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By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovskiy

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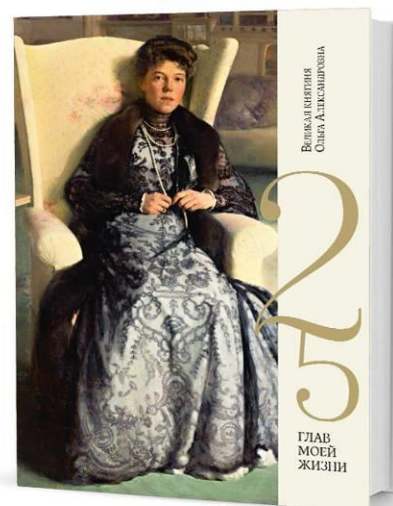
The monument to the Royal Martyrs at the St. Seraphim Cathedral in Vyatka

"For the first time in 100 years, a descendant of the Romanovs appeared in Vyatka"

From 17 to 20 of March the great-great-grandson of Alexander III, the great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - the sister of Emperor Nicholas II - Paul E. Kulikovsky and his wife Ludmila visited Vyatka. They were invited by the regional public organization "Revival of Vyatka".

Paul E. Kulikovsky - "Kirov, or Vyatka as we prefer to call the city, was one of the places on our "to-visit-list", as we want to visit all the places in Russia directly related to the Romanovs, and especially those in which the Romanovs were in exile after the revolution.

That is why first of all were visited Romanov related locations and city landmarks. But for the local citizens the main event was a presentation of the book of memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna "25 Chapters of my life", followed by a press-conference.



City history

The city is actually called Kirov - in honour of one of the Stalin co-workers – Sergei Kirov killed in 1934 – but many citizens still use the historical name Vyatka. It was established in 1174. From 1457 to 1780 it was called Khlynov, from 1780 to 1934 Vyatka, and now Kirov. It is the administrative centre of the Kirov region and located on the Vyatka River, 896 km northeast of Moscow. Population is about 507,155 (2018).

According to the "Tale of the Vyatka Country" (late 17th century), the city was founded after 1181 by Novgorod citizens. In 1455-1457 a wooden Kremlin was built in the city. After two military campaigns of the Moscow troops against Khlynov in 1457 and 1459, power in the city formally passed to Moscow, but with the preservation of local government.



In 1551–1552, Khlynovsk troops took part in the campaign of Ivan the Terrible against the Kazan Tatars. In 1554 and 1556, they participated in campaigns against the Astrakhan Khanate. On June 2, 1580, Khlynov received a letter from Ivan the Terrible to build a monastery in the city, named after the hegumen-founder Trifonov.

In 1689, the Assumption Cathedral of Trifonov Monastery was built. - One of the first stone buildings in Khlynov. In 1694, the Khlynovsk merchant Spiridon Lyanguzov conducted the first trade caravan from Moscow to China after the conclusion of a Russian-Chinese treaty that allowed mutual trade.

On December 18, 1780, by the decree of Empress Catherine II, the Khlynovsk Vicariate was formed, soon transformed into the Vyatka province. The city of Khlynov was renamed to the city of Vyatka. On May 28 (June 8), 1781, the coat of arms of the city of Vyatka was established by the St. Petersburg Herald-Master A. Volkov.

On June 8, 1806, construction began on a floating bridge over the Vyatka River, which was supposed to connect the city with the Dymkova settlement.

On August 19, 1895, work began on the construction of the Perm-Kotlas railway line (the first on Vyatka), and on November 2, 1898, the first train passed through it. By the end of the 19th century, it was an important station on the Trans-Siberian railway.

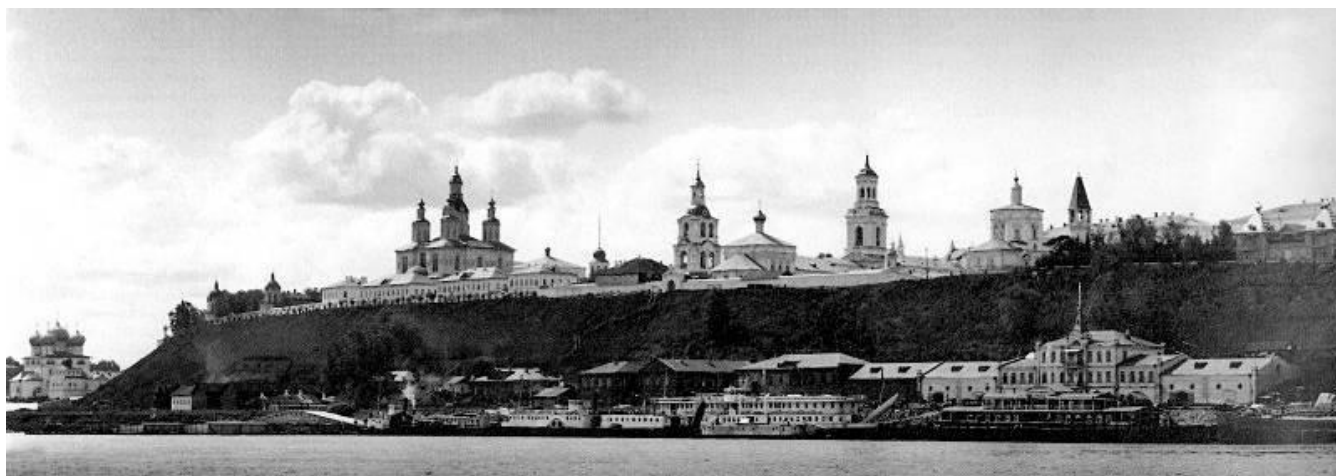
The town also served as a place of exile, notably for famous Russian writers Alexander Herzen and Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin, and architect Alexander Vitberg.

Romanovs and Vyatka

By Nina Semenova, Vyatka, 2019

"My heart is with you. Olga" is the name of the book of letters to Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of the last Russian Tsar-Passion-Bearer Nicholas II. It was presented on January 31, 2019 in the Regional Scientific Library named after A.I. Herzen. The book was published in Vyatka in the publishing house "Herzenka". And in 2017, the book of genuine memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna "25 chapters of my life" for the first time was published in Russia and in Russian. It was printed in the House of the Press - Vyatka. Both books were published in Vyatka, and it is not by chance!

The Imperial House of the Romanovs and Vyatka were historically linked from 1613: Vyatchane took part in the Council, which chose Mikhail Feodorovich Romanov as the Tsar. The letter on the election was signed by Archimandrite of the Assumption Monastery Jonah, the elected priest Paul, the townsman Putilko Ryazantsev, who signed for the elected people from the city and its suburbs.



In 1614, at the request of the Tsar, the young Mikhail Romanov, and his mother, the miraculous icon of St. Nicholas Velikoretsky was sent to Moscow, and it returned only in the summer of 1615. Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich attached to it many precious gifts: "in the weight of the cross is gold with holy relics and precious stones and pearls." And in 1634, after the death of Patriarch Filaret (Feodor Nikitich Romanov in the world), Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich sent various donations and contributions for a large amount of 218 rubles to the Vyatsky Nikolsky Cathedral "for the eternal, until the world stands, remembering of his father".

In 1647, the miraculous icon of the Savior from Vyatka Savior Cathedral was transported to Moscow at the behest of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich and installed in the Assumption Cathedral of the Kremlin. Later, the miraculous icon was transferred to the Transfiguration Church of the Novospassky Monastery. The Kremlin Frolovsky gates, through which this shrine was transferred, have since been called the Spassky.





Emperor Alexander I was the first of Romanov dynasty, who visited the provincial city of Vyatka. Sovereign Alexander I arrived in Vyatka on October 8, 1824. In the town Slobodskoy, he stopped to change horses in the house of merchant Davyd Gerasimov. At 10 o'clock in the evening, he drove across the Vyatka River over the bridge and proceeded to the Holy Trinity Cathedral. In the cathedral, His Imperial Majesty was greeted by His Grace Bishop Paul and clergy, Governor Paul Dobrinsky, the Mayor Ivan Mashkovtsev, senators, officials, representatives of the Vyatka merchant class, and many people from among the townspeople and the village. Emperor stayed in "Governor's House". And even now it magically keeps the memory of His Highest Stay.

The Sovereign visited an educational house, a gymnasium, a prison, a hospital, went to the river to admire the view of the city and praised it: "I have long had the desire to survey your land personally. I am pleased with my trip. Vyatka is one of the best provincial cities."

In memory of Alexander I's stay in Vyatka, the City Duma in 1832 decided to build the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (the project was carried out by the architect A. L. Vitberg). Construction of the cathedral was carried out on public funds from 1839 to 1864.

On May 18, 1837, the heir Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaevich (the future Emperor Alexander II) arrived in Vyatka with a retinue in five carriages. The statistician, geographer and historian K.I. Arsenyev and the poet V. A. Zhukovsky arrived with him. They saw an exhibition of the natural and artificial works of the Vyatka province, prepared by A.I. Herzen. Part of the items were included in the collection of the future Vyatka Public Museum (now the regional museum of local lore) created in 1866. To create the Vyatka Public Museum, a collection of minerals and rocks was received from the museum of the Mining Institute by order of Alexander II. This "Imperial collection" of minerals is now



Above - December 21st, 2013 a memorial plaque was placed on the Governor's House in Vyatka, where Emperor Alexander I and later Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaevich stayed.

Below - the Governor's house present time.



stored in our museum. The Heir to the throne also marked his stay in Vyatka by issuing banknotes to the poor 5,000 rubles.

In memory of Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaevich in 1837, the city garden in Vyatka was named Aleksandrovsky. He walked in it and noted that the garden was "still young".

In 1865, Empress Maria Alexandrovna, the spouse of Emperor Alexander II, took under her patronage the Vyatka Women's High School, which received the name Mariinsky.

On February 23, 1895, at the request of the Vyatka City Council, Emperor Nicholas II authorized the renaming of Voznesenskaya Street in Vyatka to Nikolaevskaya, in memory of the Imperial marriage on November 14, 1894 (now Lenin Street).

On August 30, 1896, a solemn consecration and opening of the first monument in the Russian Empire to Alexander III took place in the park of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

On November 11, 1898, Emperor Nicholas II granted permission for the Vyatka Public Library to receive the name "The Vyatka Provincial Public Library named after Nicholas I". The Library had this name until 1917.

On June 17, 1899, a Catholic church in the name of St. Alexander was laid in Vyatka in memory of Emperor Alexander III.

In October 1904, Emperor Nicholas II granted to Vyatka Secondary Agricultural and Technical School the name of Emperor Alexander II and 55 Zemsky scholarships were established.

In honor of the 300th anniversary of the reign of the House of Romanov in Vyatka in 1912, a church was laid in honor of the Theodore Icon of the Mother of God, patron of the Imperial Family.

On February 21, 1913, celebrations were held in memory of the 300th anniversary of the reign of the House of Romanov. They opened with a solemn procession to the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, where liturgy and thanksgiving prayer were served. On the square, a parade of local garrison troops took place, in the evening the opera "Life for the Tsar" was performed in the city theater.



The death of the Imperial Family and representatives of the House of Romanov also has many sorrowful ties with the Vyatka land. On August 2, 1917, a train with the arrested Imperial Family was in Vyatka on the way to Tobolsk. In memory of this, a worship cross was installed on the high bank of the Vyatka River.

On October 26, 1917, they learned about the seizure of power in the capital by the Bolsheviks from a telegram sent from Petrograd. An emergency session of the provincial assembly was convened, at which it was decided to consider the attempted coup organized by "anti-state elements" illegal. And since the riots began in the capital and communication with the center was lost, it was decided to take the power in the province into their own hands. The Supreme Council was established under the provincial commissioner P.T. Salamatov - in fact the body of independent governance of the province. For the second time in its history, Vyatka became an independent republic.

In March 1918, Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Princes of Imperial blood Ivan, Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich (sons of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich), Prince Vladimir Paley (son of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich), as well as the wife of Ivan Konstantinovich - the daughter of the Serbian King Elena were sent from Petrograd in exile to Vyatka. For almost a month they were under house arrest. But on April 18, 1918, a member of the Bolshevik faction, I. V. Popov, demanded that the Romanovs be expelled from Vyatka. At the provincial congress of Soviets of Workers', Peasants and Red Army deputies, he stated that

"everyone knows Vyatka is a bourgeois town where the revolutionary movement is very poorly developed ..." On April 27, the "Vyatka" Romanovs were expelled to Yekaterinburg and then to Alapayevsk, where they were subsequently executed. The house of the merchant Savintseva (Lenin Street, 105), where they lived in Vyatka, until now keeps the memory of the presence of the Grand Duke and Princes of the House of Romanov here.



The house of merchant Savintsev

In 2013, to the 400th anniversary of the House of Romanov photo exhibition was prepared from the funds of the regional museum of local lore. The exhibition "Unknown Romanovs. For the 400th Anniversary of the Ministry of Russia" presented more than 100 photographs. In 2014, a collection of scientific papers and documents "The Romanovs and the Vyatka Territory" devoted to the 400th anniversary of the Imperial Dynasty was published by the Herzenka Publishing House.



On July 15, 2018, on the eve of the Day of Remembrance of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers of Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, Tsarevich Alexei, Grand Duchess Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia, the monument to the Imperial Family was erected near the Seraphim Cathedral. The rite of consecration was performed by Metropolitan Mark of Vyatka and Slobodskoy and the Vyatka Diocese clergy.

Sightseeing, book presentation and press-conference in Vyatka

Sunday evening, March 17, 2019, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky flew from Moscow to Kirov. Nina I. Semenova, her husband Priest George, and Vladimir M. Vasiliev, chairman of the organization "Revival of Vyatka" met them at the Airport.

Monday, March 18, in the morning the guests were welcomed at the St. Seraphim Cathedral. After a small excursion, during which they were told about the history and shrines, and a visit to the lower church, started a moleben. It was in memory of the Romanov martyrs and for a blessing of the Kulikovskys stay on Vyatka land. Parishioners of the church, representatives of the regional public organization "Revival of Vyatka", prayed with Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky.

The picturesque St Seraphim Cathedral stands on the edge of the historical part of the city. It is built in the Neo-Russian style, designed by the local architect Ivan A. Charushin. Multicapital encircling the church with innovative features and bulk composition underlines the national character of the building. Construction of the Cathedral was finished in 1906. November 5, 1907 it was consecrated in the name of Saint Seraphim of Sarov.

Since the end of 1930-ies the St Seraphim Cathedral remained the only functioning church in the city, and in 1940, the building was also used as a secular Museum of atheism, to preserve not only the Orthodox structure, but also icons from the shrines of destroyed churches in all Vyatka region. Because of this, today the church possesses some very old and interesting icons.

After World War II a lower church was built, with three chapels: St. Tryphon, blessed Procopius and Holy Martyrs Chrysanthos and Daria.

In the 1980s, unable to accommodate everyone during the service, Seraphim Cathedral again was expanded by closing and including the public gallery, on both sides of the altar.

The cathedral belongs to the Vyatka Diocese and is considered the spiritual and educational centre of the city.



At the end of the moleben, Priest Vasily Pistsov of the Holy Seraphim Cathedral, addressed the believers with a pastoral word:

"Today we prayed to the Royal Passion-bearers, Nicholas II, Alexandra Feodorovna, and their children, who were martyred in 1918. This terrible crime was committed by the Bolsheviks, who hated the Tsar, and they are guilty that in Yekaterinburg his whole family was killed along with his children and all innocent people. And this atrocity was not a single case, it became a symbol of many years of persecution of the Orthodox Church, of all people who tried

to preserve the memory of Russia until 1917. And this killing of the Imperial Family became a symbol of the phenomenon that many people were forced to leave their homeland and spend many decades in a foreign land away from their country.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we are grateful to the Lord that the time has come in our country when we were not forced to hear about the flood of lies and slander against the passion-bearers, Tsar Nicholas and his family, but we live in a time when we can offer them prayers, so that they, unconditionally received martyrs crowns, unconditionally received God's grace for their uncomplaining Christian martyr's death, could ask for each of us personally and for our whole country of that very world. It is necessary to remember that only in a single impulse to God, in a single desire to fulfil the commandments of God, you can truly build a worthy succession of society, you can arrange it only on true Christian principles. And the terrible martyrdom of the last Russian Tsar is for us a symbol of the courage and self-sacrifice of a man who until the end remained faithful to the principles of the Christian life. Let us, dear brothers and sisters, also be faithful to God and His commandments, Amen".



With red flowers, the Kulikovskys went to the monument of the Holy Royal Martyrs next to the cathedral.



The monument to the Holy Royal Martyrs was opened on the territory of the Holy Seraphim Cathedral in Kirov on Sunday, July 15, 2018. It was created on the initiative of Metropolitan of Vyatka and Slobodskaya Mark and inhabitants of the city.



The monument is similar to the one opened on 31 July 2017, at the Holy Trinity St. Seraphim-Diveevo Convent, Nizhny Novgorod region. It is made by Russian sculptor Irina Makarova.



"Vyatka diocese was visited by relatives of the great Russian Emperor Nicholas II"

Article on the web site of the Vyatka diocese - "On March 18, 2019, Metropolitan of Vyatka and Slobodskoy, Mark welcomed the great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of Emperor Nicholas II, together with his wife.

The relatives of Emperor Nicholas II were greeted by Metropolitan of Vyatka and Slobodskaya Mark. The meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Vyatka Diocese. The conversation was also attended by the chairman of the regional public organization "Revival of Vyatka" Vladimir Mikhailovich Vasiliev.

The guests expressed their appreciation to Metropolitan Mark for perpetuating the memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs - the installation of a monument in the territory of St. Seraphim's Cathedral. Vladyka told the guests about the significant event for the Orthodox residents of the city - the opening of the monument to the Imperial Family in June 2018, and also about the famous All-Russian Velikoretsky Cross Procession and the venerated image of St. Nicholas, with which every year thousands of pilgrims make a prayer procession to the Great River.



Metropolitan Mark exchanged views with the guests about the return of the historic name to the city. Of particular interest to the relatives of the last Russian Emperor was Vladyka's story about the spiritual links of the Savior Cathedral and the Moscow Kremlin. One of the Moscow Kremlin Tower, Spasskaya, was named after the Vyatka icon.

Paul Eduardovich and Lyudmila Anatolyevna presented to Metropolitan Mark the memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna "25 chapters of my life", published in Russian and printed in Kirov.

Holy Assumption Trifonov Monastery

Trifonov Monastery is erected in the name of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. In 1580, St. Tryphon Vyatsky decided to build a monastery and therefore turned to Tsar Ivan the Terrible. The Tsar favourably accepted the request in a letter of June 11, 1580. St. Tryphon Vyatsky put a wooden church in the name of the Assumption on the site of two old churches. And during 9 years it was built. After the founding of the monastery, 2 settlements, Kikimorskoe and Zaohradnoe, were formed very quickly next to it. Over the centuries, the Assumption Monastery has been rebuilt many times, until, in the end, it becomes the way we see it now. In 1595, Fedor I signed a charter, and awarded the monastery with big Voblovitsa parish in Sloboda Uyezd. Since then, the monastery has received a huge number of lands, founded many villages and replenished with income.

The first stone structure of the monastery - the Assumption Cathedral, was built from 1684 to 1689. It is also the oldest stone structure in the Vyatka region that has survived to our time. The purpose of the church was to be the main monastic building and it determined its type: the five-domed, four-pillar, with three semicircles apsidal type, all according to the tradition. The architectural image of the cathedral is simple and modest.

Smooth and wide blades, corresponding to the structure of the cathedral, divide the facades into three vertical parts, which are also emphasized by the semicircular outer portions of the wall. Horizontal lines make up a light inter-tiered belt and an elegant cornice.

Richly decorated cornices adorn the drum heads.

In the interior of the cathedral are preserved paintings. The first paintings on the walls appeared in the XVIII century. In 1811, local icon painters Jacob Charushin, Ivan Mamaev and Demid Menshikov painted interiors on themes related to the dedication of the church to the Virgin Mary.

The murals of the altar of the cathedral, made by the provincial secretary Ivan Pinaev, date back to 1873.

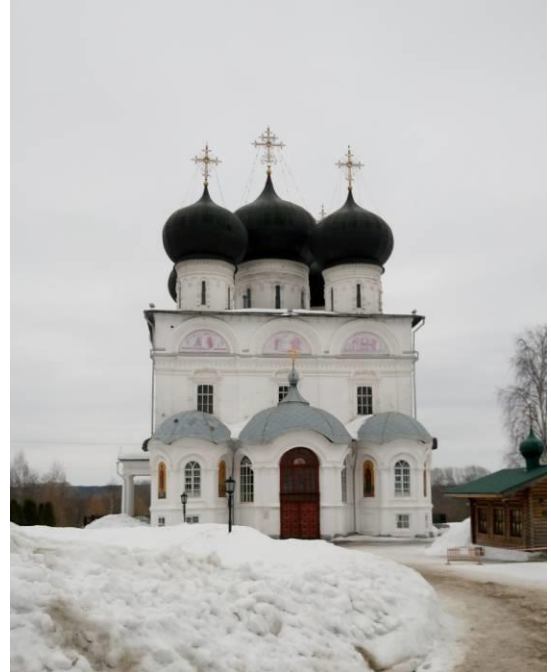
The main decoration of the cathedral is a wooden carved five-tier iconostasis. By its artistic qualities, it represents a brilliant example of the high professional skill of local carvers.

The wooden Nikolsky Gate Church was built at the end of the 16th century, marking the northern boundary of the monastic territory. In 1690 - 1695 it was rebuilt in stone. Initially, the church had a five-domed completion, but after a fire in 1752, the gate church received a wooden ceiling, a four-slope roof, and one wooden cupola on a thin drum. By 1764, the top of the Nikolsky Church was already covered with iron.

The compositional decision of the Nikolsky Church is traditional for gate complexes. A semicircular apse and a small refectory adjoin the east and west to the main part of the church. High craftsmanship distinguishes the artistic solution of the facades of the monument. Two tiers of triple windows are framed with elegant plat bands.

In 1714, the belfry expanded the stone buildings of the monastery, tying together the entire central group of the monastery buildings. After the fire in 1752, the bell tower was rebuilt and completed in 1764. In the XIX century its upper tier was decorated with a clock.

Among the especially valuable bells there was a large bell weighing 525 pounds with the image on one



side of the image of the Dormition of the Mother of God, and on the other - St. Tryphon. The bell was cast by Khlynovts Ivan Golovin in 1762.

In 1935, the bell tower was dismantled, and in the late 1990s, it was recreated again based on archival inventories and old photographs.

In 1719, a two-storey building of the Rector's chambers was erected in the line of the northern border of the monastic territory.

In the premises of the first floor, covered with arches, were placed a treasury and monastic order, in the upper floor - rooms of the prior.

Springs comes from under the ledge of the western slope to the Khlynovitsa river. During the founding of the monastery, a well was built here to collect key water, which, according to legend, Archimandrite Tryphon himself dug. At the same time, a wooden chapel was erected above the well house.

During the XVIII - XX centuries, the chapel was rebuilt more than once, and was dismantled in the 1930s. During the restoration of the monastic ensemble, a decision was made to recreate the curved chapel.

During the period of anti-religious Soviet activity, the monastery was closed and emptied, and only reopened in 1991.

The Assumption Trifonov Monastery received the status of a federal monument of architecture.

The Vyatka diocesan administration is located in the monastery. There is also a large collection of Orthodox icons.



The worship cross on the bank of the river Vyatka

The cross is erected on a hill at the River Vyatka, next to it runs the road and on the other side of the road is the railroad tracks - 3 transport ways very close to each other! Both to the left and the right of the hill along the river are low slopes running into meadows, allowing for easy access to the river.

The cross is of metal and have two plaques attached.

August 2nd, 1917, Emperor Nicholas II and his family was on their way from Alexander Palace towards Tobolsk, and on this day the train stopped to refill with water at a water pump-station near Vyatka. The Imperial Family were allowed to step outside the train and to walk in the meadow nearby. This is mentioned in the diaries of both Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra. But there are different opinions about where exactly the train stopped.

The most reasonable version says it stopped where the railroad goes close to the river Vyatka, and this can only be at one place, where it would be easy to take water from the river - as elsewhere there are high banks or long distance - near the Krasnaya Gorka (Red Mountain). To commemorate the stay of the Imperial Family, a worship cross was erected there in August 2013. It is however not placed where they got out of the train, but at the highest point of this area, so it can be seen from far away and is overlooking the river.

This story began in 2009. The Vyatka historian Mikhail Sudovikov said that he found in the diaries of Nicholas II a record of a walk to the Vyatka River. So, a group tried to find the place described in the diary:

"Nicholas II's diary: 2 August - "We walked to Vyatka, the same weather and dust, that is, the weather was hot, at all stations, at the request of the commandant, had to hang the windows - silly and boring!"

It remained only to determine accurately the place where the Imperial Family went to the shore of Vyatka. Having considered all possible options, they came to the conclusion - the place described in the diary of Nicholas II, is not far from the current Novovyatsky relocation, where the Trans-Siberian Railway comes closest to the Vyatka River. There is a convenient gentle slope. And most importantly: it was here that there was a point for refilling locomotives with water.



"Here on 2 (15) August 1917 Holy Martyrs Tsar Nicholas II with family and loyal people get out of the train taking them to the place of death for the Christ....."

However, others refute this version and says that in fact they stopped at the Candle Station in the village of Svecha (Candle). In the summer

of 1917, the train, which carried the Imperial Family to the Siberian exile, passed through Vyatka. The text in Emperor's diary we noted. But the diary of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna has another version:

"August 2nd. Wednesday. The train 9 3/4 [hours] at Nikola-Palomn. Alexey had breakfast with me. 2 1/4 [hour]. Sharva. 5 3/4 [hours]. Candle. The others walked for half an hour. Had dinner with Alexei at 7 1/2. 8 o'clock. Katen. Early went to bed."

Candidate of Historical Sciences Artem Markelov explains: - "Nikola-Palomn" is, of course, Nikolo-Poloma, "Sharva" - Sharya, "Katen" - Kotelnich. If a train with imperial prisoners passed through Kotelnich at about 8 pm, then through Vyatka it was closer to the night. Walk was allowed only once a day. Consequently, the walk was in the vicinity of the Candle Station, and the phrase from the diary of Emperor Nicholas II: "Walked to Vyatka" meant not a walk to the river, but through an area somewhere near the main town of the Vyatka province.

This fact, in the opinion of the historian, is also confirmed by the entry in the travel log, which was kept by the convoy:

- "August 2nd. Breakfast, afternoon tea, lunch served as the day before. Family members of the former emperor made a half-hour warm-up at 5:30 pm at the Candle Station of the Northern Railway, in which the former Empress again refused to participate."

Mansion of P. F. Savintseva

In the afternoon Kulikovskys visited the mansion of Savintseva. In this house the members of the Romanov family lived in in April 1918. Now, there is an evening school.

This expressive residential building belonged to the merchant family Savintsevs. It was built in 1881 along the Nikolaevskaya street not far from the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

The two-story brick building on a basement, covered with a hip roof, has a complex plan. From the lobby, located on the transverse axis, a wide front staircase of two parallel marches, merging at an intermediate platform, leads upward. The spacious lobby of the second floor is open with three arches to the north corridor. The organization of the internal space of the house, combining the features of the enfilade and corridor systems, has remained unchanged until today.



On the plaque it says - "In this house, the mansion of merchant N.E. Savintseva, from 5 to 30 April 1918 members of the Imperial dynasty lived in exile:

Prince Konstantin Konstantinovich Romanov, Prince Igor Konstantinovich Romanov, Prince Ivan Konstantinovich Romanov, Prince Vladimir Paley.

