection with the 50th anniversary of the abolition of serfdom. Today, not one of them has survived in Russia, monuments remain only in Helsinki and

Sofia. The historian expressed the hope that such events as the exhibition "Alexander II Liberator. 200 years from the date of birth", will return the name of Emperor Alexander II to a number of great Russian rulers, great statesmen of Russia.

Paul Kulikovskiy said: *"Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a pleasure to be here, to promote the coming major exhibition in the Historical Museum, dedicated to Emperor Alexander II, my great-great-great-grandfather, on the occasion of his 200 years birthday anniversary."*

Alexander II was born in Moscow, April 29, 1818. Some historians says he was born in the Nicholaevsky Palace in Moscow Kremlin - which unfortunately no longer exist. Also the monument to Alexander II inside Kremlin does no longer exist. One can only hope that at some point in time, these monuments to one of the greatest Russian rulers, will be recreated.



Alexander Nicholaevich received a brilliant education and was properly the best prepared Ruler of Russia ever. About him was said - He did not want to seem better than he was, but was often better than he seemed.

The reign of Alexander II was marked by many important reforms, with the most important being the "abolition of serfdom", on March 3rd, 1861. The success or failure of the reforms of Alexander II can be discussed forever, but the glory of carrying them out unconditionally belongs to our hero.

To these great achievement can be added military victories, and favourable treaties, that significantly expanded the empire.

Alexander II personally participated in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, and his victory lead to the re-establishment of Bulgaria as a state. In addition, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro could claim independence from the Ottoman Empire. He was really "The Tsar-Liberator", at home and abroad.

Instead of gratitude, terrorists hunted him for many years. By the will of fate, he was destined to pay for the freedom given to the people, by his own blood. On the life of Alexander II, six attempts were made, and on the seventh, God called his servant Alexander Nicholaevich home - on March 13, 1881, tomorrow it is 137 years ago - Eternal memory!

Had he not been killed, I am sure his signature on the "Constitutional project" would have made people call him "the Great" - the third of the Romanovs, after Peter the Great and Catherine the Great. This is one of great tragedies in Russian history.

There are in world history few rulers, to whom grateful contemporaries would put on their own initiative more than a 100 monuments, and 50 years later even more - but to the Tsar-Liberator they did!

The situation today is completely different. Many people do not know about the glory he brought to Russia.

I see the coming exhibition as an important step in correcting this situation. There people will have access to the real things, and have plenty of time to study and learn.

I have great expectations to the exhibition, as it is promising to present the main events of the 25 years reign of the Tsar-Liberator, as well as tell about the person - crowned and anointed by God. It is certainly needed and it is about time.

Let me add some words about myself - I am a descendant of Emperor Alexander II, via his son Emperor Alexander III. Alexander III's youngest daughter Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna married Nicholai Alexandrovich Kulikovsky. Their youngst son Gury Nicholaevich Kulikovsky is my grandfather. I am born in Canada, grew up in Denmark, but is now living in Moscow, Russia. Where I arrived in 2008.

I am the first and so far the only descendant of the imperial Romanov family who came to Russia after the 1917-revolution, to live and work.

My family's relations to Historical Museum have always been close. It all started with Emperor Alexander II's order in February 1872 to create the museum, and with Alexander III opening it in 1883. Over time, many family members have helped the museum, donated artifacts and entire collections. Since my arrival in Russia, I have found it only natural to continue this cooperating with Historical Museum and have since participated in several projects.

For me the highlights have been - In 2008, when I sponsored the recreation of the Romanov Coat-of-arms over the entrance to the Romanov Boyar House on Varvarka Street, a branch of Historical Museum, and in 2009 another Romanov Coat-of-arms over its balcony.

2009 was a special event, as it marked the Romanov Boyar house's 150 year anniversary as a museum - which by the way was also created by Alexander II and already in 1859.

In 2013, to the celebrations of the 400 years anniversary of the first Romanov's ascension to the throne, I sponsored the creation of silk fabric for the walls in the refectory in the Romanov Boyar House. An event which was also attended by my cousin HSH Prince George Alexandrovich Yurievsky.

And in 2017, we held the book launch of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's memoirs "25 chapters of my life" in Historical Museum.

This year we are very happy to help with the coming exhibition dedicated to Emperor Alexander II.

This will be one of the major Romanov related events this year and we are looking forward to the opening in April. The exhibition will be like a birthday gift to the Tsar-liberator - a worthy celebration on his 200 years birthday anniversary.

On behalf of Emperor Alexander II's descendants - many thanks to Historical Museum for arranging this exhibition and to the sponsors for their support - it is much appreciated. - Thank you."



Alexander Kastavets, adviser to the chairman of the board of directors of United Metallurgical Company (UMC), the financial partner of the exhibition, named the time of Alexander II's reign as the spring of Russian industry. For 20 years, since 1861, the length of Russian railways has grown 15 times. Some industrial indicators at this time showed a strong growth, for example, the smelting of steel

from 1861 to 1881 increased almost 2 times, cast of iron - 2.5 times and also the number of large enterprises increased.

UMC acted as a financial partner of the exhibition because *"we should know and be proud of the engineering discoveries and technological achievements of our ancestors ... We really wanted the younger generation to feel proud and admire not only for Russian literature, painting and music, but also for Russian engineers and industrialists who made a huge contribution to the development of the country."*

HSH Prince George Yurievsky on a video-link from Zurich said: *"Dear ladies and gentlemen. It's a honour that you give me the opportunity to speak about my great grandfather, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Alexander II of all the Russians."*

First of all, I would like to thank the historical museum to dedicate a major exhibition to this important emperor and furthermore to my cousin Paul Kulikovsky who had the idea to integrate me today.

I'm a descendant of Emperor Alexander II and his second wife Princess Catherina

Dolgorouky, a direct descendant from this famous imperial Rurikid line which also includes the well-known founder of Moscow, Yuri Dolgorouky. They married on July 18, 1880 in Zsarskoje Selo).

Their only surviving son George Alexandrovich was my grandfather, and his only son Alexander Georgievich, was my father. You may not realize, but I am the same generation as Tsarevich Alexei, the son of Emperor Nicholas II, in relation to Alexander II. And I am sadly the only living great grandchild of a Russian Emperor.

After the murder of Alexander II in March 1881, my family moved in April 1882 to Nice, where my father was born 1900 and where my great grandmother Katja died in 1922. My parents married in 1957 and lived since then in Switzerland where I was born in 1961.

The most important facts about Emperor All I assume you know. So, I will talk about two other facts connected to reforms which are for me worthwhile mentioning.

At the beginning of his reign my great grandfather ended the Crimean war, which could have resulted in the loss of the Crimea. Also, during the Great Patriotic War a lot of Russian blood was lost for the liberation of the Crimea. And still, after all of this, Nikita Khrushchev, General Secretary of the Communist Party, just gave the Crimea away without authorization of the parliament or the Russian people. An action that should never have been accepted as it was illegal.

I mention this because today a lot of people, particular in the West due to fake news, believe that the Crimea never was a part of Russia. However, my great grandfather Alexander II originally saved it, so it could remain a part of the Russian Empire.

During the Crimean War, Alexander II realized that there was an urgent need for military/police and administrative reforms and he worked on those for a big part of his life.



The second point is the reform concerning universities. You may know that I am a member of the board of trustees of the European University at St. Petersburg, so this has my special attention. The reform gave more rights, for example the freedom of speech, to the university's and this is until today very important.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will honour throughout the year my great grandfather His Imperial Majesty Emperor Alexander II of all the Russians."

At the end of the press conference Director of State Historical Museum, Alexey K. Levykin showed one of the items there will be in the exhibition - a small cross made out of the glass from the coach in which Emperor Alexander II met his fate.

The TV channel "Kultura" reported:

"On April 4, the State Historical Museum will open an exhibition dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander II. This is the first monographic exposition devoted to the Tsar-Liberator. At the press conference they told about the exhibits of the forthcoming exhibition and even showed one of them.

"This is a cross, which was donated to our museum by Prince Shakhovskoy. This is one of the unique relics that is kept in our museum. A relic associated with a dramatic historical event and with the name of Alexander II, to whom the exhibition is dedicated. This is a cross that was made of the glass of the coach in which he was on that tragic day when he was assassinated" - said the director of the State Historical Museum Alexei Levykin.

A huge collection of materials on the era of Alexander II is in the Historical Museum . They reflect the history of his reign, personality and tragic fate. He became famous in history as an outstanding reformer. The main reform associated with the name of the Emperor Alexander II is the abolition of serfdom.

Among the participants of the press conference were descendants of the Romanov family - the great-grandson of the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Pavel Kulikovsky and the great-grandson of Alexander II Prince George Yurievsky, who was on video communication from Zurich.

"Today many people know little about Alexander II. The exhibition will give an opportunity to get acquainted with his figure. By the way, the Historical Museum was opened on the decree of my great-grandfather in Moscow that," said the great-grandson of Emperor Alexander II George Yurievsky.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/232845

Video of the entire press conference dedicated to the exhibition project "Alexander II Liberator. For the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Emperor."

Video - <https://mediashm.ru/?p=13760>



Descendants of the Tsar helped to prepare the 200th anniversary of Alexander II

March 17. E-Vesti. - The descendants of the Emperor wished to support and take personal part in the jubilee events. In particular, Paul Edward Kulikovsky a descendant of Emperor Alexander II through his son, Emperor Alexander III. He was born in Canada, lived in Denmark, but since 2008 moved to live and work in Moscow, becoming the only direct descendant of the Romanov dynasty, permanently living in Russia. The grandfather of Paul Edward Kulikovsky is Gury, the son of the youngest daughter of Emperor Alexander III, Olga Alexandrovna. He inherited the surname of his great-grandfather - Nikolai Kulikovsky, to whom the Grand Duchess was married morganatically.

E-Vesti magazine asked Paul Edward what he wanted to say about his ancestor in the first place: "The main thing is to tell the historical truth, because there are a lot of falsifications. Of course, in Western Europe they say bad things about Russian history, as well as about present times. And I think that Russia is to some extent responsible for this, because a lot of falsifications have been made, especially during the Soviet period, and today many statements about former rulers are made based on this.



For me today the main thing is to refute that untruthful information that was spreading from 1917 to the 1980s. I believe that after this period, a lot of historical works, books, in which the authors made attempts to tell the truth about what happened over the past hundred years, came out. I try to help historians, organizers of exhibitions with material, documents and photos, perhaps by writing an introductory chapter, and tell about what happened first of all in my family.

The name of Alexander II is known to many, as he ruled Russia for 25 years. If you ask people what he did, at best they mention the reform to abolish serfdom. But his other reforms are not known. Like the fact that he created a jury trial, which could include not only the landowners and solve the issue of a person's fault. Today for us these are the fundamental things of a secular society, without which we cannot imagine the courts. But this was done in 1864 by Alexander II. You can list a lot. Of course, if people do not know their history, they do not know what Alexander II did, and how his deeds still are a part of their life today.

I also write myself, publish articles, books, issue an electronic newsletter distributed among a list of 18,000 people, including Russians, who are happy to learn about what happened to my family and how we perceive the world today. I often do not even need to provide people with financial assistance, it's enough to be in the place of the event, to support them morally in telling the truth about Russia.

Paul Edward Kulikovsky is not the only representative of the crowned family, who joined the celebration. George Alexandrovich Yurievsky, the direct descendant of Alexander II (from the connection with Ekaterina Dolgorukova-Yurievskaya), also supported the idea of large-scale events in memory of his ancestor. Georgy Alexandrovich told us that he supports the traditions of the family in the Orthodox faith, culture, and music.

It's amazing that the official and subsidiary Romanov family branches that have not been communicated with each other for a long time, now unite. As Paul Edward Kulikovsky explained to us: "Of course, Alexander III and his family were not happy to see Alexander II marry Catherine Dolgorukaya. This branch went to Nice (to France) and then moved to Switzerland, where her descendants live now.

But today George and I are best friends. We have very close family relations. We are about the same age and both began to come to Russia on the early 1990s - for almost 30 years now, and together took part in many events. I was at the wedding of George, and we do a lot together. We have the same background, common ideas, common views on Russia and what to do here. Family conflict was a matter more than a hundred years ago, but today the descendants of all branches are trying to work together."



The descendants of the Russian Emperor nevertheless emphasize that they do not think to return to the that era of the past. "We do not want to return" - Paul Edward Kulikovsky explained to us. "We cannot go back in time. "We do not use history to show that in the imperial time it was better than now. For us, history is necessary for the inspiration of the present generation. Our task is to tell people about what has been invented a century or more ago and can be used again. It can be about upbringing, creating shelters, charity, philanthropy. In my opinion, above all, such things that existed earlier and may be required in modern Russia."

The opening of the exhibition "Alexander II. Liberator"

On April 3rd, in the State Historical Museum solemnly opened the large-scale exhibition "Alexander II Liberator".

Descendant of Emperor Alexander II Paul E. Kulikovsky with wife Ludmila; director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, the chairman of the Russian Historical Society Sergei Naryshkin; the Vice-Premier of the government of the Russian Federation, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Russian Military Historical Society, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin; head of cultural department in Moscow government Alexander Kibovsky; First Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Aristarkhov; United Metallurgical Company (OMK), sponsor of the exhibition, Alexander Kastravets; and director of the State Historical Museum Alexei Levykin attended the opening.

"Today we have a very important and joyful event, because we are opening one of our most important exhibition projects this year - an exhibition dedicated to Emperor Alexander II Liberator," said Alexei Levykin.

In turn, Sergei Naryshkin, summed up the main achievements of Emperor Alexander II:

"I must say that Alexander II's reforms rightfully placed him in the first rank of the most eminent rulers of Russia. And the exhibition, which opens in the walls of the State Historical Museum, is a graphic confirmation of the contribution of Alexander II to the development and strengthening of our Fatherland.



The list of achievements of Alexander II includes fundamental reforms that he accomplished in various spheres of public administration, state power, economy and public life in our country. This, of course, is the judicial reform that created the independent court, the bar, the institution of the independent prosecutor's office, the reform that approved and implemented the fundamental principle of adversarial proceedings. This, of course, is the reform of local self-government, the so-called *Zemstvo* reform. This is a radical modernization of the army, the reform of school and university education. This is the disposition of the state system of finance and budget.

And, of course, this is the abolition of serfdom. I must say that the abolition of serfdom in Russia occurred 4 years before slavery was abolished in the USA.

The foreign policy of Alexander II once again placed Russia in the first place in European and international affairs. The victory in the Russian-Turkish war, liberation of Serbia, Romania, Greece and Bulgaria. Thanks to the contribution of Alexander II to the liberation of the Balkan countries, he received the title of Tsar Liberator. The Liberator is not only of Russia, but all Balkan countries. 25 years of the reign of Alexander II have become a powerful boost in almost all spheres of state building, economy and public life. Alexander II left behind a powerful advanced country with an unquestioned international authority, a country that really looks forward to the future. "



Director Alexei Levikin speaking at the opening. Behind him (from left to right) Dmitry Rogozin, Vladimir Aristarkhov, Sergei Naryshkin, Alexander Kibovsky and Alexander Kastravets.

Dmitry Rogozin came to the exhibition with his family. In his speech he expressed "great gratitude to those great statesmen who laid the foundations of Russian statehood".

Vladimir Aristarkhov said "that everything that Alexander II did is relevant for our era: the creation of an independent court, the creation of a strong army based on conscription, the creation of local government. This is all that was done by Alexander II and what was done in the new Russia after 1991. The abolition of serfdom, the creation of a financial system and other achievements make him a unique figure in the history of our statehood, a figure on the largest scale. Emperor Alexander II was killed by terrorists. Unfortunately, during the years of Soviet power, a great deal of effort has been exerted to declare the terrorists heroes, and to erase the memory of the Emperor. " Vladimir Aristarkhov expressed the hope that the opening of this exhibition "will be a step towards to the restoration of historical justice".

Alexander Kibovsky noted that very much in Moscow was made under Alexander II: "Much that we use today in the city and think that this is self-evident, everything appeared during his reign. He is famous not only for victories, political reforms, but also for gigantic changes in the life and life of Muscovites. Electric lighting on the streets of the city appeared under Alexander II".

Alexander Kastravets called Alexander II's reign a time of great industrial growth and industrial revolution. The achievements of the Russian industry of this period received world recognition. Thus, at an international exhibition in Paris in 1867 more than 370 Russian exhibits received high awards of the exhibition.



March sounded from the speakers, made for the solemn ceremony of accession to the throne of Emperor Alexander II by Johann Strauss, while the guest entered the exhibition rooms.

Much have been said about Alexander Nicholaevich - Alexander II - the Tsar Liberator - and it have not always been based on facts or put into the right context. Now it is possible to see the real things, see the documents, the true relics of history, in this first large-scale monographic exhibition about the Tsar-Liberator.

In comments to journalist, Paul Kulikovsky summed his impression up - "Alexander II's achievements in his 25 years of service to Russia should make all Russians proud of him. Enough to mention: he liberated 22 million serf in Russia, 10 million people in the Balkans, and he brought glory to Russia! There is a small hope, that this exhibition will so to speak contribute to clean the view of his era, his achievements and of Alexander Nicholaevich as a person. Even if it is - as Yanovsky says "an unfinished portrait" - it is so far the biggest and best exhibition in our time, and a worthy celebration of his 200 years birthday anniversary.

Alexander II was born in Moscow and his birthday is celebrated in Moscow, it is fantastic and it all seems just right!"



Visitors to the exhibition can see many interesting objects, some not seen for a very long time. The "biggest" being the horse harness made in 1856 specially for the coronation celebrations.



Another unique exhibit is the infantry officer's sword of 1865 model, decorated with enamel and gilding, with the inscription "For Bravery", which was presented to Alexander II after the fall of Plevna by officers of the Consolidated Guards Detachment of the Honorary Convoy.

In the hall devoted to the reforms, one can see a genuine historical relic - a goose feather enclosed in a wooden frame, at the top is an ink inscription: "This pen signed the journal of the meeting of the State Council on January 28, 1861, under the personal chairmanship of the Emperor, on the abolition of serfdom."

Also on display are personal items of the Emperor, paintings, graphic and photographic portraits of the Monarch, members of the Imperial family, major state and public figures of the second half of the XIX century, uniforms, weapons, porcelain service, memorial items and gifts.



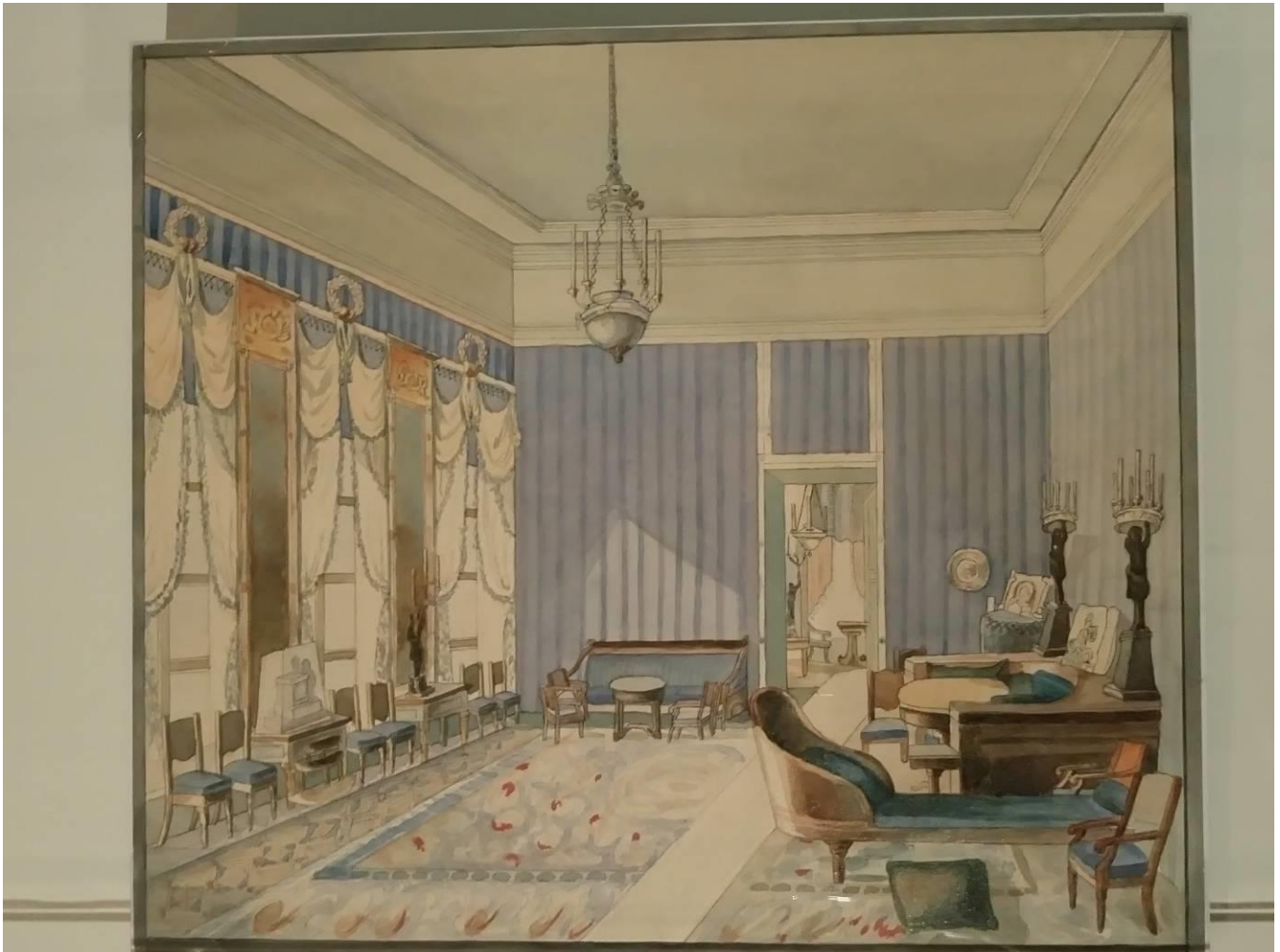
- Videos: 1) <https://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=3002779>
 2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2000003/>
 3) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/240045/
 4) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/240246/
 5) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/240225/



The Smolensk Icon Mother of God. Firm Sazikov, 1864. Belonged to Emperor Alexander II.



The sculptor Salavat Shcherbakov with his daughter and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy



Above - The room in the Small Nicholas Palace in Moscow Kremlin where Alexander Nicholevich was born. Below left - Portrait of Alexander Nicholaevich as baby. Note the Moscow Kremlin can be seen behind him. Below right - Hussar pelisse of child size (of the Lieb Guard Hussar regiment) that belonged to Alexander Nicholaevich











The icon "The Good Shepherd". One of the unique works of Russian culture. Its appearance is connected with the tragic death of Emperor Alexander III in 1881, after which people started to respect him not only as the Tsar-Liberator, but also as a great martyr. At the bottom of the icon the painter depicted the killed Alexander II.



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

"The Church is in no hurry": 100 years of the murder of the Romanovs and examination of the remains

March 15 - RIA Novosti. - Only four months left until the centenary of the memorable events of July 1918 - the shooting of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family in Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg.

The question is whether the results of the investigation of the authenticity of the "Yekaterinburg remains" will be made public on this date and how the believers will meet the tragic anniversary.

The Russian Orthodox Church has repeatedly stated that clarifying the circumstances of the death and burial of the remains of the Imperial family can continue indefinitely. Some experts assumed that by the centenary of the tragic event, the point over the "i" will necessarily be placed. However, apparently, the investigation is really not tied to any specific dates.

"So far, no one knows about this," - so the secretary of the church commission, Bishop Tikhon (Shevkunov) answered a question from RIA Novosti about when the final conclusions will be drawn, whether or not the remains investigated belong to Nicholas II and his family. "The work is going on," he added.

The historian and journalist Anatoly Stepanov, authorized by the Patriarchal Commission for the Study of the "Yekaterinburg Remains," to record and publish interviews with the participants of the examinations, confirmed to RIA Novosti that after the extended conference no new data were reported and "everything is still in the public debate" in the media .

"The controversy continues on various issues, a discussion involving experts, mainly anthropologists, forensic experts and historians, the results of the genetic examination have not yet been made public," Stepanov said.



At the same time, according to him, the investigation appointed a number of new examinations, including an authorship examination, handwriting check, and forensic-ballistic. So far, nothing is known about the results. In addition, several interviews are being prepared for publication with scientists involved in the conduct of the historical examination.

According to Anatoly Stepanov, it is unlikely that history of the "Yekaterinburg remains" will be completely clear to the centenary of the execution of the Imperial family: "This is what the Holy Patriarch said throughout the past year - the Church is not going to hurry, we will not be able to adjust the end of the investigation to any dates. And now, judging by the actions of the Investigative Committee, there is exactly the same position: while there are questions, the investigation will continue."

"The leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church can make a statement on the recognition of the remains of the Imperial family." This summer, Patriarch Kirill will hold a meeting of the Holy Synod in Yekaterinburg

March 21. Vedomosti Urals. - Patriarch Kirill will visit this summer during the so-called "Tsar Days" in the capital of the Urals. It is also possible that together with Patriarch Kirill, Russian President Vladimir Putin will arrive in Yekaterinburg for the 100th commemoration of the murder of the Romanovs.

