



Romanov News Новости Романовых

By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky

№130

January 2019



"The Righteous live forever ..."

On January 24, the second part of the International Scientific Conference of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society (ESES) "The Righteous live forever ... - Tragedy of Russia. Petrograd. 1919" began in the State Museum of History of St. Petersburg, in the Peter and Paul Fortress. The first part was held in Moscow Kremlin on November 1st, 2018.

The event took place within the framework of the XXI Elisabeth-Sergei Readings and completes the cycle of memorable events initiated by the Society for the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of eighteen representatives of the Imperial House of Romanov in the years of revolutionary terror - this time particular remembering the four Grand Dukes: Paul Alexandrovich, Dmitry Konstantinovich, Nicholas Michaelovich and George Michaelovich, murdered at the walls of the Peter and Paul Fortress end of January, 1919.

The conference was attended by historians, cultural scientists, archivists, representatives of museums, parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church, public organizations of Russia and abroad, universities, organizations from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tyumen, Perm, and Yekaterinburg.

On the first day of the conference, early in the morning, a Divine Liturgy was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul - the necropolis of the Russian Imperial Dynasty.

The service was led by the Dean of the cathedral, Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov), professor, head of the icon painting department of the St. Petersburg Theological Academy, in cooperation with the clergy of the church.

Here, under the vaults, Russian Emperors found rest, starting with Peter the Great.

In 2004, the parish of the Peter and Paul Cathedral put a memorial plaque for the four Grand Dukes in the Grand Duke wing.





At the end of the liturgy, Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov), welcomed those present and noted the significance of the scientific conference and events held by the ESES in restoring historical truth about the events that took place in Russia 100 years ago.

Chairman of the ESES Anna V. Gromova warmly thanked Father Alexander and presented a gift for the ancestry, made by masters from Chrysostom, continuing the tradition of contributions associated with the history of the Emperor's Family for the 100th anniversary of remembrance.



Due to the fact that during the days of the international scientific conference in St. Petersburg, commemorative events were held for the 75th anniversary of the lifting of the blockade of the city, not all invited guests could take part in the full conference program. However, some still found time to come to the Peter and Paul Cathedral, among them Olga V. Taratinova, Director of the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Preserve.

Then a panikhida was held in the Grand Duke Wing. After which flowers were placed under the memorial plaque.





A basket of white roses was placed at the tomb of Empress Maria Alexandrovna (Wife of Emperor Alexander II), and another basket of red roses at the tomb of Emperor Nicholas II, his family and servants in the St. Catherine Chapel.



Video - <https://topspb.tv/news/2019/01/24/v-petropavlovke-otkryvaetsya-konferenciya-pravedniki-zhivut-vo-veki/>



The participants and honoured guests of the international scientific conference then proceeded to the conference hall of St. John Ravelin. The conference session was chaired by the Chairman of the board of ESES, Anna Gromova.

"We are gathered to commemorate the four Grand Dukes who died in the walls of the Peter and Paul Fortress," she said in a welcoming speech. "It is important that our research of Russian history - books and reports - will be the tribute to their memory. Eighteen representatives of the House of Romanov died in 1918 - the beginning of 1919 from the revolutionary terror. This year was a tragedy for Russia and the beginning of a series of bloody events. It's consequences are still felt. The only way to avoid its repetition is to involve as many people as possible to learn the true history."

"The main goal is to erase white spots in the history and biographies of members of the Imperial Family," said Anna Gromova.

There is also the question to the fact that of the 18 Romanovs who were shot only half are canonized. "Why" - this was a question addressed to the conference.

"We also asked this question," said Anna Gromova. Representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church explained that the research of historians will help with this. It is necessary to prepare materials for writing the life of a saint for each of the martyrs, which is exactly what we do at the conferences.





On behalf of Alexander D. Beglov, the Acting Head of the Government of St. Petersburg, the Deputy Governor for Education and Vladimir Kirillov welcomed the participants of the forum. He stressed that the theme raised by the ESES is of great public importance, and the conference is designed to protect contemporaries from repeating past mistakes and manifesting any forms of intolerance.

The Vice-Governor said - *"Like millions of other citizens of Russia, they passionately loved their homeland. But at this time the country was split. There was no unity in society, everyone had their own truth. I wish all the participants of the conference successful fruitful work, new discoveries, success in serving our fatherland."*



Archimandrite Alexander

Dean of the Peter and Paul Cathedral, Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov) read the greeting of Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofy.

- *"Dear Anna Vitalevna! Dear brothers and sisters! I cordially welcome you to the conference, which concludes a series of events in connection with the centenary of the killing of members of the Imperial Family."*

In the Peter and Paul Fortress, where the conference takes place, in January 1919, the Grand Dukes Pavel Alexandrovich, Dimitri Konstantinovich, Nikolai and George Mikhailovich were shot. Hundred years ago, the crime that completed the destruction of the last of the Romanov dynasty on Russian soil opened the way to mass repressions against hundreds of thousands of other innocent victims.

It is gratifying that the wonderful words from the Holy Scriptures were the theme of the conference. Famous members of the Imperial Family and many others victims without guilt, acquiring righteousness became the basis of life, the reward for which cannot be compared

with any earthly honours - this is soul salvation. Not only in the martyr's demise, but also in their lives, the saints showed a pattern of humility and love, loyalty to God and the Fatherland.

A significant contribution to the perpetuation of the memory of the members of the Imperial Family and their innocently murdered relatives is your society. I would like to sincerely thank his employees and personally Anna Vitalyevna as the main inspirer and organizer for their active educational activities. With the help of God, you are helping the revival of spiritual values in the Fatherland, rising the young generation in the spirit of high ideals, which were followed, despite persecution and even death, the eighteen members of the House of Romanov now remembered.

I prayerfully wish the participants and guests fruitful work, God's help in all good deeds and undertakings!

With God's blessing,

BARSONOPHY, Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, January 24, 2019"

Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov) then added a few words.

- *"As the dean of the cathedral, I perform memorial services for members of the Imperial Family who moved to another world, including those who suffered martyr's demise," said Father Alexander. "Each of the remembered Grand Dukes was busy with something interesting and important for society: someone was a military man, someone was engaged in creative work, someone headed various organizations - for example, the Academy of Fine Arts. Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich was an outstanding historian. And now we keep the memory of him and the innocent victims, of these Princes, we see different characters, lives, lines of the Romanov dynasty. The tragic point of their history was the beginning of the tragic fate of many. Recalling the representatives of the Imperial Family, we continue the traditions established in the past and even that certain phenomena appeared due to such an Emperor or representative of the Imperial Family. If we do something in memory of the deceased, then we continue his work."*



Then the conference was greeted by Archbishop Mikhail (Medonsky), Vicar of the Western European Diocese (ROCOR). *"Today we prayed on the spot not only for the rest of the Romanovs, but also for the martyr's demise."* *"This event reminds of the rupture of society in the twentieth century. The authorities wanted the whole Imperial Family was forgotten so that the Romanovs would cause only condemnation. In Soviet times, many books were published in which they were discredited. Witnesses of those years might have realized that this was not true, but their children did not take this information*

critically. It was not just political, but purely spiritual. When we serve a requiem or a prayer, we enter into communion with those who have died. It connects the Russian society; we understand that Christ is among us. "

Greetings from Alla Y. Manilova, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, and Alexander V. Moor, Governor of the Tyumen Region, were also read.

Alexander N. Kolyakin, director of the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg, stressed that interest in the subject announced at the conference is not fading away among the scientific community of the northern capital. He then spoke about the restoration of the iconostasis of the Peter and Paul Cathedral, the restoration of the imperial rooms, and the excavations carried out on the territory of the fortress.

The participants were congratulated by the Chairman of the Committee on Culture of St. Petersburg Konstantin E. Sukhenko.



Alexander N. Kolyakin



Count Sergei A. Kapnist

Svetlana Uchaykina, Minister of Culture of the Sverdlovsk Region and Count Sergei A. Kapnist, Chairman of the Russian Red Cross Society (old organization) personally welcomed the participants to the conference.

Olga Kulikovskiy-Romanov, Chairman of the Charity Foundation of Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna said - *"Those who conceived and committed this crime, intended to once and for all decapitate the Russian people, to deprive them their heads, according to the prophecy of the Optina old and Anatoly (Potapov), in order to turn into a headless corpse."*

General Director of the Peterhof State Museum Reserve Elena Y. Kalnitskaya found the topic of the conference very relevant and suggested creating an information resource where it would be possible to place the data on the events of 1918-1919 collected during the ongoing scientific meetings and conferences.



Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky

Paul E. Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Honorary Member of the Romanoff Family Association, said:

*"Your Beatitude, Anna Vitalevna, brothers and sister, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am very pleased to greet you all, here in the city founded by Peter the Great, and then by my ancestors made into one of the most magnificent cities in the world.*

The city's life started here with the Peter and Paul Fortress, and for many of my family members it ended here, next door in the family necropolis in the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral, or in the Alexander Nevsky Lavra.

We are gathered, this time to remember the four Grand Dukes killed in the fortress and thrown into a mass grave here in the end of January 1919 - 100 years ago.

Princess Olga Paley, the wife of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich in her memoirs tells - "An old prison guard, who saw the killing, told - All the Grand Dukes were taken to the prison in Trubetskoy bastion. At three in the night, the soldiers brought them naked to the waist and led them to the territory of the Mint, where a common grave was dug near the fortress wall opposite the cathedral, where thirteen corpses were already lying. They put the Grand Dukes on the edge and opened fire on them."

When the Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovich, Dimitri Konstantinovich, Nicholas Michaelovich and George Michaelovich were killed is not known exactly.

The last report of them being alive is from January 28th, 1919, and on January 31st, 1919 Petrograd Pravda reported them being shot.

Some researchers are sure they were killed on 24th of January - which is why we have this conference today.

So when did it happen?

Are we still victims of Bolshevik's falsifications and fake news?

Maybe this conference will give us more facts and clarification.

The Grand Dukes remains may have been found, but the lack of identification of the remains found has prevented a confirmation of their identity and the following burial. It is a very sad situation. Worse is, that there seems to be no efforts in solving this question.

On December 20, 2009, during the excavation work at the Golovkin's bastion human remains were found. During the following week, 17 skulls with holes in the back of the head were extracted from the ground.

Since then, many more remains have been found and are now stored in the archives here in the fortress.

As far as I know, both President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of Political Repression, have called for continued work to find mass grave sites, restore the names of those killed during the years of terror and their rehabilitation.

I join them in the call to continue the work, so the remains of all victims of the merciless Red Wheel may have their long awaited burial.

Many efforts have been made to erect a memorial for those killed here. The writer Daniel Granin once addressed the Governor with a proposal to install a memorial sign on Hare Island on the tragic events of those years - "a small wooden cross near the outer wall from the Kronverksky channel, away from the main tourist routes," the honorary citizen of St. Petersburg asked timidly.

Smolny refused. A contra proposal from the authorities was put forward - a parking lot for tourist buses. Please join me in a renew call for a monument to those killed here.

Do not confused this with nostalgia. Yes, we will honour the dead, but it is not a quest to return to the past. It is to remind the living never to allow this to happen again!

Dimitri Konstantinovich, George Michaelovich, Nicholas Michaelovich and Paul Alexandrovich - Eternal memory!

The last 12 months have been very hectic for my wife Ludmila and me, with many events dedicated to the remembrance of members of the Imperial Romanov family killed during 1918 by the Bolsheviks and a couple of big birthday anniversaries.

To be honest I am relieved that we now are coming to the end, as it has been an emotional rollercoaster.

Looking back, there were many highlights, too many to mention all, but I would like to name a few:

The celebrations of the 200 year birthday anniversary of the Tsar-Liberator Alexander II in State Historical Museum, in the Ivanovsky Hall of the Russian State Library, and in Tsarskoye Selo; and the 150 years birthday anniversary of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II.

The implementation of the "Imperial Route" project; opening of the "Museum of the Family of Tsar Nicholas II" in the Governor House in Tobolsk; the opening of the "Memorial Museum for representatives of the Russian Imperial House" in the Field School in Alapaevsk; and the 100 years anniversary of remembering the Romanovs killed in Perm, Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk.



Paul E. Kulikovsky

Many of these events - as is today's event - were organized by the Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society. Let me express our sincere appreciation for all Anna Vitalevna and her wonderful team have done.

I do not have an organization that issue medals, but in this case I wish I had, as I would like to present them the highest award.

You made the 100 years anniversary of remembering the Romanovs into something beyond the ordinary.

You lifted the commemorations to another level, by finding a way to focus on the future, rather than on the past, by transferring tragedy and sorrow into enlightenment, love and patriotism.

You left monuments, not just physical in the Great Russian land, but in history, and most important in our hearts - thank you!"



Marquis Ivan Farace di Villaforesta, son of H.S.H. Princess Catherine Ioannovna, Honorary Member of the Romanoff Family Association, had sent a greeting, which was read by Margarita Stegnyy.

The wife of Andrei Zhonson, a descendant of Nikolai N. Zhonson, the secretary of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, the first of the Romanovs who was shot in Perm in 1918, made a greeting.

Ending the greetings part was Eugeny V. Lukoshkov, Head of the Ludwig Nobel Foundation.



In the Conference hall was shown a painting of the Imperial Family and servants in the basement of Ipatiev's house, like before the shooting.

Marina S. Kirova, Head of the Tourist and Pilgrim Programs of the Society, acquainted the guests and participants of the international scientific conference with the results of the implementation of the first stage of the national tourist project "Imperial Route", which included 57 museums from 14 regions of Russia. The project is implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, coordinated by the Department of Consumer Market and Tourism of the Tyumen Region. The first stage of the route passed through the places of memory of representatives of the Russian Imperial House, who lost their lives during the revolutionary terror, uniting St. Petersburg, Moscow, Pskov, Yekaterinburg, Alapaevsk, Tyumen, Tobolsk, and Perm.

Then followed reports of Doctor of Historical Sciences, V. M. Lavrov - "State activity of the Emperor Nicholas II", Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, I. V. Zimin - "Emperor Nicholas II. Personal charity", and V.M. Khrustalev, PhD (History), chief specialist of the State Archives of the Russian Federation - "Tsesarevich Alexei Nikolaevich. Lost prospects of Russia".

According to historians, the Bolsheviks did much to shape the impartial appearance of the Imperial Family. They created myths that the Romanovs spent fabulous money for their own needs, although in fact they lived quite modestly. In addition, each had its own personal "charity program", so most of the personal money was spent on donations, the maintenance of hospitals, educational institutions, charitable organizations, etc.

- Formally, as a Monarch, Nicholas II could have a wide variety of amounts. But according to the unspoken rule, the budget of the Imperial Court was annually adopted, where the personal expenses of the family were also stipulated. There was a strict calculation, even buying clothes was regulated. If the Sovereign went beyond the amount of previous years, a serious conversation awaited him, said Professor Igor Zimin.

- The Russian State Historical Archive has an accounting book of Nicholas II, in fact, the Emperor's personal wallet, where 14 points are clearly spelled out, 6 of which are charity. These were expenses on pensions, and the upbringing of children, donations, allowances, gifts and cash awards. Plus extraordinary expenses that went in favour of educational or charitable institutions, including churches. There are episodic accounts for various sums of donations - 16,400 roubles, 44 thousand roubles, 11 thousand, and 500 roubles.

The Sovereign received a huge amount of correspondence with a request to help or participate in charity events. So, there is a record that Nicholas II in 1898 gave 5 thousand roubles for the completion of an Orthodox church in some wilderness. And he gave out 350 roubles annually from their funds to help someone's widow. The first St. Petersburg State Medical University emerged largely due to the participation of the Emperor. Often the Sovereign acted anonymously. So, in 1901 he ordered to transfer 50 roubles to the editorial office of the magazine "Russian disabled person" - as a benefit from the unknown.



Professor, Igor V. Zimin

According to Professor Zimin, all members of the Imperial Family considered it their direct duty to help and give. The expenses of the Romanovs grew precisely because donations increased every year. Emperor's wife Alexandra Feodorovna became the initiator of the annual Christmas trees for children from poor families. She contributed to the emergence of educational institutions, shelters, hospitals. She worked as a nurse. It is impossible to imagine that in Soviet times the spouse of a member of the Politburo worked as a nurse in a soldiers' hospital. During the war the younger Romanovs asked not to give them gifts, but money which they transfer to help orphans and soldiers.

- Once the Sovereign with his family stopped at one of the railway stations. A local official turned to him - the small salary was not enough for a huge family. Nicholas II promised that he would give him 30 roubles a month, and Tsarevich Alexei came up and said he would add another 40 from himself," says the chief specialist of the State Archive of the Russian Federation Vladimir Khrustalev.

"Grand Duchesses Olga and Tatiana headed committees that provided direct assistance to those who suffered in hostilities and their families," told the head of the history department of Kaliningrad State Technical University, Professor Alexey A. Khitrov.

- It was not a show. The committees have created more than a dozen forms of assistance and 30 methods of collecting donations. All needy received money, clothes, work. The structure included local governors, representatives of the diocese, zemstvo, city public administration, leaders of the nobility, and representatives of charitable organizations, including national ones. In combination with the central government and the patronage of the Imperial power, this created a system of democratic centralism. It worked effectively all the years of the First World War. In 1914, thousands of refugees from the Polish and Baltic provinces reached Russia. Their number was about 3.5–4 million people. But thanks to the work of the committees, no one went hungry, did not ask for alms, and did not wander along the roads. All were fed.

Tatiana Committee distributed 68 million roubles. Not a single penny or a half was stolen. There were no allegations of corruption, dishonesty, or wasting money.

By the beginning of 1917, registration data were received for 4 million people. Without any information technology, in a couple of months was managed to set up work on registering refugees. Olginsky and Tatiana committees were the most viable of all the institutions of that time. They worked effectively until the spring of 1918, when all other structures, even the army, crumbled.

Historians agree that everyone in the Imperial Family had a sincere desire to be useful to society.

S.V. Neganov, director of the Perm State Archive for Social and Political History, presented a report on the murder of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich in Perm and donated a two-volume collection of documents on the Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich to the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg. The publication was timed to the 140th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death.

Alexey N. Guzanov, Deputy Director for Accounting and Storage of Museum Objects of the Pavlovsk Museum, made a report on Prince John Konstantinovich of Imperial Blood. The report presented little-known materials and photographic documents and widely covered the charitable activities of the Prince.

Sergey A. Pavlov, Chief Architect of Peterhof, and Denis E. Rieder, Architect, General Director of Rieder, gave an update on the restoration project of the Lower Dacha of Emperor Nicholas II in Alexandria Park.

The first day of the scientific forum ended with a concert dedicated to the Cathedral of the Russian New Martyrs and Confessors, by the Chamber Choir of the St. Petersburg Theological Academy under the guidance of laureate of All-Russian and International competitions Raisa Gundyayeva. The choristers performed works by Russian composers -Sergey Rakhmaninov, George Sviridov, Deacon Sergius Trubachev, Alexei Lvov, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Alfred Schnittke, Alexander Grechaninov, Pavel Chesnokov, and ancient Ropechos sounded - giving the audience extraordinary spiritual joy.



Marina O. Logunova speaking, with moderator Sergei V. Neganov sitting.

On January 25, the conference "The Righteous live forever ..." continued. The moderator was the director of the Perm State Archive for Social and Political History, Sergei V. Neganov.

Archbishop Mikhail (Medonsky) opened the session with a report on the Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich.