At the end of April 1918, by decision of the Vyatka Provincial Congress of Soviets they were sent to Yekaterinburg."

The main facade of the building attracts the attention with its lush eclectic decoration. The window openings, framed by frame plat bands, are combined on the second floor with figured brickwork with locking stones over arched lintels of windows and "pendants" in the piers. Rich frieze, including patterns of geometric and floral ornament, double inter-story gated fabric belt and the original eaves make up the horizontal division of the wall plane. The centre of the facade is emphasized by a complex broken pediment, stylized baroque, with the owner's monogram. The lack of decor under the central windows of the second floor speaks of the missing balcony. Around the entrance, four ionic pilasters of an ionic "warrant" with imposts in the form of currencies.

Inside it is still preserved the original stucco on the ceilings, high doors and even door handles, which may have been touched by the members of the Romanov family.

From 5 to 30 April 1918, the members of the Romanov family lived in exile in this house: Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, three brothers - Princes John, Igor, Konstantin Konstantinovich, and Prince Vladimir Paley. In addition, came Princess Elena of Serbia to stay with her husband John Konstantinovich.

Paley, Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich lived in one room, John Konstantinovich and his wife in another. However, some says Sergey Mikhailovich lived somewhere else.

Prince Konstantin Konstantinovich said: "We are glad to be in exile here." Igor Konstantinovich said: "I feel that we will not be allowed to live here. In Vyatka, the population treated us well, too."

On April 8–25, the Second Provincial Congress of Soviets was held in Vyatka. On April 18, the member of the Bolshevik faction I. V. Popov demanded that the Romanovs be expelled, since “we all know that Vyatka is a rotten bourgeois town, where the revolutionary movement is very poorly developed. It is necessary to send these gentlemen somewhere far away, where they would be under the safe guard of workers bayonets.”

The exiles from Vyatka were sent to Yekaterinburg, then to Alapaevsk. Here, together with the Grand Duchess Elizaveta Feodorovna and the nun Varvara, on the night of July 18, 1918, they were killed and thrown into a mine.



On March 1st, 2014, a memorial plaque was put out in on the building. The text have many flaws, but this was already mentioned in the last issue of Romanov News.

At the house the Kulikovsky couple were met by the TV channel "Russia 1 Vyatka" and a small interview was made.

Video - <http://www.gtrk-vyatka.ru/vesti/culture/45582-v-kirove-s-vizitom-nahoditsya-prapravnuk-rossiyskogo-imperatora-aleksandra-iii.html>

Translation of the TV-report:

"Great-great grandson of the Russian Emperor Alexander III is visiting Kirov

The great-great-grandson of the Russian Emperor Alexander III - Paul Kulikovsky and his spouse Lyudmila are visiting Kirov. Where did the distinguished guests go, and what do they think about the fate of Russia in the 20th and 21st centuries? Paul Kulikovsky: “I wanted to visit this city for a long time. I wanted to see the places that are associated with the Romanovs. My relatives were here already after the revolution on the way to their martyrdom or exile. And there is another reason - a book about my great-great-grandmother Olga Alexandrovna was recently published here. ”



In Kirov, the guests went to the house of the merchant Savintsev, where evening school is now located. After the revolution, members of the Imperial family were exiled to Vyatka: Sergei Mikhailovich, the three sons of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich and the Serbian Princess Elena Petrovna. Almost all of them were brutally murdered in a month near Yekaterinburg. Only the Serbian Princess survived, and the Serbian and Norwegian embassies fought for her in front of the Bolsheviks. Paul Kulikovsky: “We are now celebrating the 5th anniversary of the reunification of the Crimea with Russia. We are very excited about this reunion. But the fact that the Crimea became part of Ukraine in 1954 is a problem that was created earlier.”

Representatives of the ancient Russian families are visiting Kirov not for the first time. Several years ago, Princess Nadezhda Volkonskaya from France visited the Herzen library. And most recently, descendants of famous merchant Vyatka families, came to the city from America. And they all say that they consider Russia their Motherland, they are drawn here, they feel at home here.”

The Transfiguration Convent

The first stop through the historical centre of the city was at the Transfiguration Convent.

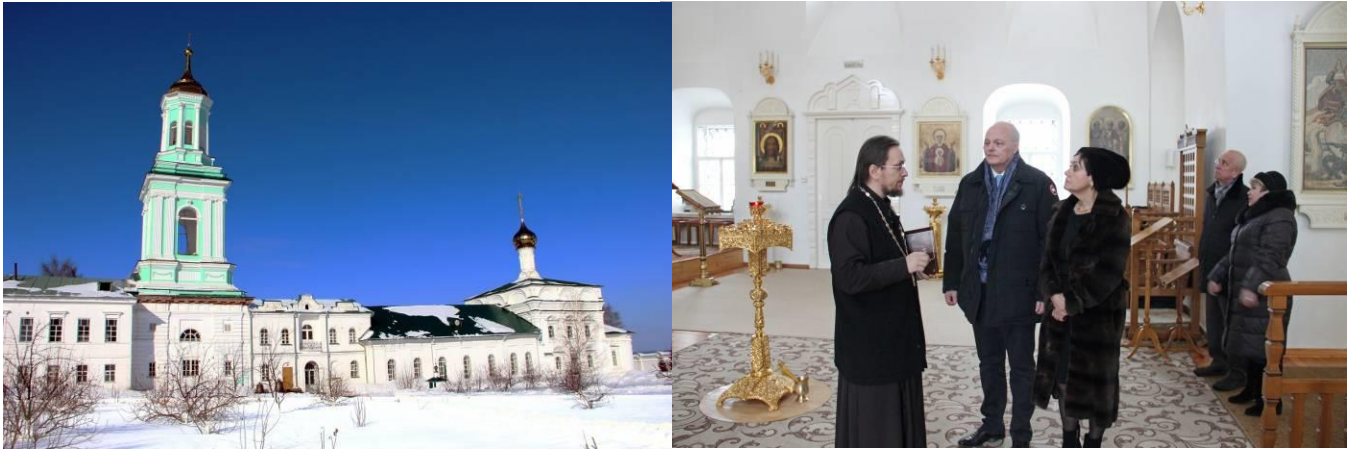
The Monastery was founded in 1624 by order of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich and stood outside the Northern border of the former Khlynov Kremlin.

Allowing the construction of the monastery, the Tsar sent an icon of his heavenly patron - Saint Michael Malein as a sign of goodwill. This icon subsequently became the most sacred one for the monastery and was honoured as the «cornerstone» of its founding.

The North-Western and the Western buildings, facing the Cathedral Square, were completed in 1883 and covered the beautiful Church of the Transfiguration, which was built in 1696.

In 1891 a female branch of the missionary schools of the Vyatka brotherhood of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker was opened at the monastery. Painting and handmade work rooms were opened here.

In 1924 the monastery was closed. The bell tower was taken down, churches were defiled and converted: in Soviet times there was a hostel, sports school and other organizations. The internal space of many buildings was divided into two floors and used for housing.



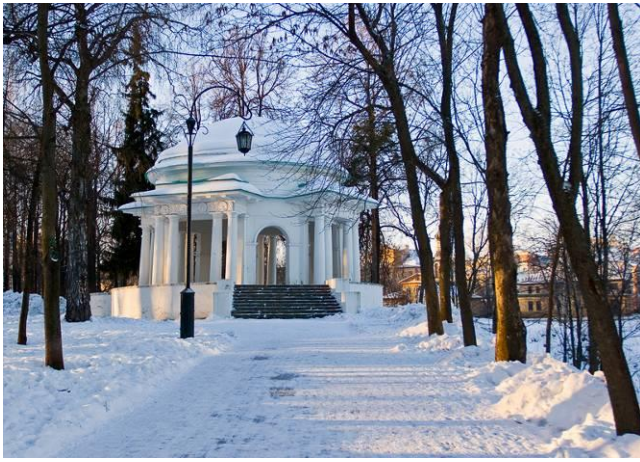
In 1991, some of the buildings were returned to Vyatka Eparchy and the Monastery of Transfiguration is gradually recovering its former beauty. The top octagonal level of the rebuilt bell tower with a helmet-shaped dome with a small spire well seen from the opposite bank of the river is particularly beautiful.

The ensemble of the Alexander Garden

The garden is built in the autumn of 1825 under Governor A. I. Rykhlevsky, after Emperor Alexander I's visit to Vyatka. To begin with, they identified a plot of land of 10,906 square fathoms and planted trees - birches, lindens, rowans and bird cherries. The place for the garden was along the bank of the Vyatka River, the slope of the Razderykhinsky ravine and came close to the Pyatnitsky church from the embankment and ended at the walls of the Spaso-Preobrazhensky monastery. The official opening of the garden was held on August 30, 1835. Two wooden arbours and a stone bridge were built according to the drawings of the local architect A. E. Timofeev.



In December 1835, with the permission of Emperor Nicholas I, the garden was named "Alexander" in honour of the heir to the throne, the future Tsar Alexander II.



The central park pavilion is a monumental rotunda, cut through by diametric arches and openings. Four porticoes with two pairs of columns at the edges, making out the entrances, give the plan a cruciform shape. Porticoes are decorated with a horizontal ribbon with a bas-relief, including motifs of floral ornament. Above the porticoes is a sleek, high entablature of the rotunda. The volume of the building is covered with a dome on a two-step basis. The pavilion is installed on a round brick base with three ladders-shoots.

The Coastal rotunda is a canonical type of a small architectural form of the era of classicism. A round construction with 10 slender columns, creating an easy, measured rhythm of the free space of its volume, and with a flat dome.

Of great urban significance is the spectacular staging and visibility of the rotunda, placed on the coastal facade of Vyatka.



The final link in the ensemble of the Alexander Garden was the cast-iron fence and the gate, built in 1838-1840 according to the design of the outstanding architect and artist A.L. Vitberg. Compositionally, the gates are treated as a small, rectangular pavilion in plan with a wide through opening. The solemnly strict appearance of the building is designed in the forms of high classicism. Gate lintels are supported by two columns. Smooth planes of pylons, decorated with garlands and relief frieze. When finishing the gate, plaster and local white stone were used - the flask with which the basement and the trunks of the columns were faced.

One piece of the gate is a fence. It raised on the base. Prefabricated lattice links are installed between the iron posts topped with balls. The picture of the grid is made of vertical rods with a reinforced base and peaks rising above it. The centre of the link is decorated with a complex garland.



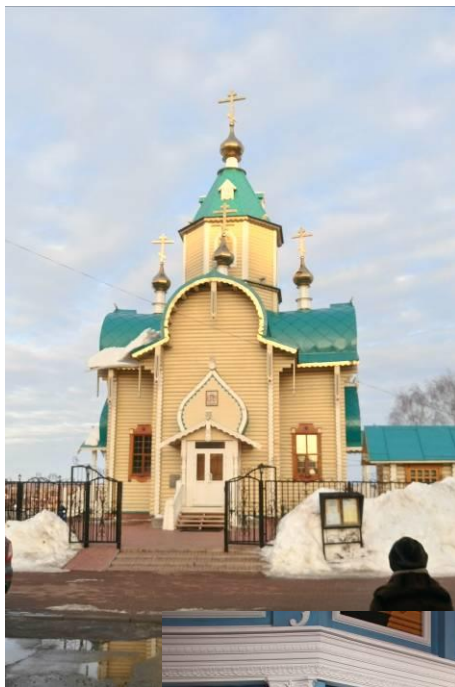
By now, the layout and plant composition of the garden are distorted, the bridge has been lost. But still, the magnificent ensemble of the Alexander Garden is rightfully considered one of the best works of park architecture of provincial classicism.

The church in honour of the Feodorovsky Icon of the Mother of God

In 1913, when all of Russia celebrated the 300th anniversary of the House of Romanov, a church in the name of the Feodorovsky Icon of the Mother of God was laid in Vyatka at the base of Morozovskaya Street.

The church was built in stone by the project of the famous Vyatka architect Ivan Charushin in 1915-1918. Its lower church was consecrated in honour of the All-Russian shrine - the Feodorovsky Icon of the Mother of God, the patron saint of the House of Romanov. The upper church is in the name of St. Nicholas. From 1930 to 1945, the church was closed.

During the Great Patriotic War, a collection point was located in it. From the steps of the church, the Vyatka soldiers went directly to the front. In 1946, the building was again returned to the Russian Orthodox Church, and services were resumed. However, in October 1962, by the decision of the city authorities, the church was closed again, was blown up and broken down by the tanks. In 1974, the city authorities tried to erect a monument in honour of the 600th anniversary of Kirov on this holy site, but without success. For more than 30 years there was nothing.



In 2001, Metropolitan Chrysanthus blessed the faithful to perform annual Cross Procession to the destroyed Feodorovsky Church. In 2004 this place was marked with a memorial cross.

On October 1, 2006, Metropolitan Chrysanthus blessed the work of the reconstruction of the church. Governor Nikolai Shaklein personally supported the project. The church was already embodied in the residence of President Vladimir Putin in Valdai. On August 25, 2007, the new church was solemnly consecrated by the Metropolitan of Vyatka and Slobodsky Chrysanthus.



The Museum of History Khlynov

Located in the historical part of the city, it is dedicated to the history of the medieval Khlynov city - the predecessor of Vyatka and the modern Kirov. The museum collection was born due to the interest of its owner Valery I. Fedyaev in the history of Vyatka. The study of archival materials, work in the museums funds, participation in expeditions - all this made it possible to create a base for the history and culture of the Khlynovsky period.

The museum collection is "alive", as almost any exhibit can be taken in hand, viewed, or photographed with. There are also movies and interactive screens.



Book presentation

On Tuesday, March 19, the presentation of the book "25 chapters of my life", the memories of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, was held in the Banquet Hall "Vyatka".



Bread and salt and welcoming speeches met the dear guest.



The Deputy Minister of Culture of the Kirov Region, Alevtina Kopylova, read the welcome address of the governor of the Kirov region Igor V. Vasiliev:

"To the honorary member of the Association of Romanov family members, a member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, Paul Eduardovich Kulikovsky, his wife Lyudmila Anatolievna Kulikovskaya.

Dear Paul Eduardovich! Dear Lyudmila Anatolievna!

I am sincerely glad to welcome you on Vyatka land, at this meeting dedicated to the book of memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna "25 Chapters of My Life", published in Russian for the first time. The release of this publication, an invaluable source for all interested in the fate of the last

representatives of the ruling dynasty of the Romanovs, has great cultural and historical significance for our region. It is gratifying that the book gives readers the opportunity to re-evaluate some of the historical events that are closely related to one of the greatest Russian dynasties. I sincerely wish you all the best, further creativity, inspiration, luck, happiness, well-being ... ”

Greetings were also made by: Nikolai M. Lipatnikov, President of the Union "Vyatka Chamber of Commerce and Industry"; Valery T. Yungblyud, President of Vyatka State University; Natalia V. Strelnikova, the director of the Regional Scientific Library named after A.I. Herzen; Maria A. Shishkina - an employee of the Industry of Folk Art "Dymkovo Toys" - she presented Vyatskaya Bird of Happiness to Paul E. Kulikovskiy - and Vladimir A. Leshukov, the writer, publisher of the collection of letters from Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna "My Heart is with you. Olga".



The presentation was attended by a representative the Administration of Culture Elena A. Marikhina, the deputy Mayor of the city of Elena V. Kovaleva, and about 150 other people.



Paul Eduardovich in English, with Ludmila Antolievna translating into Russian, started with thanking Nina Ivanova and Vladimir Mikhailovich for the invitation to come to Vyatka and make the presentation of their book.

He then introduced himself and his wife. Paul Eduardovich stressed that he has been going the opposite way of his great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - from Canada via Denmark to Russia - and became the first descendent of the Romanovs since the 1917 revolution, to live and work in Russia.

Paul mentioned some of their charity projects, the many events they have participated in, and places in Russia they have visited.

The history of the book "25 Chapters of My Life", the memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - with its Danish, English and now Russian version - was told. And also the process of making the Russian version was addressed - translation, search for the right publisher and photos.

The content of the book was mentioned and then Ludmila gave examples of the text, that both told who the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was and how she expressed herself.

It was a tour-de-force through the life of the Last Russian Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and her life story touched people's hearts. The audience got very emotional and some people were even in tears, and at the end was a big applause.



After a coffee break, the documentary "Olga, the Last Grand Duchess" was shown. It was made by Sonja Vesterholt in 2003.

The third part of the event was a "surprise" from the organizers - first Paul and Ludmila was handed an icon of the Mother of God "Reigning" and then a concert of local artist.



Video - https://vk.com/video-45706908_456239659

"History does not tolerate vanity..."

Article by Olga Demina, Kirov-online.

"The organization "Revival of Vyatka" invited the great-grandson sister of Emperor Nicholas II Olga Alexandrovna Paul Eduardovich Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of the strongest Russian Emperor of the 19th century Alexander III to our city. The guest arrived in Kirov with his wife Ludmila. A big program was prepared for the Kulikovskys.

Paul Kulikovsky and his wife met with the Vyatka residents, as well as presented the book. The event gathered the creative intelligentsia of the city and the priests of the Kirov region.

The personal point of view on many well-known events from the life of the country, remarkable details from the life of both the Russian Imperial and the Danish Royal Court, expressive portraits of the next of kin - members of the Romanov dynasty, as well as the vivid language of memoirs make this book an invaluable source for all those interested in the fate of the last representatives the ruling dynasty.

After the presentation of "25 chapters of my life", during a short break it was possible to purchase books by various authors, including Kulikovskys, which the Vyatchane instantly bought up. I did not get it. We'll have to order through the site.

After the break, a documentary about Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was shown, and then a concert was held with the participation of our Vyatka performers. Paul Kulikovsky received as a gift books from Natalia Strelnikova, the director of Herzenka, also a book from artist Dmitry Sennikov, a Dymkovo turkey toy donated by Maria Shishkina. The most memorable gift is the man-made wooden icon from the Vyatka master Nikolai Salangin. Unfortunately, the creator himself was unable to attend the event.



After the meeting, I asked the professor, doctor of historical sciences Mikhail Sudovikov to share with me his impressions. "History does not tolerate vanity," wrote a famous poet, - explained Mikhail Sergeyevich - We had the opportunity to touch its bright and tragic pages at the same time. Olga Alexandrovna, daughter of Alexander III, appeared before us as an amazing person. She did not lose her love for the Fatherland, for the Russian people, despite all the vicissitudes of life, despite all the persecutions, the blows of fate and emigration. Meeting with her and an heir in a straight line is certainly a memorable and extraordinary event, and I saw that Vyatka in the face of a large public that came to the meeting is a reliable guardian of history and national culture."

Of course, the impressions received from the cordial welcome of the inhabitants of our city, Paul Eduardovich will remain in his memory for a long time. And a new meeting is not far off!

The town of Slobodskoy

In the evening was arranged a trip to the town of Slobodskoy (30 km from Vyatka). Paul and Ludmila Kulikovsky visited the Convent of the Nativity of Christ, the Catherine's Cathedral, and the historical centre of the city.

The Slobodskoy Spassky monastery, predecessor of the Convent of the Nativity of Christ, was founded by the Tsar-Charter in 1671. Here is the miraculous icon of the Mother of God, called "Comfort in the Sorrow"

The Catherine's Cathedral dates back to its seventeenth century. In 1629 there was a small wooden church with a bell tower on this place, but it burned in a fire in 1661. In 1699 a stone church was built. But time has shown that the laying is not of high quality, the church quickly deteriorated and the wooden roof did not survive the fire in the spring of 1823. The church fell into disrepair and it was dismantled, and a new one was built for donations. The three thrones of the church were consecrated in 1853 - on the right side in honour of the icon of the Mother of God of Tikhvin, centre - the Ascension

of the Lord, and on the left side - in the name of Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth. The old church icon of St. Catherine the Great Martyr was located in the iconostasis in the central part. Since 1858, the church complex with a bell tower in three tiers became known as the Catherine's Cathedral.

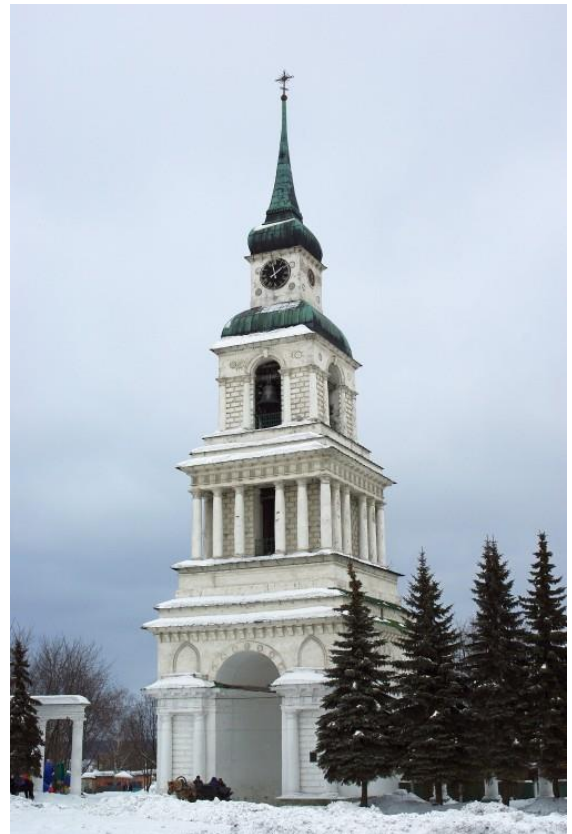
The Catherine's Cathedral was reopened in 1945. Until 1994, the church was the only one operating in the city. And it is precisely for this reason that the holy Great Martyr Catherine is especially honoured in Slobodskoy, and they consider her to be the patroness of the city.



The main attraction on the city's central square, is the bell tower of the Preobrazhensky Cathedral. The project of the bell tower was made by the local architect Ivan D. Dusard de Neuville, and built by the artel of masons under the direction of Fyodor Tyurin.

The unusual thing is that it began to be built in 1822 as a Triumphal Arch in honour of the 10th anniversary of the Patriotic War with the army of Napoleon. In a petition during the construction, "suburban parish people and all sorts of citizens" wrote that they "want to have a stone bell tower in the middle between the cold and warm church, inside the bell tower with an open passage and with shops lined up on both sides of the bell tower to the church".

The massive basement of the bell tower, as the customers wanted, was indeed cut through by a huge arch, through which the road leads to the descent to the ferry. But the shops on the sides were never built. The construction was carried out in 1822-1824, and the builders tried to complete all the work in time for the visit of Emperor Alexander I to Slobodskoy.



In 1851, the bell tower was equipped with a clock with a diameter of 2.5 meters, which were made by the serf master Vasily Rysev. The chime of the bells of the cathedral bell tower flies over the city, for almost two centuries.

The Kirov Regional Scientific Library named after Alexander Herzen

Wednesday, March 20, started with a visit to the library named after A.I. Herzen. The Kulikovskys were welcomed by the director of the library Natalia V. Strelnikova, and shown around in the old house and the new buildings, seeing the collection of old and rare books, the conference/ball hall, the meeting rooms, cafe and book shop.

On April 9, 1836, a meeting on the establishment of a library was organized by Vyatka governor Kirill Y. Tyufyaev. A board of trustees for the library was established, headed by a titular adviser V. Ya. Titov. Alexander Herzen, who had been exiled to Vyatka in 1835, became his assistant. Herzen personally sent many appeals to the residents of Vyatka asking for help with books and money. In total, about 11 thousand roubles and 399 books were collected.

On December 18, 1837, the grand opening of the Vyatka Public Library took place in the premises of the Noble Assembly, the collection of which at that time amounted to 1,313 volumes. At the opening, Herzen made a famous speech about the role of the book and library in the history of mankind. According to the rules of the library, the use of books was free of charge, however, in order to take books at home, it was necessary to pay a deposit, or a fee of 25 roubles per year.

In 1863, the library acquired the house of merchant A.F. Mashkovtsev on Kopanskaya Street.

In 1898, at the request of local authorities, the library began to bear the name of Emperor Nicholas II, with his personal consent.

In 1917, at the request of the inhabitants of Vyatka, the library was named after A.I. Herzen by a resolution of the Vyatka Executive Committee.

In 2009, the Government of the Kirov region decided to build an annex to the central building of the library and it was ready in the summer of 2011.



Alexander I. Herzen (April 6, 1812 - January 21, 1870) was a Russian writer and thinker known as the "father of Russian socialism".

In 1834, Herzen was arrested and tried on charges of having at a festival sung verses that were uncomplimentary to the Emperor. He was found guilty, and in May 1835 banished to Vyatka. Herzen arrived in Vyatka with a bag of money, a wardrobe of haute couture and a valet. He even brought boxes of French sparkling wine. From his "high" position in the Vyatka beau monde, Alexander enjoyed the role of the social lion. All the doors were open for him.



From 18 to 20 May 1837, the heir, Tsarevich Alexander Nicholaevich visited Vyatka and was accompanied by poet and translator Vasily A. Zhukovsky and the historian, geographer and statistician Konstantin I. Arsenyev. On the first day of their stay in Vyatka, they visited the provincial exhibition "Every kind of works and products of the region". Explanations of the subjects of the exhibition were given by Herzen.

"At eight o'clock in the evening, the Heir with his retinue appeared at the exhibition" - writes Herzen. During the tour of the exhibition he made the most wonderful impression on the highest guests. The meeting with the outstanding poet Zhukovsky and Arsenyev played a large role in the further fate of Herzen. It was at their request that the heir submitted to the Emperor a petition for the release of Herzen from the Vyatka exile.

As Alexander Ivanovich himself noted, "they were surprised by the language of a decent person in the Vyatka provincial official".

Herzen was allowed to leave Vyatka and left on December 29, 1837, for Vladimir, where he was appointed editor of the city's official gazette.

In 1839 he was set free and returned to Moscow in 1840. Upon arrival he was appointed as secretary to Count Alexander Stroganov in the ministry of the interior at St Petersburg; was in Novgorod, as a state councillor until 1842. In 1846, his father died, leaving him a large amount of property.

In 1847, Herzen emigrated, never to return to Russia.

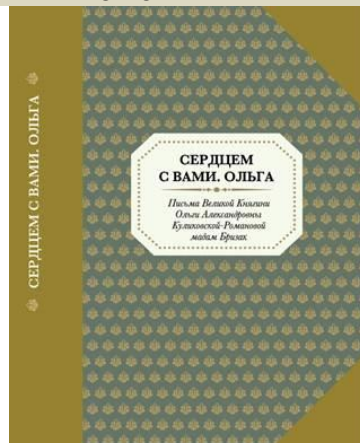
Herzen gained his reputation as a political writer. With the publications of his Free Russian Press, which he founded in London in 1853, he attempted to influence the situation in Russia and improve the position of the Russian peasantry, which he idolized.

An article on the web site of the Herzen Library - "The presentation of the book "25 chapters of my life" was attended by the director of the library. A.I. Herzen Natalia Vladimirovna Strelnikova. After the presentation, she approached Paul Kulikovskiy and his wife with the words: "It will be an unforgivable mistake, not to visit the library, founded by Alexander Herzen." The guests agreed: "Yes, yes, of course," and the program of the visit was slightly modified. On March 20, Paul Eduardovich and his wife Ludmila Anatolievna visited the Kirov Regional Scientific Library named after A.I. Herzen.

It was in the conference hall of the Kirov Regional Scientific Library named after A.I. Herzen, the presentation of the book "My heart is with you. Olga" was held 31 January 2019. It includes letters of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna to Madame Brizak.

