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Cross procession in honour of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. June 12, 2019 in Perm



In memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and Nikolai N. Zhonson

On June 12 - 14, events dedicated to the memory of Grand Duke Michail Alexandrovich were held in Perm. This year, in addition to the traditional liturgy and religious procession, the first annual Perm scientific and educational readings "The History of the Imperial House of Romanov" took place.

On the night of June 12/13, 1918, the younger brother of Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his personal secretary Nikolai Nikolaevich Zhonson were kidnapped from their hotel rooms and secretly killed in the outskirts of Perm by the Bolsheviks. Their remains are not found yet.

The cross procession traditionally took place on June 12 - the day when Michael Alexandrovich was killed.

The procession began at 11:00 from the Perm Holy Trinity Stephan monastery and ended at the chapel in honour of the Holy Blessed Prince Michael of Tver (the patron saint of the

Grand Duke). The chapel is located not far from the alleged place of the murder of the Grand Duke in Chapaevsky district. The weather was very nice, the pilgrims carried banners, icons and chants and there was a joyful atmosphere despite the sad reason for the procession. It took them two hours to walk the 7 kilometers.



Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III; and Anne V. Gromova, Chairman of the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" and more than 1,000 other pilgrims participated in the procession.

A memorial service for the murdered Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and N.N. Zhonson, was made by Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius, at the chapel in honour of the Holy Blessed Prince Michael of Tver.





Exhibition in memory of the Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich

The Museum in Memory of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, located next to the chapel, presented traditional the exhibition “The Perm Period of the Life of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his abduction and murder on the night of June 12/13, 1918 near the city of Perm”. This year it was updated with a new section presenting photographs from the memorial events of 2018, and photos about the search to find the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary N.N. Zhonson.



The exposition was prepared by the staff of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna Museum-School, the Father's House, the Revival and Development Foundation and the Orthodox Theatre Faith. The photos from memorial events for exhibiting were provided by Perm State Archive of Social Political History.





Flowers laid at the memorial plaques

On June 12, early evening, the participants of the first annual scientific and public readings "The History of the Imperial House of Romanov" who was or already had arrived in Perm, laid flowers at the memorial plaques to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary Nikolai Zhonson, installed on the building of the former Korelevsky Rooms (Hotel), where the Perm prisoners were before their tragic death.

The memorial event was attended by Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky; Natalya Borisovna Krutikova, great-niece of N. N.

Zhonson; Andrei Alexandrovich Jonson, N. N. Zhonson's grand-nephew; Secretary of the Bishops' Council of the Perm Metropolis Hieromonk Joseph (Romanov); Anne V. Gromova, Chairman of the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society"; Leonid P. Reshetnikov, deputy chairman and executive director of the

Society for the Development of Russian Historical Education "Double-Headed Eagle".



The director of the Perm State Archive for Social and Political History, Sergei V. Neganov, noted that this kind of events are very important for preserving the memory of the victims. It is obvious that the massacre of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich in Perm became a kind of "dress rehearsal" for all subsequent events connected with the murder of representatives of the Imperial House of Romanov in Yekaterinburg, Alapaevsk and St. Petersburg.



Anna Gromova noted that - *"We must remember those people who gave their lives for the freedom of the Fatherland, for their faith, people who did their duty. Among them, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his secretary Nikolay Zhonson. The way people prayed in the cross procession, how the chants sounded, confirmed once again that we did not forget them. And I know that people have gathered here today, who are doing everything possible to preserve history."*

Hieromonk Joseph, press-secretary of Metropolitan Methodius recalled that it was here, at this place, that the mournful way of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his faithful companion Nikolai N. Zhonson began.

- *"On June 12, residents of our state celebrate the Day of Russia. On this day, the people of Perm and all Russians should remember the best that Russia has given, those people who lived here, carrying with them loyalty to the Motherland, unshakable loyalty to serving their people. This should inspire us all, despite the fact that this date is tragic. It sets the tone that reminds us how to spend our lives and what is necessary to be faithful to the ministry to which each of us has been appointed by the Lord,"* said Father Joseph.



Paul Kulikovsky thanked everyone who came to the memorable event: *"Today we remember not only the Grand Duke, but all subsequent events that took place in Russia. Many, as I, believe he was killed because he was the last Tsar. His murder opened the door to mass murder and repression. If you can kill the Tsar, then you can kill anyone. This is a terrible tragedy. And today we mourn not only Michael Alexandrovich, but also all the martyrs who died after him."*

Natalya Krutikova, granddaughter of Nikolai Zhonson's niece, thanked the participants for remembering the events of a century ago. *"I'm a person who doesn't like official events very much, but today's event is an exception. What happened here 101 year ago was tragedy with dramatic consequences for Russia,"* - she said.

A few more people were speaking and then the event ended with laying of flowers at the plaques.





In the evening, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius invited for a concert in the Bishop's Compound of the Church of St. Mitrofan. The choir of the Perm Opera and Ballet named after P. Tchaikovsky performed under the guidance of the chief choirmaster Vitaly Polonsky.





The "History of the Imperial House of Romanovs"

On June 13, the first scientific and educational readings "History of the Imperial House of Romanovs" opened in the Organ Hall of the Perm Philharmonic.

588 people took part in the readings, among whom were representatives of the Imperial House and the Zhonson family, representatives of government bodies, representatives of the clergy, public figures, historians, archivists, museum workers, journalists, etc.

In addition to the representatives of the Perm region, guests from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kirov, Sverdlovsk and Omsk regions took part in the conference.

The organizers of the annual scientific and educational readings are the Government of the Perm Region together with the Perm Metropolis of the Russian Orthodox Church and "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society".



After a prayer led the Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius the conference started.

In the absence of the Governor, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius greeted the guests first.



- "Dear representatives of the government, guests, participants, organizers of this event, esteemed fathers, brothers and sisters!

I cordially greet all of you at our first conference, "The History of the Imperial House of Romanov", which is now traditionally, annually and on a permanent basis, will be held these days as part of events dedicated to the memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

Today, representatives of the authorities, historians, philosophers, workers of museums, libraries and archives, local historians have gathered in this hall to discuss and comprehend issues related to the more than 400-year history of the House of Romanov.

Permsky Region is closely connected with the history and fate of the Imperial House of Romanov. The provincial city of Perm is preparing to celebrate its 300th anniversary. The city of Perm and the Perm province are obliged to the House of Romanov by their creation. By order of Peter I in 1723, the construction of a copper-smelting plant at Hishshikha began, and in 1780, Empress Catherine II signed a decree establishing the Perm governorship and the establishment of the provincial city of Perm. In the history of the House of Romanov we see the action of the incomprehensible Providence of God. The reign of the Romanov family was begun in the Ipatiev Monastery of the city of Kostroma. The priest-martyr Hypatius, Bishop of Gangra, named after the monastery, lived in the distant IV century. He was not widely known in Russia, but Divine Providence judged Hypatia in memory and glory in a country far from his homeland. The tragic end of the reign of the House of Romanov occurred in the monastery of the same name, the Ipatiev House of Yekaterinburg, which belonged to the Russian engineer Ipatiev.



Our Perm region has truly witnessed the tragic events in the history of the House of Romanov. Mikhail Nikitich Romanov, "The Nyrob Prisoner," the uncle of the first Tsar of the Romanov family, accepted his martyr's demise in the Perm north in the village of Nyrob in 1601. And on the night of June 13, 1918, one of the final acts of the tragedy of the House of Romanov broke out in the vicinity of Perm, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was villainously murdered. After five weeks, the tragedy was continued in Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk.

In March 1918, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich was exiled to Perm, unwittingly he became our countryman. Here, in our Ural city, the final and most important stage of his life and spiritual journey took place. The main thing for Michael Alexandrovich was an ethical question: the Christian conscience kept him in a difficult time for the Fatherland from trying to take advantage of the situation and usurp power. We can say that both Nicholas II and Michael Alexandrovich acted in the same spirit. Modern society does not understand the feat of the martyrs, accuses them of weakness. Life according to the commandments of God was perceived both then and, especially, now as weakness. Although, living "by the commandment" is a great power. It is especially difficult to live "according to the commandments", being at the very top of state power. The Emperor "hold" the country, he was that pivot, which fastened the whole national life of Russia. He left political stage and everything fell apart, life turned into chaos.

These and many other questions of the history of the Imperial House of Romanov we have to comprehend today and, to continue in the future.

I hope that the work of today's conference will bring good results, that we multiply our joint efforts in preserving the memory of our great predecessors and further understanding of the rich cultural and spiritual contribution of the House of Romanov to the history of our Fatherland."



The honored guest of the event was the confessor of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, Schiarchimandrite Elijah (Nozdrin).

Father Eli, addressing the participants, said that the House of the Romanovs was very important for Russia, that it was a dynasty that was blessed by God.



Welcoming the guests and participants on behalf of the Governor, the Head of the Administration of the Governor of the Perm Region, Leonid V. Politov, said:

"The Perm region and the House of Romanovs have a long history: this is the story of the boyar Mikhail Nikitich and the death of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich. Of course, the visit of Emperor Alexander I to Perm also was a part of our history.

There has always been an interest on this topic from the scientific community and from ordinary people in the Perm Region. Last year an international scientific-practical conference was held, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.

Last year, thanks to the initiative "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society", the Perm region entered the project "The Imperial Route". We note that there is a growing interest in the history of Russia, in the history of the native land. The tourist attraction of the region is increasing.

2018 can be called the beginning of a new period in the study of the theme of the House of Romanov and the memory of the great representatives of the Romanov dynasty, the restoration of historical justice and, of course, in the study of the memory of the great representatives of the Romanov dynasty. I want to note that the work in this direction is noticeable, it is associated with the Perm Region, both at the federal and international level.

Two weeks ago, a meeting of the heads of the subjects of the Russian Federation held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. It was particularly noted the work done in the Perm region on the Romanov dynasty.

Historical memory is very important for education of the younger generation, to give young people the opportunity to see the landmarks lost for us. The conference will contribute to the development of further spiritual and moral enlightenment, the preservation of historical memory."

Chairman of the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" Anna V. Gromova noted that in order to continue the study of the House of Romanov in the Perm Region, we need support not only from the Head of the Perm Metropolis, not only prayers from the faithful of the Perm region, but also state and regional support, funding and organization to attract the best researchers, interested in the Romanov House, and it is also necessary to involve the scientific community, representatives of higher educational institutions of the Perm region in this work.

- *"The Perm Region is not only places associated with the tragic events that occurred with representatives of the Imperial family: it is not only the death of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich. not only the imprisonment of the boyar Mikhail Nikitich Romanov, but also the place of the Imperial visits, it is a wonderful history of charitable institutions*

under the auspices of the Imperial House of Romanov, it is the history of the imperial scientific societies in Perm and Perm Region. I, being the deputy chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, have a special regard for the history of Perm in relation to its beautiful natives - D. D. Smyshlyaev, Archimandrite Antonin (Kapustin) and many other prominent IOPS figures who have contributed to the history of the Russian presence in the Holy Land."



The Vice-President and Executive Director of the Russian Society of Historical Enlightenment "Double-Headed Eagle" Leonid Reshetnikov told that it is necessary to unite all social forces to preserve the historical memory of the millennial Russia and implement the moral education of the young generations not in words but in deeds. Leonid Petrovich cited as an example that, until now, in many cities of Russia, the streets bear the names of the people who "distinguished themselves" only as murders and terrorists. This, according to the speaker, bears a negative message in the upbringing of the younger generation.





Paul E. Kulikovskiy drew attention to the fact that today many words are said about preserving the historical memory associated with representatives of the House of Romanov, but very few projects have been implemented to perpetuate the memory of the members of the House of Romanov - so far in Perm there is no monument to Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and there is no memorial museum-apartment organized in the rooms of the former Korolevsky Rooms Hotel, from where the Grand Duke went to his "Golgotha".

- "Your Eminence Metropolitan Methodius, Honoured Ilya, Anna Vitalevna, Sergey Vasilievich, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters,

Let me start with say thank you to Governor Maxim G. Reshetnikov for his support to this conference. It is a pleasure to be in Perm again, a city both Ludmila and I have come to appreciate more and more. Yesterday we celebrated the Day of Russia and the Day of the city of Perm, and today we celebrate the 137th birthday anniversary of my great-grandmother - Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the younger sister of Tsar-Martyr Nikolai Alexandrovich and Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.

I am pleased, that despite what happened in Perm, 101 years ago, we are today also able to commemorate the memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and Nikolai Nikolaevich Zhonson - Eternal memory!

I want to thank Lubov Pavlovna Markova and her friends for the many events in memory of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich throughout the year.

I had hoped the two memorial rooms for Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and Nikolai Zhonson in the former hotel would have been open by now, but it looks like we have to extend our anticipation of this event a bit further into the future.

Also the monument to Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich promised, I was looking forward to see now. But apparently it is not ready to see me.

I hope to hear more about the progress in the case of canonization of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich while being in Perm.

It is maybe becoming annoying for some, but I have to repeat it - In relation to Perm, the most difficult part for me, my family and many others is, that the remains of Mikhail Alexandrovich and Nikolai Zhonson still are not found. But we do not lose hope, that someday God will reveal the place to us. I understand that it is not easy to implement all the planned projects related to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, or to other Romanovs, as there are some people resisting them.

It is sad, that there are still too many people who is against anything that reminds them about the victims of the murderous regime. These people think Lenin and Stalin were strong leaders because they killed millions of Russians to stay in power, while Emperor Nicholas II was weak for not wanting to kill anyone to stay in power. Do these people really like murders more than saints?

Back to today's conference.

I cordially greet the organizers and participants of this conference, this time dedicated to the Romanov Imperial House. A big theme, as we are talking about at least 300 years of Russian history, but can add another 100 years about its descendants life in exile, to get up-to-date.

That is, not all are in exile. I am in Russia. My great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, was born in Russia, fled to Denmark in 1920 - the last of the Romanovs to leave Russia - and then emigrated to Canada, where she died in 1960. I have gone the opposite way, was born in Canada, grew up in Denmark and now live in Russia.

I am the first, and still the only descendant of the Imperial Romanov family who came to Russia after the 1917 revolution, not as a tourist, but to live and work.

If we then talk about the roots of the Romanov family, there is another 100 years of Russian history. So in total there is more than 500 years. A one day conference seems like not enough, but then we can always continue next year!

Regarding the roots of the Romanov Dynasty, I would like to mention, that on June 24 old style, 4 July new style - it is 400 years since the enthronement of Patriarch Filaret - born as Feodor Nikitich Romanov, the father of the first Romanov Tsar Michael Feodorovich.

By the way his brother Mikhail Nikitich was exiled to the village of Nyrob in the Cherdynsky District in Perm Krai, where he died in 1602.

The scale of Patriarch Filaret's personality, talents and activities are very impressive. He lived almost 80 years, a long life particular by the standards of the 16-17 century.

His fate was full of ups and downs. There were times when he was deprived of wealth, influence, family, freedom - literally everything - and more than once was on the verge of life and death - and yet, he made it again to the top.

A father to 6 children, of which only 2 made it to adulthood, a soldier in war against Swedes, a diplomat in negotiations with Poland and the Holy Roman Empire, governor in Nizhny Novgorod, Tver, and Rostov, repressed and tonsured as monk by Tsar Gudonov, made Metropolitan of Rostov, was a Polish prisoner for 9 years, Patriarch for 14 years, statesman as the co-ruler with his son for 14 years, founder of the Romanov dynasty, and a defender of orthodoxy.

Patriarch Filaret was one who suffered for Russia and one who's ideas and actions shaped Russia for many years to come. A real Russian patriot.

But unfortunately Patriarch Filaret is more or less forgotten by the general public - Do any of you recall where there is a monument to him?

He didn't become Tsar - but his descendants ruled Russia for three centuries.

He laid the foundation for the Romanov dynasty and the Russian Empire - a 300 year period in which was created prosperity and progress, elevating the Russian Empire to one of the greatest in the world – not only in land mass, population, and financially, but also with great achievements within science and cultural contributions to the entire world.

Without him we would not have the conference today on this theme.

Eternal memory! Thank you for attention."



The conference with more than 25 speakers then followed, and started with Anna Gromova's presentation of the exhibition recently held in Tsaristyno in Moscow, devoted to Russian philanthropy under patronage of the Imperial House of Romanov.

- Leonid Reshetnikov addressed "Problems of historical education in Russia".

- Doctor of History, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation Peter V. Stegny presented a report on "Images and Instructions. Recent Romanovs: in search of lost meanings".

- Doctor of History, Professor, Head of the Department of the History of the Fatherland of the First St. Petersburg State Medical

University Igor V. Zimin, told about "The Insidious Decrees of Catherine II: Mercy, Charity, Enlightenment";

- Svetlana V. Belchinkova analysed "All-Russian charity organizations under the auspices of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna".

- Researcher at the Institute of General History of the RAS, PhD (History) Galina Shevtsova, devoted her report to "Grand Duchess Alexandra Iosifovna and the Russian Red Cross Society: Problem Definition".

- A presentation of the 2 volume book "Perm Golgotha Michael II. Collection of documents on the last period of the life and murder in Perm of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich", published by the Perm State Archive of Social and Political History.

The presentations were made by the director of Perm GASPI Sergey V. Neganov and all the authors:

L.A. Lykova, Doctor of History, Chief Specialist of the Russian State Archive of Social and Political

History; V.M. Khrustalev, PhD (History), chief specialist of the State Archives of the Russian Federation; I.V. Papulov, Deputy Head of the Perm GASPI Scientific Reference Unit; and N. A. Zenkova, historian, director of the publishing house "Pushka".

The collection "Perm Calvary of Mikhail II" was the result of the research work of the last three decades. More than half of the documents are published for the first time. During the work, the essential historical circumstances of the events in question were established and documented. It includes documents of the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History, the Perm State Archive of Socio-Political History, a number of other central and regional archives and museums. The circulation of the collection of documents is 1000 copies of each volume. It contains 601 documents, including 204 photographic documents.

During the presentation, the compilers of the collection of documents told about the collection and about the composition of the documents presented in it. Then S.V. Neganov handed a copy of the collection to the local historian V.S. Kolbasi.

Then S.V. Neganov presented the Memorial Edition "100th anniversary of the assassination of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich", prepared by the Perm State Archive of Social and Political History as revival of the tradition of memorable publications dedicated to historical dates and events.

This edition is devoted to the tragic date in the history of Russia: the 100th anniversary of the assassination of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich. The publication presents materials of the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Perm exile of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his murder on the night of June 12/13, 1918", held in Perm on June 13, 2018, and materials on Memorial events in 2018 dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich around the city of Perm, including a photo-presentation of each event - the International Scientific-Practical Conference "Perm Reference of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and His





Murder the night of June 12-13, 1918 "; Divine Liturgy in the Church of St. Mitrofan of Voronezh, the consecration of the side chapel of the Great Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in the church of St. Mitrofan of Voronezh and the opening of the diocesan museum in the Bishop's Cathedral; the opening of the Perm Prisoner exhibition in the Multimedia Historical Park "Russia - My Story"; opening of a memorial plaque to the Secretary of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich N.N. Zhonson on the building of the former hotel "Korolyovsky Rooms"; a study tour of places related to the stay in Perm of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and other representatives of the House of Romanov; Procession and memorial service for the murdered Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his secretary N. N. Jonson near the chapel in honour of the Holy Blessed Prince Mikhail of Tver; etc. A total of 30 articles of participants of the international conference, 82 photos from Memorial events were published in the collection.

- "Grand Dukes Nikolai Mikhailovich and Vladimir Alexandrovich in the implementation of a number of exhibition and publishing projects of S.P.Dyagilev", was presented by Natalia Chernysheva-Melnik, writer, PhD (Philology), Associate Professor of St. Petersburg State Institute of Film and Television.
- Lyudmila A. Lykova, Doctor of History - The historical truth of the documents of Nikolai Sokolov, investigator of the Omsk District and the failure of some of the conclusions of his book.
- Vladimir M. Khrustalev – "Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and Aviation".

The Zhonson-relatives: Natalya Krutikova, and Andrei A. Zhonson appealed to the audience and suggested a charity project named after Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and Nikolai Nikolaevich Zhonson .

- Andrei I. Bezmaternykh, senior investigator of the General Department of Criminalistics (Forensic Center), Investigative Committee of Russian Federation, Colonel of Justice presented report "The results of the investigation of the murder of the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich".
- "Problems of canonization of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich" by Archpriest Alexy Marchenko, rector of the Church of All Saints of Perm, Doctor of the Church history.

- "The name of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in systematic disinformation of the Russian society about the events of 1918 (a new understanding revealed data) - by Artem V. Markelov, PhD (History), Head of the Archives Department of the Ministry of Culture, Kirov region.
- Presentation of the Perm Regional Branch of "Double-Headed Eagle" by Leonid P. Reshetnikov, and Dmitry Sofin, chairman of Perm regional branch of "Double-Head Eagle", PhD (History), Associate Professor of Perm State National research university

- "The achievements of the Russian Empire in the era of Nicholas II" by Andrey A. Borisyuk, historian-researcher, writer.