According to rumours, during his visit to Yekaterinburg, Patriarch Kirill can make a statement on the recognition of the ROC remains of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and the entire Imperial family. Now there is a version in Ural mass media that the desire of the leadership of the ROC to hold a meeting of the Holy Synod in Yekaterinburg may be due precisely to the need to make this statement in the capital of the Urals.

There is no confirmation that a decision on the Imperial remains will be made in Yekaterinburg

Speculation in the media have started due to a planned meeting of the Holy Synod in Yekaterinburg and is spreading on the internet. What has been said is the following:

March 21. TASS. - Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia plans to visit Belarus in October, where he will hold a meeting of the Holy Synod, in addition to that meeting of this supreme body of church administration will be held in 2018 in St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. The press secretary of the Church Priest Alexander Volkov told TASS on Wednesday:

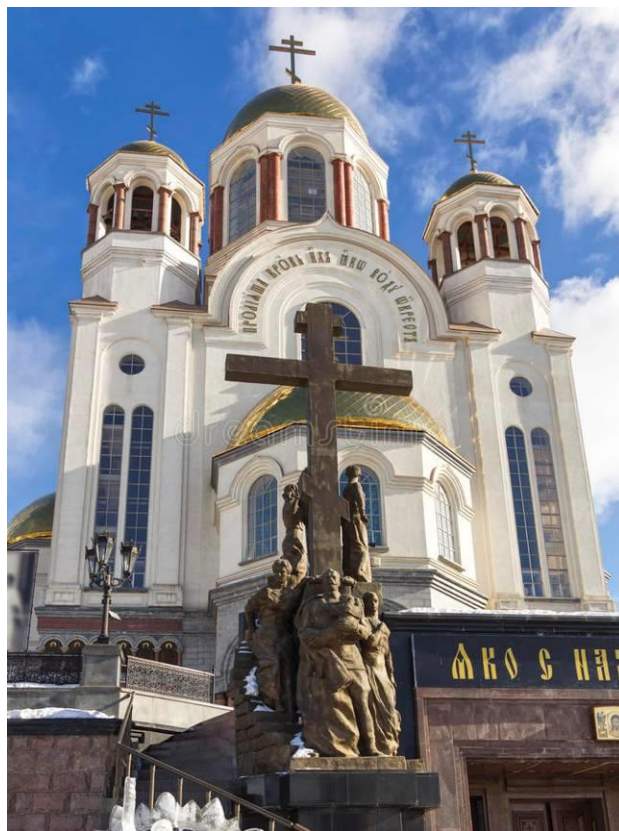
"First of all, we are talking about the visit of the Patriarch to Belarus in mid-October, one of the important goals of the trip will be the session of the Holy Synod in Minsk," Father Alexander said.

"This year there will be several meetings of the Synod in different cities besides Moscow, which is connected with the development that is now taking place in the Russian Church, in particular, the creation of new dioceses and the metropolias." For example, it is planned that in summer the meeting of the highest organ of church administration will be held in Yekaterinburg, and in the spring - in St. Petersburg," he explained.

According to the priest, all the listed meetings "were planned and no emergency solutions are planned." "The Patriarch regularly visits various cities, metropolias and dioceses of the Russian Orthodox Church, including within the Belarusian Exarchate," Father Alexander concluded.

- end quote -

A discussion of the Imperial remains might take place at the meeting in Yekaterinburg and a decision would be very much welcomed, but it has not been confirmed yet!



Nobel prize ceremony in Konstantin Palace

On March 31, the XIII ceremony of awarding the new laureates of the Russian Ludvig Nobel Prize took place in the ceremonial halls of the Konstantinovsky Palace - also known as the State Complex "National Congresses Palace" - in Strelna, near St. Petersburg.

The grand residence in Strelna was founded by Peter the Great. The construction began with the laying of the Lower park in 1715. And 5 years later, in 1720, architect Nicola Michetti started the construction of a big stone palace. However the ensemble wasn't finished until the end of the XVIII century. In the XIX century the almost neglected Imperial Residence became the country estate of Grand Dukes of the Romanov House. After the revolution a school was placed there and in 1950s - the palace, which sustained a great damage during the occupation of Strelna during the WW II. After the war it was reconstructed into Leningrad arctic college.

In the beginning of the new century Konstantin palace and park ensemble found a new high mission by getting the status of a State Complex "The National Congress Palace". The restoration works under the authority of the Administrative department of the President of the Russian Federation were finished in 2003 for the 300 anniversary of St. Petersburg. The revived Konstantin Palace combined the functions of a State residence and a modern business, museum, cultural and exhibition centre.



This year marks the 130th anniversary of the death of the outstanding scientist, industrialist and philanthropist Ludvig Nobel and the following creation of the prize in his honor. It was his company Branobel who made the initiative and got the Russian Imperial Technical Society to become the owner of the prize. It was approved by Emperor Alexander III, who was a friend of Ludvig Nobel. Initially, the prize was to be given every 5 years within science and technology and the winners were awarded a gold medal, but after the revolution of 1917 the prize ceased to exist. The Fund Ludvig Nobel re-established the prize in 2006, and since then, more than 50 outstanding personalities of our time have received a prestigious public award.



Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy attending the Ludvig Nobel Prize ceremony 2018

Among the invited guests to the ceremony were the great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Paul Kulikovskiy with his wife Ludmila, Chairman of the Presidium of the International Council of Russian Compatriots, Rector of the Paris Conservatory named after Sergei Rachmaninov, Count Pyotr Sheremetev with his wife Huguette; People's Artist of the USSR and Russia Vladimir Vasiliev; Twelfth World Chess Champion Anatoly Karpov; Paul Rodzianko; the Serbian Ambassador to Russia Slavenko Terzich; the deputy chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palenstine Society Elena Agapova; the Honored Artist of the Russian Federation Tatyana Shumova; the deputy dean of the Department of Journalism of the Higher School of Television of Moscow State University Maria Magront-Akhvlediani, and several French and British guests.

This year, the award ceremony did not start with loud fanfares, but with a minute of silence in memory of those killed in the fire in Kemerovo.

To hard pounding drums, the presidential guard orchestra march into the hall with the register of the laureates, which the new ones were to sign.



The leaders of the Fund Ludvig Nobel: Yaroslav Golko, Anna Yakovleva and Evgeny Lukoshkov, then introduced the ceremony and a video with the history of Ludvig Nobel and the Fund, mentioning all the laureates was shown.

Then, in a solemn atmosphere, the ceremony of awarding laureates was held with light entertainment in between - including English and French musical style singing and Italian opera.

The winners of the Ludvig Nobel Prize in 2018 were:

- * James H. Billington, professor of history, the Librarian of Congress Emeritus (the thirteenth director of the Library of Congress in USA), an author, a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- * Nicholas T. Antoshkin - Hero of the Soviet Union, Distinguished Military Pilot of the Russian Federation, Russian State Duma deputy, General-Colonel, Chairman of the Club of Heroes of the Soviet Union, Heroes of Russia and full Cavaliers of the Order of Glory of the city of Moscow and the Moscow region;
- * Emmanuel Cide - president of the Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- * Andrey S. Konchalovsky - People's Artist of Russia, film director;
- * Eduard S. Kochergin - People's Artist of Russia, laureate of State Prize of the USSR and the Russian Federation, member of the Academy of Arts, the main artist of the BDT them. G.A. Tovstonogova;
- * Sergey M. Nekrasov - Honored Artist of Russia, Director of the All-Russian Museum of AS. Pushkin.
- * Valery A. Gergiev - People's Artist of the Russian Federation, Artistic Director and Director General of the State Academic Mariinsky Theater.

Introductions to the new laureates were made by: Irina Antonova, Irina Wiener-Usmanova, Anatoly Karpov, Vladimir Vasiliev and Alexey Pushkov.

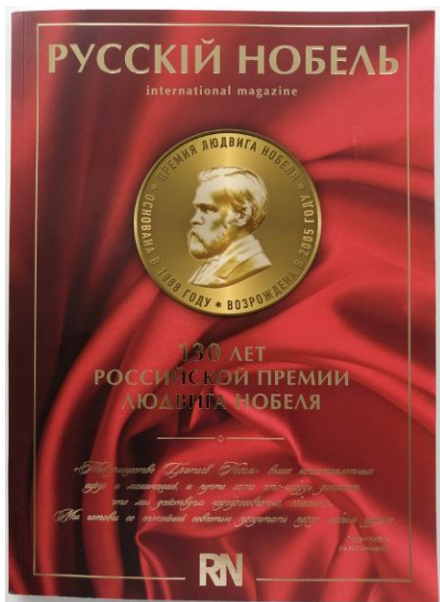
Every year the family of winners of the Ludwig Nobel Prize is replenished with outstanding people of our time, who have increased the glory of Russia with their deeds, talent and intellect. Among the international laureates are representatives of France, Great Britain, and the United States. No cold wind in the world can destroy the cultural and humanitarian ties of peoples and the contribution of outstanding people to the progress for the benefit of mankind.



Video - 1) <https://topspb.tv/news/2018/04/1/v-peterburge-sostoyalos-vruchenie-premii-lyudviga-nobelya/>
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZkYyIzO7g>

The next day, on Palm Sunday, many participants of the ceremony, took part in the divine service in the Sofia Cathedral in Tsarskoe Selo. Then Archpriest Gennady made prayers at the monument to Prince of Imperial Blood Oleg Konstatinovich next to the cathedral and he placed his "palm-branch" on the monument, while the participants laid their flowers at his foot. The monument was opened on 29 September 2015, by the Fund Ludvig Nobel.





In connection with the award ceremony, the Fund Ludvig Nobel published their 5th international issue of the magazine "Russian Nobel", which over 192 pages informs about its activities and have articles of historical interest and interviews with the laureates and friends of the fund.

One the articles in this new issue is written by Paul Kulikovsky, which we bring here in full:

The Imperial remains 100 hundred years later

By Paul Edward Kulikovsky

Someone once said, that the first victim in a war is the truth. This may be even more clear in an information war, like the one going on today in western media towards Russia. But this is nothing new. The Romanov family lost the information war in Russia more than 100 years ago and have faced lies, myth and slander ever since.

In 2018, it will be 100 years since the murder of the ex-Emperor Nicholas II, his family, and his most loyal retinue. The investigations into who is it, what happen, who did it, why, and what happened with the bodies, are still ongoing. A smokescreen of "fake news" have distorted many people's mind. The truth has not been established some says. Or has it? - I ask. Maybe you just cannot see it or do not want to see it?

The truth is there, right under your nose. But some are constantly flashing a light in another direction, to mislead people's vision - "Sokolov said they were all burnt in Ganina Yama", "Yurovsky's note is a fake", "A missing trail of saber blows on skull No. 4", "With bad teeth on skull No. 4, it cannot be the Emperor", etc. Is it so, that this group of "non-believers" in the Imperial remains, do not want to accept the inconvenient truth? Is it because they now for many years have fabricated a world of myth, lies and self importance, and now do not want to be exposed as false prophets?

And regarding the Russian Orthodox Church, could it be, that a large part of the hierarchy considers the denial of the Imperial remains less a sin than the recognition that the Church made a mistake? It is human to make errors. Only God is perfect!

I believe the truth was established before 1998 and all further investigations have just added to the reliability of that conclusion. Most of the Romanov family have since 1998 not been in doubt that the remains found in Porosenkov Log in 1979 and recovered in 1991, are the remains of ex-Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, Alexandra Feodorovna, their children Olga, Tatiana, and Anastasia, Dr. Evgeny Botkin, Ivan Kharitonov, Alois Trupp and Anna Demidova. Most of the Romanov family members attended the funeral service in Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral, in the Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Petersburg, on July 17th, 1998, in full recognition of the remains being buried are those of our relatives.



Before the funeral, the Church raised doubts and stated that there were some questions that had not been answered and because of this they could not be fully convinced about the authenticity of the remains - what they then called the "Yekaterinburg remains". And they "stayed away". That is, there was a priest conducting the service, but the names of the victims were not mentioned. Instead it was said that "God knows their names".

The words of President Yeltsin are still ringing in my head - "It's a historic day for Russia. Eighty years have passed since the slaying of the last Russian emperor and his family. We have long been silent about this monstrous crime. We must say the truth: The Yekaterinburg massacre has become one of the most shameful episodes in our history."

This is still as close as the Romanov family have been to an official excuse for what happened to our relatives.

Was there any doubt in the family before the funeral. Yes there was. How could we trust information and material from the Soviet period. They could have been falsified in an attempt to cover up the truth. In the same way, how could we trust the DNA-testing if carried out in Russia alone and without a comparison to living relatives outside of Russia?

But this was sorted out in a satisfying way, with analysis being conducted by Dr. Peter Gill, of Forensic Science Service in the United Kingdom and Dr. Pavel Ivanov, a Russian geneticist, and with Dr. Erica Hagelberg from the University of Cambridge to replicate the findings.

The results said there was a match to two living maternal relatives of the Emperor and one to the Empress and the children found were theirs.

"We conclude that the DNA evidence supports the hypothesis that the remains are those of the Romanov family". 1)

In addition were made comparative DNA-analysis to samples from Grand Duke George Alexandrovich (brother of Emperor Nicholas II) and Tikhon Nicholaevich Kulikovsky (Nephew to Emperor Nicholas II), which indicates the close relationship.

At the time, I was asking myself and others, what are the chances of some with similar DNA, someone being close relatives to the living Romanovs, being found killed in Yekaterinburg? The answer is a big round zero! It is them!

At that time the remains of two of the children were still missing. In 2007 came the news that parts of their remains were found, and a new case of investigations started. Research was conducted by four independent groups of geneticists - Evgeny Ivanovich Rogaev from the Institute of General Genetics, Russian Academy of Sciences, the genetic laboratory of the Sverdlovsk regional bureau of forensic medical examination, Michael Coble of the identification laboratory of the US Army and Walter Parson laboratory of the Innsbruck Medical University in Austria. And they clearly proved that it is the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and his sister, Grand Duchess Maria.

To the members of the Romanov family the results were not a surprise, but the joy was great! Finally we could put to rest the entire family and together in the Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, and this dark chapter in the history of the Romanovs and of Russia could be closed..... we thought!



DR PETER GILL OF THE BRITISH FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE FOR DNA TEST, HOLDING A PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAND DUCHESS ANASTASIA, THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF TSAR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA & PRINCE ROSTISLAV ROMANOV, GREAT-NEPHEW OF THE LAST TSAR OF... [More](#)
October 05, 1994 [License](#)

On August 20, 2000, the Russian Orthodox Church had canonized Ex-Emperor Nicholas II and his family as Passion-Bearers. It had been done by the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad in 1981. Not realizing it at the time, that it was going to add to the complications of the recognition of the Imperial remains, the canonization was celebrated with "hallelujah". But now the Church could not just ignore the burial of the remains as being those from the family of the ex-Emperor, now it was holy relics and the church has a responsibility to treat them correctly.

But still the church did not want to recognize the remains and continued to call them the "Yekaterinburg remains". Worse was, that they did not seem to care about this case. Officially the church had not taken a position for or against the remains, and they took no initiatives to solve this question. They continued to corporate with and support the views of a small group of people that were clearly against the recognition of the remains being Imperial. I bet they now regret this, as they were breeding a monster under their wings, as their own child.



Some say there has not been any signs of miracles in the St. Catherine Chapel, in Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral, where the family is buried, so they can not be the remains of the Royal Martyrs.

Maybe the reason is that access is restricted to the chapel. Faithful cannot enter it and pray at the tombstone above the crypt. Only on a few special feast days is it open.

In March 2015 something started to happen. "We have to listen to church officials and exhume the relics buried in St. Peter and Paul Cathedral and to do it in presence of church representatives and then it should be sealed up by church seals, and the Church should say whom of experts it confides in," 2) said the director of the State Archives Sergey Mironenko.

Discussions were then held with church representatives, the first small step in the right direction, and hope started to blossom. I completely agree with Sergey Mironenko that we need to have the church's uncertainty cleared away and if it takes another round of investigations then that is what we have to do.

The hope grew, when Prime Minister Dimitri Medvedev announced on July 9, 2015, on the Russian government's web site, that he had established a working group to look into the reburial.

However the real breakthrough came, when Prince Dimitri Romanovich on behalf of the Romanov Family Association managed to get the Russian Government to support the burial of the two children, and the date was announced to be October 18, 2015.

That got His Holiness Patriarch Kirill to contact President Vladimir V. Putin, with a request to postpone the burial and instead allow the Church to conduct a new investigation on their own premises. The President generously accepted and it became the church's responsibility to solve this issue. The investigation was reopened on September 23, 2015. A forensic, genetic, anthropological and historical and archival investigation, but the final judgment regarding if it is the Imperial Passion-Bearers relics or not will be by the church. This would allow the church to save face and, last but not least, it would give time to prepare the "non-believer" group and the larger Orthodox community to the new reality.

It started well. "The Church insists on ensuring maximum scientific objectivity and maximum transparency of research at all stages of its conduct" 3). But soon reality knocked on their door and they got very quiet. The names of the church commission's experts was kept secret. New DNA-samples was to be analyses but by whom they would not say. So much for being transparent.

Bishop Tikhon teamed up with the Academician Veniamin Alexeev, and proclaimed that all versions of what happen should be investigated. What kind of circus was this? It became quickly clear that such an investigation would then take forever, as there are at least 230 known impostors, and to investigate all

their versions will take a lot of time. Another embarrassing aspect, was that it also meant the team rejected the validity of the church's canonization of the Imperial family. After all, they are canonized on account of their martyrdom in Ipatiev House. Confidence in the investigation started to fade quickly.

The request to disturb the eternal peace of Emperor Alexander III was a bit too much for me. Not even the Bolsheviks had opened his tomb. I sent a letter to Alexander Bastrykin, the director of the investigative commission, as a descendant of Emperor Alexander III, protesting against the opening of the tomb. My argument being, it was completely unnecessary as no missing information could be gained by this action. It would just make a 100% certainty into 200% certainty, so why? I got no official reply. By the investigator Solovyov, I was told that only relatives until grandchildren of the person in question have the right to stop such an action - I am a great-great-grandson and there are no longer any grandchildren of Emperor Alexander III alive. So a "dead-end". I could try to go to the court, but it would only delay the action, I was told.

DNA-samples were taken from Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra, and new samples from the cloth of Emperor Alexander II, stored in the State Hermitage Museum, on 23rd of September 2015. DNA samples were taken from Emperor Alexander III on 27th of November 2015, which means the result of the analysis should have been ready by middle of 2016 - We are now in 2018 and where are the results? Is it on purpose held back? Maybe it is to be the final piece of the investigation-puzzle that will be the grand finale in this investigation - the final undeniable evidence? If there was a negative result, I am sure we had already heard about it, and further investigation been stopped, so I am confident it is positive. Were these results presented first, then would all further investigation be meaningless, as the conclusion is given. What happen, how they got there, why some parts of the remains are missing, are important questions, which I also would like to have answered, but it does not change the fact, if several DNA-analysis says these are my relatives then it is them - the Imperial family.

November 27, 2017, a conference was held in the Sretensky Theological Seminary in Moscow, about "The Case of the Murder of the Imperial Family: New Examinations and Archival Materials. Discussion". To it was invited all those experts who had already presented parts of their investigations and then the group of "non-believers" in the Imperial remains.

To me it was clear that this was a theatre set up to let this group of "non-believers" ask questions, so they would calm down. In fact only the Patriarch made any real contribution, when he questioned the possibility of burning bodies in a bonfire during one night.

Bishop Tikhon on the other side stole the show when he said "We're treating the ritual murder version in the most serious way". "More than that, a considerable part of the Church commission doesn't have any doubts it was exactly that type of killing" 4) - he said. That put a match to the bonfire they had been resting in. Headline all over the world - "Russian Orthodox Church suggests tsar's death was a Jewish 'ritual murder'" 5).

Let me be clear, I do not believe it was a ritual murder. It was a unique murder, nothing ritual about it. The murders were Bolsheviks, acting on Lenin's order. No more, no less.

Did they do it on Lenin's order? "No direct evidence" says the historians, but that can just mean the evidence has been destroyed. In any case, in July 1918, Lenin was the leader in Russia, responsible for the welfare of citizens, also those in captivity, those not accused of any wrong doing, those not put before a judge, and those not convicted. He had approved their captivity in Yekaterinburg, he had



approved Sverdlov, and Yurovsky as the one in charge of the Ipatiev House. Lenin was in fact responsible for the whole situation and as I see it he is guilty for this "monstrous crime".

A few days after started the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church. It had earlier been announced that there a decision would be made on the issue of identifying the "Yekaterinburg remains". Again, no decision. The case is dragging out.

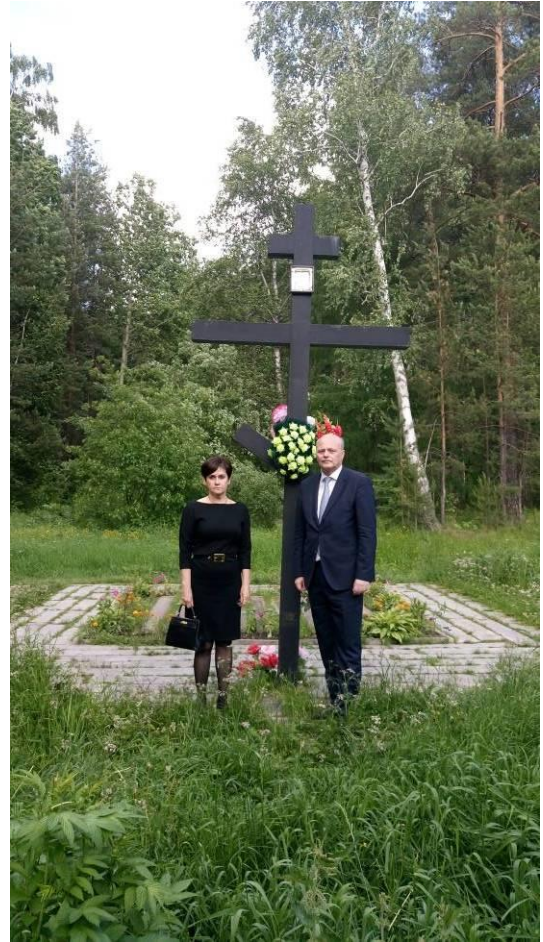
The members of the Romanov family are patiently waiting for the investigation to end. We have waited almost 100 years, and we can wait a little longer. When fighting for the truth, there is no end to the sufferings we will endure. We know, justice and truth will prevail in the end!

When the church recognize the remains as being Imperial, as being the Passion-Bearers, then starts the question of what should happen with these relics. They can not be buried as in 1998, but has to be placed in a shrine, above ground, making it possible for believers to pray at the shrine. The Romanov family would most likely insist on them being located in the Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg.

Another question is what should happen at the Porosenkov Log, where then the relics where lying all the time since July 18, 1918 until 1991 - for 73 years. This is a holy place and the construction of a church there is to be expected. However, I hope it will be at some distance to the actual sites. The entire area should be fenced in, and the inside should be kept as a nature reserve, where silence and tranquillity can be found. Just with crosses marking the two places of where they were found, nothing else.

If anything is to change, then one could wish for the Sverdlovsk region to be renamed.

- (1) February, 1994. Nat Genet. "Identification of the remains of the Romanov family by DNA analysis."
- (2) March 18. Interfax.
- (3) September 30, 2015. Interfax.
- (4) November 28. TASS.
- (5) November 28. The Telegraph.





Princess Penelope "Penny" Galitzine and Prince Emanuel "Manny" Galitzine, with the cocker spaniel Poppy

Tracing the last Romanoffs

The Romanoff family reign lasted for three hundred years and produced twenty rulers. The last one was murdered in the basement of Ipatiev's house with his family a hundred years ago. The journalist, Meri Eskola, tracked down the family of a few surviving offspring.

Text: Meri Eskola, Photos Petteri Kokkonen, Translation: Manny Galizine

On the coast of East Sussex, England, on a morning of February, an Arctic wind blows. The wind almost sweeps off Poppy the cocker spaniel, and the English Channel waves wipe off the cobwebs from the houses built on the shore. A 64-year-old woman dressed in waterproof jacket and Hunter wellies is not a model, but braving the elements in a style, she continues her walk.

She is Princess Penelope "Penny" Galitzine, great-granddaughter of the last Tsar of Russia, Nikolai II's sister, Xenia.

Penny's grandfather was Dmitri Aleksandrovich Romanoff, an exile from of the Russian Revolution, who was the third youngest of Xenia's seven children. Dmitri's grandparents were Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna. The only child of Dmitri, Princess Nadežda Romanoff, was Penny's mother.

Since the titles of the Russian aristocracy are inherited only by boys, Penny has no Romanoff title. She is married to Prince Emanuel "Manny" Galitzine. This originally Lithuanian family marches through the history books hand in hand with the Romanoffs since the 17th century. Early in the first Russian Romanoff family's history, Sofia, Peter the Great's half-sister, was reported to be the lover of Prince Vasily Golitsyn.

The children of Penny and Manny, Princess Victoria, 34, and Prince Michael, 25, have inherited the noble titles of the Galitzine family. Through their father they also belong to the German Mecklenburg-Strelitz ruling family from the Middle Ages. The offspring of the family can be found in the current English Queen's Room.