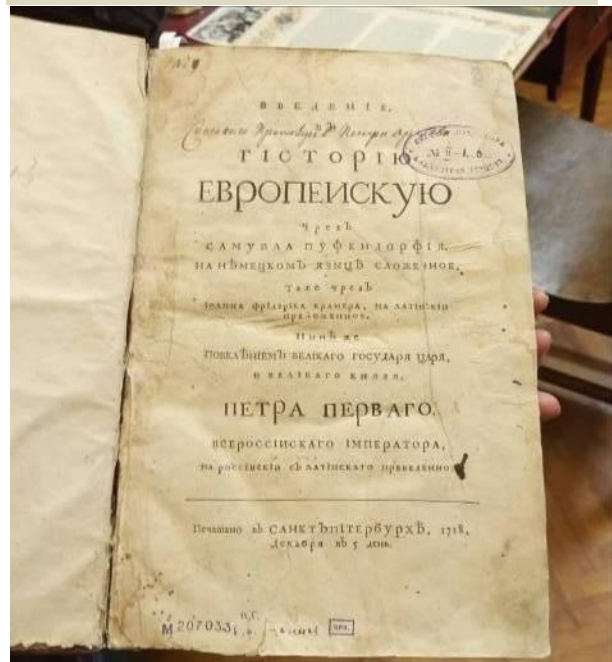
The letters of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was transferred in 2018 to Russia - the All-Russian Museum of Alexander S. Pushkin in St. Petersburg by Princess Nadezhda Volkonskaya.

The book contains 56 letters of the Grand Duchess, written to the owner of the St. Petersburg fashion house "A. Brizak", and their translation from French was made by Svetlana Policemaiko. The book is wonderfully framed by artists Olga Kolchanova and Alexander Selezenev, edited by Irina Zabolotskaya, and have an afterword by poet Vladimir Leshukov.



Elena Vladimirovna Lobanova, the main librarian of the department of rare books, introduced the distinguished guests to the history of the library.

Paul Eduardovich and Ludmila Anatolievna visited the office of Alexander Ivanovich Herzen.



The head of the department of rare books Svetlana Anatolyevna Shikhova told the guests about the collection of the first year of the library and about the most valuable books.



Paul Eduardovich and Ludmila Anatolievna also visited the Cabinet of Western European books of the XVI-XIX centuries and talked to the library staff.

The director of the library, Natalia Strelnikova, told the guests about the library's present day and presented mementoes.

The guests presented the library the book "25 chapters of my life" and a set of postcards "Empress Maria Feodorovna. To the 170th anniversary of the birth. "

Paul Kulikovsky left an entry in the book of honorary guests of the library:

"Thank you for showing us this historic, cultural and wonderful library full of treasures and wisdom that delight everyone!

I wish you success in the future and I hope to visit you again soon. "

In the course of communication, plans for further cooperation arose, and we hope that we will soon meet our guests again."



The Vyatka Art Museum named after V.M. and A.M. Vasnetsov.

A tour of the Vyatka Art Museum started with collection of "Dymkovo toys" - moulded bright painted clay figures of people and animals (sometimes in the form of a pennywhistle), which are made by women in the town Dymkovo, near Vyatka.

The tradition of making pennywhistles in the form of a horse, a horse rider, and a bird goes back to the ancient magic rituals in connections with agriculture holidays. Later, the little figures lost their magic meaning and turned into toys for children.

They are believed to have existed for some 400 years, thus dating the history of the Dymkovo toy at least from the 17th century. In 1930s, Dymkovo toys began to depict fairy tales and a contemporary lifestyle. There were also multi-character compositions on stands, and figures of people more than 30 cm in height.

These days, the Dymkovo toys are known as a popular Russian souvenir.



The icon collection is very interesting, it includes many samples made locally, which are recognisable by their greenish or brownish frames around the Ark. Particular fascinating was a series of icon showing people in Middle Ages cloth of Western Europe. Do we see travellers or merchants from Western Europe who came to Northern Russia and built (patronage) churches or at least was painted into icons?



The collection of portraits of Romanovs is not large, and almost all are on one wall - Emperor Peter the Great, Empress Catherine the Great, Emperor Paul I, and Tsarevich Alexander Pavlovich (Future Emperor Alexander I). In addition, there are very special, well-made pictures carved in bone - "The death of Emperor Alexander I in Taganrog" and portraits of Grand Duke Paul Petrovich and Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, many interesting artists lived in Vyatka, who considered their main task the development of fine art in their native land, raising the cultural level of its inhabitants.

In the beginning of 1901, they began to hold temporarily art exhibitions in the city, which were attended not only by locals, but also by well-known metropolitan masters of art, including A. Ye. Arkhipov, V. M. and A. M. Vasnetsov, M. A. Vrubel, K. A. Korovin, M. V. Nesterov, A. A. Rylov, and many others. Exhibitions were held with success, therefore, on February 22, 1909, the Vyatka Art Circle was created, which became the first creative association of local artists, a kind of cultural centre of Vyatka.

Only on August 28, 1909, A. M. Vasnetsov at the Board Meeting announced the desire of his eminent brothers, artists V.M. and A.M. Vasnetsovs to arrange a picture gallery in Vyatka and hand over their works, as well as assist in acquiring works of other masters.



On December 5 (18), 1910, the Vyatka Art History Museum was inaugurated, in the premises of a former book warehouse on Vladimirskaia Street, temporarily granted him by the Provincial Zemstvo Board. The museum was forced in 1912 to move to the private house of the merchant Klobukov at the corner of Spasskaya and Spenchinskaya streets, where it stayed until 1918.

In 1918, the situation changed and the name of the museum. Now it was the Provincial Museum of Art and Antiquities.

Paintings, sculptures, objects of applied art, furniture, and books came to the museum from various local nationalized sources.

The 1930s, when all spheres of public life were politicized, cannot be called easy in museum destiny. "Above," there were constant directives on how to build a Marxist-Leninist exposition, which exhibitions to prepare for revolutionary holidays, and to pay particular attention to the purchase of which works.



Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovskiy with Anna V. Shakina, Director of Vyatka Art Museum

In 1992, a new building was built. Currently, Vyatka Art Museum has more than 20,000 exhibits. The Department of Old Russian and Church Art began formation of their fixed assets shortly after the creation of the museum, with many examples of local and northern Russian icons.

In the department of painting there are works of the greatest Russian and also Dutch, Flemish, German, French painters of the 15th-20th centuries. Russian art is represented by Brullov, V.M. Vasnetsov, Surikov, Repin, Borovikovskiy, Shishkin, Benoit, A.M. Vasnetsov, Venetsianov, Serov, Konchalovskiy, Perov, Korovin and many other great artists.

Department of sculpture and graphics also deserves great attention due to its extensive and diverse collections. These departments have unique exhibits of both Russian and Western European masters. Department of Decorative and Applied and Folk-art is also very important. Here you can see unique elegant items made of glass and porcelain, lacquer miniatures and amazing objects cut from bone. Wooden works of art made in different parts of Russia deserve special attention due to their uniqueness and originality.

Press-conference in the Vitberg House

In the afternoon, the press-conference with Paul E. Kulikovskiy was held in the House of Vitberg.

The House of Vitberg is one of the most interesting architectural monuments of the old Vyatka.

The manor was built in 1815 by order of Vera Y. Zhmakina on a plan by the architect N. Andreevskiy. On March 23, 1861 it was sold to the Vyatka Women's High School, who reconstructed the house.

Over the years, there lived a number of famous people. In 1836-1837 Alexander Vitberg, an architect and artist of Swiss origin, lived and worked in this house.

After the October Revolution, various institutions were located in the house: the city council kindergarten, the Leningrad Institute of Culture, the branch of the Finance and Law Academy, etc.

On January 13, 1989, the grand opening of the "House of Creative Unions" took place on the basis of the Vitberg House. The premises were handed over to organizations of architects, writers, a branch of



the “Culture Fund”, etc. Literary evenings, concerts, exhibitions, anniversaries, debuts and other cultural events took place in the House of Vitberg. Currently, the Centre for Tourism Development of the Kirov region is located in the House of Vitberg.



In the main hall, about 100 persons had assembled. For 2,5 hours Paul E. Kulikovsky gave answers and his opinion about many things.

As expected, Paul Kulikovsky was asked about his impression of the city:

- "I think there is a lot of things in Vyatka that people who have never not been here, have no idea how interesting this city is. You have so many interesting architectural monuments, you have such an amazing history, amazing churches! Yesterday we visited Slobodskoy, and one of the architectural objects to which the guide drew our attention was the bell tower, but historically it began as a triumphal arch through which Tsarevich Alexander I rode when he came to Vyatka. When Russian Emperors or Heirs to the throne came to the cities, triumphal arches were often erected, but they were made of short-lived materials, and here Slobodsky merchants created an arch made of stone. On the basis of the arch was built the bell tower. It did not disappear, it was used, not destroyed. Such people lived here solid, energetic!



Paul Eduardovich also liked the urban landscape, which, according to him, gives Vyatka a special charm and local nature. The people who surrounded him in the city impressed him.

- Everyone I met, told us so much about the city! I saw such a genuine, lively interest. So many smiles! My impressions of Vyatka are very good.

On the other hand, he was unpleasantly surprised that some citizens were talking about Kirov in a disgruntled tone.

- On the second day of my stay, someone managed to tell me that Vyatka is a depressed city, that there is a high percentage of suicides. This surprised me extremely. Probably, there is a big field for work. But my impression is completely different. Those people with whom I met are so far from being called depressive.

Probably, one should first of all see the positive side. We believe that there is a huge potential for the development of tourism.

Paul Kulikovsky plans to come to Kirov once again. He hopes that by the next arrival the city will be called Vyatka.

(All the questions and answers from the press-conference will appear in the next issue of Romanov News.)

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=310&v=FZb7zgaOJlo

"For the first time in 100 years, a descendant of the Romanovs appeared in Vyatka"

- (look from min. 5:06)

"At the press conference, Paul Eduardovich told about his impressions about our city, about meetings with people. In Kirov, he was invited by the public organization "Revival of Vyatka". He presented the book "25 chapters of my life" written by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. It talks about her childhood, parents, older brother, Emperor Nicholas II, and work as a sister of mercy during the First World War. Interesting, simple and sincere memories. The book is richly illustrated with unique documentary photographs.

Paul Kulikovsky has been living in Russia for 10 years. He travels a lot around the country. The descendant of the Romanovs, as noted, entered Vyatka land for the first time in 100 years. And, as Paul Eduardovich said, he is full of positive impressions" - "I hope this is not my last visit. And when I come to the next time, I hope your city actually will be called Vyatka."

Video - <http://www.qtrk-vyatka.ru/vesti/culture/45695-zavershilsya-vizit-v-kirov-potomka-rossiyskogo-imperatora-aleksandra-iii.html>

"The visit to Kirov of the descendant of Russian Emperor Alexander III is over"

The visit to Kirov of a descendant of Russian Emperor Alexander III, Paul Kulikovsky, ended. At the final meeting with journalists, he told about the fate of the house of the Romanovs and why the descendant of the Russian Tsar does not speak Russian.

The audience in the hall reminded representatives of the meeting of the nobility assembly, many came not so much to ask questions, as to look at the living descendant of the Tsar and listen to him. When it became obvious that the descendant did not speak the language of his great-great-grandfather, he was asked - why did the family forget Russian?

Paul Kulikovsky: "It is very difficult to live outside Russia and to preserve the Russian language and the connection with the Russian tradition. Our family moved a lot from place to place, we saw how the Soviet Union is growing, turning into a powerful state, but the Soviet Union didn't have anything in common with the Russia that my ancestors loved, so the language was forgotten after several generations."

The guests spoke about the fate of the Romanovs in the 20th and 21st centuries. Now there are several public organizations that unite the descendants of the Imperial Family. The largest of them is the Association of members of the Romanov family. Many of the descendants of the Romanovs have long been abroad, but Paul Kulikovsky has been living in Moscow for 10 years now. According to the great-great-grandson of Alexander III, Russian society is still very divided, but this separation will not go away by itself simply.

Paul Kulikovsky: "We need to wait for the emergence of such a generation of young people who will know better the history of their fatherland. We travel a lot around the country and meet with schoolchildren, and sometimes, their answers on history shock me. They do not know the history of their country, especially what happened before 1917. Society badly knows itself, we lack self-reflection and a respectful attitude to the history of Russia of the twentieth century."

The VII International Forum "The Elizabethan legacy today. Continuing the tradition of charity and philanthropy"

On March 6, 2019, in the morning a moleben was held for St. Elizabeth Feodorovna in the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God "Life-Giving Source", located on the territory of the Tsaritsyno palace and park ensemble. Lithium was served by Priest Vasily Lapkin for 40 days in memory of the benefactor of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, the newly reposed Vladimir Vasilyevich Chernikov, the head of the Department of Regional Security and Anti-Corruption in Moscow Government.



The International Scientific and Public Forum "The Elizabeth legacy today, was opened in the Bazhenov Hall, on the top floor of the Tsaritsyno Grand Palace, Moscow. It was blessed by Patriarch Kirill and supported by the Moscow government. Representatives of church and community organizations, sisterhoods, pilgrimage services, members of the Elizabeth movement in Russia and abroad, philanthropists and historians attended the forum. The forum was organized by the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society".

The focus was on charity, mercy and social service of church, medical, and public organizations, based on voluntary work and in the framework of social programs that are funded by regional authorities and philanthropists.



In the presidium were: (from left) Lubov Akelina, Elizabeth Fokina, Konstantin Blazhenov, Anna Gromova, Paul Kulikovskiy and Nun Sophia (Koshelenko)

As usual several greetings were read and some given in person. - "The annual forum is a driving force in the creation of pilgrimage routes to places of memory of the Imperial family. The government of the capital will continue to help the "Elizabeth society" said the welcome greeting from Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin.



And the deputy head of the Department of National Policy and Interregional Relations of the city of Moscow Konstantin Blazhenov noted that the city authorities with deep respect relate to the educational work to perpetuate the memory of the House of Romanov.

Among this is the implementation of the Imperial Route national project of 2018, which connects memorial places of residence, and deaths of the Romanovs: Moscow and St. Petersburg, Tsarskoye Selo, Vologda, Kirov, Tobolsk, Perm, Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk.

Bishop of Domodedovo John, Vicar of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, expressed gratitude to the organizers of the forum and the joy of the fact that every year "more and more people are burning with their hearts to create deeds of mercy and love."



Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius' greeting was announced by the nun Sophia (Koshelenko), of the Perm diocese. In his address, Vladyka noted that the Elisabeth Forum, its extensive, versatile and interesting topics would be an occasion to "once again think and find the answer, how healthy we are morally and spiritually strong, to walk the way of the holy martyr Elisabeth and bear fruit of her blessed memory.

Paul E. Kulikovsky, said:
 - "Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, brothers and sisters,
 First of all, thank you to Anna Vitalevna for the opportunity to address the participants of the VII International Scientific and Public Forum "Elizabetan legacy today".
 Secondly, very happy to be here with you, so I can thank all of you who are working within charity, or are helping with enlightenment of charity - particular those addressing the theme of Romanovs and charity.



The theme of charity and philanthropy in Imperial Russia is big. And there is much to admire and much experience to learn from.
 It was Grand in scale and Glorious in deeds. With some famous benefactors and many completely unknown heroes.

And of course, with many unfortunate people being helped to survive, to fight sickness, step out of poverty, to survive, to overcome a handicap, get an education, get a job, become a part of the society and most important of all, to get attention and feel appreciated.

I think that charity is just another expression for "love thy neighbour", and it is essential for a society to take care of those in need. One day it could be yourself and your family who is in need!

Should it be the state or a private initiative can be discussed, but maybe the best solution is a combination.

Today, there is definitely a need for education and enlightenment about charity and philanthropy in Russia. And one organization is doing just that - the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society. Let us give them applause!

To Anna Vitalievna we have a small token of our appreciation - A new book about my Great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, with 56 letters of hers, which are published for the first time.

The exhibition "Russian charity under the patronage of the Imperial House of the Romanov", here at the Tsaritsyno Palace Museum, gives a very good idea of this special world.

However, this theme is so enormous, that even this grandiose exhibition with 1.000 objects on display cannot cover all aspects.

I hope it is clear to everyone, that the theme is so important that it somehow has to be continued, maybe in follow-up exhibitions, with focus on other areas of charity and philanthropy, or as today in conferences.

Another focus could be the Romanov's in exile. How did they - and do today - manage to continue with charity activities?

And couldn't it be interesting to learn about the results of the efforts. How did those who were help respond to it?

Let me add a little story very dear to me, to illustrate this.

After the revolution, and civil war, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna in exile continued doing charity work. Of course, on a different scale compared to Imperial times, but never the less important work.

In many articles, it is said that Olga Alexandrovna painted and sold her paintings to support her family. That is not entirely correct, as the money she earned from selling her paintings usually went to help others. Many less fortunate Russian emigrants sought help from her personally. She tried to help every needy person as far as her strengths and means would permit.

This was a problem for the family, as they themselves did not have much, but they understood the sacrifice was needed. Being Christian, they could do none other, so they continued to give.



Not always, but sometimes the receiver of the help wrote her a thank-you-note.

We would like to read you one of these, which in many ways says more than I can tell you.

Written in 1957, just a few years before the death of the Grand Duchess, it came from a former Convoy-Cossack living in a shelter in Lienz, Austria.

My wife Ludmila will read the letter as it is already in Russian:

October 9, 1957, Shelter, Lienz

Good morning, I wish Your Imperial Highness!

I congratulate you on the holiday of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos and on the Military Holiday of All Cossack Forces.

I wish you to spend these holidays in the best and most radiant health.

And on October 17, St. Hierotheos. Congratulations to Your Imperial Highness on the Victory Day of His Own Majesty Convoy. We will ask and pray the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos and St. Hierotheos for the imminent resurrection of our Mother Russia, and I also wish to see you in the homeland of the convoy as it was hereafter.

I bring you Your Imperial Highness that I have received 10 dollars and I am very pleased with your warm donation. I am proud and bring you Your Imperial Highness Heartfelt Gratitude

I wish you all the best health and strong strength for many years.

Devoted and Grateful to Your Imperial Highness

Guardsmen Kazak Sergey Gavrish

Ladies and Gentlemen, I think it is not necessary for me to say more.

We wish you all a good day - many thanks!"



Lubov S. Akelina, Chairman of the Board of the Regional Charitable Foundation named after the Grand Duchess Evdokia of Moscow talked about the important personal support provided by Vladimir V. Chernikov.

Elizabeth B. Fokina, General Director of the Tsaritsino State Museum-Reserve bid all welcome and mentioned the program of events in Tsaritsyno during the year.

Anna V. Gromova, Ph.D., Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Foundation "Elizabeth -Sergei Enlightenment Society":

"Every year we inspire, pass on each other's experience, combine our efforts, and look for new forms of social assistance, educational work, and missionary work. Usually, our Elizabethan forums are after Easter, but this year we decided to hold a meeting earlier so that Elizabethans had the opportunity to visit the exhibition Charity under the auspices of the Imperial House of Romanov. We wanted our guests and participants to take their impressions of the exhibition to their city, the charitable heritage we have the workers who were the representatives of the Russian Imperial House, how skilfully they carried out charitable activities and generated response among all strata of society. A contribution to the affairs of beneficence was made by representatives of all classes."



The Elizabethan movement has about 300 community and church organizations that continue the tradition of Christian enlightenment. These are monasteries, parishes, sisterhoods, hospices, charitable foundations, Orthodox gymnasiums, pilgrimage services, and the members of the Elisabethan movement are in Russia and abroad - from Germany, Finland, Great Britain and the Holy Land.

The first session included the following reports:

-- Archpriest Oleg Denisjuk, rector of the Assumption Church in with. Demyanov and Elizabethan church in a boarding school, Klin, Moscow Diocese – *"The revival of the traditions of Russian classical education in school"*.

"Children can read quickly now, but cannot comprehend the reading. Third-graders at the request to name the heroes of the present time mentioned the blogger Compote and YouTube Pasha, who do not form the moral core of the younger generation."

Due to this, he and the parishioners of his church developed a serious educational experiment; in particular, they decided to revive the traditions of Russian classical education in school. Innovators decided to abandon computers and e-books, search engines and the Internet, and the whole process of knowledge for pupils to return to the mainstream of the times when books and teachers were the only source of knowledge. Thus, the priest and his parishioners hope to protect young people from the harmful and corrupting information that has flooded the worldwide network. The father promised to tell about the results of the experiment next year.

- Natalia M. Proshina, Ph.D., Director of the Multimedia Historical Park "Russia - My Story" in the Sverdlovsk Region – *"Implementation of the educational project of the Mobile Museum" Imperial Russia "for children and youth. MIP "Russia - my story"*.

On the contrary, she noted that it is the achievements of technical progress that can attract a child and arouse his interest in such an important and at the same time complex subject as history. Natalia told that on the basis of the historical park she and her fellow historians managed to realize a large educational project "Imperial Russia" of the mobile museum for children and youth. It is based not only on classical teaching methods, such as lectures and demonstration of archival material, but also the team developed a set of interactive games and quests for schoolchildren, during which children better perceive complex historical material.

- Svetlana A. Krasnova, sister of the Togliatti Elisabethan sisterhood in the name of St. Elizabeth Feodorovna at the Church of the Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon – *“Serving the Fatherland: patriotism, mercy, sacrifice” - a scientific-practical conference and a museum exposition on the history of sisterhood in school No. 86 in the city of Tolyatti.*
- Svetlana V. Ivanenko, Jerusalem Orthodox Community “ELEON-2000” – *“The Gifts of the Grand-Ducal Couple of Elizabeth Feodorovna and Sergey Alexandrovich to the Holy Land”.*
She spoke about the loss of many rarities donated to Orthodox parishes in the Holy Land by the Grand-Ducal Couple, Sergei Alexandrovich and Elisabeth Fedorovna, who were the first chairmen of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian society.
- Alla G. Khutoryanskaya, Director of the Perm Foundation “Father's House” - Project “Know ours!”, tells about famous and honoured residents of the Perm region, about events that played an important role in the history of not only Perm, but the whole of Russia. “Emotionality and the power of fact are the basis of our teaching. This is a live communication between the teacher and the child. We teach children to learn the world through the way to the heart, having experienced each event emotionally,” the head of Father's House noted.
- Archpriest Felix Statsevich, rector of the Elisabethan church, in the city of Korolev spoke about the work of the parish philharmonic society “House of Culture”.
- Andrei A. Smirnov, Chief Director of the Russian Character Festival of the Kostroma Diocese – *“Tsarist days in Kostroma: experience and prospects for the development of the event”.*
- Marina Kokorina, initiative group on the organization of social and educational projects in the southern suburbs (Chekhov) – *“Social and educational projects for the local population in the south of the Moscow region”.*



The afternoon session included:

- Archpriest Alexander Dolbunov, Provost of the Sarovsk District of the Nizhny Novgorod Diocese – *“Land St. Seraphim of Sarov - an inexhaustible source of pilgrimage. Creating a cluster “Big Diveevo”.*
- Abbess Anastasia (Mordmilovich), abbess of the Kazan convent, Kaluga – *“Orthodox pilgrimage as a way of socializing children and young people with disabilities”.*

- Marina D. Bachina, teacher at the Center for Psychological, Medical, and Social Assistance Resource,

Yekaterinburg – *“Spiritual and moral education of disabled children. Joint project “Young Pilgrim. Young Guide of the Resource Centre and the Pilgrimage Department of the Yekaterinburg Diocese.*

- Marina S. Kirova, Head of Tourist and Pilgrim Programs of the ESPO Foundation, PhD Cand. Cultural Studies, Moscow – *“Attraction of the pilgrim and secular regional modules of the “Imperial Route ” for the Elisabethan community”.*
- Marina G. Butusova-Stutz, tour guide, head of the multimedia project *“They created the Russian Empire”, Frankfurt am Main - “Pilgrimage within the framework of the “Imperial Route in Germany and Europe”.*
- Nadezhda Shestakova, Deputy Director, Center for Tourism Development of the Sverdlovsky Region, Yekaterinburg. – *“The development of the historical and cultural project” The Imperial Route “in the Sverdlovsky region”.*

An author's tour of the exhibition "Russian charity under the auspices of the Imperial House of Romanov" followed. Two groups were guided on tours of the exposition by Lyudmila Shumskaya and Svetlana Belchinkova.

The exhibition has more than 1,000 exhibits from 18 museums and covers three centuries of charity, established in Russia by decree of Catherine II - by its decision, the charitable institutions were given a state character. The exhibition is located in 11 halls of the Grand Palace. However, it did not fit all the exhibits, and the next exhibition will be devoted to the patronage (Philanthropy) of the Romanovs, said Anna Gromova.



In the atrium of the Bread House a concert of classical music based on the works of P.I. Tchaikovsky dedicated to Empress Maria Feodorovna was performed by the creative association "League of Music".

On March 7, the forum continued in the Bazhenov Hall of the Grand Palace.

- Vladimir Berhin, President of the Tradition Foundation, Member of the Governing Board of the All Together Charitable Association, Moscow – *"Ways to finance charitable projects. The experience of secular benefactors"*.

- Archpriest Dmitry Gotskalyuk, Vice Rector of the Taurian Theological Seminary, Rector of the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Livadia - *"House of Mercy for the Elderly"*.

- Nun Sofia (Koshelenko), economist of the Perm diocese, head of the bishop's monastery of the cross church of St. Mitrofan of Voronezh in the city of Perm –

"Elizabeth heat" - co-working with children, elderly people and rehabilitation patients for joint hand knitting of warm clothes to those in need".

- Nadezhda Solovieva, Chief Physician of a Private Health Care Institution (ChUZ) Elizavetinsky Children's Hospice, Pionersky Village, Moscow Region - *"Fill the hearts with joy"*.

- Priest Alexei Lebedev, confessor of the sisterhood and rector of the church in the name of holy St. Elizabeth, St. Petersburg, Lakhta – *"In the footsteps of St. Elizabeth Feodorovna. Experience of social ministry of modern sisters of mercy communities"*.

- Vera V. Valova, Chairman of the Council of the "Elizavetinsky" Public Movement, Researcher of the Museum at the Alapaevsk Outdoor School –

"Development of children and youth in the socio-professional project" City of Masters".



- Irina V. Kunshina, Vice-President of the regional public organization "Uralsky fraternity", Moscow - *"Creating a center for training, development and rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy in the city of Alapaevsk" (by the type of MMOM)".*
- Elena V. Kazinova, Elizabethan sisterhood, Zhukovsky – *"The creation of the Almshouse in honor of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, from idea to realization".*
- Archpriest Dmitry Gotskalyuk, Vice-Rector of the Tauride Theological Seminary, rector of the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Livadia, shared the experience of creating the *"House of Mercy for the Elderly"*.

Videos: 1)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tmdo2MHd418&fbclid=IwAR127wWFIBFn3yww_jdzg43RIZX5cs2hU3ijdg2AL7BzpnjeWOjEdBAvt1w&app=desktop

2) https://otr-online.ru/news/vstolichnom-muzeecaricynoprohodit-forumo-tradiciyah-miloserdiya-semiromanovyh-121755.html?fbclid=IwAR1T-mzQdzIAioX7Jf18IT8KyTqKNR_8fXtVMqgXbSkEErpzQYy7aZaqHCs

3)

https://tv.m24.ru/videos/177626?fbclid=IwAR2LJ9Rlfi_DRsLDY1SkA_vqSiHyOyOVYZMyg73i_Zx430Ej_rpdO2GYebtc

4) <https://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/156427/?fbclid=IwAR1u7OQIAz-V7ykFbr3fexJa0GobpIPTbFhLXpsOseNVTdFiYZEoXeodrSk>

5) <https://youtu.be/RsSrOphj7FE>



Left - Monument to Tsar Peter the Great and his personal physician - Nikolai Bidloo, on the territory of the Burdenko Military Hospital in Moscow.