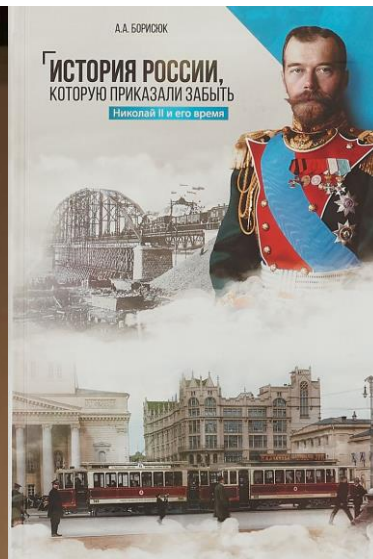
Presentation was based on his book - "The history of Russia, ordered to be forgotten. Nicholas II and his time" - "The era of Nicholas II is still shrouded in many secrets. Myths about the low standard of living, bad medicine, inaccessible education are transmitted from mouth to mouth. In this book, a blow is struck at the very foundation of these myths - on the basis of documents, including those held earlier under the heading "Top Secret", the real picture of events is restored. The book provides information that before the revolution, Russia occupied the first place in the world in terms of industrial development rates, the Tsarist government developed science and education, and Russia was one of the foremost-



legislators of human progress. Already in the 1910s, Imperial scientists were puzzled by the problem of space exploration and the study of atomic energy. The industry, education and medicine of the era of Nicholas II are compared with world leaders and other epochs of Russian

History. Comparisons affect the epochs of Alexander II, Alexander III, Lenin, Stalin and even Yeltsin. The data are presented in visual graphs and tables. The book examines the moral and ideological level of the revolutionary crisis. Both the all-Russian processes and the development of the regions are shown

- the construction of cities, resorts and even the development of deserts on the southern borders of the Empire."



- "The activities of the Emperor Nicholas II in the area of education" by Alexander A. Muzafarov, "Foundation for Historical prospects".

- "The reign of Emperor Nicholas II: resolved and unsolved problems" by Vladimir Lavrov, Doctor of History, Professor of the Nikolo-Ugreshskoi Orthodox Seminary.

- "Provincial reform of Catherine the Great in 1775" by Olga I. Eliseeva, associate professor of Moscow State Institute of Culture".

- "Overjoyed by His Highest Visit ...Alexander I in the Urals" by Mikhail G. Nechaev, PhD (History), Perm Polytechnic University.

- "The Perm episode of Tsesarevich Alexander's journey in 1837" by Galina Plotnikova, PhD (History), Associate Professor of Perm State University.

- "Representatives of the House of Romanov in the archive of the Omsk region" by Sergey N. Plotnikov, PhD (History), Associate Professor of Perm State University.

- "The Imperial Romanov House traditions of spiritual, moral and patriotic education of schoolchildren" by Lyudmila A. Ryabova, PhD (Pedagogy), deputy head of parochial schools of Perm Diocese.

- "Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in the context of the Great war (according to published materials)" by Lubov P. Markova, head of the library number 32 in Perm.

- Presentation of the portal "Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich" posted on the site of Perm State Archive of Socio-Political History by Sergey V. Neganov, and Marina V. Sofina, PhD (Sociology), Associate Professor of Perm State University, Head of Publication Department of the Perm State Archive of Social Political History.

Closing the conference, Anna Vitalevna expressed her deep gratitude to all the participants and noted that the annual Perm scientific and educational readings "The History of the Imperial House of Romanov" can be considered successfully held.

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

2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yuec10BTu1Q&fbclid=IwAR1YuzD9-1RSX4q1Isb_wt34BqHL6QPzrALfJkIPMFG24R97SHG77gege30

3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPek9sm4YiA>



"25 Chapters of my life" - memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna presented in Perm

On June 14, 2019, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, presented the book "25 Chapters of My Life" - memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the younger sister of Emperor Nicholas II -, in the Central City Library named after A.S. Pushkin, in Perm.

Sergei Neganov, Director of the Perm State Archive of Socio-Political History, introduced the speakers and noted that the event was held as a part of the first annual Perm scientific and educational readings "The history of the Imperial House of Romanov".

The book was first published in Danish in 2006, then in English in 2010, and finally in Russian in Russia in 2017, by the Publishing House *Kuchkovo Pole* -

<https://kpole.ru/catalog/knigis/velikaya-knyaginya-olga-aleksandrovna-25-qlav-moey-zhizni/>



Guest of honour was the Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius. Paul Kulikovskiy presented him the book of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, and also to the Deputy Director of the library Elena Michaelovna, for the library collection, to Sergei V. Neganov and Lubov P. Markova.



Paul Eduardovich thanked Sergei Neganov for arranging this book presentation as a part of the conference "The history of the Imperial House of Romanov", the Central City Library named after A.S. Pushkin for hosting the presentation, and Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius for graciously accepting the invitation to attend.



Then Paul Eduardovich in English and Ludmila Antolievna in Russian, started their presentation accompanied by a slide show. They introduced themselves, told about the history of making the book "25 Chapters of My Life", followed by highlight from the life of the Last Russian Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna as mentioned in her own handwritten memories.

Ludmila read samples of the text, that told about the personality and character of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna as well as the way she expressed herself.

The most dramatic episodes of Olga Alexandrovna's life were chosen; the catastrophe in Borki, news about the abdication of Nicholas II, life in Kuban, exodus from Russia.....



The tour-de-force through the life of the Grand Duchess', with her many trails and still surviving with a positive attitude to life, was both a historical lesson and a spiritual travel that touched people's hearts and left a deep impression on many in the audience.

After the presentation, Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius told about his impressions and thanked Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky.



Then Paul Kulikovsky answered questions from the audience. One being about the possibility to organize an exhibition of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's painting in Perm, to which Paul replied - "It is possible, but require a appropriate place and funding for transport, insurance, security and a lot of administrative preparations. Let me know with whom and where such a project can be realized."



The presentation ended the documentary film "Olga - The Last Grand Duchess".



Dmitry M. Sofin, Ph.D., associate professor of the Perm State National Research University, continued with a presenting of the book "Diary of Moscow Governor-General of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, 1892."

With Deputy Chairman of the Perm Regional Organization of the Russian Union of Journalists V.V. Degtyarnikov, Sofin also presented the documentary "Her Majesty's Steward", dedicated to the first Perm Governor-General, E.P. Kashkin. The film was timed to coincide with the 290th anniversary of the birth of Empress Catherine the Great, the founder of the Perm governorship (the Perm province) and the provincial city of Perm.



"We found some anomalies" - the search for the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich began in Motovilikhha

19 June. Perm Gazeta - In Motovilikhinsky district, work began on finding a burial site for the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary. Today, it was quite crowded on the spot. In addition to the search team, locals often come to these places. Someone shepherds goats, someone just walks. Almost all of them are well aware of the initiator of the search - Peter Sarandinaki and the other members of the international expedition. Old-timers are trying hard to help. They remember the stories of parents, grandmothers, teachers about those years and put forward their own versions. The search team checked every single one, but, alas, they did not find confirmation.

Last year, Peter and his team managed to find the old road, the Solikamsky tract, which went up the slope. According to one version, the place of burial may be in this area.

"This morning we studied a large area with an electromagnetic instrument that measures the humidity of the earth. If someone dug here, even a hundred years ago, the earth will be less solid and contain less moisture. The tool shows it. Now we will pass through the same territory with a special radar. If both tools show an anomaly, then we will dig. We found some anomalies and are studying them now," says Peter Sarandinaki.

Today, his wife, the great-granddaughter of Leo Tolstoy, Maria Tolstaya will join Peter's team. For her, this will be the first visit to Perm. She really wanted to see with her own eyes what her husband does here. "I was a sea captain, went to sea for half a year, returned home. I lay down on the sofa, rested. And Masha asked me why I would not find a hobby. So I found. And she thought that I would fix the house, or something, and I started looking for them," Peter laughs.

The last three years, the excavations are held with the participation of the Investigation Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. The search for the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and his secretary was organized by Peter Sarandinaki from the *SEARCH* Foundation in collaboration with the Russian authorities.



Commission to perpetuate the history of the Romanov dynasty will appear in Perm

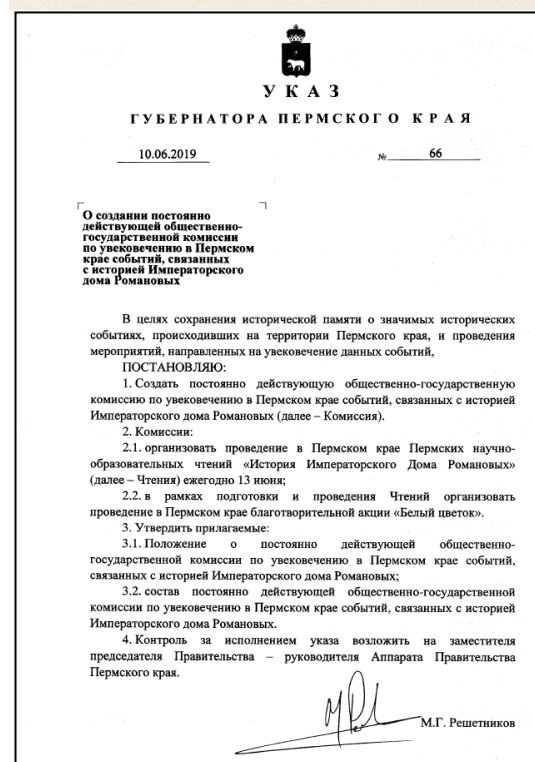
On June 10, the official Internet portal of legal information of the Governor of the Perm region informed that Governor Maxim Reshetnikov signed the decree "The establishment of a permanent public-state commission to perpetuate events related to the history of the Romanov Imperial House".

The objectives of the commission are to preserve the historical memory of significant historical events that took place in the territory of the region, to hold events aimed at perpetuating these events, and giving them social significance.

In particular, the commission should organize annual scientific and educational readings "The History of the Imperial Romanov House in Perm on June 13 and hold the "White Flower" charity event (the action was first held in 1911 on the initiative of Emperor Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna). The commission's tasks also include developing proposals to perpetuate events related to the history of the Romanov House, participate in the development of legal acts, assist in promoting tourist project *Imperial Route*, national historical and cultural project in the Perm Territory, and implement other public initiatives and government projects.

The chairman of the commission will be Metropolitan of Perm and Kungur Methodius. The Chairman of the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" Anna Gromova, the Deputy Chairman of the Government, the Head of the Government Office Elena Lopaeva, and Sergey Neganov, director of the Perm State Archive were elected as his deputies. The commission includes in total 21 people; regional ministers, officials, deputies of the local дума, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, and local historians.

The commission's meetings will be held as necessary, but at least once every six months. Commission decisions are advisory in nature.



"Under the shadow of the Brasovo alleys"

The holiday "Under the shadow of the Brasovo alleys", dedicated to the House of Romanov, was held June 14 - 16, in the village of Lokot, Brasovsky district. The holiday in Lokot, was included in the top 200 best event projects in Russia and received the status of the "National Event of 2019".

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich inherited the Brasovo estate after his brother Grand Duke George Alexandrovich's tragic death in 1899.



On Friday, June 14, celebrations opened with the traditional inter-regional festival-competition of Russian romances "Lokotsky marvelous alleys", which gathered fans and admirers of this genre of musical art for the sixth time. This year, the guest of honor was the soloist of the Opera House of the Moscow Conservatory Larisa Makarskaya; singer and composer Yulia Morgoeva, winner of the international competition "Romansiada"; winner of music competitions Slavich Moroz, pop and opera singer, winner of the TV show "Live Sound" Albert Jalilov; and lyric tenor Sergey Petrishchev.

In the afternoon the Historical-cultural centre named after Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was opened.

The head of the district Valery Ivanyutin, the head of the district administration Sergey Lavokin, Honored Artist of Russia, Professor at the Bryansk State University, Vladimir Volkov, and head of the Bryansk branch of the All-Russian public movement "For Faith and Fatherland" Yury Shishkov attended the opening ceremony.

The centre presented an exhibition of paintings "Romanov dynasty", made by teachers and artists of Bryansk Art College: Catherine Grosbeak, Natalia Prudnikova, Valentin Antoshina, Olga Selezneva and Anastasia Krisanova.



Later, the photo exposition "The Brasovsky District: the Chronicle Continues", dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Brasovsky District was opened in the hall of Lyon Theater.

On June 15, at 8:00 a cross procession in the memory of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich started from the Monastery of Our Lady to the Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Led by the local honed icon of the Mother of God "Affection", and the dean of the monasteries of the Bryansk diocese, Father Daniel (Tsupikov), the deputy governor of the Bryansk region, Alexander M. Korobko, Anna Gromova and the other pilgrims, walked along the road Kiev-Moscow, to the village Lokot, past the former distillery, stables and stud farm.



Outside the Church, Divine Liturgy and a prayer in memory of all the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia was held, led by Metropolitan of Bryansk and Sevsky Alexander.



Guest of honour were: Governor of the Bryansk Region Alexander Bogomaz, and Chairman of "Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" Anna Gromova.

Vladimir Popkov, Chairman of the Bryansk Regional Duma; Andrei Dyachuk, Chief Federal Inspector for the Bryansk Region; Valentina Mironova and Valentin Subat, State Duma Deputies; Bryansk City Administration; Sergei Lavokin, Head of the Administration of the Brasovsky District; Alexander Schaffer, Director of the Culture Department of the Russian Nobility Assembly, and others, took part in the prayer in front of the Icon of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers.



His Eminence Metropolitan Alexander of Bryansk and Sevsky addressed the crowd:

- "I am glad to greet you all at the festival "Under the shadow of the Brasovo Alleys", dedicated to the House of Romanov. On this solemn day, my heart is overwhelmed with special joy, because you and I are in a historic place - the palace square, where the estate of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was.

The younger brother of Tsar Nicholas II, Michael Alexandrovich, was canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church abroad, and he was the first of the Imperial family to meet his martyrdom.

"The cross is a praise to the martyrs," says the Monk Ephraim Sirin. And indeed the Cross of Martyrdom is a blessed cross.

Michael Romanov, together with the Emperor Nicholas II and his family, accomplished a spiritual feat - they died as a true Christian should be accepted - in softness and tranquillity, in forgiveness of enemies, in complete humility and in giving the soul and body to God. Therefore, we glorify the Royal Martyrs.

It is gratifying that in Brasovo Land, the Grand Duke and the family of the Sovereign are revered with deep faith. This beautiful holiday is organized in their honour, which gathers a large number of guests. In memory of

Mikhail Alexandrovich traditional cross procession went from the walls of the Our Lady monastery to the Church of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church in the village of Lokot. Today during the Divine Liturgy we offered our zealous prayers to the Royal Passion-Bearers,

The history of the House of Romanov is the history of Russia. For more than three hundred years, this dynasty ruled our country, and with it Russia became a great power - from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean. But the 20th century brought terrible trials - the split of society and civil war, becoming a tragedy for the Russian people. Currently, our state, society and the Church have a huge responsibility - to keep the memory of the Imperial family, to soberly interpret the activities of the Sovereign, cutting off historical falsifications, and, of course, not to repeat the mistakes of the past, you need to study carefully the history of Russia.

And most importantly - each of us should try to live with the fear of God in our hearts, not do evil, do good and always extend a helping hand to our neighbours. May the Lord strengthen us all in the Orthodox faith with the prayers of the holy royal martyrs, preserve our Fatherland, the land of Bryansk and the people of God. Happy holiday to all of you, my dear!"

Then the guest proceeded to the memorial stone to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich - unveiled in June 2012 by Paul E. Kulikovsky - which is installed on the site of the former palace of the Grand Duke.

The governor of the Bryansk region, the head of the Bryansk Metropolis and Anna Gromova laid flowers to the monument.



Ceremony at the memorial to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in Brasov, June 2019 and June 2012.

At noon, on the site near the fountain of the former Palace garden the main celebrations took place. Guests and residents plunged into the atmosphere of life of a noble estate of the late XIX century - beginning of the 20th century, and became participants in a theatrical performance, seeing historical celebrities who visited the estate of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

The Bryansk Governor's Symphony Orchestra with chief conductor Eduard Ambartsumian opened the holiday.



The governor Alexander V. Bogomaz made a welcoming speech:
 - "Dear residents of Brasovsky district! Dear Guests! Friends! Today we have gathered for a wonderful holiday "Under the shadow of Brasovsky Alleys," which is dedicated to the Romanov dynasty and Michael Alexandrovich, the brother of the Tsar, who is connected to Brasovian land very much.
 And today we are celebrating another holiday here - the Brasovo district was created 90 years ago....
 June 12, we all celebrated the Day of Russia. Our President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin congratulated us on this holiday. He said that the Motherland is being revived and gaining strength thanks to the solidarity and selfless work of millions of Russians. The glorious history of our country is created every day. It is in the deeds and achievements of our citizens, in the implementation of their bright ideas, striving to conquer new heights. The holiday "Under the shadow of the Brasovo Alleys" is another proof of the inseparable connection between generations, the evidence of our unity. The Brasovo estate gained fame thanks to the brother of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duke Michael. His life is fanned by mystery and tragedy. In the history, he also left a mark, as the creator of the priceless artistic collection, located here in the estate. That is why it is important to preserve the traditions of the holiday "Under the shadow of the Brasovsky Alleys", which entered the TOP-200 of the best cultural events in Russia. So younger generation will know the traditions of our ancestors, preserve the traditions of the Imperial Romanov Family, be proud of its rich and great country Russia."



Anna Gromova said:

- *"Today I have the great honour to bow to you and to convey greetings from your friends, from like-minded people, our wonderful followers and those who keep historical memory in Perm.*

My dear, I am very glad to be here and make sure that you know how to preserve historical memory. For the ninth year there are processions dedicated to the new martyrs and confessors of the Russian church, scientific readings, work of local historians, and you all take a very active part in historical memory preservation. It seems to me that we need to unite efforts in this noble cause. Our society, being the initiator of the Imperial Route, accepted now as a national project. Among other things it is involved preservation of memory of the imperial family. We are reviving estates of the imperial family, philanthropists, people who have done much for the places where they lived. We know very well that Mikhail Alexandrovich was a philanthropist and initiated a number of socially significant institutions - people's house, the almshouse, the schools, and he constantly donated to the monastery.

We would like as many people as possible to know and be proud of Russia's Imperial period and that we are heirs of a great past. We are reviving the estate in Ilyinsky, located near Moscow, the estate in Ostashev. It seems to me that the manor in Brasov occupies a special place. We will learn as much as possible about the history of these places. With local ethnographers, we will find out what remained of the Brasov manor, where are archival materials and whether there is any opportunity to revive the estate house, as for example they are reviving the Lower Dacha in Peterhof, where the children of Emperor Nicholas II were born. We have noble works ahead of us, so that our children will be kind and obedient and grow up to help their relatives and parents. I wish your families happiness, joy, on this blessed land, and under the guidance of such experienced leaders it is inevitable!"

Chairman of the Bryansk Regional Duma Vladimir Popkov noted:

"We have many different celebrations in the Bryansk region, but the holiday, dedicated to the House of Romanovs "Under the shadow of the Brasovsky Alley", holds a special place among them.

Here we learn the history and in many respects the personal life of representatives of the House of Romanov, who ruled our great state for more than 300 years.

Grand Dukes were patrons of art. Thanks to them, in 1896 began the regular movement of trains through the station Brasovo. Great attention was paid to the stud farm. Assistance was provided in the construction of the Bogoroditskaya monastery. Grand Duke Mikhail Romanov invested in agriculture, horse breeding, fishing, peat production, forestry, and gardening.

The park was a matter of particular pride; large sums were spent for its improvement. During his visits, the Grand Duke received peasants and helped them.

The revolution crossed out all. Russia overcame the turmoil and other external threats, but could not refrain from internal division. For many years, the names of the Grand Dukes of the Romanovs were in oblivion, but today at this celebration we remember the bright pages of the history of our Fatherland, associated with the House of the Romanovs."

The holiday continued with a theatrical performance "Under the shadow of Brasovsky alleys", which reflected the historical milestones of the development of the Brasovsky district, and a "Parade of professions" reflected the work of enterprises and organizations of the municipality particularly impressed the audience.

There was the awarding of the winners of the VI inter-regional festival-competition of the Russian romance "Lokotsky Alley" and a gala concert.

Throughout the holiday, the Brasov Fair had small shops and children's attractions. A special place was given to the exhibition of open-air works by participants of the I Interregional Plein Air "Under the shadow of Brasovsky Alley."



In the local Children library, the IV Local Lore Readings “Brasovsky District: Past and Present” was held. The honorary guests of the event were the governor of the Bryansk region, Alexander Bogomaz, and the chairman of Elizavetinsko-Sergievsky Educational Society Anna Gromova.

Anna Gromova addressed the participants.

- I have already heard about Brasovo readings for several years. I am happy that historical education is supported by the leadership of the region.



We need to talk about his service to the Fatherland, about his military feat, and these subjects can take on an artistic form at the festival "Under the shadow of Brasovsky avenues", it will be fine. I am very glad that you have touched upon the topics of education, theater, and leisure, it is important to develop our knowledge in this direction. I will be happy to participate in the readings as a speaker, let us work extensively, attract new participants," - Anna Gromova assured the participants of the local history readings.

Governor of the region Alexander Bogomaz noted that it is very important that we are talking about the past on which the present is based, as without the past, there is no future. He stressed that there are different opinions about the Imperial family, but we must understand that for Russia *"the foundation was created by representatives of the Romanov dynasty. There is not a single nation in the world with such a historical, cultural heritage as in Russia. We are enlightened people, and we can be proud of artists, writers... We are a great nation, and we have a great country!"*

The plenary session discussed issues relating to the noble estates of the Bryansk region, one of the topics was "Noble affection" - it was about theatrical performances in the Brasovsky estate of Mikhail Romanov, talked about the meetings of Natalia Brasovoy and Michael Alexandrovich with representatives of the 20th century artistic elite and other interesting episodes of Romanov House history.

The holiday ended with festive fireworks.