Anna V. Gromova, PhD (History), Head of the International Centre for Mercy in History at the Institute of World History, Russian Academy and Chairman of the

"Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society", presented a report on the benevolent service of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

The role of the priest-martyr Metropolitan Vladimir (Epiphany) as a spiritual mentor and co-worker of the Grand-Ducal couple Sergei Alexandrovich and Elizabeth Feodorovna was told by Gregory Manevich, the director of the Museum of the History of the Imperial Orthodox Society of Palestine.

The topic of the multifaceted and extensive work of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna in the field of education was revealed in the report of Svetlana Belchinkova, head of the research and publishing programs of the ESES.

Marina O. Logunova, chief researcher of the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg, reported on the fate of Peter and Paul Cathedral - the tombs of the Romanov dynasty - in the years 1917-1924.

The report of Elena I. Zherikhina, representing the autonomous non-profit organization "Institute of Historical and Cultural Projects", was devoted to the life and activities of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich in St. Petersburg.

Galina N. Korneva told about Grand Duke Dmitry Konstantinovich.

At the end of the day session, Marina Vladimirovna Zaporina, chairman of the Society for the Preservation of the Heritage of the Family of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich, spoke about the church in Ostashevo (at the Konstantinovich Moscow estate) and the Alapaevsk martyrs, the Princes of the Imperial blood Konstantin Konstantinovich and Igor Konstantinovich.

The director of the State Museum-Monument "St. Isaac's Cathedral" Yury V. Mudrov visited the conference and presented commemorative medals to the 200th anniversary of the start of construction of St. Isaac's Cathedral to Anna V. Gromova and Archbishop Michael (Medonsky), noting the high importance of the international scientific conference.

The conference ended with a tour of the Sergievsky Palace (known as the Beloselsky-Belozersky Palace) located on Nevsky Prospect. After the wedding in 1884, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna lived there. It was here, in the home church of the Sergievsky Palace, on April 3, 1891, on Saturday before Palm Sunday, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna adopted Orthodoxy in the presence of Emperor Alexander III and his family. The sacrament of baptism was committed by Protopresbyter John Yanyshv.

The conference delegation visited the Hall of Mirrors, the Front Dining Room, the Golden Crimson and Beige Living Rooms, the Oak Hall, the former library and the office of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.



The ESES is planning to publish the reports of the two scientific sessions of the XXI Elisabeth-Sergei Readings, in addition, a channel will appear on YouTube, where it is planned to post videos of speeches of all participants/.

- Videos - 1) https://topspb.tv/news/2019/01/24/chto-obsuzhdayut-uchastniki-konferencii-posvyashennoj-100-letiyu-qibeli-romanovyh/?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop
2) <https://www.1tv.ru/news/2019-01-24/359271-v-sankt-peterburge-prohodit-konferentsiya-posvyaschennaya-zhizni-i-qibeli-nikolaya-ii-i-ego-semi?fbclid=IwAR0ERx0re22Ulwz0fQIHMMQCIS-furSFOtSqC7G0WFFJTtX76esTgKskjBBq>
3) From the min, 14:05 - https://youtu.be/JRxk0ph_wV8
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Around and about Pieter

After the conference, Ludmila and Paul E, Kulikovsky stayed in St. Petersburg in order to participate in the panikhida for the four Grand Dukes on January 30th. This is believed to be the most probable day of their murder, and traditional date for the panikhida in the Sts Peter and Paul cathedral, commemorated by most organisations in St. Petersburg, including the church.

St. Isaac's Cathedral

January 26, included a visit to St. Isaac's Cathedral upon the invitation of the Director Yury V. Mudrov. The cathedral has just been through a major restoration and it was time to see the results. Together with Count Sergey V. Kapnist, the Kulikovskys got a guided tour, inside and out.



Saint Isaac's Cathedral is the largest church in Russia - it can have 20.000 people standing inside. It is dedicated to Saint Isaac of Dalmatia, the patron saint of Peter the Great, who had been born on the feast day of the saint.

The church on St Isaac's Square was ordered by Emperor Alexander I, to replace an earlier structure by Vincenzo Brenna, and was the fourth consecutive church standing at this place. The Emperor, who favoured the ponderous Empire style of architecture, decided on the project of the French-born architect Auguste de Montferrand (1786–1858).

Internal features such as columns, pilasters, floor, and statue of Montferrand are composed of multicoloured granites and marbles gathered from all parts of Russia. The iconostasis is framed by eight columns of semiprecious stone: six of malachite and two smaller ones of lazurite. The four pediments are also richly sculpted.



Bust of architect Auguste de Montferrand.

The cathedral's bronze doors, covered in reliefs by Ivan Vitali, are patterned after the celebrated doors of the Battistero di San Giovanni in Florence, designed by Lorenzo Ghiberti.

The interior was originally decorated with scores of paintings by Karl Bryullov and other Great Russian masters of the day. When these paintings began to deteriorate due to the cold, damp conditions inside the cathedral, Montferrand ordered them to be painstakingly reproduced as mosaics, a technique introduced in Russia by Mikhail Lomonosov. This reproduction is still going in.

Did you know, that the dove underneath the peak of the dome is not a painting or glass mosaic, but a sculpture representing the Holy Spirit - its wings spans 2,16 meters, and it is silver plated beneath, to look white on the distance.



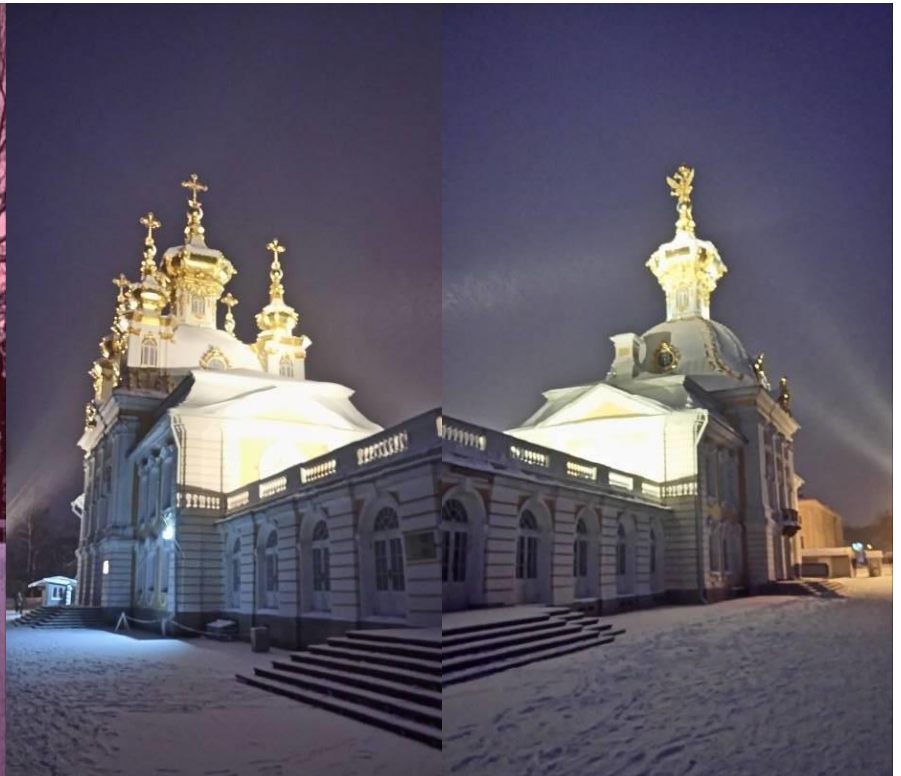
Besides seeing the interior, the Kulikovsky and Kapnist were also taken up by the staff lift to the outside of the dome. In snow and cold wind they walk around the dome, taking in the splendid view of central St. Petersburg - the frozen Neva, Admiralty, Winter Palace, etc.



Count Sergey V. Kapnist, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky

Peterhof Lower Park

Feeling like a walk in a park would be nice, even if cold and windy, the easy choice would be to go to the nearby Alexandrovsky Garden, but no, Peterhof Lower Park sounded better. 1,5 hour later, just before it got dark the Kulikovskys went down to see the Samson Fountain in snow, the harbour, Montplaisir, Peter the Great monument, etc, before returning to the Palace Church, the Great Palace and the Treasury building.



The sunset made the sky purple. In the evening, it was strange that the palace itself was not in spotlights, but the church and treasury building was.

Along Nevsky Prospekt

January 27th, was the Day of commemoration of the end of the Nazi Germany's Siege of Leningrad. The siege started on 8 September 1941, when the last road to the city was severed. Although the Soviet forces managed to open a narrow land corridor to the city on 18 January 1943, the siege was not lifted until 27 January 1944, 872 days after it began. It was one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history, and possibly the costliest in casualties suffered.

From early morning central part of the city was closed for traffic, so after attending service in four churches on Nevsky Prospekt - with the main one in Kazan Cathedral - the walk went up and down the Nevsky.

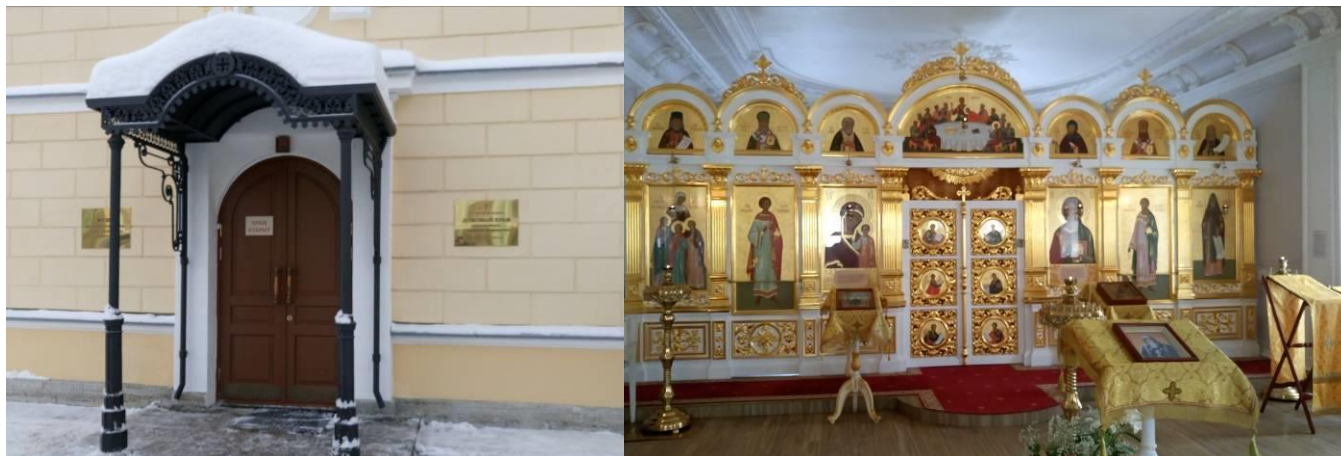
In Kazan Cathedral were prayed at three different icons with Romanov martyrs - The Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II and Martyr Tsarevich Alexei; the Royal Martyrs; and Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.



A highlight was to see the flames in the two Rostral Columns in front of the Stock Exchange building on the Neva. The Rostral Columns were originally intended to serve as beacons and originally were topped by a light in the form of a Greek brazier and lit by oil. The braziers have been removed and the tops of the columns refitted with gas torches that only are lit on ceremonial occasions.



By the way, did you know there is a church in the middle of Great Gostiny Dvor, on Nevsky Prospect - ***The Church of Seraphim Vyritsky.***



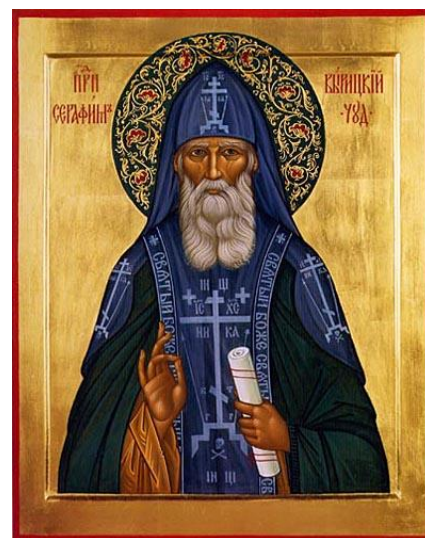
In the chronicle of the acts of modern devotees of piety a special place is occupied by the exploits of St. Reverend Seraphim Vyritsky. In 1917, at this time, the famous Petersburg merchant Vasily Nikolayevich Muravyov (that was the name of St. Seraphim Vyritsky in the world), who was involved in the fur trade, makes an inexplicable act for the ordinary human mind - he closes his business, gives all his employees generous benefits, and donates the main funds to Alexander Nevsky Lavra, Resurrection Novodevichy Women's Monastery in St. Petersburg, Iversky Vyksa Women's Monastery in the Nizhny Novgorod Province, founded by his spiritual father, Hieromaneas of Varna the old man of the Gethsemane skete of the Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra, and other monasteries.

Vasily Nikolayevich had a highly profitable enterprise. Russian furs enjoyed great demand in the western market. His office traded in Austria, Germany, Denmark, England, France and even in New York. The First World War didn't prevent him either - possessing exceptional abilities, Vasily Nikolaevich continued to conduct his commercial affairs successfully.

In 1920 he was tonsured as a monk in Resurrection Novodevichy Convent of Petrograd, and his faithful spouse and associate Olga Ivanovna Muraveva as a nun with the name of her Christina. From 1930, at the beginning of a serious illness, until his death on April 3, 1949 he lived in Vyritsa.

In 2000, Seraphim Vyritsky was canonized by the Orthodox Church. In Vyritsa, near the Church in honor of the icon of the Mother of God of Kazan, there is a chapel over the grave of St. Seraphim Vyritsky.

Now in St. Petersburg, as well as in many other places of the Fatherland, the construction of the churches in the name of St. Seraphim Vyritsky has begun.



Mikhailovsky Theatre

In the evening Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, with deputy director of Tsarskoye Selo Museum Mikhail S. Maximov and wife Valentina visited the Mikhailovsky Theatre, located in front of the Mikhailovsky Palace, now the Russian Museum.

Alexander Brullov was commissioned to design the new theatre building. It had to match the existing ensemble of Mikhailovsky Square, now Arts Square. On 8 November 1833, on the name day of the Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich, brother of Emperor Nicholas I, the curtain rose for the first time in the new theatre. The same year the French troupe, which had previously shared the stage with Russian actors in another recently completed theatre, the Alexandrinsky, moved into the new building. Thus began the eighty-five year-long life of the French Theatre in St. Petersburg. It was run by the Imperial Theatres Company, which was under the direct control of the Ministry of the Imperial Court.

In 1859, a new epoch began with the complete refurbishing of the interiors by Albert Cavos. The purpose was to increase the seating capacity of the theatre.

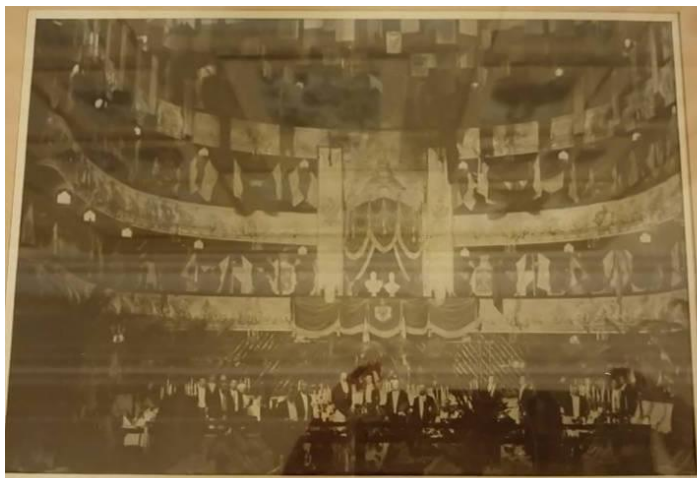
Beginning in the 1870s, the Mikhailovsky Theatre opened its doors to anyone wishing to perform on its stage - out-of-house performances by other St Petersburg theatres, touring companies and various celebrations and charity shows.

In 1894, several performances of the Mariinsky Theatre were transferred to the Mikhailovsky Theatre. Some jokers began referring to the latter as the «Russo-French Theatre of Opera-Ballet». This was the period when Mathilde Kschessinska was dancing, and Fyodor Chaliapin and Medea and Nicholas Figner sang on this stage.

A new style of entertaining and comic material was reflected in a new title that was gained by the theatre in 1920: The State Academic Theatre of Comic Opera. The theatre changed names several time, but in 2007, the pre-revolutionary name of the theatre emerged again and was added to the one existing since 1991: The St Petersburg Mussorgsky State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre - Mikhailovsky Theatre.



Mikhail S. Maximov with Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky



ЗАЛ И СЦЕНА МИХАЙЛОВСКОГО ТЕАТРА В ДЕНЬ ПРАЗДНОВАНИЯ 300-ЛЕТИЯ ДОМА РОМАНОВЫХ

Above - The Mikhailovsky Theatre celebrating the 300 years anniversary of the Romanov dynasty in 1913 - note the two busts in the Imperial loge. Left - the early years of the theatre, and remembering Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich.



In the Mikhailovsky Theatre Museum, located on the second circle, can be seen the theatre's incredibly rich 180-year history, presented through exhibits that reflect key developments in the story of the city's oldest musical collective. Unique posters, sketches of sets and costumes done by the best theatre artists, prints depicting the faces of those who have defined the theatre's success in the past, priceless photographs which capture fascinating moments in rehearsal and on stage, bright costumes and original models – all allow visitors to form an idea of the theatre's activities.

Marina O. Logunova tells....

On January 28, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky met with Dr. Marina Logunova – Ph.D. in History, Chief Scientist of the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg - to hear more about the date of the murder of the four Grand Dukes, the museum and her own coming activities.

From where comes the date of 24th January as the date for the murder of the four Grand Dukes?

Logunova: We had a great conference here in Museum of History of St. Petersburg in Peter and Paul Fortress on September 2018 and our famous historian Professor Izmozik proved the date of shooting of the 4 Grand Dukes as 24 of January 1919. He worked a lot in the archives and according to the documents found in FSB archives he managed to avoid any other ideas about the date of the shooting. He proved that it was really on 24 of January.

What can you tell about the place in the Fortress where they were shot?

Logunova: I think there could have been several places of the shooting, because I know there are the marks of shooting in the outer courtyard of Trubetskoy Bastion prison, but it is not proved yet. But we can suspect that somebody could be killed there. Another place is the Northern side of the Hare island. I think they were not shot inside the Fortress because there are stones on the square in front of the Cathedral. And there is earth on the territory outside the Walls on the Northern side Hare island. It was easier to bury them there. We can suspect, that first they made a common grave and then shot them. The information about it can be found in some memoirs.



Did they just fell into the grave and were buried immediately?

Logunova: Yes, if we mean the moment of the shooting. The situation is a little more difficult, because later on the graves could be moved several times. They could built something on the territory or by some other reason. And that is why it is not easy to recognize all the remains. To tell the truth we cannot tell that everybody buried on the territory of the Fortress is being found to this moment. Maybe some victims are not found yet.

It is said, that although the bodies of the Grand Dukes were thrown into a mass grave within the fortress, Dmitry Konstantinovich body was secretly collected the next morning by his devoted former Adjutant, von Leiming, rolled up in a rug and taken away for a private burial in the garden of a house in Petrograd, where it remains to this day. (King & Wilson, Gilded Prism, p. 184).

Do you think it is possible?

Logunova: I think it is a myth.



Photo of the remains found at the Fortress in 2012. Photo by Paul Kulikovskiy.

Where are kept the remains found at the Fortress now?

Logunova: We have some people in the Museum now who make research. It is not my job to make an investigation, but I know that the situation has been discussed with the governments of St. Petersburg and maybe some of the remains will be buried, but not on the territory of the Fortress. I know that now they have discussed the place. But it is not my scientific job.