These two people became the founders of the Moscow Hospital in 1707.

Sculptor Leonid Baranov. Opened December 2, 2008.

Right - A plaque in the Hospital Museum says

"Decree of Peter the Great. To build a hospital in a decent place beyond the river Yauza to treat sick people..."

May 25, 1706.



In the afternoon participants visited the Main Military Clinical Hospital named after Academician N.N. Burdenko, founded in 1707 by Emperor Peter I.

In the hospital museum Elizabethans learned interesting details about the development of the medical institution and its modern activities. Their guide was the director of the museum, Marina B. Ovchinnikova.

By the beginning of the XVIII century in Russia, there was an ever more pressing need for the preparation of domestic healers who would have mastered all the achievements of modern medicine. Along with transformations of the state and social structure of Russia, changes were also coming to the Russian military-medical activities - Peter I created a state system of medical support for the population and the army, as well as medical education.

On May 25, 1706, a personal decree of Peter I was issued on the creation of the first in Russia state medical and educational institution, which stated: "... to build a hospital in a decent place beyond the river Yauza in front of German settlement in a decent place to treat sick people ...".

On November 21, 1707, the Moscow Hospital received the first patients.

The first chief doctor of the Moscow hospital was Nikolai Lambertovich Bidloo, the son of an Amsterdam doctor, a graduate of Leiden University. Invited to Russia in 1702, he accompanied Peter I in military campaigns as a physician.

At the beginning, the hospital consisted of a large wooden structure with a home church of the Resurrection of Christ and three dozen rooms "svetlits", located on the banks of the Yauza River. They included: rooms for the sick, rooms for students, a pharmacy, an alchemist's ward, and an anatomical theatre. Nearby was a botanical garden to grow medicinal plants.

Simultaneously with the beginning of the work of the hospital, the first Russia Hospital School for the training of doctors "from natural Russians" was opened. The level of education at the Moscow Hospital School was very high and was not inferior to the programs of Western European universities. The main attention was focused on the practical training of future doctors.

During this period N.L. Bidloo wrote the first national textbook on medicine "Instruction for students of surgery in the anatomical theatre" (1710).

The hospital gave Russia the first domestic doctors: in May 1712 Stepan Blazhenov, Ivan Belyaev, Egor Zhukov and Ivan Orlov received from the hands of N.L. Bidloo the first state diplomas in medical education. The first certified doctors were sent to the army and the fleet, thus the beginning of the formation of the Russian state system of medical education virtually coincided with the birth of the national system of training military doctors. For 26 years, the Hospital School was the only medical school in Russia and only in 1733 similar schools were established in the Land and Admiralty hospitals, as well as the Kronstadt Maritime Hospital. In 1786, the Hospital School was transformed into the Moscow Medical-Surgical School, and in 1798 - into the Medical-Surgical Academy.



Until 1710, the Moscow Hospital was the only inpatient medical institution in Russia, and until 1763 (when Pavlovsky Hospital was opened), it was the only medical institution in Moscow.

In April - December 1749 the future great Russian commander, Generalissimos Alexander Suvorov, served in the guard service in the Moscow hospital with the rank of corporal of the Moscow team of the Life Guards Semenov regiment.

During the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), seriously wounded people who needed long-term treatment were brought to the hospital. At the hospital, up to a thousand wounded were treated at one time. With the participation of the architect D.V. Ukhtomsky two-storey building of the main building of the hospital was rebuilt and became completely stone (today - the oldest building of the hospital, where neurological, psychiatric departments and the home church are located), new wooden outbuildings were also erected.

In 1797, the "second builder of the Moscow hospital" - Emperor Paul I approve plans for new stone buildings and issues an order to start construction. In 1802, the construction of four new stone buildings of the hospital for 1,120 beds (architect I.V. Egotov) was completed, subsequently merged into one building in the shape of the letter "P", and preserved to this day in its original appearance.



January 31, 1801, the hospital became known as the Moscow Military Hospital. In 1806, mournful sheet" was introduced (later - a medical history) for the first time in the practice of medical work in the Moscow Military Hospital, and later - in other hospitals.

The work of military doctors during the Patriotic War of 1812 was a vivid example of high service to the Motherland. The hospital was crowded with thousands of wounded and sick, who were evacuated before the French arrived in Moscow. The personnel of the Moscow Military Hospital worked in the military temporary hospitals in Ryazan, Vladimir, Kolomna, and Kasimov, where more than 22 thousand wounded and sick were treated.

The hospital's doctors participated in numerous wars of the 19th century, assisted the population during natural disasters, and made a great contribution to the fight against six epidemics of cholera, trachoma, scurvy.

During the Crimean War of 1853-1856 four doctors were sent to the army from the Moscow Military Hospital, including the surgeon O.I. Rudinsky, who in the besieged Sevastopol, was the chief surgeon of the Southern Army and deputy of N.I. Pirogov. He performed 2025 operations with his assistants.

In the 60s of the XIX century in the hospital (one of the first in Russia) the work of sisters of mercy, who later became reliable assistants of military doctors, was permitted "in the order of experience".



During the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878), 13 doctors were sent from the hospital to the army. For the first time in Russia, the evacuation of the sick and wounded began to be carried out by military sanitary trains.

By the end of the 19th century, the Moscow Military Hospital had a well-deserved reputation as an authoritative medical and research centre. It had 22 specialized departments for 1530 beds, which accounted for about 20% of the bed capacity of all medical institutions (31 hospitals) in Moscow.

In 1886, the first Moscow Pasteur station and the second Pasteur station were opened at the hospital. Laboratory studies began to be performed, and in 1887 clinical and bacteriological laboratories were opened. In the latter, sputum tests for Koch bacilli began.

In 1901, the first x-ray laboratory was organized in the hospital.

During the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), the Moscow hospital received more than 55 thousand wounded and sick. 116 employees were awarded Red Cross medals for their dedicated work.

On November 21, 1907, the Hospital celebrated its 200th anniversary and was renamed as the Moscow General Emperor Peter I Military Hospital.

"The Moscow hospital ... appeared to be small and poor in its means, but from its very beginning it was great with the mind and energy of its creators. The spirit of productive labour and continuous development was its fundamental property," said N. Yakimov.



Extremely hard work fell to the Moscow hospital during the First World War (1914-1918). With military trains passing through Moscow, the hospital took the seriously wounded and was overcrowded. It also provided assistance to prisoners of war. In total, during the years of the First World War, 376 thousand sick and wounded were admitted to the hospital.





During the February and October revolutions of 1917, the hospital managed to survive a political crisis, never stopped to provide assistance to the sick. During the Civil War, it was necessary to work in the most difficult conditions of economic chaos, famine, epidemics of typhoid and cholera. The Moscow Hospital, in December 1918 renamed the First Red Army Communist Hospital, continued to play a key role in the evacuation treatment system for wounded and sick Red Army men.

As in the past years, hospital specialists are the first to come to the aid of the wounded and sick in the outbreaks of hostilities affected by environmental and man-made disasters, confirming in practice the high real combat readiness and potential of the oldest medical institution.

Today, the Main Military Clinical Hospital named after Academician N.N. Burdenko is a powerful multidisciplinary institution, consisting of (the main territory) 119



medical diagnostic units and 19 medical diagnostic centres. Every year more than 57 thousand patients are treated in the hospital and its branches, more than 20 thousand surgical interventions are carried out. There are 22 professors, 312 doctors and PhD working in the hospital.

"I used to be active, and my spirit feeds on it!" - these words of Generalissimo Alexander Vasilyevich Suvorov are applicable to every day of the long life of the hospital. Patriotism, the progressive development of traditions, the dedicated work of specialists - the reasons that allowed the oldest Russian medical institution to adequately bear the title of the Main Military Hospital of the country.



The forum participants after the visit to the Hospital Museum in the Military Clinical Hospital named after Academician N.N. Burdenko

Lectures of "Russian charity under the auspices of the Imperial House of the Romanovs."

Lecture "The Last Russian Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Works in the field of education and education. 1895-1917" was made by Svetlana Belchinkova, head of scientific programs, "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society".

Today, the public and charitable activities of the last Russian Empress Alexandra Feodorovna are insufficiently investigated. The Empress was subjected to constant criticism both during her life and after the martyr's death. But an objective approach to the study of her biography opens for us a completely different Empress, deeply devoted to Russia and her people. Alexandra Feodorovna's contribution to the needy population of the Russian Empire in peacetime and during the war years is enormous.

The Sovereign's charity appears extensive, multidirectional and multifaceted. How did Alexandra Feodorovna's personal qualities influence her charitable activities? What directions of charity did the Empress support and encourage? What educational institutions she founded? How much money from Alexandra Feodorovna's personal funds spent on charity and mercy?

Video Lecture No.1 - <https://youtu.be/Jr1S9tYj800>

Lecture No.2, Empress Maria Feodorovna - philanthropist and enlightener of the three reigns - https://youtu.be/RVo2ORwTj_A

Lecture No.3, Charitable activities of the Konstantinovsky branch - <https://youtu.be/LFuGdM8SJ8c>

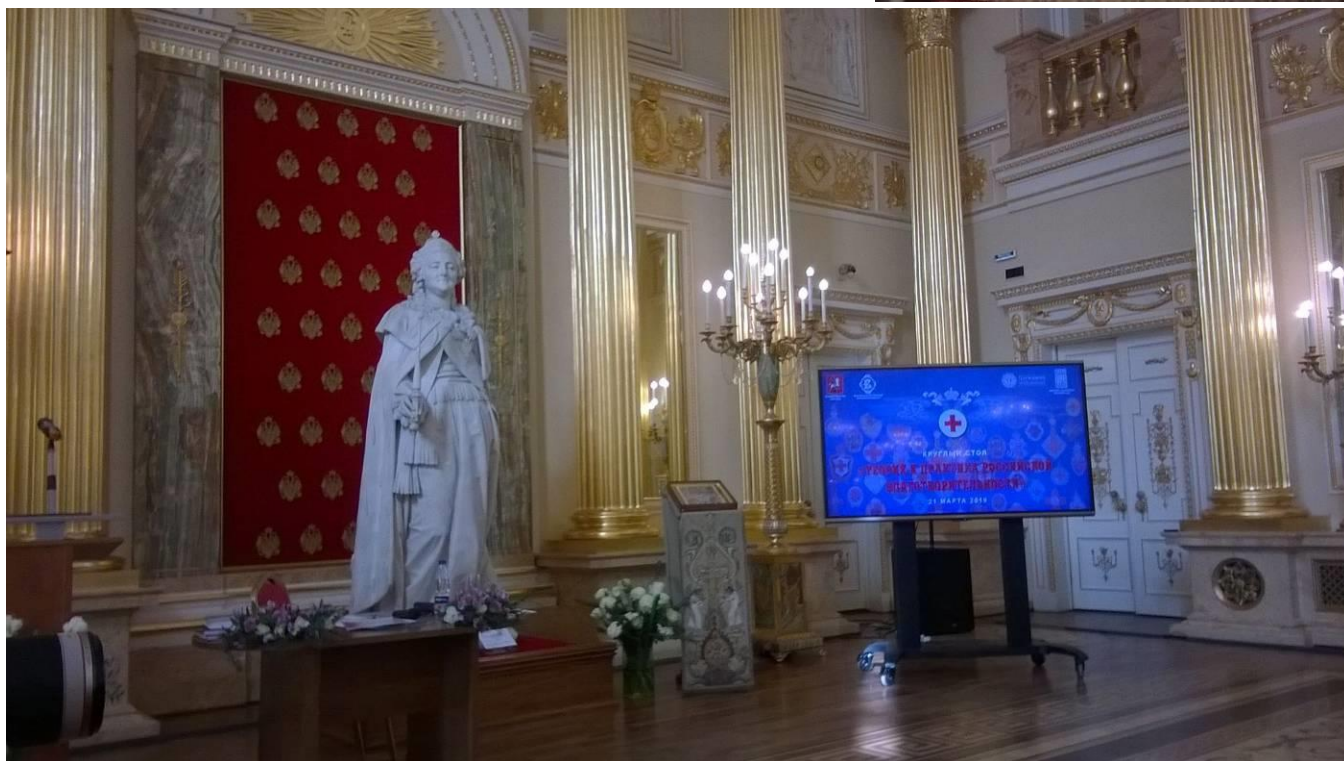
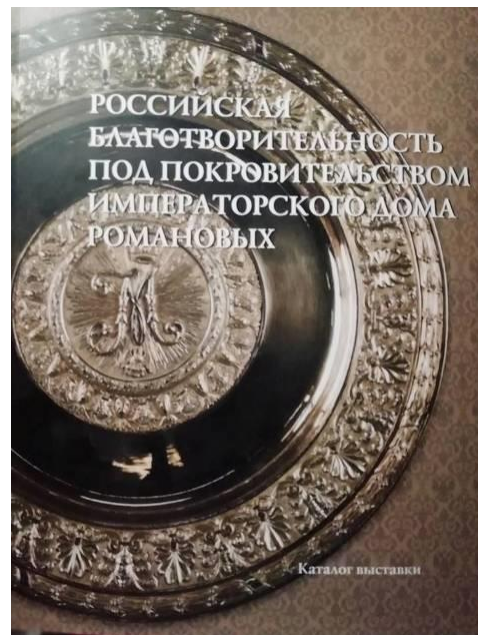
The exhibition catalogue about the history of charity in the Russian Empire was presented in Tsaritsyno

On March 21st, an all-day event arranged by the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society devoted to the catalogue of the exhibition "Russian Charity under the auspices of the Imperial House of the Romanovs". It was on display in Tsaritsyno Palace Museum until March 24.

10.00 a round table with the authors of the catalogue was held.
14.00 the books of the popular science series of the scientific library of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society were presented.

15.00 an excursion to the exhibition "Russian charity under the auspices of the Imperial House of Romanov" was conducted.

17.30 the presentation of the exhibition catalogue was held.



The Chairman "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" Anna Gromova said:

"For us, the catalogue becomes another important book. All our work devoted to Russian philanthropy are sealed and remained in it. It includes 14 articles written by well known historians, such as: Galina Ulyanova, Alexey A. Khitrov, Igor V. Zimin, Yulia V. Kudrina and many others. In fact, only this scientific contribution of the catalogue to the national historical science is already an invaluable advantage".

According to her, the illustrative part of the catalogue includes a description of more than 395 exhibits.

"More than 60 thousand people visited the exhibition since December. The book of comments and suggestions at our exhibition says that people took a fresh look at their history, reviewed their life positions. We have amazing responses, sometimes very different. Our task is not to make people study and learn everything at this exhibition. The most important thing is for them to be interested," - Anna Gromova stressed.



The head of the Moscow Department of Culture, Alexander Kibovsky, noted the success of the exhibition "Russian charity under the auspices of the Imperial House of Romanov" - "This exhibition project can already be considered very successful. For Moscow, the traditions of patronage, charity are one of the components of Moscow's life of the 18th-19th centuries. It is very important that a catalogue appears, as an echo of the past, which will keep it all in a single whole, and then, years later, maybe this catalogue will be in all regions of our country, in the hands of those professionals who could not get to this exhibition," said Alexander Kibovsky.

Paul E. Kulikovskiy said - "We have just arrived back from a visit to Vyatka, full of impressions and very tired. But this is such an important event, that we had to come here.

The publishing of this catalogue is another monument created by the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society. Maybe it is not physical as big as the statue of Empress Catherine the Great standing here, but mentally much more important. As Alexander Vladimirovich (Kibovsky) said, it is an echo of the past. But I will add it is much more than

that. It is also a window to the future. It will be able to educate and inspire us today and future generations."

Sergey Mironenko, scientific director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation said - "Now there is a lot of talk about charity before 1917, and quite a lot about what is happening today. But if you look at this catalog, which is dedicated only to a part of charity, the charity of the Imperial Family, you will see how developed charity was until 1917, how developed it was."

The Chairman of Imperial Orthodox Palenstine Society, Sergey Stepashin, sent a greeting which was read out by the Vice-Chairman of Imperial Orthodox Palenstine Society, Elena Agapova. "Let me welcome the organizers and participants of the unique exhibition dedicated to the 300-year history of charity of representatives of the Imperial House of Romanov. This large-scale exposition, opened in December 2018, the year of the 100th anniversary of the death of the Tsar's family, was truly an event of a nationwide scale and aroused great interest among representatives of the scientific community and anyone interested in the history of the Russian state, and such a



phenomenon as the charity of the Russian monarchs, the family members high examples of charity and mercy, the activities of well-known charitable organizations operating in Russia until 1917, testify to the desire of the most august persons to affirm Christian virtues and values in society.

It is significant that the exhibition was organized under the arches of the Grand Palace of the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve, inextricably linked with the name of Empress Catherine II, who made a personal contribution to the development of Russian charity and influenced the further process of the birth and development of charity in Russia.

The exhibition has become a great educational project and a research and development site, which presents more than 1000 unique exhibits and archival documents.

I heartily congratulate the Head of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Anna Vitalievna Gromova as the author of the concept of this exhibition and its main inspirer, historian, researcher, devotee. In collaboration with the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve, its general director Elizaveta Borisovna Fokina, as well as with a number of leading museums and archives of the country, they managed to create a unique exposition reflecting the features and spirit of the era in the context of the moral foundations of the August people in Russia.

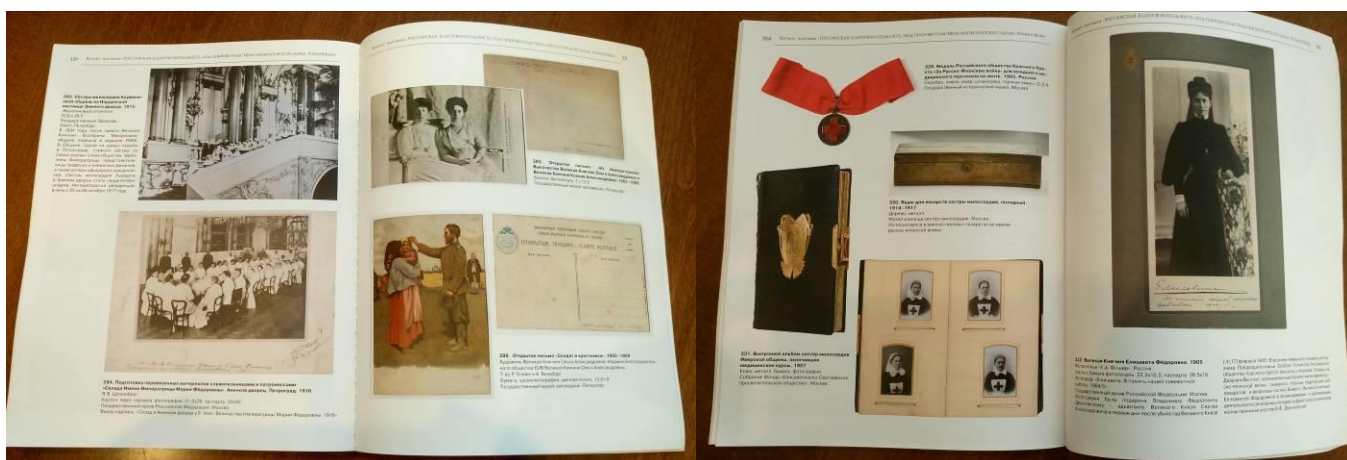
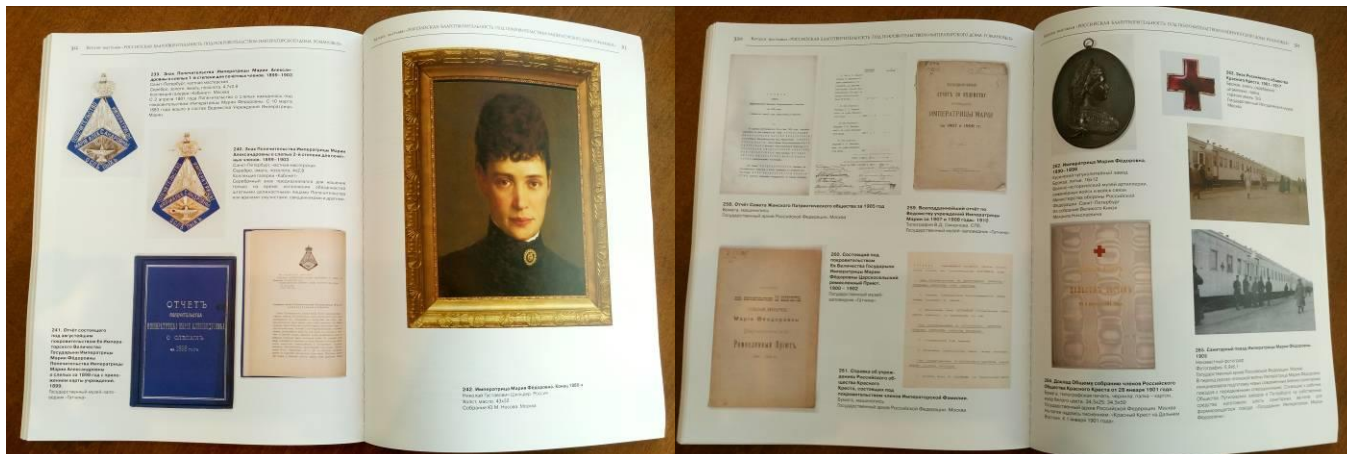
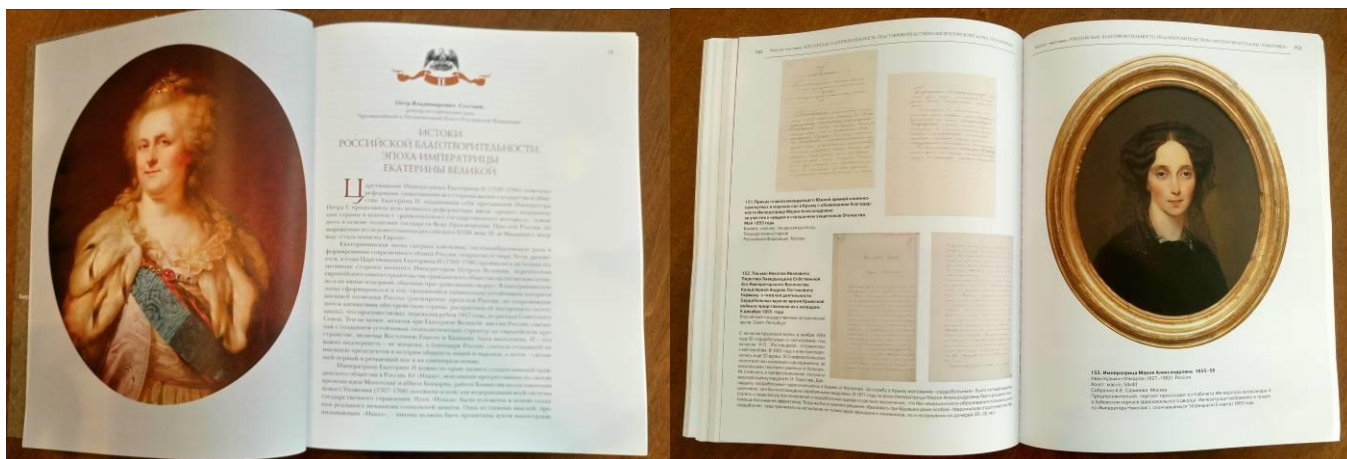
For the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, rare documents and artefacts associated with the charity and charity of the Grand Ducal Couple, the first chairmen of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, as well as other August Men, many of whom were honorary members of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, are of particular interest .

Congratulations to the organizers of the exhibition with great public recognition, with the presentation of the beautiful exhibition catalogue, which in itself becomes a significant cultural event and a significant scientific contribution to the study of the rich historical traditions of Russian charity and mercy. I suppose that a kind of epigraph to this exhibition and catalogue could be the words of St. John Chrysostom: "Nothing expresses our human characters as much as charity and philanthropy." We will also follow these righteous precepts of the holy fathers and remember the noble deeds of our great ancestors, who laid the moral and spiritual foundations of charity in Russia."

Metropolitan Arseny of Istra, the first vicar of His Holiness the Patriarch in Moscow, head of the Central and Southern Vicarities, took part in an event dedicated to the presentation of the catalogue. It was also attended by the head of the Directorate for Work with Public Organizations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Archpriest Dimitry Roshchin, the Head of the Department of National Policy and Interregional Relations of the City of Moscow Vitaly Suchkov, a member of the Council of Imperial Orthodox Palenstine Society, Head of the Information and Analytical Department of the Imperial Orthodox Palenstine Society Vitaly Rodionov, Director of the of Imperial Orthodox Palenstine Society History Museum Grigory Manevich, and others.



Elena Agapova, Archpriest Dimitri Roshchin, with Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy



Videos - 1) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/342810/

2) <https://www.m24.ru/videos/video/21032019/200749?fbclid=IwAR1QAB3tWPuhMavanHRqBFCF8appLj cX00ygmw19gVBqvpqHSJBYxj5po>



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.

Let us recall, it is now more than 3 years since the Patriarch stopped the ceremony of burial of Tsarevich Alexei Nicholaevich and Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna, planned for 18 October 2015, and asked the Russian President for permission to start a new investigation.

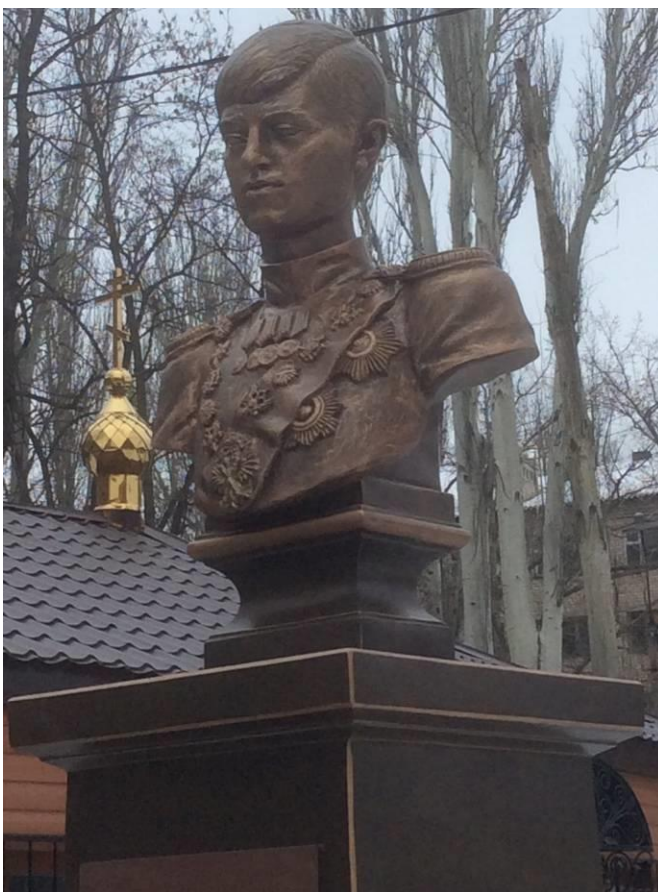
The sacred graves of Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, their children and most loyal servants and the grave of Emperor Alexander III were disturbed!

The investigative Commission made their conclusions and made them public.

When are we going to hear from the Patriarch, the Council of Bishops, the Russian orthodox Church, about their conclusion?