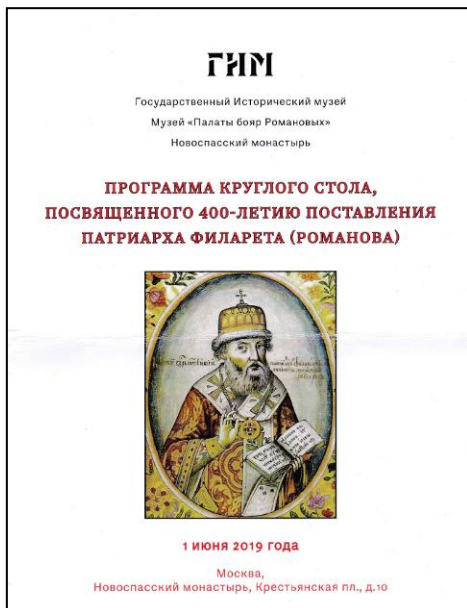
On Sunday, June 16, an equestrian festival dedicated to the House of Romanov was held at the hippodrome of the Lokotskaya Equestrian Plant JSC.



Videos - 1)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=49&v=rqGxS0J5zLE&fbclid=IwAR3kBrTQ0MBJc9oHBsiWzsfUtsgvYYd-AZ0liw0jvDX9ptJruOdQvCfl-IA

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2yYV8GB1DE&fbclid=IwAR329l6bk7qSIHHJGmzhk-QysLEQ6zPZK6BhJutphbpHODalikEWCoBmQvo>



In honour of 400th anniversary of Patriarch Filaret's (Feodor Nikitich Romanov) enthronement

On June 1, a round table dedicated to the 400th anniversary of the enthronement of Patriarch Filaret (Feodor Nikitich Romanov) was held in Novospassky Monastery. The event was organized by the Novospassky Monastery together with State Historical Museum and the "Romanov Boyar House".

The governor of Novospassky Monastery, Bishop Dionysius made a requiem ceremony for the ever-blessed Holy Patriarch Philaret and all his blessed parents and ancestors in the crypt of the Romanov boyars, the church of St. Roman.

Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky prayed among the faithful.



Then the conference participants moved to the refectory of St. Nicholas Church monastery, where the work of the round table began.

Bishop Dionysius greeted the participants and the moderators: Galina Shchutskaya, Head of the Department of the Historical Museum "Romanov Boyar House", and Irina V. Plotnikova, Director of the Church and Archaeological Museum of the Novospassky Monastery, introduced the event.



The conference was attended by the great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III Pavel Eduardovich Kulikovskiy and his wife. Anticipating the speeches of the participants, Pavel Eduardovich noted the strong ties of the Novospassky monastery with the Romanov family for more than 500 years.

The descendant of the Romanov dynasty, assisting many projects to perpetuate the memory of their ancestors, spoke of the high role of the Most Holy Patriarch in the history of the Fatherland and expressed the hope that the 400th anniversary of his ascension to the Patriarchal Throne will remind of the service of the Romanov family to the Motherland and the great Russian patriot Patriarch Filaret.

Paul E. Kulikovskiy said - *"Your beatitude Bishop Dionysius, Galina Konstantinova, Irina Vladislavovna, brothers and sister, ladies and gentlemen.*



As always, it is a pleasure to be here in Novospassky Monastery and a double pleasure when it is combined with State Historical Museum, and particularly with the Romanov Boyar House, with whom we have been cooperating for a long time.

Novospassky is an important place for many reasons, but today it is enough to mention its strong connections with the Romanov family - spanning a period of more than 500 years. It was the first necropolis of the Romanov family. True, then they still had other names.

Vasily Yuryevich Koshkin-Zakharyin, the uncle of Tsarina Anastasia, the wife of Ivan the Terrible IV, was the first to be buried here in 1498. And in 1543 was buried Roman Yurievich Koshkin-Zakharyin, who gave his name to the Romanov family. Also the wife of Patriarch Filaret, the Great Nun Martha is buried here.

Patriarch Filaret himself is buried in the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. And as late, as in 1995, the remains of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich were transferred from Moscow Kremlin to Novospassky Monastery. It is indeed a sacred place for the Romanov family.

The connection of Novospassky Monastery to the Romanov family is continuing in our time. Ludmila and I remember our participation in many official celebrations, and our meetings here with clergy and

faithful during our many other private visits, with joy and gratitude. Many people come here to pray with us in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, and at the graves of my ancestors and relatives.

The connection to the Romanov Boyar House is clear from its name. The house was built in the 15th century, and the estate on Varvarka Street became the property of Nikita Romanovich Zakharyin-Yuryev in 1540s after his marriage to Varvara Ivanovna Khovrina-Golovina.

Of the original house only the cellar is remaining, as on May 3rd, 1626 a fire broke out and most of the building burned. However, Emperor Alexander II - my great-great-great-grandfather - ordered it rebuilt. And in 1859, it was opened as a museum, with two floors and a tower, as we see it today.

Also here, the connection to the Romanov descendants has been kept - thanks to Galina Konstantinova. In 2008, 2009 and 2013, I participated in restoration projects of the Romanov Boyar House. In 2008, I was a sponsor of the recreated Romanov Coat of Arms over the main entrance from Varvarka Street.



In 2009, I was a sponsor of a smaller version of the Romanov Coat of Arms recreated to hang over the balcony on the east side of the house. In 2013, on the occasion of the 400 years anniversary of the election of the first Romanov Tsar - Mikhail Feodorovich - I sponsored the recreation of the silk brocade fabric to hang in the refectory.

And as witnessed by today's event this corporation continues.

The 400 years anniversary since the enthronement of Patriarch Filaret is a significant date, and I assume on the exact date June 24, it will be celebrated

on highest level, even if we so far have not heard anything about this being organized.

This anniversary should remind us about the history of Russia, the history of the Russian Orthodox Church, the service of the Romanov family to the Motherland and of course about a great Russian patriot.

The scale of Patriarch Filaret's personality and many talents is very impressive. A father, soldier, diplomat, governor, monk, Metropolitan, prisoner, Patriarch, a statesman, a builder, and a defender. Patriarch Filaret was one who was suffering for Russia and one who's ideas and actions shaped Russia for many years to come.

But unfortunately Patriarch Filaret is more or less forgotten by the general public. Do any of you recall any monument to him in Moscow, or in entire Russia?

His life was a real roller coaster, with ups and downs on a scale not many other people ever experienced. He was well educated, popular, Boyarin from the influential Romanov family. He was a part of the elite and close to the throne.

He was famous for his good looks and elegance. About him was said - "kind and handsome man, who had such an attractive physique". "He rode a horse so artfully that everyone who watched him ride was amazed."

Feodor Nikitich had six children, of whom only two survived into adulthood - Tatiana and Mikhail. Trouble Times for him started with the election of Boris Godunov to the throne in 1598. Soon after started the persecution of the Romanovs, seen as potential rivals to the throne.

5 Romanov brothers were arrested. Alexander Nikitich was exiled to a small town on the White Sea, where he died. Ivan Nikitich was sent to the Siberian city of Pelym, but survived. Vasily Nikitich was sentenced to exile in Yarensk and died. Mikhail Nikitich was exiled to the village of Nyrob in the Cherdynsky District, where he died.

Feodor Nikitich was tonsured a monk under the name Filaret and exiled to the remote Antoniev-Siisky Monastery, near Kholmogory, in Russia's Far North. Godunov did not execute Feodor, but separated him from his wife - Xenia Shestova who had to become non Martha - and from his two children. By the way, the remains of the three brothers of Patriarch Filaret - Alexander, Vasily and Mikhail, were transferred here, to Novospassky Monastery, in 1605.

His privileged life was taken from him and he had to resign himself to the will of God. Filaret didn't give up, but found a new goal. He began to study all the rules of strict Orthodoxy. He succeeded, earning great respect and reverence in the church world. So much, that after Gudonov's death in 1605, Father Filaret was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan of Rostov.

Filaret also served as a diplomat, and in 1610 was sent on a mission to Poland. But that didn't go well; the Polish King Sigismund III imprisoned Filaret. For nine years he was in Polish captivity. Meanwhile, in 1613, after patriotic forces defeated the Poles, the Zemsky Sobor elected the young Mikhail Feodorovich, Filaret's son, to become the next Tsar. Filaret was brave and incorruptible, writing to his son that he would rather remain in great oppression, than let Russia sacrifice any part of land.

This captivity, combined with the heavy deprivations of Filaret, exalted him in the eyes of the Russians: he was looked upon as a martyr who suffered for the Orthodox faith and for the Fatherland. Metropolitan Filaret was released on the conclusion of the treaty of Deulino on 13 February 1619, and on 24 June of the same year canonically enthroned Patriarch of Moscow and all of Russia.

Patriarch Filaret always showed respect to his son – the young Tsar - and never claimed to be the de-facto ruler of the state. He helped a lot. His several serious hardships had strengthened his spirit and given him priceless experience. As long as he was alive, Filaret took a leading role. That being in the first Russian census, reforming the tax system or as an energetic protector of the purity of Orthodoxy.

He didn't become a Tsar - but his descendants ruled Russia for three centuries.

He laid the foundation for the Romanov dynasty and the Russian Empire - a 300

year period in which was created prosperity and progress, elevating the Russian Empire to one of the greatest in the world – not only in land mass, population, and financially, but also with great achievements within science and cultural contributions to the entire world.

I wish you all a great day!"



Then followed reports of L.E. Morozova, Doctor of Science (History), leading researcher at the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences about "Patriarch Filaret as co-ruler of his son", and V.I. Petrushko, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Ph.D. of History and Theology, Doctor of Church History, Professor of Orthodox St. Tikhon Humanitarian University about "Patriarch Philaret and Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich - a symphony of priesthood and kingdom".

G.K. Shchutskaya presented to the audience an extremely interesting report “Artistic images of the Romanov boyars”, where she shared the results of her many years of searching for portraits of members of the Romanov family in archives and museum collections.



Irina Elkina, researcher of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences II told about the archaeological work in the crypt of Romanovs boyars in the Novospassky Monastery. She presented a detailed photo report about the excavations.

The topic was continued by the leading researcher of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Doctor of History M.B. Mednikov. His report - “History of everyday life in the focus of bio archaeological research”, introduced the newest methods of interdisciplinary research used to study the burials of the XVII – XVIII centuries in the Znamenskaya Church of the Novospassky monastery.



E.V. Pchelov, Ph.D. (History) and R.A. Maiorov, Ph.D. (History) also were speaking. Finally D.M. Abramov, Ph.D. (Cultural Studies), Associate Professor of the Historical and Archival Institute, presented the new book "Tsar Dimitry", written in collaboration with M.D. Kovaleva. The authors offer a new look at events in Russia in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, based on the works of historian Sergei Dmitrievich Sheremetyev (1844–1918).

A small concert was organized for the participants of the round table: The Rule of Faith missionary choir of the Novospassky Monastery under the direction of M.Yu. Rogozinsky performed ancient monastic chants in the harmonization of Metropolitan Jonathan (Eletsky) and the nun Juliana (Denisova).



Patriarch Filaret and Novospassky Monastery

By Metropolitan of Tver and Kashin Savva (Mikheev), Head of the Tver Metropolis, First Deputy Head of the Moscow Patriarchate, Doctor of Church History.

Source: <https://tvereparhia.ru>

Patriarch Filaret (born ca. 1554-1555; 1633) is a head of the Russian Orthodox Church, father and co-ruler of the first Tsar of the Romanov family. He lived a long life - almost 80 years - an impressive time by the standards of the Russian Middle Ages. His fate abounded with sharp changes - now elevating him to the heights of power and glory, then overthrowing into obscurity, wandering and full. There were times when he was deprived of wealth, influence, family, and freedom - literally everything; more than once he was on the

verge of life and death. And he was also prepared to become the head of the Russian Church and co-ruler of the Russian Tsar. To a certain extent, he united the two ruling dynasties of Russia - Rurikovich and Romanovs, being the nephew of Tsarina Anastasia Romanovna - the first wife of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, and cousin of Tsar Fedor Ioannovich, becoming the father of the first Autocrat of the Romanov family - Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich.

The great Sovereign, His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Philaret Nikitich, occupies a special place among the archpastors of the Russian Church. Neither before nor after him did the Russian patriarchs have been endowed with such power, did not possess such power in state affairs. He reached the heights of power in 1619. Upon his return to Moscow from Polish captivity, he was greeted by a son, the ruling Russian Monarch, and proclaimed the head of the Russian Church. June 24, 1619 Patriarch Theophanes of Constantinople elevated him to the rank of patriarch. However, in his hands was not only the church, but also secular power - he was called the "Great Sovereign" and became the real co-ruler of his son.

An extensive historiography is devoted to Patriarch Filaret, many books and studies have been written about him. His life and work has been studied both in past centuries and today. In recent years, the biography of the patriarch, his role in church and state government has repeatedly become the subject of dissertations.

Today, referring to the personality of Patriarch Filaret, I would like to touch on one aspect of his life - his relationship with the Novospassky monastery, and his influence on the fate of this ancient Moscow monastery.

To begin with, the Novospassky Monastery is historically associated with the Romanov family. Since the end of the XV century, Romanov family tomb was located in the basement of the Transfiguration Cathedral and next to it.

The closest relatives of Patriarch Philaret were buried here. His father is the boyar Nikita Romanovich Zakharyin-Yuryev († 1585/1586), his mother is Varvara Ivanovna (nee Khovrina) († 1555). The patriarch's grandfather, Roman Yuryevich Zakharyin († 1543), the founder of the Romanov family, rested here.

Here were the graves of the four younger brothers Filaret: Michael, Alexander, Vasily and Ivan. (As is known, in the reign of Boris Godunov the Romanovs fell into disgrace, of the five brothers three died in the northern exile, two survived). There were the graves of sisters: Anne, Martha, Irina, Tatiana. In this monastery, the children of the patriarch died in infancy: Boris, Nikita, Lev and Ivan, who were buried when he had a family before monastic vows.

In 1631, shortly before the death of the patriarch himself, his wife, Ksenia Shestova, the nun Martha, the mother of Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich was buried in the Novospassky tomb.

As we see, Patriarch Filaret had good reasons to single out the Novospassky monastery from among other Moscow monasteries and to express his favor to it.

Visits

Patriarch Filaret often visited the Novospassky monastery, served memorial services at his parents, brothers and children graves. He performed liturgy in the Transfiguration Cathedral. During his visits, the Novospassky brethren generously bestowed patriarchal alms.

The following documentary evidence of the "patriarchal exits" to the Novospassky monastery, which he committed in the last years of his life, has been preserved:

1628, "February 21, the great sovereign, His Holiness Patriarch Filaret Nikitich went to pray at the Spassky Monastery on the Novoe, and granted the sovereign a priest in a half-day prayer service, and hand alms to Archimandrite Lawrence Poltina, Kelarar, Elder Anikeyi, and 72 brother 7 rub.

1630, "on February 7, the great sovereign, the Holy Patriarch, went on Maslenitsa week on Friday to the Spasskay Monastery, on the Novoe, and granted hand-giving alms to Archimandrite Kelar and 81 brothers."



1631, "on February 9, the great sovereign, the most holy patriarch went to the Spassky monastery, to the New, and gave the archimandrite and brethren prayer money of the past 138, on prayer half a day, and hand-made alms to archimandrite Kelar on half a day, and ordinary 81 brother."

1631, "on April 26, the great sovereign His Holiness Patriarch went to pray to the Savior on Novoe after Svetlyya week, on the third week on Wednesday, and confessed, ordered to pray for alms against the past 138, to Archimandrite and priest for prayer half a day, Alms to Archimandrite and Kelar, and an ordinary old man".

Regarding the frequency and dates of patriarchal visits, the documents do not give complete clarity, but suggest that the most preferred time of visits was Lent, Holy Week, as well as the days when memorial services were served on boyar Nikita Romanov, the father of the patriarch and grandfather of the tomb, who was buried in the monastery.



Participation in the financing of the restructuring of the monastic ensemble

In the first half of the 1640s, Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich initiated a substantial renovation of the architectural ensemble of the Novospassky monastery – the walls and residential buildings were rebuilt in the stone. In 1640-1642 around the monastery, a new stone fence of 650 m in length was being built. The walls reached 7.5 m in height, 2 m thick at the base. Four round towers were placed at the corners, the fifth square at the base rises above the western wall. Following the monastery walls, new stone cell buildings are being built. Placed parallel to the walls of the monastery, the extended fraternal cells formed the buildings of the northern part of the monastic ensemble.

Large-scale construction was financed by the monarch and his parents. As noted in the documents: "All the cell and grave building is built by the Great Sovereign Tsar and Grand Duke Mikhail Feodorovich, the His Father Holiness Patriarch Philaret Nikitich and the His Mother Great Staritsy, the nun Marfa Ioannovna".

The construction of the Patriarchal cell corps

The visits of the patriarch to the Novospassky monastery led to the need to arrange here a kind of guest patriarchal residence. For the head of the Russian Church, a special cell building was built. It was

a spacious one-story building (16 × 9 fathoms) under a high gable roof. For its construction, the patriarch "granted to the house to the all-merciful Savior a hundred rubles".

Construction of the bell tower and the church

The main personal patriarchal donation to the monastery was the stone bell tower with the Church of St. Savva the Sanctified. It was a church "under the bells" - a structure that combined a temple and a bell tower. About three thousand rubles were spent on its construction and decoration. The bell tower had a marquee completion, a clock was put on it. The bell tower was decorated with a memorable inscription that encircled the upper part of the building: "By the grace of God, by the command of the Great Priest of Poetry, His Holiness Patriarch Filaret of the reigning city of Moscow and All Great Russia, under the Stainless Blessed and the Noble and Christ-lover of the Emperor, and the Lord of the Holy Cross, as well as of the Pope, and by the Emperor of the Blessed and Blessed and Christ Lovers Vladimir, Moscow, Novgorod, Tsar Kazansko, Tsar Astrakhansk and many states of the owner, in the tenth summer of His State".

At the base of the bell tower was a church. As stated in the monastic deposit book, "His Holiness Filaret Nikitich, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, deigned to construct the church of the Venerable Sava Sanctified in the bell tower under the bells, and adorned this church with icons and lampadas". The dedication of the patriarchal church to St. Savva the Sanctified had a memorable and symbolic meaning: on December 5, 1618, Metropolitan Philaret was released from Polish captivity, which coincided with the day of memory of this particular saint.

The bell tower founded by the patriarch with the Savvinsky church was dismantled in the 18th century. But the throne of St. Savva the Sanctified, in memory of the patriarch, remained in the monastery. As a side church, it continued to exist until the closure of the monastery in 1918; however, in the XVIII-XIX centuries it repeatedly changed location. It is important that among Novospassky churches Savvinsky church played a special, memorial role - it preserved the memory of its founder, Patriarch Philaret.

Contributions and awards

The main source of information about the patriarchal presents to the Novospassky monastery is the monastery contribution book - a manuscript monument published by Archimandrite Leonid (Kavelin) at the end of the XIX century. It mentions monetary and material awards. Deposit money, as a rule, was intended for construction work. So, the first monetary contribution of Filaret - one hundred rubles "to the cell structure", was made in December 1619.

Material contributions, as far as can be judged by known facts, for the most part, were church objects: sacred vessels, church utensils, bells, books. For example, in 1619, Filaret presented the monastery: "silver church vessels: chalice, diskos and three saucers" - they were decorated with gilding, they had the inscription "Patriarch Philaret"; silver censer engraved with the image of the Virgin; wooden incense, painted with images of saints.

The contribution book keeps records of the bells donated by the patriarch in 1620 and 1631. On the first of them there was the following inscription: "By the grace of God, by the command of the great lord, holy Philaret Nikitich, patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, this bell was made and given to the most holy abode of the Transfiguration of the Lord God and Our Savior Jesus Christ on New, summer 7129 [September 16] on day 30 ". These supplementary evangelists, along with other monastic bells, took their place in the new bell tower, built in the monastery at the request and at the expense of the patriarch.

Documentary evidence that Filaret invested books in the Novospassky monastery has been preserved. Thus, in 1630, he presented the monastery with the book *The Six-Day-Days*, in 1633 he presented the Preface of the Gospel of Matthew and the Explanatory Psalter. The cost of the last two books was 30 rubles - a significant amount of money at that time. The patriarch loved books and attached great importance to their distribution - to typography. During the period of his reign, more publications were issued than during the entire previous existence of the Printing House.

Znamensky church

The Znamenskaya Church, built in the monastery in the 1620s, has a direct connection with the Romanov dynasty and is located to the north-west of the Transfiguration Cathedral. It had a memorial significance - it was erected over the "Romanov tombs" - the graves of Alexander, Vasily and Mikhail Nikitich, who were uncles to Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich and brothers of Patriarch Philaret.

Subscription monasteries

The strengthening of Novospassky was facilitated by the consolidation of ascribed monasteries to it, done at the behest of both the patriarch and Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich. For example, in 1625, the Trinity Uraev Monastery of Kazan district was assigned to the Novospassky monastery.