Penny pointing to picture of her Russian relatives on the living room wall.

After walking in the village of Herstmonceux, Penny and Manny will be put on the kettle for tea. In the small living room of the English house, history is present. On the wall there are photographs and paintings by the Russians, on the coffee table there is the Prince Dmitri's silver tobacco box, the mantelpiece has a porcelain candy box shared by Tsar Nikolai II, and the staircase is decorated with the Russian Tsar's double headed eagle.

Otherwise, the life of a retired couple is normal. Penny is volunteering for the organization of lunch clubs for the elderly, and Manny visits local pubs to win quizzes. Michael's son, who works as a pizza delivery man, still lives at home, and the couple are new grandparents of a year-old Alexander living in California.



On a desk at the Galitzines are depicted Manny's mother Gwendoline (left), Romanoff's widow Maria Dagmar and three portraits of Grand Duchess Xenia.

- I made my career in the mental health services of Sussex as a social worker. I'm still help out with the elderly, Penny tells me.

Penny's famous relatives were ordinary people. In their historical significance, she says she woke up only during her university years.

About her grandmother, the Russian emigre Marina Golenistševa-Kutuzova, Penny does not have many memories. When her grandparents divorced, her grandmother moved with her daughter to the United States, Penny recalls having met her grandmother in Connecticut.

- Paul Willets, in his book *Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms*, claims that my grandmother was a Russian spy. It's completely absurd, Penny will

acknowledge. Penny's aristocratic mother married in the 1950s Dr. Anthony Allen, from a socialist family, and moved with her family to Canada to set up as a private doctor. - In reality, the father wanted to take her mother away from the Russian culture of London. My mother did not have an easy life, my grandmother was not a loving woman, Penny says.



Above the Galitzines' fireplace is a painting of Manny's parents, Emanuel and Gwen.

Grandpa Dmitri, her grandfather, Dmitri Romanov, Penny remembers well. He visited Canada with his daughter's family and taught her grandchild to make proper Russian meatballs. The grandfather fled the execution of the Bolsheviks in April 1918 in the English warships to Malta and on to England. - My

17-year-old grandfather had only what he was capable of carrying. He spent his holidays with relatives, housed around Europe, but he did not have any money, Penny says. Dimitri lived in the UK, France and the United States. He worked as a broker in Manhattan, with fashion designer Coco Chanel in Biarritz and as a whisky importer.

During the Second World War, Dmitri served as a volunteer for the English Navy, participating in the Battle of Dunkirk. The Prince never applied for British Nationality - he always believed that Russia would still be liberated from the Bolsheviks' tyranny. The other wife of Prince Dmitry was Lady Milbanke. Sheila belonged to the "Australian nobility", if you can say that. She had been married to Lord Rosslyn and Lord Milbanke, and was a good friend of the Duke of Windsor, Penny recalls. In his last years, Penny visited her grandfather's house in London's Belgravia almost daily. - I brought him groceries, and then we sat drinking a glass of sherry. We pretended that it was six o'clock and that it's okay to drink, Penny recalls fondly. As an inheritance, her grandfather just left debt. An advance on unpublished memoirs had to be paid back to the publisher when the ghost writer died in the middle of everything. Funeral Services had to be grand, because of the prince's position. "Just a few memories, Fabergé jewellery disappeared back to in Canada. But I got my grandfather's love for food, cooking and fungi," Penny smiles.

The ancestral roots of my father's father go back to the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, Francis Mathew tells. Penny is the same Romanov family as Francis Mathew, 39. His mother is the daughter of Dmitri's oldest brother, Grand Duke Andrei Aleksandrovich Romanoff. They were nephews of the Tsar. The lively life of Francis, who lives in London, Notting Hill, lives up to the ancient Roman times.

Nowadays working as a personal trainer, he once trained as a stunt actor, worked in South Africa with lions, in India in Mumbai as a fashion photographer and actor, and starred in the Ukraine's Dreams Bachelor program for the second time in 2011. - We filmed the program for three months around the world, in Crimea also at the former Livadia Palace of the Romanoffs. The Romanoffs owned half of Crimea, but we no longer have any proof of that, Francis shrugged.

The TV program forced Francis to learn the language of his ancestors. He started Russian intensive study three weeks before shooting, fortunately, at the age of 18, he learned Cyrillic alphabet at the age of 18.

Didn't a real-life TV star find the love of his life in the program?

- Ukrainian women are the most beautiful in the world, but I spent three months with girls for a total of 3-4 days. The popularity of the program in Ukraine tells me that 20,000 followed the show, Francis shakes his head.

The popularity of the program realised Francis's long-standing actor's dream come true.

- I got a glimpse of what the life of an internationally famous actor would be. When we were eating out and about, the Ukrainians always took pictures of me with their mobile phones.

In Romanoff's name there was still magic in the Tsar in Russia. Programmers insisted on call Francis a prince, even though he tried to point out that he had not inherited a title from his mother's line.

The tragic fate of the famed family still touches people.

- Old people wanted to push their head or hands on my shoulder, it was amazing. I was particularly popular among old men and I do not know how many home photo albums I posed for, Francis recalls.

Francis and his siblings are the children of Princess Olga Romanoff, 68, the only child of Prince Andrew and his second wife, Nadine McDougall.

Olga lives in Kent in England and she earns an income by organizing paid tourist tours at her childhood



Francis Mathew

home in Provender House. The Romanoffs leased the first 13th-century farmhouse in 1890, and in 1912 Olga's grandmother, Sylvia McDougall, bought it as a home for her daughter. In 1950, Princess Olga's dress was made of lace, which had belonged to the Russian family, and the Royal Princes were King Haakon VII of Norway and Queen Ingrid of Denmark.

- But my mother has not had an easy life. In the way of the old-fashioned upper class, my grandmother did not let Olga go to a regular school. Her only job was to get married well, so my mother had a home teacher at the Provender House, Francis says. However, marriage with Thomas Mathew did not succeed. After divorce, Olga, left alone for four children, moved to McDougall's home region in Scotland.

The Romanoff background made kids eye-catching at school. This was not made easier by the media's interest in Francis's younger brother, who died of heart disease at the age of 18 months.

Kids know how to be so cruel. Whatever makes you different is enough for bullying. I was constantly fighting until I was 10 years old. When I was in St. Petersburg in 1998, I was proud of my pedigree," Francis says.

When returning from Russia, Francis's grandfather wanted to live in England only for a peaceful life, says daughter-in-law.

"My grandfather loved Rasputin, for he was the only one who could handle the Crown Prince Alexei's haemophilia.

The birth of Francis's great-grandmother's first son in January 1897 was celebrated in the St. Petersburg Winter Palace by a 21 gun salute. "Normally, canons were only fired at the birth of a Crown Prince, but the Tsar was so excited about his sister's first son that he wanted him to be treated like a Grand Duke," Olga writes in her autobiography *Princess Olga - A Wild and Barefoot Romanov*.

With the last Romanov Tsar, Nicholas II, Little Andrei was well loved. Olga recalls: "Nicholas was a delightful man whom my father worshipped."

Prince Andrei, did not comprehend any monetary affairs at all; in Russia, he never had to carry money with him, the servants handled the payment.

Andrei spoke five languages fluently, but with such strong emphasis that all the languages sounded the same. "The whole family had the same speech. It was said that all Romanoff men spoke five languages but did not say anything in any one," Olga writes in her book.

The middle class Prince did not learn to endure. He loved workers and aristocrats, but did not want to have anything to do with other classes of society. "The middle class caused my father problems. Look at the Russian Revolution!" Olga writes in her book.

Francis's family has a surprisingly strong connection with Finland: his grandmother's grandfather was Carl Emil Borgström from Helsinki. The renowned retailer included Henrik Borgström, the youngest of Finland's first banks.



Penny's grandmother, Countess Marina "Myra" Golenistševa-Kutuzova was a photo model. Her daughter Nadežda was born in 1933.



Penny holding photos of her mother Princess Nadežda Romanova and herself.

Olga Romanoff says in her memoirs that her mother's rich Finnish relatives called the Prince after the revolution continually to visit Finland, but Romanoff did not dare to leave; Finland was too close to the Soviet Union.

The Romanovs were family friends with CGM Commander C.G. E. Mannerheim, who formally belonged to the Tsar's entourage. Marshal's daughter Anastasia played as a child with Prince Andrei, Olga writes in her book.

When the state of Finland did not insist on Anastasia's return to her homeland in 1978, Romanoff buried her as a childhood friend, next to Andrew to the Church of St. Mary in England's Norton Cuckney. There, Romanoff and Anastasia Mannerheim are now lying next to each other.

"My mother was also a friend of the marshal. In fact, I think he was in love with her, because there is so much in their correspondence," Olga writes.

All Romanoffs interviewed by Avun has visited the present-day Russia, especially for the 1998 and 2006 Romanoff funerals.

- In 2006, at the reconnaissance of the Leskica descent, we got a private tour in the Tsarskoje Selo palace. I burst into tears when I realized that here the Tsar family saw their home for the last time, Penny recalls.

Today's Romanovs do not hate the past: without the revolution, no one would have been born.

"The property of Tsar Nikolai in the current budget of 1917 was about \$30 billion - but everything was stolen and no penny was given back. I believe that everything in life has its purpose. I'm not living in the past. The Romanoffs had their time," Francis says philosophically.

There is no return to the old days

Imperial Russia's succession order began to be contested for the first time in February 1917 when the coup d'état started. The Tsar's cousin, Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich Romanov, who was also the Tsar Alexander II's grandson, rushed to the duo to swear allegiance to the Bolsheviks. Later, in 1924 in August, he was exiled to Europe.

According to Principal Andrei Romanov, the family had a verbal agreement that no one should be proclaimed a Crown Prince as long as the Tsar is alive. Kirill, however, broke the agreement and did not receive the blessing of the family.

The dispute over the succession is now split into two. Nowadays, Kirill's granddaughter, Princess Maria Vladimirovna, who resides in Madrid, claims to be the Russian Empress.

The majority of Romanov's family and other emigrant Monarchs conferred to Maria's father, Vladimir Kirillovich, as head of his family, but declaring a woman to emperor goes against the Russian of Succession Act of 1797. According to this, a woman can only claim the crown in a situation where the male line of the whole family has been totally extinguished.

Olga Romanoff, who chairs the Romanoff Family Foundation, says that in principle, next in the line to the throne is her 94-year-old brother from Andrew Romanoff's first marriage, Andrei Andreivich.

Francis believes that the idea of returning Romanovs to the Russian throne is unthinkable.

- President Vladimir Putin would never allow it. Secondly, the Russian people vote for the ruler. The idea of returning Romanovs to the throne is completely absurd.



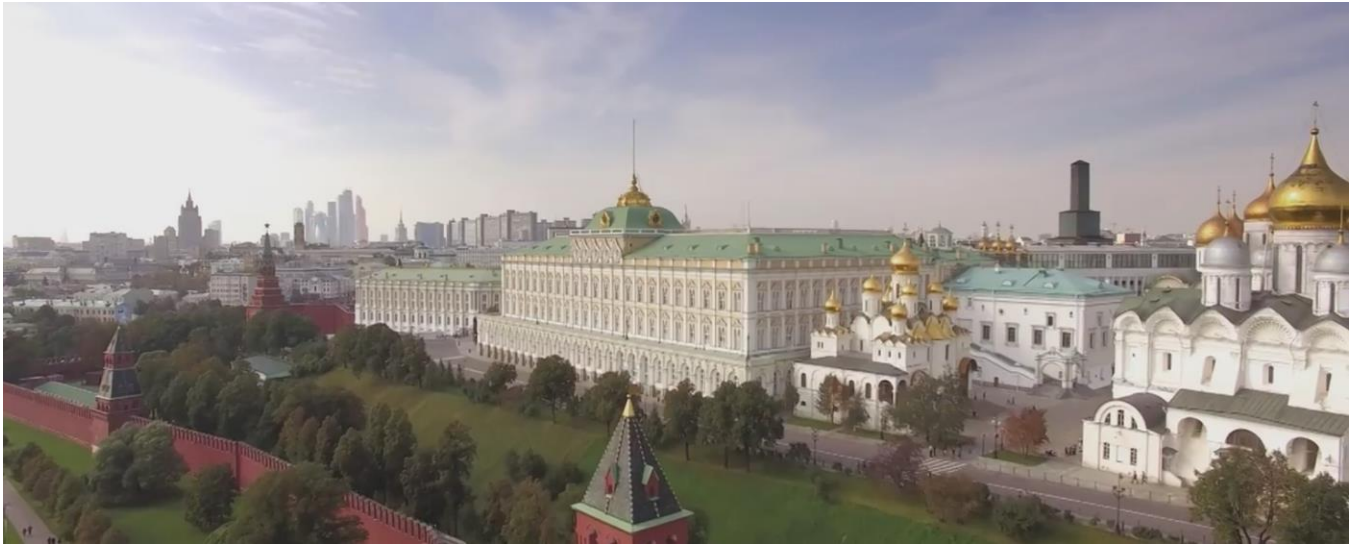
Penny's mother, Princess Nadežda Romanova, or Mrs. Allen in Cornwall, about 1956. Penny is one of the playful children. (photo of Penny's Mum on the Beach 1956)

Super Buildings in History - Moscow Kremlin

- Paul Kulikovsky appeared in a ZDF's documentary

On March 20, the German TV channel ZDF, at 20:15 - 21:00 broadcast the documentary series "Superbauten der Geschichte" (Super Buildings in History), about the Moscow Kremlin.

In the documentary Paul Kulikovsky participates, as a descendant of the Romanovs, giving comments on the history of the Empress Catherine the Great.



Historians such as Catherine Merridale or Orlando Figes classify the stories and legends surrounding the Kremlin and put them into historical contexts. Contemporary witnesses such as Edmund Stoiber and Gabriele Krone-Schmalz report on their experiences on location. The former Kremlin chef Viktor Beljaev and the custodian Anastasia Pavlova provide personal insights into their "super buildings" - and open doors that are otherwise closed.

As the description said - "It is the symbol of Russian and Soviet power development. No other building embodies the triumph and tragedy of Russia more than the Moscow Kremlin.

Empires emerged and ended here: the empire of the Tsars, the red Soviet power, followed by the new Russia. Although St. Petersburg long took over the role of the capital, the Moscow Kremlin always formed the historic centre.

It was the coronation place of the Tsars. From here, Napoleon saw the city in fire. Outside the walls, the victorious Red Army paraded after the defeat of Hitler's Germany. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the Russian flag has been blowing on the Great Kremlin Palace as a symbol of epochal change.

The documentary reflects on key moments and characters how the fate of Russia was repeatedly decided in the Kremlin. The film gives insights into a fascinating history of passionate relationships, alliances, intrigues and struggles. Behind the walls of the fortress lies not only the key to understanding Russia's eventful past, but also the nature of the huge empire."

Video - <https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/zdfzeit/zdfzeit-superbauten-der-geschichte-der-kreml-100.html>

Australian radio documentary about Tsar Alexander III's great-grandson



"Old Nick" - Leonid Kulikovsky as a small boy, with his family, just arrived in Canada, 1948.

On Radio National was broadcast a radio documentary about "Old Nick", full name being Leonid Gurivich Kulikovsky, son of Gury Nicholaivich - the youngest son of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - and a great-grandson of Tsar Alexander III.

The documentary is made by producer Rosa Ellen and sound engineer Melissa May. It is a compilation of interviews tied into the story line of "Old Nick" death in Katherine, in the Northern Territory of Australia on 27 September 2015. Among the interviewed are his nephew Paul Kulikovsky, Archpriest Michael Protopopov, Simon Andropov, Russell Martin, and many locals.

When 'Old Nick' Kulikovsky died near a caravan park in Katherine, his mates thought they had farewelled a quiet, well-read loner, who was closer to his dog 'Rakky' than any person. But in burial, Nick's past quickly caught up with him – not the life he had led, but that of his Imperial family. In the media frenzy surrounding the discovery, some of the facts got jumbled and the reasons why Nick might have chosen to leave the past behind, while others cling to it, were lost.



Listen here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/old-nick/9486372>

Preparations for the "Tsars Days", timed to the 100th anniversary of the memory of Emperor Nicholas II and his family

Large-scale events timed to the 100th anniversary of the memory of Emperor Nicholas II and his family will be held in July.

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation approved a national tourist project - the interregional "Imperial Route", which united St. Petersburg, Moscow, Moscow Region, Perm Territory, Sverdlovsk and Tyumen Regions. Currently, the region is actively working on preparing commemorative events.

One of the key events dedicated to this memorable date is the museumification of the Alapaevsk Field School - the place of the last visit of the Holy Great Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Sergei Michaelovich and Romanov Princes.

It is scheduled to open the Museum "The Field School in Alapaevsk" on July 14 - the beginning of the events timed to the 100th anniversary of the death of members of the Romanov family in the Urals, and on the eve of the visit to the region by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

In preparation for the Royal Days, activities are planned to create museums and expositions, overhaul museum buildings, and carry out repair and restoration work on the Alapayevsk Museum of Local History, a branch of the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local History.

First Deputy Head of the Administration of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Vadim Dubichev stressed that the issues of infrastructure development are particularly controlled. In particular, additional funds were provided for road repairs, landscaping near the museum "The Field School in Alapaevsk."

The plan of commemorative events for the 100th anniversary of the death of members of the Romanov Imperial family in the Urals, formed by the regional ministry of culture, includes 34 events. Thus, the residents of the Sverdlovsk region will be presented with exhibition and multimedia projects "The tragedy of the family ... The tragedy of the Motherland" in the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local History together with the State Museum-Reserve "Pavlovsk".

"The Joy of Heaven and the Sorrow of the Earth" and "The reigning house of the Romanovs and Verkhoturye in the early 20th century" in the Verkhotursky State Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve, "Royal Children" in the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local History together with the Livadia Palace Museum (Republic of Crimea).

In addition, cultural and educational activities are planned in the region, among which the performance "The Tsar's Family" with the participation of students of the Gymnasium "In the Name of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers" in the Sverdlovsk Children's Philharmonic; the international music festival "The Road to the Temple" in the Sverdlovsk State Academic Philharmonic, the scientific and practical conference "XVI Romanov Readings" in the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local History.



On behalf of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Yevgeny Kuyvashev, the regional ministry of culture jointly with the Methodological Center for Arts Education held a competition to develop a draft design of a commemorative sign for the 100th anniversary of the memory of the holy Royal Passion-Bearers. According to the decision of the competitive commission, the winner was the sketch project of

a student of the Sverdlovsk Art School Daria Garach. The use of the emblem of the memorable sign is planned for the production of information booklets, souvenirs, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the memory of the holy Royal Passion-bearers, memorable gifts, souvenirs and memorable signs for the guests of commemorative events.

Preparations for the events timed to the 100th anniversary of the memory of Emperor Nicholas II and his family are conducted in the Sverdlovsk Region on behalf of the head of the region Yevgeny Kuyvashev.

Memorial sign in honor of the founders of the museum - the Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II was erected in the Russian Museum

On March 16, in front of Mikhailovsky Palace a memorial sign was erected in honor of the founders of the museum: the Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II. On the granite stele - a bronze medallion with profiles of the Emperors. Below - a plate with the text of the personal order of Alexander III about the establishment of the museum. The plates created by the sculptor Ilya Dyukov, complement the composition of two granite blocks found in the courtyard.

The solemnity of the event was added by the performance of the Brass Band of the Main Directorate of the Ministry for Emergencies of Russia in St. Petersburg.



"This plate is a gift from the government of the city. With its manufacture, two blocks were used, which obviously remained in the construction of the basement of the Mikhailovsky Palace. They were found in the ground when we were restoring the front yard to the 100th anniversary of the museum, and decided to put them as a memory on the construction of the palace," - the director of the Russian Museum, Vladimir Gusev, said at the opening ceremony.

The museum director noted that on the day of the anniversary no solemn events are planned, but the palaces will be open for free visits.

"We do not arrange festive celebrations with champagne and fireworks, we try to give more on our birthday, because this holiday is not our personal, it's a festival of hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Russian artists whose things are kept by us" - Gusev said.

The palace of the Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich or Mikhailovsky Palace was erected by the architect Charles Rossi in 1819-1825. In 1895 it was bought by the treasury and adapted by the architect Vasily Svinin to the national museum of Russian art. The grand opening of the Russian Museum for visitors took place on March 19 (Old style March 7), 1898.

Currently, the former Grand Palace, located on the Arts Square in the Central District of St. Petersburg, is one of the main buildings of the Russian Museum.

The Russian Museum is a unique repository of artistic treasures, an authoritative research institute, one of the leading centers of cultural and educational work, which oversees the work of 260 art museums in Russia. Its collection includes more than 400 thousand works and covers all historical periods and trends in the development of Russian art, its main types and genres, directions and schools for more than a thousand years.

Video - 1) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/234546
2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1992644/>
3) <https://topspb.tv/news/2018/03/16/pamyatnyi-znak-v-chest-osnovatelej-russkogo-muzeya-otkryli-v-mihajlovskom-dvorce/>



"The favorites of tsars and presidents, from Peter I to Vladimir Putin"

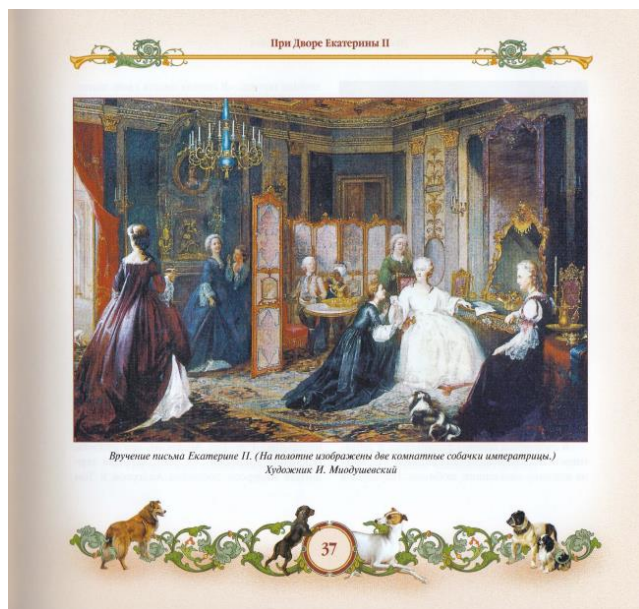


A whole bunch of historical dogs "runs" through the pages of this book: from the terrier Lisette, the four-legged favorite of Peter I, the setter Milord of Emperor Alexander II, the husky Kamchatka, the faithful friend of Alexander III, the spaniel Joy, the favorite of the Tsarevich Alexei, to the happy "Talisman" of the President of Russia Vladimir Putin.

"Loyal without flattery" - such or similar motto flaunted on many noblemen's arms. But could the nobles close to the throne correspond to him? Even the most noble, honest, courageous ?! It is unlikely, because of its ... human nature. True devotion, without any falsity, is only in canine blood! Dogs of the powerful people. Indeed, they have served faithfully to their crowned masters for more than a century, and, as an old man, they truly serve to this day.

The book includes in addition: a foreword by Paul E. Kulikovsky, a description of the breeds of the royal pets, the best lines of Russian poetry and prose - from Pushkin and Bunin to Chekhov and Bulgakov - dedicated to our four-legged friends, and many illustrations - paintings and photos.

Author: Larisa Andreevna Cherkashina. Publisher: Veche. Pages: 256. ISBN: 978-5-4444-6590-5



About "The favorites of Tsars" - An interview with Larisa Cherkashina

Larisa Andreevna Cherkashina is a "Pushkinist":, a specialist in Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin, his work, ancestors and descendants. She is a writer, member of the Writers' Union and member of the International Pushkin Club. Her studies of Pushkin have given her information about a lot of related noble families, including the Romanovs.

As she says - *"In general, the genealogical tree of Pushkin is the genealogy of Russia. Starting with the first Slavic Prince Rurik, and to this day. I had to study a lot of noble families, including the Romanovs. I began to study the genealogy of the Romanovs, beginning with their very first ancestors. The theme "Pushkin and Romanovs" is very interesting, but little-known. We all know only about Pushkin's relations with the Tsars during his lifetime - little with Paul at the birth of the future poet, and then Alexander I, and Nicholas I. But few know that Pushkin's ancestors served the Romanovs very faithfully and were close to them. Pushkin during his lifetime was close to the court, but even after death, these connections miraculously continued.*



Moreover, the descendants of Pushkin were related to the Romanovs' surname. The daughter of Alexander II, Her Serene Highness Olga Yurievskaya, married the grandson of Pushkin, the Count Georg-Nikolai von Merenberg, the son of Pushkin's youngest daughter Natalya and the German Prince Nikolai Nassau. Countess Sophia de Torby, Pushkin's granddaughter, one of the most beautiful women of her time, married Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich, the grandson of Nicholas I. And these crossroads gave a lot of descendants who live in the UK, and are close to the court. One of the best men at the wedding of Elizabeth II, was the great-grandson of Pushkin, David Mountbatten. I was fortunate enough to know many of them. My friend Galya Samoilova was making a film about them. Descendants live in Switzerland, you know Prince George Yurievsky. They came to Russia to the Congress of compatriots, I met with them, and then we corresponded."

How did the idea to this book come about?