A monument to Tsarevich Alexei in Donetsk

In Donetsk, on Panfilov Street, not far from the chapel, a bust of was installed in honor of the son of the last Russian Emperor, the Heir Tsarevich Alexei, in February 2019.



Metropolitan Kirill performed the rite of consecration of the cross of the restored Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs

On March 14, 2019, Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhotursk performed the rite of consecration of the cross of the restored Church of Holy Royal Martyrs in the monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs on Ganina Pit.

His Eminence was served by the vicar of the monastery, Hegumen Leonty (Kozlov) and the monks of the monastery.



The consecration of the new central cross of the restored Tsar's church was accomplished on the eve of the feast of the icon of the Mother of God for the monastery. Raising it is scheduled for the next day - March 15th.

"This sign of the cross is blessed and sanctified, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, by the sprinkling of the water of this sacred sow ...", the words of the ruling hierarch sounded solemnly at the renewed walls of the Royal Temple.

- Today, March 1, old style, ecclesiastical, according to which we serve, is a special day in the life of the Church. This day is considered the day of the creation of the world. This is the memory of the exit of the Jewish people from captivity. And today we are consecrating the cross, the dome and this church of the Holy Royal Martyrs, and I congratulate you all," said His Eminence.



The portal Tsarskaya-Sem.RF opened a section dedicated to the February Revolution

On the day of the appearance of the icon of the Mother of God "Derzhavnaya" and the 102nd anniversary of the dismissal of the sovereign Nicholas Alexandrovich from the Russian throne, the portal Tsarskaya-Semya.RF opened a [section on February 1917](#) in the life of the Sovereign and his family. This is one of the four sections of the new rubric named "The Imperial Family. Way of the Cross to Calvary".

The author and curator of the column is Peter V. Multatuli, PhD in History, Associate Professor of IPCC, member of the Society for Russian Historical Education "Double-Headed Eagle".



The new section is dedicated to the martyr path of the holy Tsar's family. Peter V. Multatuli says - "Day after day we will consider how the Royal Passion-bearers lived and where they were on their way to the cross from February (March) 1917 until July 16, 1918. It is not by chance that our rubric begins with the terrible events of the February treason. In the Snowy Pskov, Yekaterinburg is already visible, and in the Alexander Palace is the prototype of the Ipatiev House".

At one time, the famous Russian public figure N.A. Pavlov in exile with absolutely accurately noted: "There were no two revolutions. There was one - February; and Rodzianki, Guchkovy and others will start it, and Lenin, Trotsky, Sverdlov and Yurovsky will continue it. Some are overthrown, arrested, convicted; others will be killed."

Based on this, according to the author, the first part of the rubric was called "The Tsar's Family in the Days of the February Revolution". The section consists of a daily chronicle, covering the end of February and the beginning of March, the action takes place at the Headquarters in Mogilev and Tsarskoye Selo. On the "timeline", which captures the life of the Sovereign every day, you can follow his path in this most difficult period.

In total, four sections of the rubric are supposed to be: "The Tsar's Family in the Days of the February Coup", "The Tsar's Family in the Alexander Palace"; "The Imperial Family in the Tobolsk exile"; "The Imperial Family: the last 78 days in Yekaterinburg."

"We hope that this rubric will make it possible to reveal the beauty of the feat of our holy Imperial Family even wider and brighter," notes Peter V. Multatuli.

Recall, the portal "Tsarskaya-Semya.RF" was created with the blessing of Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturys on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the royal family's feat

Today, the portal is in the TOP-3 Yandex search engine for the Tsar Family. Monthly resource "Tsarskaya-family. RF" is visited by about 30,000 unique users.



Tretyakov Gallery presents the exhibition "Ilya Repin"

March 15, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky attended the opening of the most anticipated exhibition of the year - a retrospective of Ilya Repin (1844–1930) - in the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow.

Ilya Yefimovich Repin was a Russian realist painter. He was born 5 August 1844 (died in Finland 29 September 1930) in Chuguyev, in the Kharkov Governorate (now Ukraine) of the Russian Empire into a military family. He began to paint around 1860.

Repin made many portraits of Romanovs and several of them are on display. In addition, there are many other works of the master, created from the 1870s to the end of the 1920s, and covers more than 50 years of Repin's work.

Among the more than 170 paintings and 130 graphic works are earlier versions of masterpieces and others being critical to a particular moment in Russian history.

In the modern sense, Repin was a truly relevant artist: he turned to the most complex, acute aspects of reality, often interpreting them through historical plots, creating a pictorial "encyclopedia of Russian life." Russian peasant and aristocratic, folk and royal, revolutionary and artistic appears on his canvases. During the life of Repin, and throughout the XX – XXI centuries, his works invariably attracted the attention of viewers. Seeming at times simple and easily accessible for understanding, they raise complex ideological problems, forcing people to reflect on the most important issues of life. Each new generation of viewers finds in Repin's art something of his own, open to his time and worldview.

Ilya Repin is an outstanding painter, perhaps the main Russian artist of the XIX - beginning of the XX century. This is the largest project in terms of preparatory research work, the scale of inter-museum cooperation and the range of material presented.

The exposition, located on three floors of the largest exhibition halls of the Tretyakov Gallery, shows all sides of his talent and creativity. In addition to paintings, known to all from childhood through school textbooks - "Barge Haulers on the Volga", "We didn't wait", "Zaporozhtsy", "A ceremonial meeting of the State Council on May 7, 1901 ..." and others - there are far from standard customer paintings.

Ilya Repin famous ""Barge Haulers on the Volga" was bought by Emperor Alexander II's second son Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich. It was Repin's first contact with the Romanov family, but not the last.

The painting was lent for exhibition at the 1873 International Exhibition in Vienna, where it won a bronze medal. It was exhibited outside Russia again in 1878, when it was again widely praised by critics for marking a watershed in Russian art.





27 May 1883 Emperor Alexander III was crowned and anointed in the Moscow Kremlin. A few days later the Emperor had a reception in the yard of the Petrovsky Travel Palace with delegations of township heads. Ilya Repin have made at least two draft paintings and one completed showing this reception and they were made in 1884-1885.

The completed painting, oil on canvas, 293 x 490 cm, depicts Emperor Alexander III and his family, surrounded by courtiers and ministers, when he pronounced a speech to the township heads, representing all provinces of Russia. In the background of the Emperor is shown: Empress Maria Feodorovna and their children.



The painting "Inaugural meeting of the State Council of 7 May 1901" is very big - 35 m², 400 x 877 cm, oil on canvas. To make it Ilya Repin was assisted by his students B. Kustodiev (23 years old) and I. S. Kulikov (26 years). The team started a few days before the celebration. The first stage was sketches of the interior, then on the day to capture the human figures at the time of reading the imperial message. To catch all they needed to work with lightning speed and absolute precision. However, they also had a heavy bulky camera, set on a tripod - some of the photos turned out good and served as auxiliary material.

Repin was satisfied, but saw a composition problem - a sense of monotony. The picture was falling apart. To balance and revitalize the composition was adjusted a dozen of seated figures. Repin made a full-length figure of Count Bobrinsky, and to the right Prince Golitsyn. In the center is standing State Secretary Pleve. Repin also decided that B. A. Lyschinsky to go across the room diagonally. A second revised sketch was made. Seeing the new canvas, courtiers were horrified: flagrant breach of etiquette! Arbitrarily distorted the course of the ceremony! One walks in the room, when he should stand still and listens; Senator Ivashchenko sits with his back to the Sovereign; General Ignatiev turns away from the Emperor; Assistant Secretary of State Baron Disterlo is distracted by a side conversation with Academician Semenov ...behave unacceptably! However, Emperor Nicholas II agreed with the concept of the artist and so it was approved. It still took them two years to make the painting.

More than eighty people can be seen in the ceremonial painting. In the completed painting can be seen Emperor Nicholas II, on his left side (State Council Chairman) Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaievich, on his right side Grand Duke Michail Alexandrovich and Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich, then Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Prince Alexander of Oldenburg. On the wall behind Emperor Nicholas II can be seen the portrait of him by Repin, 1896.

January 4, 1904 opened the doors of the Mariinsky Palace and the public had an opportunity for a few days to see and appreciate "The ceremonial meeting of the State Council on May 7, 1901".

After the establishment of the new States Duma, conversion of the State Council in 1906 and a significant increase in the number of State Council members, the Mariinsky Palace premises were rebuilt, in particular, the meeting room was expanded. The works were completed by 28 October 1908. From 1906 to 1908 the updated Council met in the premises of St. Petersburg Noble Assembly, specially rented for this purpose. Here the painting was put.



From the Mariinsky Palace after 1917 this huge canvas was transferred to the Museum of the Revolution, and in 1938 taken to its place now in the Russian Museum. Muscovites could temporary see the picture of Ilya Repin in 2002, when it was exhibited in the St. George Hall of the Big Kremlin Palace, and then in the Exhibition Hall of the Federal State Archives.

In 1879 Ilya Repin painted "Regent Sophia in monastery". It shows Sophia after her fall from power, confined to a cell in the Novodevichy Convent. Behind her is a nun sitting at a table, watching Sophia, and also in the painting, outside the window, a hanging Strelets shows the fate of those who sought to reinstate her.

Sophia Alexeevna was the third surviving daughter of Tsar Alexis and his first wife, Maria Miloslavskaya. After the death of her brother, Tsar Feodor III, on 27 April 1682, Sophia unexpectedly entered Russian politics, trying to prevent her young half-brother, the 10-year old Peter Alexeevich (later Peter the Great) from inheriting the throne. The regent disregarded the young Tsar, letting him train his Preobrazhensky and Semenovskiy Guards. And she ruled well. She preferred treaties to bloodshed, signed the Eternal Peace Treaty of 1686 with Poland, and a trade agreement with Imperial China, the

first "western" country to do so. Sophia and her supporters discussed crowning her as Tsarina, but in 1688, a Crimean war brought rioting and unrest to Moscow and to worsen the situation, Peter had married, readying himself for rule, and Ivan V fathered a girl, eliminating any potential claim to the throne from that branch. Tensions between the two continued to grow, until Peter I turned 17 years of age, and demanded Sophia to step down. Feeling the power slipping from her hands, Sophia sent the boyars and the Patriarch to Peter, asking him to join her in the Kremlin. He flatly refused her overtures, demanding Shaklovityi's execution and Galitzine's exile.

After Sophia agreed to surrender her senior boyars, she was arrested and forced to withdraw into the Novodevichy Convent without formally taking the veil. Regardless of her conscious effort, her fate was sealed ten years later, when the Streltsy attempted to reinstate her in the Kremlin during Peter's absence from the country. This uprising was suppressed with an iron hand, and soon the corpses of the rebels were suspended in front of Sophia's windows. Having taken the veil, she was kept in the strictest seclusion, with other nuns not allowed to see her except on Easter day. She died in the Novodevichy Convent 6 years later, on 14th July 1704.

Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich was painted in 1891 by Ilya Repin. Oil on canvas. Size 93 x 76 cm.

On April 23, 1891 Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich was appointed commander of the Life Guards of Preobrazhensky Regiment with the rank of colonel. This painting was made upon the Grand Duke leaving his command of the squadron of the Izmailovsky Regiment. There are two dates on the frame - 15 December 1883 and 23 April 1891 - the period of his service in the Izmailovsky regiment.

The artwork on the frame is very special – it is made with reference to the pattern on the neck collar of his uniform, which was unique to the Izmailovsky regiment's officer uniform.



See also the video about the painting -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyTvU7ZpyEQ>



A portrait of Emperor Nicholas II made by Ilya Repin in 1896.

It shows Emperor Nicholas standing in uniform, in the St. George Hall (Great Throne room) in the Winter Palace. His hand in front of him holding his cap and white gloves. Oil on canvas. 251 x 160 cm. It was a very popular painting and several copies were made and used as official portrait in many institutions and organisations.



Repin also made a huge drawing of Feodor Nikitich Romanov, showing him more like a regent in the time of his son Tsar Michael Feodorovich's rule. In the corner - the coat of arms of the Romanov family. This drawing is undated, but could have been made about 1897.

The artist's works have always been in the center of public attention, they provoked a stormy and ambiguous reaction, becoming events in culture.

After the "1905 revolution" Ilya Repin's attitude to Emperor Nicholas II turned negative and he called him a "vile barbarian". He continued however to make historical paintings including Romanovs, but not including Emperor Nicholas II.

He welcomed the Russian Revolution of 1917, and painted a portrait of Alexander Kerensky, but in 1918 he had enough of the revolutionaries, which the painting "The Bolsheviks" from 1918 clearly shows - Here a Bolshevik is taking bread from a child.

The exhibition is opened from March 16 to August 18, 2019 on New Tretyakov, Krymsky Val, 10, Moscow.

The retrospective of Ilya Repin at the Tretyakov Gallery opens a series of exhibitions devoted to the 175th anniversary of the artist's birth, which will be held in 2019–2020 at the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, at Petit Pal in Paris and at the Athenaeum Art Museum in Helsinki. This international project is intended not only to highlight the importance of Repin's creativity for the national culture, but also to emphasize the importance of the master's heritage for European art.

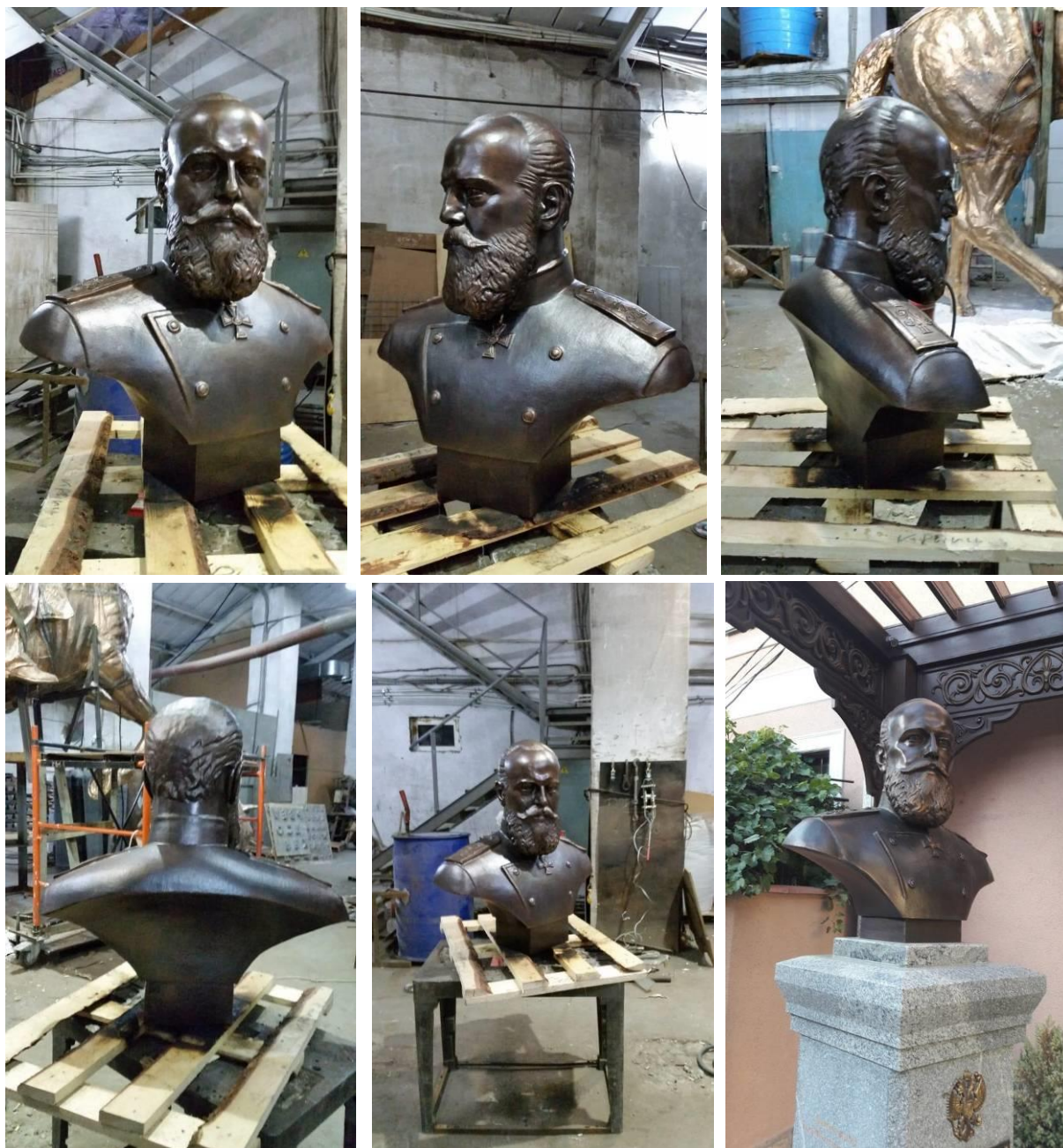


A bust of Emperor Alexander III will be installed in Polyarny

In the year of the 120th anniversary of the city of Alexandrovsk-Polyarny, in Mumansk region, the parishioners of the Church of St. Nicholas and the Rector Archpriest Sergiy Mishchenko took initiative to create a bronze bust of the great Russian Emperor Alexander III. The city is named after the Emperor.

The next stage of work is the manufacture of a granite pedestal. For this purpose, is needed about 150 thousand roubles.

According to the abbot, the names of all donors will be placed in the capsule of the monument. The bust has already been made and is ready for transportation, and photos from the workshop are below.



Exactly the same bust has already been installed in the south of Russia, in the city of Simferopol, Crimea (seen in the last photo).

The exhibition "Imperial Family. Ascension" opened in Mogilev

The educational exhibition "Tsar's family. Ascension" solemnly opened in the Museum of Paul Maslenikova in Mogilev.

From March 9 in the Mogilev Regional Art Museum named after P.V. Maslenikov, the exhibition project "Tsar's Family. Ascension", tells about the life, ministry and spiritual path of the family of Emperor Nicholas II. The project is organized by the Mogilev Diocese with the participation of the State Archives of the Russian Federation, the Russian Historical Society, the History of Fatherland Foundation, the Russian State Archive of Cinema and Photo Documents, the Mogilev Regional Museum of Local Lore, Art Museum and the Museum of history of Mogilev.

Love and family life, achievements, mistakes and problems of the reign of the last Russian Tsar, World War I, revolution, betrayal, Golgotha ... All this can be found at the exhibition, which presents photographs, copies of paintings, documents, diaries, eyewitness accounts and various exhibits from archives, museums and private collections. One of the blocks of the exhibition is devoted to the stay of the Imperial family in Mogilev. Documents and exhibits allow you to rethink some of the historical events of the early twentieth century. The exhibition is opened until April 14, 2019.



"The last Romanovs" was presented in Moscow

On March 2, the "Sergei Memorial Fund" and the "Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society, UK" held a joint presentation of the book "The Last Romanovs" in the Church of the Holy Martyr Tatiana at the Moscow State University named after M. Lomonosov.

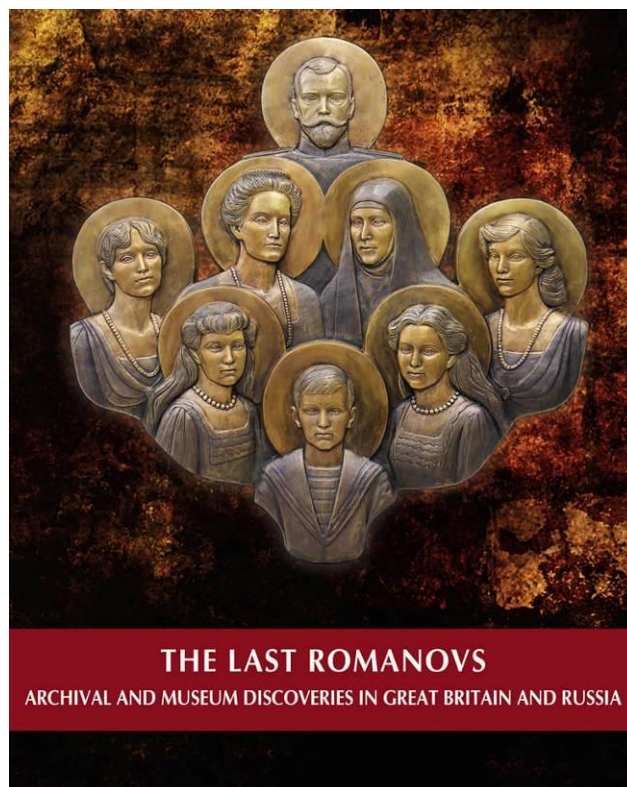
The book "The Last Romanovs. Archival and museum discoveries in Great Britain and Russia" is 120 pages, a little larger than A4 format, soft cover, (ISBN 978-1-904597-99-5) containing the proceedings of the international symposium held June 20, 2017 in Cumberland Lodge, Windsor. The 11 articles, with many beautiful illustrations, tell about the life of the family of Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

The articles span from Nicholas II's Coronation, Romanovs at Osborne House, to police reports on Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and Father Nicholas Gibbes' Romanov collection.

Researchers also presented information about obscure exhibits from collections in Russia and the United Kingdom.

Foreword is by Princess Olga Andreevna, President of the Romanoff Family Association, and there is a greeting by Alexander Yakovenko, the Russian Ambassador to UK.

The resulting book was released by the prestigious British publishing house Pindar Press.



The presentation was opened by a number of greetings, first by the rector of the church of St. Tatiana, Archpriest Vladimir Vigilyansky, who emphasized the importance of such events for the state and for the Church.

Dmitry Grishin, Chairman of the Sergei Memorial Fund, shared impressions of his participation in the Windsor Symposium and the work of British colleagues.

Alexander Zakatov, secretary of the "Russian Imperial House", very unpleasantly started with criticizing the title of the new publication - "It was wrong to call it the 'The last Romanovs', as there are still Romanovs alive today". Maria Harwood bravely defended the title, saying that we also talk about "the last supper" even when in reality it is not so.

He then continued with a long lecture about the organization "The Imperial House".

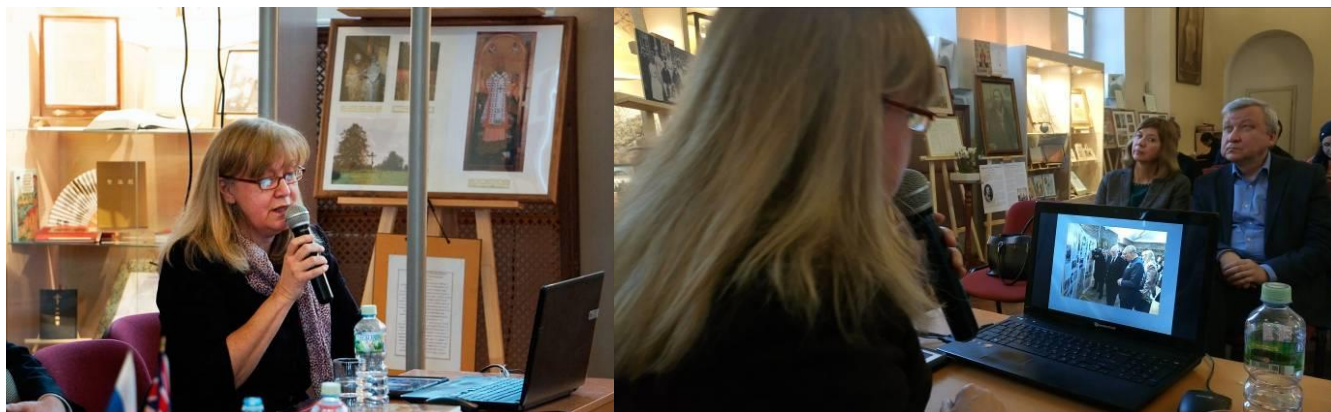
Paul Kulikovsky, a member of the Romanoff Family Association, recalled the recent events held in Russia in memory of members of the Romanov family and mentioned he participated in all of the major ones - Perm, Yekaterinburg, Alapaevsk and St. Petersburg, but unfortunately was not able to participate in the event in England, as he was in Saraktash, Orenburg region, for the opening of another Romanov memorial - the Church of the Royal Martyrs.

Sergey Zhitenev, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow Regional Branch of the



Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, spoke about the international activities of the Society and congratulated those present with the release of the wonderful book.

Maria Harwood, the chairman of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society spoke about the work done during the three years of the organization's existence, which included pilgrimages to Russia of British Orthodox Christians, holding historical exhibitions in the UK, scientific and educational events, as well as the opening of the Romanov Cross - with bronze images of the Royal Martyrs and Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna - on the British Isle of Wight - which is also on the cover of the book.



In the end Harwood showed a video from the opening of the Romanov Cross on the British Isle of Wight.

Attending the presentation were several of the Russian contributors to the book, as well as the Russian sculptor of the "Romanov Cross" - Elena Bezborodova with spouse.



Dmitri Grishin, Maria Harwood, with Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovskiy

Odessa knew a lot of grief, but did not expect that it would be called Kotsyubievsky

Having finished with de-communization, the Ukrainian authorities began to destroy the memory of Imperial Russia

10 March. Svobodnaya Press. By Ilya Sergeev



Ukrainian wildness continues to progress. The President of Ukraine during the celebrations on the occasion of the 205th anniversary of the birth of the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko said that Ukraine had freed itself from cultural occupation, and the Ukrainian language had taken "its proper place" in society and culture. Well, if everything that happens in Ukraine has a place in culture, what else can we talk about ...

A loop of rope tape tightened around the neck of Generalissimo Suvorov. In fact, it was possible to stretch the cable across the chest of Alexander Vasilyevich. But Kiev Banderlogi demanded "help", that is, this gallows.

So the monument to the great Russian commander Alexander Suvorov at the Kiev Suvorov Military School (KVSU) was dismantled disgustingly and disgracefully. The action took place exactly two months ago. The main initiator is a native of Lviv, a former archivist of the SBU, now the odious director of the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, Vladimir Vyatrovich. "Suvorov is on the way out. Decolonization on the march," he happily wrote in his Facebook.

In fact, in the early 90s, the Kiev Suvorov School began to be called the Military Lyceum named after Ivan Bohun. A dashing zaporozhian ataman from the inner circle of Bohdan. In modern Ukrainian historiography, Bogun is glorified primarily by the fact that he did not attend the Pereyaslav Rada and refused to swear allegiance to Russian Tsar Alexei Romanov. Subsequently, the Cossack colonel long tossed between Moscow and the Commonwealth was shot by sentence of the Polish Military Court.

The "independent" renaming of the KVSU into the Lyceum of Bohun did not at all interfere with the monument to Suvorov. The impetuous, flying figure with a sword in his hand was perfectly visible from one of the main Kiev thoroughfares, Lesia Ukrainka Boulevard. The monument of 45 years old stood

right at the main entrance to the main building of the school. Alexander Vasilyevich did not lose a single battle, his future Ukrainian officers had to learn his invincibility.

The current head of the Lyceum Galician resident Igor Gordiychuk is considered a “national icon of the ATO” and absolutely sincerely hates Russia. A graduate of the College of US Army, he was seriously wounded in the crushing Ilovaisk boiler. Miraculously survived, he became disabled, completed a course of rehabilitation in the United States. President Poroshenko personally granted him epaulets of Major General, the title of Hero of Ukraine and a new position.

It was Gordiychuk, with the support of Vyatrovich, who applied to the Department of Cultural Heritage Protection of the Kiev State Administration with a petition “not to register the monument to Suvorov in the list of monuments”. Zemlyakov was supported by humanitarian vice-premier Kirilenko. Then followed the final decision of the Ministry of Culture and the dismantling by a cable over the neck.