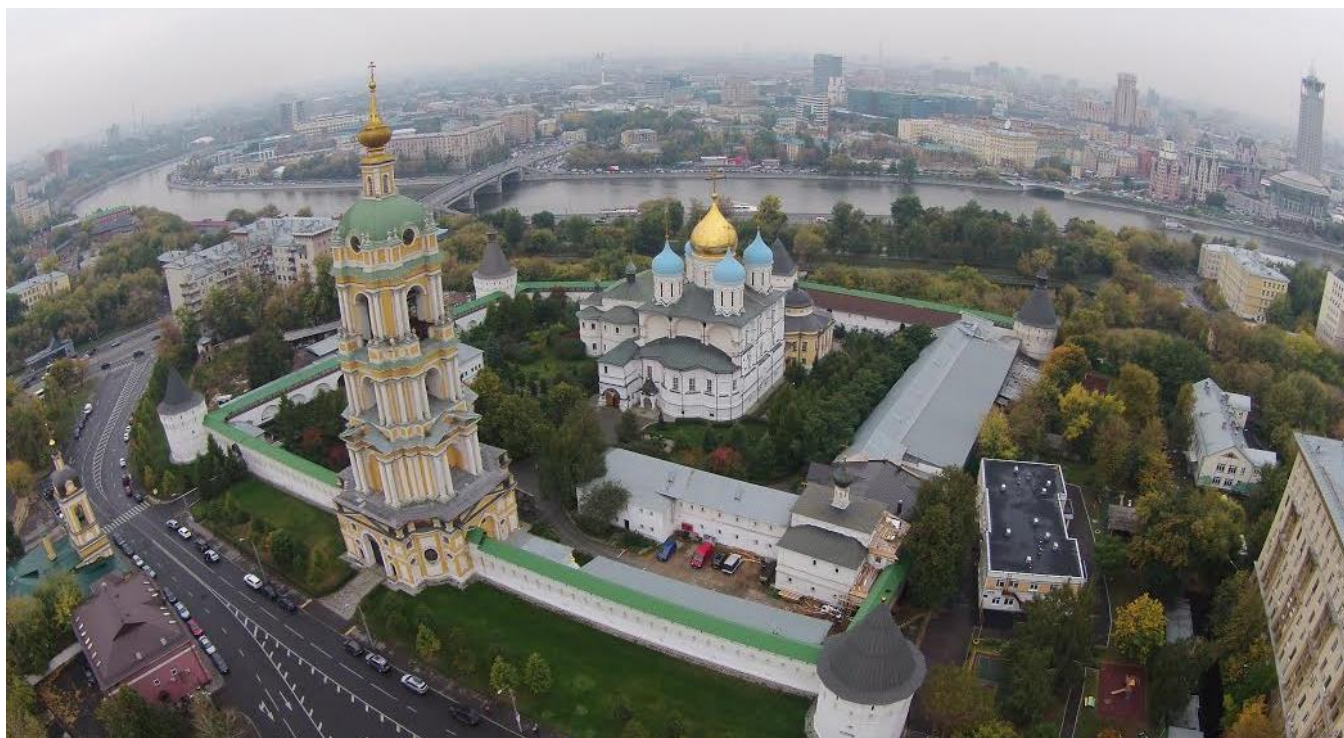


So, the attention of Patriarch Filaret to the Novospassky monastery was due to the presence in the monastery of the patrimonial tomb of the boyar family of the Romanovs, in which his closest relatives - the parents, wife, children, brothers and sisters - were buried. Practically everyone with whom he was connected by blood family ties were buried in the Novospassky monastery.

The favor of this prominent historical figure of late medieval Russia to the Novospassky monastery was manifested in his visits to this monastery and worship services sent to monastery churches, in caring for the material well-being of the monastery, in the quest for its decoration.

The patriarch's private cell building and the Savvinsky church combined with the bell tower became the gifts of the patriarch of the Novospassky monastery. Monuments of the Philaret's time in the monastery were fence walls with towers, fraternal cells and Znamenskaya Church.

Perhaps most important of all is the fact that the rule of Patriarch Philaret and the reign of his son Mikhail Fedorovich opens the period of the rise of the Novospassky monastery. Abode becomes a place of the royal and patriarchal pilgrimage. The status of the monastery is raised and its financial position is strengthened. So Novospassky monastery enters its heyday.





The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

The remains were "lost and found"

In the end of May, the publication URA.RU reported that the remains of Alexei and Maria were allegedly destroyed during unsuccessful experiments ordered by the church. According to a local historian, after the ROC took the remains to the Novospassky monastery in Moscow in 2015, with fragments of the bodies, "they made some kind of manipulations, and now there are none in the monastery." "There is a risk that the fragments of the remains are destroyed. No bones - no problem. This situation is advantageous for certain circles," - the source said. This story was immediately copied by several small media. But when the news agency TASS wrote about it "all hell broke loose" and the story spread like a wild fire.

On June 2, TASS wrote - "The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) has denied that the remains of the children of Nicholas II, Alexei and Maria, kept in the Novospassky monastery in Moscow, have disappeared. The TASS on Sunday was informed by the press secretary of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill, the priest Alexander Volkov. "This is false information. The remains of Alexei and Maria, the children of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, are still kept in the Novospassky monastery in Moscow. Nobody took them anywhere".

"I learned about this from the publications of certain media. It is clear that these are all rumors and speculations. Tomorrow we will explain this in more detail," - Volkov said on the radio "Moscow Talks".

Next day the headline was - "In Novospassky Monastery they deny the storage of the remains of the Imperial family". What does that mean? So the remains really are gone?

The remains of the children of Emperor Nicholas II, Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria, were never kept in the Novospassky Monastery of Moscow, was stated to TASS on Monday, June 3rd.

"We didn't keep anything, I don't know where this information came from. We didn't have anything like that. We already heard these echoes, but we don't understand where the legs grow from <...> It wasn't in the monastery", said a representative of the monastery.



Vakhtang Kipshidze, deputy chairman of the Synodal Department for Church Relations with Society and the Media of the Moscow Patriarchate, told TASS same day, that information about the location of the remains of Nicholas II's children was not disclosed, as the Russian Orthodox Church doubts their authenticity.

"The remains, which supposedly belong to Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria, are kept in a sealed form in one of the Moscow monasteries <...> We do not tell which monastery in which these remains are kept, because their identity is not established, and therefore they are not open to be visited by believers - they are simply kept for the time of the relevant examinations," he said.

He added that information about the destruction of the remains is not true. "Samples were taken from these remains to carry out the necessary comprehensive examinations, these examinations are

continuing, and no new results are available at our disposal right now. We assume that information about the alleged disappearance or destruction of the remains is nothing more than rumors and gossip” - stressed Kipshidze.

On June 4th, INTERFAX had talked with the former director of the State Archives of the Russian Federation Sergey Mironenko, who considered it erroneous information about the disappearance of the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria from the Novospassky Monastery.

“They didn’t disappear anywhere, I don’t know for sure, but are 90% sure that they continue to be there. As Alexey A. Venediktov from Ekho Moskvy told me, the new governor of the monastery (the reception office of the vicar’s Dionysius) says that they are supposedly not there. This is nonsense. Ask the former governor, Metropolitan Savva (now the manager of the Moscow Patriarchate), - told Mironenko, who now holds the position of scientific director of the State Archive.

He stressed that the remains were transferred several years ago from the State Archives to the Novospassky monastery “for further research.”

On June 6th, the newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets could reveal - “The remains of the Imperial children were found: the remains of Alexei and Mary were moved to another church”.

According to their sources, the relics of the Tsarevich and Grand Duchess are located on the territory of the Novospassky monastery.

In fairness it must be said that the first alarm made by “MK”. Back in October last year, the newspaper published an article that raised the issue of the location of the remains of Alexei and Maria.

The reason was the information from sources that the remains that were previously in the lower church of the Transfiguration Cathedral - the main church of the Novospassky monastery (Moscow) - were moved to an unknown location in the spring of 2018.

For reference: since December 2015 the remains of the Imperial children have been located in the Novospassky monastery. The choice of location, by the way, is absolutely logical: the basement of the Savior Transfiguration Cathedral, the Church of St. Roman, is the patrimonial tomb of the Romanov boyars. Before that, the remains were kept in the State Archive, but after the resumption of the murder case of the Imperial Family they were transferred by the decision of the government to the storage of the Russian Orthodox Church - until the end of the investigation.

And it was not a special secret about the new temporary shelter of the remains. It was however not said, in which particular monastery church they were kept, but the fact of their being in the monastery was not a secret.

The former keeper of the remains, Sergey Mironenko, spoke confidently about this. And the “Vesti on Saturday” program even showed how the coffins-arks are carried on a limousine-hearse from the State Archive to Novospassky.

In preparing the October publication, the columnist MK also asked for clarification from the abbot. But at that time the answer was somewhat different.

Representatives of the monastery did not deny that the remains were actually in the monastery. But they were assured that they were no longer located: they were returned, they say, to the Investigative Committee. However, the Investigative Committee did not confirm this version.



"The remains of Nicholas II's children, Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria, discovered in 2007 not far from Yekaterinburg, are kept in the Novospassky Monastery of Moscow in specially made arks," the Russian Federation Investigative Committee Vice-Chairman Igor Krasnov said in a letter to member of the Federation Council Lyudmila Narusova, whom the MK columnist was able to familiarize itself with. The document is dated September 14, 2018.



In general, an intrigue. Your humble servant suggested then that "you need an investigative department. The sin of false testimony, apparently, was taken over by the monks. According to "MK" sources, the ashes of Alexei and Mary are still located on the territory of the Novospassky monastery. Only now in another church - in the name of Nicholas the Wonderworker. It is also called "brotherly" because it is located in the Fraternal Corps, which houses monastic cells. According to the testimony of informed interlocutors of the MK columnist, the arks with the remains are installed in the altar of the church.

However, perhaps the monks who spoke to the press are not so sinful: they just might not have known. Not all the inhabitants are devoted to the details of this top-secret operation. And those that are dedicated, keep your mouth shut: according to our data, a nondisclosure subscription was taken from all those involved in the secret.

There is a certain logic in such secrecy. If the State Archive is closely guarded by the police, there are as many as three lines of defence, then the monastery is an incomparably less protected place. And among the deniers of authenticity of the remains there are a lot of mentally unbalanced people who may try to destroy "false assistance" or at least defile them. But then it is not clear why there was any risk at all by moving the remains from an absolutely reliable place.

However, the ROC explains the mystery of very different considerations. "We do not call that monastery in which these remains are kept, because their affiliation has not been established, and therefore they are not opened for believers to visit," said Vakhtang Kipshidze, deputy chairman of the Synodal Department for Church Relations with Society and the Media. And here is a clear violation of logic. Not only secular, but also ecclesiastical.

As for the secular one, the Investigative Committee stated in the summer that all the conducted examinations confirmed that the Yekaterinburg remains belonged to the members of the Imperial Family. That is, from a legal point of view, there is no longer any doubt. Yes, the church has different criteria for authenticity of the holy relics. The main one is miraculous. But this logic assumes just the maximum open access of pilgrims to the remains. How else to certify a miracle?

It is theoretically impossible to exclude, that the church authorities conduct such experiments, so to speak, in a narrow circle. On themselves. However, in this case one can hardly speak about the purity of the experiment. The Lord may well deprive his grace of those who so long reject the holiness of the shrine.

Historians addressed this issue on June 07, in URA.ru - "If the relics of the Imperial children are kept in the church, the believers would like to have access to them."

The remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Maria, stored in the Novospassky monastery, could be replaced. This assumption is expressed by a number of historians concerned about the fate of the Imperial remains.

"Just imagine: the Russian Orthodox Church does not in any way recognize their authenticity, but takes them for storage. Anything can now be done with them, for example, to replace them, and then demand new examinations, and then really no DNA will converge," one of Yekaterinburg historians says. In his opinion, the story of the "disappearance" of the remains and the statement made recently by spokesman for Patriarch Kirill Alexander Volkov that bone fragments were transferred to another place in the same monastery - to the church of St. Nicholas in the fraternal building - is just a testimony that manipulations with the bones of Imperial children are possible."

URA.RU" checked this assumption by interviewing experts involved in the history of finding the Tsars remains. The expert is sure: the remains of Alexei and Maria are in the monastery under reliable protection.

"It's impossible to replace them: they are sealed, sealed (the boxes are stamped by the investigative committee) and are under reliable protection," a source close to the Novospassky monastery told "URA.RU". "It's impossible to open the boxes: just in the room where they are located (according to some sources, this is the altar section of the church - ed.), No one will enter - neither the ordinary servant, nor the church hierarch." According to the source, the transfer of the remains to the monastic corps of the monastery was precisely associated with the desire to provide a more strict protection regime.



Meanwhile, according to another expert who also communicates with people from the monastery, "with modern technology, nothing is impossible" and bone substitution is not such a fantastic event. "When they were handed over to the ROC from the Investigative Committee, each fragment was described and photographed, how many are there and what they are, it is well known (we are talking about 44 bone fragments with a total weight of just over 100 grams). What remains of them today, no one knows.

The fact is that fragments were taken from the surviving bones and teeth for examination - and at this stage anything can happen to them. And to replace bone fragments with similar ones of the same size and weight is a matter of technique."

Another opinion: the substitution, even if it would be possible, is meaningless. "In 2015–2016, samples from all the remains were taken and sealed, and only the patriarch knows what remains belong to which sample," reminds the Moscow historian.

In December 2017, at the conference in Sretensky Monastery, it was reported that samples for genetic examinations were sent to Western laboratories that were chosen by the patriarch. What is the point now to steal the remains and / or replace them? "

Novospassky Monastery's comment on the storage conditions of the alleged remains of Alexei and Maria and the reliability of protection at the time of publication failed: the monastery explained that his representative, authorized to talk to the press, was on vacation.

However, even if you trust the ROC and assume that the remains of the Imperial children are kept properly, the very need for them to be in the monastery is questioned. "If the church is not going to recognize the authenticity of the Yekaterinburg remains, including Alexei and Maria, why keep them in the monastery? They wanted to check, make sure of something - now hand it back to the state: to the Investigation Committee or to the archive," says Nikolai Neuimin, head of the history department of the Romanov dynasty of the Sverdlovsk museum of local history.

The bewilderment of another historian is caused by the fact that fragments of bones are kept in a monastery secret from all.

"Since the remains are in the church, let the believers have access to them so that people can look at them, at least through glass. After all, there are many Orthodox who do not doubt their authenticity. This is a question of a miracle: if it is the relics (and the members of the Imperial Family were canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2000 - ed.), Then believers should be allowed to them, and then a miracle will occur. And if they are closed in a safe, what miracle can happen?

"This whole story could and should have ended 11 years ago," recalls Lyudmila Lykova, doctor of historical sciences, chief specialist of the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History.

- On December 5, 2008, at an international conference in Yekaterinburg, Russian and foreign researchers (genetics, anthropologists, etc.) reported on the research of the remains of Maria and Alexei. Previously, they did not see each other, they met for the first time, and their results came together: 100% of the remains are authentic."

However, evil fate intervened in the course of history. "If on the same day, when the results were announced, Patriarch Alexy did not die, the problem of recognition would have been solved even then," Lykova is sure. In her opinion, the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Maria in any case require burial. "They should be buried in the same place as the rest of the Imperial Family are, you need to reunite them all," says Lykova. "You may not recognize the remains, but bury them humanly."

According to some experts, the investigation into the case of the Romanovs will last at least another two years. "During this time, additional DNA examinations may be carried out, but most of the time will be spent on historical examination," a Ural historian explained. This is a search for documents related to the execution of the family in the archives not only in Russia, but also abroad, where the White Guards could take the papers.



The Investigation Committee organized a new excavation at the site of the discovery of the remains of the Imperial Family

27 June. E1 - On June 27 excavations were organized on the site of the discovery of the remains of Emperor Nicholas II and his family. According to the head of the *Romanovs Memorial*, Ilya Korovin, several specialists arrived at the Imperial graves in a car of the Investigative Committee to conduct a soil examination.

The work, apparently, is connected with the question of the identification of the remains to the members of the imperial family.

"The work of the investigators is carried out under the supervision of employees of the Office of State Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects," said Ilya Korovin, manager of the Yekaterinburg Romanov Memorial complex and executive director of the Romanov Memorial Charitable Foundation.



The Investigation Committee of the Sverdlovsk region reported that their employees today did not go to the area of the Old Koptyakovskaya road. But they did not rule out that there could have come experts from another division, and possibly from Moscow.

In the ROC, as is known, they express doubts about the belonging of the found remains to the members of the Imperial family. In 2018, the RF IC spoke about the conducted examinations. According to investigators, they confirmed that the remains found in 1993 and 2007 near Yekaterinburg belong to the members of the Imperial family and their confidants.

"According to the findings of molecular genetic expertise, 7 of the 11 remains found correspond to the family group - mother, father, four daughters and son," - said in a statement of the RF IC.

Also, the IC stated that the results of the examination of the remains of Nicholas II coincided with the materials obtained during the exhumation of the grave of his father Alexander III. The experts' conclusion stated that the deceased, whose body was found near Yekaterinburg, and the Emperor buried in the Peter and Paul Cathedral of St. Petersburg are "relatives at the father-son level."

The "Diamond Prince"

On June 27, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovskiy attended the opening of the exhibition "English fascination of the "Diamond Prince". Restored collection of the estate Stepanovsky-Volosovo" in State Historical Museum, Moscow.



Prince Alexander Borisovich Kurakin, (18 January 1752 – 24 June 1818) was a Russian statesman and diplomat, a member of the State Council, who was ranked Actual Privy Counsellor 1st Class.

Born in Moscow to a long line of Russian diplomats, he was the great grandson of Boris Kurakin, a Russian ambassador and close associate of Peter the Great. He became acquainted with Grand Duke Pavel Petrovich, the future Emperor Paul I, and remained one of his most trusted friends. This friendship, though, did not meet the approval of Empress Catherine II, and Kurakin was forced to depart abroad.

As ambassador in Paris, Prince Alexander Kurakin was famously referred to as a "diamond prince", due to magnificence and richness of his costumes. It was one of these costumes that actually saved his life during a fire that happened during a ball given by Schwarzenberg, the Austrian ambassador on 1 July 1810. While escorting a woman out of the blazing hall, he fell to the ground and was trampled by the panicking crowd, but his richly decorated coat protected him from the worst of the intense heat. Nevertheless, he was still badly burned and was confined to bed for several months.

For the first time, an exhibition presents a collection of 18th-century English printed graphics from the famous Tver estate of Princes Kurakin - Stepanovsky Volosovo, now belonging to the family of businessman Sergei Anatolyevich Vasilyev. The unique collection was recreated according to the lists of artistic purchases of the "Diamond Prince" Alexander B. Kurakin (1752–1818) preserved from the end of the 18th century.

This kind of scientific reconstruction of a significant part of the richest manor collection, demonstrates one of the current trends in collecting old art.

Currently, the collection consists of fifty-two first-class works created by Fr. Bartolozzi, W. Woollett, W. Dickinson, R. Irlom and other famous masters of the



XVIII century. The use of rare techniques, virtuosic printing, as well as the picturesque and spectacular English prints contributed to the spread of fashion for its collecting in Europe. In Russia, besides Prince A. B. Kurakin, also Grand Duke Pavel Petrovich and Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna had one of the best collections of English printed graphics.

The collection also includes Russian prints depicting Empress Catherine II, and Emperors Paul I, Alexander I and Nicholas I.



In addition to the private collection, the exhibition presents a number of significant exhibits from the collection of the Historical Museum, telling about the famous family of Princes Kurakin - the owners of the estate Stepanovsky Volosovo. The exhibition is complemented by the pictorial and graphic portraits of Prince A. B. Kurakin, the famous grandee and sybarite, a major customer and collector of art objects, a friend and an approximate of Emperor Paul I.

A series of eight picturesque views of the estate, performed in 1839 are by the great-nephew of the "diamond prince", by artist Alexei Borisovich Kurakin (1809–1872).

A significant section of the exhibition is devoted to the archives of the Princes Kurakin, who entered the Historical Museum in 1920. The colossal complex contains the most important diplomatic documents from the time of Peter the Great to the middle of the XIX century, the official correspondence of the Princes Kurakin, many of whom were prominent dignitaries, and family memorials. Handwritten letters of Princes A. B. and S. B. Kurakin and autographs of Emperor Paul I, were selected for display.



The exposition is accompanied by the history of Stepanovsky-Volosovo and a patron-sponsored project for the restoration of the estate complex, unique for contemporary Russia, carried out by the Vasiliev family in 2008–2015.

The exhibition aims to show the public the rarest artefacts of the noble Kurakin family and demonstrate the possibilities of restoring abandoned noble estates, reviving cultural nests and their collections in the Russian province.

Monument to Tsar-Liberator Alexander II erected in Ivanovo region

A bust of Tsar-Liberator Alexander II was unveiled on June 11 in the village of Alferevo, Ivanovo region.

The place was not chosen by chance. A bust of Emperor Alexander II was here. In 1911 it was created with funds raised by peasants from the village of Alferevo of the Vladimir Province and the surrounding villages, in honour of the 50th anniversary of the abolition of serfdom, but the monument was destroyed in the first years of Soviet power.

In 2018, in honor of the 200th anniversary of Alexander II, the parishioners of the St. Nicholas Church of the village Alfereyevo decided to restore the figure of the Tsar-Liberator in the same place. With the support of philanthropists - the project "Alley of Russian Glory", the Society "Double-Headed Eagle", the Bolsheklochkovskaya village administration managed to recreate the bust of Sovereign Alexander II. It is made by sculptor Alexander Apollonov, and brought from the city of Kropotkin, Krasnodar Territory.

It is the only bust for a representative of the Imperial Romanov Family in Ivanovo region. Moreover, as before, the bust was initiated by ordinary citizens.

The event was attended by residents, local historians, students of Unarmiya, Ivanovo Cossacks, representatives of the armed forces of Russia, who organized field cuisine for the guests and a performance of the military orchestra. Local artistic groups performed Russian folk song.

A welcome address was made by the deputy head of the Teikovsky district administration, Elena Fiohina, and the head of the Bolsheklochkovsky settlement, Vladimir Kalashnikov.

Mikhail Malinovsky, member of the "Double-Headed Eagle" Society, noted that to preserve historical memory and justice, it is important to establish monuments and open plaques not only in large cities and regional centers, but also in regional settlements.