Larisa - *"I'm a dog lover myself. George Yurievsky gave me an album about the exhibition, which he organized in Tsarskoe Selo and I saw in it an article "Alexander II and his favorite dogs". And I was so amazed that I started to look everywhere for the mentioning of dogs. For example, when was mentioned the rare breed of dog Leonberger, which belonged to Nicholas II. And when I started working on the book, it was already easier for me, as I worked on my notes.*

I was struck by the diaries of the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, when she lived in the Crimea in 1917 under Bolsheviks supervision, on the verge of life and death. They were not shot by a miracle! They miraculously survived! And she knew, in what situation she was in, in what position Russia was in, and still she writes, that among all these troubles, her dog Chifu is also ill. And here in every record, she writes how Chifu feels, if she's better or worse. And when the dog finally died, she writes how sad - incredible. This is such an extraordinary sincerity. I really like to read correspondence. You read and immerse yourself in history. It is correctly said that the letters contain the blood of history. Reviewed all the diaries of Nicholas II, where he mentions dogs. Memoirs of the approximate. I tried to take only documents. Re

And, of course, the Yekaterinburg tragedy, when I wrote about it, I cried. I did not know, and many people do not know that the Romanovs took three dogs, pets, into exile. Tatiana took a French Bulldog, which she got from an officer Dmitry Maloma, Anastasia - a King Charles Spaniel, a small dog named

Jimmy, and Tsarevich Alexei took his Spaniel Joy. I found the memories of the murderers and read that when they were loading the corpses, Jimmy jumped out of Anastasia's sleeve. And I found confirmation from Yurovsky, who writes that he told them not to take anything to the basement, but they still took the dogs. The bulldog was shot, because he was very huffed and whined, and they had to keep secrecy. The only one who was silent was Joy. And he survived. After the tragedy, he was taken out of pity by a guard. And when, a week later, Kolchak's army entered Yekaterinburg, where he was identified, sent to Omsk and then to Vladivostok, where he was sent with a ship to England and ended up in Windsor, at the family of King Geog V. I found out that his grave was in Windsor Park, but it was not preserved, as at this place there is now a parking lot."

How did you manage to collect information about the first Romanovs and their dogs?

Larisa - *"It was very difficult. Well, it was not so difficult to find information about Peter I. He had the terrier Lisette, which also went down in history. There is an anecdote. Peter was very hot-tempered and angry with one of the nobles, whom he ordered to whip. And he could not be persuaded to cancel the punishment. Then his wife Catherine, tied a note to Lisette's collar with a petition for pardon. And when the dog greeted Peter and jumped he saw the note. The Tsar said: "And you have a petition for me and I will fulfill it, because it is from you the first." The nobleman was saved.*

He also had one dog of the now extinct Bullenbeyzer breed. This breed became the progenitor of the boxer. A giant dog, with whom people was hunting bears, these dogs were very popular in the West. A stuffed dog belonging to Peter I is in the Kunstkammer. It was very difficult with Elisabeth Petrovna, since nowhere there is information about her pets. And suddenly it became clear to me that Elisabeth Petrovna, who was born in 1709, in the year of the Battle of Poltava, grew up surrounded by Peter's favorite dogs. It is known that Lisette was with Peter since 1705. By the way, Peter was very fond of Lisette's name. This was the name of the dog, his daughter, and the horse on which he was riding in the Battle of Poltava.

Elizabeth was a passionate hunter. It is no accident that Serov portrayed her on a hunt with Peter II. But in this book I wrote only about domestic dogs, not hunting dogs. Perhaps she had a livery Tsetrinka, which was with Anna Ioanovna, and then she was inherited by Anna Leopoldovna. Anna Ioanovna had jesters. And Prince Golitsyn was assigned to watch Tsetrinka and the Empress in a letter wrote, let them take it not as punishment, but honor. This was spelled out in a palace ceremonial. Every morning Prince Golitsyn took cream for the liveries. I found this in the magazine "Russian Antiquities" of the XIX century. So gradually I collected material for the book.

One of the puzzles was associated with Nicholas I. Once Pushkin wrote a letter from the Tver province: "I'm very happy here, but all the neighbors look at me like the dog Munito» - Who is Munito? It turns out that it was a dog in Vienna. He was shown in a circus. The dog was extraordinarily intelligent, almost knew how to count. Artists showed unusual tricks with Munito. Russian Ambassador Tatishchev bought this dog Munito and gave it to Nicholas I. Nikolai renamed Munito to Hussar. The Hussar was unusually clever. When Nicholas called a courtier, Hussar ran, fiddled with his clothes, and brought him to the Tsar. When in 1839 Dumas traveled to Russia and was in Petersburg, he wrote -Nicholas is inseparable from his dog and the highest encouragement and reward for his sons is the permission to sleep on an old greatcoat next to his dog Hussar.



Pushkin, when he lived in Tsarskoe Selo in 1831, had a dog and she was lost. A dog was found, but they demanded a lot of money as a reward. And at the same time Hussar also fled from Tsarskoe Selo. The one who found it received a lot of money. This can be checked on the inventory of the Palace office. Costs for the haircut of dogs and for treatment are reflected in the documents. For example, our envoy in England, Brunov, was instructed to purchase three of the most fashionable, rare dogs for Catherine II and her ladies! A striking story! When Zemfira, Catherine's beloved lady dog died, the Empress did not leave the bedroom for three days and, according to legend, sobbed on the chest of her young lover.

After writing this book, how would you summarize the attitude of the Romanovs to dogs?

Larisa - *"I will formulate it the same way as you, Pavel Eduardovich, they are more than friends. They are family members, relatives. The Romanovs were very fond of their pets, they were worried about them. I found in the letter of Nicholas II to Alexandra Feodorovna - "do not forget to invite my old dog to your meal". This is an unexpected look at the Romanov dynasty, through the prism of their love for dogs. This approach makes it possible to look deeper into their souls and see their essence, those human qualities that were hidden under external attributes.*

One of my articles is unusual. My grandmother, a peasant krestyanka, but not serf, was born in the Tver region in 1899 two weeks before the Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna. They are almost the same age. And I wanted to follow their life paths. We know that in 1918 Maria Nikolayevna's life was tragically cut short, and my grandmother was married in 1918. Such are the historical parallels.

The second article - "Through a magic crystal or how they shot Eugene Onegin." The fact is that Nicholas II being Tsesarevich and Elizabeth Feodorovna played in the amateur performance "Eugene Onegin". I found pictures of them in costumes and correspondence about this production. It is known that Nicholas II was very fond of "Eugene Onegin," wrote Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich: "Nicky told me that in honor of the heroines of this poem he called his daughters." And Nikolai was killed, and Elizabeth Feodorovna was killed, such a death almost in Pushkin's interpretation.

"Our four legged family members" - The preface by Paul E. Kulikovsky

"In my family, there have always been four legged, tail wagging, hands and face licking, furry animals, rushing out to the entrance to jump up and welcome you (or our guests) - by many called "man's best friend" and indeed they are.



As my great-great-grandfather Emperor Alexander III said, when his favorite dog "Kamchatka" was killed in the train accident in 1888 at Borki, - "Among humans I have hardly one true, unselfish friend – indeed, for me there cannot be any, but a dog can be, and Kamchatka was, such a friend."

My own life story so far, starts in Canada in 1960 where I'm born, shortly after the repose of my great-grandmother, the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. My mother took me to Denmark, where I as a Russian Orthodox was christen receiving the name of Pavel Eduardovich Kulikovsky.

The Kulikovsky family were of hereditary nobility of the Voronezh province, with roots back into other Russian Noble families such as Apraksin, Golovin and Golitsyn. They were in many generations officers in the Imperial Russian Army, mainly with service in a cavalry regiment. Horses was their second passion and they made a business out of it, breeding them for sale to the army.

My great-grandfather Nicholas Alexandrovich Kulikovsky entered in 1902 the Life Guards Kirasirsky Her Majesty's Regiment, in which Empress Maria Feodorovna was the honorary commander and her son Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was enlisted. At a parade in 1903 Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna spotted the handsome young Kulikovsky and asked her brother to be seated next to him at the following lunch. As they say, the rest is history.

In November 1916, in Kiev, with the blessing of her brother Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna could finally marry Kulikovsky, the love of her life.

Their first son Tikhon Nicholaivich was born 25 August 1917 in Ai-Todor, Crimea, and the second son Gury Nicholaevich was born 23 April 1919 in the village of Novominskaya, in Kuban.

The family left Russia in February 1920 and went to Denmark, where the Grand Duchess' mother Empress Maria Feodorovna had settled a year earlier, after leaving from Crimea.

The Kulikovsky family settled on a farm in Ballerup, near Copenhagen, with many different animals - and of course dogs. The dogs can be seen in several of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's paintings.

The two sons both married local Danish ladies. My grandfather Gury Nicholaevich married Ruth Schwartz, a daughter of a local farmer. They had three children, my mother Xenia Gureevna, Leonid Gurivich and Alexander Gurivich.



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - showing her dog "Sammy"

After living 28 years in Denmark, in the aftermath of the Great Patriotic War, the Grand Duchess' family after threats from the Stalin regime no longer felt safe in Denmark, and emigrated to Canada.

The entire Kulikovsky family, including sons with wives and children arrived in Toronto in 1948. Again they acquired a farm and new dogs soon arrived in the family. The first dog came already after one month. It was a Border Collie named "Sammy".

Later when Tikhon Nicholaevich and his Danish wife Agnete divorced, their two dogs - the Border collies "Tannhauser" (just called Tanse") and "Laddie" - ended up in the house with Grand Duchess Olga

Alexandrovna.

Nicholas A. Kulikovsky died in 1958 and two years later the Grand Duchess died. My grandmother Ruth had already in 1956 divorced my grandfather Gury and left for her native country. Now after the death of the Grand Duchess, my mother Xenia, with little me, went to her mother in Denmark.

I grew up near Copenhagen, went to school, served in the Danish Army, continued to university and got my MBA diploma. I then started to work in international companies, one which eventually sent me to Russia. In March 2008 I arrived with my wife Ludmila in Moscow to live and work. I had then made the reverse path in life of my great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - going from Canada, via Denmark, to Russia.

Growing up, there were not only dogs running around in our home, but also my family history reminded me of the long and close relation to dogs. In family photos could be seen Emperor Alexander II with his Irish Setter named "Milord", Emperor Alexander III with his Husky "Kamchatka", Emperor Nicholas II with many different dogs, Tsarevich Alexei with his Spaniel "Joy", and my great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna with her dogs, a big Borzoi, her little white Toy poodle "Luck", or in the sunset of her life with the collies "Tanheuser" and "Laddie".

In my family dogs has served many different functions, from acting as a guard dog, hunting dogs, to a children's playmate, and of course as a faithful companion - absolutely unselfish, never ungrateful or treacherous, always there to comfort you, protect you, entertain you and help you.

Our dogs were usually big or at least medium sized. We once had a Dalmatian, which of course was named "Plet", Danish for "spot". It was very cute, but had a strange idea of attacking our couch from below and eat the upholstery. My favorites was "Mie", a Pointer, naturally obsessed with hunting. As soon as you unleashed her she ran away hunting and didn't listen to your commands anymore, but otherwise a sweet and gentle dog. "Basse" ("fatty") was the biggest puppy in a litter of black Labradors. When he grew up he loved to sneak out of the house and visit the lady dogs in the neighborhood. He was such a happy dog, always waiting for a snack coming his way.

Dogs also had an educational function, as they became a firsthand experience on how to deal with such events as death and grief. A pet's death is a traumatic and challenging experience for a child, but when witnessing the birth of pups and the death of dogs, you learn the reality of life and death. Nothing is forever.

Sometimes it goes the other way and our dogs become our last companion - as with my uncle Leonid Gurievich, the oldest son of Guri Nicholaevich, who suffered a heart attack in the city Katherine, in northern Australia on 27 September 2015, while walking on the street with his dog "Rakky" - a pit bull cross. The dog was immediately taken in by a "foster family".

At present, my mother Xenia has a very big dog, it looks like a "Great Dane". He came from a dog shelter, where he was already named "Leo" and my mother says it was kind of him who chose them. She has been used to always have dogs around her all her life, so it feels natural to have a dog and she thinks it will feel lonely in the house without a dog. And as she says, then you always have someone to take a walk with.

My oldest sister Vivian has a mix of a Shar-Pei, Rottweiler and Danish Spitz which is called "Sofus". It entered her life after the death of her husband Bjarne, to comfort and cheer her up. She loves the fact that a dog is always happy to see you and brings joy into your life, no matter how sad you might be. No other animal gives you so much love unconditional. And Sofus also gives protection, if it is necessary.

My youngest sister Vibeke has an English Bull Terrier, called "Twixen". She wants special dogs and was used to have American Staffordshire Terriers, but they have become illegal to own in Denmark, so she chose instead this breed. It is a pure breed exhibition dog, but for her it is 'just' a family-dog. Vibeke loves the joy "Twixen" gives when she comes home, and when they relax on the couch in the evening.

My daughter Maiken has a Golden Retriever, called "Chudo" ("Чудо" = "Miracle") - the first dog in our family for a long time with a Russian name! He is very calm and likes to cuddle indoor, but is very energetic outdoor. He has such a positive effect on us, that even after a bad day it always makes you feel good coming home to him, and we love him for it - Maiken says.

Those four legged pets are more than best friends, they are members of our family.



Xenia with her dog "Leo"

In Toronto, an exhibition about the family of Nicholas II

On March 18, the Serb community at the Church of St. Sava in Toronto organized an exhibition of photographs about the family of Royal Passion-Bearers called "Towards the Russian Tsar. The Romanovs - Royal service."

Bishop Mitrofan (Kodich), the priesthood and representatives of the media attended inauguration.

The exhibition was opened by Archpriest Milovan Sredoyevich, rector of the Church of St. Savva, and Priest Vladimir Vranich. Father Vladimir told why the Imperial family of the Romanovs is an important part of Serbian history. Dr. Dušan Bjelic elaborated and developed this subject from a historical point of view.

The idea and purpose of this project is to awaken the memory of the Romanov family and to acquaint them with the life and sacrificial service of the martyrs.



The exhibition presents a series of black and white photographs from the personal albums of the Romanov family. Most of the exhibition is portraits, as well as photographs that show the family at moments of relaxation, communication with loved ones. The second group of photographs is united by military themes. On them, the Tsar blesses the army before leaving for the war, tests new weapons, gives orders to the army, dedicates Alexei to the secrets of military art. Also, to the attention of the public are photos of the Grand Duchesses, who worked as nurses in the infirmary.



The opening of the exhibition in Toronto was a continuation of the project , implemented since autumn 2016 in more than 50 cities in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia with the active participation of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the public.

The exhibition will be open until April 15, 2018 in Toronto in the premises of the church of St. Savva, 203 River Street.

A coin "In memory of the Romanov family" appeared on the numismatic market

The nominal value of the coin is 1000 CFA francs, its weight is 1 ounce, its diameter is 50 mm, and its circulation is 918 pieces. It is made of silver of 999-th quality "proof". When stamping is used digital printing. On the coin there is an insert - a pearl.

There is a portrait of the Imperial family in color. In the background, the interior of a palace hall is visible. Below are the State Emblem and two laurel branches. In the upper part there is a pearl and laurel branches. The date of the family's death is indicated on the coin: "17.07" (left), "1918" (right).

The obverse of the commemorative coin depicts the Church on Blood and a monument to Nicholas II and his family. In the upper part of the coin is a pearl, as well as two laurel branches, intertwined with ribbon. In the lower part, the nominal value is "1000 FRANCS CFA", the issuer is "REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN" (in two lines), the year of issue is "2018". On the left is the sample - "Ag 999", on the right - the trademark of the Mint of Poland.





Catherine the Great - the Empress of all Russians

On the occasion of marking the 50th anniversary of the friendship of the cities of St. Petersburg and Zagreb, the Klovicki Dvori Gallery in Zagreb, Croatia, will host a large exhibition of works from one of the world's largest museums - the Hermitage Museum from St. Petersburg - from April 12 to July 29, 2018.

It will be an exhibition about the reign of one of the most powerful women in history, Catherine II. (1729-1796). It was conceived specifically for the exhibition spaces of the Klovicki Dvori Gallery, which will give a cross-section through this unique period of Russian history by depicting the chariots of personal objects, objects of everyday life, rule and works of art collected as a passionate collector and thus established one of the largest and most important collections of the world.

The exhibition will be on two floors of the Klovicki Dvori Gallery, where more than 1,000 objects will be exposed interesting things about Catherine's life and arrival in Russia and the throne, the Imperial family and court, her great role in education and enlightenment, foreign policy and the wars she led, and above all to feel the charm of art passion that led to the redemption of many collections and the founding of the Hermitage.

Apart from the magnificent Empress' portraits and works of European painting, the exhibition will present sculptures, artwork, garment items of the Empress and other members of the court, objects of art crafts (glass, ceramics, services, silver, gold), medals, weapons, furniture and precious things.



Johann Georg von Mayer, View of the Winter Palace, 1796.

The exhibition on Catherine the Great will be an unusual artistic event in the city, state, and also a wider region that will surely attract tens of thousands of visitors from Croatia and abroad.

York doctor served under Czar, saw the Amber Room

March 12. Universal York. June Lloyd - Dr. Henry Lanius Smyser is one of my favorite old Yorkers, partly because he left behind some fascinating letters of his adventures. They are in the York County History Center Library/Archives. I included transcriptions of the hard-to-read correspondence in lengthy papers I did while working my graduate degree in American Studies at Penn State Harrisburg. (Copies of those papers are also at YCHC.)

Using these letters and papers as a basis, over the years I wrote several York Sunday News columns on Smyser's travels. Two are on his 1849 gold-seeking quest to California with other like-minded men from the area, and one is on his 1855 European venture to serve under the Czar of Russia as a doctor during the Crimean War.

I previously shared the Gold Rush columns on this blog (see links below), but I just realized I had never posted the column on the Crimean War here on the blog. It is perhaps the most fascinating of all, so here it is:

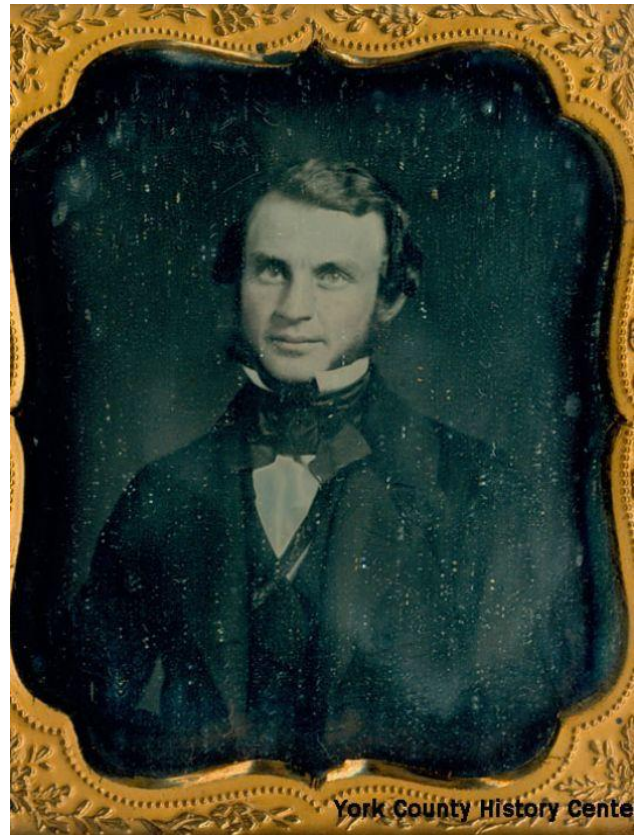
From York to Russia and Back

History has always been measured by its wars. There never seems to be a time without conflict somewhere on the globe. In 1855 America at least was at peace. The Mexican War had ended in 1848. Our Civil War was looming, but had not yet ignited. The story was different in Europe: France and Russia were clashing over control of holy sites in Palestine. Great Britain, Sardinia, and the Ottoman Empire allied with the French. The resulting conflict is known as the Crimean War, but its battles also raged in several other areas, including the Baltic.

The Czar of Russia recruited American doctors to help staff his military hospitals. One of those young physicians was 29-year-old Henry L. Smyser of York. On July 5, 1855 Henry wrote to his parents, Michael and Eliza Lanius Smyser, that he had arrived in St. Petersburg. He outlined the terms and salary to which he had agreed: He would receive a salary of 120 rubles a month (to be paid in silver) and would be supplied with lodging, rations, and the services of three servants (or the equivalent in money). His rank would be Major and he could not be dismissed without cause before the end of the war. After the war, he could accept a position in the Russian civil service, if he so desired. Henry, on the other hand, could break the contract anytime by giving a month's notice. One condition, which did not seem to trouble Henry, was that the physicians had to pledge an "oath of allegiance to his Imperial Majesty, to cease with the expiration of the contract."

He was sent to the military hospital in the beautiful little town of Tavestehus in south-central Finland. (Today it is a thriving city of about 45,000, known by its Finnish name of Hameenlinna.) He shared three rooms with two other American doctors at Tavestehus's only hotel.

Henry wrote very lengthy letters back home to family and friends, including his future wife, fifteen-year-old Emma Rieman. In the letters, now in the archives of York County Heritage Trust, he described the cold, beautiful post with its long summer days and long winter nights. The Russian soldiers wore long coats of fur with the skin side out, providing warmth. Henry remarked that the people who could not afford furs used wadded cotton to pad their coats and the serfs wore sheepskin.



Henry had 129 patients in his charge soon after arrival, their care becoming easier as he learned the language. All was not work--as an officer, Henry was invited to tea and parties at the homes of civil and military dignitaries. He was fascinated by "the machine to make tea at the table" (samovar), and recommended taking tea with lemon and no milk, evidently a new idea to him. After tea there would be dancing and low-stake card games until midnight. Henry didn't indulge in either vice, so he tried to turn down the many invitations as graciously as possible. He was also rather taken aback that some of his acquaintances thought Rio de Janeiro, Mexico, and Chile were part of the United States.

In a letter to his sister, Henry described the Russian Orthodox celebration on January 6 to commemorate the baptism of Christ. A procession of Russian soldiers in full dress accompanied the priest out unto the picturesque frozen lake. The priest dipped a silver cross into a hole cut into the ice, and the water was caught on a plate. This water was then used for blessing and healing, including being sprinkled on patients in Henry's care.

In the early spring of 1856, he described preparations for a visit by the Emperor--feverish painting of walls and scouring of the floors with sand. Hospital staff members were disappointed when a snowstorm held up the arrival of Czar Alexander II, who then only had time to dine with the governor, not to visit the hospital. There was some consolation when the Czar sent his private physician to inspect the hospital and when that doctor declared it the best in Finland.

At the end of March, the Treaty of Paris ended the war. Henry wrote home that he was turning down a chance to join the regular Russian Army at the "usual surgeon's pay of 333 rubles a year." He planned to tour more of Europe before coming back to York, after going to St. Petersburg to settle accounts and collect pay due him. Before leaving Russia, the American surgeons were invited to Peterhof Palace, outside St. Petersburg, to be personally thanked by the Czar.

Thus ended the adventure of a lifetime. Henry returned to York and married his Emma in 1860. He did serve as a U.S. Army surgeon during the Civil War, but that tour of duty unfortunately did not generate any of his wonderfully descriptive letters: Henry was assigned to the Civil War Hospital on Penn Common, a post that he could see from his front doorstep.

Russian Revolution: The tutor who witnessed the downfall of the Romanovs

March 12. BBC - An intimate view of the doomed Russian royal family has been captured in a rarely seen collection of photographs. The images were brought back to England by Charles Sydney Gibbes - tutor to the children of Tsar Nicholas II - whose unique access to the Romanovs helped him to picture them in unguarded and informal poses.

The son of a bank manager from the Yorkshire town of Rotherham, Gibbes made the decision to teach English abroad after graduating from Cambridge University.



Charles Sydney Gibbes with Alexei, the heir apparent to the Russian throne

By 1908, seven years after arriving in Russia as a 25-year-old, he was tutor to the five children of Tsar Nicholas II.

He would stay with the family even after the tsar was overthrown and the Romanovs were banished to Siberia. In 1918, Gibbes became one of the first foreigners to examine the scene of their execution. He would later become a priest in the Russian Orthodox church and, after returning to England, establish a chapel in Oxford.

A photographic archive of his time in Russia is now kept by Charles Gibbes Paveliev, the son of George Paveliev who was adopted by Gibbes.

Most of these pictures have never been seen outside the family.

Mr Gibbes Paveliev said the images showed "how close he was to them, because there are some very personal photographs in his collection".

"Just taken like a member of the family, not a posed photograph."



Gibbes was tutor to the Imperial family in Tsarist Russia for nine years



A diary by Gibbes held in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University also provides insights into his time with the royal family. One entry refers to Alexei's haemophilia, the genetic blood disorder that was passed on to several members of Europe's royal families via two of Queen Victoria's daughters. One quote from the diary reads: "Alexi very poorly all evening, I read but with difficulty could he pay any attention."



*Left, top - Tsarevich Alexei was aged 13 when he was executed with the rest of his family.
Left - Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna was the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II*

Outside events were beginning to be felt by Gibbes's charges, as he recorded in his diary. "Everyone very anxious about the issue of events, the Tsarevich knows nothing of passing events but feels them all the same."