What do you think about the remains found in Yekaterinburg?

Logunova: I don't know who was buried in 1998. It is a very complicated task. The most important question is what to do with remains of Alexei and Maria. I even don't know where they are now? In Novospassky Monastery?

No, they are no longer in Novospassky monastery. The Investigative Committee took them back.

Logunova: The only thing I don't understand is the mystery about this story. I don't understand why they don't know the truth even today. Tell if the investigation is finished. In the 20th century we knew about everything. Vladimir Soloviev told us the details. Now we don't know anything. And it was the most important question of Russian Orthodox Church at that time.

Now it is the church who leads the investigation and decides the pace.

Logunova: Maybe the investigation is not finished yet? The Church must have some reasons to keep it in secret. I hope we'll learn everything sometime.

If they are accepted as relics where to bury them? It is possible to bury in Peter Paul cathedral?

Logunova: Do you remember that in 2015 the day of the funeral of Maria and Alexei was declared. And the preparations to the burial were made. At that time the vault in the Catherine Chapel was opened. And we found that there was not enough space for two coffins of the same size as the others used for those who were buried there in 1998. In 2015 we discussed different ways out of this situation, for instance, to make coffins in smaller size. We discussed the possibility of increasing the space of the grave. It is possible. But after all, the funeral was postponed. But I know that later on another possible place for the burial was discussed, for example, St Isaac Cathedral.



If to put them above ground as relics?

Logunova: Maybe it is not question to a scientific fellow of the Museum. It is a political question and government, administration and the Church will decide what to do with them. Another difficult situation is that together with the Imperial family the loyal servants were buried. If to take Imperial remains out of the grave, then what to do with the servant's remains? To leave them alone in Catherine Chapel? In 1998 they discussed different places – Moscow Kremlin, Novospassky monastery, Peter and Paul Cathedral. Then they decided on Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Another question was – where to bury them in the Cathedral: in the main body, Grand Duke wing - where there are 60 burial places, prepared graves, and at that time only 16 of them had the coffins with the remains, and 46 were empty. Then the Catherine Chapel was chosen as a compromise between civil and spiritual authority. They were buried in the common grave because they were killed at the same place and the same time. The next reason – the main body of the Cathedral is the burial place for the members of the Russian Imperial Family, not the other people. And we had to remember about the abdication of Nickolas II. All these reasons were taken into consideration at the moment of the choosing the place for the grave. The great mistake was made in 90-es, when the authorities decided to bury all of them before the common decision with the Russian Orthodox Church was made. They had to end the story, to make an agreement with the Church. I am afraid it can be a problem for many generations. A lot of people protested against the burial in the 90-s, because the Church didn't believe in the authenticity of the remains as the remains of the members of the Imperial Family. And at the same time the President came at the last moment to participate in it, raising the event to the state level.

I think President Yeltsin made very good speech.

I fully agree, but do you remember he did not call the names of those who were buried?

Now about St. Isaac Cathedral. Is it possible to do it there?

Logunova: Everything is possible, but for me it is a very strange idea. Peter and Paul Cathedral is the burial place for Romanovs. So, I think it is the right place.

I agree about Sts. Peter and Paul cathedral. But there seems to be some discussion about using St. Isaac Cathedral, as a deal for accepting the remains and then the church gets the Cathedral?

Logunova: I don't know, but St. Isaac Cathedral was built as the main Cathedral church of the capital of the Russian Empire and I think it is not a problem to return it to the church. Maybe my idea is not popular. But it is my personal point of view. I know that now the services are being held in St. Isaacs as well as the guided tours. Again, it is my personal point of view, but I will stand for the mutual understanding and cooperation. Maybe all the churches sooner or later will be functional churches as Kazan, Smolny and etc. The great problem for the church is to pay for everything. For example the Peter and Paul Cathedral is now in the common use of the Museum and the Church. You can visit it as a tourist in the museum time or to participate in the liturgy. And there is no confrontation. But it was the Museum who managed to complete the restoration works on the unique iconostasis only when we received money from government and sponsors.

Do your Museum have any plans relating to the Romanovs in near future?

Logunova: There is the idea to change the exhibition in the passage to the Grand Duke wing. Update it to a more modern style, new designs and correct some mistakes.

What are your own plans related to Romanovs for 2019?

Logunova: I will write some articles. I am commissioned to write a book about Paul I. He is one of my favourite Tsars. I like Paul I and Peter III who is a person of myth. Nobody knows the real truth about him. He was not alcoholic, he was not a fool, he was rather smart, and well-educated man. I delivered lectures about him even for the staff of Peterhof museum. Maybe I will write a book about him also. I struggled against the myth that Paul I canonized his father after his death because it was just a normal Imperial ceremony, when Paul I wanted to rebury his father from Alexander-Nevisky monastery where he was buried without any Royal ceremony at all in 1762 by his wife Catherine II. Paul I just wanted to restore justice and to bury both of his parents according to the Royal Funeral rites.

And I want to have the Guide book about the Fortress published as well as the Architectural catalogue of the Peter and Paul Fortress. On these books I am working now.

Thank you very much!

Gatchina Palace

A visit to Gatchina Palace was arranged for January 29th. A lot of restorations were completed and a new exhibition about Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich had been prepared.

In 1765, Catherine the Great purchased from Prince Boris Kurakin the Gatchina Manor, a small manor in 40 kilometers (25 mi) to the south of Saint Petersburg. Catherine presented the manor to Count Grigory Grigoryevich Orlov. On 30 May 1766, construction of a new palace in the Classical architecture style began on a hill next to Silver Lake. Rinaldi's design contained Russian architectural features combined with those of a medieval castle and an English hunting castle. The palace was to be lined with special stone mined in villages near to Gatchina, including parik limestone mined in Paritsy for the main exterior of the buildings, and pudost stone from Pudost for the vestibule and the parapet above the cornice. Gatchina Palace became the first palace to be located in Saint Petersburg's suburbs, as large estates were typically built within a short distance of the city center. Construction was slow, with the Palace finally completed only in 1781, almost 15 years after construction began, and Orlov died only two years later in 1783.



Following Orlov's death, Catherine took such a great liking to Gatchina Palace and its accompanying park that she bought it from his heirs. She presented it to her son, Grand Duke Pavel Petrovich (the future Tsar Paul I), despite already building him a home with Pavlovsk Palace.

In the 1790s Paul expanded and rebuilt much of the palace, commissioning Vincenzo Brenna and Andrei Zakharov with the renovations. The interiors were redone in the Neoclassical style, numerous additions were added to the park such as bridges, gates, and pavilions, naming areas of the park "The Isle of Love", "The Private garden", "The Holland garden" and "The Labyrinth". In 1796, after the death of his mother, Paul became Tsar Paul I of Russia, and granted Gatchina the status of Imperial City, a designation for the official residences of the Russian monarchs.

In the 1840s, Gatchina Palace was now in the ownership of Tsar Nicholas I, who initiated major reconstruction works of the palace, particularly of its grounds. Roman Ivanovich Kuzmin, the chief architect of the Ministry of the Imperial Court, led the project centred on the palace's main square, which was completely torn up, raised in height, had basement levels added underneath, and decoration remodelled. The adjoining buildings were also raised in height by one storey, and because the main building no longer



dominated the palace Kuzmin had its towers raised an extra storey - which is why the "mezzanin" is now in between two "normal" floors. A new canopy was added to the balcony overlooking the parade grounds, which was intended to be made from marble but was later made from cast iron instead. Dilapidated bastions and retaining walls around the palace were demolished and rebuilt.

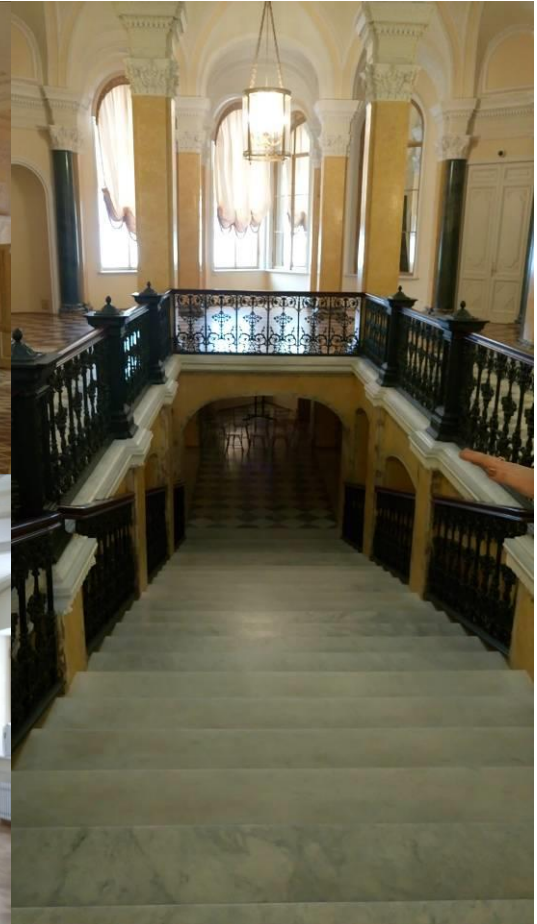


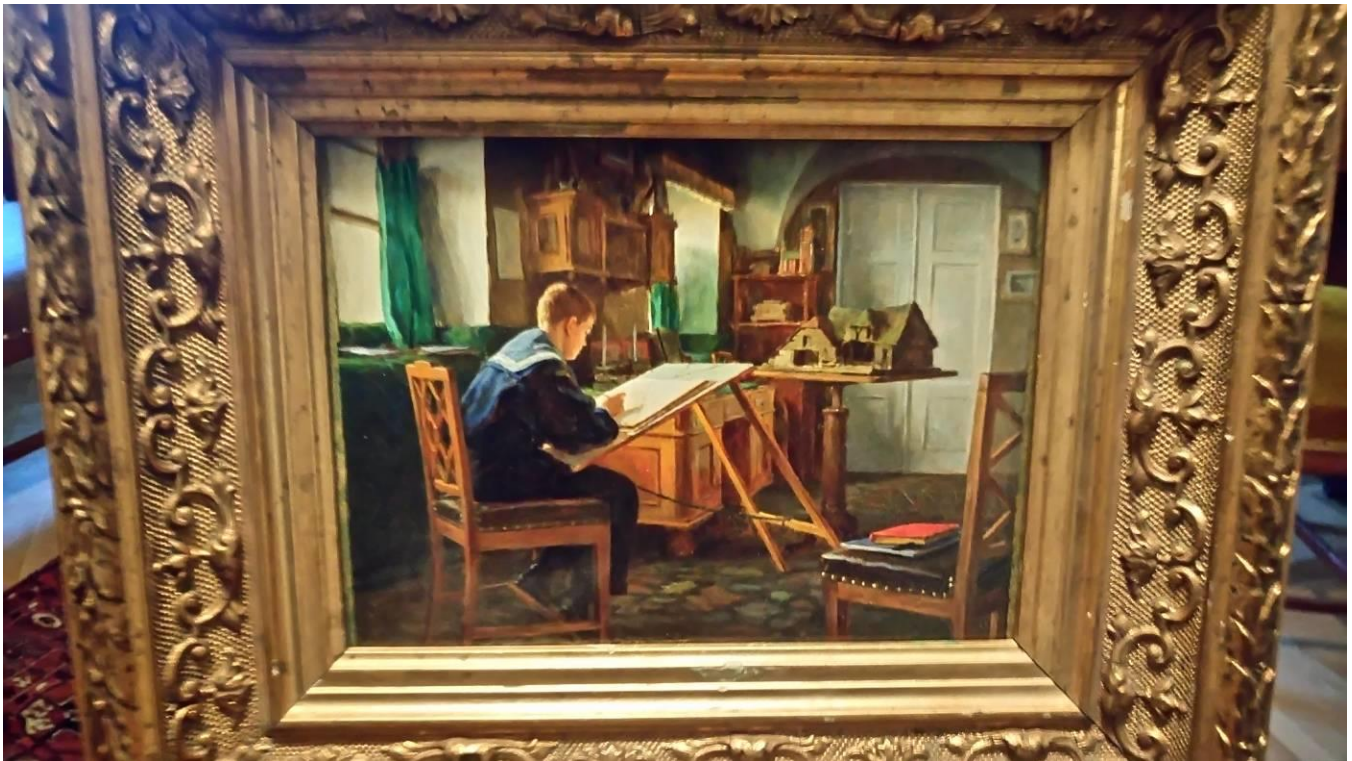
On 1 August 1850, a monument to Tsar Paul I was erected at the parade grounds.

In 1854, a railroad connecting Gatchina and Saint Petersburg was opened, and the territory of Gatchina was expanded with several villages in the vicinity being incorporated into the city. The following year Gatchina Palace came under the ownership of Tsar Alexander II, who used it as his second residence. Alexander built a hunting village and other additions for his imperial hunting crew, and turned the area south of Gatchina into a retreat where he and his guests could enjoy the unspoiled wilderness.

Emperor Alexander III, who was advised that he and his family would be safer at the palace as opposed to at the Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg, moved there and spent most of his time living in Gatchina Palace. He introduced technological modernizations to Gatchina Palace, such as indoor heaters, electric lights, a telephone network, non-freezing water pipes and a modern sewage system.

His son, the future Emperor Nicholas II, spent his youth in the Gatchina Palace, although he and his family would make Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo his home.





A painting of a young Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich sitting in this room painting a house, which stand in front of him, is displayed in the middle of the room.

In the room before, some other objects are shown related to Michael Alexandrovich. There is his burka, supposedly used when he was with the "wild division" during the First World War. It was earlier exhibited in the First World War museum in Tsarskoye Selo. And there is a saddle.

There is also a collections of swords that belonged to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. One which is of particular interest, as it is signed in gold on the blade by his fellow officers in the Life Guard Cuirassier Her Majesty The Empress Maria Feodorovna Regiment, among them Nicholas A. Kulikovskiy (4th from the point) - later the husband of his sister Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.



The exhibition room was supposed to be opened on his birthday last year, on 4th of December, but has been postponed.



Gatchina Palace home church, or the Church of the Life-Giving Trinity, is the first religious building of Gatchina. Its construction dates back to the 60s of the 18th century, by architect R.I. Kuzmin, who, working on the drawings, turned to the architectural heritage of the Italian Renaissance. It was part of the construction of the Gatchina castle, which was carried out for G.G. Orlov, the favorite of Catherine II.



At the end of the century, at the behest of Paul I, alterations were carried out and an Imperial place appeared, a new iconostasis, walls and ceiling lamps were painted. Upon completion of the work in the church it began to receive gifts from the Imperial family.

October 12, 1799 the shrines of the Order of Malta were placed in the church. On the same day, the marriage of Paul's daughter Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna and Friedrich-Ludwig of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (October 12, 1799) took place. On October 19, the Grand Duchess Alexandra Pavlovna and Palatine of Hungary, Archduke Joseph of Habsburg-Lorraine (October 19, 1799) were married.

The last rebuilding of the church began in 1844 during the reign of Nicholas I, and since then the interior of the church has not changed much. Right up to the revolution, services were held here for members of the Imperial Family, courtiers, officers of the guard and famous citizens. In 1901, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the daughter of Emperor Alexander III, and Prince Peter Alexandrovich Oldenburg (July 27, 1901) got married in the church.



According to the inventory of the end of the XIX century, there were about 700 icons and a huge amount of precious utensils in the church. In 1922, 340 kg silver, 30 kg gold, pearls and precious stones were seized from the church.

In the following years, the iconostasis, stained glass windows and other relics were lost. However, the architectural decoration of the church has not changed since the middle of the XIX century and today is it the only interior of the Imperial Gatchina Palace which is preserved to this day.

The Church of the Holy Trinity of the Trinity occupies the second floor (the crypt room) and the third floor (the church itself), as well as the adjoining room, which now houses the icon shop.

The church opened again for visitors on January 7, 2019, after the first stage of restoration, which included the stairs, floors, dome, stucco, walls, stained glass. There is still to recreate the lost iconostasis. The church can be accessed through the museum.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/215026

Not all icons are exhibited yet. They are waiting for the installation of video surveillance, but some can be viewed. Among them a big icon of the Holy Royal Martyrs (by icon painter Nikolai Bogdanov), and one of Archangel Michael, where in the lower right corner can be seen a kneeling and praying Emperor Paul I (by master-icon painters from Yaroslavl).

There are also a beautiful image of "John the Baptist" in a carved frame, made in 2013 in the Montenegrin monastery "Doug", and "Theodore Icon of the Mother of God" created in St. Petersburg by icon painter George Gashev. The inscription below reads: "This icon is made in the summer of 2013 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the House of Romanov."



Soon will also open the suite of rooms of Emperor Nicholas I in the Arsenal wing. And then are we waiting for the opening of the monument to Emperor Alexander III - after the model of Paolo P. Troubetzkoy - which is going to stand in the Arsenal wing. However the opening is not expected before next year (2020) and most likely in connection with Alexander III's birthday on 10th of March.

Panikhida for the four Grand Dukes in Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral

On 30 January at 18.00 in the Grand Duke Wing the panikhida started for the Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovich, Dmitry Konstantinovich, Nicholas Michaelovich and George Michaelovich, who 100 years ago were killed in the Peter and Paul Fortress.



The memorial service was led by Father Mikhail. In memory of the Grand Dukes prayed Princess Vera Obolensky with husband Valentin, Alexei P Grigorov-Rudykovsky, Dmitri Matlin, Alexander de Ferrero, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, Terek Cossacks, members of St. Petersburg Nobility Assembly, clergy and the diocese.



Alexei P. Grigorov-Rudykovski, Alexander de Ferrero, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky





An evening in the memory of Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna

On January 27, on the occasion of the 240th anniversary of the birth of Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna, a memorial evening was held at the Novospassky Monastery in Moscow.

The event was initiated by the Women's Patriotic Society and the Sergiev Memorial Fund with the support of the Novospassky Monastery.

It started with a requiem liturgy for Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna and other representatives of the Imperial House of Romanovs in the Crypt of the Boyars of the Romanovs, the ancestors of the Russian Emperors. The service was headed by the dean of the monastery, hieromonk Paul (Giliastanov).

In the refectory of the Nikolsky Church of the Novospassky Monastery, the memorial evening continued with the admirers of the Empress listening to reports on the state and charitable activities of the Empress, Her life path, the stay of the Imperial Couple in Taganrog, and the circumstances of the death of Elizabeth Alexeevna in Belev. Musical pieces were performed, from the era of Emperor Alexander I.



Above - Galina K. Schutskaya, Director of the Romanov Boyar House.

Below - The head of the sculpture workshop "Phoenix" O.I. Soyustov and G.V. Ananina, with the top of the memorial sign.

The organizers of the event presented a project to recreate the memorial sign of the Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna in Belev - a monument in the form of the small Imperial crown in bronze lying on a pillow. It is significant that the rite of consecration was held in Novospassky Monastery - the patrimonial tomb of the Romanov dynasty!

The project of reconstructing the monument, implemented by the Sergiev Memorial Fund together with the Women's Patriotic Society, was approved by the historians and museum workers present at the event.