The monument was consecrated by the rector of the St. Nicholas Church of Alferevo, Father Evgeny.





The exhibition “Because of Zion I will not keep quiet, and because of Jerusalem I will take no rest”

An exhibition about the history of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society has opened at the Usovo-Spassky Orthodox Educational Center in Moscow.

On June 9, the historical and cultural exhibition “Because of Zion I will not keep quiet, and because of Jerusalem I will take no rest” (Is. 62: 1) was opened.

The organizers timed it to the 135th anniversary of the wedding of the owners of the Imperial manor "Ilinskoe-Usovo" of - Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, the August Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, as well as to the day of the memory of the Most August philanthropist, Empress Maria Alexandrovna.

The exhibition is organized by the Church of the Savior in the village of Usovo with support of the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society".

Divine Liturgy in the Church of the Savior of the Hand-to-hand Image was led by the dean of the churches of the Odintsovo District, priest Igor Nagaitsev. After, a prayer service was held for the Emperor Alexander II, Empress Maria Alexandrovna and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

The opening of the exhibition was preceded by a concert in the foyer of the House of the Clergy. Laureates of Russian and international competitions, artists of the Moscow State Academic Philharmonic named after P. Tchaikovsky Daria Novikova and Yevgeny Sergeev performed classical compositions and original works.

The head of the “Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society” Anna V. Gromova noted that the exhibition is dedicated to the August Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society - Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, their activities from 1882 to 1917. The exposition is a tribute to the Empress Maria Alexandrovna's kind memory. The august philanthropist did a lot for the Holy Land. The main task of the exhibition is to preserve the historical memory of the activities of the Grand-Ducal couple and the achievements of Imperial Russia, the restoration of the historical connection that was broken by the tragic events of 1917.





The Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergey V. Stepashin addressed the guests. He thanked the team of the foundation ESES and Anna Gromova for creating the exhibition dedicated to the August leaders. Sergei Vadimovich recalled the achievements of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich as mayor of Moscow, and spoke about the special relationship of the Grand-Ducal couple, their respect, care and love towards each other. He wished those present to enjoy a visit to the exhibition.

Priest Igor Nagaitsev, the dean of the Odintsovo church district, congratulated the authors and guests of the event, noting that the enlightenment works of Anna V. Gromova and Sergei V.

Stepashin always come from a pure heart, this is a sincere desire to preserve history for future generations.

The head of the Odintsovo urban district, Andrey Ivanov, thanked Anna V. Gromova and the team of the ESES for their work and noted that it is very important to create similar projects in the municipality.

The head of the Krasnogorsk city district, Elmira A. Khajmurzina, spoke about the importance of unity of the community of historians, cultural scientists and local authorities. She recalled the need to preserve the historical heritage. It is about the Imperial manor "Ilinskoe-Usovo", most of which is located in the territory of the urban district of Krasnogorsk. Elmira Abdulbarieva expressed confidence that only by joint efforts it is possible to restore the estate and the memory of the prominent statesmen of Imperial Russia.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Vice-Governor of Kaluga Region Vladimir V. Mazur, Advisor to the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Central Federal District Marina N. Belogubova, General Director of the Museum and Exhibition Complex New Jerusalem Vasily Kuznetsov, Chairman of the Board of the Regional Public Charity Fund Evdokia Moskovskaya, Lyubov S. Akelina, Head of the Moscow Regional Branch of the IOPS, Yuri P. Smirnov, and the chairman of the Astrakhan branch of IOPS, the collector Sergey Stepanov.



The exhibition "Because of Zion I will not keep quiet, and because of Jerusalem I will take no rest (Is. 62: 1). The August Chairmen of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society" is located on the second floor of the Usovo-Spasskoe Orthodox Educational Center. It presents unique photographs, documents, pilgrimage relics, icons on bone and mother of pearl, crosses-encolpions of the 14th century, pilgrim costume of the 19th century, map of Jerusalem of the 16th century, postcards of the 19th century and much more.

Unique and valuable artefacts were provided by a collector from Astrakhan city Sergey Y. Stepanov. Among them there is the testimony of a member of the IOPS, Priest Eutropius Kochergin, signed by the Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna (1907). Sergey Yuryevich is a descendant of an honorary member and secretary of the IOPS, the Byzantinist and the historian of the church, Alexei Dmitrievsky. The collector carefully keeps family heirlooms, collects publications and photographs related to the activities of the IOPS, organizes exhibitions about the history of society in Astrakhan.

Visitors could see one of the earliest photographs of the Garden of Gethsemane, the British photographer James Robertson's auto photography, dating back to 1857. In the right part of the photo there is a small figure of the praying Savior. It was in Gethsemane, at the expense of the most August children of Empress Maria Alexandrovna in memory of her, that the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society built the church of St. Mary Magdalene. Now it houses the relics of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

Here is the modern history of the IOPS, photographs telling about the activities of the company under the chairmanship of Sergei V. Stepashin. The exposition is also a tribute to the memory of the Deputy Chairman of the IOPS, the head of the scientific section, Nikolai N. Lisovoy, a scientist, a writer, a public figure who has been studying the history of Russian Palestine.

Despite its compactness, the exhibition dedicated to the August Chairmen of the IOPS is as informative as possible. It will help to feel more deeply the inseparable connection between Russia and the Holy Land, which, thanks to the efforts of the representatives of the Imperial House of Romanov, was strong and reliable, since it was built on Love and Faith.

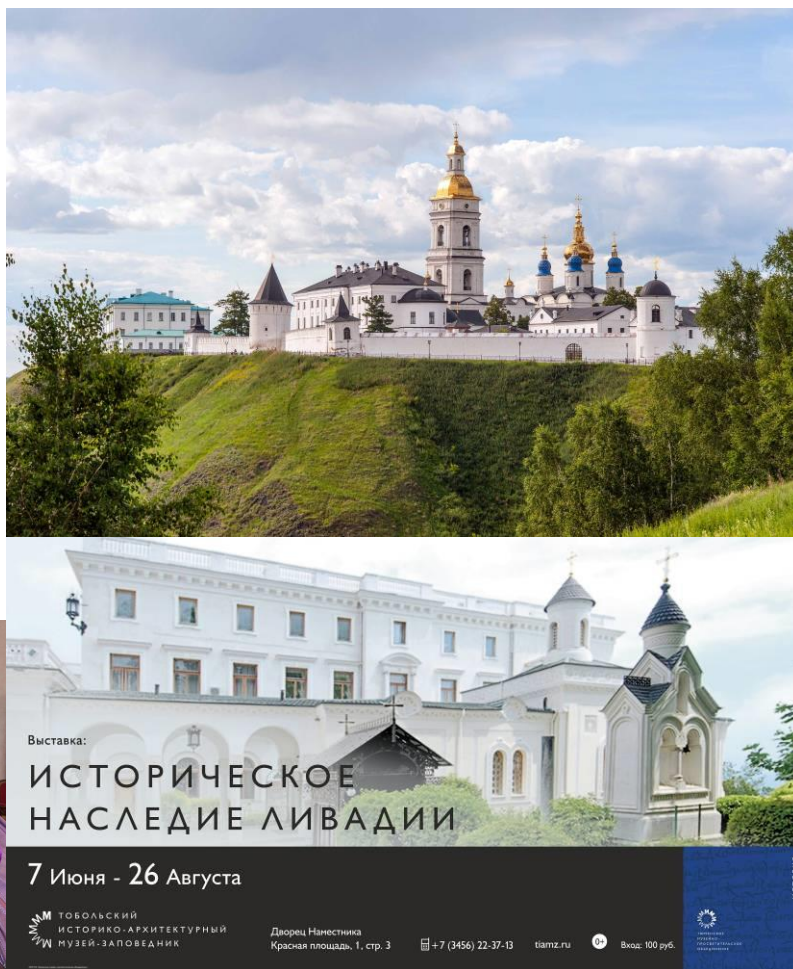
Visitors and pilgrims, will travel to the Holy Land, in touch with history and relics that are invaluable to every Orthodox Christian. The exhibition will run until December 31, 2019.



The exhibition "Historical Heritage of Livadia" in the Governor Palace in Tobolsk

From June 7, 2019, Tobolsk Museum of the History in the Palace of the Governor, will present an exhibition of unique items from Livadia, the southern residence of the Russian Emperors Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II.

Tobolsk inhabitants and guests of the city will be able to see original documents and photographs, items of numismatics, sphragistics and church use of the 17th - 20th centuries, including the first complete printed Bible in Russian of the 17th century, as well as items related to the history of the Imperial Romanov family.



The collection comes from the Museum in the memory of the family of Emperor Nicholas II at the Orthodox parish of Holy Cross Church in Yalta, the Republic of Crimea, Simferopol and Crimean diocese.

The Holy Cross Church in Livadia was built under Alexander II and was conceived as a treasury and repository of religious relics of the Russian Imperial House.

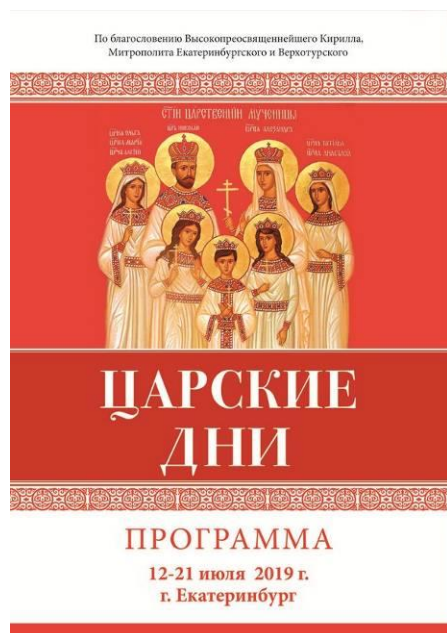
Video - <https://ok.ru/video/1507194898990>



Yekaterinburg is preparing for the Tsar Days - 2019

Traditionally, on the anniversary of the spiritual deed of the Royal Passion-Bearers, who ended their days in Yekaterinburg in July 1918, the Tsar Days are held in the Ural capital - a series of ceremonial events are dedicated to this event.

Every year tens of thousands of people gather in Yekaterinburg to take part in the Tsar days. The main events traditionally become the night Divine Liturgy at the site in front of the Church on the Blood, where the life of the Imperial Family and its faithful friends tragically ended, and the cross procession to the Monastery of the Royal Passion-bearers, where the august remains were buried 101 years ago.



From 12 to 21 of July one of the key event of the Tsar Days will be held - the XVI I Festival of Orthodox Culture in Yekaterinburg. In the Ural capital, several dozens of religious and secular events of various formats will be held, dedicated to the "Tsar" theme - from music festivals to creative meetings and lectures.

The cultural program includes historical, musical and educational events, museum and library exhibitions, concerts and meetings with historians, writers, directors from different cities of Russia and abroad.

The festival will be held in the Church-Monument on Blood, the spiritual and educational center "Tsarsky", and the multimedia park "Russia - My History".

From 14 to 18 of July, the annual festival of the bell ringing "Preach to the Land of the Urals!", will take place. Ringers from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Veliky Novgorod, Rostov Veliky, Vologda, Tyumen, as well as the best bell-rappers of the Yekaterinburg Metropolis will participate in the festival.

The main event of the festival will be a concert at the bell tower of the "Big Zlatoust" with the participation of the Brass military band and the choir of the church "Big Zlatoust", on July 15; Priest Victor Yavich will read his author's poems.

Traditional master classes of the most experienced bell-ringers of the Russian Orthodox Church will conclude bell festival.

The bell ringing concert will begin at 6:00 pm at the "Big Chrysostom" church (Ekaterinburg, March 8, 17).

July 15 the consecration of the Church of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers at the Royal Monastery on Ganina Yama will take place.

The culminating events will be held July 16 and 17.

On July 16, at 09:00, the Divine Liturgy will begin in the chapel of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers of the Church on the Blood. At 1:00 pm a day procession along the Yekaterinburg Path of Grief will be held to mark the arrival of the Royal Passion-bearers to Yekaterinburg - from Shartash station (149 Kuybyshev St.) to the Memorial Church on Blood.

Then, at 15:00, a small vespers with an akathist to the Holy Royal Passion-bearers will take place in the lower church of the Church on the Blood.

At 16:30, an all-night vigil will be held at the site in front of the Church on the Blood.



At 23:30, the main service of the Tsar's Days will begin - Divine Liturgy at the site at the Church on the Blood. The service will end on the night of July 17, after which at 02:30 from the Church on the Blood — the place of execution of the Emperor's family - to the monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers, on the site of which their remains were buried in the Ganina Yama tract in 1918, the traditional Tsar's Cross Procession will take place. The procession collects tens of thousands of pilgrims from around the world. So, in the past years, it was attended by from 60,000 to 100,000 people. Upon the arrival of the procession, a prayer service will be held for the holy royal passion-bearers.

Tsar Days in Alapayevsk

The Tsar Days will continue with the Remembrance of the Great Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the Alapayevsk martyrs.

On July 18, at 00:00, the Divine Liturgy will be traditionally celebrated in the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapayevsk, and at 02:30 a prayer service will be held with the akathist singing to the holy martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and the nun Varvara.

At 03:30, at the end of the liturgy, a procession will begin from the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapayevsk to the Field School and then to the monastery in the name of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church, which was founded on the place where they were dropped alive on July 18, 1918 into the mine; the holy martyrs Elizabeth and nun Barbara, as well as representatives of the House of Romanov). At 05:30 and 09:00 there will be two Divine Liturgies.



Exhibition about investigator N.A. Sokolov (1882–1924)

On June 8, 2019, Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhotursk opened the exhibition “Penza - Paris. Tsar's way of investigator N.A. Sokolov (1882–1924)” in the Museum of the Monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers.

Metropolitan Kirill reminded the guests that the name of Nikolai A. Sokolov is inextricably linked with the Holy Imperial Family, since Nikolai Alexeevich was a real monarchist, loved real Tsarist Russia and did not accept the changes that occurred in 1917.

- Nikolai Alexeevich crossed the front line to get to the troops commanded by General Kolchak. He became one of the closest assistants to the Supreme Commander, who entrusted him with the investigation into the case of the regicide. This year marks 95 years since the death of investigator Sokolov, but for us he will forever remain the image of such a Russian person who, if entrusted with the case, he brings it to the end, the metropolitan noted.

- After all, we have a huge part of the evidence that we have about the presence of the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg, thanks to the works of Nikolai Alexeevich.

The ruling bishop told that N.A. Sokolov was the first to follow the path of the cross from the Ipatiev House to Ganina Pit, and it was he who conducted the bulk of the research here.

In conclusion, Metropolitan thanked the staff of the museum, who with care and diligence keep the memory of the Holy Imperial Family.

Peter A. Sarandinaki, US citizen, a descendant of Lieutenant General S.N. Rozanov - friend of N.A. Sokolov; the investigator of particularly important cases of the Investigative Committee, Andrei I. Bezmaternykh, as well as representatives of the State Archives of the Perm Region attended the opening ceremony.

Olga Y. Kamenskaya, a researcher, author of a Nikolai Sokolov biography, also visited the exhibition, and told about Nikolai Alexeevich's parents, a prominent merchant family, and where he was baptized, studied, and lived in childhood. She donated to the monastery museum pieces of land from Penza, native city of the investigator.





The exposition is timed to the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the work of the investigator Nikolai Alexeevich Sokolov in Yekaterinburg and at the Ganina Pit.

Visitors will see unique archival materials that give an idea of the difficult life journey of the investigator, rare family photos of Nikolai Alexeevich, kept by his descendants in France and in Russia. Many of them was presented for the first time.



The exhibition will feature the essay of the historian M.I. Weber called "The Life and Death of Nikolai Sokolov (1882-1924)", based on archival sources.

The exhibition is open until the end of 2019.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=12OTq62tgFg



About the route of the Imperial Family from Tobolsk to Yekaterinburg - Part three

The route of the Imperial Family from Tobolsk to Yekaterinburg reveals details of the travel route of Nicholas Alexandrovich and his family, which became for them the ascent to "Russian Calvary."

By Yuriy A. Bastylev

Arrival in Yekaterinburg

The end of the route is noted in the diaries of the Imperial couple [1]:

17/30 April. Tuesday.

H II: "It's also a wonderful warm day. At 8.40 arrived in Yekaterinburg . Three hours stood at one station. There was a great ferment between the local people and our commissars. In the end, the first overcame and the train moved to another - the freight station. After we were standing outside the train for an hour and a half, Yakovlev transferred us to the local regional commissioner. The three of us got into a car and drove deserted streets to the Ipatiev house prepared for us".

A.F.: "At 3 [o'clock] we were ordered to get out of the train. Yakovlev] had to hand us over to the Urals Oblast [Regional] Council. Their boss seated us 3 in an open car, we were accompanied by a truck with soldiers armed to the teeth. We drove along the roundabout streets until we came to a small house [Ipatiev's house], a tall wooden fence was built around it."

In the diaries of the Imperial couple there is no exact indication of the place of disembarkation from the train, but the Tsar Nikolai Alexandrovich wrote in his diary that the train had moved to the freight station. Such a formulation of the Emperor is not an empty phrase, at one time (1893-1905) he was Chairman of the Committee of the Siberian Railway. etc., and was familiar very well with the arrangement of the railways [2]. A commodity or freight station is a station in which cargo warehouses and sorting areas are located, where cargo is loaded and unloaded, as well as the formation and dispatch of freight trains.

In 1918 three railway stations existed in the city of Yekaterinburg: Yekaterinburg-I [3] , Yekaterinburg-II [4], Yekaterinburg-III [5], the last two stations were opposite each other, within the boundaries of the modern Shartash station [6]. In addition to these stations, there was a commodity yard, the so-called Yekaterinburg-Commodity [7], which is located away from the lines of train traffic, in a dedicated warehouse area.

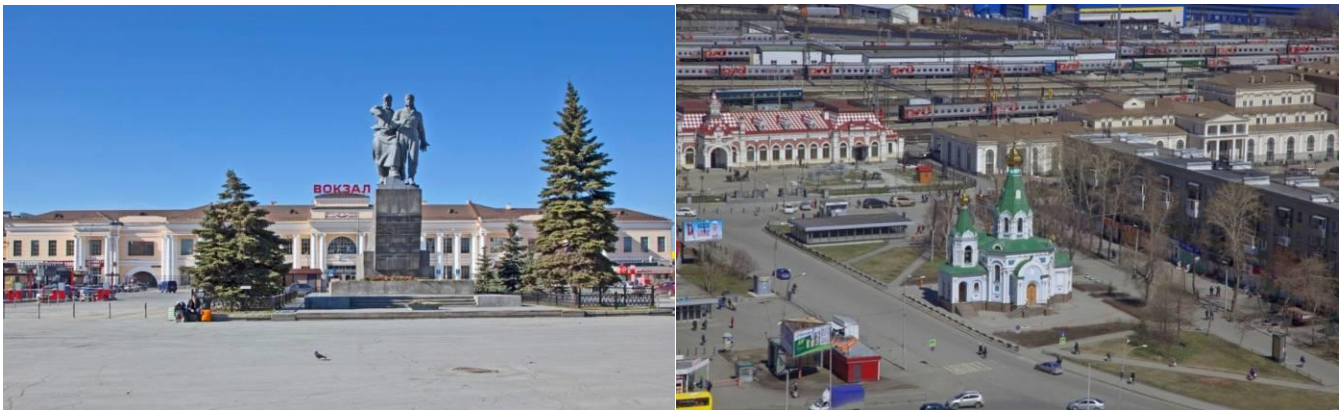
On the city map of Yekaterinburg for 1920, the location of three stations was noted: Yekaterinburg-I, Yekaterinburg-II, Yekaterinburg-III. The main station of the city was the first one, all the necessary passenger operations were carried out here ensuring the arrival and dispatch of trains in

all the existing directions: to Perm, Nizhny Tagil, Tavda, Tyumen, Chelyabinsk. Unlike the other two city stations, there was a large passenger station, and it was quite crowded. At that time a single-track railway branch was laid from Yekaterinburg-I station towards Yekaterinburg-II station, laid along the outskirts of the Second East (now - Vostochnaya). On the other side of the line. etc., only the cordon, two cemeteries and the building of the Mining Institute are marked in the forest range [8] .



Вокзал в Екатеринбурге, построенный в начале XX века

The Yekaterinburg-I station, built in the early 20th century.



Rail road station square and Yekaterinburg Passenger Station, May 2018. In the center there is a monument to WWII heroes (1941-1945), soldiers of the Ural Volunteer Tank Corps, nicknamed by the people "under the smelt". Photo of the author.

Panoramic view of the station Yekaterinburg-passenger. In the center: the Church of the icon of the Mother of God "Derzhavnaya". In the background there are the old railway station, luggage compartment and station passenger platforms. Photo by the author.

Stations Yekaterinburg-II and Yekaterinburg-III belonged to different railways. Near the street, single-track lines ran parallel to each other at a distance of 70 fathoms (150 meters) [9].

There was a freight station park on which the freight trains were formed and stood. In addition, there were coal depots near the station. In those years it was a low-lying suburb of the city. Two graveyards - Spassky and Austrian - were marked on the city's plan near the station Yekaterinburg-II. The residential sector of the city was in the distance, to the east. From the city to the Yekaterinburg-II station there was an auto-hog entrance, which was a continuation of the Siberian prospect (now - Kuibyshev Street). Shartash was located on the shore of the lake in about 5 km from Yekaterinburg-III.

In 1919, after the two railways merged into one - the Perm Railway - the stations were combined with the name Yekaterinburg-II. In 1922, before the renaming of the city to Sverdlovsk, the Yekaterinburg-II

station was named Siberian (by the name of the adjacent Siberian cordon). In 1925 it was renamed to Shartash station, and is located 4 kilometers from the main Yekaterinburg-Passenger station.