As is known, the all-Ukrainian decommunization started simultaneously with the 2014 coup d'état. Euromaidan was still buzzing, and monuments to Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders were already piled up across the country. Soon they engaged in the total destruction of the memory of the Soviet past - from the concrete Order of the Red Banner of Labor on the Dnieper Hydroelectric Power Station to the plaster bas-reliefs on the Stalinist houses and numerous provincial recreation centres. At the same time, they “got rid of the communist symbols”, renaming the streets, avenues, and cities.

Remember how Moscow's liberal public urged itself, saying that the Maidan's neighbours should focus on anti-communist vandalism. No, in fact, it was decided to end all of our common history, from beginning to end. “After the decommunization that removed the first layers, we saw that under this layer there are Russian-Imperial layers,” said Pan Vyatrovich in the last February report on the activities of his National Memory Institute. By the way, this is the official body of the Ukrainian executive authority, established by a special resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Judging by the report, the imperial tendencies are especially strong in the south, in Odessa, Nikolaev and Kherson regions of Ukraine. So, after the de-communization in Ukraine, it is time to carry out decolonization — an operation to destroy the memory of the common past of the Ukrainian and Russian peoples. “A very good first example of decolonization, the dismantling of the monument to Suvorov at the Bohun School in Kiev, was the result of the persistent position of the head of this institution,” Vyatrovich emphasizes. At the same time, complaining that the state “does not have legislation that would allow Ukraine to be freed from the imperial legacy.”

And then came a new message. The institute of national memory has begun to prepare a draft law on decolonization. The document will be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada no later than the middle of this year. There is no doubt that the majority of deputies will vote in its favour. After all, it is already known that the main direction of the new bill is the demolition of monuments to the leaders of the Russian Empire, who were at the origin of the cities of Little Russia.

For example, it was announced that the famous Monument to the founders of Odessa — the Russian Empress Catherine II and her companions, the Most High Prince Potemkin, de Ribas, de Volan and the Governor-General of Novorossia, Count Zubov — was finally demolished. From Yushchenko's time the city by the sea was desperately defended by this monument. Now it will be destroyed “by the law.” The builder of Kherson, Grigory Potemkin, threatened “southern Petersburg” - and nothing else. Prince Tavrishesky did not have time to realize all his plans, but the city of sailors and shipbuilders founded by him went down in history as the cradle of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. We quote today's Kherson destruction list:

- a monument to Potemkin in the Potemkin Square, erected by order of Catherine II;
- a monument to the “First Shipbuilders” on the embankment of Kherson, popularly referred to as the “frigate”. On the pedestal is an unacceptable memorial plate with evidence that in 1783 the *Slava to Ekaterina*, 66-gun battleship was launched, followed by the *Kherson*, *Horrible*, *The Brave* frigates and many other Russian ships. Supervised by shipbuilding master Afanasyev. The ships went to Sevastopol;

- a monument to the great Russian naval commander Admiral Fyodor Ushakov at the Kherson State Maritime Academy. Also rename the central city highway - Ushakov Avenue. And do not care that Ushakov arrived in Kherson as captain of the second rank, fought with the plague and, in fact, saved the city;

- Together with the monuments they will demolish the bas-relief "Soldiers of Suvorov in battle" on the pedestrian street of Suvorov. The victory of the Suvorov grenadiers at Kinburn secured Kherson. Soon the commander, being the commander of the troops of the Ekaterinoslav governorship, again placed his headquarters in Kherson and continued to strengthen this strategic area.

Another important point of the vandals appeared St. Catherine's Cathedral of the eighteenth century, dedicated to the great Empress. Catherine. The church entered the ensemble of the Kherson fortress. A military necropolis was founded nearby - the officers who died in the battles of the Russian-Turkish wars were buried. Now it has been decided that the Catherine Cathedral will be transferred to the subordination of the new "Poroshenko's" church. The resolution of the Patriarchate of Constantinople is expected on its "re-consecration".

All this sounds impossible blasphemy, but official Kiev is convinced that they will put the Kherson people on the knee. Protests of ordinary citizens simply wipe the street dust. Local authorities will not offer any resistance at all - the governor and the chairman of the regional council were called the organizers of the murder of the Maidan activist Katerina Gadzyuk. The case is under the personal control of Petro Poroshenko, the ambassadors of the United States and Canada. The head of the regional council of Kherson region, Vladislav Munger, has already been removed from office and in the capital's detention centre.

The local governor Alexey Savchenko - a staunch Poroshenkovets, a dollar multimillionaire and Maidan Kostroh. He himself tried to destroy the unique architectural ensemble in the form of a globe, around which three-meter-high figures of admirals and shipbuilders of Nikolaev shipyards perched. The cast-iron globe is framed by the inscription: *"To shipbuilders and naval commanders in commemoration of the two centuries-old labour of Nikolaev shipbuilders: 1789–1989."*

Memories of the fleet past of Nikolaev are like a painful thorn in the Bandera ass. This is a real city of maritime glory, outstanding military traditions, where the Headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet of Russia was for a century. But preparations had already begun for the dismantling of the "Admiral Alley" outside the building of the former Navy Headquarters. The busts of Bellingauzen, Ushakov, Lazarev, Kornilov, Butakov, Nakhimov will be demolished - they lived for a long time and bravely served in Nikolaev. Now they are not needed.

Naturally, the monument to Prince Potemkin-Tavrichesky in front of the central entrance of the former "Shipyard to them. 61 of the Communard", now turned into Nikolaev shipbuilding. Russian frigates and cruisers, battleships and armadillos were built at his shipyards. In Soviet times, the plant floated huge oceanic refrigerators, carried out unique developments in the field of military shipbuilding. And last spring was put up for sale for wage arrears.

It would seem, from a history you will not throw out that Potemkin personally gave the name to the city of Nikolaev. It turns out that they are thrown out, and with enthusiasm they will ride on the torn tablets of the Potemkinskaya street - the best memory of the Prince.

Why do we need such wildness? The answer is simple. Anyone who was born in today's Ukraine should a priori feel himself as an enemy of Russia. It is for this purpose that a total sweep of "Russian-Imperial layers" has been launched. In addition to the elimination of monuments, the Institute of National Memory took up the "transmission" of the time when Ukrainian cities were founded. According to Vyatrovich, many southern cities are described as founded during the Russian Empire. Although it is possible to "study the historical details," and as a result, come to the conclusion that "some cities have a much longer history."

To make it clearer, within the framework of the course on "decolonization", they allegedly announced Odessa — no, not Odessa, but 600-years-old Kotsyubievsk, founded back in the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This insanity quite fits into the logic of eradicating any mention of the role of the Russian Empire in the development of the Northern Black Sea region. It turns out, Odessa was founded

by "civilized Europeans", and only after centuries did the wild Muscovites seize and cynically rename the prosperous city.

You should not turn away if you feel sick - by the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada, "the 600th anniversary of the first mention of Odessa" was already celebrated in Ukraine in 2015. The topic is unwound again, and with much greater force. Numerous publications cite the "History of Poland" by the catholic hierarch Jan Długosz, which mentions a certain "port of His Majesty Kochubiev" and a cargo of grain sent from here by King Jagailo in 1415 "before the Turks lined with Constantinople". The text is repeated in the textbook on local history, edited by the professor of the Odessa National Academy, Sergei Kozitsky - a native of Zapadenskiy Rivne region, an old activist of the People's Movement of Ukraine.

Now Odessa professor switched to the "Right Sector". In an interview, he says that he is proud of his grandfather, a member of Volyn in the Polish Sejm, and his father, a militant of the Bandera army of OUN-UPA, killed by the NKVD in the spring of 1945. Long and fiercely he hates the idea of Novorossia, justifies the burning of people in the House of Trade Unions, although among the burned were his students. This person writes textbooks on the history of Ukrainian Odessa region and publishes books one after another under the title "We are Odessans".

Zagreb host an exhibition about the family of Nicholas II

In the centre of Zagreb, Croatia, the exhibition "Meet the Russian Tsar. Romanovs: Tsarist ministry" dedicated to Emperor Nicholas II and his family. The opening took place on March 1 in the premises of the Serbian society "Predprinik". This is the second such exhibition on the territory of Croatia. A year earlier, the first exhibition was held at the Krka Monastery in Dalmatia.

The exhibition was organized by the Serbian society "Predprinik", the Zagreb-Ljubljana Metropolis of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Moscow Sretensky Monastery.



The opening gathered a large number of people willing to get acquainted with the life of the Imperial Family. The event was attended by representatives of the Russian Embassy and Rossotrudnichestvo in Croatia, members of the Russian community, politicians, journalists, historians, scientists and artists.

The exhibition was opened by Nikola Lunich, director of the Serbian society "Predprinik", reminding the audience of the importance of historical and spiritual ties with the Russian people and the feat of Nicholas II, who stood up for the Serbs during the First World War. According to him, holding this exhibition in Zagreb is very important for understanding the destructive power of political utopias, which often lead to bloody consequences, such as the atrocious murder of the Imperial Family.



Porphyry, Metropolitan of Zagreb and Ljubljana, expressed his joy in connection with this important event, stressed the importance of honouring the Imperial Family in the face of saints, and expressed the hope that this photo exhibition will be held in other cities.

Natalia Vidmarovich, Professor of Russian Language at the University of Zagreb, spoke about the main achievements of the era of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II, citing official statistics on the high level of development of pre-revolutionary Russia, and stressed how important it is to know about it.

A monk of the Moscow Sretensky Monastery, Hieromonk Ignatius (Shestakov), one of the authors of the exhibition, emphasized the special role of the example of the Imperial Family of Nicolas II as a family man. He stressed that in modern society, when Christian values are systematically destroyed and lose their power, the family is under the main blow. The example of Emperor Nicholas II and his relatives is the personification of the most genuine Christian family. Not only the Orthodox world needs to preserve and restore the institution of the family, but also the whole of Christian Europe - this crisis is widespread. Therefore, the opening of the exhibition in Zagreb, according to Ignatius, is also important, and it is gratifying that so many people gathered for it.

The participants were presented unique photographs from the historical archives and personal albums of the Romanovs, reflecting everyday life, charity, and service to their Fatherland of the Imperial Family. The exhibition "The Family of the Last Russian Emperor. The Romanovs: the Tsarist Ministry" allows you to see the life of Nicholas II's family in a new way: not only in the main halls of the palaces, but also at the front, in the infirmary, at home.

The exhibition was held in more than 100 cities of the world - in Russia, Europe, Latin America, USA, Canada and New Zealand.

The exhibition is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the building of the Predprinik Society in Zagreb at Preradovićeve 18/1.

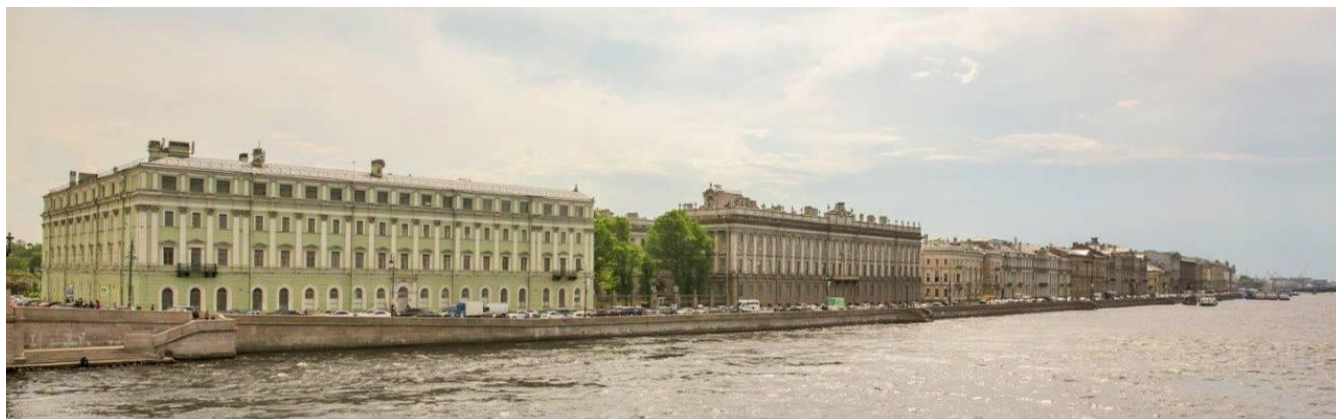
Next stop is in Alba-Yulia in Romania

From March 14, 2019 in the Museum of icons of the Romanian city Alba Yulia, the photo exhibition dedicated to the family of the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II continues.

The exhibition was prepared on the initiative of the Romanian Association "Tradition" with the support of the Moscow Sretensky Monastery.

Service buildings of the Marble Palace put up for sale

Two separate buildings, objects of cultural heritage of federal significance, have been put up for sale in St. Petersburg. The first building is "The Service Building of the Marble Palace" and the second is "The complex of buildings of the Reserve Palace and the Stables' yard at the palace of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich.



From left, the service building and then the Marble Palace.

Both are located in the historical centre of St. Petersburg. The objects are unique in terms of location and environment, within walking distance from the main sights of St. Petersburg - the Hermitage, the Field of Mars, the Peter and Paul Fortress, and the Mikhailovsky Castle.



The Service Building of the Marble Palace is on Millionnaya ul. 5. Building area: 11,687.4 square meters. The area of land: 5 930 sq. m. Public business subzone of specialized public business objects (ТД2_1), including hotels and apartment hotels.

The building on Millionnaya ul., 5 is ideal for accommodating a 5 * De Lux hotel. The unique location and status of the object will provide the investor with an advantage in the market of the hotel sector in St. Petersburg.

In 1780–1788, a two-storey office building was built next to the Marble Palace according to the design of the architect P.Ye. Yegorov. Here they placed carriages, stables, and hay storage. On the second floor the premises for the servants were planned. Egorov also created a fence between the office building and the Marble Palace. Before the appearance of the service corps, the Red Channel passed in front of the Marble Palace. On May 2, 1844, Nicholas I approved the project for its rebuilding, which was compiled by architect A. P. Bryullov.

The architect added the third floor on the service building of the Marble Palace. Since the building overlooks the Field of Mars, Suvorov Square and Palace Embankment, Bryullov designed these sides of the corpus in classic forms. This allowed him to tactfully include the building in the existing architectural ensemble.

From the side of Suvorov Square, the house is decorated with two statues. There is an assumption that they were transferred here by A. P. Bryullov from the fence of the Marble Palace. The figure in the southern niche symbolizes "Friendliness", in the north - "Peace".

The fourth facade, looking at the Marble Palace, Bryullov decided more freely, combining the motifs of classicism and neo-renaissance. In 1847, this facade was decorated with the bas-relief "Horse service to man" by the sculptor P. K. Klodt. The same master made bas-reliefs of newts and dolphins placed on the side gables of the western facade. Reconstruction of the service building of the Marble Palace lasted five years.



"The complex of the Reserve Palace and the Stables' yard at the palace of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich" is on Millionnaya ul. 6. Building area: 14,438.8 square meters.

Location and space-planning characteristics of the building on Millionnaya St. 6, allows to place in it a premium apartment hotel. The height of the ceilings of each floor, large windows and spacious rooms will allow to realize a quality project in the format of an apartment hotel for the mid-term stay of high-ranking guests of the city. Two spacious courtyards provide an opportunity to organize a project for semi-deep parking.

The building came into the ownership of the Imperial Treasury in 1857, and was rebuilt under the guidance of court architect Andrei Shtakenshneider in the early 1860s, to be a service building and stables of the Novo-Mikhailovsky Palace, built at the time for the wedding of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich and the Baden Princess Cecilia Augusta.

The facade of the house was decorated with pilasters, rococo decorations (curls in the form of shells, floral patterns curved in a spiral, asymmetry of the decor). In this building there were the apartments of the Grand Duke's courtiers and the main services of the palace, and in the courtyards between Millionnaya and Moika there were stables and sheds, and servants and grooms lived in the outbuildings.

According to the inventory of 1911, there were 77 apartments in the reserve palace of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich, of which only 16 had a toilet and a bathroom, and 36 apartments consisted of only one room. The house was inhabited by lackeys, cooks, and other servants of the owners of the Novo-Mikhailovsky Palace. Here, in the apartment of nine rooms, Major General M. Molodovsky, the court manager of the Grand Duke, lived.

The sales prices are not disclosed.

Video - <https://youtu.be/XeT1R2KCEng>

Historian Vladimir Lavrov gave the lecture "State activity of Emperor Nicholas II"

On March 27, the Tsarsky Cultural and Educational Center hosted a meeting of Yekaterinburg residents with Vladimir Mikhailovich Lavrov, a professor, Doctor of History, a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and the Double-Headed Eagle Historical Society.

"Vladimir Mikhailovich is an Orthodox Christian who deeply loves the Tsar family and conducts historical and journalistic activities aimed at revealing historical truth," said the head of the cultural and educational center "Tsarsky", priest Victor Belskikh. - Today we can learn about the state of Russia, and what did the holy martyr Nicholas II for its development. In particular, the fact that the terrible events that occurred did not depend on his will as the head of the state, but on the participation in the life of the state of each individual person. The passive citizenship of the people led to such disastrous consequences.

Vladimir Mikhailovich spoke about the authenticity of the Emperor's dismissal, the reasons for the defeat in World War I on the threshold of victory, the development of agriculture, transport, economy, and industry.

"By the beginning of the reign of Nicholas II, Russia retained the second place in the world in terms of economic development, including industrial development," said the historian. - During his reign, the country came out on top. This is an outstanding achievement - it was called the "Russian miracle". We were the first in the world in the production and export of agricultural products and fed half the world. Russia ranked fifth in the world in terms of production and would eventually outrun other

countries. And now, after a hundred years, we are only setting ourselves the task of getting into fifth place, and God forbid that this should happen.



Vladimir Mikhailovich also spoke about the reasons for the February state coup, dwelling on one of the main factors - easing censorship, and also sharing why the coup was not averted.

- The letter of Nicholas II to his mother, Maria Feodorovna, is preserved. We learn from it that the variant of the decisive suppression of the revolution was first discussed. But Nicholas II wrote that if we suppress the revolution decisively, blood flows will be shed, and these blood flows will discredit the government and make the necessary reforms impossible, the speaker said. - And now, when today you read the letter from the Emperor about the flow of blood, what do you imagine in the first place? The blood flows that were spilled under Lenin and Stalin are multimillion victims of repression, deportations, and organized famines. Nicholas II could not imagine this even in a nightmare. By signing a manifesto on renunciation, he chose a compromise option - to save power and prevent bloodshed.

According to Vladimir Lavrov, for the Sovereign, as for the Orthodox ruler, every person was important as a person, a soul, for which he, Nicholas II, was responsible as a loving father.

- The General and Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolayevich gave a report to the Sovereign that Russia could defeat Japan, but this would take one year, while 200,000 Russian soldiers and officers would be killed. After listening to this, Nicholas II said: "We will not kill people." I literally convey his words. Could say such Lenin, Stalin and Brezhnev, who sent our guys to Afghanistan? That was such a Tsar. Why is the all-Russian repentance necessary? Because everyone is responsible for what happened. Some responsibility is on the Tsar, on the ministers, and on the political elite, but also on the people too. From here, the all-Russian repentance is necessary in order to purify and revive Russia, the historian concluded.



Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Naryshkin's Treasure moved to Tsarskoye Selo

More than two thousand items discovered in March 2012 in the secret room of the St. Petersburg mansion of the Trubetsky-Naryshkins, with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, were deposited in the Tsarskoye Selo museum-reserve. The rare collection of things of the end of the XVIII - beginning of the XX century replenished the museum fund of objects with the content of precious metals and precious stones.

The Office for Buildings Management in the North-West Federal District, the Department Manager of the President of the Russian Federation, handed over to the museum a treasure of the Naryshkins in 2018. The custodians of the museum collections immediately began a painstaking and responsible work on the description of objects. With the participation of employees of the North-West State Inspection of Assay Supervision, all subjects were weighed, acts were drawn up indicating the content of precious metals and precious stones.



In 2012, during the reconstruction of the Trubetsky-Naryshkin mansion (Tchaikovsky St., 29), workers found a treasure. Some of the items were wrapped in the *Russkaya Volya* newspapers, dated from July to September 1917. All things are perfectly preserved, most of the items are made of precious metals.

During the compilation of the inventory, the alleged last owner was established: they, apparently, were Lieutenant of the Life Guards Hussar Regiment Sergey Sergeyevich Somov - a member of the First World War and the Civil War. He was married to Natalya Vasilyevna Naryshkina - the daughter of the owner of the mansion on Tchaikovsky Street, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vasily Lvovich Naryshkin.

The name of Sergey Somov is indicated in the documents found in one of the boxes in the walled room: a sacking ticket of S. Somov, a pupil of the Imperial School, dated May 28, 1908; two certificates authorizing the carrying of weapons (revolver, hunting rifle); a certificate indicating the merits of Somov on the excellent implementation of the general mobilization (with the award of a medal for wearing on the chest on the ribbon of the Order of the White Eagle). Among the awards - the Order of St. Vladimir of the 4th degree with swords and bow - most likely, also belonged to Sergei Somov.

Among the products of family silver is a road soap-box with the monogram "SS" and a travel case of a French company with marvellous emblems of the Somovs and Naryshkins: apparently, it was a wedding gift.

Probably, Somov became the keeper of valuables after the Naryshkins left Petrograd, and was directly involved in hiding the treasure. Later Sergey Somov also emigrated to France. He died in 1976 in Paris, and two years later his wife died. They have left Heirs.

The Treasure of the Naryshkins can be considered the largest in Russian history (almost all things of Russian noble families after the revolution were either exported abroad, or expropriated, transferred to

museums or sold out separately). This treasure is unique in many ways: it includes more than two thousand silver objects from the XIX - early XX century (several items have jewellery stamps from the end of the XVIII century). The objects are made by the best jewellers of the most famous Russian (Ignatius Sazikov, Paul Ovchinnikov, Ivan Khlebnikov, brothers Grachev, Carl Faberge, Keibel, Varypayev) and European (Falize, Aucoc Aine, Touron, Queille, Parisot, Harleux) firms. On the subjects appear the names of European masters, such as: Jacquart, Corne Guillaume, Cardeilhac, Dehanne.



The whole collection belonged to the same family. On most of the objects there is the princely coat of arms of the Naryshkin family, on some of them the coat of arms of the Somovs. The kit includes samples of tableware, table silver, from strainers to silver five-kilogram samovars, boules, household items - from tiny pins, hairbrushes, jewellery, watches, toilet appliances to candelabra weighing almost 20 kilograms.

The hoard also contained commemorative signs, orders, medals - domestic and foreign. Among the awards are several military orders of the Russian Empire: the Order of St. Anne, the Order of St. Stanislaus and the Order of St. Vladimir with swords. In addition, the medals "In memory of the 300th anniversary of the reign of the House of Romanov" and "In memory of the 100th anniversary of the Patriotic War of 1812", which were awarded to servicemen, as well as the Serbian medal and the Montenegrin Order. In this collection there are two St. George medals (numbered), which were given to the lower ranks.

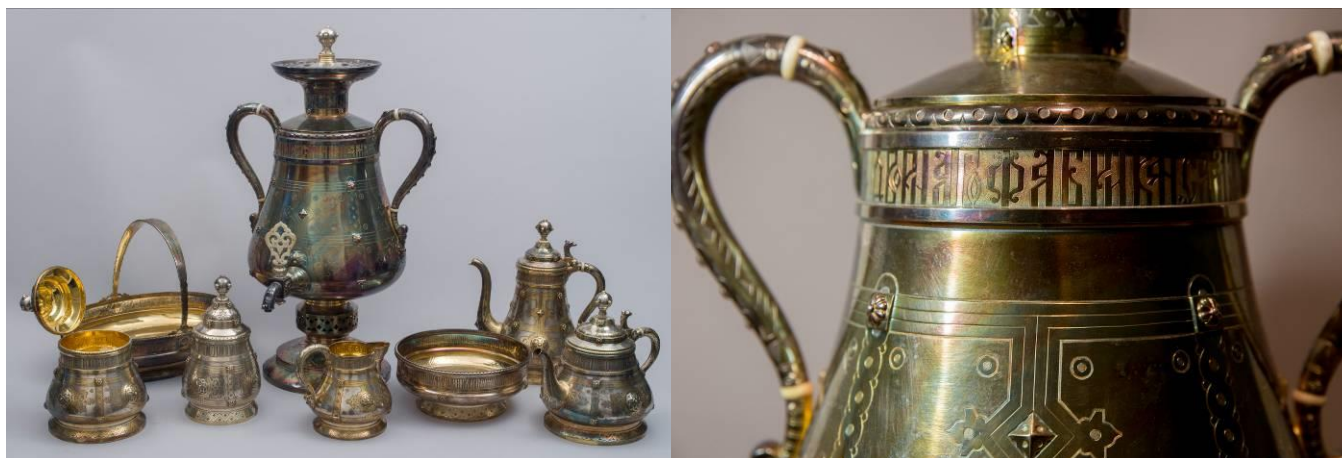
The collection highlights the ceremonial table service in the Russian style of Ignatius Sazikov. The delicacy of the work, the number and variety of objects serve as a vivid example of the highest craftsmanship of leading Russian jewellers, many of whom were suppliers of the Imperial Court.

In the manufacture of objects in the neo-Russian style, the masters used proverbs, sayings, the playful tone of which conveyed the true nationality. Engraved on the big wine cup: "The soul burned up to the wine ladle", and on each glass its own individual: "And the chicken drinks too", "Evil seed nettle, do not

make beer from it", "Drink at the table, and do not drink a pillar ", " Know the bird by the feathers, and the young man by the speeches ", " The good brotherhood is better than the wealth ", " Drink and think it out. "

The collection will be stored in the museum. After completion of the restoration of the Alexander Palace, these items will complement its exposure.

Fund of objects with the content of precious metals and precious stones GMZS "Tsarskoye Selo" includes about a thousand units of storage. Among them are objects with the content of precious metals and precious stones, as well as objects made of non-precious metals that are included in the kit (covers, stands, tips, etc.). The most valuable items from the historical collection. There are several hundred of them in the fund. The rest were acquired by the museum at auctions, from private collectors, in antique shops, or were donated by patrons of art, private collectors, transferred to government agencies.



Mansion Trubetskoy-Naryshkin. At the end of 1770 - the beginning of the 1780s, Abram Petrovich Hannibal lived here - the famous "arap of Peter the Great". Subsequently, the house was owned by: the eldest son of Abram Petrovich - Ivan Abramovich Hannibal (a military man, a member of the Chesmen Battle, a builder of the fortress and the city of Kherson), in the 1820s - Senator Ivan Nikolaevich Neplyuev, later - his daughter Maria and her husband, in the 1850s - Prince Pyotr Nikitich Trubetskoy (actual State Councillor, St. Petersburg district leader of the nobility).

Under Trubetskoy, the architect Harald Bosse thoroughly redid the facade of the mansion. Elizaveta Esperovna, wife of Pyotr Nikitich, loved the luxurious life, numerous guests often came to the mansion, brilliant balls were organized, which were visited by the Sovereign and members of the Imperial family. Excessive spending led to the fact that the Trubetskoy were forced to rent a house. At one time the building was occupied by the Italian Embassy.

In 1874, the mansion was sold to the son-in-law, Prince Paul Pavlovich Demidov, but a year later Demidov resold the house, the owner was the chamber Junker, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vasily Lvovich Naryshkin. Vasily Lvovich was married to Princess Theodore Orbeliani. By his order, the mansion was rebuilt by architect Robert Gödike.