The exhibition "In the name of love"

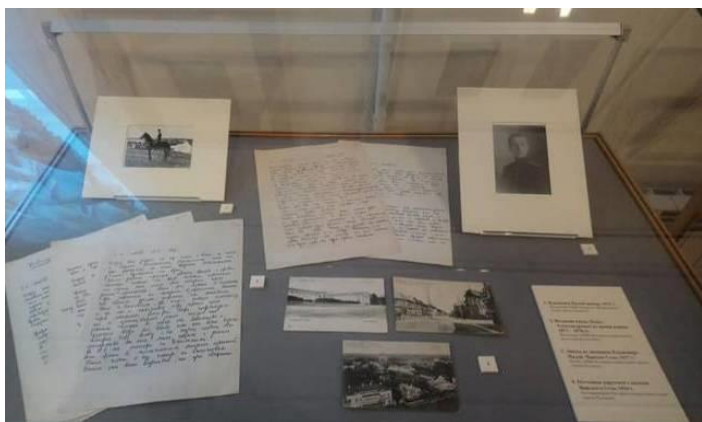
On January 24th, the Pushkin Museum of History and Literature in Tsarskoye Selo opened the exhibition "In the Name of Love" dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of Grand Duke Pavel Alexandrovich.



It is a joint project of the Pushkin Museum of History and Literature, the Sergiev Memorial Fund, the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg, the Pavlovsk Museum, as well as the collector M. Yu. Karisalov.



The exhibition reflects the main stages of the life of the Grand Duke, based on photographs and portraits of his family members. Part of the exhibition is dedicated to his son, the Alapaevsk martyr, Prince Vladimir Paley.





"Nicholas I"

- Exhibition from the cycle "The Saga of the Romanovs" in the Russian Museum, Mikhailovsky (Engineer) Castle, February 13 to May 20.

The sixth exhibition from the cycle "The Saga of the Romanovs" covers the personality and state activity of Emperor Nicholas I, his foreign policy, the peculiarities of the Monarch's own participation in the development of national culture, the life of society, the Imperial Court and the Imperial Family, as reflected in the works of painting, graphics, numismatics and arts and crafts.

The exhibition is intended to indicate how the key ideologies of the epoch, proclaimed by the Minister of Public Education, S.S. Uvarov, were implemented in a fruitful and contradictory unity in artistic practice. "Autocracy. Orthodoxy. Nationality", for a long time was interpreted as an absolutely reactionary thesis.

Nicholas time is a multifaceted and controversial era in which total ideological and political control, the establishment of censorship and the strengthening of the gendarmie apparatus are superficially paradoxical, but quite understandable, combined with the flourishing of arts, architecture, journalism, art criticism and literature. The Emperor himself was prone to drawing - portraits and caricatures made by his hand have survived.



The exhibition includes a whole series of ceremonial portraits of Emperor Nicholas I, his associates (A. Menshikov, A. Benkendorf, I. Paskevich and others) and members of the Imperial Family, made by such artists and sculptors as George Dow, Franz Kruger, Orest Kiprensky, Fedor Tolstoy and others. Paintings and drawings, solemn monumental vases, ceremonial sets, furniture, bronze, numismatic curiosities and many other furnishings included in the exhibition give an idea of the panorama of the artistic life of a prosperous country, of the refined interiors of the Imperial Residences and peculiarities of the life of the highest court.

The dramatic problems of the historical path of Russia, which were designated at this time, are not ignored. Separate sections of the exhibition are devoted to actions on the fronts of the Russian-Turkish and Crimean Wars and the journeys of the Emperor and his family.

The exhibition is organized by the Russian Museum, who's various collections create its exposition base. It also includes works that were benevolently presented by the State Hermitage Museum, the State Tretyakov Gallery, the State Historical Museum, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. A.S. Pushkin, Peterhof, Tsarskoye Selo, Pavlovsk Gatchina Museums and Reserves, the Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineering and Communication Troops, the State Archives of the Russian Federation and a number of other state museums and archives of Russia, as well as owners of personal collections.



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

Nothing new!

There have not been published any new results from the Investigation Committee or any information of how the case is progressing. For the public it looks like everything in the investigation is on stand-by or forgotten.



Ukrainian Diaspora Churches under Constantinople don't accept Sainthood of Tsar Nicholas II and family

Kiev, January 11, 2019, Orthochristian. - It is fine if the Russian Orthodox Church wants to venerate Tsar Nicholas II and his martyred family as saints, but the Ukrainian Church abroad does not accept this canonization, according to Archbishop Daniel of Pamphylia, one of the two Constantinople Exarchs to Kiev.



The topic arose when Abp. Daniel spoke of the possibility of the new Ukrainian nationalist structure canonizing saints in a new interview with the [BBC](#). Note that the Ukrainian Churches in the diaspora are under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, not of the canonical Church in Ukraine.

The BBC noted that according to the statutes of the new structure, it can propose saints for canonization that must be approved and proclaimed by Constantinople, and asked: "Could it happen that the Orthodox Church of Ukraine at some point would

want to canonize, hypothetically speaking, Stepan Bandera, and Constantinople would ask: 'Do you really want to canonize him?'"

Bandera was the head of a militant wing of the Ukrainian independence movement and a leader of the terrorist activity of Ukrainian nationalists. He is widely venerated in Ukraine today, with statues and museums in his honour all throughout the country, though he is also widely considered to have been a Nazi collaborationist and war criminal, responsible for multiple genocides. The Ukrainian Parliament recently voted to make his birthday a national holiday.

Abp. Daniel responded that not only Constantinople, but other Local Churches would also raise questions about such a canonization. As he explains, when a saint is canonized, people look at that person for a while—whether they have performed miracles, whether people are truly seeking their intercessions—and then the canonization is brought to the attention of the other Local Churches.

"Therefore, to talk about the canonization of political leaders—I think we will not go for such radical actions," the Constantinople hierarch said, not commenting on whether or not Bandera is worthy of veneration.



The BBC then raised the example of the Russian Royal Martyrs, or Passion-Bearers, to which Abp. Daniel noted that they are not accepted by the Ukrainian diaspora:

BBC: The Russian Orthodox Church, for example, canonized Nicholas II and the entire Royal Family ...

Abp. D: And not all Churches recognized this canonization.

BBC: And is that normal?

Abp. D: For the internal veneration of the saint by the Moscow Church, it's fine. We, the Ukrainian Church abroad, do not recognize the canonization of Nicholas II.

Tsar Nicholas II and his family were canonized as Royal Martyrs by the Russian Church Abroad in 1981 and as Royal Passion-Bearers by the Moscow Patriarchate in 2000.

Interesting exhibitions in the State Historical Museum's 2019 plan

In an interview with TASS, published January 14, the Director of the Historical Museum Alexey Levykin told about the results of 2018 and the plans for 2019. The plans includes some interesting Romanov related exhibitions.

The main focus will be on the utilisation of the rich collections of the Historical Museum. It means that objects from their large storage will come on display.

Speaking about the achievements of last year, it should be said about the completion of the restoration works that took place in the museum "Romanov Boyar House." In September 2018, this museum again opened its doors to visitors, which, by the way, also became more due to the neighbourhood with the recent opened Zaryadye Park. This restoration was awarded by the professional community, and we became the laureates of the Moscow Restoration Award.



At the beginning of March the exhibition "The Noble Portrait of 18th-19th Centuries" will be opened. Portraits of representatives of the ancient Russian families and the new nobility were created by the best domestic and foreign painters. Their creative efforts evolved into a high-profile portrait gallery that brought together full-length and intimate portraits. It will bring together ceremonial and chamber work from the capital's mansions and nobility estates.

In spring, jewellery connoisseurs will be able to see the collection of jewellery specially designed for the famous BBC series "War and Peace". The works of the jewellery house of Peter Aksyonov will be presented in the Museum of the Patriotic War of 1812.

This year marks 250 years of Russia's highest military award, the Order of St. George. The exhibition "For Service and Bravery" will tell about the past and present, not only of the order itself, but also of the whole system of St. George awards in the Russian Empire and after it. The orders that served as the prototypes of the Russian military order will be shown, the history of the St. George Cross and St. George Medal awards will be told, a portrait gallery of the Order's gentlemen will be presented.

The "Faberge and Court Jewellers" exhibition will be the exquisite end of the year. The name of Carl Faberge - the Supplier to the Russian Imperial Court and many Royal Courts of Europe - is known to the whole world. A diverse collection of works of the famous company is kept in the Historical Museum, which has never been fully represented, so for the first time a variety of artefacts will be combined in an exhibition space: items from the Imperial Palaces, memorabilia, jewellery, works made in different styles and items from the regimental museums.



Unique photographs of the Imperial Family in Voronezh

7 January. MOE. - The exhibition "The Family of Nicholas II. Tsar service" dedicated to the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II is in the Church of the Resurrection. The exhibition features 79 photographs from the historical archives and personal albums of the Romanov family. It make it possible to take a fresh look at the Emperor who was shot by the Bolsheviks - not only as a statesman and head of the country, but also as a caring and loving father and husband. Grand Duchesses, the son of the Sovereign Alexei and the wife Alexandra Feodorovna appear in the photos as if they were taken yesterday, and do not separate us for a hundred years from the tragic death of the Imperial Family.



Every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy, the head of the excursion service of the Cabinet-Museum Priest Mitrofan Devitsky and Professor of the Voronezh State University, Tatyana Kurkina conduct a tour of the exposition and tell visitors about the life of the Royal Martyrs: their interests and hobbies, raising children in the Imperial Family, and economic, social and cultural development of pre-revolutionary Russia.



Photo exhibition about the Russian Imperial Family in Bucharest

The opening of the photo exhibition "The Last Tsar Romanov," dedicated to the family of Emperor Nicholas II, was held on January 19 in the Bucharest library of the Romanian Academy. The exposition was organized by the Moscow Sretensky Monastery, the Bucharest Church of St. Nicholas Tabaka and the Russian Embassy in Romania.

"The links between the Russian and Romanian dynasties are a very interesting dimension of relations between the two countries in history," said Russian Ambassador to Romania Valery Kuzmin. "The highlight of these ties was the visit of the Imperial Family to Constanza on the eve of the First World War, with the possible engagement between Grand Duchess Olga and Prince Karol, who later became King Karol II."

"Nicholas II, canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church, is a controversial historical figure," the diplomat believes. "He's not so much a politician as a martyr who has kept the faith despite suffering accepted."

"The photographs show various moments of the Imperial Family's life, there was a great deal of spiritual work in preparation for accepting a martyr's crown," said priest Michael (Asmus) from the Church of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos in the Red Selo, Moscow Region. With patience and humility, a willingness to remain faithful to God until the very end."

"We have already shown this exposition more than 100 times, there are three main topics - family life, service to the Fatherland and mercy," said Hieromonk Ignatius (Shestakov) from the Moscow Sretensky Monastery. "The last Romanovs are an example of a real Christian family," he said. - which is very important today when the whole world is experiencing a crisis of family values. "

The exhibition presents more than 100 photographs, many of which are unique. The exhibition has a second name - "Romanovs - Tsarist Service". Members of the Russian Orthodox community in Bucharest, diplomats, and journalists attended the opening. The exhibition will be open until January 23, 2019.



Prague residents saw rare photos of the Imperial Family

Residents of Prague Rare saw photos of the family of the Tsar-Passion-bearer Nicholas II at the exhibition "The Family of the Last Russian Emperor. Romanovs: Tsar service."

The exhibition was organized in the Crystal Hall of the Centre by the Sretensky Monastery of Moscow and the portal "Pravoslavie.ru" together with the representative office of Rossotrudnichestvo in the Czech Republic.

As one of its authors, hieromonk Ignatius (Shestakov), noted at the opening of the exhibition, it has already successfully traveled through Russian regions and a number of foreign countries.



The exhibition was of the greatest interest in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, where it was viewed in more than 60 cities.

Hieromonk Ignatius stressed that the purpose of the exhibition is to acquaint its visitors with the images of representatives of the holy Imperial Family, as well as to attract the attention of young people, - the main target audience of the exhibition.

The exhibition is divided into three thematic sections. The first includes official photos of the Imperial Family and its representatives. The second is informal, the photos of the Romanovs captured in a normal setting, on walks, during a game. The third section is devoted to military themes - Emperor Nicholas II speaks to the troops, teaches Tsarevich Alexei in military affairs, and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and her daughters look after the wounded in hospitals.

It is noted that the opening of the exhibition was attended not only by Russians living in Prague, but also by local residents and representatives of the Prague clergy.



The mansion of Grand Duke Nicholas Konstantinovich will be revived in Tashkent

One of the atypical monuments of Tashkent - the residence of Grand Duke Nicholas Konstantinovich (14 February 1850 – 26 January 1918) - was built in 1891 by the project of architects A.L. Benoit and V.S. Heinzeltsman in the center of Tashkent. Last year the building, transferred from the balance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the balance of the city Hokimiyat, and it is planned to be turned into a museum again. This was announced by Deputy Minister of Culture of Uzbekistan Kamol Akilova.

“We have our own ideas for using this historical object as a museum. A unique collection of Prince Romanov, subject to the restoration of the building can be exhibited in the residence as in a museum. This will turn out to be another important tourist site that will be of interest to both residents of Uzbekistan and foreign guests,” said Deputy Minister of Culture Kamol Akilova. She did not name specific dates, but assured that they are working in this direction.



As for the building itself, it is a two-storey palace of burnt gray-yellow brick, owned by Nicholas Konstantinovich Romanov - the first-born son of Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich and Grand Duchess Alexandra Iosifovna, exiled to Tashkent in 1877 and lived here until his death in 1918.

The elegant house is richly decorated with carved trellises, unusual forms of windows, towers and other decorative elements. The Grand Duke was a passionate hunter, because the main entrances to the mansion were decorated with bronze figures of deer and hunting dogs. From the back of the building there was an exit to a large garden, made by the well-known Tashkent botanist and pharmacist I. I. Krause. Particular attention was paid to the interior decoration of the palace. The halls of the mansion were sheathed in dark oak, decorated with carved cornices and gold paintings.

Nicholas Konstantinovich bequeathed his collection of paintings by European and Russian artists to Tashkent on condition that a museum was opened in his palace. After his death in 1918, the Museum of Arts of Uzbekistan was really built in the mansion, then the Museum of Antiques and Jewellery Art of Uzbekistan, and in Soviet times the Palace of Pioneers. At the end of the 20th century, the building was restored and in recent years has been used as the Reception House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. Last year the building was transferred to the balance of city Hokimiyat.



Mogilev - The Stavka and the Imperial Family

August 21 (8), 1915, the headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Imperial Russia moved from the frontline in Baranavich to Mogilev. Seeing failures at the front, Emperor Nicholas II succeeds Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich Jr. (1856-1929) and takes command of the troops themselves.

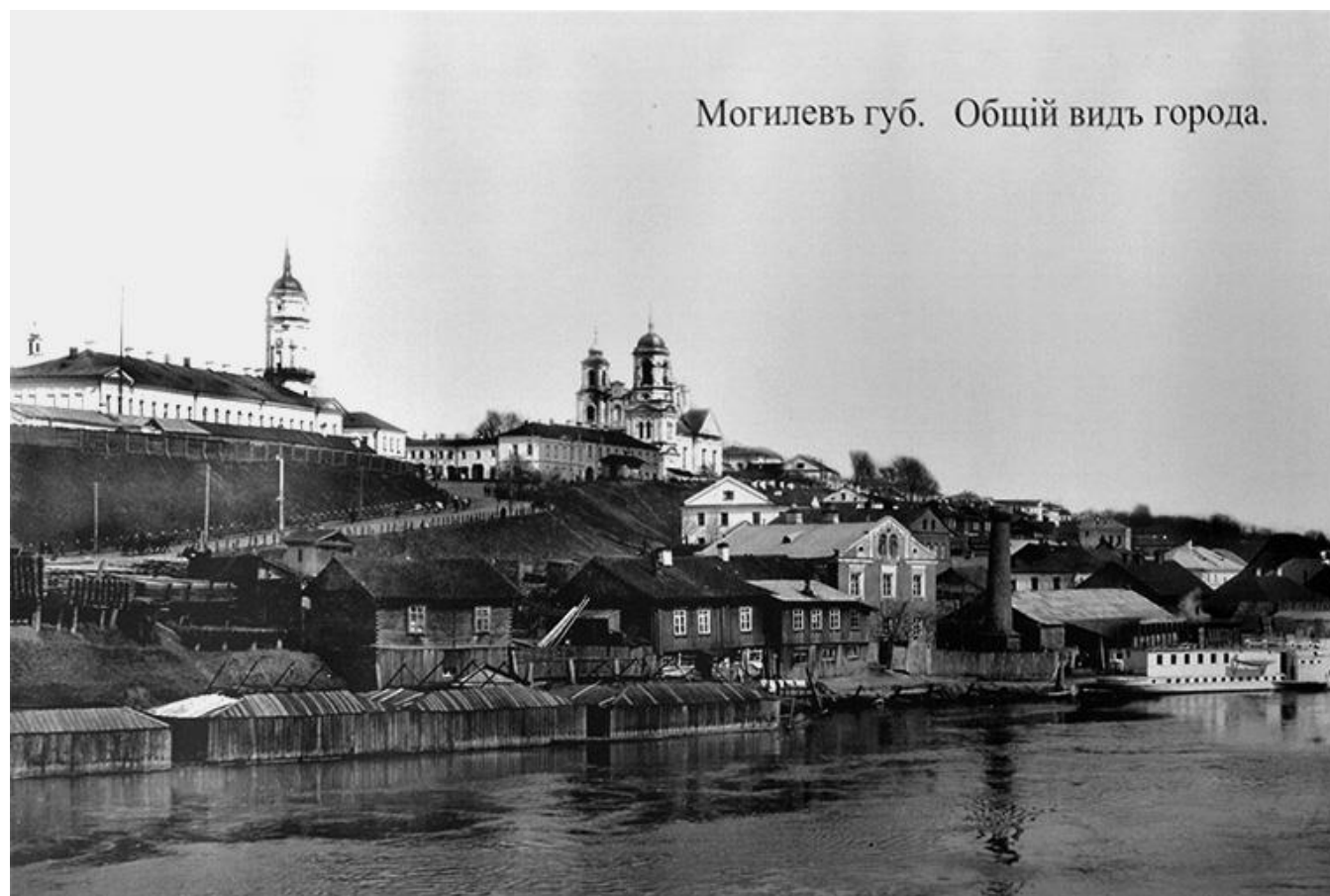
The provincial city of Mogilev for more than 2 years becomes the military capital of the Russian Empire. The heir Tsarevich Alexei lived here with his father, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and her daughters came several times. Mogilev was nothing remarkable and did not stand out from a number of numerous Russian provincial cities. It is comfortably and picturesquely situated on the high right bank of the Dnieper, widely spreading its suburb along the low meadow left bank. The two main streets crossed the city with parallel lines and ended on a small square with a two-storied governor's house, a district court and the old round tower-town hall.

The city garden was located at the end of the square. It was called the "Val", with wide shady alleys and a very beautiful view of the Dnieper.



Emperor Nicholas II in Mogilev among the military representatives of the Allied powers. From left to right: Colonel Marsengo (Italy), General Baron de Rickel (Belgium), General Williams (Great Britain), Marquis de Lyagisch (France) and Colonel Londkievich (Serbia). June 31, 1916.

There were neither factories, nor large-scale trade in Mogilev, it had significance exclusively as an administrative centre.



A postcard with a view of the Governor's Square of Mogilev on the high banks of the Dnieper.

The Stavka was the high command of the armed forces in the Russian Empire. It refers to the administrative staff, and to the General Headquarters in the late 19th Century. Its original meaning from the old Russian word *Смазка* – Tent.

At the beginning of the First World War, the Stavka was first established in Baranovichy, a city in the Brest Region of western Belarus, but on 21 August 1915, after a German advance, the Stavka was re-located to Mogilev.

The commander-in-chief of the Russian army at the beginning of World War I was Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaevich. Appointed at the last minute in August 1914, he played no part in formulating the military plans in use at the beginning of the war. Lieutenant-General (from 22 October 1914, General of Infantry) Nikolai Yanushkevich was his chief of staff.