There are several versions of the place of disembarkation of the Tsar's family in Yekaterinburg. They are based on the memoirs of the Bolsheviks, in one way or another related to the delivery of the Imperial Family to the Urals:

1. Commissioner V.V. Yakovlev [11] in his memoirs indicated that at first they arrived at the station Yekaterinburg-I, then moved to Yekaterinburg-II.
2. The chauffeur P.T. Samokhvalov [12] during interrogation showed the investigator N.A. Sokolov, that at the appointed time the cars arrived to the Ipatiev house; taking the commissars Goloshchekin and Avdeev from there, the cars drove to the Yekaterinburg-I station. At this station Goloshchekin found out that the train with the Tsar was no longer there, then they went to the station Yekaterinburg-II. "There we drove by cars to one place, where there was a first class car surrounded by soldiers." The Imperial couple and the Grand Duchess Maria were put in his car and taken to the Ipatiev house.
3. Bolshevik P.M. Matveyev [13], who accompanied the Emperor Nicholas II, also pointed out that the train from the station Yekaterinburg-I returned to the station Yekaterinburg-II.
4. A.D. Avdeev, who accompanied Yakovlev as a representative of the Uralsovet, wrote differently: "Our train was stopped at the Yekaterinburg-III freight station, not reaching two versts to the main station" [14].

The approval of Avdeev immediately raises doubts among all those who are at least somewhat familiar with the plan for the location of these stations in Yekaterinburg. Whence the distance of two versts is taken is a big question, in reality the distance between the stations Yekaterinburg-I and Yekaterinburg-II (Yekaterinburg-III) is about four versts. Despite such obvious inaccuracy, later Avdeev's testimony by individual authors began to be used as a reliable and the only correct source. For example, the professor G.B. Zaitsev [15] based on this statement, indicated that the landing occurred at the intersection of Vostochnaya-Shartashskaya (former Kharitonovskaya Street). But at that time it was a single-track section of the railway, and there was not even a stopping place in that location. The train there could not stop for a long time, as we know from the diary of Tsar Nicholas II. The erroneousness of the version about the landing of the Imperial Family at the intersection of Vostochnaya-Shevchenko streets is mentioned in A.M. Verkhovsky article [16].



Yekaterinburg. View of the road and pedestrian bridges at the intersection of Vostochnaya-Shevchenko streets, in the center behind the bridges - the Church of the Port Arthur icon of the Blessed Virgin.

The section of the railway tracks between the stations Yekaterinburg-passenger and Shartash. Photo by the author

Yekaterinburg local historians V.V. Shitov and N.B. Neuimin shared A.M. Verkhovsky opinion. They made a reasoned conclusion that the version about the landing of the Imperial family at the intersection of Vostochnaya-Shevchenko (former Kharitonovskaya Street) is erroneous [17]. However, further they write: "The cars left the station Yekaterinburg-III through the crossing at the fork in the railway tracks on the street east, then on Pokrovsky Prospekt (now Malysheva Street), going down to the Catholic church, turned right and along Voznesensky Prospekt arrived at the house of engineer Ipatiev" [18].

They did not confirm their version of the place of landing and delivery of the Tsar's family to the Ipatiev House with references to documents or witnesses, so their hypothesis also sounds unconvincing. Thus, Shitov and Neumin refute one mistake, but they allow another - no less significant.

After analyzing the information about the arrival of the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg from various sources and documents, the following version is the most realistic.

The train with the Tsar's family arrived in the morning at Yekaterinburg-I station, but they did not leave anyone here. After a long stay to 12 noon the train was sent to the previous station Yekaterinburg-II. This was done for reasons of conspiracy, so as not to attract undue attention of local residents. The Tsar's train was sent to the small freight station on the outskirts of the city, where it was delivered to one of the freight terminal tracks, between the Yekaterinburg-II and Yekaterinburg-III stations.

At the Yekaterinburg-II station, Yakovlev transferred the arrested Tsar and prisoners to the Bolsheviks, signed by the chairman of the Uralsovet A.G. Beloborodov and a member of the regional executive committee B.V. Didkovsky. During the transfer there were also Bolsheviks I.I. Goloshchekin and A.D. Avdeev [19].



Yekaterinburg, Shartash station. Exit to suburban electric trains from Kuybyshev street. In the center is the worship Cross on the site of the planned construction of the church of the icon of the Virgin "Valaam". Photo by the author

The painting "Transfer of the members of the Romanov family to the members of the Ural Council" by artist Vladimir Nikolaevich Pchelin (1869-1941). Made in 1927.

It shows the Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra and Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna being handed over to the Uralsovet, after arrival by train on April 30, 1918.

On it (from left to right): A.D. Avdeev; F.I. Goloshchekin; A.G. Beloborodov; B. B. Didkovsky; V. V. Yakovlev; Nicholas II; Alexandra Feodorovna; P. V. Guzakov; and Maria Nikolaevna.





Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg - also called "House of freedom" or "House of special purpose"

In the house of the engineer Ipatyev, the Tsar's family was delivered about 15 o'clock in the afternoon.

From Tobolsk governor-general house to the Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg, then renamed to "House of freedom" and "House of special purpose" by the Bolsheviks, the Imperial prisoners made a 1700-kilometer travel in 4.5 days. These days, from 26 to 30 April in 1918, fell at the end of Lent.

"Ipatiev House", originally on Voznesenskaya street, Yekaterinburg, was confiscated

in 1918 by the Bolsheviks for the accomodation of the Imperial Family. It was then on the corner of the streets of Karl Liebknecht and Clara Zetkin. In the Soviet period, it housed the Museum of the Revolution (1927 - 1932). In 1977 Ipatiev House was destroyed by the decision of the Politburo; the decision was carried out by first secretary of the regional committee of the CPSU Boris N. Yeltsin. In 2003, on the site of the destroyed "Ipatiev House" the majestic Church-on-the-Blood was built.



Transportation of the Imperial children and loyal subjects

The mission of Commissioner Yakovlev after the delivery to Yekaterinburg of the Tsar, the Tsarina and daughter Maria with their subsequent transfer to the Uralsovet ended.

With his departure to Moscow, the power over the Tsar's children passed into the hands of the sailor Pavel

Khokhryakov, who also had authority from the Central Executive Committee and the Uralsovet.

P.D. Khokhryakov at that time was in Tobolsk, where he played an important role in the mission to deliver the Imperial Family to Yekaterinburg. Khokhryakov was sent for this purpose to Tobolsk in early 1918. Here, with the support of the Bolsheviks, he was elected chairman of the local council.

Interestingly, even before the meeting in Tobolsk, he was familiar with V.V. Yakovlev. According to investigator N.A. Sokolov, Khokhryakov copied Yakovlev [20] by his behavior. But, like Yakovlev himself, he was only an intermediate performer in this secret multi-pass operation to destroy the Romanov family. This is noted by N.A. Sokolov: "The chairman of the Tobolsk Soviets, Pavel Khokhryakov, after delivering the children to Yekaterinburg, did not return to Tobolsk. Apparently, the mission to "elective" chairman of this "elected" institution was over " [21].

All these facts confirm once again that the operation of the Tsar's family transfer to Yekaterinburg was pre-arranged, and, most likely, in a conspiracy with others than Ya. M. Sverdlov.

Another commissar of the Uralsovet, Rodionov, who was the commander of a detachment of Red Guards escorted the Tsar's children, was sent to Tobolsk to help Khokhryakov.

On 6/19 May 1918, the second Sunday after Easter (the Week of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers) took place. On this day, Nicholas II turned 50 years old. The next day, at 11:30. Tsarevich Alexei and his three sisters, the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, and Anastasia, and 26 loyal subjects were brought from the governor's house to the wharf of Tobolsk and put on the steamer "Rus." Only at 15 o'clock the steamer set off.

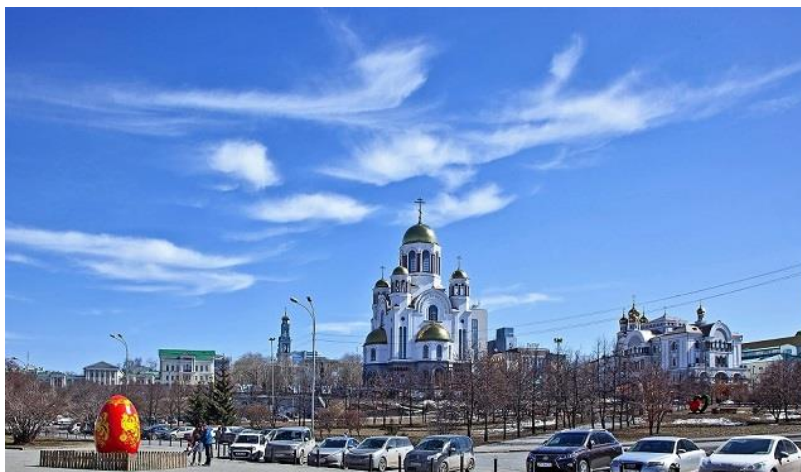
9/22 May, Wednesday, at 8 o'clock in the morning the ship approached the wharf in Tyumen, from where the Tsar's children were transported to the railway station and put on a train.

In Yekaterinburg, the Tsar's children arrived on May 23, 1918 at 2 am, but there is no indication of the exact place of their landing in any document known to us.

Nevertheless, some researchers unequivocally claim that on May 23, Tsarevich Alexei, Grand Duchess Olga, Tatiana and Anastasia were dropped from the train at the intersection of Vostochnaya-Shevchenko streets, referring to the testimony of Pierre Gilliard and Alexandra Tegleva [22] to investigator N.A. Sokolov.

Gilliard: "About 9 o'clock in the morning the train stopped between the stations <...>. There were 5 cabmen".

Teglev: "Arriving at night in Yekaterinburg, we were moved somewhere outside the city in the morning, and the children were taken away" [23] .



*Yekaterinburg. Panoramic view of the Ascension Hill. From the left: Rastorguev's estate - Kharitonovs, Ascension Church, Church-on-the-Blood (built on the site of the "Ipatiev House"), and Patriarchal Compound.
Photo of the author*

In the Tobolsk newspaper Sibirsky Listok in the column "Urban Chronicle", a note was also printed about the departure of the Tsar's children:

"On Monday, May 7, The remaining members of the Romanov family - Alexei and his three sisters Tatiana, Olga and Anastasia - were taken away on the same steamboat "Rus", in which the Romanov family was brought to Tobolsk last year. The ship left with a strong military guard, which included part of a special detachment, as well as a team that came especially from Yekaterinburg " [24].

In the testimony of Gilliard and Tegleva it was noted that they were traveling in a freight car, and the Tsar's children were traveling in a class car, and during the disembarkation of children from other cars no one else was released. An important point: Gilliard and Teglev showed that their observations were conducted through a gap in the car. Indeed, freight cars were lined with a wooden board-lining, so it was always possible to find cracks in the walls. But what can a person see through a slot in a car, especially in an unknown city?

The investigator Sokolov, according to the testimony of other witnesses, also pointed to the fact that the train was standing for a long time, and the cabs came to the cars again to pick up Tatishchev, Hendrikova and Schneider from the class car, and Trupp, Kharitonov, Leonid Sednev and Volkov from the freight car. Again, the line of the railway in the area of crossing of streets Second East - Shevchenko, was in a few dozen meters from the houses of the private urban sector, which would clearly attract the attention of the local population, who was not Bolsheviks supporters. Therefore, they chose a suburban station where, in an atmosphere of complete safety and without unnecessary noise,

it was safe to get prisoners out of the car, put them to cab drivers and take them to Ipatiev's house. Apparently, it was the same place: the Yekaterinburg-II freight station, in front of which was the Yekaterinburg-III station, and between these stations was the park. etc. of the ways (see Gilliard: "the train stopped between the stations").

The diaries of the Imperial couple testify that this long-awaited day was overflowing with the joy of meeting with their children [25]:

10/23 May. Thursday.

N II: "In the morning we were consistently explained that the children were several hours from the city, then that they had arrived at the station and, finally, that they had arrived to the house, although their train stood here from 2 am! It was a great joy to see them again and embrace after four weeks of separation and uncertainty."

AF: "Everything is covered with snow. 4 weeks, as we left from Tobolsk. About 11 [hours], 3 girls suddenly appeared with Alexei - thank you for such a joy that they are again around."



May 23, 1918, the Imperial Family was reunited, the Bolsheviks "mission" of their delivery to Yekaterinburg was carried out. After 54 days of imprisonment in the Ipatiev house, on the night of July 16-17, 1918, all seven members of the Imperial Family and four faithful servants were murdered, their bodies taken to the tract of Ganina Yama. The severity of committed sin prevails over Russia to this day, what we are witnessing.

Let's sum up

1. According to the testimony of the driver P.T. Samokhvalov at the investigation (N.A. Sokolov), first their cars arrived at the station Yekaterinburg-I, where the commissar Goloshchekin ran to the station, and, learning that the train with the Tsar was no longer, ordered to go to the station Yekaterinburg-II (station Shartash). There they drove up to the place where the first-class car was parked, surrounded by soldiers, from there came the Tsar's couple and the Grand Duchess Maria, who were put in his car and taken to the house of Ipatiev. His words do not differ from the data of the commissioners Yakovlev and Matveev. Thus, the Yekaterinburg-II station is the most reliable landing site. It is especially important that, due to his profession, the witness Samokhvalov was well-oriented in the city, unlike other Bolsheviks who did not know Yekaterinburg very well.
2. The distillation section of the single-track line between stations Yekaterinburg-I and-II near the intersection of East - Shevchenko was not a commodity station, thus landing version of the Imperial Family at the specified location is wrong.
3. The version of Tsarevich Alexei and his three sisters arrival at the Yekaterinburg-II station, where they had landed the Tsar's couple, looks most real. There are only ways between stations (the exact place is not indicated anywhere) is only permissible in case of an accident or crash . According to reports, there was a long train stop . In this case, the train, located on the line near residential buildings on the street. The second Eastern one would attract the attention of the local population, moreover, this train unreasonably would block a single-track line for the trains of the Tyumen and Chelyabinsk directions.

The testimony of Gilliard and Tegleva to the investigator N.A. Sokolov on his observations of the landing of the imperial children are given without indicating the exact place. They conducted their

observations through a gap in the car, and in an unfamiliar city, and their testimony does not say about the arrival of Tsar's children at the intersection of the streets Vostochnaya-Shevchenko.

4. The Church in honor of the icon of the Virgin "Port Arthurskaya" in the area of crossing the streets Vostochnaya - Shevchenko is a landmark place of the small procession from the station Shartash to the Church-on-the-Blood, as it is in the middle between the stations Yekaterinburg-I and Yekaterinburg-II. Here one of the four prayer stands of this procession is performed. At intervals of almost a month, the train past this place twice: on April 30 with the Tsar's couple and on May 23 with the Tsar's children, arriving from Tyumen at the station Yekaterinburg-I, then moving to the station Yekaterinburg-II.

5. The documents published on the GARF website give reason to confidently assume that the Romanov family transport operation was carefully planned in advance, and most likely not by Y.M. Sverdlov, and was carried out as expected - with the delivery of the Imperial Family to Yekaterinburg.



Epilogue

It seems that the Ural was chosen by the Bolsheviks for this operation not by chance: being on the breaking point of Europe and Asia, it is outwardly similar to the "spine" on which the "body" of the Russian Empire rests, and is a geographical representation of its symbol - a two-headed eagle, two spread wings which is the Asian and European parts of the territory of the empire.

Probably, it was not by chance that the places of murder of the two main persons of the Romanov dynasty were selected: Emperor Nicholas II and his family were killed in Yekaterinburg, in the Asian part of Russia, and his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, in Perm, in the European part of Russia.

Is there a choice of Ipatiev House as the place of crime, which originally did not even belong to engineer N.N. Ipatiev? The question remains open. Why did the Bolsheviks not take the Tsar's family to

Kostroma to the Ipatiev Monastery, which is considered the "cradle" of the Romanovs' house? The patron of this royal monastery and the Romanovs is the holy martyr Ipatius of Gangra. As you know, the Bolsheviks had their ideals and symbols, by nature anti-Christian. But the Lord is not mocked. On the site of the destroyed Ipatiev House in 1977 at the beginning of the 21st century a magnificent Church-on-the-Blood was built: in 2003, the upper church was consecrated in honor of all the saints in the Russian land; in 2010 the lower church was consecrated in honor of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church; in 2013, consecrated the chapel of the Holy Royal Martyrs on the site of the murder of the holy royal family.

Holy royal Passion-bearers Tsar Nicholas, Tsarina Alexandra, Tsarevich Alexei, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and all the Saints, pray to God for the power of the Russian and our people!

Archival sources

In general the site of the State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF). Electronic publication "Documents on the history of the murder of the royal family in Russian and foreign archives"

URL: <http://statearchive.ru/murder.html> .

[1] The Empress' diary complement the Emperor's diary in terms of indicating breakdowns in transit. When riding a horse-drawn train, she noted cases of damage to the wheels and carts. The fact of ignition of the axlebox on wheels (after Art. Maslyanskaya) was noted on the train, which was quite a frequent occurrence. In the publications of those years there are descriptions of such diversions on the railway transport. The attacker could easily open the lid of the box and pour sand inside. Due to the increased friction, the babbitt bearing smelted, the lubricant and oil in the bush burned, leading to a railway accident.

[2] Remnev A.V., Us L.B. Siberian Railway Committee (KSZHD) // Historical Encyclopedia of Siberia // URL: http://irkipedia.ru/content/komitet_sibirskoy_zheleznoy_dorogi_kszhd_istoricheskaya_enciklopediya_sibiri_2009.

[3] The Ekaterinburg-I station was built in 1878, at that time it was the terminus on the Gornozavodsk railway line (then the Perm railway). Currently, it is Ekaterinburg-Passenger station.

[4] The Ekaterinburg-II station appeared with the beginning of construction in 1885 of the section of the railway Yekaterinburg-Tyumen (Perm railway). After the construction of the Tyumen-Omsk railway was completed in 1913, this direction became the northern route of the Trans-Siberian Railway. In 1896 the Yekaterinburg - Chelyabinsk railway was built, so the southern direction appeared.

[5] The Ekaterinburg-III station appeared not earlier than 1912 with the start of construction. D. branches on Tavda and originally belonged to the private North-Eastern Ural Railway. The line was officially opened in February 1917.

[6] Davydova LA, Ilyin Yu.I. and others. Creation of the Great Siberian Way. T. 2. // Under total. ed. Yu.L. Ilyin. - SPb, 2005. - p. 125-126.

[7] Ekaterinburg-Tovarny station was founded in 1906 and was located 1 km south of Ekaterinburg-I station, on the territory adjacent to ul. Chelyuskintsev (formerly. North). It was a freight station with warehouses where loading and unloading of wagons took place. It is valid.

[8] See the history of construction of the first building of the Mining Institute: <https://art-oleg.blogspot.ru/2013/12/blog-post20.html>. In 1916, the design of the St. Petersburg architects brothers A. and E. Bernardazzi in the recreation area of Yekaterinburg - Green Grove - began the construction of buildings of the Mining Institute. On January 27, 1917, it was renamed the Ural Mining Institute of Emperor Nicholas II. After the revolution, construction was abandoned.

[9] The case on the consideration of the construction of the Kazan-Yekaterinburg railway line. 09/29/1910 - 02/04/1916 (Gasov. F. 62, Op. 1. L. 281).

[10] In the late 1920s, construction began on new eastern districts of the city, such as the Pioneer settlement; With the creation of the UPI, the district Vtuzgorodok appeared.