After the revolutionary events of 1917, the Naryshkins left their homeland forever. Most of the valuables from the mansion have been replenished the collections of the Hermitage and the Russian Museum.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/342961/



The idea to restore the monument to Emperor Alexander II is stalled by bureaucracy in Samara. Representatives of the Department of Culture and Youth Policy of Samara commented on the initiative to restore the monument to Alexander II. The officials answered that they will not take on this question until the author of the idea would follow all the bureaucratic procedures.

- There is a decree of the city administration. It regulates the installation of all memorial structures. In order to start work, an initiative must come to us in the prescribed manner. Then it will be considered by members of the special public commission. We can give consultations by phone 332-43-14, - representatives of the department reported. It has been repeatedly offered to restore the monument to the Tsar-Liberator and return it to its former place. At first, this question was raised by Samara historians, but the Communists came out against such an initiative. Then a famous sculptor Ivan Melnikov intervened. He said that he was ready to take up work if he received an offer from interested parties. Again, the issue of restoration of the monument was raised by residents in the end of 2018.



In Chelyabinsk a monument to Emperor Alexander II may appear. The businessman and philanthropist Konstantin Malofeev announced these plans. He is ready to provide himself half of the amount.

"We are now discussing with Vladyka, and I think we will now discuss with the regional authorities how to erect a monument to Alexander II. He was not in Chelyabinsk. He was in Zlatoust. Then Zlatoust was the capital of the region. And this monument was one of the best monuments in the Russian Empire, which were erected in honour of the Tsar-Liberator, who liberated the people from the yoke of the serfs and who was murdered by revolutionary terrorists. Probably, it would be fair for the Alexander Nevsky, his saint, to be near this church dedicated to Alexander II, this remarkable monument would stand," the businessman said.

The model of the monument to Alexander II is ready. It will be similar to the one that was once in Chrysostom. The monument will be made 9 meters high and installed in 2021 - to the 800th anniversary of Alexander Nevsky.



The Cossack Museum in Rostov-on-Don launched an interactive tour. Museum guests will be able to familiarize themselves with the history of the military elite of the region not only after examining the exhibits, but also using the "ZRENIE2.0" application.

Cultural and Exhibition Centre Don State Technical University (DGTU) "Don Cossack Guard" for the first time in Rostov-on-Don began to use augmented reality technology in excursions.

If earlier for the use of a tablet during an excursion one could be removed from the



museum, now it is allowed and with the help of the modern gadgets the viewer can be transferred, say to 1813, to Leipzig and see the Cossacks battle with the French cuirassiers with their own eyes. Irina Romanova, the head of the DKTU Cossack Guard Centre, told how the technology of augmented reality works and showed how the fight is conducted on the tablet.

"So, in this way the French cuirassiers rushed to the hill below the village of Wachau, where the headquarters of the three monarchs were," she noted.

Excursion with the use of augmented reality "ZRENIE2.0" is a project of young scientists of Don State Technical University. It is enough to download a special application on a smart phone or tablet, and it is suitable for all operating systems.

When you turn on the application, the picture comes to life, and even looking at the screen itself can become a participant in the installation, manage historical heroes.

"The video goes on top of the picture, and therefore this illusion of the presence of a virtual file in the real world is created," shared the head of the ZRENIE2.0 project, Nikita Kudinov.

During the exposition, various historical characters, including Catherine II and the Life Guards Cossack regiment themselves tell about their exploits, and even teach how to wield weapons. It also demonstrates a five-shot rifle of a Cossack modification, made in 1904, and a Cossack sabre of 1881. And the application allows you to visit the Museum of the Life Guard Cossack regiment in France, where you can see the descendants of the Cossacks, who saved rare valuables from being plundered during the civil war. The program can work anywhere in the world where there is Internet. Thus, the authors of the project want to raise interest in history.

Guides assure that in addition to interactive program, there are something else to see in the museum. You can touch and try on antiques Cossack family and enjoy the traditional Don treats - herring with coffee and pickles with honey.

Video - <https://tvzvezda.ru/news/opk/content/201903061622-o5fd.htm/player/>



State Duma deputy Natalya Poklonskaya explained why she is devoted to the last Russian Emperor. She will stand "for the good and holy name" of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II, since she inherits her great-grandfathers beliefs. They served the Sovereign. She told about this in the book "Crimean Spring: before and after. History from the first mouth" written in collaboration with her husband Ivan Soloviev.

Poklonskaya listed Russia's achievements under the rule of Nicholas II "Both my great-grandfathers served the Sovereign. One of them heroically died in the city of Bialystok in 1915. I am proud of them, I am their heir and will stand for the good and holy name of Nicholas II," the parliamentarian noted.

At the same time, Poklonskaya assured that she is not a "monarchist" and a "tsarist". "I am sure that history will put everything in its place and the memory of the Sovereign will be immortalized to the extent in which he certainly deserves it. And the younger generation will be able to tear masks from ugly faces stamped "heroes", boldly calling things by their proper names", - stressed the deputy.



In Saratov, experts are discussing the further fate of the mansion, known as "Denikin House." The building where one of the leaders of the White movement lived for several years partially collapsed.

Now the issue of entering the monument of architecture in the register of cultural heritage is being resolved.

The reason for the collapse of steel, most likely, is the dilapidation of the structure and snow on the roof, which nobody cleaned. Experts say that the wrong maintenance of such old houses leads to their destruction.

"We can see, even by the example of this building, that the dormer window, which is necessary for ventilation of the attic, is clogged. Completely illiterate actions that leads to the fact that moisture accumulates inside the attic space, the entire roof system is rotting," notes Andrei Rodionov, head of the design organization.

Historians resent the collapse of the building, resisting precisely for fact that at one time the general and political figure Anton Denikin, who was then the chief of staff of the 57th infantry reserve brigade, formed in Saratov, lived in the apartment building.

"We know for sure that he lived in this house in 1910. This historic building has historical value. Of course, it is necessary to preserve, of course, not only, to preserve - but also to restore and hang a memorial plaque", - says Anatoly Simonov, associate professor of Saratov State. The most interesting is that the building, which is a monument of architecture of the XIX century, never had any protective status, since it does not belong to the category of iconic cultural objects.

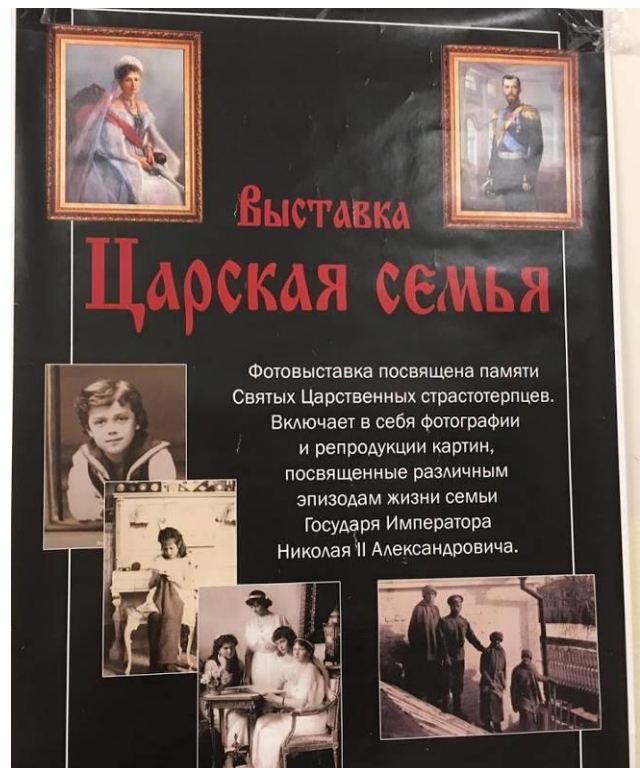
"This is an identified object, it is not yet included in the state register of cultural heritage objects. It is not given the status of municipal, regional or federal. That is, this object is subject to study and further decision on whether or not to be included in such a register. This will be based on the results of historical and cultural expertise," said Vladimir Mukhin, head of the department for the protection of cultural heritage sites of the Saratov region Government.

The further fate of the "Denikin House" will be known only after the commission's conclusion. The decision will define - to carry out repairs and restoration or to prepare the building for demolition.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/339925/



For two months the exhibition "The Imperial Family" was shown on the first floor of the gymnasium № 399, Krasnoselsky District of St. Petersburg. It was organized to acquaint students with the life of the last Emperor, his family and the joys, sorrows and troubles that they had to endure. Students of grade 9b tried their hand in the role of guides. From the organizers of the exhibition, all the young guides received the book "The Childhood of Emperor Nicholas II" as a gift.



The All-Russian Cadet Ball "To the Glory of the Fatherland!" was held in Petrozavodsk. It took place in the historical hall of the Severnaya Hotel. The theme of the event was the era of the reign of Nicholas II. The Petrozavodsk Ball took place, including with the assistance of the Ilze Liepa Charity Foundation. The famous ballerina was at the Ball.

Video - <https://youtu.be/-owlBwu3e2U>



In Sumy, (Ukraine) an icon of the Russian Tsar - Martyr Nicholas II was placed on the facade of the local school. This was reported in the community "I love Sumy," reports "DS".

It is noted that the icon was installed on the facade of the "St. Nicholas School", where previously there was a kindergarten. The locals claim that the local government transferred the premises to the Moscow Patriarchate, where the priests organized a private "Orthodox school". According to preliminary information, it is not yet valid.

Social network users wonder why the Security Service of Ukraine is not responding to this. Some are ironic that only the "tricolor" is missing there.



March 14, 2019, a memorial service for Emperor Alexander II took place in the Memorial Church on the Blood.

On this day, March 1 (old style), Emperor Alexander II died in the Winter Palace. His death came as a result of a mortal wound received on the embankment of the Catherine Canal (now the Griboyedov Canal) in St. Petersburg on the same day - from a bomb exploded by a terrorist under his feet.

On the eve of the death the Emperor joined the Holy Mysteries of Christ in the Little Church of the Winter Palace, along with other family members.

In commemoration of the Sovereign, the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ on the Blood was erected in St. Petersburg at the place of his murder by decree of Emperor Alexander III in 1883-1907. Funds for its construction were collected all over Russia, and in memory of this, on the lower tier of the bell tower there is a mosaic collection of 134 coats of arms of the provinces, regions, cities, whose residents made donations.

It should be noted that thanks to Alexander II, the brotherly Slavic peoples - Serbia, Montenegro, gained independence and the Bulgarian Principality was established. The reforms of Emperor Alexander II are called great: the abolition of serfdom (1861), the judicial reform (1863), the education reform (1864), the Zemstvo reform (1864), the military reform (1874).



An unique Internet project "Crimea in the history of Russia" is posted on the web-site of Rus Archives, where the general public will be able to familiarize themselves with an extensive corpus of archival documents covering a significant chronological period: from the baptism of Prince Vladimir in ancient Chersonese to the Russian Federation of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in March 2014.

About a thousand submitted documentary evidence reflects the special role played by the Crimea in the historical destinies of Russia. Documents and electronic images of museum exhibits tell about the ancient Tauris and Korsun - the cradle of Orthodoxy in Eastern Europe, about the establishment and

development of diplomatic relations of the Moscow State and the Crimean Khanate from the 15th century, about the fate of the Crimea at the crossroads of big politics of the XVII-XVIII centuries. The



history of the annexation of Crimea to the Russian Empire in 1783, the economic and urban development of the peninsula in the XVIII-XIX centuries, the creation of the Black Sea Fleet base - Sevastopol are reflected in detail. The key stages of the Crimean War (1853-1856) and the heroic defense of Sevastopol are shown. The materials of the Internet project also tell about the events of the Civil War, the establishment of Soviet power and the creation of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, the period of the Great Patriotic War, the early postwar years, and the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the transfer of the Crimean region from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR (1954).

Link - <http://krym.rusarchives.ru/>



Inhabitants of the city Syzran are invited to a photo exhibition about the bodyguard who saved the sister of the Emperor.

Amazing episodes of Russian history are preserved in old photographs from the beginning of the last century.

On March 22, in the art gallery A.M. Makarov "Heritage" was opened a photo exhibition "Cossack Timofei Yashik - the true son of Russia."

It is dedicated to the history of the creation of the Imperial convoy and the fate of the legendary bodyguard of the Imperial Romanov Family.

The initiative to hold this photo exhibition belongs to the teacher of history and social science of the 17th school Alexander Vladimirovich Simukov. He is known in Syzran as an organizer and host of intellectual games among school and student teams in the city. The teacher provided citizens with 50 unique photos of Timofey Yashik.

In 1904 Timofei was enrolled in the Imperial convoy and, as a prominent Cossack and marksman, he became the personal guard of Nicholas II. After the October Revolution, Timofei brought the younger sister of the Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, to his own village. She gave birth to a son in Timofei's house.

You can see photos from the life of a person with an amazing biography in the Heritage Gallery, which is located on ul. Ulyanovskaya 2-B, near the Museum of Local Lore.



A film about Pierre Gilliard can be viewed in the Knowledge Society and the Presidential Library.

"The Return of Pierre Gilliard" is the name of a documentary film dedicated to the French teacher of the children of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, mentor to the Heir Tsarevich Alexei. In 2018 it was completed at the Natakam film studio, the script was written and directed by Lyudmila Shakht and Konstantin Kozlov.

On March 20 it was shown at the Knowledge Society (Liteyny Prospekt, 42) and on April 24 it will be at the Presidential Library (Senate Square, 3).

Grandnephews - writer Pierre-Frederic Gilliard and doctor Jacques Moser tell about Pierre Gilliard (1879-1962) and his fate. The film is based on chronicles and photographs, on the memories of the teacher of Imperial children. After returning from Russia to Switzerland, he wrote and published the book *The Tragedy of Nicholas II and His Family*. Later, it was republished under the title "13 years at the Romanovs' court".



Swiss Pierre Gilliard first gave French lessons to Grand Duchesses Olga and Tatiana, then to Maria and Anastasia. He began to teach Tsarevich Alexei, when the Tsarevich was eight and a half years old. Gilliard was one of those who voluntarily went with the family of Nicholas II to exile in Tobolsk. Then he moved with the Imperial children to Yekaterinburg, but he was not allowed into the Ipatiev House and returned back to Tobolsk. In 1920, through Vladivostok, along with Alexandra Tegleva (1884-1955), who served in the Alexander Palace as the "eldest room girl", he emigrated to Europe. He managed to save his archive - diaries, letters, memorabilia, photographs. In 1922 he married Alexandra. Lived in Lausanne, the native city of Gilliard.



In Khabarovsk the project of restoration of the Triumphal Arch of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (Later Nicholas II) is discussed. Metropolitan of Khabarovsk and Priamursky, Artemy met with an initiative group advocating the revival of the Triumphal Arch, built in 1891 to the visit of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich. The press service of the Khabarovsk diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church reported. Hieromonk Nicholas (Drozdov), Andrei Nikonov and Yekaterina Kazakov submitted to Vladyka a project of the arch, which they want to locate near the historical place of its location - opposite the descent to the Amur Embankment. "The reconstruction of the arch will be an important unifying event in the cultural life of the city, and the building itself will be the restoration of historical justice," the authors of the project say.



In Volgograd, the creative team "Concordia" will show the program "The Imperial couple". The performance will take place in the chamber hall "Volgogradconcert" (Chuikov str., 4a) on March 28. The concert will be dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas II, the 100th anniversary of the execution of the royal martyrs and the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The program was staged by the director of the international contests laureate Nina Stukanovskaya. The consultant is Honored Art Worker of Russia Mikhail Rubtsov, reports the press service of the Volgograd administration.

The program was based on the love story of the last Russian Imperial couple, told by the primary teacher and educator of Nicholas II, Mrs. Ollengren. It will be performed for the first time by the Concordia Early Music Ensemble.

In the new historical program, the team managed to combine the creativity of two authors at once. Thus, the English "Evening Ringing" to the poems of the Irish poet Thomas Moore will merge with the famous Russian version of the works of Ivan Kozlov. This will complement the ringing of real silver bells of the Russian Empire from the collection of Mikhail Rubtsov. The program also includes Russian and English ancient miniatures, serenades, spiritual poems.

Another premiere of the program will be held in the local history museum, in the hall of the interiors of the Tsaritsyn merchant. It will begin on March 31 at 16.00.

Note, "Concordia" revives choral musical culture and performs works that sounded in the Russian Empire before 1917.





Photos taken during the stay of the family of Nicholas II in Tobolsk were presented for the first time at an exhibition in Tyumen. The exhibition "Persons of a Past Epoch: the Photo Album of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" opened on March 14 at the Museum "Masharov House" in Tyumen.

"For the first time in Tyumen, a unique exhibit will be presented from the funds of the Tobolsk Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve - an album with photographs taken during the exile of Emperor Nicholas II and his family in Tobolsk," an employee of the museum told. According to him, visitors will be able to see authentic photographs of Nicholas II, his wife, children, as well as the interiors of the Governor's House in which the Imperial Family spent the last months of life.

"In addition, everyone will be able to see the pictures - there are about a hundred of them related to the Imperial Family," the source stressed.

Nicholas II and his family were sent to Tobolsk by decision of the Provisional Government in the summer of 1917. In the spring of 1918, the Bolsheviks transported the Romanovs to Yekaterinburg, where they were soon shot.

In April 2018, the museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II was opened in the Governor's House in Tobolsk.



Germany gives Ukraine historic 300-year-old decree signed by Peter the Great. State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office Walter Lindner gave Ukrainian Ambassador in Germany Andrei Melnik a charter by Peter the Great dated 1708 on the appointment of a Kiev metropolitan, Germany's Federal Foreign Office. The ceremony took place in the German ministry in Berlin.

In this document, Peter the Great confirms the metropolitan's appointment. The document also stipulates his rights and the position of the Kiev metropol.

Germany's Federal Foreign Office noted that the original document has been in the library of the Institute for Eastern European History and Area Studies of the University of Tübingen since the 1950s.

The ministry provided a news release by the university, which discloses the story of the charter's transfer. According to historians, the charter was in the Vernadsky National Library in Kiev in 1931. The German-Ukrainian expert group concluded that the Nazis must have carted off the charter as a trophy in 1941 from Kiev to Germany. The Federal Foreign Office helped the German-Ukrainian research group study the document. The work was carried out from July to October 2016 in the archives of Kiev, Berlin, Tübingen and Freiburg in Breisgau.

Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg, decided to give the document to the Ukrainian side upon coordination with the Federal Foreign Office and the University of



Tubingen. Professor Werner Markert, the founder and first director of the Institute for Eastern European History and Area Studies, purchased it for the university in the late 1950s.



Today the name of the actor and director Alexander Galibin is known to everyone: he is the winner of numerous theatre awards, including foreign ones, in his filmography about 90 works, and most viewers remember him in the images of Emperor Nicholas II and Bulgakov's Master in the Bortko series. It was these movie heroes that brought him national popularity, but they also played a fatal role in the fate of the actor ...

During almost 10 years Galibin did not filmed, during this time many managed to forget about him - directors and the audience. Moreover, during this period a crisis in Russian movie industry began. Back on the screens he was forced by the offer of director Gleb Panfilov to play Nicholas II in his film "The Romanovs. Crowned family". This role was special for Galibin - reincarnation into the image of the last Russian Emperor was at the same time very interesting and very difficult.

The actor admitted: "Mastering this role was a serious test for me. But Gleb Anatolyevich believed that everything would work out, he supported the actors. What happened to the Imperial Family is one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century ... I don't know at all whether it is possible to play the Sovereign. Probably not. You can dive somewhere, if you have the strength, and try to get in touch with the monstrous situation in which this man was. The movie by Gleb Panfilov is the path from abdication to Golgotha, and not just one person, but the whole family. It is hard to even imagine how much spiritual strength is needed to survive this ... I won't lie, it was for a long and painful move away from work on Nicholas II. During a year, I experienced severe stress. This role was for Galibin a sign and turning - thanks to it, he again believed in himself as an actor.

The full article (in Russian) - <https://kulturologia.ru/blogs/250319/42633/>



It was offered to rename Sverdlovsk Region in honor of the Romanovs. At a closed meeting devoted to preparations for the 300th anniversary of Yekaterinburg, State Duma deputies again returned to the issue of renaming the Sverdlovsk region. The meeting was attended by the head of the region Yevgeny Kuyvashev, who noted that public opinion and the results of the referendum should be taken into account in resolving this issue.

State Duma deputy and head of the committee on state construction and legislation Paul Krashenninikov said that the region should be renamed either now or after the anniversary of Yekaterinburg.

Also, deputy Andrei Alshevskikh spoke for changing the name of the region. He even raised the issue of renaming the Sverdlovsk region. At the same time, he noted that it is necessary to consider different versions of the name, and not just "Yekaterinskaya" or "Uralskaya". "Still, not so long ago, we had the "Tsar's Days" in memory of the centenary of the shooting of the family of the Emperor. Therefore, we can consider the option of renaming the region to Romanovskaya". According to Andrei Alshevsky, this name will help to represent the region in the world.



Video of the visit of Emperor Nicholas II to Germany in 1912, his meeting with Kaiser Wilhelm II.
<https://youtu.be/JxVrYxdWUDY>



Emperor's adjutant's uniforms appeared in a museum. The Novosibirsk Museum of World Funeral Culture has acquired for its collection four unique uniforms of military personnel from the times of Tsarist Russia for its exposition "The Life and Death of Russian Emperors": among them there is a form worn by the adjutant of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II.

"We already got three uniforms. They participated in the Moscow exhibitions "Crimea, the 20s" and "The Edge of Time". And two uniforms even starred in Russian films. The first of the three received is the uniform of the personal suite of the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna. The second is the coat of the adjutant suite of Alexander III, the adjutant with the rank of lieutenant. And the third uniform is also an adjutant coat, but with the rank of colonel. These are reconstructions, but everything was done according to historical documents, that is, exact copies," says Sergei Yakushin, the museum's founder and owner.

Three uniforms were bought for nearly 250 thousand roubles. The fourth uniform is the adjutant uniform of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II - which was purchased for 100 thousand rubles. It has not come to the museum yet.

All the exhibits were previously in private collections and will soon be exhibited in the Museum of World Funeral Culture as part of the exhibition "The Life and Death of Russian Emperors" during Museum Night, which will be held in May.



City Vladimir hosted a meeting of the Conciliation Commission of the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve and Vladimir Metropolis. The fate of architectural monuments assigned to the museum-reserve was discussed.

On the agenda was the fate of 12 monuments of religious significance, including UNESCO monuments, which are administered by the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve. Among them there are the Assumption Cathedral, the Golden Gate, the Stranger House, the Dmitrievsky Cathedral in Vladimir, the objects of the ensemble of the Savior Euthymius Monastery in Suzdal, the St. George's Cathedral in Gus-Khrustalny. Members of the commission came to the conclusion that two objects from the list are transferred to the use of the church.

"The Rizopolozhensky church from the Znamensky churches complex in the city of Suzdal and Prikaznaya izba (monument of the 16th – early 17th centuries) located in the Pokrovsky women's monastery can be handed over to the metropolis," said Svetlana Melnikova, general director of the Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve.

As for the use of the Golden Gate, St. George's Cathedral, according to Metropolitan of Vladimir and Suzdal Tikhon, points of interaction with the museum were found. These are not just religious buildings, they are monuments of world importance. So, the question and their safety is paramount. Especially since the 800th anniversary of Alexander Nevsky is near and on the threshold of the 1000th anniversary of Suzdal.

"We agreed that these are our national shrines, national shrines, and I would like them to look good first of all, to be put in order and bring joy to many people who will come to us in Vladimir-Suzdal land," Metropolitan of Vladimir and Suzdal Tikhon.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/343145/



Perm Prisoner, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich

Doctor of Law, President of the Foundation Memory of Martyrs of the Romanov Imperial House, Yuri Zhuk's latest book is about Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, the youngest son of Emperor Alexander III.

The publication "Perm Prisoner, Grand Prince Mikhail Alexandrovich" is a photo album dedicated to the life and way of the cross of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, who was martyred in the city of Perm on the night of June 12/13, 1918.

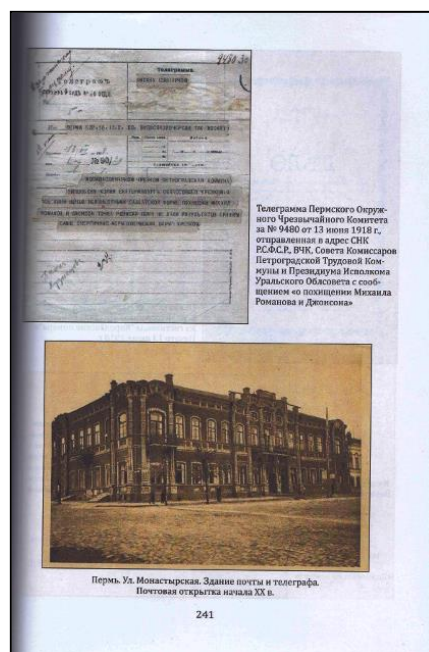
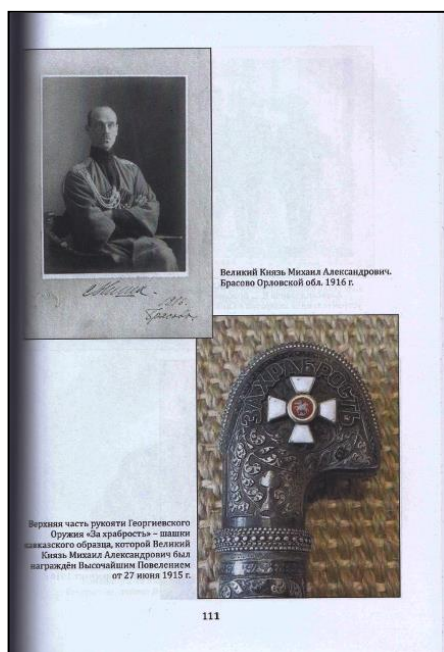
The album is provided with excerpts from the diary of the Grand Duke for 1918, as well as numerous illustrations and photographic documents, many of which are published for the first time. Also, the publication include the memories of the murderers and participants of this crime, who were proud in the years of the godless Soviet power, and did not repent of their deeds.

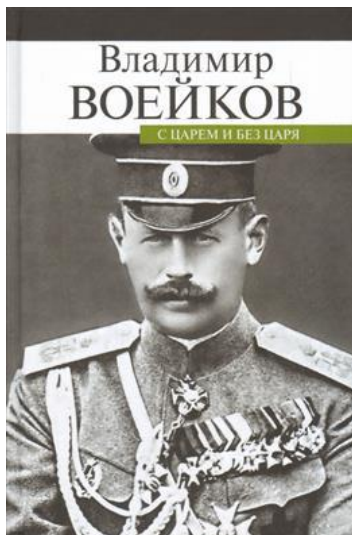
Zhuk - "I tried to trace the main stages of the life of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his faithful friend Nikolai Nikolayevich Zhonson."

It tells about his childhood in Gatchina (1878-1900), service to the Motherland (1900-1912), family life in Brasovo, stay in England (1912-1914), the Grand Duke in the First World War (1914-1917), revolution, exile in Perm, murder (1918), and investigation.

However, the author devoted the main part of this work to the last period of the Grand Duke life, who lived under the supervision of the local Soviet power of the city of Perm in March-June 1918, as well as his assassination by a group of local Bolsheviks.