On 21 August 1915 Emperor Nicholas II took personal command, with General of Infantry (from 1916-Adjutant General) Mikhail Alexeev as his chief of staff.

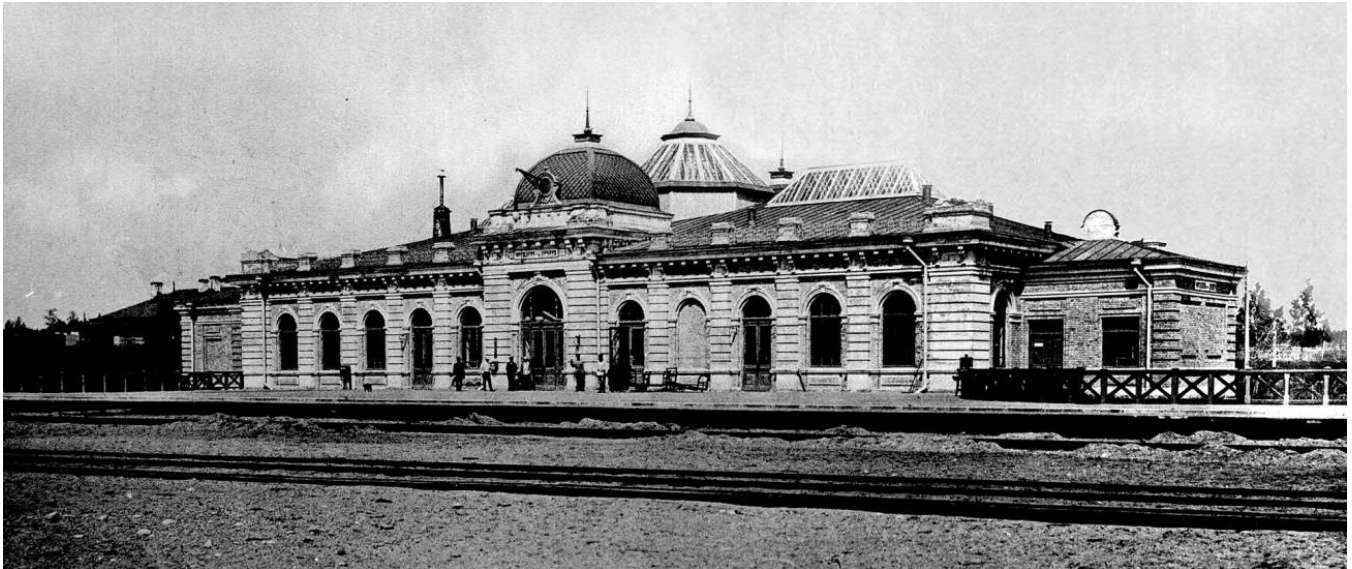


On September 5th (August 22nd), 1915 Emperor Nicholas II prepares to go to the Stavka. He writes in his diary - "At 10 o'clock said farewell to dear Alix and the children and set off. May the Lord bless my journey and my decision!"

On September 6th (August 23) the new Supreme Commander-in-Chief arrived in Stavka in Mogilev. He was accompanied by a huge retinue led by the minister of the court, Count Fredericks. According to

eyewitnesses of the solemn meeting at the station: "The Emperor was dressed in a simple camouflage coloured uniform, simple colour shirt, without arms, as always, in old, heavily worn high boots. He went around all the guests, giving everyone a hand..."

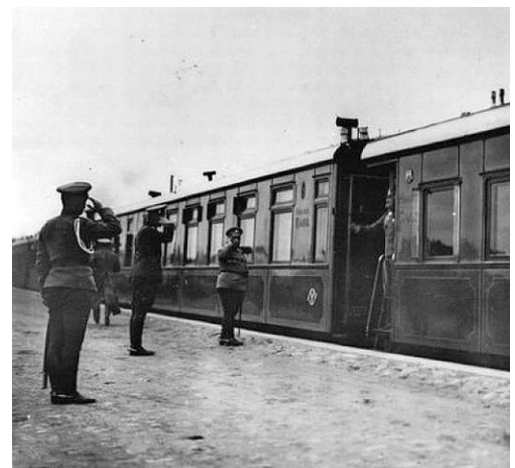
The Mogilev train station opened in 1902. The building is almost in its original form.



However, a separate military platform was built for the Imperial train.

The Emperor writes in his diary on September 6 (August 23) - "At 3.30 I arrived at my Stavka in Mogilev, one mile from the mountains. Nikolasha was waiting for me. After talking with him, I took the General Alexeev and his first report. Everything turned out well! After drinking tea, I went to inspect the surrounding area. The train stands in a small dense forest. Dined at 7 1/2. Then another walk, the evening was excellent."

September 7 (August 24) - "After tea I went to Mogilev to the cathedral and from there to the guardhouse, the house where the Gen. Alekseev is placed, headquarters and management of the gen. Apartment. After the report I moved to the house of the governor, where Nikolasha lives. He signed an order for the army to accept my high command from



yesterday's date. Lord, help and enlighten me! Returned to the headquarters before breakfast. In the afternoon I made a walk across the Dnieper along the Gomel highway and walked in a good forest. By the evening it was raining. Played the dice."

September 8 (August 25) - "At 10 o'clock there was a lengthy report at headquarters; returned to the train for breakfast. I read for a long time and made an hour and a half walk along the road and behind the river. After tea, I went to the station to meet Nikolasha and Petusha; they left at 6 o'clock to his estate Pershino. Alix wrote. Received from Gen. Ivanov's report on the major success of our 11th army near Tarnopol, which captured more than 150 officers and 7000 lower rank and 30 guns from two German divisions. Thank God for this private victory."

The Governor Square, the residence of the Commander

Mogilev Stavka is located in the historic centre of the city, on the banks of the Dnieper. The city itself was surrounded by a triple ring of gendarme military posts, as early as September 1915 an air defence system and a network of observation posts were deployed within a radius of 120 km from Mogilev. In the tower of the town hall there was a very powerful radio station on the Western front. All city hotels were requisitioned for the resettlement of staff of the army, and representatives of Allies.

The Headquarter was located in the buildings that stood in a semicircle on Governor's Square. Now very few people will be able to indicate their locations, so for ease of orientation here is a photo of the layout of the old Mogilev from the local Museum of Ethnography.



Marked with numbers are:

- (1) The Governor's House, where the Supreme Commander lived;
- (2) the building of the Provincial Government. It was occupied by the Headquarters of the Command and the Office of the Quartermaster General.
- (3) The building of the District Court, used as office for the General on duty.
- (4) The town hall, between the two main streets of the city (marked in white).



Diorama dedicated to the stay of Emperor Nicholas II in Mogilev. Mogilev Regional Museum of Local Lore.



Session of the Supreme Commander. Mogilev. 1 Apr. 1916.



Above - Emperor Nicholas II inspecting the troops in front of the Stavla.
Below - Emperor Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexei standing in front of the Governor's House





*Above - Emperor Nicholas II on the Governor's Square. Tsarevich Alexei partly covered by the horse's head.
Below - Emperor Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexei walking in front of the Stavka.*





On the square in front of the Governor's House in Mogilev. Photo K.E. von Gan and Co. 1915. Tsarevich Alexei with his dog "Joy" and Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich, General M.S. Pustovoitenko, and General V.N. Voikov, Prince Orlov and others can be seen at the cars.



His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and the palace commandant General Voikov at the entrance to the Governor's House. September 1915.

Emperor Nicholas II's residence - The Governor's House

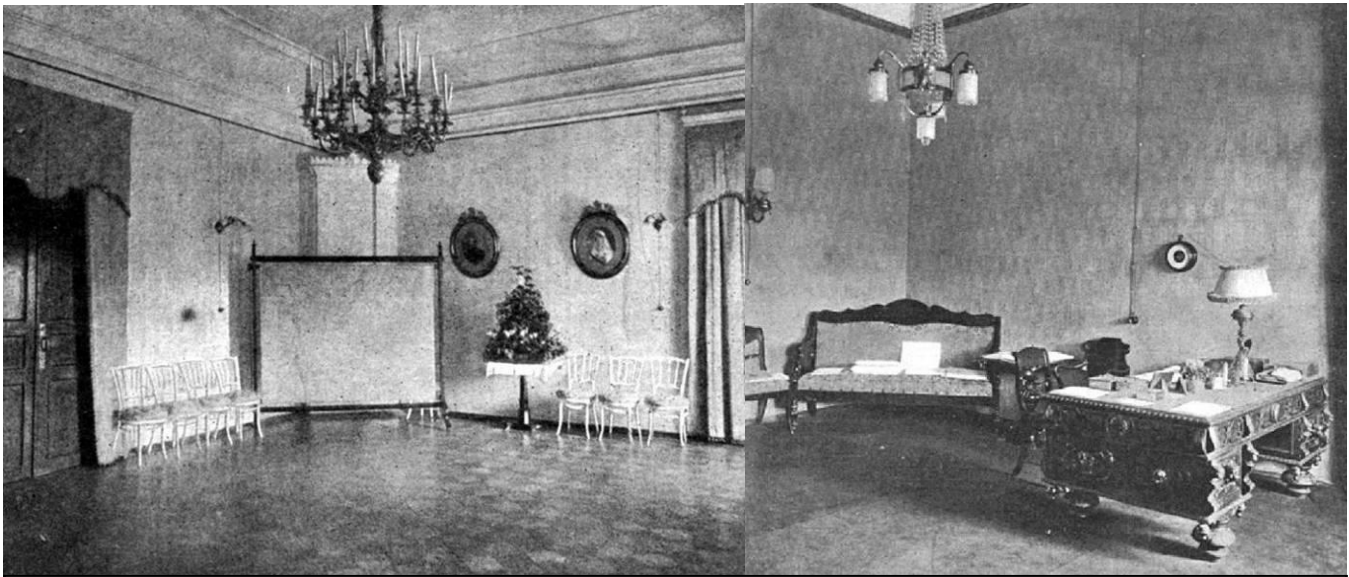
The two-storey Governor's House was relatively small. The Emperor occupied only a few rooms on the second floor. In the remaining rooms at that time, the highest ranks and approximations who accompanied the Emperor lived. Even on the second - representative - floor, except for Nicholas II, Count V.B. Fredericks and General V.N. Voeikov were accommodated.

When the Empress and the Grand Duchesses arrived in Mogilev, they never stayed in the Governor's House, but in the Imperial train. The heir remained at Headquarters with his father.

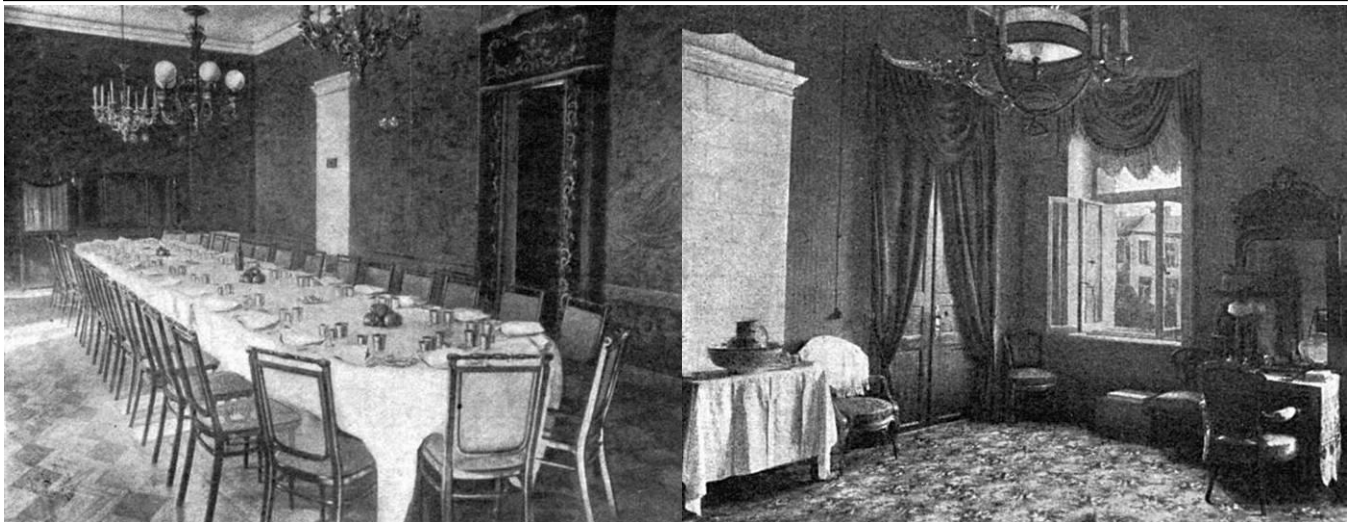


Могилевъ губ.

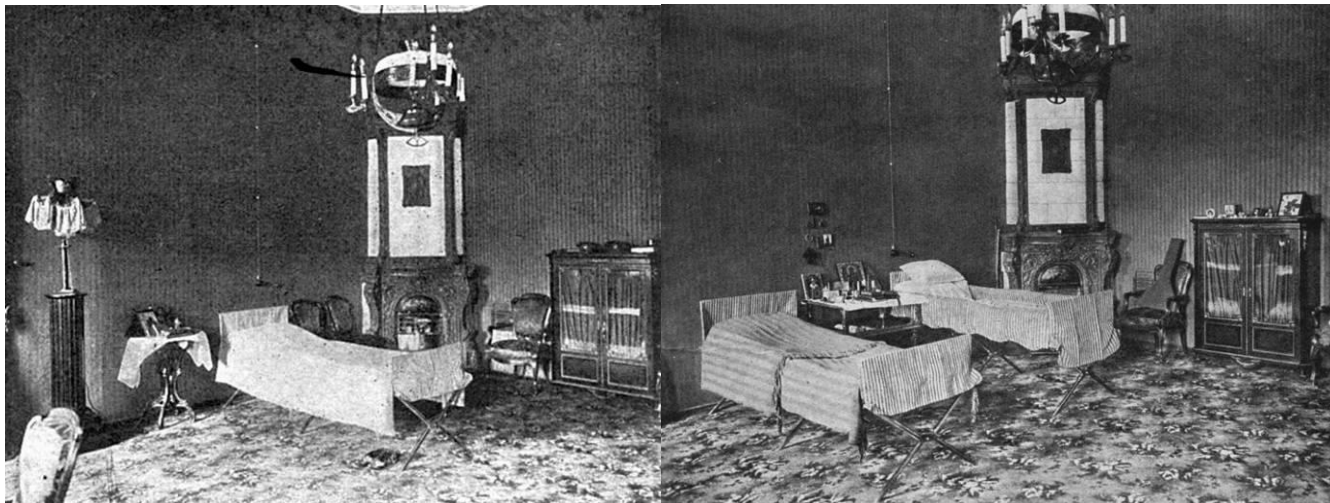
Губернаторскій домъ



The Reception hall. The Office of Nicholas II.



The Dining room. Emperor Nicholas II's bedroom.



The bedroom of Emperor Nicholas II. First with one, with a folding bed for him alone, later with another folding bed for Tsarevich Alexei - placed closest to the fireplace.



The office of Nicholas II at Headquarters. Painting by Ivan Dryapachenko. An interesting date, which the artist put in the picture - March 2, 1917 - the day of the signing of the manifesto of abdication by Nicholas II. Mogilev Regional Museum of Local Lore.



Emperor Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexei with officers outside the Stavka



*The participants of the military meeting in the Headquarters on February 11, 1916.
From left to right: Quartermaster General-Lieutenant M. S. Pustovoitenko, Chief of Staff of the Western Front, General-Lieutenant M.F. Kvetsinsky, War Minister General of Infantry A.A. Evert, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Supreme Commander Admiral A.I. Rusin, Chief of Staff of the Supreme Commander General of Infantry M.V. Alekseev, Emperor Nicholas II, Acting Chief of Staff of the Northern Front Major General M.D. Bonch-Bruевич, commander in chief Adjutant-General A.N. Kuropatkin, Commander-in-Chief of the South-Western Front, Adjutant-General N.I. Ivanov, Chief of Staff of the Northern Front, Lieutenant-General V.N. Klembovsky. Unknown persons are at the background.*



Above - October 15, 1915. At the military platform of the Mogilev station. Empress Alexandra Feodorovna meets the Mogilev nobility. To the right Emperor Nicholas II with children and retinue.
Below - The Imperial Family outside the Governor's House, on Governor's Square. (Bottom right corner)



The Emperor returned to Tsarskoye Selo on October 6th 1915 for a few days, and it was decided that Alexei Nicholaevich should go back with him to Mogilev. They left for Mogilev on October 14th.

In the morning of October 28th 1915, Her Majesty and the Grand-Duchesses arrived at Stavka. During their journey the Empress and her daughters had stopped at several towns in the Regions of Tver, Pskov, and Mogilev, in order to visit military hospitals. They stayed three days at Mogilev and then left for Tsarskoye Selo.



From time to time the Empress and Grand Duchesses paid short visits to Mogilev. They lived in their train, but joined the Emperor at lunch and went on excursions. The Grand Duchesses greatly enjoyed these visits to Mogilev - all too short to their taste. As is so often the case in Russia, the station at Mogilev was a very long way from the town and almost in the open country. The Grand Duchesses spent their spare time visiting the peasants of the neighbourhood or the families of railway employees.



Walking in Mogilev area. From left: Grand Duchess Maria, Grand Duke Dmitry Pavlovich, Grand Duchess Tatiana, Emperor Nicholas II, far right - Grand Duchess Olga. 1916.



The family often visited Pechersk, on the banks of the Dnieper, boating on the river. Not far from Polykovichi they liked the beach with white sand. The Emperor compared it later in his diary with the Crimean one, and called this shore "Little Evpatoria".

On the order of the Minister of Railways, a small steam yacht was delivered, on which the family sailed along the Dnieper in the summer.



Video "Emperor Nicholas II in Mogilev": <https://youtu.be/As5z17iEy04>



In Emperor Nicholas II's diary on March 21 (8), 1917 -

"Last day in Mogilev. At 10 o'clock I signed a farewell order for the armies. At 10½ o'clock I went to the watch house, where I bade farewell to all the ranks of the headquarters and directorates. At home I said goodbye to the officers and Cossacks of the convoy and the Consolidated Regiment - my heart almost broke! At 12 o'clock I came to my mother's car, had breakfast with her and her retinue, and stayed with her for 4½ hours. I said goodbye to her, Sandro, Sergey, Boris and Alec. Poor Nilov was not allowed to go with me. At 4.45 he left Mogilev, a touching crowd of people saw off. 4 members of the Duma accompany in my train! I went to Orsha and Vitebsk. The weather is frosty and windy. Hard, painful and sad."



What is there today

The Governor's Square was for a long time called "Soviet", but was recently renamed "Glory Square". The town hall building suffered during the Second World War, and was blown up in 1957, but was restored in 2008.

The main street is now a pedestrian street and was renamed to "Bolshaya Sadovaya" from - you will be surprised! - Leninskaya.



The new "Square of Glory", in a view from the balcony of the Town Hall. The provincial government building - the Stavka - and the Governor's House was approximately at the place of the green spot - behind can be seen the Dnieper.