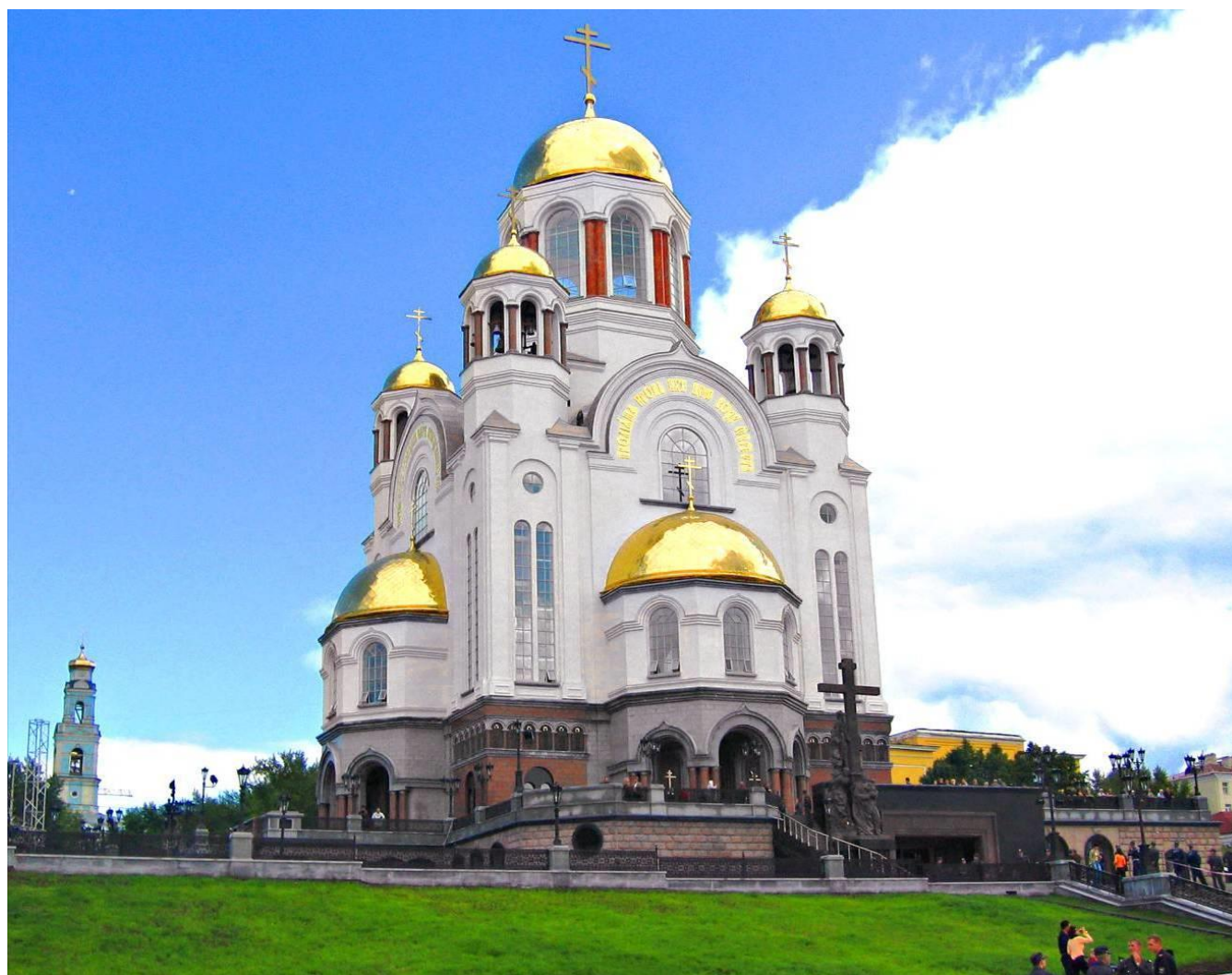
[11] Memories of V.V. Yakovleva (Stoyanovich-Myachin, "Anton") "Transportation of Nikolai Romanov from Tobolsk to Yekaterinburg". (GARF. F. 601. Op. 2. D. 31. Ll. 26-73, 75-81 vol.).

[12] Sokolov N.A. The murder of the royal family. - M, 1991. - p. 146-147.

[13] Bykov P.M. The last days of the Romanovs. Ed. 3rd, add. - Sverdlovsk, 1990. - p. 77.

[14] The last days of the Romanovs. Documents, investigation materials, diaries, versions. - Sverdlovsk, 1991. - p. 91.

- [15] Zaitsev G.B. Romanovs in Yekaterinburg. - Ekaterinburg, 1998. - p. 12-19.
- [16] Verkhovsky A.M. Is there a worship cross installed? // URL: <http://tzarskaya-road1918.ru/am-verhovskij/trudy/tam-li-ustanovlen-poklonnyj-krest>.
- [17] Shitov V.V., Neuimin N.B. On the issue of the arrival of the Tsar's family in Yekaterinburg April 30, 1918 // Tenth Romanov readings: July 17–19, 2006 - Ekaterinburg, 2007. - p. 71–72.
- [18] Ibid., P. 74.
- [19] This historical fact is captured on the famous painting “The Transfer of the Romanov Family to the Ural Council”, commissioned by the Ural Bolsheviks by the artist V.N. Bee in 1927. Currently, the picture is stored in the funds of the Museum of History of Yekaterinburg. (<https://newdaynews.ru/ekb/579494.html>).
- [20] N. Sokolov The murder of the Imperial Family. - M., 1991. - C. 141-142.
- [21] Ibid., P. 146.
- [22] Pierre Gilliard - French teacher of the Tsar's children; Alexandra Tegleva (the members of the Royal Family called her Shura) - a hereditary noblewoman, served as a nanny for the Tsar's children. In 1922, P. Gilliard and A. Tegleva married and further lived in Switzerland.
- [23] Sokolov N.A. The murder of the Imperial Family. - M., 1991. - P. 147–148.
- [24] Siberian leaflet. 1918. May 9 (22). Number 50. (State Archives in Tobolsk. F. G-1. Op. 1. D. 810. L.119 about.).
- [25] The last diaries of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna Romanova: February 1917 - July 16, 1918 / Comp., Ed., Foreword, intro. and comments. V.A. Kozlova and V.M. Khrustaleva. - Novosibirsk, 1999. (URL: <https://www.sakharov-center.ru/asfcd/auth/?t=page&num=12457>).
- [26] Plan of Yekaterinburg, 1920 (GASO. F. R-191. Op. 1. D. 8243. L. 005a).



Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Lyon Hall of the Catherine Palace was returned to its former glory

For the Tsarskoye Selo Museum-Reserve, this is a historic event: 74 years after the end of the Great Patriotic War, the entire front suite of the palace was returned to the exhibition area. The Alpha and Omega are the Church of the Resurrection of Christ and the Lyon Hall. A breakthrough in the revival of the hall was made possible thanks to the financial support of PJSC Gazprom and the corporate Fund ENGIE (France).

The agreement between PJSC Gazprom, the ENGIE Foundation and the Tsarskoye Selo Museum-Reserve was signed in May 2018 at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. A year later, on June 5, 2019, the architectural masterpiece appeared in all the splendour of the decoration. It makes the same stunning impression as centuries ago, thanks to the talent and skill of the Russian and French masters. In the luxury of decoration and craftsmanship, the Lyon Hall is not inferior to the famous Amber Room.



This interior, created by the will of the crowned owners of the Tsarskoye Selo residence by the best architects of the past, has a dramatic, but at the same time, happy fate. According to experts, this is a very rare case, when subsequent significant changes only improved the hall and made it one of the most elegant palace interiors of the 19th century. In 1941, before the fascist occupation, the subjects of the lapis lazuli headset were of amazing beauty, the paintings and the chandelier were evacuated. The painting of the ceiling, the unique decoration of the walls with silk and lapis lazuli were destroyed. But the parquet stolen by the fascists was discovered in Berlin and in 1947 was returned to Tsarskoye Selo. In recent years, Luigi Premazzi's watercolor reminded about the former luxury of the interior, and museum workers could only dream of reviving the hall.

The Lyon Hall - one of the most perfect interiors of the architect Charles Cameron - was among the private apartments of Catherine II in the Great Tsarskoye Selo (Catherine) Palace. This masterpiece was created in 1781 - 1783 and got its name due to the wall decoration with silk made in Lyon. The interior was part of the grand suite of the palace, which dictated the special luxury of its decoration. Rare in refinement, the effect is due to the combination of "golden" silk with blue lapis lazuli. Almost one and a half tons of stone was spent on the lazurite decoration of the master; in the door and parquet decoration, they used "overseas coloured 12 varieties of trees" and mother-of-pearl. Since the time of Catherine II, silk wallpaper has been repeatedly replaced. In the middle of the XIX century, the Lyon Hall became the main living room for Maria Alexandrovna, the wife of Alexander II. According to her will, architect Ippolit Monighetti made fundamental changes in the design of the room: the fabric began to completely cover the walls. Also, the interior was decorated with new pieces of furniture - a set of furniture (made according to Monigetti sketches) and a lazurite chandelier with gilded bronze decor and a monogram of Empress Maria Alexandrovna. In 1866, to the 25th anniversary of the marriage of Alexander II and Maria Alexandrovna, the walls were covered with new Lyon silk, now it was a golden bud fabric, it tightened the walls from panels to the upper edge of the eaves, it was used in upholstery and in curtains. In this form, the Lyon Hall, captured in 1878 in watercolor by Luigi Premazzi, existed until 1941.



The interior decorations were destroyed during the war. But 25 pieces of the unique furniture ensemble, as well as the palace inventory, archival documents and photographs, have been preserved from the decoration of the hall, and it was decided to recreate the interior decoration from the time of Alexander II. In 2005, it was possible to take the first step towards the revival of the interior - to restore the three-dimensional solution of the Lyon Hall. The project of its restoration was prepared in 1983 by the then chief architect of the museum, Alexander Kedrinsky (1917-2003); the project was adjusted in 2006–2007.

Restoring the entire decor of the Lyon Hall is an extremely expensive and time-consuming task, so the work was carried out in stages. With the support of patrons of art (Transsoyuz Charitable Foundation), lazurite portals framing the three doors of the hall have been restored.



In 2018, thanks to the financial support of PJSC Gazprom and the ENGIE Foundation, a new large phase of work began. Gazprom allocated funds to recreate the painting of the ceiling (including the

development of sketches and cartoons for pictorial inserts; the creation of pictorial compositions and stucco decoration with gilding on the ceiling and cornice) and composing mosaic panels of lapis lazuli with gilded bronze decor, as well as for the installation of upholstery walls and manufacturing portieres of Lyon silk, gables (brushes, braid) according to historical patterns.

ENGIE allocated funds for the production of silk. Fortunately, the museum preserved iconographic materials (palace inventories, photographs, autochromes, watercolour, silk samples), and in Lyon - the archives of the Lamy and Giraud weaving manufactory, which in 1860 carried out the order of the Russian Imperial Court. The collection of the successor of this company - Lyon manufactory Prell - preserved order books of the XIX century. A historically based decision was made to entrust the restoration of the silk decoration of the Lyon Hall to the French masters of the Prell manufactory. In accordance with the museum's project to recreate the upholstery of the walls, fabrics for furniture and curtains, modern specialists produced 320 meters of fabric "golden bud" ("Lampas bouton d'or Louis XVI"). Thus, silk masterly work, created by French masters.



Works with lapis lazuli and painting were carried out by the Tsarskoye Selo amber workshop, whose specialists restored the Amber Room, revived the Agate Rooms and the Church of the Resurrection of Christ, the Catherine Palace; work with silk - specialists of Alpina.

Olga Golodets, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Olga Taratynova, Director of the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Building Plant, Elena Burmistrova, Director of Gazprom PJSC, Sylvi Bermann, the French Ambassador to Russia, ENGIE, spoke at the opening ceremony.

Olga Golodets:

- Without exaggeration, we can say that the restoration of the Lyon Hall is an event in world culture. The iconic museum has found one of its legendary interiors. The re-enactment is done so delicately and professionally that you feel yourself in an authentic Lyon room. I would like to say thanks to Gazprom and Engie for making it possible. The restoration of this interior is a great joy for all future visitors to the museum.

Olga Taratynova:

- The Lyon Hall is our Mont Blanc, and today it is conquered. For many years we could only timidly dream that this masterpiece, destroyed by war, would acquire its former glory. Probably, there is no greater happiness for museum workers than when you see revived interiors or things that were considered lost. Thanks to philanthropists, the dream turned out to be a reality - in June 2019, the Lyon Hall is ready to receive visitors. The museum is proud of this work. It shows all of us that culture has no boundaries, and good intentions consolidate efforts and unite people.

Elena Burmistrova:

- The event at which we are present can really be called historical. Tomorrow, the public will be able to see the Lyon Hall, which suffered greatly during the Great Patriotic War. Restorers have done this difficult job in a short time. And, as in any good deed, it was not without lucky coincidences: we managed to find archival documents about silk production in Lyon and to recreate silk. We are proud to assist the museum in restoring this masterpiece.



As director of the Tsarskoye Selo amber workshop Boris Igdalov noted, it was not easy to work with such a stone as lapis lazuli - "It is very small in nature. It is found in Transbaikalia, but there is a different shade, bluer. Therefore, lapis lazuli from Afghanistan was used," he explained. In total, it took about one ton of stone to recreate the decoration of the hall.

Videos - 1) https://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201965171-q1uxL.html?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop

2) <https://www.ntv.ru/video/1743722/?from=newspage>

3) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/345768/

4) https://otr-online.ru/news/lionskiy-zal-ekaterinskogo-dvorca-otkryli-posle-restavracii-127565.html?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop

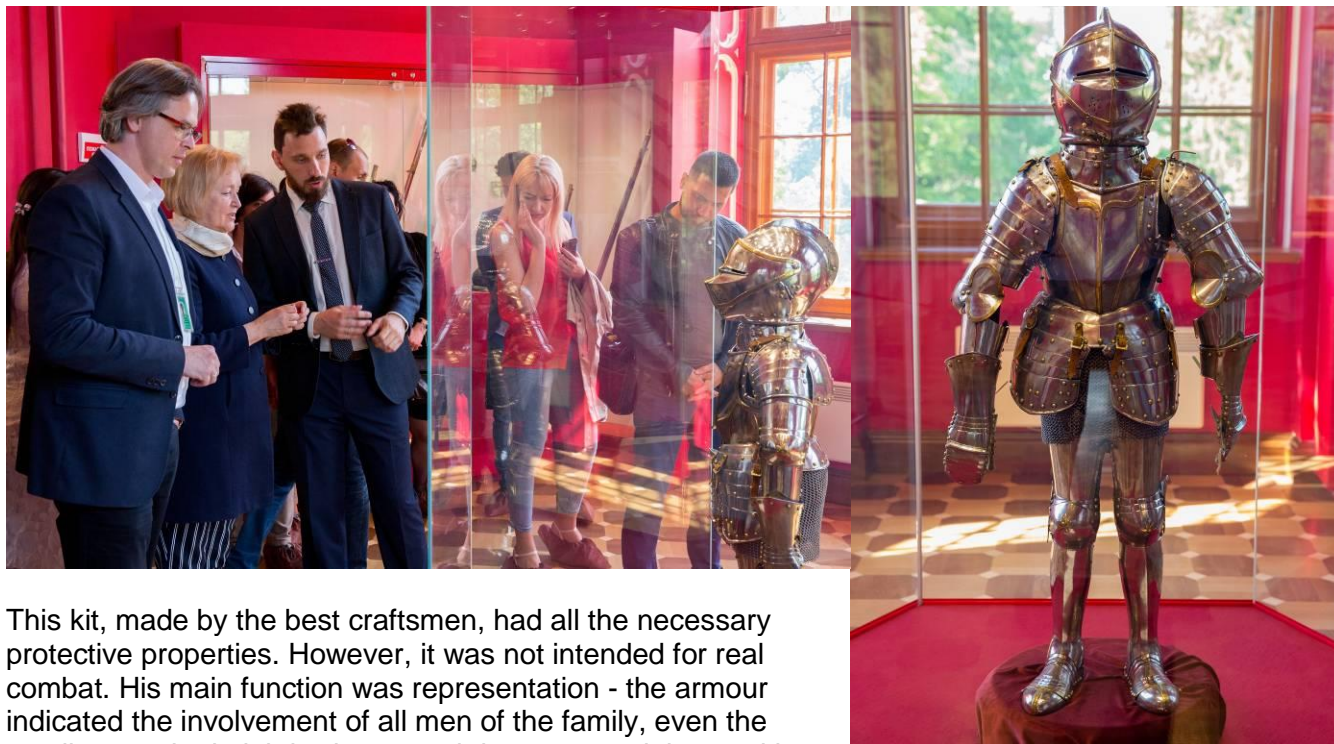
5) https://topspb.tv/news/2019/06/5/lazurit-i-zhidkoe-zoloto-kak-vyglyadit-lionskij-zal-ekaterinskogo-dvorca-posle-restavracii/?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop



Children's armour of the XVI century

"Tsarskoe Selo" opened an exhibition of one artefact "Children's armour of the XVI century from the collection of the State Hermitage Museum". The armour is represented in the pavilion "Arsenal", it comes from a historical collection of weapons, once stored here. This item is an excellent example of formal protective vestments for a child of 8-10 years. Made in the middle of the XVI century, it represents the children's version of the most advanced adult knight's armour. Despite its small size, its layout and thickness of steel plates fully correspond to the adult sample.

The armour is decorated in accordance with the tradition adopted in the second half of the XVI century. The outstanding forward bib is designed both to enhance protection and to give the owner of the figure some peculiar, fashionable proportions at that time. The armour is complemented by yellow metal fringes emphasizing the main forms.



This kit, made by the best craftsmen, had all the necessary protective properties. However, it was not intended for real combat. His main function was representation - the armour indicated the involvement of all men of the family, even the smallest, to the knightly virtues and demonstrated the wealth and nobility of the family. Moreover, the future knight had the opportunity to practice wearing the armour - a skill that, undoubtedly, should have been useful to him in the future.

"To take part in a solemn ceremony, to prove oneself a battle or tournament hero, even if in a playful way," such armour helped the child become a full-fledged actor in adult court life," says Sergey Mankov, a senior researcher at the Tsarskoye Selo museum.

Children's armour is important evidence of the aristocratic culture of the XVI century - the time when the representation of power acquired a very special meaning and colour.

Pavilion "Arsenal", which for more than seventy years was in a dilapidated state, after the completion of the restoration was opened to visitors in August 2016. Here is the exposition of "Tsarskoye Selo Arsenal. The Imperial Weapons Collection», created jointly with the State Hermitage Museum. A subject of special pride is the collection of the oriental weapons of the Russian Emperors from the funds of the Tsarskoye Selo museum. Among the items on display (over 400 in all) are the famous painting by Horace Verne "Tsarskoye Selo Carousel", collections of oriental edged weapons, firearms of the 18th – 19th centuries, horse harness items. The Hermitage has provided from its collection for temporary storage rare items, including 16th century armour from the collection of Nicholas I, which were once in the Arsenal.

The exhibition will run until the end of September 2019.



The English taste of Catherine the Great

The exhibition "The English Taste of the Empress. Tsarskoye Selo Catherine the

Great " is dedicated to the 290th anniversary of the birth of Catherine II, and is housed in the Zubovsky wing of the Catherine Palace. Among the rarest exhibits are authentic English prints from the Tsarskoye Selo collection and objects from the famous "Green Frog Service" from the collection of the State Hermitage Museum.

For the former Tsarskoye Selo Imperial residence, Catherine II is a key character. Becoming an Empress in 1762, she spent a lot of time in Tsarskoye Selo. During its 34-year rule, the palace and park ensemble reached its highest peak. The Empress personally participated in all significant architectural projects, acted not only as the customer, but also the co-author. Everything that Catherine II did in Tsarskoye Selo bore the imprint of her personality. It was here the Anglomania of the Empress was fully reflected.

Catherine II had never been to England, but collected types of famous medieval and modern buildings, studied architecture and park construction, which were in fashion in Europe at the end of the 18th century. An extensive collection of English engravings of the 18th century, collected by the Empress, is kept in the Tsarskoye Selo museum-reserve (about a hundred sheets in all). The collection presents the types of English cities and estates: Stowe, Kew, Richmond, Wilton, Hall-Barn and others. Some images are presented at the exhibition. Palladium Bridge in the Catherine Park, Pavilion "Arsenal" in Alexandrovsky supposedly descended from English engravings.

In 1771, a new trend-setter of garden fashion arrived in Tsarskoye Selo - master Johann Bush, who set about creating an English garden at the residence. Later his son Joseph worked here. Garden masters father and son Bushy, three architects of the Neyelovy family, jointly created new park landscapes, retaining their natural features, but giving them the character of fashionable English parks. The gardens were filled with wonderful bridges, rotundas, obelisks, pavilions.

The Empress confessed in letters to Voltaire: "At the present time I love to madness the English gardens, crooked lines, gentle slopes, ponds like lakes and sharply defined coastal outlines, and I feel



the deepest aversion to the lines straight, similar to each other. I hate fountains for the torture with which they subject water, forcing it to follow a directional, contrary to its natural course; the statues have space in galleries, in the front, etc., - in a word, Anglomania took control of my plantomania." Charles Cameron soon joined the commonwealth of park geniuses. The interiors of the Big Tsarskoye Selo Palace, luxurious Agate rooms and park constructions created by him are masterpieces of architecture of the 18th century. The furnishings created by the projects of the famous Scot for the rooms of Catherine II and her son, Grand Duke Pavel Petrovich, are also represented at the exhibition.



Among the rare exhibits of the exhibition is a two-seater baby stroller (England, London. Last quarter of the 18th century), owned by the Empress's grandchildren. Children's carriages, which harnessed ponies, donkeys and even goats, were common in European yards. Riding in a miniature carriage was one of the entertainments of the Royal children, who simultaneously taught them the rules of this part of court life.

A garden stroller, most likely acquired at the behest of Catherine II, who took care of raising her grandchildren, was made in London. It is a reduced in size phaeton - a type of fashionable open crew.

The objects presented at the exhibition from the Green Frog Service from the State Hermitage Museum collection are extremely interesting. In 1777, Yuri Felten built a traveling palace, which was called Kekerekeksinen (after the name of this area, Kekeriki, which was interpreted as Finnish echo of the frog croak). Later, the palace was renamed Chesmensky in connection with the victory of the Russian fleet over the Turks in the Chesme Bay of the Aegean Sea. It was for this palace that Catherine II ordered a British ceramist, Josiah Wedgwood, with numerous views of Britain, which, without repeating themselves, were supposed to represent Gothic buildings and landscape parks. This graphic program corresponded to both the personal tastes of Catherine II and her intention to always and everywhere demonstrate her enlightened views. In 1774, a service with 1222 topographically accurate British landscapes, consisting of 944 items, arrived in Russia.

A catalogue of species in French was made for the Empress. To facilitate the identification of landscapes, the numbers corresponding to the catalogue were painted on the revolutions of each product. Wedgwood called this service "Russian". In Russia, this ceramic ensemble began to be called in accordance with its affiliation to the Catherine's travelling palace. The name "Chesme Set" lasted the longest.

A scientific catalogue was prepared, the articles were written by the employees of the State Museum-Building Plant Tsarskoye Selo and the State Hermitage Museum.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/346710/



The portrait of Emperor Nicholas II on a wall in Novosibirsk is destroyed. It was opened on May 19, 2019 in the square near the House of Officers.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwzh-Hy4L1g>



In the square, a fallen tree apparently destroyed the wall.