Publisher: Direct Media. New Martyrs Foundation of the Imperial House of Romanov Moscow, 2019. ISBN# 978-5-4475-8147-3





With and without a Tsar

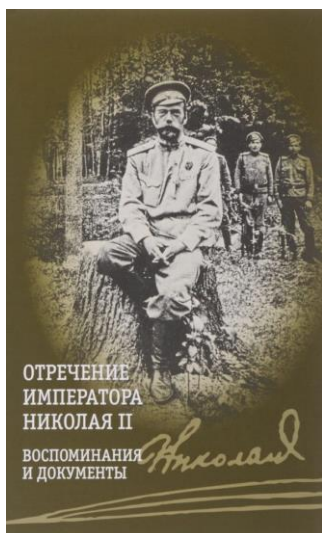
- Memories of the last palace commandant of the Sovereign, Emperor Nicholas II - V. N. Voeikov

Vladimir Nikolaevich Voeikov (1868–1947) - an approximate of Nicholas II, palace commandant (1913–1917), major general of the suite.

The memoirs describe the events that preceded the February Revolution, and then the whole of 1917 and its consequences for the author, the country and the Tsar. Intrigues of foreign policy and the chain of events that led to the First World War and the participation of Russia in it; court bustle and envy; Peterhof, Tsarskoye Selo, Livadia and the life of the Imperial Family; both revolutions under the gaze of a courtier; at the same time terrible and with a subtle sense of humour described the ordeals of Voeikov "on the run".

It is sad but fascinating story. In the book, in addition to the Imperial Family, there are such famous personalities as Rodzianko, Rasputin, Vyubova, Milyukov, Kerensky, Brusilov and others.

Publisher: Prozaik, Moscow. Hard cover. Pages: 379. ISBN: 978-5-91631-276-8



Who overthrew Nicholas the Second?

Vladimir Khrustalev (Ed.). Renunciation of Emperor Nicholas II. Memories and documents.

Andrei Martynov, March 14, 2019, REGNUM - The question of the role of the generals of the Russian Imperial Army in the abdication of the last Sovereign arose almost immediately after the tragic events of February 1917.

Already during the years of the Civil War, the theme of conspiracy and the violent nature of abdication (Peter Krasnov, General Ivan Kiriyeenko) was often raised in public speeches by monarchist politicians and the military. In modern historiography, there are two mutually exclusive points of view. Some historians (Oleg Polivanov, Vasily Tsvetkov) deny the fact of the officers' treason, arguing that their actions (though not always correct and correct) did not contradict the oath.

The opposite view of the "Sin of Februaryism" (as the emigrants called the collapse of the monarchy) also found its supporters. In particular, the historian Vladimir Khrustalev (Civil Aviation of the Russian Federation) adheres to it.

In his new book, the scientist relies on three groups of documents. The first part includes materials from the Paris journal "Russian Chronicle". Of these, first of all, it is necessary to note the memoirs "The sojourn of the Sovereign Emperor in Pskov on March 1 and 2, 1917" recorded by Sergey Vilchkovsky according to the words of General Nikolai Ruzsky. They give a version of the abdication through the eyes of the commander of the Northern Front. In addition, there are telegrams and transcripts of telephone conversations connected with these days (between Ruzsky and State Duma Chairman Rodzianko, Quartermaster General of the Supreme Commander's Headquarters and Head of the Northern Front, etc.).

The second part contains certificates and documents related to the beginning of the revolution (for example, an unfulfilled project of abdication, a memoir note by the Minister of the Imperial court Count Vladimir Frederiks, a protocol of negotiations between delegates of the interim committee of the State Duma Guchkov and Shulgin with the Emperor about the abdication).

The appendix contains materials related to the activities of some members of the House of Romanov on the eve of the abdication of Nicholas II (letters of the Grand Dukes Mikhail Alexandrovich, George Mikhailovich, Nikolai Mikhailovich).

While agreeing with Vladimir Khrustalev that part of the bourgeois circles and the liberal public really craved a coup (and prepared it with the participation of the military), it should be objected that the configuration presented by the historian (involvement of Nicholas II's Chief of Staff Ruzsky) into the plot, despite the undoubted value of the cited documents and the seriousness of the introductory article, are disputable.

First, sources such as an interview of Ruzsky to the newspaper *Russkaya Volya* or the interrogation of Guchkov by Emergency Investigation Commission of the Provisional Government inevitably bore the stamp of self-censorship caused by the beginning of the terror of the new government in relation to any conservative elements in the country, and therefore need critical analysis and commenting.

Secondly, a researcher is often forced to argue his position, using information obtained by memoirs from the second persons (General Vladimir Voeikov talks to Alexeyev with conspirators), and often based on rumours.

Finally, the version of the sold-out conspiracy is not confirmed in such sources as, for example, the diaries of Empress Maria Feodorovna, who visited her son shortly after the abdication and whose records are correlated with the diaries of Nicholas II himself.

However, despite the objections cited above, it is impossible not to note the undoubted value of the corpus of documents collected by Khrustalev. Without them our understanding of the February tragedy would not be complete.

Publisher: Prozaik, Moscow. Pages: 316. ISBN 978-5-91631-264-5

The new edition of Sokolov's investigation of the murder of the Imperial Family

The presentation of a new translation of the book by Nikolai Sokolov about the investigation of the murder of the Imperial Family took place in the monastery of the Royal Martyrs on the Ganina Pit.

The presentation of the book, a modern translation from French of the edition of the investigator for particularly important cases Nikolai Alexeevich Sokolov about the murder of the family of Nicholas II in July 1918, was held at the Museum and Exhibition Centre of the Monastery of the Royal Passion-bearers on Ganina Pit.

Until now, readers who were interested in the "Romanov" theme were aware of a single Russian version of this book, published in France in 1925, after the death of investigator Sokolov, by Prince N. Orlov. Prince Orlov, as it is known, was married to one of the relatives of Emperor Nicholas II. Members of Orlov family had different attitude to the Romanovs. At one time, Orlov was excommunicated from the palace for spreading false rumours about the Empress, about Rasputin. He could not calmly treat Alexandra Feodorovna and he drank valerian in her presence, but at the same time he constantly made vile attacks on her. Therefore, the attitude towards Orlov among many readers was ambiguous.

The book, which was published under a different editing, immediately became popular.

The editor of the translation, the compiler of N.A. Sokolova's biography, PhD in History, Researcher at the Institute of History and Archeology, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Mikhail Weber:

"Comparing the text of these two books shows that there are some differences between them. Of course, this is one book, but in different editions. The difference is already visible in the title. In Russian in 1925, it was called "The Murder of the Imperial Family", in French it sounds like "Investigation into the murder of the Russian Imperial Family," that is, the emphasis is on the investigation. It differs also in the

number of chapters. In the new translation - 25 chapters, in the first Russian edition - 26, but this is due to the fact that one of the chapters was divided into 2 parts. There are a lot of minor differences in the text; this seems to be the work of translation editors. I would not oppose these books, rather, they complement each other. Since we are in a church audience, I think the following comparison would be appropriate: there is the Gospel of Matthew, and there is - from Luke - they tell the same thing, but in different ways. And we cannot say that they cross out each other. No, supplementing, allowing us to learn more about the events of the gospel. In the same way, different editions of Sokolov's book allow us to learn more about the author's thought progress, help us understand how he came to his conclusions.



I wrote a short preface to the published edition, in which I tried to focus on the little-known facts from the life of Sokolov. For example, it is often written that Sokolov made his way from Penza to Siberia, disguised himself as a peasant. This is not entirely correct. Under the guise of a peasant, he crossed the front line from Penza to Syzran. From Samara to Siberia he was already traveling by train, since this was a territory controlled by whites.

Sokolov had the opportunity to leave Penza back in 1918, when the city was occupied for a short time by the soldiers of the Czechoslovak Corps. But then he decided not to leave with them, but to stay in order to conduct an underground struggle with the Bolsheviks. He fled only when actions of red terror began throughout the Volga region, when they began to arrest all those who held any posts under the Tsarist government.

In Siberia, Sokolov was assigned first to the Irkutsk District Court, after a few months - to the Omsk District Court, and only after that he was appointed to the post of investigator for the murder of the Imperial Family. Sokolov brilliantly performed his work, despite the fact that he was walking in the most difficult conditions of wartime.

In the preface to the book, I also corrected a mistake. Earlier it was said about the wife of Sokolov Barbara, she was supposed to be French. However, as it turned out, it was Varvara Vladimirovna Romodanovskaya, a hereditary Russian noblewoman. Sokolov met her in Yekaterinburg. I hope that now this error will stop replicating.

The presentation caused a lot of questions from the audience. People were interested in the details of the biography of the investigator, the nuances of differences between the texts. Since the audience included representatives of archival institutions of the Perm Territory, they were worried about the

nuances of the investigation of Sokolov in Perm. The conversation of the specialists turned out to be so interesting that it continued at the monastic meal. They discussed joint actions on organizing the upcoming June exhibition, dedicated to the anniversary of investigator Sokolov.

The book "Investigation of the murder of the Russian Imperial Family" can be purchased in the shop of the monastery on Ganina pit.

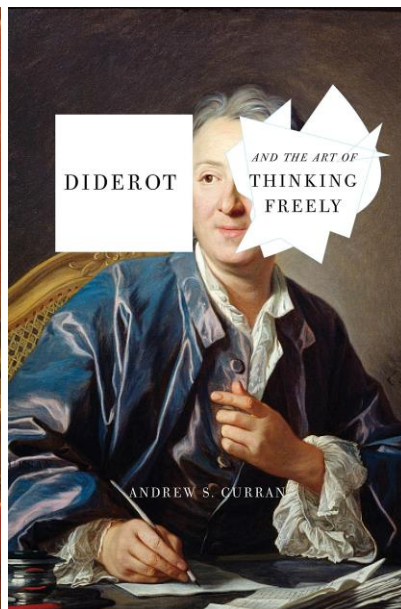
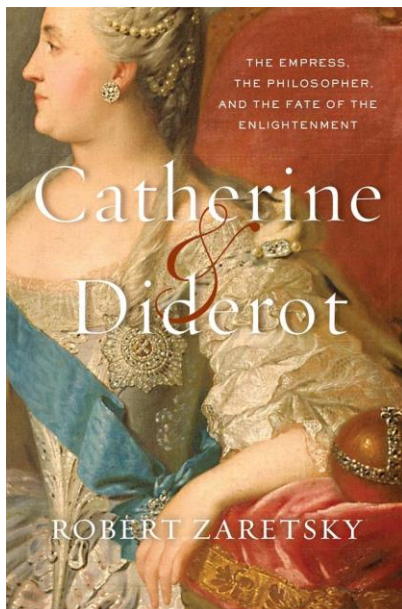
Video - <https://youtu.be/LGnTtkNpbkQ>

Diderot: pedagogue to power

The French philosopher Diderot was a hero of the Enlightenment who counselled Catherine the Great. Wisely, she ignored his advice.

March 6. Newstatesman.com. By John Gray

"Monsieur Diderot, I have listened with great interest to everything that your brilliant mind has inspired. But your grand principles, which I understand quite well, make for good books and bad actions. Your plans for reform neglect the difference between our two positions. You work on paper, which accepts everything. It is smooth, supple and offers no opposition to either your imagination or pen. I, a poor empress, work on human skin, which is rather irritable and sensitive."



As recalled by her in a conversation with a French diplomat, this was the response of Catherine the Great to Denis Diderot, the philosophe and leading spirit of the Encyclopaedists, who accepted Catherine's invitation to travel to Russia with the aim of guiding her in transforming Russia into a state founded on Enlightenment ideals.

It was the era of enlightened despotism, when advanced thinkers hobnobbed with Europe's monarchs and emperors in the hope that these rulers would use their authority to drag their subjects into the light of reason. As Voltaire put it, philosophers would "govern those who govern us". Diderot never fully subscribed to the idea that

tyrants could be relied on to advance human progress. Yet he shared with Voltaire the belief that he could act as a pedagogue to power. Making laws was like moulding clay, he believed: an enlightened legislator could fashion a new people. The monumental Encyclopédie – 28 volumes containing 74,000 entries and plates, written by more than a hundred authors and published between 1751 and 1772 with Diderot as general editor – was not just a summary of human knowledge to date. It was an intended as an inspirational guide to reformers, who could use it promote the cause of reason and humanity.

By applying the ideas presented in its pages, Diderot told Catherine, Russia could become a state as advanced as any that existed in Europe. More intelligent than the Encyclopedist, Catherine responded: "All your grand philosophies... would do marvellously in books and very badly in practice." Summing up her impressions of her excitable guest, she observed that "at times he seems to be one hundred years old, but at others he doesn't seem to be ten". In 1794, as the empress reflected on the descent of the

French Revolution into blood-letting during the Terror, Catherine condemned Diderot and the rest of the philosophes, who “served only to destroy” and bring about “calamities without end and innumerable wretched people”.

So why read Diderot today? In the prologue to his exhaustive and refreshingly well written biography, Andrew S Curran describes Diderot as “the most relevant of Enlightenment philosophers”. In the epilogue, he spells out in what this relevance consists: “Although Diderot is undoubtedly the steward of the age of the Encyclopaedia, he is also, paradoxically, the only major thinker of his generation who questioned the rational perspective that is at the heart of the Enlightenment project.” Here, Curran points to another paradox, which lies in the current revival of interest in the Enlightenment. When liberals turn to Enlightenment thinkers today, they do so for intellectual reassurance and moral comfort. The threatening shadow of Donald Trump looms behind their nostalgia for a time when power seemed ready to listen to reason. Their hope is that rationality can be recaptured if we immerse ourselves in the thinkers who embodied it.

Yet Diderot, as Curran portrays him, does not quite fit the stereotype of the rationalist philosophe. In his voluminous novels and dialogues, many of them uncovered only after his death, he put into his characters’ mouths doubts about the Enlightenment project that he publicly promoted. Diderot is regularly described as an iconoclastic thinker. He was most free-thinking, however, not when he propounded the tenets of the Enlightenment but when he questioned these orthodoxies in works of fiction.

Diderot’s encounter with Catherine was the high point in an otherwise relatively uneventful existence. Unlike his fellow philosophe the Marquis de Condorcet, who died in prison after being on the run from the authorities in revolutionary France, Diderot had the good fortune of living before the grand political experiment of which he dreamt was tried in practice. Born in 1713 as the son of a cutler in Langres, a quiet provincial town 200 miles from Paris, he was educated by the Jesuits with the aim of becoming a priest. But after he went to Paris to continue his studies in theology he drifted, making a living as a tutor and from occasional work for law firms. He died in Paris in 1784.

Life as a free-ranging intellectual seems to have suited him. He became friends, for a time, with the irascible Jean-Jacques Rousseau, only to split with him as everyone else did when the paranoid suspicions of the prophet of human goodness became too much to endure. He had many affairs both before and after he entered a long and not altogether happy marriage, which produced a daughter to whom he was devoted. He built up a copious library, which the empress Catherine bought from Diderot while allowing him to retain and use it for his lifetime and paying him a salary to curate it.

He came into conflict with the French authorities with his “Letter on the Blind”, published anonymously in 1749, in which he sketched an early version of evolutionary theory and came close to embracing whole-hearted atheist materialism. Quickly identified as the author, Diderot was arrested and spent just over a hundred days as a prisoner in the Chateau de Vincennes. Although he later compared his imprisonment to the death of Socrates, he cannot be said to have suffered greatly during these months of incarceration. Paid for at the king’s expense, his daily food consisted of pot roast, liver or tripe, with a large serving of bread and a bottle of wine. He was frequently visited by Rousseau and, towards the end of his stay, his publishers were allowed to see him. Otherwise he lived a conventional life as a French man of letters, delighting in polite society, enjoying the company of women and never being financially secure.

Diderot was not alone among Western thinkers in seeing Russia as a site for an experiment in enlightened government. Samuel Bentham, the younger brother of the English utilitarian moral and legal philosopher and reformer Jeremy Bentham, travelled to Russia to work as an engineer and architect, and while supervising a factory devised the first plan for a Panopticon in which the workforce could be kept under constant surveillance. Voltaire pursued a 15-year correspondence with Catherine, whom he flattered brazenly in the belief she would impose enlightenment on what he and other European thinkers regarded as a country sunk in “Asiatic barbarism”. So pervasive was the influence of the European progressive intelligentsia in late 18th-century Russia that when the counter-

Enlightenment thinker Joseph de Maistre arrived there in 1802 he found to his distaste a country that had been “scribbled on by philosophers”.

Robert Zaretsky’s short, sparkling and compellingly readable account of Diderot’s encounter with Catherine is more than a study in the history of ideas. It is also a study in character in which the empress – sober, thoughtful and decisive – emerges as a more impressive and interesting figure than the rather scatterbrained and often dithering man of ideas.

A passionate reader from her childhood years, Catherine reached the imperial throne in 1762 at the age of 33 by way of a coup d’état in which her eccentric and ineffectual husband Tsar Peter III lost his life. While Peter was away training troops for a needless and widely opposed war on Denmark, Catherine inspired a conspiracy against him, organised by her lover Grigory Orlov, a daring army officer. Flouting her husband’s order that she remain on the royal estate, she travelled to St Petersburg and walked down Nevsky Prospect with Orlov and the Russian Guards behind her. Reaching the Winter Palace, she appeared on a balcony to cheers from massed crowds below.

Next day, in full military uniform, she set off on horseback with several regiments to demand her husband’s abdication. When he complied he was taken by Orlov to the royal estate. Three days later news arrived that he had died in a scuffle. Catherine released a bulletin announcing Peter’s death, attributing it to “an acute attack of haemorrhoids”, adding that in leading her to the throne her husband’s unfortunate demise was divine providence at work.

Ruling until her death in 1796, Catherine gave Russia its longest period of stable government, which some have described as a Russian Age of Enlightenment. She secured this golden age of reason, however, by ignoring Diderot’s advice. The philosopher constantly urged the empress to limit her own powers and those of her successors by binding laws. But Catherine grasped a fact that few Enlightenment thinkers, then or today, have faced. In any confrontation with powerful social and political forces, law has little or no force of its own. A new-model regime in which the power of government is strictly limited will be replaced by a regime more tyrannical than the one that existed before, or else by a condition of anarchy in which nothing of civilisation can thrive.

Even as Diderot began his conversations with Catherine her empire was rocked by a revolt of Cossacks and peasants that was ended only by full-scale military repression. Diderot counselled that she should take care that the people retained a sense of freedom – even if it was illusory. Zaretsky praises what he takes to be the realistic insight Diderot displayed at this point. But a popular illusion of freedom would have counted for nothing if the Russian state had fractured and fallen.

Diderot was a reformer rather than a revolutionary. Yet his proposals often had an air of utopian unreality about them. He recommended that Catherine order schools to teach young girls about their sexuality using lifelike wax models, as he had done with his daughter Angélique. Imaginative as the idea may have been, it could only have been implemented in Russia – where it would have been strongly resisted by the Orthodox Church – by using the autocratic power that he deplored. Diderot’s strength was not in any understanding of politics but in the fertility of his mercurial mind, and his readiness to question the Enlightenment faith.



In *Rameau's Nephew*, a fictional dialogue he began writing in the spring of 1761 and continued working on until 1779, five years before his death, Diderot presents two characters, Moi and Lui ("Me" and "He"), debating the possibility of a rational morality in a world ruled by chance and necessity. Lui ridicules the fond belief of the "Master Philosopher" that enlightened minds derive pleasure from doing good: "I say hurrah for wisdom and philosophy – the wisdom of Solomon: to drink good wines, gorge on choice food, tumble pretty women, sleep in downy beds – outside of that, all is vanity." The philosophes maintained that atheist materialism opened the way to universal well-being. But Lui – representing a side of Diderot he kept concealed from others and perhaps himself – suggests that a materialist philosophy may instead prompt a life of amoral, egoistic pleasure-seeking.

In *D'Alembert's Dream*, completed in 1769, Diderot again probed the basis of a materialist morality, presenting the human animal as a cosmic fluke lacking in free will. In *Jacques the Fatalist*, a dialogue between master and servant he wrote over 20 years beginning in 1760, he questioned the possibility of enduring community, arguing that as constantly changing physical beings humans cannot retain the attachment to one another they briefly experience during sexual love. In *The Nun*, a fictional exchange of letters written around 1760 but published only in 1796, Diderot explored the types of sexuality that emerge among cloistered women, such as sadomasochism. The novel proved controversial long after Diderot's death, with a film version censored in 1966 under the presidency of Charles de Gaulle.

The case for Diderot as an original thinker rests on these literary fictions, not on anything he contributed to the *Encyclopaedia*. Even with regard to the ideas presented in these fictional texts, however, the claim to originality is unconvincing. A hundred year earlier, Benedict Spinoza published a critique of monotheistic religion more thoroughgoing than anything in Diderot. At the end of the 17th century, the French Protestant Pierre Bayle published the *Historical and Critical Dictionary* – sections of which Catherine read in her teens – that was more consistently sceptical than any of Diderot's critiques. The French physician and philosopher Julien Offray de La Mettrie mounted a spirited defence of sexual pleasure in the 1740s. Perhaps most intriguingly, Diderot's near-contemporary the Marquis de Sade used materialist philosophy not only to attack religion but also to subvert the optimistic visions of the *Encyclopaedists*. Unlike Diderot, who never resolved the conflict between a materialist world-view and humanist hope, de Sade was ready to follow his philosophy to the end, however grim the conclusion might be.

A wayward figure of some charm, Diderot has little to teach anyone today. Offering solace in a time of uncertainty, he enables 21st century liberals to imagine themselves as freethinkers like him, even as they cling anxiously to an Enlightenment orthodoxy he helped to establish. The most penetrating view of the philosopher remains that of the empress Catherine, who listened to his flights of fancy with admiration without ever confusing them with reality.

Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely - Andrew S Curran - Other Press, 320pp, £21.92

Catherine and Diderot: the Empress, the Philosopher and the Fate of the Enlightenment - Robert Zaretsky - Harvard University Press, 272pp, £20

Under the Hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Fritz Rudolf Künker, Berlin, Germany, March 11-15

Silver medal 1725, on the death of Emperor Peter I the Great (1682-1725). Ghosted Breast Picture r. with laurel wreath and turned ermine // Neptune and Minerva sit side by side on rocks and point to port view with sailing ships behind them. 38.01 mm; 27.70 g. By J.A. Dassier, Estimated price: 3,000.00 €



Cliff-shaped silver medal 1783, unsigned. It presents the symbol of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Radiant monogram of Empress Catherine II (1762-1796) in two laurel branches bound together // Book on pedestal, on it owl on globe, in front of the globe caduceus, key and lyre. 34.53 x 33.98 mm; 10.71 g. Estimated price: 500.00 €



Silver medal "Prize of the Nikolaevsky Technical University", was given for outstanding achievements. Head of Emperor Alexander III (1881-1894). //Minerva with spear and shield stands to r. and holds a wreath over the head of a kneeling warrior, with attributes of the sciences in the background. 37.03 mm; 30.20 g. By J. Griliches and V. Nikonov.
Estimated price: 1,000.00 €

Silver medal of 1906. Award medal of educational institutions for commercial navigation, given for academic excellence and excellent behaviour. Bust of Emperor Nicholas II (1894-1917) // Peter I. stands and points with the left arm on sailing ships, in the background rising sun. 38.42 mm; 32.82 g. By A. Griliches jr
Estimated price: 1,000.00 €



Medal depicting Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra were sold in France for € 90 thousand

On March 24, French auction house Hotel de vente de la Seine, sold a gold medal with the image of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna for almost € 90 thousand. The medal is very rare - it was minted from 300g of gold in memory of the visit of the Imperial couple to the Paris Mint on October 7, 1896. The visit was held in conjunction with the then French President Felix Faure.

Previously, the medal was in the collection of one numismatist from the city of Rouen (west of the country). Six collectors fought for the gold medal at auction. The winner was a resident of Switzerland who wished to remain anonymous.



On the obverse are depicted in profile Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. The inscription "Nicolas II * Alexandra" is carved on its edge. The origin of the lot put up for auction is not known. The

fact is that on the day of the Emperor's visit only three copies were minted out of gold - two were donated to the crowned couple and one to the French president.

Me Guillaume Cheroyan, the auctioneer - "three hundred grams of gold that is already worth € 12,000 at the weigh-in and that the expert, Sébastien Hoyer, has seen fit to estimate at € 30,000. Because a nice piece of history comes to enrich this sale likely to fascinate both numismatists and collectors of objects "out of the ordinary".

In comparison, Queen Victoria was only entitled to a silver medal during her royal visit in August 1855. So, gold for Nicholas II, what an event! In addition, the Monnaie de Paris only struck two copies: one for Felix Faure and the other for Nicolas II and Alexandra.

Which of the two sides is sold? "We have no certainty," admitted Cheroyan, advancing, however, the assumption that his hammer fall on the copy of Emperor Nicholas II. Because the seller reported to the auctioneer that the medal came from a Russian aristocrat. "One can then imagine that, at the breakup, the Romanovs shed valuable diplomatic presents. The Bolsheviks also sold them."



Fabergé historic aquamarine & diamond tiara will be sold on Geneva Jewels Auction



Aquamarine & Diamond Tiara, Fabergé, 1904/© Christie's Images Limited 2019

Geneva: Made in 1904 as a wedding gift from Frederick Francis IV, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1882-1945) to his bride Princess Alexandra of Hanover and Cumberland (1882-1963), this Fabergé tiara is of symbolic design with forget-me-not flowers tied with ribbon bows, signifying true and eternal love, pierced by arrows representing cupid, a token of endearment, attraction and affection. Composed of nine graduated pear-shaped aquamarines, old, cushion and rose-cut diamonds, this historic tiara will be offered at auction for the first time in the upcoming Magnificent Jewels sale on 15 May in Geneva, and is offered with a pre-sale estimate of CHF 230,000–340,000 / \$ 230,000-340,000).

The Grand Duke's mother, Grand Duchess Anastasia Mikhailovna of Russia, was a keen Fabergé collector, and encouraged him to order his wedding present at the atelier Fabergé in St Petersburg. At the time of their marriage, which took place on 7 June 1904, Frederick was 22 years old and Alexandra, 21.

Archives show correspondence between the Grand Ducal Cabinet of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Eugène Fabergé, revealing deliberations on a commission of an important jewel.

One of the letters dated 10 May discussed the possibilities that could be offered: 'a diamond tiara' for 10'000 roubles or 'an aquamarine and diamond tiara' for 7'500 roubles, and that only using aquamarines as gemstones was not possible.

Another letter referred to drawings with designs Fabergé proposed for the top section of the tiara, sent to the Grand Duchess Anastasia Mikhailovna for her son's approval. However, these drawings went missing.

Fabergé expressed concerns that he held no copies himself and did not know which design appealed to the Grand Duke.

Two weeks before the marriage Fabergé wrote to the Grand Ducal Cabinet that he was yet to receive any instructions to proceed. For a second time he asked for the return of the drawings as he could not advance his work without them.

Grand Duke Frederick Francis IV, Grand Duchess Alexandra, Mecklenburg Schwerin wearing the tiara / Private Collection / © Arkivi UG All Rights Reserved / Bridgeman Images

A subsequent letter referred to a completion for the wedding on 7 June, as requested by the Grand Duke by which Fabergé declared that it was impossible to execute the commission in such a short time. On the day of the wedding, Princess Alexandra of Hanover and Cumberland wore the traditional Hanoverian nuptial crown.

The diamond-set coronet that had been in her family for more than a century was commissioned in 1761 for the wedding of King George III of England and Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The Fabergé tiara, her own special wedding gift from the Grand Duke, followed later. Given the extreme rarity of such a magnificent jewel combined with historic provenance, Christie's is incredibly honoured to be able to offer this tiara for sale, more than a century since it was first revealed.