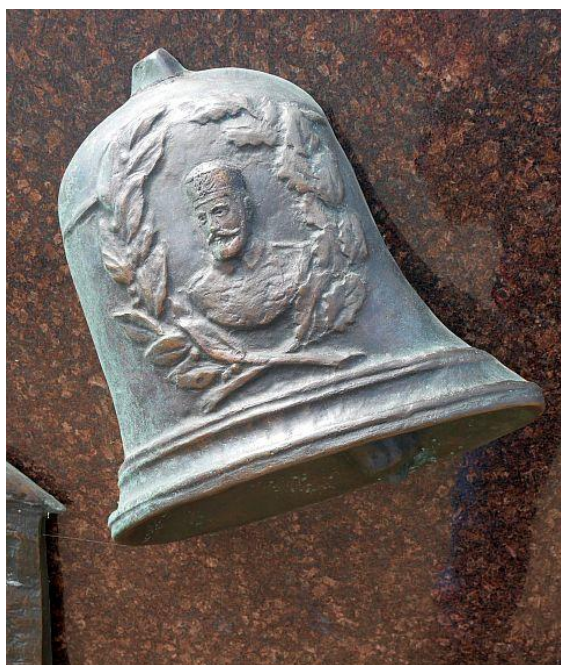
The building of the Provincial Government, which was preserved in ruins, and the House of the Governor, where Emperor Nicholas II lived with his son, attracted attention in the 1980s. So the Soviet leadership promptly demolished them. A similar fate as Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg. As they said then, so that nothing resembled the Last Autocrat.

Now there stands a huge "Aunt" on a pedestal, a female figure symbolizing the image of "Victory", with the Eternal Flame lit at the foot of the pedestal. It is a part of the memorial complex "Fighters for Soviet Power". The sculpture is on top of the mass grave of 15th Red Army of the 35th Armor Unit of the 16th Army towers, who defended the city in 1920 from the troops of Poland.

As conceived by the architect, the statue should have been facing the Dnieper, but it turned out that the "Aunt" then look like running to drown.

On the Square of Glory, August 2017, a modest memorial was installed in honour of the Supreme Commander's Headquarters, made by Sculptor Andrei Vorobyov.

On a granite base are bronze images of the lost buildings - the house of the Provincial Government and the Governor's House - and a bell with a portrait of Nicholas II (Even if it looks more like Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich Jr.?).



The inscription is in Belarusian and Russian languages: "The Headquarters of the Supreme Commander of the Russian Army was located on this square during the First World War. From August 23, 1915 to March 2, 1917, it was headed by Emperor Nicholas II."

The only thing that remained from the Stavka was the building of the District Court. Here, Emperor Nicholas II bade farewell to the ranks of the headquarters and directorates on March 8 (21), 1917. There is evidence that the farewell took place in the duty general's room on the 2nd floor of the present Regional Museum.



On it is a memorial plaque to Romanov ... Evdokim Romanovich, a Belarusian ethnographer and local historian.

The museum is interesting; three unique icons by V.L. Borovikovsky and the font - all that survived from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, blown up in 1938. The first stone cathedral was laid in 1780 by Empress Catherine II and the Austrian Emperor Joseph II. But the exposition dedicated to the war is frankly poor. There are a large triptych panel, some photographs, phaleristics and documentary newsreels.





The large triptych panel in the Regional Museum, showing Emperor Nicholas II with officers in the middle. To the left - his wife Empress Alexandra with the four daughters - all are in nurse uniform except Anastasia, which makes Maria incorrectly displayed! To the right are all the August children in front of the river Dnieper and the city - but here Tsarevich Alexei is shown in sailor suit, which he had outgrown before arrived in Mogilev.

In Mogilev there is another memorial plaque dedicated to the Stavka.

It was installed on the building of the former hotel "Bristol" (23 Leninskaya Street), which lodged the representatives of foreign countries and the staff officers serving in the Stavka.

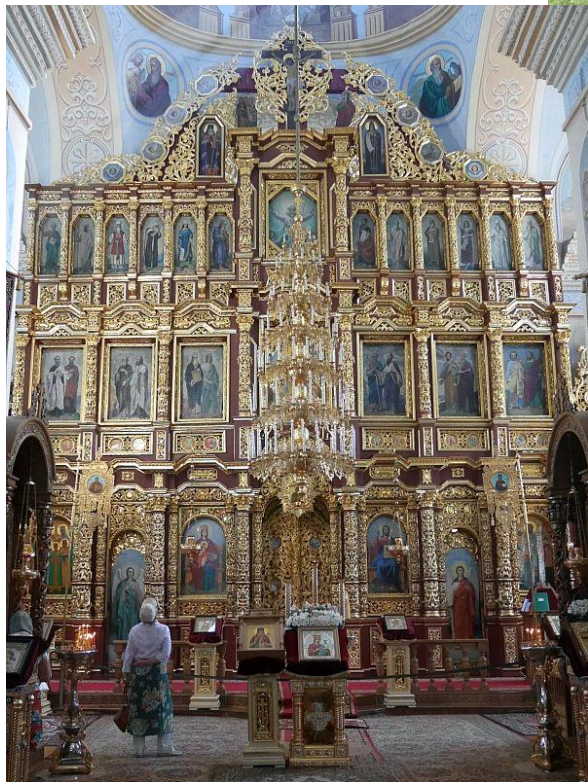
It shows Emperor Nicholas II with generals at the table in the Stavka, while soldier are marching. The inscription says - "From 1915 to 1916 Stavka Headquarters of Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Russian Army was located in this building".





Other places associated with the stay of the Emperor and his family

Emperor Nicholas II often visited churches. Every day, in the Spasskaya Church located next to the Governor Square (now demolished), and also in the St. Nicholas Monastery, located below in the floodplain of the Dnieper. There he regularly went to pray, and the city authorities laid a special pavement for the Emperor. But the Emperor demanded the bill and paid for the construction work from his own funds (not from the treasury). The main church of the monastery, of wondrous beauty Nikolsky Cathedral (1669), is the only surviving example of the so-called Mogilev Baroque (included in the UNESCO heritage list).



It has a unique four-tier carved iconostasis with gilding, made by Shklov, the master from Clement Mikhailov and his associates until 1672.

In the 1930s the monastery was closed, and the Bolsheviks organized a transit prison on its territory. Already in our time, when carrying out repair work, numerous human remains were found with punched skulls. The monastery was returned to believers in 1991.

On August 14, 2000, in one of the buildings of Mogilev, when the Commerce University moved there, a lifetime portrait of the Emperor by an unknown artist, painted in oil on canvas, was discovered. The portrait was transferred to the monastery and now is used as an icon.

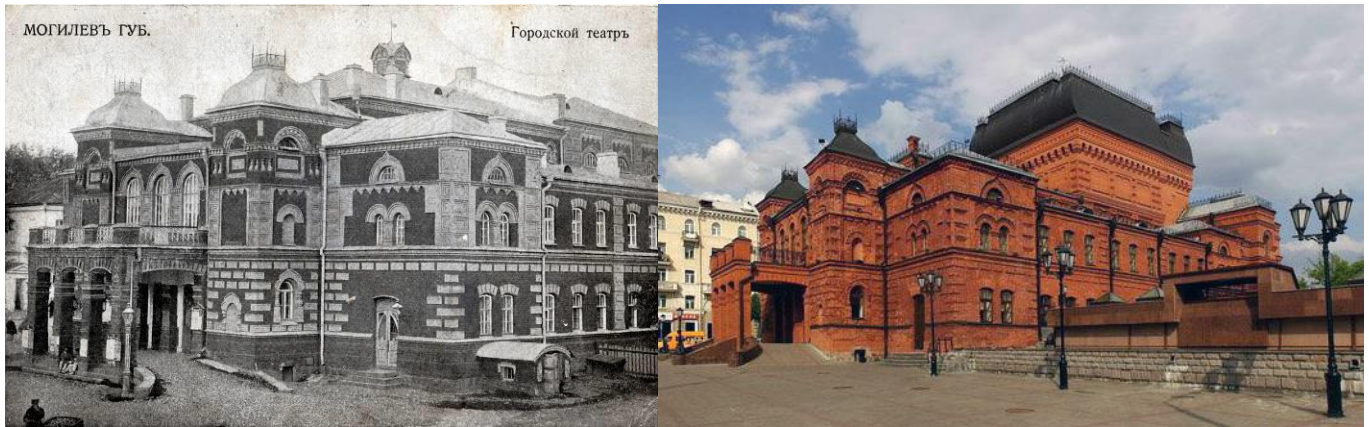
One of the Mogilev adolescents carried an imperial gift through his whole life - a gold coin, which Nicholas II distributed at the exit from the Nikolsky Church. A 90-year old man brought it to the church when the portrait-icon appeared there. Now the coin is still kept under glass.



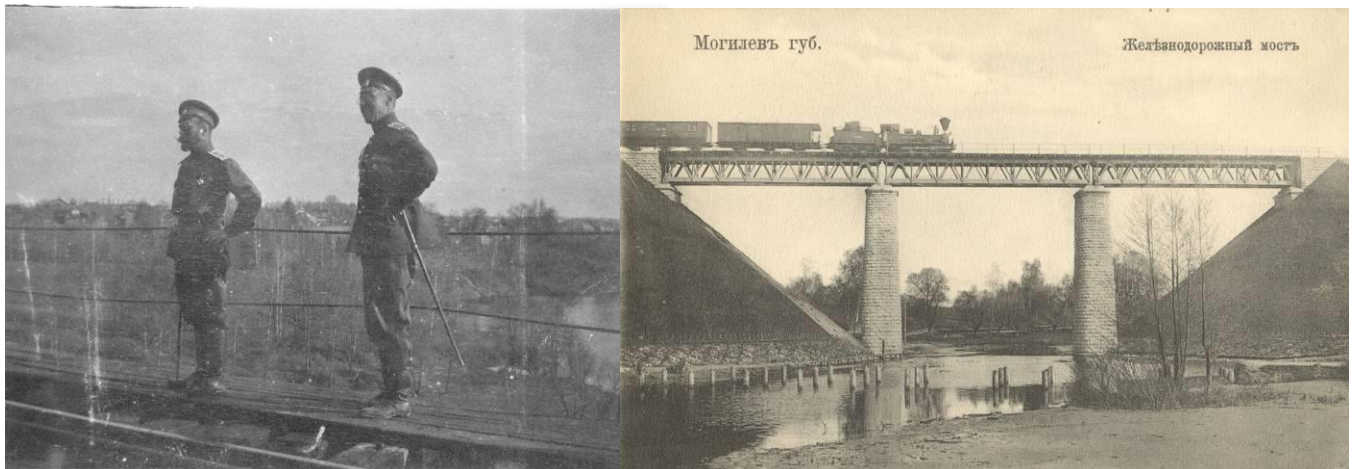
Above - To the left in the photo, the portrait of the Emperor by an unknown artist. Right - The Gold coin with the portrait of the Emperor.
Below - A picture in the nave of the church.



The City Theatre in red brick, was built with the money of citizens. Emperor Nicholas II and his family regularly visited the Mogilev Theatre, which at that time was the only major cultural and entertainment centre of the city. Officers of the headquarters, foreign missions and their guests also visited Theatre. They watched with interest the performances, operettas, as well as the first films of cinema. A cinema was installed in the Theatre so that Emperor Nicholas II could watch military newsreels. Today the building belongs to the Mogilev Regional Drama Theatre.



Emperor Nicholas II walked a lot in Mogilev. Almost every day, if the Tsarevich was not sick, he walked several miles in the direction of Gomel, then at Orsha, then in the direction of Shklov. Often the walks were carried out purposefully to the holy spring in the suburban town of Polykovichi.



“Polykovichskaya Krynitsa” has been known since 1552. The Chapel of the Holy Virgin Mary. Paraskeva was recreated in 2000.



Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



"Royal generosity"

The federal government will allocate more than 1.2 billion roubles for the restoration of the Alexander Palace and Farm in the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve. The draft Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation is being finalized. The planned funds are planned to be allocated in 2019 with the expectation that in 2020 the museum-reserve will open the renovated premises for visitors. By the way, as Olga Taratynova, director of the Tsarskoye Selo Museum, told, they wanted to open in 2018 several rooms of the Alexander Palace, where the family of Emperor Nicholas II once lived, in the memory of 100th anniversary of their martyrdom. But it did not work out: We did not have enough money. The initial estimate assumed an investment of 2 billion roubles, but the federal budget transferred 827,309 million, leaving the museum to look for funds independently. At the expense of earnings on the tickets and guided tours, GMZ was able to invest 279.618 million. This year the feds promise 1,027,930,000 roubles.



At the end of the reconstruction of the Imperial Farm in 2019 they will allocate about 187 million rubles. This amount should be enough. The whole complex of works is estimated at 713.3 million; over the past years, the feds have invested in the farm about 418 million, and GMZ contributed 108 million roubles.

The contractor at both sites is the company PSB "Zhilstroy". Although, of course, at the next stage of work will hold new contests.



Reconstruction of the monuments of Tsarskoye Selo destroyed by the war will take 25 years

January 24. TASS - Deputy Director of the Museum-Reserve for Scientific Work Iraida Bott reported that now the main monument - the Catherine Palace - has been restored by two thirds. Full restoration of the monuments of the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve (GMZ) destroyed during the Great Patriotic War, the main residence of the Emperors near St. Petersburg, will take at least another quarter of a century. This assessment was made by Deputy Director of the Museum-Reserve for Scientific Work Iraida Bott, commenting at the request of TASS on the course of restoration of the GMZ facilities exactly 75 years after the liberation of Pushkin from the German occupation. "I think that at least 25 years," said Bott, answering the question of how long it would take to recreate all the monuments of the museum-reserve that were damaged in wartime. Most of them were destroyed in the first year of occupation, which lasted a total of four years.

The main monument of the museum-reserve - the Catherine Palace - is now restored by two-thirds, its restoration has been going on for more than six decades, since 1957. Among the most significant objects that have been recreated in recent years is the Golden Enfilade. "It will soon be completely ready, because in March of this year we will open the Church of the Resurrection of Christ - the last interior of Francesco Rastrelli, who was consecrated in 1756, and thus the entire Golden Enfilade will be brought back to life," explained Bott.

The deputy director of the museum considers the reconstruction of the Amber Room as a great achievement during the reconstruction of the lost monuments. The unique interior, presented to Peter I by the Prussian King Friedrich-Wilhelm I, disappeared without a trace during the war years; it was not

possible to find it to this day. By the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, the Amber Room was recreated by Russian restorers, which took 24 years.

"The greatest sadness and the greatest hope of my generation is to see the living half of Catherine II: the unique Tobacco Box, the Empress's Bedchamber, the Chinese Hall. It's hard to imagine when all this will take place. However, there is movement on this path, and for the 300th anniversary of Tsarskoye Selo we opened The Arabesque Hall is the ceremonial hall of Catherine the Great," said Bott. The rooms of Alexander II in the Zubovsky wing of the Catherine Palace waiting for their turn to be recreated.

Already this year, Bott said, one of the most grand palace halls of the 19th century, the Lyon Hall, will be opened. "This is the ceremonial hall, located next to the Arabesque, which was also created in Catherine's times, underwent significant changes in the middle of the XIX century, and we restore it to the pre-war view," she added.

"Besides the Catherine Palace, we still have Alexander Palace and a large number of pavilions, of which the main part of the Catherine Park has already been put in order and even with the restoration or restoration of interior decoration, and Alexander Park still has a lot of work," said Bott. In recent years, the museum "Russia in the Great War" in the Mobile Chamber, the pavilions "Arsenal" and "Chapelle" were opened for visitors. In 2019, the first eight rooms of the Alexander Palace will be opened.

"Before the war, our entire museum inventory was recorded, so we have the exact numbers - about 110 thousand storage units. Of course, not all evacuated, the best things were evacuated - these are 19 thousand items. Today we have in our collection more than 50 thousand units: these are things that we acquired by analogy with the ones that existed, and those that we receive from donors and sponsors. Descendants of those who took them as a souvenir during the war years returned more than a hundred items," said Bott.



Meeting in the Friends Club of the Museum-Reserve "Tsarskoye Selo"


On January 29th, the Friends Club of the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve held its annual meeting, in which the gifts from the previous year were presented.

The Friends Club was created in the summer of 2006 as one of the directions for the development of the museum in order to unite organizations and individuals who are ready to provide assistance to the museum-reserve in implementing projects for the restoration of monuments and the replenishment of museum collections.

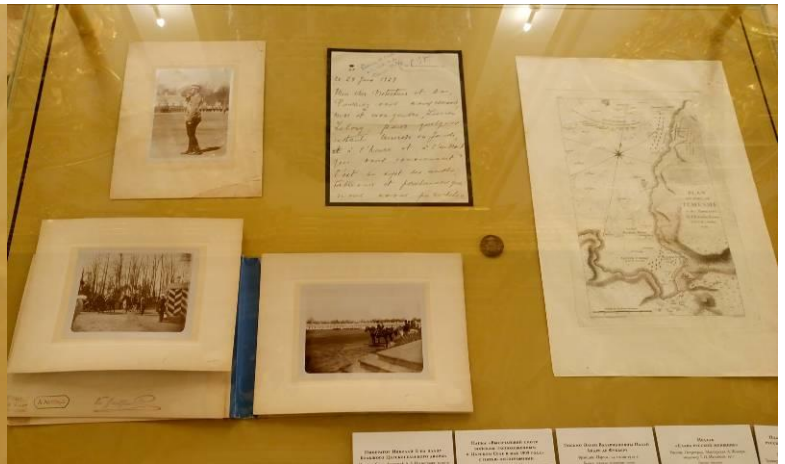
Going up the main staircase and into the great hall, the friends were welcomed with a cocktail, before proceeding into the Third Ante Chamber. There on display were all the gifts received last year.

Among them a letter by Olga Paley to Andre de Fukeri, dated Paris, France, 24 June 1929, and a porcelain coffee cup with the monogram of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, both objects donated by Prince Michael Pavlovich Romanoff-Ilyinsky.




Siemens & Co.
de la rue de la Paix
Paris

Ce 24 Juin 1729
 Mon cher Protecteur et Ami,
 Pourriez-vous nous recevoir,
 moi et mon gendre, Lucien
 Lelong, pour quelques
 instants Mercredi ou Jeudi,
 et à l'heure et à l'endroit
 qui vous conviendrait?
 C'est au sujet des meubles,
 tableaux et porcelaines que
 nous avons pu racheter





Above - Salt and Bread plate presented to Emperor Nicholas II by Bryansk Zemstvo, 1915.
Below - Parts of the porcelain service set with the monogram of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and Prince Peter of Oldenburg, and in front a coffee cup with the monogram of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich.



In addition there were photos of Emperor Nicholas II, postcards of the Imperial Family, books from Tsarskoye Selo or about the Imperial Family, porcelain, a uniform, and a burka. There were two Salt and Bread plates presented to Emperor Nicholas II - In dark wood from Tver peasants, 1915, and in light wood from Bryansk Zemstvo, 1915. And parts of the porcelain service with the monogram of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and Prince Peter of Oldenburg.



In the Great Hall, Olga V. Tarantino welcomed the guests and in particular the new "friends", whom she also handed flowers.

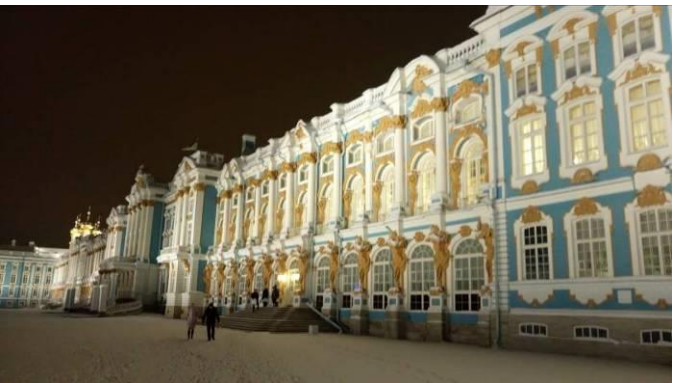
Olga Vladislavovna then received one more gift - a picture of the monument "Girl with a jug" (can be seen in the park) made in chocolate.