These photographs are of an outing with Alexei

Poignantly, the diary entries end at the point where the Bolsheviks exiled the Imperial family to Siberia. In May 1918, the tsar and his family were moved to remote Yekaterinburg, to a residence the Bolsheviks called the House of Special Purpose. It was to be the Romanovs' final, fateful, journey. Mr Gibbes Paveliev said: "That was the last my grandfather saw any of them; he went all the way with them to their destination, but he was not allowed to enter the House of Special Purpose."

The Romanovs were ousted from power and exiled in 1917, shortly before the communist Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government.

Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra, their four daughters, Grand Duchesses Anastasia, Maria, Olga and Tatiana, and son Tsarevich Alexei - along with four royal staff members - were killed on 17 July 1918. They were lined up as if for a family photo, before a Bolshevik firing squad shot them in a hail of bullets, according to witness accounts. Those who did not die immediately were bayoneted.

Gibbes would become known as Father Nicholas in honour of the last tsar

Gibbes's archives, also held by Mr Gibbes Paveliev, record how in the days after the executions he helped to plot bullet hole by bullet hole and, with forensic attention to detail, understand what happened in the cellar where the Romanovs were killed.

"It must have been horrifying to walk into that room and see all those bullet holes, all the blood," Mr Gibbes Paveliev said.

"The tsar had been the first to be shot through the head and then everybody dropped to their knees and were shot in a kneeling position."



The horrors of what happened in Russia would colour the rest of Gibbes's life. He returned to Britain permanently in the 1930s, by now Father Nicholas after converting to the Russian Orthodox faith and becoming a priest.

Gibbes filled a church in Oxford with mementoes and memorabilia that he had collected from his time with the Romanovs, creating a little piece of the Russia he had left behind. He died aged 87 in 1963.

In Gatchina, the name of the daughter of Emperor Nicholas II was immortalized

March 8. 47channel - On the granite memorial plaque the meaning of the name and the history of the creation of the railway station "Tatyanino" were revealed.



This station was to be opened as far back as 1913. They began to raise funds - a considerable sum for those times - 4500 rubles. The plan prevented the war. The project was returned to only three years later on the initiative of Grand Duchess Tatiana Nikolaevna. At 16, she was at the head of the committee, which cared for refugees and wounded soldiers.

In Gatchina trains began to come from the front to the Warsaw railway station - it is far away, and the infirmary was here - a verst from this place. The wounded were uncomfortable to transport to the infirmary, which was also arranged for personal money by the daughter of Emperor Nicholas II.

A simple wooden platform was turned into a modern station. The spacious building of the hospital is now the local administration. In the battle with the monarchical past, "Tatyanino" miraculously survived.

Video - http://47channel.ru/event/V_Gatchine_uvekovechili_imya_docheri_imperatora_Nikolaya_II/

140th birthday anniversary of Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson - the Secretary of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich

On March 5 the event "Life for the Tsar" timed to the 140th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson took place.

In 2018, the 100th anniversary of the death of the members of the Royal Family and their associates will take place in the Perm region. The first to be killed were Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his secretary Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson on June 12, 1918 on the outskirts of Perm.

A variety of regional and city cultural institutions are preparing a series of events timed to these events. "Life for the Tsar" was first initiated by the library No. 32 and was the first event in a series of cultural events dedicated to this topic. Active participation and support in the organization of the Action was provided by the Perm Opera and Ballet Theater named after P.I. Tchaikovsky and personally executive director A.A.Borisov, as well as School № 9 named after A. S. Pushkin and its director N.A.Kuridin.



During the event, a flower ribbon was placed at the memorial plaque on the building of the former hotel "Korolevsky Rooms", as a sign of respect and grateful memory to the Russian officer who remained faithful to his duty to death. The author of the project "The Dynasty of the Romanovs: Permian Period" Lyubov Markova introduced little-known facts about the life of Nicholas Nicholaevich, and gave new information about his service to the August people. This became possible due to the fact that in 2017 Nicholas Zhonson's grand-nephew Vladimir Bystrov came to Perm for the first time and provided some copies of the family archive.

Igor Gladnev, Chairman of the Regional Branch of the Russian Military Historical Society, noted the importance of honoring and restoring historical justice towards Russian officers who voluntarily shared the sad fate of the most August persons in hard times.

For the first year students of the Perm school № 9 made projects dedicated to the stay of representatives of the Romanov House of in Perm. They prepared a booklet for the excursion "The Royal Route", and an audiobook was published based on the book by Donald Crawford "Michael and Natalia". Therefore, the school's director Natalia Anatolevna noted the importance of studying history and particularly local history.



It was a pleasant surprise for the Permians that an e-mail on the day of the event came from Nicholas Zhonson's relatives living in St. Petersburg, Czech Republic, Thailand, America, Italy, and Sweden with words of gratitude and support:

"We express our deep and hearty gratitude for the organization of the event "Life for the Tsar" timed to the 140th anniversary of the birth of the friend and secretary of Grand Duke Mikhail Romanov, Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson. On March 5, we wake up with you to honour the memory of him and all the innocently murdered friends of the Grand Duke, whose only fault was the loyalty of honour and duty. The names and the great feat of all the friends and associates of Grand Duke Michael Romanov, who voluntarily followed him into exile in Perm and were executed by deliberately false accusations in 1918, deserve the preservation of our descendants in our memory. With the deepest respect for the memory of the deceased members of the family Zhonsons."

An archive specialist Anastasia K. Tkachenko told about the fund of Nicholas Zhonson documents, created in 2017 in the Perm archive of social political history.

The launch of the historical photo-cross "Virtual Museum. Year 1918" closed the event near the former Korolevsky Rooms.

Meet Nicholas Zhonson - Sensational facts about the life and death of the secretary of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich

By Lubov Markova

For two decades, it was not possible to collect new data about Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich's stay in Perm, and about his and his associates death in 1918. And suddenly one phone call, one letter made a hole, and new information flooded in which allowed to correct historical mistakes, to restore the course of events more than a hundred years ago and to produce in some way a sensation.

Being for 20 years the author of the program "The Romanov Dynasty: Permian Period" and for six years - a member of the International Searching expedition for finding the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary Nicholas Zhonson / Johnson, I corresponded with the specialists of our team. In spring of 2017, I addressed Mik Svindelz, a former Scotland Yard

employee, and now a highly professional instructor and owner of the kennel for special search dogs, and asked him to contact the archivist of the Knebworth House, in Hertfordshire. In this ancient place Michael Alexandrovich with his wife Natalia Brasova, children and retinue lived in 1913-1914. Nicholas Zhonson / Johnson, as well as his mother Louise Henrietta (Alexandrovna) Zhonson-Missievich dealt with the search and lease of the mansion. After Mik's negotiations with Claire Flack and the archivist of Nebworth Castle, I wrote a letter to England. The answer was immediate, and Claire sent me a number of previously unknown photographs of Zhonson/Johnson. But most importantly, I was introduced to Vladimir Bystrov, the grand-nephew of Nicholas Nikolaevich, living in Prague, with whom correspondence began.

In the summer of 2017 Vladimir Vladimirovich came to Perm invited by Peter Sarandinaki, director of the Search Foundation (USA), and brought copies of a unique family archive, parts of which had been collected, stored and handed over by Nicholas Zhonson and his relatives over many years, from living in Russia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Thailand, and America.



He is not an Englishman. His name is not Brian!

Born March 8, 1878 in the family of the captain of the 3rd Grenadier Artillery Brigade Nikolai Zhonson / Johnson and Louisa Alexandrovna Zhonson.

Russian, Orthodox. He was brought up in the Alexander Cadet Corps.

1896 - Enrolled in the Mikhailovsky Artillery School as a cadet, where he became acquainted with Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

1899 - Promoted to second lieutenant with assignment to serve in the 24th artillery brigade and enlisted in the 3rd battery.

1900 - Appointed to test for service to the Life Guards 1st Artillery Brigade.

1903-1907 - In the reserve of artillery in St. Petersburg district.

1914 - Called out of retirement and enlisted in the 13th Arkhangelsk unmounted squad, sent to the 15th company.

1916 - Officially became adjutant of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

1917 - again dismissed in the rank of staff captain, but he voluntarily remained with Michael Alexandrovich.

1918 - killed together with the Grand Duke.

2009 - rehabilitated by the decision of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation.

For many years the history of the life and death of Michael Alexandrovich and his associates was hushed up and frankly falsified. In various publications, the secretary of the Grand Duke, Nicholas Zhonson / Johnson is referred to as Brian, and as an English citizen, or even a spy. Even in the resolution on the termination of criminal case No. 18 / 123666-93 "On clarifying the

circumstances of the deaths of members of the Russian Imperial House and persons from their entourage during the period 1918-1919" dated February 11, 2003, we read: "1.1. The death of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his entourage. On March 7, 1918, the Gatchina Sovdep arrested Michael Alexandrovich, his secretary a British citizen Johnson (Nikolai Nikolaevich) Brian and a number of high-ranking people who lived in Gatchina, including ... Colonel Znamerovsky P. L. and others".

"Wikipedia", accumulating information from various sources, says: "There is no information about the father. Mother Anna was an Englishwoman, taught music at the royal court and, according to other sources, even before the First World War served as a housekeeper in a house bought by Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in England. Koko (so affectionately called as a child) Johnson considered himself Russian. He became Orthodox."

Practically everything is not true! Mother was not Anna. Not an Englishwoman. The house in England was not purchased by Michael Alexandrovich. Nicholas was called in the family Coca, not Koko. He was Russian. And he did not take Orthodoxy, but was baptized at the age of 20 days.

In 2009, sisters Elizabeth and Lyudmila Grishin, distant relatives of Jonson, the came to Perm. They said that the secretary of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was not Brian Johnson, but Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson.

However, it was documented only in 2017, when the great nephew of Zhonson / Johnson, Vladimir Bystrov, brought to Perm documents proving that Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson was in reality a Russian nobleman, of the Orthodox faith and an officer in the fourth generation.

The first mention of Zhonson in Russian archives occurs in the 18th century. Great-grandfather of Nicholas Zhonson was Ivan Ivanovich Zhonson. Born in 1769, he was titular councillor, a teacher of German language in the Alexander Cadet Corps. Grandfather Alexander Ivanovich Zhonson served as colonel of the Carabinieri Regiment of Field Marshal Barclay de Tolly. Father Nicholas Alexandrovich Zhonson - Russian, Orthodox, captain of the 3rd Life Grenadier Artillery Brigade. He died in 1877 at age 36, five months before the birth of little Nicholas.

Following the family tradition, the grown up Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson entered the military educational institution of the Russian Imperial Army.

In 1912 he became secretary for the first time. when Anatoly Mordvinov, who held this post, resigned because of his rejection of the morganatic marriage of the Grand Duke with Natalia Brasova.

The fellow student of Michael Altxandrovich from Mikhailovsky Schoo,l he turned out to be an irreplaceable secretary and a good friend.

Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson knew three languages, but in English he spoke with an accent and much worse than the Grand Duke himself. Nicholas Nicholaevich was very artistic and musical: he played the guitar, balalaika and piano and sang beautifully. His acquaintance V.P. Zubov described his appearance in such a way: "... a man of short stature, chubby and still young ... he was once going to become an opera singer..."

He became friends with Michael Alexandrovich, thanks to their love of music. Nicholas Nicholaevich often accompanied Michael on the piano, including performing musical compositions composed by the Grand Duke. Nicholas Nicholaevich carried out the most important assignments, far exceeding his powers.



From left to right: Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson, mother Louise Henrietta Zhonson-Missievich, sister Elizabeth Nikolaevna Bhaktikul (Zhonson)



In the days of the February Revolution, Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson was always close to Michael Alexandrovich. He followed him to the Mariinsky Palace, to Tavrishesky Palace, to the Winter Palace. He was present at the discussion of the details of the upcoming manifesto of Michael in the apartment of Prince Putyatin on the Millionaire Street. Persuaded the Prime Minister Kerensky to allow Michael to see his brother Nicholas Alexandrovich before sending the Imperial family in August 1917 into exile in Siberia. Ambassador Buchanan recommended Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson to leave Russia, but he replied: "I will not leave the Grand Duke in such a difficult time." He voluntarily went under arrest together with Michael Alexandrovich.

On March 9, 1918, at a meeting of the Council of People's Commissars, Uritsky's proposal was considered to expel Michael Alexandrovich and other arrested people to Perm province. As a result, a decision was signed by Lenin: "... the former Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, his secretary Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson ... and the former chief of the Gatchina railway gendarmerie, Colonel Peter Ludwigovich Znamerovsky ... to be sent to Perm province until a special order is issued...". His valet Vasily Fedorovich Chelyshev and driver Peter Borunov also voluntarily followed to Perm. They were escorted by seven soldier guards.

In Perm, Nicholas Nicholaevich accompanied Michael Alexandrovich unceasingly: in the prison hospital, the hotel "Hermitage", the hotel "Korolevsky Rooms", while visiting the Cheka, Perm friends, theatre, cinema, walks around the city and the surrounding area. He also took care of his health, made reporting and correspondence.

On the night of the murder, from June 12 to June 13, 1918, he insisted on accompanying Michael Alexandrovich. He, unlike the Grand Duke, understood clearly where they were being taken, and told his murderers: "Why should you kill us? My mother is an old woman, and everyone loves Michael Alexandrovich in Russia." And he was killed first by the Bolsheviks in order to eliminate resistance during the killing of the Grand Duke.



The Hundred Years Long Investigation

Almost all the published materials devoted to the period of Michael Alexandrovich's exile in Perm feature a single photo, the signature under which says that "next to the Grand Duke is" his secretary, or Brian Johnson or Nicholas Johnson. " In various museum, archive expositions and exhibitions the same is affirmed. I discussed this photo during the correspondence with the descendants of Zhonson / Johnson in Thailand, the Czech Republic, with the rector of the Church of St. John of Shanghai, Andrew Phillips in England, with the archivist of Nebworth Castle, Clare Flack. In the photo from the archive of Nebvort Castle we see a young and strong Nicholas Zhonson / Johnson at the age of 36. Many doubts were expressed: "Could Nicholas Nicholaevich have changed so much in four years?"

In 2017 the following case allowed to dispel this doubts. Former graduate of the Moscow school №687 Ilya Chishko, with whom we have been in correspondence since 2015, created a public forum on the social networks "Hundred Years Long Investigation". He took a great interest in the history of the death of the Imperial family, worked for a long time in the archives and in September 2016 he discovered the case of F. P9440 in GARF. Op.1

D.1. "Preliminary investigation of the judicial investigator of the Perm District Court in the most important cases of the murder of a number of persons on the orders of the [Bolshevik] Permian Extraordinary Commission."

In it on the sheet under №199 we see the photo of Michael Alexandrovich known to us and the "other person".

On the back we read: "April 9 - 1918 - Perm. We were photographed during a walk around the city, in the hay market, where the flea market. The photo was displayed in 19 minutes. Signature. I have not shaved since leaving Gatchina (February 22, March 7)."

With whom they communicated, Michael Alexandrovich does not specify. However, an enclosed note in the same file, sheet No. 198, brings clarity: "Judicial investigator for important cases. In addition to my request, I ask you to inform me, if the corpses of Znamerovsky and Lebedeva are identified, I attach a card of P. L. Znamerovsky, photographed with G. D. Michael Alexandrovich. In obedience to the need to humbly ask the card to return to me or relatives of P.L. Znamerovsky: son, brother and sister who live in Petrograd. The photo was made by some amateur in March 1918, it seems, on the Flea market. C.A. Simonov. Address: Kungurskaya, 8, apt. 1".

As you know, in 1918-1919 the investigation of the murder of the Imperial family and Michael Alexandrovich was carried out by Kolchak investigator Nicholas Sokolov, who, after a short investigation in Perm, did not achieve any positive results. But after the capture of Perm by the 1st Central Siberian Corps of the Russian Army of Admiral Kolchak on December 24, 1918, the judicial and investigative bodies were restored here in accordance with the legislation of the Russian government of Kolchak. The executor of the judicial investigator of the Perm District Court for the most important cases was appointed Koronovsky, who investigated "the murder of a number of persons on the orders of the [Olchevnikov] Permian Extraordinary Commission." He also interrogated witnesses, in particular in the case of the murder of Pyotr Ludwigovich and Vera Mikhailovna Znamerovsky and Serafima Semyonovna Lebedeva accused of involvement in the abduction of Michael Alexandrovich. Claudia Amvrosevna Simonova was manager of Perm female teachers' seminary, and the Znamerovsky couple rented from her a room at the specified address. Granting to the investigator the photo stored at her, she could hardly be mistaken, who is depicted on it.

Sergei Nikitin - the state medical examiner's Bureau of Forensic Medicine of the Moscow Health Department, chief specialist with 44 years of experience in the field of identification and craniofacial reconstruction, a member of six international expeditions to search for the remains of Michael Alexandrovich and Nicholas Zhonson. February 23, 2018 Nikitin held comparative expertise, and its result is this: "It's not Nicholas Zhonson who was standing next to Michael Alexandrovich". So, in the photo next to the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, is Colonel Peter Lyudvigovich Znamerovsky. Znamerovsky was deported to Perm in March 1918 together with Michael Alexandrovich "on a special order ...".

"We were photographed while walking around the city ..."

The attitude of ordinary people to the Russian officers who suffered during the revolution, who served faithfully and truthfully, is reflected in the lines of the investigative case: "... the cabmen of Gatchina learned that P.L. Znamerovsky was deported with Michael Alexandrovich to Perm and that his wife did not have money. He went to ease her fate, collected for her 3000 roubles of which V.M. Znamerovskaya used 1000 roubles to visit her husband during the Easter week "(GARF, file R9440, item 1, d. 1, p. 201-202).

According to the memoirs of the brother of Peter Ludwigovich, Alexander Znamerovsky, he "was loved by the common people and workers of railway workshops in Gatchina. After the February revolution of 1917, the workers of the Gatchina, having seized weapons from the military and arrested them, Znamerovsky was not only not arrested, but also his weapons were not taken away, so he himself had to go to the Tauride Palace to Kerensky and ask what to do next "(GARF, p. R9440, op.1, d. 1, No. 201-202).

During his stay in Gatchina, the Grand Duke saw Znamerovsky not so often. February 17 (March 2), 1918, Michael Alexandrovich wrote in his diary: "To the tea came: Znamerovsky, Ilyin and Reyer." But in Perm Znamerovsky almost every day talked with Grand Duke.

From the Perm diary of Michael Alexandrovich from April 25 (May 8) to May 29 (June 11), 1918:
2/15 May. After an early dinner we went to the theatre, there was a concert (trio) of artists of the Mariinsky Theater. Znamerovsky and Vtorov sat with us in the box.

3/16 May. In the afternoon we went to the Znamerisky to the Kungurskaya.

5/18 May. Znamerovsky came, and at 3 o'clock I made a big walk with him - we crossed to the other side of the Kama and along the shore reached the railway bridge, took a boat and cross the river, and then returned home at 7 o'clock on this side of river.

7/20 May. After breakfast, I walked around the city with Znamerovsky, we also went to the international panopticon - wax figures. In the evening he played the guitar, and J [onson] with Peter L [judvigovich] did the reporting.

29 [May] / 11 June. Today the pain was weaker and not so long. Znamerovsky came for the tea ...

The diary entry for June 12, for unknown reasons, was not preserved, but judging from the materials of the interrogation, Pyotr Ludwigovich stayed with Michael Alexandrovich for several hours this day: "12 on June 13 of this year, I was at Romanov's place from 6 pm to 9, and the night slept at home."

"I, a citizen of the Petrograd region, Tsarskoselsky district, the city of Gatchina, Peter Lyudvigovich Znamerovsky, 46 years old, married, live in the city of Perm on Kungurskaya street, house number 8. I was deported to the city of Perm from the city of Gatchina, where I served as the head of the gendarmerie department in the Baltic Railway. etc. A year and a half before the revolution, I moved to the Ministry of Railways as an authorized minister to investigate transportation abuses, where I served until the end of April 1917, and then left for the front for a short time; by illness was released and again lived in Gatchina. But on March 7, 1918, according to a new style, I was arrested and, together with the former Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, was deported to Perm. At first I was kept with Romanov together in Club Rooms, and then, when we were released, I rented an apartment and lived separately from Romanov, who then lived in the hotel "Korolevskie Rooms". I visited him often enough, I went with him on walks. For all time, as I have been to the Romanov, he was visited by Tupitsin, Alina ... About the abduction, I found out the next day, that is, on June 13, when I was standing in the church, and from there I went directly to the rooms where Romanov lived, and there everyone told me how it happened."

- From the materials of the interrogation of Peter Znamerovsky, held June 14, 1918

The next day after the murder of Michael Alexandrovich and Nikolai Zhonson / Johnson, Chelyshev, Borunov and Znamerovsky were arrested on a falsified suspicion of organizing the escape of Michael Alexandrovich. A day later, the wife of Peter Ludwigovich, Vera Mikhailovna, who brought food for her husband to the prison, with his five-year-old son Constantine, was arrested. And also her friend Serafima Semyonovna Lebedeva, a servant in the telegraph office in Petrograd, who came with Vera Mikhailovna during her holiday in Perm, hoping to find some food during the Petrograd famine. From the report of Simonova's interrogation, it is obvious that, thanks to her efforts, she managed to free five-year-old Kostya Znamerovsky from custody: "Znamerovskaya asked me to take the child ... in the morning and in the evening to bring him back to the Arrest House. ... For permission to take Kostya from the Restricted House, I applied to the Committee and was refused on the grounds that a developed child can serve as a link between prisoners and the outside world and the child will be searched every day on his return from head to toe ... Having secured the consent of Alexander Znamerovsky, the brother of the arrested person, that he will move to me from Kungurskaya, 19, since being busy with the office ... I could not give myself completely to the child, I turned again, in order to petition to take ... a child from the Arrest House. This was allowed "(GARF, p. 944, op.1, d. 1, sheet 200).

By order of the Perm GubChK Znamerovsky, Znamerovskaya and Lebedeva together with the other 37 hostages were shot on October 9, 1918. But the Chekists did not rest on this. In order not to leave witnesses to the crime, they executed those security guards who accompanied the convicts from Gatchina to Perm: Kvyatkovsky, Mengel, Eglit, Leingart, Elix, Greenberg and Schwartz. In Znamerovsky's case it was written: "killed while walking around the prison yard under unclear circumstances".

"Holy New Martyr Nicholas, pray to God for us ... sinners"

The remains of innocently killed in Perm are not found to this day: Michael Alexandrovich, Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson, Peter Ludwigovich Znamerovsky, and also voluntarily followed with them to exile in Perm Peter Yakovlevich Borunov, Vasily Yakovlevich Chelyshev, and Vera Mikhaylovna Znamerovskaya,

In the list of the new martyrs and confessors of Russia, approved by the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in 1981, the memory of the new martyr Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson is performed on the week of the New Martyrs on July 25. After the glorification by the ROCA of Nicholas Nicholaevich, an icon was painted in the Saints' image. Now it is in the Church of St. John of Shanghai in Colchester in England. The face of the Saint is made based on the last Permian famous joint photo with Michael Alexandrovich, where the "secretary" stands next to the Grand Duke. However, as indicated above, next to the Grand Duke is not Johnson, but Znamerovsky. So, the icon is made with his image.

In August 2017, I wrote about this inaccuracy in Colchester to the abbot of the Church of St. John of Shanghai, Protopriest Andrew Tysson. In September 2017, Vladimir Bystrov, while on a business trip in England, gave Father Andrew some photos of Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson with the hope that a new icon would be made. A few days ago, Father Andrew sent me a newly made picture of the icon.



In the year of the centenary of the tragedy unfolding on the Permian earth, the city has already traditional events: the penitent procession from the Holy Trinity Stefanov Monastery to the Chapel of St. Michael of Tver, museum expositions, video shows, and conferences. New memorable events will come. I would like to see that in the near future the memorial museum "Korolevsky Rooms" will open its doors and a monument dedicated to those events will appear in Perm.

June 12, 2018, relatives of Nicholas Nicholaevich Zhonson from St. Petersburg, the Czech Republic, Thailand will come to Perm for the first time and will take part in the commemorative events.

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



In Tsarskoe Selo the mountain Parnassus to be restored

In Tsarskoe Selo, the Parnassus mountain in the Alexander Park will be restored. The project is ready. True, the sources of funding have not yet been found. It is to be recreated as it was in the middle of the 18th century. It is planned to cut down part of the old trees and plant new ones, to restore the alleys and offices from the cut limes.

The former greatness of the mountain "Parnassus" remained only on paper in the memoirs of courtiers who loved to retire in the cozy cabinets of this curtain. Today, the Tsarskoe Selo as refuge of poets and singers is almost destroyed by time and people.

Similar conical mountains with a cut top were built in the gardens of the mid-18th century. Parnassus was poured in 1755 with the expansion of the Great Pond of the Catherine Park and the Cross Channel. This time is considered the heyday of the Alexander Park. The designers were oriented to it nowadays.

"The task of the designers was to restore these green cabinets, the entire layout. Lost alleys, historical planting of fruit trees, which are confirmed by documents, "- said the leading landscape architect of the project Lydia Petrova.