Iraida Bott then told more about the achievements, before a documentary about the Tsarskoye Selo-museum through 100 years was shown.

The designer Stas Lopatkin then presented a small "fashion show" inspired by Empress Maria Feodorovna.



The evening ended with a festive buffet, before one again could enjoy the Catherine Palace's lit exterior in the soft falling snow.





In Petersburg, a double-headed eagle disappeared from the fence of the Alexander Column on Palace Square.

At first the police thought that vandals had stolen the decorative element. But after studying the video from the surveillance cameras, they found out that the eagle was taken for restoration.

When the bronze bird is returned to its place is unknown. Sculptures of eagles are really stolen from time to time from Palace Square. A few years ago there was a whole series of such thefts. And the city authorities even had to install additional protection - a fence around the fence.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/323265/



For the double-headed eagles of the Alexander Column in St. Petersburg, a system of protection against thieves is being created. Hermitage specialists are developing a new mechanism for fastening bronze birds to prevent theft. The figures of the sovereign birds have repeatedly been stolen. Now one of them is in the restoration workshop. They check the new version of the attachment to the fence. The previous three tests did not



pass. If new bindings are considered reliable, they will be mounted on all double-headed eagles. The main requirement is that the fastening of the bronze figures could not be broken or damaged manually. "A new anti-vandal attachment system is being developed, which will allow these eagles to be kept for a long time because they are very heavy. The weight of such an eagle is 75 kilograms, and therefore the mount in the form in which it was needed to be improved. Our restorers and service are doing this Chief Mechanic, in order to develop a new fastening system," said the Deputy Director General of the State Hermitage Museum George Vilinbakhov.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/324325/



The State Duma in January plans to consider in its first reading a bill that allows extending the mechanism of concession and public-private partnership (PPP) to a number of historical and cultural monuments. This, in particular, will allow Rosneft to transfer the former palace of the Romanovs (Ropsha Palace) for restoration at the expense of the oil company.

The document was submitted by the government to the State Duma at the end of November 2018, at the moment it is being discussed in the committees of the lower parliamentary board.

"By drafting the bill, we were driven by the need - we do not hide this - saving a very significant for Russia and the largest of the ruined cultural heritage sites of our country - the palace and park ensemble" Ropsha - said, introducing the bill at a meeting of the State Duma Committee on Property, deputy head Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation Alla Manilova.



According to her, the restoration of the Ropsha ensemble would have cost the budget more than 5 billion roubles. "Since 2012, we have been searching for this decision and, thank God, that as a result of many, many negotiations, including with our largest companies, Rosneft has expressed its willingness to invest money," the deputy minister said. "This project is a "pioneer", except that it is the largest (among potential projects of this kind). To implement such a unique project, it is necessary to amend the federal law on concession agreements and the Federal Law on Public-Private Partnership," - said Manilova.

"After restoration, the destroyed monuments will open their doors to everyone who wishes, as the concessionaire will be obliged to provide citizens with access to the facility. Another question is that the forms of such access will be the terms of the concession agreement, but they must be, otherwise, I repeat, it is impossible", - stressed the deputy minister.

Ropshinsky Palace - a former palace of the Romanovs, is part of the world heritage monument "The historic centre of St. Petersburg and the associated complexes of monuments." The palace, which is in a ruined state, dates back to the estate built by Peter I. The construction of the estate began in 1725. Years later, on the instructions of Elizabeth Petrovna, a complex of buildings was created by the project of architect Rastrelli, and the Lower and Upper Gardens were made.



On Tuesday, January 22, Chef John Folse's White Oak Plantation celebrated the Mardi Gras season by hosting a dinner honouring Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff of Russia, who visited New Orleans during the 1872 Carnival season. Folse's dinner started with an hors d'oeuvre reception, followed by a five-course menu inspired by New Orleans' St. Charles Hotel.

"It was February 12, 1872 – Lundi Gras – when the Grand Duke dined at the St. Charles," said Folse. "We have a copy of the historic menu served that evening and will replicate that meal in memory of he who helped inaugurate the Krewe of Rex."

It happened that in 1871, the Grand Duke was sent as a goodwill ambassador to the United States, which was fortuitous for the citizens of New Orleans. Following the Civil War – which ended only seven years earlier – a pall of sadness and tension had draped the city. To lift spirits (as well as the economy) a group of New Orleans' leaders founded a day parade for the civic good and to bring order, grandeur and visitors back to New Orleans. (Heretofore, the only organized parades were the night time exhibitions of the Twelfth Night Revelers and Comus.) What better way to inaugurate Rex as the King of Carnival than with the assistance of Russian royalty – the son of Emperor Alexander II.

A writer for the New Orleans Republican documented the Grand Duke's arrival into the city aboard the steamer James Howard. A cheer from the crowd "rout the air, to which the Duke most graciously removed his (Havana) cigar and waved his spyglass twice." It is likely that of all his U.S. ports of call, none created a greater stir than his arrival in New Orleans; however, the Republican did report that "the New York ladies went in ecstasy over" his "grand dark eyes."



The exhibition "Three Winds of the Russian North", dedicated to the Romanov dynasty, is planned in 2019 in the Museum and Exhibition Complex named after Ivan Shemanovsky in Yamal, Russian Far North Area. Its developers will be the district department of culture and the main museum of Yamal. The exhibition should be comprehensive, informative, interesting and informative for any age. "The topic is very interesting and original, the museums of Yekaterinburg, Tobolsk and Moscow will be involved in it," said Yevgeny Koltunov, director of the culture department of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region (Okrug).

He noted, the task of this exhibition is not to collect as many exhibits as possible, but to create a visualization in order to understand more deeply and more subtly what the Romanov dynasty was like in recent years. To show that their life was connected not only with revolution and destruction, but how many interesting things happened in their lives.



"Big Russian Ball" for the seventh time was held in the historic Brancaccio Palace in the Italian capital.

The ideological mastermind of the event, journalist and public activist Yulia Bazarova, told hundreds of lovers of historical dance and admirers of Russian culture became guests of the ball.

"Our ball, which has become a good tradition for Rome, is primarily a socio-cultural event, which is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between Russia and Italy. Although not only Italians and Russians come to us, but many foreigners from different countries who love and honour Russian culture and history," said Bazarova.

In the implementation of this initiative, she is supported every year by the choreographer and president of the Italian National Historical Dance Company Nino Graziano Luca, as well as the Friends of Great Russia cultural association. The ball is also held with the support of the Roman City Hall, the Italian-Russian Chamber of Commerce, the Russian Center for Science and Culture (RCSC) and the Russian-Italian Dialogue Forum. Over the years, the event has attracted the attention of Italian designers of historical costumes, who make ballroom costumes for participants.

This year, the "Big Russian Ball" was dedicated to the memory of Pyotr Tchaikovsky, so his works formed the basis of the musical repertoire. Professionals and dancers also danced at the ball: choreographer and dancer Anastasia Kuzmina, who successfully participates in the Italian TV show Dancing with the Stars, as well as dancers from the ballet troupe of the Moscow Institute of Culture. They performed suites from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet. In the historic atmosphere of the 70s-80s of the 19th century, the period when Peter Ilyich visited Italy, the waltzes and mazurks of that era were immersed. A group of young Italian dancers (choreographer Deborah Bianco) specially prepared a dance dedicated to Tchaikovsky.



An "Great Imperial Ball" was held in Omsk dedicated to Emperor Nicholas II. Rather, the reign of the last Russian Emperor and his family. The ball was held in the historic park on January 13th. The organizers asked to comply with the dress code. Ladies should come in evening dresses, gentlemen - in suits. Guests was to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of Tsarist Russia and learn how the New Year was celebrated more than a century ago. The organizers of the event are the public association "Father's House" and the coordination committee for holding the Tsar Days on Omsk land. The program of the ball included dances, musical and literary numbers, traditional ball games and a festive buffet. The Cossack Theater "White Capital", the dance studio



"Vidzhi", the master of artistic expression Tatyana Yuryeva, and the vocalists Nikolai Ryabov and Ekaterina Kondratieva performed.

Alexander Losunov, a well-known Omsk historian and local historian, told the guests about the history of balls on Omsk land: where they took place, whose balls were the richest and most cheerful, who among the Omsk aristocracy was a frequenter of these holidays, which guests of Christmas and New Year's balls enjoyed them a lot."

"Our ball was attended by about 200-250 people. We hope that in future the scale will expand and such events will become a tradition," shared Victoria Subbotina from the Father's House social project.



The State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF) announced that among its "New arrivals in quarters I - III of 2018" is the documents collected by A.N. Avdonin regarding the search for the remains of the Imperial Romanov family in the vicinity of the city of Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg). The documents are in the process of scientific description.



Grigory Rasputin days was held in Tyumen and Tobolsk. Grigory Rasputin, a favorite of the Romanovs, born in the village of Pokrovskoye, Tobolsk Province, turned 150 years old in January 21st. In commemoration of this date, well-known researchers and writers visited the Tyumen region - Valery Povolyayev, state laureate in literature, Honored Worker of Culture of Russia, and REN-TV host, author of several books about Rasputin, Oleg Shishkin. A meeting with the public, history buffs was held on Tuesday, January 22, at the Tobolsk Pedagogical Institute.

On the same day in the city library on the street. Lunacharsky at 17 o'clock was a meeting with Valery Povolyayev, and at 18 o'clock in the museum complex named after Slotsov a meeting with Oleg Shishkin. On Wednesday, January 23, both of them again held a joint lecture on the "Great Old Man" in the Tyumen Regional Scientific Library.



The architectural gem of the north-west of Moscow, the Church of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos in Bratsevo, will return the historical look.

The walls of the Church of the Intercession of the Holy Virgin in Bratsevo today look the same as three and a half centuries ago. But the unique ceramic tiles are almost lost, somewhere they are destroyed, and those that have survived, have long lost their former luster and color.

"Ceramic tiles decorated not only the main building, but there was also a row that was on the drums. Presumably, it could be patterns that are now known among experts as "peacock eye," said Moscowite Dmitry Frantsuzov.

Ahead - the most difficult work to restore this ceramic decor. Tiled belts and cherubs that adorn the church in Bratsevo, created by the Belarusian master Stepan Polubes. He is known for his work in the Joseph Volokolamsky and New Jerusalem Monasteries. But the name of the architect is not preserved. The church was built by the owner of the Bratsevo estate, Bogdan Khitrovo. Once he ruled the Armoury. Therefore, the first-class masters worked here.

The Church of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos was erected in 1672. Even the exact date is known - August 30th. This is evidenced by the inscription on the stone mortgage plate. Fortunately, it has been preserved, although the text is already read with difficulty. Numerous damage to the plate due to the fact that for many years it was lying in the back rooms of the paint factory.

In the Soviet years, the dome was removed, and the bell tower destroyed. The icons of the XVII century, painted by the Armoury masters, were taken out. Now they are stored in the vaults of the Tretyakov Gallery. Large-scale restoration of the almost destroyed church began only in the 90s.

"Here all the historical paintings were taken, nothing has been preserved. After the cathedral was transferred to the church in the 90s, a partial restoration was carried out here, which now also needs

repair due to drips, humidity. The materials that were used now require replacement,” says Maria Oskina, the curator of the methodological service for working with schools at the Church of the Intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God in Bratsevo.

“We issued a task for the development of project documentation in order to establish, in the framework of the project, not approximately, but the entire list of comprehensive restoration works,” explained Alexey Emelyanov, head of the Moscow Cultural Heritage Department.

A new restoration will begin when the project is coordinated with the Department of Cultural Heritage. Specialists will study the archive materials in detail in order to return the church to its original appearance.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/324825/



The first stage of the restoration of the museum-estate "Arkhangelsk" has been completed. The monument of the estate architecture this year marks the 100th anniversary of the reception of the first visitors. The progress of the work was assessed by the members of the organizing committee for the preparation for the anniversary.

In the "Arkhangelsk" was renovated 13 objects. Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky and the head of the board of trustees of the museum-estate

Dmitry Kozak first of all looked into the western wing - this is part of the central complex of buildings of the estate. In the 18th century, a French architect, Charles de Gern, designed the annex. The theater was to be located in this spacious hall.

A multi-level exhibition space will open in the spring on the territory of the small palace "Caprice" - there were workshops for painting porcelain, and at the end of the 19th century a power station. Now on the first floor there will be a permanent exhibition of porcelain - including the Yusupov factory. The second floor will become the open storage of a collection of arts and crafts. The tomb church in memory of the death of the eldest son of Zinaida Yusupova began to be built in 1909, but it was never completed. The paintings - Christian and Masonic symbols - was restored and preserved.

“We decided not to restore the altar part, only the paintings. But the paintings were last restored in 1966. Of course, during this time there were leaks and there were not always good conditions for the storage of the building, so the paintings needed restoration,” said Lyudmila Grineva, deputy director for accounting and storage of the museum-estate “Arkhangelsk”.

Now they are planning to equip a concert hall with an organ - a large space and good acoustics will allow to organize concerts not only in summer and in the open air.

“Today it is already clear that this is one of the key centres of attraction for the tourist flow of Moscow and the nearest Moscow region. Very unique territory from the point of view of cultural and historical heritage, and from the point of view of recreational. When I first saw these results, I immediately said that Versailles is worse,” stressed the head of the board of trustees of the museum-estate Dmitry Kozak.

“Nothing like this has been seen for centuries by visitors to the Archangel. This is the first stage of the disclosure of premises, it will continue further, and next year, and in the 20th year, we will continue to work. Then each of these rooms will be filled with museum life, expositions, concert venues, additional music halls. And of course, great attention will be paid to the further improvement of the territory and the park,” said Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky.

For the first time in half a century, 137 sculptures underwent large-scale restoration - the last time was in the post-war years. See those same Yusupov sculptures in the park of the estate can be already this spring.



"In the spring, we will launch fountains that have not worked for a huge number of years. We will exhibit more than 130 busts and marble figures that will be located on the places where they once were located and were removed by the owners in the early 1900s," said the director of the museum-estate Vadim Zadorozhny.

Two and a half years ago, active work began on the restoration of the Arkhangelskoye Museum-Estate. The state customer was the Ministry of Culture, the contractor - interregional scientific and restoration art management. His representative Alexei Pakhomov said that the work will go about another two years.

"Another palace to restore, to adapt to modern use, because there still have problems with lighting. Part of the candelabra is on candles, and there is only one electric chandelier," Pakhomov said.

Next month, contractors from the Moscow Region will join the recovery process - they will conduct a comprehensive replacement of communications systems at the estate. In spring and summer, all the events planned in Arkhangelsk will take place, and with them the long-awaited exhibitions in the renovated halls.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/326225/



A series about the members of the Romanov dynasty will begin to be filmed in Yekaterinburg, Perm and Tobolsk in 2020. The general director of Solivs company and the author of the idea of filming the film "Tobol" Oleg Urushev told.

"We now have a Tyumen writer Sergey Kozlov writing a book, a full-length film and a series. Yesterday he sent the eighth episode. There will be 12. It will be called "Romanovs. Four pages," said Urushev. He clarified that the title of the work is based on a little-known fact: four pages disappeared from the diary of Nicholas II. "We have the opportunity to fantasize on these four pages," he said. The filming process will take place in Perm, in which the hero, Tsarevich Mikhail Alexandrovich Romanov, who is officially the "last Russian Emperor", will be involved. In Yekaterinburg, they will shoot moments with the participation of the revolutionary Yakov Sverdlov. "He will not be presented in a very good light, because it has been absolutely proved that he was associated with German and English intelligence," the author of the idea noted.



In Essentuki was found an envelope with rare photographs of the Imperial Family. The envelope with photographs was discovered by workers who repaired the roof of the building of the regional treasury department during the reconstruction of the building. It contains photos of the family of Nicholas II, along with the guards. The searchers determined that the pictures belonged to one of the officers of "His Own Imperial Majesty Convoy" Anatoly Semenovich Fedyushkin. The convoy officers guarded Nicholas II and his family members on trips and in Tsarskoye Selo. On two cards are autographs of the Imperial children.



"Now we have a task, first of all, to restore these photos, because there is mold in some places. They lay in a wet envelope for a hundred years. We have already gone to specialists at the Russian State Library to help us. And we will continue to look," said Igor Tapsiev, head of the Federal Treasury Department for the Stavropol Territory.

Videos - 1) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/329585/

2) <https://youtu.be/HqGyCXPlqp8>



January 24, 2019, in the Multimedia Historical Park "Russia - My Story. The Sverdlovsk Region" opened the cultural and educational project "Cossacks of Russia: for Will, Faith and Fatherland".

The project "Cossacks of Russia: for Will, Faith and Fatherland" is dedicated to the centenary of the policy of elimination of Cossacks identity - the adoption of the directive of the Organizing Bureau of the Central Committee of the RCP (b) "To all responsible comrades working in Cossack regions" dated January 24, 1919 and events related to the directive. This document marked the beginning of repressions of the Cossack class in Russia, as a result of which military valour, the breadth of the Cossack soul and unlimited love for the Fatherland began to be eradicated and were forgotten for the next decades. The official revival of this distinctive phenomenon of Russian life began with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On measures to implement the law of the Russian Federation" On the rehabilitation of repressed peoples" of July 15, 1992.

However, the centuries-old traditions and the glorious history of the Cossacks of Russia are preserved in the memory of the people. The project includes the multimedia exhibition "Cossacks of Russia: from oblivion to recognition", which reveals the history of the military exploits of the Cossacks, associated with the protection and strengthening of the state borders of Russia in different historical periods. Among them was the conquest of Siberia by Yermak in the 17th century, participation in the people's militia of Minin and Pozharsky in 1612, the assault of Ishmael in 1760, the capture of Paris in 1814 during foreign campaigns of the Russian army and many other events in Russian history. At the exhibition it will be possible to learn about the outstanding figures of the Cossack movement and their merits to Russia: about Yermak Timofeich, Matvey Platov, Alexey Kaledin and others.

The exposition "I serve the Fatherland, the Cossacks and the Orthodox faith" in the framework of the project is devoted to the history of the Orenburg Cossack army. The exhibition will present the form of the Orenburg Cossacks, their weapons, banners and military awards.



The Metropolitan of Khabarovsk and Priamursky, Artemy, has approved the construction of the church-monument of the Petropavlovsk women's monastery in honor of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers on the territory of the Central city cemetery of Khabarovsk.

The idea of creating a project of the memorial church was the event that was recalled in 2018 - the 100th anniversary of the murder of the holy Tsar's Family. The Holy Royal Martyrs are an icon of the family, a model of true, tender marital relations, raising children in piety and love for the Fatherland, an example of love and respect for parents by children.

The ensemble of the church building with a brick facade in the style of the old Khabarovsk reign of Emperor Nicholas II includes a church in honour of the Royal Martyrs - Emperor Nicholas II and his August family: Empress Alexandra, Tsarevich Alexei and the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, and a two-storey house with a cell for the sisters, a refectory, a kitchen, a fire room, and all the necessary facilities.



The brick for the construction of the complex has already been paid for and will be delivered to the site with the start of the construction season. With the onset of spring, earthworks will begin. The sisters of the monastery remind that traditionally a special form of charity was donations to the "brick" - this was a heartfelt sacrifice to God. So, brick by brick, the walls of the church-monument of the Imperial Family will be erected. Thanks to this project, a large number of people will be able to participate in the good work of building the church. Within its walls, the grateful memory of all the people who took part in the construction will be preserved for centuries.



An old album with photos of the family of Nicholas II became virtual. It can now be viewed by visitors to the local history museum of Zlatoust. The rare images are digitized to save paper.

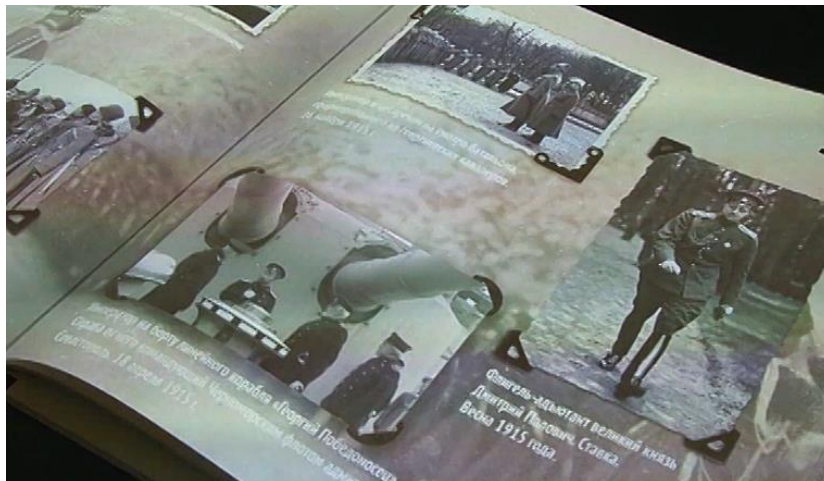
"The photos here are not arranged in chronological order, the earliest dates back to 1914," says Anastasia Malakhova, deputy director for scientific work of the local history museum of Zlatoust.

- In our museum staff came who are investigating a criminal case into the shooting of the Imperial Family. They confirmed the information that the only photos of the images in the profile of the Grand Duchess in the profile are in this album in the Museum of Chrysostom." Daylight is not good to pages and black and white photographs - they turn yellow. They cannot be stored in the public domain, so they created an electronic copy. The expensive multimedia equipment for an interactive album was presented by the Yekaterinburg Museum and Exhibition Centre, and it was developed in Astrakhan.

A total of 88 photographs were digitized - this is mainly the war period. In this album, the captions to the photos were missing. In order to describe each photo, the museum's researchers carried out painstaking work.

Videos - 1) <https://youtu.be/IEtAE8RLbxQ>

2) <https://youtu.be/8R1VoE8GSxE>



Banner with a portrait of the family of Nicholas II and the signature "Forgive us, our sovereign" was hang on the Podolsk cement plant.

Photographed by Valeria Malkova.



The documentary film "The Traces of the Empire: Elizabeth Feodorovna" is dedicated to the founder of the Martha and Mary congregation, the Holy Responsible Congregation, the Grand Duchess and Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna Romanova, who, together with the Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, the Princes Konstantinovich, July 18, 1918 was martyred at 18 kilometers from the city of Alapayevsk.

Who was this woman who was canonized; what role she played in Russian society in the last years of her quiet life; what demise did she meet and what could modern Russia learn, remembering her asceticism and tragic fate? Watch the documentary: "Traces of the Empire" - "Elizabeth Feodorovna".

Video - https://youtu.be/DcjVtTbFc_Y





The Art Gallery of the Narva Museum opened January 26 the exhibition "Portrait. Realities and fictions".

The exhibition presents portraits of the Imperial dynasty of the Romanovs and their entourage, as well as the rulers, merchants and industrialists of Narva, who lived in the city from the 17th to the 20th century.

The exhibition exhibits several masterpieces from the collection of the Lavretsov family. History lovers will be able to learn more about the great figures of Narva and Tsarist Russia, and it will be interesting on the spot for lovers of portrait art.

"The exhibition is unique in that in such a small space of Narva, with a population of 55,000 people, we can offer our viewer a unique collection of portraits of people who, let's say, created the era. Karl XII, Peter I, Peter II, Peter II, Paul, Catherine II. Of course, this is the most unique opportunity here so close, one-on-one, to get acquainted not just with painting, but also with the cultural studies of our space, our country," said the curator of the Art Gallery of Narva Museum, Denis Poluboyarov.

Videos - 1) <https://rus.err.ee/904381/v-narve-otkrylas-vystavka-portretov-carskoj-dinastii-romanovyh-i-velikih-dejatelej-goroda>

2) <http://www.stena.ee/blog/v-narve-otkrylas-vystavka-portretov-tsarskoj-dinastii-romanovyh-i-velikih-dejatelej-goroda>



Princess Olga Romanoff unveiled her portrait by London based Indian born British artist Tushar Sabale at his Solo Show titled 'Chiaroscuro' at London Mayfair in June 2018.

The sitting for the portrait took place in the long drawing room of Provender House in the early spring of 2018. Out of the 33 rooms, the artist chose the cozy warm corner near the fire place with the traditional interiors made of wooden panels and beams as the backdrop for the portrait, while the Princess preferred the puffed jacket, jeans and leather boots, in contrast, for the sitting, making it a perfect and true portrayal of a modern day Princess. The commissioned portrait is a part of her private collection and displayed at Provender House along with the other Romanov memorabilia.

Video - <https://youtu.be/M0QmW4THpHA>

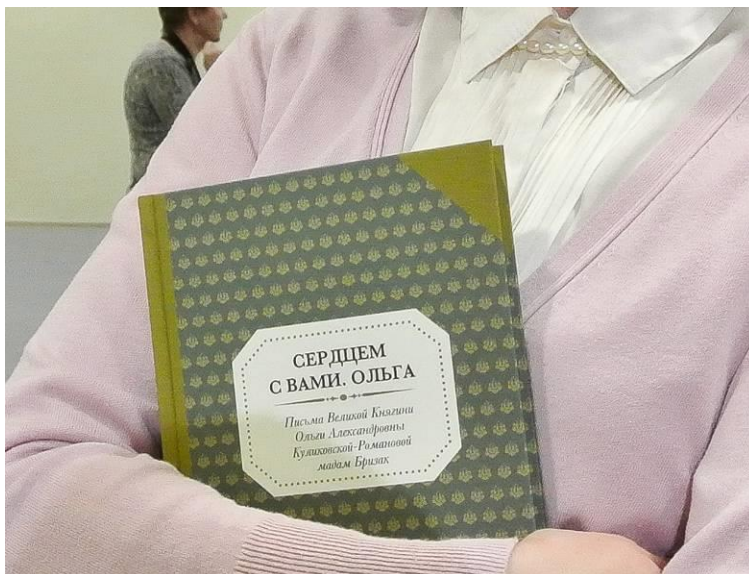




Published letters of the sister of Emperor Nicholas II, the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna

56 letters of the Grand Duchess to her favorite fashion designer, the French Madame Brizak are published. Originally written in French, it is the story of the life of a great woman and the country.

The unique archive of sincere letters from the Grand Duchess, was presented by the descendants of Madame Brizak. They were translated into Russian by the spouse of the Kirov poet Vladimir Leshukov - Svetlana Policemaiko. Vladimir and his friends published these letters in the Herzenka publishing house so that everyone could read them. The book was made by the artists Olga Kolchanova and Alexander Selezenev. A unique book published under the title "Heart with you. Olga. " That is how the Grand Duchess finished each letter.



The book, published in Kirov (Yes, sad that the city is still named so - pre-revolution name is Vyatka), will be sent to St. Petersburg - to the Hermitage, and to Paris.

The Center for Tourism Development of the Kirov region noted that they must use the materials of the book when forming the "Imperial Route". Recall that the Kirov region was among the regions involved in this major tourist project. Now there is a collection of material for the route about the links of the Romanov dynasty with Vyatka.

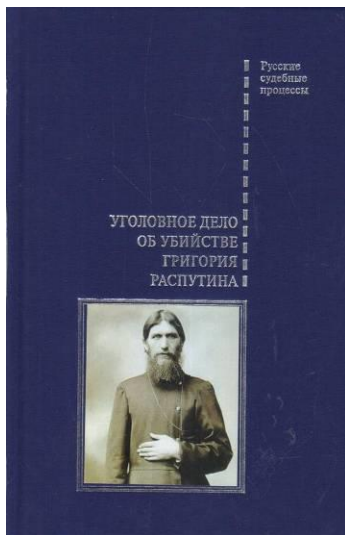
Video - <https://youtu.be/4pVH5OHzoPA>



The court festivities in the Moscow Kremlin: From Peter I to Nicholas II

The book contains a fascinating story about changes in the style of Russian court life, introduces a variety of novelties used in the formulation of festive celebrations. The publication has a lot of interesting and entertaining information of historical and cultural nature, including the secrets of the technical structure of popular at that time spectacles - fireworks, illuminations, luminous paintings - unknown to most of today's readers.

*Publisher: State Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve "Moscow Kremlin".
Hard cover. Pages: 112.
ISBN: 978-5-88678-337-7*



The criminal case of the murder of Grigory Rasputin

The book contains documentary materials related to the investigation into the murder of Grigory Rasputin. This publication is not aimed at covering episodes of Rasputin's biography, but is intended to clarify the causes and circumstances of his death, to identify specific individuals who participated in his elimination. Since the persons of the Imperial Surname were involved in the murder, the order and peculiarities of the investigation of criminal cases involving high-ranking officials of the Russian Empire of the early 20th century are also of interest. The book presents previously unpublished photographic materials from the State Museum of Political History of Russia, as well as rare diaries of participants in a criminal case. For a wide range of readers, as well as history buffs and law students.

Publisher: White City. Pages: 272. ISBN: 978-5-00119-044-8

Presentation of the book "The Last Secret of Rasputin"

The presentation of the book *The Last Secret of Rasputin*, written by Russian writer, playwright and screenwriter Oleg Shishkin based on materials from the State Archives of the Russian Federation, was held in Tyumen, in the museum complex named after Ivan Yakovlevich Slovtsov, on January 22.

January 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Grigory Rasputin.

By virtue of circumstances and personal qualities, he was involved in political processes at the pinnacle of Russian power, and for this reason he deserves attention not only as a special favorite phenomenon, but also as an extraordinary, if contradictory, Russian man whose name is known to the whole world. However, this book is not a biography, but a murder story and crime investigation.



The paper contains documents from the case of the First Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Empire discovered in the Civil Aviation of the Russian Federation. The materials of the case were supposed to be an explanation and an initial evidence base for the whole note to Nicholas II. Therefore, various prosecution submissions, interrogation reports, and opinions of forensic experts in the case of the murder of Rasputin were filed in it. The so-called "751st case" looks like a special prosecutor's report with an impressive array of facts that are not, for example, in the police documents on the case of the murder of Rasputin. The book contains shocking forensic details, the testimony of witnesses and the recognition of prosecutors, the facsimile of some documents, historical and forensic photos.

The official investigation into the murder of Rasputin lasted until the Tsar's abdication on March 2, 1917 and was closed due to the fall of the Russian Empire. But it was also in the centre of attention of the Emergency Commission of Inquiry of the Provisional Government, which sought out violations of the previous government.

Oleg Shishkin have written other books about the life and death of the former Tsar's favourite, "Kill Rasputin" (2000) and "Rasputin. History of Crime" (2004), in which a special view is expressed on one of the most scandalous characters in Russian history at the beginning of the twentieth century. Grigory

Rasputin is a writer as an instrument of foreign intelligence services, who sought to stage a coup in Russia.

The new book by Oleg Shishkin, as the author himself believes, summarizes, corrects and substantially clarifies what he had previously written on this topic. The book's task does not include an assessment of Rasputin's personality. The text is dedicated to the story of the murder and the investigation.



Ataman Krasnov and the Don Army

The book of Andrei Venkov "Ataman Krasnov and the Don Army - 1918", was published in the series "Military History Library" in the publishing house "Veche". For the first time, the scientist's work from a number of federal and regional archives, including the State Archive of the Russian Federation, collected documents and memoirs covering the period of Russian turmoil on the Don - from the victory of the anti-Bolshevik uprising in the spring of 1918 to the departure of General Peter Krasnov from the post of army commander in February of the next year .

In May 1918, Krasnov was elected ataman of the Don Cossacks and, not submitting to General Anton Denikin, who was still oriented towards the Entente, launched a struggle against the Bolsheviks. Krasnov abolished the decrees of the Soviet government and the Provisional Government and created the Great Don Army as an independent state. The Great Military

Circle - the highest authority in the Don army, convened in August 1918, gave the ataman dictatorial powers.

Immediately after his election, the ataman Krasnov sent a telegram to the German Emperor Wilhelm II that the Great Don Army as a subject of international law did not consider himself at war with Germany. He also turned to Germany for weapons and offered to establish trade relations. The German authorities recognized the Krasnov government and began supplying weapons in exchange for food.

The Don Army was one of the most numerous and battle-worthy military units of the white South of Russia. In less than a year, the Cossacks managed to create an army and with the help of the White Guards almost completely cleared the territory of the Don Region (the Don Army) from the Reds. Nevertheless, in the winter of 1918-1919, a military-political crisis was outlined in the White movement.



The abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm and the defeat of the Germans in the First World War forced the ataman to submit to Denikin. The Don Army became part of the Armed Forces of the South of Russia (VSYUR), took an active part in the fight against the Red Army and subsequently shared the fate of all who fought against the Soviets.

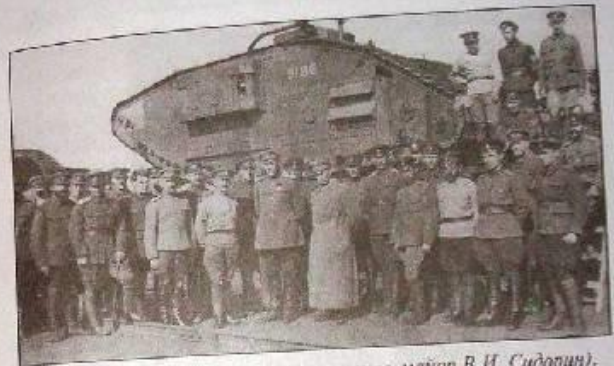
In emigration, Peter Krasnov continued the struggle against the Bolsheviks, was one of the founders of an organization engaged in underground work in Soviet Russia. In exile, he wrote a lot - novels, collections of stories, memories.

Krasnov sympathized with the Nazi regime in Germany and placed his hopes on him as the future winner of the Soviet regime. From September 1943, he was Head of the Main Directorate of the Cossack troops of the Imperial Ministry of the East occupied territories of Germany. According to historians, by January 1943, with the help of the Hitlerites, 30 detachments of Cossacks were formed, with a total of about 20 thousand people who fought on the side of the occupiers. Krasnov participated in the creation of the so-called. "Cossack camp", was an employee of the collaborationist newspaper "For the Motherland".

In May 1945, Krasnov was captured by the British, extradited to the Soviet military administration and executed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Supreme Court for crimes against the Soviet government. By definition of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of December 25, 1997, P.N. Krasnov recognized reasonably convicted and not subject to rehabilitation.



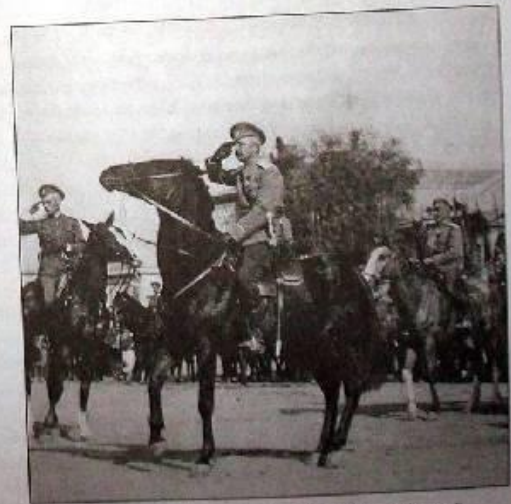
Область Войска Донского в начале XX в.



Чины Донской армии (в центре генерал-майор В. Н. Сидорин). 1919 г.



Броневик «Атаман Богачевский»



Белые казаки в станции Старочеркасской

Under the Hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Fritz Rudolf Künker, Berlin, Germany, January 31



12 roubles Platinum 1839, St. Petersburg. Period of Nicholas I (1825-1855). 41.38 g. Crowned double eagle with sceptre and Imperial orb in the claws, on the chest St. George's shield, around the chain of the Order of Andrew, on the wings three further escutcheons, above crown // front with value and year. Estimated price: 250,000.00 €



Gold medal 1791, by C. Leberecht and G.C. Watcher. Period of Catherine II (1762-1796). On the peace with Turkey on December 29. Crowned bust r. with laurel wreath and robed cloak // landscape, in it pedestal, on which a blazon and a rolled up map lean, on it laurel and palm branch. 67.1 mm; 114.06g. Estimated price: 80,000.00 €



Gold medal 1815, by I. Mainert. Period of Alexander I (1801-1825). On the restoration of the Kingdom of Poland. ALEXANDER I Û IMP Û TOT Û RUSS Û REX POLONIAE Û head r. with laurel wreath // UNUS / QUI NOBIS / RESTITUIT / REM, below between a palm and a laurel branch the date THE XX Û JUN / A Û MDCCCXV Û . 50.80 mm; 53.27 g.
Estimated price: 50,000.00 €



Gold medal . Unsigned. Period of Alexander II (1855-1881). Award of the Russian Geographical Society. Four lines of writing, above star, around oak branches // Representation of the northern hemisphere of the globe. 35.95 mm; 46.48 g.
Estimated price: 10,000.00 €

Auction House 12th chair, Moscow, Russia, February 19

The act of the abdication of Nicholas II and the Act of non-acceptance of the throne by Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.

2 pages, 14,5 x 26 cm, and 19 x 28 cm. - Reproduction of the era from the originals.

On the back of the Act of non-acceptance a stamp in the old spelling "From the collection of Micah Yak. Tartakowski".

These facsimile documents are authentic, made from typewritten (Nicholas II) and handwritten (Mikhail Alexandrovich) originals with the aid of a glass-based printing tool. Comparison of the sheet and the snapshot from the original act of renunciation, stored in the State Archives of the Russian Federation, showed that the text of both documents is the same not only in content but also in design, that is, they are identical: 1) the number of lines; 2) line off on the right; 3) the arrangement of words in lines; 4) use in words of uppercase and lowercase letters. At the same time, the authentic act is written in clear typewriting, and the existing sheet, although it copies the appearance of the original, is a manuscript. Letters are like typewriter letters, but, obviously, are written by hand, as if typewriting were, for example, spelled. Features of printing and characteristic blots on the margins of both sheets indicate that the sheets were made using glass-based printing tool.

The source for copies of both acts was probably a facsimile of acts dated in the inventory of the RF Civil Aviation of 1917. Photographic copies could also be used. The act of renunciation was originally created in duplicate, both of which were genuine. One copy was given to A.I. Guchkov, and the second remained with General N.V. Ruzsky. The copy offered for sale was withdrawn from a copy of General N.V. Ruzsky. In this instance, the minutes are indicated. Judging by the handwriting, this was not done at the time of signing, but a little later, perhaps after the corresponding record was made in the Kamere-Fourier journal. This copy of the act first remained with Ruzsky in Pskov at the headquarters of the Northern Front, and was later sent to the Provisional Government. In 1926, it, like the act of non-acceptance, was found secretly stored in the papers of the Academy of Sciences. In 1927, the act of renunciation was published in the collection "Nicholas II's Abdication" with a note that the original document is kept in the Leningrad Museum of the Revolution. The same copy, as well as a copy of the act of non-acceptance, is now stored in GARF. It is to them, through facsimile or photographic copies, that the submitted sheets go back.

Rarity. Such documents are not found on sale.

Starting price: 90,000p