In historical documents, it was possible to find information that around the mountain were planted apple, plum and cherry, and the so-called "cabinets" were made of cut linden. Here in this picture of Friedrich Barisien, the only one where you can see the part of "Parnassus", just the fruit trees, the very "cabinets", as well as the spiral path are depicted.

This effect is achieved thanks to the Archimedes' spiral, on the basis of which the Parnassus mountain was built. Therefore, during the design, specialists were able to determine, with an accuracy of a centimeter, what the track should be. In addition, they made another discovery.

"In the design, it was discovered in one of the sources that there was a canapé at the top. And then in the album Neelova a canapé was found. Just on one page with a bench was there,"- added Petrova. The height of the mountain "Parnas" is planned to rise to 17.5 meters. At the top, plant an adult spruce and restore a bench in Chinese style according to historical drawings. At the top of the mountain will be made a viewing platform. As it was designed by architect Peter Neyolov.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/231486/

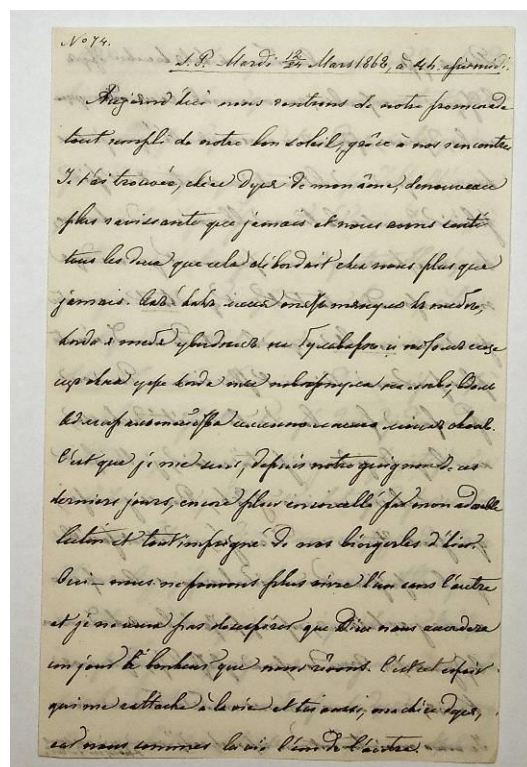


The Tsarskoe Selo Museum was supplemented with Romanov items

The Tsarskoe Selo Museum bought items belonging to the Romanov family at an auction in Monaco. The objects and documents tell about the unparalleled, hidden from extraneous life of crowned persons.

This letter was written exactly 150 years ago. A folded sheet, a neat, bubbly handwriting ... A message from Emperor Alexander II to Catherine Dolgorukova. They wrote six thousand letters to each other. "Letters were written every day. The emperor numbered them. It is interesting that during the day the Emperor undertook to write the letter several times, this is evidenced by the timestamps," said Irina Raspopova, a researcher at the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum.

The Emperor first saw 12-year-old Katya Dolgorukova in the estate of her father. Six years later, Alexander II met her at the Smolny Institute. She was already almost 18. Then the romance began. In each letter - so much tenderness, warmth ... Here is a fragment: "Ah! How I was attracted to you, when I saw you on the boulevard and then out of the



window, already when you turned left, walked along the Admiralty past my windows ... ". Then - in French. Each letter Alexander completed, too, quite touchingly: "It's time for me to return to business, but all my thoughts are with you, dear Katya. Hug you tight. Forever yours."

To the signature "your forever" he never added his name. Alexander II was married. Maria Alexandrovna, who was already seriously ill with tuberculosis, knew about this relationship. The Empress was still alive when Alexander settled Catherine in the Winter Palace. Maria Alexandrovna then said: "I forgive the insults inflicted on me as a monarch, but I cannot forgive those torments that cause me as a wife." After her death Alexander II and Catherine Dolgorukov were married in the chapel of the Tsarskoe Selo Palace. The Emperor ordered to call his wife "Serene Highness Yurievskaya". They lived in marriage for only six months. The Emperor was killed. After that, Catherine with three children leaves for Nice. Probably, this letter was kept there until it was auctioned.

"These are all emigre collections, things of the end of the XVIII - the beginning of the XIX century, this is a schedule that could be taken away or a miniature, which could also be taken away. Certainly, these are such stories, but no more,"- said Iraida Bott, deputy director for scientific work at GMZ" Tsarskoe Selo "And it is no longer so important: who and when took these things from the country, it is important that now they have returned home forever, to Russia."

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/231865



Eight items of the XVIII-XIX centuries enlarged the collection of the museum Tsarskoe Selo. Among them - four engravings; books with the stamp of the Imperial Tsarskoye Selo Library; a letter from Alexander II to Princess Ekaterina Dolgorukova, thanks to which the museum collection of handwritten materials now has an autograph of the Emperor. These things the museum acquired at auction house Hermitage Fine Art (Monaco).

Exactly 150 years, 12 (24) March 1868, 49-year-old Alexander II wrote to 21-year-old Ekaterina Dolgorukova. The letter is written on a sheet folded in half with the embossed colorless monogram of Nicholas I; in small handwriting in French and Russian.

With Ekaterina Dolgorukova is also connected the at auction bought porcelain plate from the service with the coat of arms of the Yurievsky.

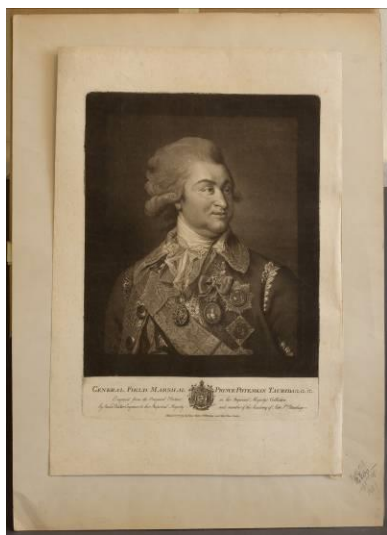
Yurievsky - Russian princely family, derived from the illegitimate (later legitimized) offspring of Emperor Alexander II and Catherine Dolgorukova, the first to receive the title of the Serene princess Yurievskaya by the highest Decree of December 5, 1880. The coat of arms of the fairest Princes of Yurievsky was approved on January 18, 1881. After the death of Emperor Alexander II, Ekaterina Yurievskaya left Russia and lived in Nice until the end of her days.

The foundation of painting was replenished with three engravings. On one of them, in the embroidered camisole, with the orders of St. Andrew the First-Called, St. Alexander Nevsky and a miniature decoration portrait of Catherine II, the most illustrious prince Grigory Potemkin, the favourite of Catherine II, is depicted. The engraving was performed in 1789 by James Walker from the picture of Johann Lumpy the eldest in the mezzotints technique.



Another engraving depicts the Empress Elizaveta Alekseevna: in 1809, a graphic portrait of the Empress Charles Turner was executed from the portrait of the French portraitist Jean Laurent Monier. The engraving comes from the collection of Yuri Trubetskoi - lieutenant-general of the Suite of His Imperial Majesty, commander of His Imperial Majesty's Own Convoy.

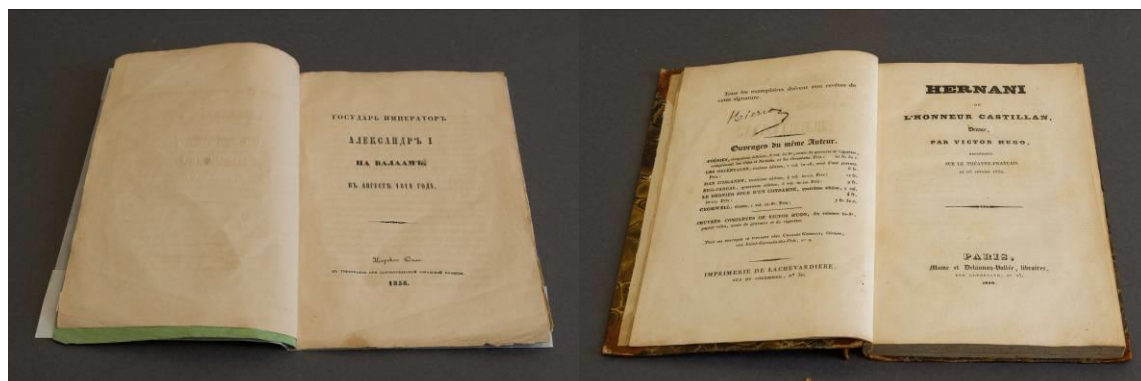
Among the rare engravings is an engraving dotted by the original Louis de Saint-Aubin, performed in Milan after the conclusion of the Tilsit peace in 1807. On it, Emperor Alexander I holds the Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna by the hand, standing against the background of the pedestal with the statue of the goddess Flora.



At the auction in Monaco, the museum acquired a miniature depicting the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, the wife of Nicholas I. The miniature was created by an unknown artist of the middle of the 19th century from the original Timothy Neff, who was in the Tsarskoe Selo Alexander's Palace (now - Pavlovsk).

Among the purchased items are two books. The publication "Emperor Alexander I on Valaam in August 1819" is closely connected with the themes of the books of the Alexander I Memorial Library, preserved in the museum's collection. In the overwhelming majority of these books are of religious content. In addition, the fact that it was published in the printing house of Tsarskoe Selo deserves attention.

The book "Victor Hugo. Hernani ou l'Honneur castillan: drame »(Paris, 1830) filled the museum's memorial collection. This is the first original edition of the Hugo drama "Ernani", which caused literary storms in France. The controversy that flared up around this play remained in the history of literature called "the battle for Hernani." The book comes from the Imperial Tsarskoe Selo Library, as evidenced by the stamp stamp "Bibliothèque de Tsarskoe Selo". The staff of the museum assume that this edition is from the collection of Nicholas I.





Tsarskoe Selo museum has received a coffee cup with the monogram of Grand Duke Pavel Aleksandrovich

Prince Michael Romanov-Ilyinsky purchased at the auction and donated to the Tsarskoye Selo museum reserve a coffee-cup of his great-grandfather - Grand Duke Pavel Aleksandrovich (son of Alexander II and Empress Maria Alexandrovna). His gilt monogram "PA" under the crown is marked on the cup. Before, there was only a children's portrait of the Grand Duke in the museum collection. The coffee pair was made probably at the beginning of the 20th century, at a factory in Limoges (France). The cup is decorated with gilded floral ornamentation, has a loop-shaped gilded handle. Saucer round, white, with a high side, which has a wide gilded belt of vegetable ornament. The subject will be added to the collection of porcelain and will participate in thematic exhibitions dedicated to the Grand Duke and his descendants.



"Memorial things, connected with crowned owners of the Tsarskoye Selo residence and their closest associates, are of great value to us. The life of Pavel Alexandrovich is inextricably linked with Tsar's Village, where he was born on October 3, 1860. On the ground floor of the South wing of the Catherine Palace there were children's rooms that Pavel shared with his older brother Sergei," said Iraida Bott, deputy director for scientific work at "Tsarskoe Selo".

The Grand Dukes occupied apartments with windows to the parade ground, later these rooms were allocated to the children from the first marriage of Pavel Alexandrovich with the Greek Princess Alexandra - Maria and Dmitry. After the death of Princess Alexandra Georgievna, the father with his young daughter and son often came to visit Tsarskoe Selo. It was in the Catherine Palace in 1908 that the wedding of Maria Pavlovna with the Swedish Prince Wilhelm took place.

The military career of the Grand Duke quickly broke off after his novel with a married woman and subsequent marriage to Olga Valerianovna von Pistolkors. After joining in 1902 in a morganatic marriage, contrary to the consent of Emperor Nicholas II, Pavel Alexandrovich was dismissed from all posts and banned entry to Russia. Grand Duke with a new family settled in France. Ward over his young children was transferred to Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

In connection with the tragic death of his brother Sergei, Pavlovich Alexandrovich was allowed to come to Russia. In 1914, he received a final permission to return with his family. In 1919, Pavel Alexandrovich was shot in the courtyard of the Peter and Paul Fortress, along with other grand dukes.

Prince Michael Romanov-Ilyinsky is the grandson of Grand Duke Dmitry Pavlovich, a great-grandson of Grand Duke Pavel Alexandrovich. He is associated with long-standing friendly relations with the museum-reserve "Tsarskoe Selo" (joined the Friends of the Museum Club in 2007). The museum acquired many true rarities at the initiative and with the active participation of Michael Romanov-Ilyinsky. In 2013, the year of the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty, Prince Michael Romanov-Ilyinsky returned to Russia the archive and personal belongings of Grand Duke Dmitry Pavlovich: more than 100 photographs, dozens of books, paintings, letters and portraits of the next of kin of the imperial family.



At the end of 2018, visitors will be able to see the premises of the Alexander Palace, which have been under restoration since 2015. You can inspect several buildings at the first floor of the left wing.

By 2019, they plan to open the Library, as well as the Corner and Maple rooms.

Guests of the Alexander Palace will see the restored private rooms of Nicholas II and the bedroom of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, the Lilac Cabinet, the Rosewood terrace, etc. In addition, the Moorish room, the Kamerdinsky, the Svitskaya, and the Parade and workrooms of the Emperor will also be available for visiting.

At the moment, restoration work has been carried out in the basement part of the building, supporting structures have been reinforced, the roof have been reconstructed. Work is still under way - now specialists are restoring historical interiors. Complete restoration is to be according to plan in 2022.



Romanov buzz



March 3rd, in Moscow on the Ilyinsky Gate Square there was a solemn ceremony of laying flowers to the chapel-monument "Grenadiers, who died near Plevna." The event was timed to the 140th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78.

The ceremony was attended by: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Russia Boyko Kotsev, Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation Major-General Alexander Kirilin, Head of the Information Policy Department of the RVIO Nadezhda Usmanova, Head of the Department for Work with State and Public Organizations of the Volga Federal District Ivan Arkhipov, employees of the Embassy of Bulgaria in Russia, the Russian Military Historical Society, the Bulgarian Cultural Institute and the Center of Industry in Moscow, the Suvorovites and Moscow Cadets. Meanwhile in Sofia, Bulgaria, large-scale celebrations took place, dedicated to the 140th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke. A number of exhibitions, concerts and the scientific conference "History Lessons. 140 years of the Russian-Turkish war" were organized. At the Freedom Monument on Mount Shipka in memory of the fallen soldiers, a brief funeral service was performed by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill. Patriarch of Bulgaria Neophyte and President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev attended the service.



In Yekaterinburg, there is a "Red Line" - a route that connects the most famous sights of the city. By the centenary of the death of the Imperial Family, the City Hall plans to unite the objects

connected with the dynasty by the "Blue Line" in the capital of the Urals. Vice-mayor Sergei Tushin told about it in the "Open Studio" program.

The Vice-mayor named the places that are supposed to be connected by the "Blue Line":

- obviously, this is the Church-on-the-Blood, the Opera House, which was built to the anniversary of the Romanovs' House, the Mining University, which was built in accordance with the decree of the Emperor Nicholas II and the multimedia center "Russia is My History" will complete the Line according to the authors idea.



A procession in memory of the Tsar's family departed from Pskov to Yekaterinburg. The procession started on March 15. Orthodox pilgrims gathered near the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral at one o'clock in the afternoon. Their path went through the streets of Pskov to the chapel of the Resurrection of Christ, which is located near the railway station, where on March 15, 1917, Emperor Nicholas II abdicated. After that, the pilgrims went on to overcome the long road to Yekaterinburg. The procession was coordinated by the Moscow Patriarchate and Pskov Metropolitan Eusebius.

Video - <https://otr-online.ru/news/palomniki-otpravilis-krestnim-100391.html>



Employees of the regional center of rare documents and book monuments found in the funds of the Penza regional library named after M.Yu. Lermontov a book which belonged to the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. This is reported on the website of the institution of culture.

It is called the "Armed Forces of Switzerland". The book was published in 1914 by the General Directorate of the General Staff.

The ex-libris states that the publication belongs to Nicholas II and is in the library of the Winter Palace.

In addition, the book has a librarian record, indicating that it was received by the Imperial Library on February 7, 1914.

According to Lyudmila Lipilina, the head of the regional center for rare documents and book monuments, the publication from the library of the last Emperor was in Penza in 1964, when a large book lot of 375 copies from Moscow came to the city for a book exchange, which was widespread in Soviet times. This is evidenced by a record in the inventory book.



The Museum of the Holy Royal Family published Booklets about the New Martyrs of the Yekaterinburg Diocese.

In the first months of 2018, 33 booklets have been made, in which the authors disclose the biography of the Holy Martyrs, New Martyrs and Confessors from the moment of their birth and to painful death. Authors, telling a biography, supplement the text with photos of the saint, their relatives, churches and monasteries in which they served. The places of death and materials of archival investigations and other archival documents, icons of saints are shown. As evidence of the preservation of memory of the saints, the authors provided and reflected information on the



appearance of the crosses and commemorative plates on the site of the death or burial of the holy martyr, as well as information about the presence of his relics.



Courtyards of Mikhailovsky Palace will be reconstructed.

The experts of the St. Petersburg branch of the Glavgosexpertiza of Russia came to the conclusion that the results of engineering surveys and design documentation comply with the requirements of technical regulations and other established requirements. The adjustment of the project provides that the reconstruction will be carried out in two stages, both to create conditions for the work of the Russian Museum in the Mikhailovsky Palace at the time of its holding, and for the implementation of consistent commissioning.



"Palace of the Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich (Russian Museum of the Emperor Alexander III)" or Mikhailovsky Palace was erected by the architect Charles Rossi in 1819-1825. In 1895 it was bought by the treasury and adapted by the architect Vasily Svinin to the national museum of Russian art. Today, the former Grand Palace, located on the Arts Square in the Central District of St. Petersburg, is one of the main buildings of the State Russian Museum, but, according to the survey, it no longer meets the modern requirements for museums, which is why it was accepted decision on its reconstruction. The project, which received a positive conclusion from the St. Petersburg branch of the Glavgosexpertiza of Russia, provides for the adaptation for the modern use of the inner courtyards of the Mikhailovsky Palace, as well as the restoration of the adjoining premises. It is planned that the implementation of the project will increase the museum's area, equip the open-access storage facility and the conference hall.

The first stage envisages the creation of conditions for visiting the palace by people with disabilities, the reconstruction of courtyard No. 1 with the adjacent areas, as well as wardrobes, a fund of frames, shops and other office space, including cash desks in the basement and attic space. During the second phase, similar work will be carried out at the site of courtyard No. 2. In addition, the reconstruction of the restoration and other auxiliary premises of the museum is planned.

There will also be installed panoramic, comfortable for the disabled, passenger elevators and cargo, suitable for transporting museum exhibits from funds to the halls and restoration workshops. Since the Mikhailovsky Palace is an architectural monument of high classicism and is included in the list of historical and cultural heritage of federal (all-Russian) significance, the project provides for a number of measures to ensure the safety of the building, including restoration repairs of facades of courtyards with the installation of light lanterns.

Upon completion of the work, the capacity of the Mikhailovsky Palace will be increased up to 2,940 visitors per day, and the total area - from 12139 to 12989 square meters.

The project will be financed from the federal budget in the framework of the federal target program "Culture of Russia (2012-2018)".



In St. Petersburg, Auguste Montferrand's mansion on the Moika Embankment will undergo a large-scale restoration - the first since the 1920s. Now the building is occupied by the Investigative Committee. Before the beginning of the work, the front rooms were shown to journalists. Auguste Montferrand rebuilt this house on the embankment of the river Moika in 1838. The date is indicated on the portico of the main entrance, which the architect specially arranged in the courtyard, so that guests could admire the works of ancient art collected by the architect.

After the death of Montferrand, Vladimir Myatlev owned it and his family coat of arms on the front staircase, and then the Italian Embassy. The last owner of the building was Yakov Ratkov-Rozhnov, when the Dining Room with a coffered ceiling and oak parquet in a "checker" appeared.

Montferrand's mansion can be compared to a beautiful chocolate candy with a surprise inside. It changed owners many times, who brought something new into the exquisite interiors, so that today restorers, clearing walls or plafond, never know what they will find out.

Restoration promised to be completed before the end of the year. True, this is only the first stage of work. In the Golden and Dining rooms will be restored the gilding and the floor, cleared the walls and plafonds, restored the artificial and natural marble. The front porch will be completely recreated . And all the painting in the mansion is to be conserved until the next restoration.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/233005/



Exhibition to the 100th anniversary of the shooting of the Imperial family is being prepared in the Tretyakov Gallery (Krymsky Val). July 2018 marks one hundred years since the death of family members of the last Emperor of the Russian Empire.

The collection of the Tretyakov Gallery contains unique materials from the archives of the Imperial family - albums with individual photographs of the 1870s to 1910s. Albums decorated with silver and gold come from the Imperial residences of St. Petersburg - Gatchina and Alexander palaces. They were deposited in the Tretyakov Gallery fund in 1929-1932 and had not previously been shown to the public.

At the forthcoming exhibition photos of the crowned family and the environment, made by famous professional masters of the bygone era, such as Gudshon, Gubichesky, Brandel, Tile, Bergamasco, etc., will be presented, as well as members of the Imperial family and people from the close circle. The temporary exposition will be available to guests and visitors to the gallery in the building of the New Tretyakov Gallery on Krymsky Val from September 1 to October 31, 2018 in halls 80-82.

The exhibition is organized within the framework of participation in the program of the Moscow International Photobiennale of 2018.



March 15, 2018, on the day of the icon of the Mother of God "Derzhavnaya", which was revealed 101 years ago on the day of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas II from the throne, the site "Tsarskie-days.rf" began its work - an Internet portal dedicated to the murder of the Tsar-days in 2018.

It will be the third in the "Tsars Ring" websites dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the feat of the Emperor and his family, along with portals "Tsar-semya.rf" and the "Tsar-marshrutom.rf".

The site "Tsarskie-dni.rf" will publish a program of events held within the framework of the Tsarist year, the history of the Royal procession, photo reports, as well as detailed stories about each of the events timed to various memorable dates associated with holy Royal Passion-Bearers and Alapaevsky martyrs .

According to the organizers, one of the tasks of the site is to provide the guests of the city and region with information about the Royal Days, collected and structured in one place in the form of an online calendar, accessible at anytime from anywhere. The portal will be filled in as the events go on and detail information about upcoming events.





March 16, the center for Russian culture in Estonia, presented unique materials on the life of the Romanov dynasty. Unique documents and photographs are collected at an exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the murder of the last Russian Emperor.

"Fractured era" - an exhibition under this name was opened in the Center for Russian Culture. The exposition was prepared by the Moscow State Museum Reserve Kolomenskoye-Izmailovo-Lublino.

The exhibits are photographs of documents, icons, photographs related to the February revolution of 1917 and the subsequent murder of the Imperial family.

According to the director of the Moscow museum of the Kolomenskoye-Izmaylovo-Lyublino reserve, the theme of the Tsar's abdication is directly related to their museum. On March 2, 1917, on the day of the abdication of the Emperor, in Kolomenskoye, the icon of the Mother of God "Derzhavnaya" was found, which by faith took responsibility for Russia left by the Emperor. Subsequently, the icon was lost.

In the exhibition hall you can find the manifesto of the abdication of Nicholas II, which became the starting point of the most tragic events of those years: the October Revolution and the Civil War.

Video - <https://etvpluss.err.ee/v/aktuaalnekaamera/videod/aaabda5f-7601-4b1f-89c4-28e341b47e38/v-tsentre-russkoy-kultury-predstavili-unikalnye-materialy-o-zhizni-dinastii-romanovykh>



On March 20, 2018, the Murmansk Regional Universal Scientific Library decided to look at the fate of representatives of the most famous Russian noble family through book rarities stored in the fund of the main library of the region.

The exhibition "Romanov dynasty through the prism of book rarities" introduces books and magazines of the XVIII - early XX centuries, among which there are publications about the life and activities of individual members of the Imperial family, works by famous historians of the XIX century dedicated to the Romanovs, jubilee editions issued in the early XX century. Separate theme of the historical excursion was the Imperial and Grand Ducal curiosities - books and magazines of their personal libraries of the Romanovs, which preserved ex-libris, owner's records and litters.

The library specialists also told who from the Romanovs visited Murman, and what role the Imperial family played in the development of the Kola North.

Rare photographs of the Romanov family kept in the State Archives of the Russian Federation were shown to the visitors under the title "The Romanovs. Books and Fates." The documentary film "The Last Empress" and newsreels of the beginning of the last century was also shown.

Romanov-on-Murman became the only city named after the Romanov dynasty for the entire period of their rule. In 1916, when the city was founded, it was planned to name the central thoroughfare in honour of the Tsar - according to the development plan - Nikolayevsky Prospekt. On the plan there were names of other members of the Imperial family - Alekseevsky Avenue, Olginskaya, Marinskaya and other streets. It was believed that the Imperial name was intended to perpetuate the involvement of the ruling dynasty in opening the most northern exit to Europe, just as St. Petersburg perpetuated Peter the Great's achievements in the Baltic. The decision to rename the city to Murmansk was taken at the suggestion of the Minister of the Provisional Government A.I. Guchkov in April 1917. In the city at that time, about 15 thousand people lived, together with sailors and a military garrison.

Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library is the largest regional information and cultural center that provides the population with access to domestic and world information resources,



preserving and developing traditional book culture. The library fund has over 1 million publications in printed, audio-visual, electronic forms. The library can rightly be proud of the rare books fund, which contains editions of the 17th - early 20th centuries.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=29&v=5ECISch2-RY



The Moscow Kremlin Museums, in cooperation with Great Britain, are preparing an exhibition about the era of Tsar Peter the Great. The exposition will be tentatively available to visitors in 2019.

"We have begun preparations for a large-scale international exhibition related to the era of Peter the Great scheduled for 2019, with the planned involvement of Britain's National Maritime Museum," the press service quotes Moscow Kremlin Museums Director General Elena Gagarina.

According to Gagarina, over the past few years, the Moscow Kremlin Museums have had a number of joint projects with the British Council, whose offices in Russia will be shut down amid a mounting spat between Moscow and London. The museum's director stressed that the British Council, "one way or another," contributes to the implementation of all projects related to the UK, adding that this assistance is "very important at various stages." "However, no one is talking about some specific projects, which would be in jeopardy now," Gagarina pointed out.



A large-scale procession in the memory of the Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich will take place in Primorye. A meeting of the priests of the Deanery of the VI district was held in Primorye, Vladivostok. Archpriest Vladimir Kapitanuk told about the forthcoming procession on June 3, 2018, which will pass through the streets of Spasskoe in memory of the visit of the Tsarevich Nikolai Alexandrovich Romanov on the Spassky land.

A solemn program is being prepared with the participation of the authorities of the city and the district, the public, the clergy, including the metropolitan of Vladivostok and Primorsky Veniamin, scholars, representatives of the Cossacks, and youth.

It is supposed to restore the "Royal" well, the arches, that were built for the great guest in 1891.

In addition, on the very day of July 17, it is proposed to hold a youth religious procession along the route followed by the future Emperor: village Prokhoru - village Voskresenka - village Spasskoe with stops in these settlements to inform the population.



City Perm will spend 2.8 million rubles to organize events on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.

In the amendments to the budget of the region for the year of 2018, significant funds have been allocated for organizing events on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of the Grand Duke in Perm. So, on July 13-14, an international scientific and practical conference "Perm period of life of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his death on July 12 to July 13, 1918" is supposed to be

held. A two-volume book about the Grand Duke will be published. Regional Ministry of Culture asked for documentation of the death of the Grand Duke and his secretary Johnson. The secret kidnapping and killing of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his secretary Johnson was committed by a group of Cheka officers and police of the city of Perm.



The web portal "#Romanovs100" goes live on April 8th. Here's how to find the project on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram & Twitter.

RT's historical photo-puzzle about the last reigning Royal family in Russia, the Romanovs, is at 'ready-steady. The digital mosaic of 4,000 photos from the family's private archives will hit the web on April 8, exactly 100 days before the world marks the centenary of the Romanov's tragic execution by the Bolsheviks. Having access to the best of what the photo industry had to offer in the early 1900s, Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children all tried their hand at taking pictures.

The photos will not be cross-posted through social media, rather the opposite: each platform will provide followers with unique content and style. Users are invited to follow all accounts, or choose between Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook, all featured on the project's official [website](#). YouTube will publish mini-videos based on the Romanovs' photo collection, featuring historic aspects of the era of the last Tsar's family, as well as the little-known stories behind rarely seen photos. Follow [HERE](#).

Instagram will focus on lifestyle images from the Romanov family album, presenting the most artistic, unusual and difficult photos taken by the Romanovs. Also, Tsarevich Alexei's Spaniel Joy brings a canine perspective to the lives of his humans on a separate account. Follow [HERE](#) & [HERE](#).

Facebook will provide followers with high-quality photos and panoramas from the Romanovs' collection mixed with lyrical stories about the lives of Nicholas II, Alexandra, their children, and friends. Follow [HERE](#).

Twitter delivers first-person stories from accounts you already know from #1917LIVE. Renowned author Helen Rappaport will lend voice to the four Royal daughters. Follow [HERE](#).



The road Prospect Mira in Kostroma could be decorated with the Emperor Paul the first. The "Avenue of Recognition" on the Prospect Mira in Kostroma will be replenished with new names. Kostroma citizens are asked to help with the choice of a person whose name will be installed on the Alley of Recognition on Prospekt Mira. The poll is conducted on the city administration's website in the section "Residents" - "Voting, polls, discussions".

According to the press service of the city administration, Kostroma will need to choose one of six candidates. As options, the citizens were offered the Emperor Paul I, Admiral Vasily Chichagov, publicist Vasily Rozanov, philosopher Pavel Florensky, patrons Pavel Tretyakov and Fedor Chizhov. Voting on the site will last until April 1. A memorial plaque will be solemnly opened on City Day. Now the Alley of Recognition consists of memorable tablets with the names of Ivan Susanin, Yuri Dolgorukov, Mikhail Romanov and other people who are somehow connected with the history of the Kostroma Territory.

However, some find it strange that Empress Catherine II is not among the options. They say she gave Kostroma the coat of arms, and the Kostroma governorate, from which the province grew, was created



precisely under Catherine. As they say, on the Avenue of Recognition are already two, Michael Romanov and Boris Godunov, who's "merits" to Kostroma are no more, than the Empress.



The Imperial ball in Yekaterinburg will be dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II.

May 18, 2018, the year of the centenary of the feat of the Holy Royal family in the residence of the governor of the Sverdlovsk region - the House of Sevastyanov - the traditional Imperial Ball will take place. In 2018, the Imperial Ball is held in honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II.

The Imperial Ball is an annual event

held by the Ekaterinburg Metropolis together with the administration of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region with the support of the Regional Ministry of General and Professional Education.

As told in the department of culture of the Yekaterinburg diocese, to get to the Imperial Ball, candidates need to pass a qualifying test - to write an essay on one of the 15 historical and spiritual themes proposed by the organizers. According to the test results, 100 best essays will be selected, the authors of which will become participants of the Imperial Ball.

Before the ball, the guys undergo special training: they take part in excursions, talks, trainings, creative meetings, discussions, master classes, lectures, choreography classes. For this, leading historians of Russia, university professors, public figures, cultural and art figures, clergymen are involved in the project.

At the Imperial Ball, each student will receive a gold or silver medal "Successful." Medals will be presented by the Metropolitan of Ekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill and the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Evgeny Kuyvashev. Awards are created on the model of the jubilee gold and silver medals of 1913, which were approved by Nicholas II in honor of the 300th anniversary of the reign of the Romanov dynasty for graduates of gymnasiums.

This year the Imperial Ball is held with the support of the St. Catherine's Foundation, created in April 2017 by a group of representatives of the big business of Yekaterinburg in response to the appeal of Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye to "all good people, not indifferent to the fate of the city, to unite and make their contribution to the beautiful a galaxy of good deeds. "

Note that the first Imperial Ball took place in May 2012 in the House of Sevastyanov and was timed to the 400th anniversary of the accession of the House of Romanovs.

More information about the Imperial Ball is available at: [http:// императорский-бал.рф](http://императорский-бал.рф) .



In the Chinese art museum "Millennium" in Beijing from April 3 to June 10 the exhibition "Rarities of the House of Romanovs" will be held.

Items associated with the Russian Imperial House are shown in the capital for the first time. Earlier, the Peterhof collection visited the cities of Chengdu, Guiyang and Shijiazhuang. Over 800 thousand people visited the exhibition.

The exhibition includes more than 240 rarities, telling about the 300-year history of the famous dynasty. Among the exhibits there are tapestries of West European and Russian work, marines and still lifes of Dutch and Flemish craftsmanship, skipper jacket and model of Peter the Great sailing vessel, as well as portraits of the owners of the Imperial residence. In addition, visitors will see the throne chair of Empress Catherine II, a dessert service from the dowry Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna, the painting by Ivan Aivazovsky "Sailing boat in the sea", old sports equipment, walking dresses, sets for ladies' handicrafts and attributes of the card game, which became an indispensable part of the Royal leisure in the XIX century.

Peterhof, which was the summer residence of Russian Emperors, rightfully belongs to the title of one of

the symbols of Russian culture and history. Its palaces and fountains served as a kind of visiting card of the empire. High foreign guests were solemnly received here, ceremonies were held related to key events in the Imperial family - coronations, weddings, christenings. In 1918, the former Imperial palaces of Peterhof were turned into museums.



The musical and literary composition "Nicholas and Alexandra. Love story" will be presented in the Volgograd Museum of Fine Arts on March, 29th. During the concert, visitors will learn about the love story of the last Emperor of the Russian Empire, Nicholas II and his wife, Empress Alexandra. In the musical part of the concert program, old romances and songs, romances of Russian composers, as well as instrumental works will be performed by string quartet "Intali". And in the literary part of the concert will be excerpts from the personal correspondence of the spouses. The hosts of the evening will be Alexander Sutulov and Irina Zaikina.



St. Petersburg bridges return Imperial splendor. Each year, several of them are put on restoration. Some require thorough repairs, others - to update the decor elements.

The first Garden Bridge was overhauled in the early 2000s. Structurally it is still in perfect order, but for 15 years the gilding of the decor has faded, the paint has cracked, and corrosion has appeared on exposed metal.

"Painting is required, on the one hand, for beauty. But we, the engineers, need paint to prevent rusting of the metal. Because with the rust the thickness of the metal itself also goes away, which is unacceptable. And the service life of the standard bridge is 100-150 years ", - explained the Deputy Director of St. Petersburg State Bank "Mostotrest" Andrei Kochin.

While workers clean the bridge of the old paint with the help of sandblasters, lamps, overhead elements and other architectural decoration - in a special workshop. Most of the elements have already been restored, work has been going on since December last year.

The Garden Bridge will be renewed by the second half of April. The rest of the bridges will receive decoration to the day of the city. The deadline for completion is October 2018.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/237845/



The English "Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society" are inviting everybody to participate in the commemorative programme planned for 6th - 8th of July 2018 in East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

As they say - "You have chance to witness an historic event of UNVEILING of the MONUMENT to the ROMANOVs, MARTYRS of the REVOLUTION, all of them closely related to the BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY. The monument will be placed near Osborne House in East Cowes, visited by all of them many times. TOWN COUNCIL of East Cowes is offering assistance with the crossing the Solent and bus service. "

The Exhibition and other events will take place at BARTON MANOR visited by the last Imperial Family in 1909.





"How Irkutsk met the Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich in 1891" - A painting by the artist Tatiana Laroyev.

Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich went to study Russia before entering the throne and in 1891 reached Irkutsk. He was met by thousands of residents. The way this happened, you can now see in the painting of Tatiana Laroyev.

127 years ago in this square the Irkutsk people met the Tsarevich. Here was almost the whole city, shouts of "hurrah", bell ringing and bread and salt on a silver tray. All this can now be seen in the painting.

It took her a year to recreate that single meeting of the Irkutsk society with a representative of the Imperial family.

Governor-General Goremykin, merchants Sibiryakovs, Medvednikovs, Bazanovs, Sivers, Potemkin, the spouses of Vtorov, representatives of national communities, clergy. 48 portraits, and most of them are real townspeople. Many items are reliable - the triumphal arch, the cross, the sprinkler, the candle, the uniforms, the Cossack sabres.

The painting of Tatiana Laroyeva will be available from April 12 in the House-Museum of Vitaliy Rogal. The exhibition will be dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas II and the 100th anniversary of his death.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iKMuc1mKXA>



The museum of Nicholas II in Tobolsk is ready for opening. Official opening will take place on April 26, and public opening will be on April 28, 2018, reports the Tobolsk Museum-Reserve.

The new museum will show a unique collection of objects, which is not equal in any museum of the Trans-Urals, and is located in the memorial building of the Governor's House in Tobolsk.

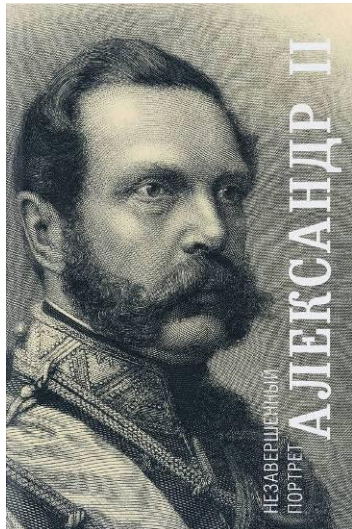
For a whole week curators from Moscow worked with local experts in the building of the future museum of the family of the Russian Emperor. They are experts of the Elisavetinsky-

Sergievskoe Enlightenment Society Foundation, headed by Anna Vitalievna Gromova, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Foundation. They helped to place the most important display cases and place unique exhibits.

The museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II will attract attention to the fate of the Romanovs, their family way of life and public service, as well as to the historical and cultural heritage of our region and Russia.

The project is being implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, in conjunction with the Elisavetinsky-Sergievskoe Enlightenment Society Foundation, the Department of Culture and the Department of the Consumer Market and Tourism of the Tyumen Region.

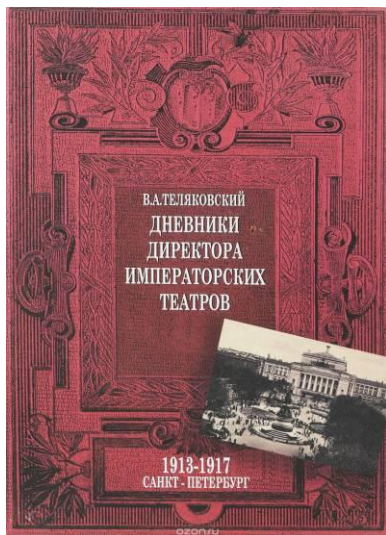




Alexander II. Unfinished portrait

The book written by the famous historian A.D. Yanovsky, deputy director of State Historical Museum in Russia, tells about the most vivid events in the life of Alexander II, who is represented not only as an autocrat and reformer, but also as an ordinary person - with his victories and mistakes, conquests and doubts, the desire to love and be loved.

State Historical Museum. 156 pages. The price is 1200 roubles.



Diaries of the Director of the Imperial Theatres. 1913-1917.

Diaries of the Director of the Imperial Theaters Vladimir Arkadevich Telyakovsky is a unique historical and theatrical document that recorded the course of Russian theatrical development in the late XIX - early XX centuries.

Telyakovsky detailed chronicle of the life of the three Moscow State scenes - the Big, Small and New theaters - reveals the secrets of managing the creative process, reflects the changes that took place in the drama, opera and ballet troupes. The testimony of the author, competent and widely known in the phenomena of Russian artistic life, a talented organizer of theatrical work and a thoughtful observer of the most important cultural events of the epoch, are invaluable in accuracy, reliability and breadth of view.

This volume completes the publication of the diaries of V.A.

Telyakovsky, started in 1998. Previous five volumes covered the period from 1898 to 1913, the final one - from 1913 to 1917. The chronology of this volume determines its content and intonation. The tragic events of the First World War and the Revolution, refracted through the prism of the life of the Imperial Theatres, the desperate efforts of the Director to hold in his hands the course of theatrical business, the vicissitudes of personal destiny, the dramatic finale of his nineteen-year service in the theater department, his observations, reflections of what is happening - this is the picture, developable before the readers of this unique historical and theatrical document.

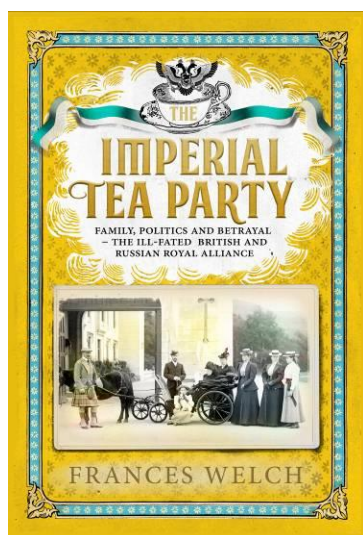
The previous books covers his appointment as Director of the Imperial Theaters and moving to St. Petersburg. The daily annals of the life of the St. Petersburg theaters - the Mariinsky, Alexandrinsky and Mikhailovsky theatres, the ceremonial and court performances of the Hermitage Theatre, the life of the Moscow theatres, the attitude to the theater of the Imperial court and the Royal family, the Petersburg society and the periodicals. From the early 1910's an important problem is the entrepreneurial activity of S.P. Diaghilev - increasingly expanding, he suddenly begins to complicate seriously the life of the Imperial Theatres.

Privy Councilor Vladimir Arkadevich Telyakovsky faithfully loved art and sat down in the Director's chair to serve: as his ancestors had served Faith, the Tsar and the Fatherland.

He was thorough, persistent and knew when to give in, and when it is necessary to insist on his own. He gave vent to Matilde Felixovna, but in opposition to her, put forward Anna Pavlova, pulled up the administration, and cleaned the troupes. The director maneuvered between the Grand Dukes, influential artists and the Ministry of the Court.

Handwritten notebooks Telyakovsky survived a lot of twists and turns. The uneasy history of their release from the safe depository of the Treasury in all its details rises from the correspondence between Telyakovsky and A.I. Yuzhin, which is published in the Appendix to this volume.

Publisher: Artist. Producer. Theatre. Moscow. Hard cover. Pages: 944. ISBN: 978-5-87334-104-7



The Imperial tea party

Family, politics and betrayal - the ill-fated British and Russian royal alliance

Written with Frances Welch's waspish eye for detail, this is another fascinating, percipient, revelatory and often quite hilariously funny book. Russia and Britain were never natural bedfellows. But the marriage, in 1894, of Queen Victoria's favourite granddaughter, Alicky, to the Tsarevich Nicholas marked the beginning of an uneasy Anglo-Russian entente that would last until the Russian Revolution of 1917.

As Frances Welch recounts in her inimitable wry style, the three extraordinary meetings that took place during those years, although well-intentioned and generally hailed as successes, were beset by misunderstandings and misfortunes. Whether it was the Romanovs suffering the draughty rooms and wet hunting expeditions at Balmoral, or

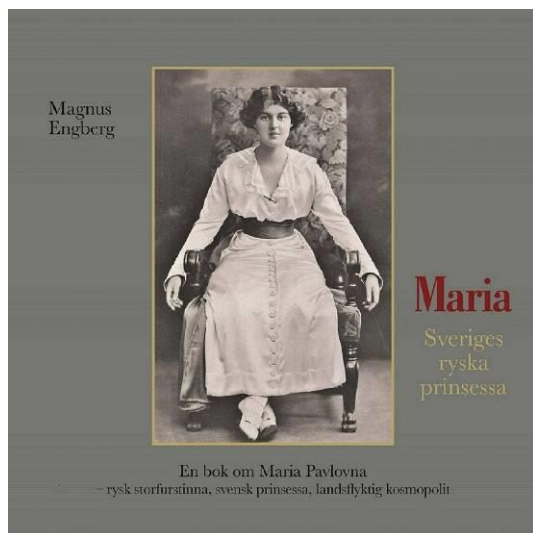
Queen Victoria complaining about the food on her first and only state visit to the Russian Empire at the port of Revel, or everyone succumbing to seasickness on arrival at Osbourne House on the Isle of Wight.

The two families could not know, as they waved each other fond goodbyes from their yachts at Cowes in 1909, that they would never meet again. King George infamously denied his Romanov cousins exile in Britain when the Bolsheviks were closing in 1917, but the assassination of the Tsar and his family horrified him, and whether or not things might have turned out differently if he had accepted their plea for refuge has been the subject of speculation ever since.

The British and Russian Royal Families met three times before the Romanovs' tragic end in 1918. The Imperial Tea Party draws back the curtain on those pivotal encounters between these two great dynasties; encounters that had far reaching consequences for 19th century Europe and beyond. Frances Welch is the author of *Rasputin* (2014), *The Russian Court at Sea* (2011), *Romanov Fantasy* (2008) and *Sydney Gibbes: Tutor to the Children of the Last Tsar* (2004), all published by Short Books. She lives in Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

- A note: Queen Victoria never visited the Russian Empire, as said above. It was King Edward VII.

Publisher: Faber & Faber, United Kingdom. Hardback. Pages: 224. ISBN: 9781780723068. Publication Date: 24-04-2018



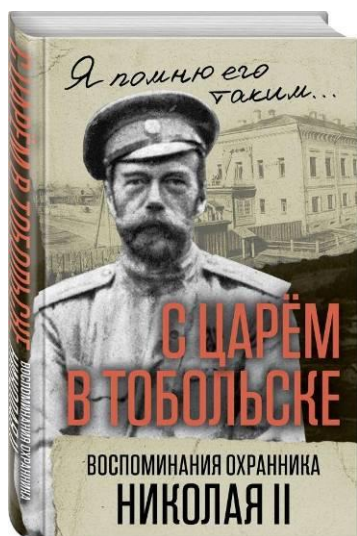
Maria - Sweden's Russian Princess

The book is about Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna, who became a Princess of Sweden, married to Prince Wilhelm of Sweden and mother of Lennart Bernadotte.

The book, on 292 pages, is richly illustrated with about 270 images.

The Grand Duchess, Princess, fashion designer (worked with among other with Coco Chanel), photographer and traveling journalist - the list is long and set in a time of war and destruction.

The book can in spring be ordered from the author Magnus Engberg directly via mail m.ebg@telia.com. price 300 kr + shipping.

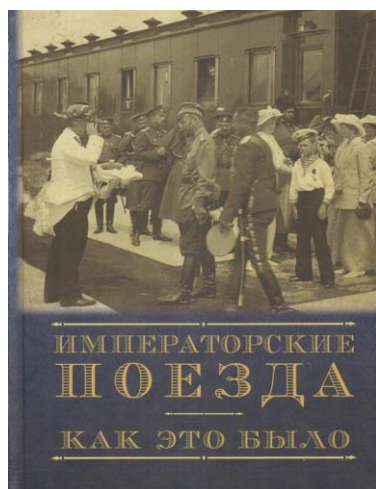


With the Tsar in Tobolsk. Recollections of a guard of Nicholas II

Vasily Semenovich Pankratov was appointed by the Provisional Government as Commissioner for the Protection of Tsar Nikolai Alexandrovich Romanov and his family while they were in Tobolsk. The time, which is described in the book, covers the period from the end of August 1917 to January 1918. Notes of V.S. Pankratov details the events of those days.

The publication is supplemented with letters and diary entries.

Publisher: Algorithm, Moscow. Hard cover. Pages: 400. ISBN: 978-5-906914-67-5



Imperial trains: How it was. chronicle of construction and operation

The book is devoted to the history of Russian imperial trains, which were part of various railways. Seldom published details of the construction of the first public railroad in Russia - Tsarskoselskaya are given. The role of the Inspectorate of Imperial trains in the organization of safe and comfortable travels of the royal family is shown. The technical and technological peculiarities of the device and construction of imperial wagons, the issues of their operation are considered in detail. The information on the documents regulating the order of protection during the movement of the first persons was collected. For the first time, financial calculations related to the passage of imperial trains on the roads of the country are analysed, data on travel expenses for "agents" of roads are provided.

Publisher: Reputation, St. Petersburg. Hard cover. Pages: 384. ISBN: 978-5-91918-849-0

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Christie's, London, UK, March 14

A Russian Imperial gift?

This 'Boulle' marquetry coffret peinture bears the insignia of the Imperial Crown of Russia, which at the date of its creation was Tsar Alexander II (d. 1881). At this time it is probable that this paint box was a gift from the Tsar to his eldest son, Tsesarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (d. 1865), heir to the Russian throne, known in the family as 'Nixa', who was an amateur artist.

A paint box from the Russian Imperial collection. A Napoleon III ormolu-mounted cut-brass inlaid and red tortoiseshell 'boulle' marquetry, ebony and ebonised coffret peinture by maison Alphonse Giroux, Paris, circa 1860.

Inlaid overall with etched cut-brass acanthus scrolls, the serpentine top centred by crown with orb and cross, the hinged lid enclosing rosewood-veneered compartments set with silvered trays with five pigment bottles, a solvent bottle, and a double pallet cup, above a red velvet fitted drawer holding various pallet knives and brush holders above a further shallow drawer, engraved signature to the lockplate 'Alphse Giroux à Paris'. Size 7 ½ in. (19 cm.) high; 22 in. (56 cm.) wide; 17 ¼ in. (44 cm.) deep



Judging by the markings, the London box was made in the late 1850s, at the very beginning of the reign of Alexander II, who ascended the throne exactly 163 years ago - 1855. And although his first visit to France as the Emperor of All-Russia was held only in 1867, the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty, who was in charge of the personal property of the sovereign and family, resumed his work with Giraud almost immediately after the end of the Crimean War.

According to the head of the New Arrivals Department of the State Hermitage, Victor Faibisovich, the correspondence of the Cabinet with a Paris workshop, records of orders for furniture and interior items, including for the personal apartments of the Sovereign in the Anichkov Palace, remained in the archives of the palace.

Piquancy in the story with the casket is added by the family legend of his current owners, a count's family from Bavaria, narrating about the young prince, who was given the casket to him. His name is Heir Tsesarevich Nikolai Alexandrovich, or simply Nixa, the eldest son of Alexander II and his wife, a nee Princess of Hesse and Prinejnskaya. Having inherited a passion for drawing from his mother, Nixa

was a student of Sergei Grigorievich Stroganov, the founder of the School of Drawing in Relation to Arts and Crafts, the first free drawing school in Russia, the current Stroganovka.

The Tsesarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich, a young man of great promise, of decided opinions and highly cultured, died at the brutally young age of twenty-one after contracting meningitis. On his deathbed, he bestowed the hand in marriage of his fiancé, Princess Dagmar, second daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark, to his younger brother, Alexander, the future Alexander III (d 1894). It is fascinating to speculate that that this coffret, the paint bottles and pallet knives it contains, were once handled by the tragically fated young artist, Tsesarevich 'Nixa'. The absence of an inventory number implies it was a personal object and perhaps left the Imperial collection before the revolution.

"There are no tags and numbers on the casket - a sure sign that the item was in constant use, and not becoming a part of the palace inventory. None of the collections known to me have such a thing, "commented Rufat Gafifullin, deputy director of the Pavlovsky Museum-Reserve.

It is very likely that, after the untimely death of his elder brother, in April 1865, the Emperor Alexander the Third enjoyed a casket, a diligent and obviously talented watercolourist, a pupil of the Academy of Fine Arts academician, painter and instructor Professor Tikhobrazov, who left behind a rich artistic heritage. Including a series of watercolors with interiors Anichkov Palace, some of the interiors of which were decorated in the beloved Alexander the Second style of Bull.

According to family tradition, at the very beginning of the 1890s, shortly before his untimely death, Emperor Alexander the Third gave the casket a gift to the departing ambassador to Hans Lothar von Schweinitz, one of the most successful Prussian diplomats, throughout his career, always advocating a close alliance between the two countries. It is known that the wife of the Ambassador, the daughter of the Ambassador of the United States in Vienna, Anna Jay, was obsessed with painting, chasing long summer evenings in the park with an easel or an album for drawing.

"The Imperial mantle often conceals from us the true depth of the Sovereign's personality. Casket for art is a small, secret door that leads to the "inner chambers" of a person burdened with concern for one of the greatest empires in history. Finds of this kind are extremely rare," says Alexander Savinov, a former employee of the Pushkin Museum, one of the leading experts of arts and crafts in Russia of the Third Empire. "I hope the casket does not lose sight of it and, perhaps, it will enter the Hermitage collection, Pavlovsk or one of the Imperial dachas."



Kuncker, Germany, March 19-23

Gold Medal of Catherine the Great Commemorates Russian Palace That Never Was



An impressive gold medal of Catherine the Great, which will be auctioned off at the Künker Auction 306 on March 23, shows the magnificent view of a Moscow Kremlin Palace that never existed. Here is the explanation why. When listing Catherine's great building projects, the famous Catherine Palace in Pushkin or the Chinese Palace in Lomonosov (former Oranienbaum) come to mind first. For Grigory Orlov, the Empress

built the Marble Palace in Saint Petersburg; for Potemkin - the Tauride Palace, and for her son Paul - the palace in Pavlovsk. All these buildings had one thing in common: They were not located in Moscow, but in and around Saint Petersburg. For Moscow was not among Catherine's favorite places to be.

It reminded Catherine of her arrival in Russia, when she was summoned from her home in Stettin at the age of a mere 16 years in order to check if she was in fact a suitable wife for the Tsarevich. Her marriage was not yet a done deal; first, little Sophie – which was Catherine's name at the time – had to convert from Lutheranism to Orthodoxy: a decision of conscience that was not easy on her and brought on an existential crisis, which she tried to evade by falling sick.

Today, we would probably call it psychosomatic; back then, the courtiers started talking that Sophie had tuberculosis and was in no way a possible bride for Peter III. For weeks, Catherine was hovering between life and death, while her mother stayed away from the sickbed. Johanna of Anhalt-Zerbst could not bear the sight of blood, and the weakened girl underwent bloodletting up to 16 times a day.

Eventually, Catherine recovered, opted for the Orthodox baptism and married Peter. Nevertheless, she had had enough of Moscow. Precisely eight times did she visit the city she called "City of Deadlock" during her entire reign of 34 years. For Catherine, Moscow was a metropolis under Asian (Mongol) influence. There were no signs of enlightenment there, only dark superstition, as Catherine wrote: "Never can a nation have been confronted by more objects of fanaticism, by more miracle-working images at every turn, more churches, more clergymen, more monasteries, more believers, more beggars, more thieves..."

Compared to Moscow, which she liked to call "Isfahan" after the capital of the Persian Shah, Saint Petersburg appeared to her like paradise.

Yet still: Moscow was the heart of Russia, the old city of the Tsars. Catherine could not ignore it if she wanted to win the love of her Russian subjects. After all, Peter III was so unpopular mainly because he wanted to restructure Russia based on the model of Prussia. Conversely, Catherine had to show that she was more Russian than the Russians themselves. Therefore, she ostentatiously moved to Moscow for the coronation on September 22, 1762, and lived very uncomfortably in the at-the-time heavily destroyed Kremlin in order to be crowned as Empress of Russia in the Trinity Cathedral according to ancient customs.

Resurrecting the center of Old Russia in renewed splendor must have seemed the ideal project for Catherine to express her Russian conviction. Thus, she made her first plans for the restructuring of the Kremlin shortly after her coronation. She appointed Vasily Ivanovich Bazhenov, a Moscow citizen who had studied abroad and was to become the most important neoclassical Russian architect, as chief architect. His first draft is dated 1767.

Bazhenov's latest model, which was supposed to be the basis for the restructuring, would have turned the Kremlin into the largest neoclassical complex in all of Europe. Only the three cathedrals would have remained intact.

The demolition work had already begun, when in 1771 the plague broke out in Moscow and an angry mob attacked the Kremlin. Bazhenov himself is said to have stood protectively in front of his model palace, which by then had cost about 60,000 roubles.

It was that very model that was transferred to Saint Petersburg on 120 sledges in 1772. Catherine looked it over, gave permission, and on June 1, 1773, the cornerstone ceremony was held. The latter is commemorated by the very rare gold medal offered at Künker's. It shows the building, which at the time was still in planning and only existed as a model, already fully completed.

Catherine paid for 20 buckets of vodka and 40 buckets of beer, which were distributed among the builders on the occasion. The Empress herself, however, did not attend, because resistance was growing against the irreverent demolition of the Kremlin. Even the loyal poet of the court, Gavriil Derzhavin, condemned Catherine's handling of the Russian past. And on top of that, cracks began to show in the walls of the Cathedral of the Archangel, which housed the graves of almost all Russian Tsars before Peter the Great.

As a consequence, Catherine the Great had the construction works stopped immediately. She claimed the geological conditions did not allow for buildings this size. The real reason may well have been a different one: Catherine was not willing to finance a project in a city she despised, which, due to the architect's megalomania, was bound to become a bottomless pit. For Bazhenov was already talking about building three giant avenues leading from the Kremlin through Moscow, in order to modernize the entire city.

All that never came to be. Instead, when she returned to Moscow in 1775, Catherine lived modestly and comfortably - not in the Kremlin, but in three spacious houses provided by the Golitsyn and Dolgorukov families.



Gold medal 1773 (probably later coinage of the 19th century), by T. Iwanoff, on the restoration of the Kremlin in Moscow. Crowned bust r. with the coat turned down // View of the Kremlin. 64.45 mm; 125.98 g.
Estimate: 80,000.00 €



Gold medal, engraved 1845 by P. Utkin. Premium of the Scientific Committee of the Ministry of State Goods, awarded to farmer Rene Vassal. Bust Emperor Nicholas I from right.//Four lines characters, including the engraved award winners and the engraved year 1845. 51,20 mm; 174.60 g.
Estimate: 30,000.00 €

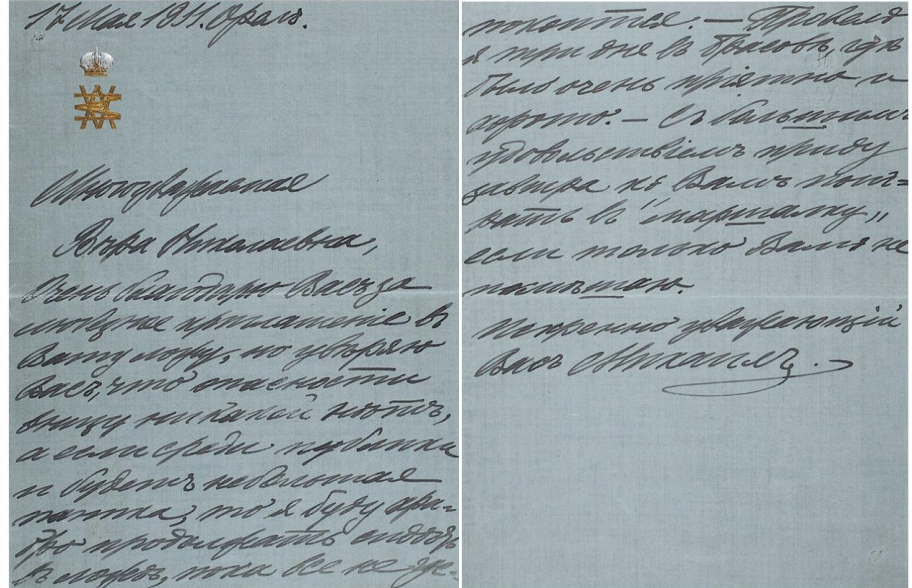


Gold 10 roubles (1 Imperial) 1896, St. Petersburg. Bust of Emperor Nicholas II from the left.//Crowned double-headed eagle with sceptre and Imperial orb in its claws, on the chest St. George's shield, around it the chain of the Order of Andrew, on the wings four more escutcheons, above crown. With marginal font.
Of great rarity. Only 125 copies stamped.
Estimate: 100,000.00 €

Auction House Litfond, Moscow, Russia, March 29

A letter of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich - May 17, 1911.
On paper with monogram "MA" under the crown.

"May 17, 1911. Orel. Dear Vera Nikolaevna, I thank you very much for your kind invitation to your box, but I assure you that there is no danger at the bottom, and if there is a little panic among the public, I will continue to sit courageously until everything becomes calm.
- I spent three days in Brasovo, where it was very pleasant and good. - With great pleasure I will come to you tomorrow to play in the "marshal", if only you do not interfere. Sincerely yours, Mikhail."



The property Brasovo, mentioned in the letter, belonged to Michael Alexandrovich. It was there that they spent the summer of 1911 before they went abroad.

Probably, the letter is addressed to Vera Nikolaevna Shilova (born Apricotova) - a school and a gymnasium friend of Natalia, the morganatic wife of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

Two photographs - Princess Irina and Prince Felix Yusupov, with autographs. 1927, 1931.

1. Photo of Princess Irina Yusupova [Irina Romanova, Princess of Imperial Blood]. Paris, 1920's. 19 x 14.5 cm on the front side of the autograph: "Have you prayed for Desdemona's night? Irina Yusupova 1927 ».

2. Photo of Prince Felix Yusupov. Paris, 1931. 22 x 16.5 cm. Signed on the front: "Yusupistki from Yusupov 1931". On the reverse side, the first lines from a poem by Mikhail Lermontov:

"I do not want the light to know. My mysterious tale. How I loved how I suffered. The judge is only God and conscience. 1931."



Northeast Auctions, Portsmouth, NH, US, April 8

Russian imperial colorless glass goblet engraved with the cypher of Elizabeth Petrovna (period of Elizabeth I), probably St. Petersburg glass works, circa 1750.

The partly panelled conical bowl on a panelled baluster stem and molded circular foot, engraved on one side with a roundel enclosing the crowned cypher "EP," and on the other with a roundel enclosing the Imperial eagle, each within finely engraved sprays of daisy stems. Height 8 1/4 inches.

Est: \$1,500 - \$2,500



Set of four russian imperial colorless glass wine glasses engraved with the cypher of Elizabeth Petrovna, (period of Elizabeth I), dated 1758.

Each tapered bowl continuing to a panelled stem and circular foot, engraved on one side with the Imperial crown and cypher of Elizabeth I, and on the other with the imperial eagle above the date "1758 r.," beneath a starred border. Height 6 inches.

Est: \$800 - \$1,200



Russian imperial colorless glass wine glass engraved with the cypher of Elizabeth Petrovna (Elizabeth I), dated 1768.

The tapered bowl engraved on one side with the Imperial crown and cypher of Elizabeth I, and on the other with the Imperial eagle, both above the date "1768 r.," beneath an engraved trellis diaper border and above a panelled stem and domed circular foot. Height 6 5/8 inches.

Est: \$900 - \$1,500

Russian engraved colorless glass goblet and cover commemorating Catherine II (1762-96), possibly the Imperial Glass Factory, St. Petersburg, 1780-1800.

Engraved on one side with a bust portrait of Catherine II, and on the other with the Imperial crown above her cypher, both within oak and acorn branches and above a trellis diaper border, the baluster standard engraved with a vine and berries, the cover surrounded by a berried vine. Height 20 1/4 inches.

Est: \$2,500 - \$3,500



Portrait of Grand Duchess Ekaterina Alekseyevna, later to become Catherine II, Empress of all the Russias.

Cloaked in ermine, Catherine is depicted wearing the badge and sash of the Order of St. Catherine, established by Peter the Great. The original of this portrait, painted by Aleksei Antropov circa 1760, is in the collection of the State A. Radishchev Art Museum, Saratov, Russia. Oil on canvas, 29 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches.

Est: \$9,000 - \$15,000



The Russian Emperor Peter III and Empress Catherine at an Imperial court reception.

Peter III wearing the blue sash of the Order of St. Andrew, Catherine, the red sash of the Order of St. Catherine, seated opposite each other amid a room full of courtiers. Oil on canvas in oval format, 22 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches.

Est: \$8,000 - \$12,000



German molded and cut amber and colorless glass goblet commemorating Alexander I, nineteenth century.

The panelled bowl molded on the front with a raised gilt-edged roundel painted with a portrait of Alexander I, beneath the rim inscribed in gold "Kaiser Alexander I von Russland.," the sides with amber oval shields molded with faceted diamonds etched and colored in pink, blue and green, above a knopped stem and star-fluted scalloped amber foot. Height 7 1/8 inches.

Estimate: \$400 - \$600

Russian colorless and cobalt blue glass mug commemorating the Russian taking of Paris during the Napoleonic wars, Bakhmetev Glassworks Factory, circa 1814.

The cylindrical mug and scroll handle in colorless glass, reserved on the front with a cobalt blue oval panel, the gilt inscription in Cyrillic and commemorating the taking of Paris by the Russian military on March 19, 1814, beneath the cypher of Alexander I surmounted by a cisele Imperial crown, unmarked. Height 3 5/8 inches. Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500



Miniature portrait of Emperor Nicholas I, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and Grand Duke Alexander. A handcolored engraving with the portraits depicted above the Winter palace, framed within embossed gilt matboards, frame 9 x 10 1/4 inches. Est: \$200 - \$400



Russian porcelain dinner plate from the dowry service of Grand Duchess Alexandra Nikolaevna, the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory, St. Petersburg, period of Nicholas I (1825-55).

The rim surrounded by six scroll-edged cartouches, one enclosing the Duchess's cypher, one enclosing the Imperial eagle and four with floral bouquets, all reserved on a blue ground gilt with foliate strapwork, cypher of Nicholas I in underglaze-blue. Diameter 9 3/8 inches. Grand Duchess Alexandra Nikolaevna (Russian 1825-1844) was the youngest daughter and fourth child of Tsar Nicholas I and his wife, Princess Charlotte of Prussia. She was a younger sister of Tsar Alexander II of Russia. Estimate: \$1,800 - \$2,800



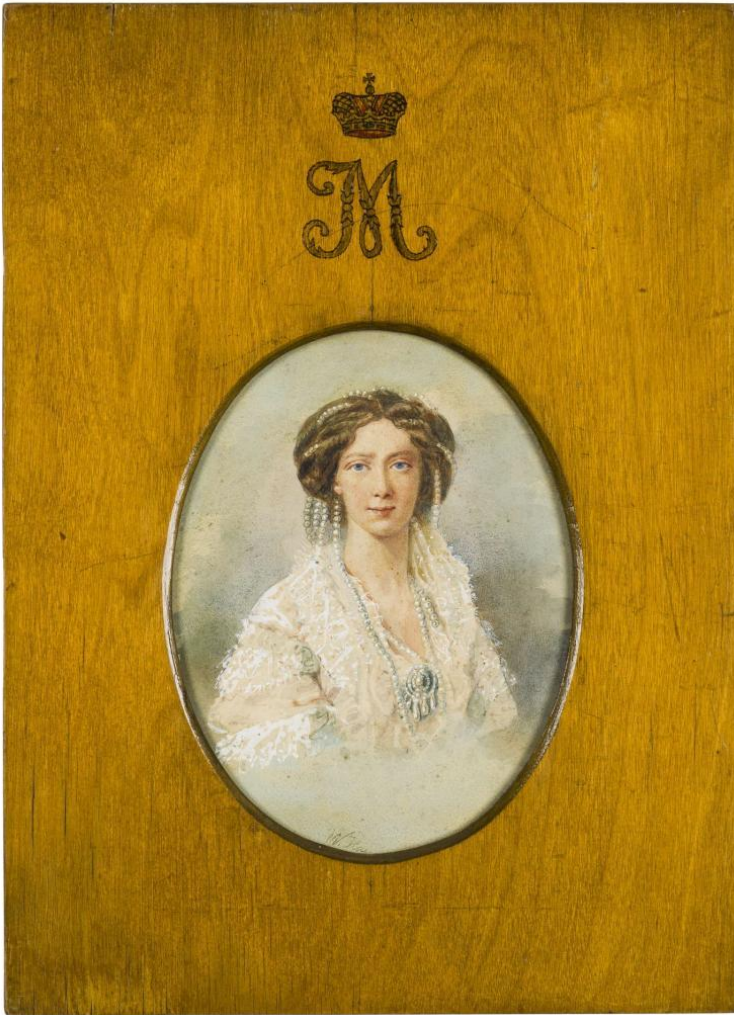
Russian porcelain ice cup from the service of Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich, the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory, St. Petersburg, period of Nicholas I (1825-55), circa 1848.

Painted and gilt on one side with the Duke's cypher "VKKN" (Velikii Kniaz for Grand Duke) and on the other with the Imperial eagle, within strapwork geometric and foliate designs, the interior partly gilt, dot and dash mark in underglaze-blue. Height 3 inches.

Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich (1827-92) was the second son of Nicholas I of Russia and younger brother of Alexander II. During the reign of Alexander II, Nikolaevich was an admiral of the Russian fleet and reformed the Russian Navy. He also played an instrumental role in the emancipation of the serfs. From 1862-64 he served as viceroy of Poland, but was called back to Russia where he was attacked for his liberalism. The banquet service was commissioned from Feodor Solntsev in 1848, on the occasion of the marriage of the Duke and Princess Alexandra of Saxe-Altenburg (Grand Duchess Alexandra Iosifovna).

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$8,000





Portrait of the Empress Maria Alexandrovna of Russia, after Winterhalter. Watercolor on paper, 9 1/2 x 7 1/4 inches. Signed "W. Haur" l.c. In a wood frame incised with an Imperial monogram, 17 3/4 x 13 inches. Est: \$200 - \$300

Russian porcelain dessert plate from the blue service for Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, late nineteenth century.

The shaped blue rim edged in gold, interrupted with the combined Cyrillic letters "C" for Sergei and "E" for Elizabeth, the dual cypher for Grand Duke Sergei and his wife, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, surmounted by the Romanov crown, mark of ". A" in gold beside the foot rim. Diameter 9 1/2 inches.



The Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich (son of Tsar Alexander II) was assassinated in 1905 while governor of Moscow. The Grand Duchess Elizabeth (of Hesse), sister of the last Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna, was thrown into a pit in 1917, along with members of the Imperial family at Alpatievsk in Perm. The service is believed to have been a special commission for either the Beloselsky-Belozersky Palace or the Ilyinskoe Estate. Estimate: \$250 - \$400

Russian porcelain imperial presentation Easter egg for Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory, St. Petersburg, circa 1900.

Painted and gilt on the front with the Lesser coat-of-arms of the Russian Grand Dukes (sons of Russian Emperors), and on the reverse with the Duke's cypher beneath the Imperial crown in purple and gold, hung on a tan silk ribbon. Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich (Russian 1860-1919) was the sixth and the last son of Alexander II, and uncle of Nicholas II. He served in the Russian Army, was a general in the Cavalry and adjutant general to his brother Alexander III, and a Knight of the Order of St. Andrew. In 1889, he married Princess Alexandra of Greece, his paternal first cousin once removed. In 1915, shortly after the outbreak of World War I, Nicholas II placed Paul in command of the First Corps of the Imperial Guard. In January 1919, the Grand Duke was executed in St. Peter and Paul Fortress, St Petersburg, together with other members of the Romanov family.
Estimate: \$700 - \$1,000



Coronation album of Alexander III: description du couronnement de... Alexandre III et l'imperatrice Marie Feodorovna en l'annee 1883. St. Petersburg.

Describing and illustrating Alexander's coronation ceremony at the Assumption Cathedral in Moscow and the events that took place around the city, the album was printed in a small edition for members of the Imperial family and foreign dignitaries who participated in the celebrations. Large folio in Cyrillic with chromolithographed title page, frontispiece, two full-page portraits and 22 chromolithographic plates, including works by Bogdanov, Karazin, Makarov, Polenov, Sokolov and others. Text printed in black, blue and red with decorative initials and additional illustrations. Bound in brown morocco with white silk moire endpapers, the front cover with multiple intricate gilt-tooled borders surrounding the title and Russian Imperial Eagle, the spine with gilt-tooled crown, sceptre and orb, the back cover blind stamped, 65 pp., 26 1/2 x 20 3/4 inches.

Estimate: \$4,000 - \$6,000



Russian porcelain beaker commemorating the centenary of the battle of Borodino, the Kornilov Brothers Factory, Moscow, circa 1912.

Printed on one side with portrait ovals of Alexander II and Nicholas II below a gilt Imperial eagle, above the painted ribbon and badge of the order of St. George, painted and gilt on the other side with the badge within a Cyrillic inscription and date 1812-1912, overglaze two-color factory mark. Height 4 5/8 inches. The Battle of Borodino was fought on September 7, 1812 during the Napoleonic Wars, and was the decisive victory for the Russians (Izmailovsky Regiment, Life Guards Division), over the invading French army.

Estimate: \$200 - \$400



Russian porcelain Imperial Presentation Easter egg for Grand Duchess Alexandra Feodorovna (Alix of Hesse), the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory, St. Petersburg, 1900-17.

Gilt on one side with a shaped medallion enclosing the Duchess's cypher beneath the Imperial crown, reserved on a blue panel alternating with matching blue panels of rose, tulip and aster bouquets, and gilt bands entwined with meandering vines, hung on a blue silk ribbon. Height 3 1/2 inches. Literature: Two similarly-decorated eggs with cyphers identical to the offered lot are discussed and illustrated in "Imperial Easter Eggs: An Exhibition of Porcelain Easter Eggs from the Collection of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, The Royal Danish Collections at Amalienborg Palace & The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg," February 18-April 4, 1994," cat. nos. 96 & 97, pp. 106, 118 & 122.

Estimate: \$200 - \$400



Russian porcelain dinner plate from the service of Grand Duke Michael Nicholaevich, Kornilov Brothers Factory, St. Petersburg, circa 1900.

Printed in blue on the rim with the initial "M" beneath the Imperial crown and within a gilt-edged roundel, reserved on the blue rim within gilt borders, printed overglaze two-color factory mark. Diameter 9 5/8 inches.

Estimate: \$200 - \$300



Russian porcelain dinner plate with the dual monogram of Grand Duke Michael Nicholaevich and his son, Grand Duke Michael Mikhailovich, Kornilov Brothers (1835-1918), St. Petersburg, before 1918.

Painted in red and gold with the Imperial crown above the cypher of Grand Duke Michael Nicholaevich on the left, and on the right the cypher of his son, Grand Duke Michael Mikhailovich, printed overglaze two-color factory mark. Grand Duke Michael Mikhailovich (1861-1929) was raised in the Caucasus, where he

lived between 1862 and 1881 with his family, and was educated by private tutors. In Romanov family tradition he followed a military career. He served in the Russo-Turkish War in 1877, became a Colonel and was adjutant at the Imperial court.

Estimate: \$250 - \$350

Russian porcelain dessert plate from the service of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich, Kornilov Brothers factory, St. Petersburg, circa 1900.

Printed on the rim in red and gold with the Duke's cypher beneath the Imperial crown, within a wavy gilt rim edge, printed two-color factory mark. Diameter 8 1/2 inches. Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich (Russian 1856?-1929) was a grandson of Nicholas I, and general in World War I. He was commander in chief of the Russian armies on the main front in the first year of the war, and was later a successful commander-in-chief in the Caucasus. He was briefly recognized as Emperor of Russia in 1922, in areas controlled by the White Movement in the Russian Far East.

Estimate: \$200 - \$300



Russian porcelain dessert plate, Kuznetsov Factory, Vverbilki, Dmitrov (formerly Gardner's), 1891-1917.

Printed in gold on the rim with the cypher "GA" (Grand Duke George Alexandrovich?) beneath the Imperial crown in purple, blue and gold, the rim surrounded by foliate medallions enclosing floral sprays, printed factory mark with lettering in underglaze-blue. Diameter 7 1/4 inches

Estimate: \$200 - \$300