“The irony of the situation: we thought we had foreseen everything. Strengthened the wall, plastered again, so that nothing crumbled. Put light on. Made iron cornices as protection from the rain. And the whole thing is also covered with anti-vandal varnish, so that it could stand for ages. But we were not ready for such a turn”, one of the creators of this artistic object, Marina Yagoda, commented on the annoying event on her page on the VKontakte social network.

According to her, the city is going to restore the wall, but the exact dates are not yet clear. The artist in any case will be ready to help re-paint it.

Some users of social networks saw this as a sign from above, and some even gloated. The authors of the art object themselves in a short video from the scene do not exclude that local communists may be involved in the destruction of the wall.



St. Petersburg is preparing for the restoration of the defensive structures of Kronstadt.

The excursions to Kronstadt on a yacht are launched in St. Petersburg. For the time being tourists could see the forts "Alexander I" and "Kronshtadt" only from the water. The opening of excursion routes is a start of a new tourist cluster in the Northern capital.

Once one of the most fortified naval bases in the world - the famous Kronstadt forts. They were built from 1704 until the beginning of the First World War, and were never taken by the enemy. Peter I scattered this necklace of artificial islands at such a distance from each other that no enemy ship would slip through. The whole fairway was good at shooting. Today, most of the forts are abandoned. Only solo tourists sometimes manage to visit the impregnable fortresses.

A project called “Kronstadt. Island of Forts” was presented during the ship trip to one of them.

“Every year there is a lot of visits to Kronstadt during the season. And the fact that such a new route appears, which will soon begin to work on the forts of Kronstadt, cannot but rejoice, because this is an interesting subject both for residents and for our guests,” notes Yevgeny Pankevich, Chairman of the Tourism Development Committee of St. Petersburg.

The fort "Alexander I", better known as "The Plague", with wind and rain, cast iron pipes, and rusty gates. It was built in 1845. The fort was armed with 103 guns. At the turn of the XIX - XX centuries there was a medical laboratory. Doctors isolated from the outside world created serum from the plague here. Experimental horses were kept in the stables, and once a week a steamer called "Microbe" with food came from the mainland.

"I do not even have words to determine the amount to be invested in a comprehensive survey of this historical object, and then, having determined its damage, develop the strategy for its restoration. To tell the truth, I don't even think about it," the deputy director of the Kronstadt Museum of History Yevgeny Kobchikov admits.

And this is how the fort will look like after reconstruction. The authors of the project plan to turn it into an interactive theatre venue. The changes will affect the other two forts - "Kronslot" and "Peter I". Inner Marina, hall for ceremonies, aquarium, Navy Museum, hotels. It is supposed to finance the project at the expense of the federal budget plus investments.

"This is investment money, these are people and companies that are counting on the return on their investments, as well as patronage of the arts. These are companies, large corporations, private businessmen who have decided to support the project," says Ksenia Shoigu, member of the working group on the development of Kronstadt.

And although today the Kronstadt forts look depressing, the authors of the project promise that in 5 years they will definitely be transformed. At least three of them. It is expected that every year about 5 million tourists will come here.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/345577/



On June 5, a memorial plate in honor of Ivan Goremykin was installed in the Zavokzalny district opposite the memorial. Goremykin was the Minister of the Interior under Emperor Nicholas II, he served as chairman of the Council of Ministers. During the February Revolution, he was arrested by the Provisional Government. Later he lived in Sochi at his dacha in the area of the Zapolyarye sanatorium, where in December 1917 he tragically died along with his wife, daughter and son-in-law under unclear circumstances.



The memorial plate was solemnly opened by the head of Sochi, Anatoly Pakhomov, the chairman of the City Assembly, Viktor Filonov, and the head of the Sochi police department, Sergei Ogurtsov. Bishop Herman of Sochi and Tuapse served a prayer service at this place.

Subsequently, a stela will be installed on the site of the memorial plate.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNTVPDlqd34>



The romance "Burn, Burn, My Star" was written in 1846 by composer Pyotr Bulakhov to the words of Vladimir Chuevsky, a student at Moscow University, and was presented at a creative competition dedicated to the 700th anniversary of Moscow in 1847. The romance became popular in the beginning of the First World War. Its arrangement, made by singer Vladimir Sabinin, was recorded in 1915.

During the war when life and death contrastin, the image of a star received a deeper interpretation than personal love. With the advent of Soviet power, the romance was considered a White Guard and was banned for many years. In the USSR, the singer George Vinogradov "rescued" the romance from non-existence in 1944.

In the video an album with photos of family members of Nicholas II is being scrolled accompanied by the sounds of this wonderful romance. For Nikolai Alexandrovich, his wife, Alexandra Fedorovna, was undoubtedly the star that lit up his whole life. Burn, burn, my star, Greetings star of love! You are my one treasured, another one will never be, The star of love, the star of the magic. The star of the past best days! You will be forever unforgettable. In the soul of my tormented! Your rays by heavenly power. All my life is enlightened; Do I die, you shine, my star over the grave!

Video author Irina Koroteeva (Moscow) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0OWM4YTrHA>



Until August 25, an exhibition of wax figures in the Museum of local lore in Bryansk, including Emperor Nicholas II and his family. As the organizers of the exposition told, the Bryansk inhabitants could see the figures of pious Princes Vladimir Svyatoslavich and Alexander Nevsky, Princess Olga, Sergius of Radonezh, Seraphim of Sarov, and the great writers: Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky. Among the most striking exhibits is a wax copy of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper fresco.



On June 6, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he believes that there were many heroes in Russia's history, including poet Alexander Pushkin and Emperor Peter the Great. At the meeting with the heads of the world's leading news agencies, when asked whom he considered to be Russia's national heroes he said - "You have named one of them yourself: Pushkin. It is impossible not to mention him on his birthday," Putin pointed out. "Peter the Great comes to mine next for he founded the city where I was born, he was a great reformer who reshaped our country," the president went on to say. "We have many [heroes], and it is impossible to choose just one. There are many from the creative community and statesmen," he said, adding that he was very fond of Tchaikovsky's music. "We have much to be proud of, we have many heroes," the head of state concluded.



July 3 Netflix streaming service will premiere the series "The Last Czar" about the life of Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family. The project combines elements of reconstruction and documentary and covers the historical period from the Tsar's coronation in 1896 to the tragic events of 1918, when Nicholas II and his family were shot by the Bolsheviks in the basement of the Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg. Roles in the multi-part film were performed by actors Robert Robert Jack, Suzanne Herbert and Ben Cartwright.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wUmTjgxTKE>



You just know it, when someone is saying "true story" it most likely is not. And the new Netflix docu-series "The Last Czar" seems to be exactly that, not the true story. The description of the series has some very indicative sentences about the content:

"It ended with their execution soon after the February Revolution." – Oh, well, if 1,5 year later is soon!

"Nicholas and Alexandra, who loved their role as the Tsar and Tsarina of Russia," - Did they?

"The trailer shows how the royal couple truly believed that nothing would ever come between them - they were of course, wrong about this." - No, you are wrong, their love endured to the end, nothing came between them!

And about Rasputin - "Over the years, he used his status and power to his complete advantage, taking bribes and sexual favours, and according to his critics, even had an affair with the Tsarina." - An affair with the Tsarina - lies and slander again.....



The Axenoff Jewellery House, nobly talented for royal times and lush royal aesthetics, presents a new collection of Bouquet de l'impératrice. The inspiration for the collection was the era of the Romanov family, the incomparable Alexandra Feodorovna and her amazing love of flowers.

The DNA of the brand Axenoff Jewellery - a genuine love for the history, culture and style of the great monarchies of Europe, including the Russian Imperial family. Therefore, each new collection is a kind of research work dedicated to the life of the Imperial family, its tastes and artistic explorations.

This time, designer and artist Petr Aksenov was carried away by the life of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna - and found out all about her love for flowers. "Her Majesty's living room was a

wonderful room where the air was filled with aromas of lilacs and lilies of the valley in spring and winter," recalls the life of the Empress who gave bouquets from the greenhouse at the Alexander Palace to her friends, servants, relatives, artists and writers all year round.

Now her love for flowers (and bold jewelry!) is embodied in the amazing collection of Axenoff Jewellery Bouquet de l'impératrice, replete with pearls, enamels with flower arrangements and openwork weaving of silver.



The Foma Magazine launches a new project "Nicholas II and Alexandra Fedorovna. Words of Love" and announces a fundraising for its implementation.

The basis of the project is old photographs of the Imperial Family, quotes from the letters of Saints Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna to each other and excerpts from their personal diaries: about love, marriage and family happiness. Each phrase is an original decorated card, which can be kept for memory, donated or sent to relatives from any part of the world. Perhaps, with your help, we will find other forms of project implementation: posters, albums, and so on.



Several new bust have arrived to be placed on the Alley of Glory of the Romanovs in Avdotino.

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



In Petersburg, after two years of restoration, on Wednesday, June 19, the Bank Bridge with the famous griffins was opened. For 200 years they did not leave the crossing, protected the city, but the old construction needed to be overhauled, and the sculptures were temporarily dismantled.

In the workshop, they were returned the historic bronze color (after the war they were repainted in green) and they received anti-vandal coating. As for the bridge itself, in total, 120 elements, including supporting structures, have been replaced. Historical details tried to keep to the maximum.

"If you stand in the middle of this bridge, then all financial wishes can come true, if they are blessed. Therefore, we again return this crossing and again give hope to everyone who wishes to make a wish. I will also try to make a wish. First of all, I wanted to say thanks to everyone, because this is really a big holiday for us. We are restoring our historical center of our city," said the head of the city, Alexander Beglov, at the opening.

Bank bridge was built in 1826. The last time it was restored half a century ago.

Video - <https://www.5-tv.ru/news/254848/bankovskij-most-vpeterburge-otkryli-posle-restavratsii-video/>



Russian Heritage in the UK Society launched a series of booklets dedicated to the Russian presence in the United Kingdom - the first one is about Peter the Great and his visit to England. It's a 12-page A5-size coloured booklet which comes either in English or Russian. £2 each + P&P (depends on the weight of a letter or parcel).



The project "Romanovs. Three Centuries of the Russian North" will be prepared for December 2019, in the Museum named after Shemanovsky in Salekhard (Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District, YNAO).

The regional project "Creative people" organize the exhibition, said the Head of PR-department of the museum Galina Guryanov.

"We have major exhibitions on the history of the district every year. But this time we were faced with the task of coming up with a project that Yamal would be shown on the background of Russia - and Russia on the background of Yamal. This is how the idea of the Romanovs exhibition was born. Three centuries of the Russian North. "We want to highlight the history of the Imperial House, and to show how the government interacted with such remote corners, like our Yamal," Guryanova said.

Divided into four parts, the exposition will cover periods from the 17th to the 19th centuries, the prehistory of the Romanov dynasty and its last years in power. The Yamal Museum expects that the exhibition will feature exhibits from Tobolsk, Omsk, Yekaterinburg, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. "We will go to museums, where there are exhibits that we are interested in, find out if they are transportable, and whether we can show them," explained the head of the PR department.

The culture department of the YNAO allocated 4 million roubles for the project. According to Guryanova, the funds will allow the exhibition to use multimedia screens and technologies of augmented reality and other modern approaches.





On July 15, Lipetsk Regional Museum of Local History, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Russia, will present the exhibition "Health is a good gift. Romanovs and sport".

The exposition consists of unique items from the collection of the Peterhof State Museum-Preserve (St. Petersburg), illustrating the sporting hobbies of the Russian imperial house from the 18th to the beginning of the 20th centuries.

- "The exhibition features more than 250 historical "sporting" artifacts from Peterhof's collection: bicycles, sledges, yacht models, firearms and cold arms, skates, tennis rackets, croquet sets. Museum objects together with visual information and accompanying texts build a single story about the sports preferences of the Romanovs and the history of physical culture in the country, in general," said Larisa Loshkareva, director of the Regional museum of local lore.

But the exhibition will tell not only about sports and physical education since the time of Nicholas II and show the sports equipment of those times. The story starts with Peter I, the founder of Peterhof and the builder of the "iron" plants in Lipetsk. The first Russian Emperor, in need of strong people not only in spirit, but also - body, laid the foundations of state policy in the field of physical culture in the Russian Empire. Later, it was the Imperial family who supported by their example advanced ideas in this field, without disregarding sports hobbies, whether they were new items from Europe or Russian folk games. Peterhof, the summer residence of the Romanovs on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, especially was famous for various types of physical activity. The members of the Imperial family engaged in hunting, horse riding, made long walks and sea trips - enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities in the open air.



On June 26, the opening of the exhibition "Memory of Poltava. 310 years of Poltava Victory", was held in the Museum of Artillery, Engineering and Communications Forces in St.-Petersburg.

On June 27 (July 8), 1709, the Battle of Poltava took place, the largest battle of the Northern War, as a result of which the Russian troops under the command of Peter I defeated the Swedes, which led to a turning point in the war in favor of Russia.



Two days after the famous battle in Poltava, triumphal processions and the first parade took place. At organized feasts and festive dinners, Peter I raised the "cupping cup for his teachers" and generously presented his "children" - commanders and military leaders. At the same time, they conducted a large-scale repetition (a kind of reconstruction) of a glorious battle for the sake of Ayuki Khan's Kalmyk warriors who were late to the battle. Swedish prisoners were carried out between the troops. The threatening appearance of the Kalmyks had a psychological effect on the Swedes - many prisoners chose to go to the Russian service rather than be in the hands of wild steppe inhabitants.

For the second time in the same year, Poltava Victory was celebrated in Moscow. The Poltava triumph became one of the most grandiose festivals organized in the reign of Peter I. Tables with lavish treats were arranged throughout Moscow, trophies of battle were shown in Kolomenskoye: from banners, timpani, drums and guns, to the stretcher of King Charles XII, from which he led the battle.

All the details about when and how Poltava anniversaries were celebrated can be found at the exhibition "Memory of Poltava".

The relics of the Poltava battle will be also presented, including cavalry leggings, which Peter I used during the battle, and were an integral part of his military uniform, now stored in the Hermitage. Visitors will see Peter I's leather jacket. Similar jackets made of thick buffalo, cowhide or buckskin have become a popular protective weapon for cavalymen from the 30s-40s of XVII century. They were made of leather, tanned in fish oil, which made it elastic and durable. Peter I himself repeatedly participated in the hostilities. In the Battle of Poltava, according to legend, he personally led a cavalry counterattack against the Swedes.

The exhibits include Russian cold and firearms, trophies captured from the Swedes (pistols, a gun, a sword, an officer's neck sign with the monogram of King Charles XII), rare prints and unique editions of the XVIII - XIX centuries.

A separate section of the exhibition tells about the magnitude of the 200th anniversary of the Poltava victory in the Russian Empire in 1909. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to read what the Poltava newspapers wrote then, get acquainted with posters and advertisements, offering, for example, to buy perfume, cologne and Poltava victory soap in memory of the 200th anniversary, to rent rooms for the duration of the celebrations, or to purchase warehouse for the upcoming anniversary the best so far essay "Stories about Peter the Great" by General - Lieutenant A. Petrushevsky to familiarize troops and people with the event ...

The exhibition "Memory of Poltava" will be open at the Museum of Artillery until August 5, 2019.



A vidéo about the Russian churches in Nice, France - "Orthodox churches of Nice" / "Les églises orthodoxes de Nice" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcmtcUvtFFw>



In the palace complex of Princes Oldenburg in Ramon, a gift tablet on the monument "Bomarzund" was restored. Its grand opening took place on June 28th.

The monument "Bomarzund" was granted to the Princess of Oldenburg by Emperor Alexander III, as indicated by the tablet attached to it.

- In the 1980s, the monument was lost. The stone weighing a ton was found buried in a ditch by local history students of the Ramon Lyceum. The monument was cleaned and installed on the territory of the palace complex in September 2011. It took several years to restore the inscription of the tablet, - local historian Vera Smirnova told.

The stone "Bomarzund" got its name in honor of the fortress on the Aland archipelago in the Baltic Sea. It was destroyed by the Anglo-French troops during the Crimean War in 1854. The fortress was built of red granite. It is believed that it was on the Aland Islands that Emperor Alexander III signed the gift of the Ramon estate to his niece Eugenia Oldenburg. Together with the document, he sent as a gift a granite monolith of stone left over from the fortress.





A new book about the sister of the last Empress of Russia

On June 18, the presentation of the book “The Way of the Cross of the Holy Martyr Blessed Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna to Alapaevsk Golgotha” took place in the Nobility Assembly Hall in Ulyanovsk.



The book tells about the last years of the life of the sister of the last Russian Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Its author, Lyudmila Kulikova, has been living in recent years mainly in Moscow and St. Petersburg, but does not forget about Ulyanovsk, where she started research work many years ago. “The Way of the Cross” is the third book by Lyudmila Ilyina about the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The author began to study the personality of this new-mistress after she had compiled the biography of the saint, especially revered in our region, by Rev. Gabriel of Melekh.

“As it turned out, Rev. Gabriel served for some time in the Martha-Mary Convent of Mercy, which was founded by Elizabeth Feodorovna,” said Lyudmila Kulikova.

The biography of the Grand Duchess, canonized as early as 1992, the writer began to study several years ago. To do this, we had to search through a huge number of documents in various archives. Thanks to this work, Lyudmila Vladimirovna managed to find really unique information. For example, in the “Cross Way” she refutes the widespread version of the death of Elizabeth Feodorovna and several other members of the Imperial family.

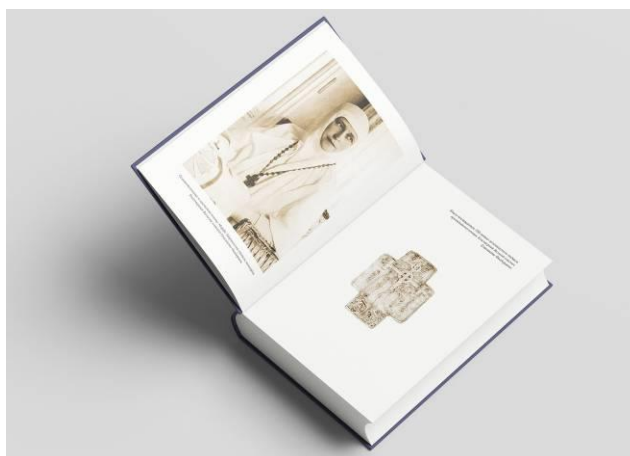
- Earlier it was believed that on July 18, 1918, they were dumped alive in a mine in the town of Alapayevsk, and Elizabeth Feodorovna herself bound up wounds to other martyrs. But I managed to find a criminal case of her murder, from which it follows that they were killed with a wide axe, and their lifeless bodies were dumped into the mine, says Lyudmila Kulikova.



In addition, the book for the first time published the correspondence of the Grand Duchess with family members: with Emperor Nicholas II, with her husband - Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, who was killed by revolutionaries in 1905. Of the 400 photographs published in The Way of the Cross, there are those printed for the first time. This all makes the book really unique.



By the way, the book itself was printed literally within a few minutes before the presentation - the printing house thought that the presentation would take place on June 22. Still, the publishers managed to prepare a circulation. The fact that the book still came out on time and was presented to the readers, Lyudmila Kulikova sees the hand of providence. And maybe the patronage of the most holy Elizabeth Feodorovna.



Under the Hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Empire, Moscow, Russia, June 15



"Token in commemoration of the coronation of Emperor Nicholas II", By Lauer's Workshop, Nürberg, Germany, 1890s. Tin-zinc alloy. Weight 8.00 g. Diameter 30 mm.
Estimate: 3000-4000 roubles.



Correspondent badge for the Coronation 1896 in Moscow. No. 196. Unknown workshop. Silver, gilding, enamel, 27.33 grams. Dimensions 45 x 28 mm. Approved on February 8, 1896.
Estimate: 150000-160000 roubles.



"Badge of the Russian monarchist party. Unknown workshop, Russia, 1905-1917-ies. Copper-nickel alloy, 11.04 oz. Size 54 x 39 mm. Estimate: 50000-55000 roubles.



"Badge of the 2nd Infantry Emperor Alexander III Regiment. Unknown workshop, Russia, 1910-1917. Copper, enamel. Weight 27.90 g. Size 59 x 47 mm. Approved November 18, 1910. Estimate: 90000-100000 roubles.



1 Ruble 1912. "On the occasion of the opening of the monument to Alexander III in Moscow ".
Silver, 19.90 gr. Circulation 5000 pieces. 18x20 mm.
Estimate: 600000-650000 roubles.



"St. George Cross 1st degree No. 4479. Gold, 18.08 oz. Size 34 x 41 mm.
The cross was Most graciously rewarded by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, to the ensign of the 4th company of the 26th infantry regiment of Mogilev, Pavel Petrovich Shlyunin, for distinguishing him in battles on 16, 17 and 18 September 1915 at the front of the Naroch river, Cheremshitsa village, Izorod.
Estimate: 1.5 million roubles



Paul I. 1796-1801. Gold medal o. J. (1797), by C. Meisner, on his coronation in Moscow. Uniformed bust r. with a cloak // Cross. 38.70 mm; 20.43 g.
Estimated price: 25,000.00 €



Nicholas II. 1894-1917. Silver medal 1913, by Marshak, on the first Russian Olympiad in Kiev. Discus thrower in front of the cityscape of Kiev after r.// city coat of arms over laurel and oak branches. 53.17 mm; 78.24 g.
Estimated price: 500.00 €



Nicholas II. 1894-1917. Bronze medal 1902, by A. Griliches Jr. on the 100th anniversary of the Ministry of Justice. The heads of Nicholas II and Alexander I side by side I.//Crowned pillar on laurel branch, I. four lines of writing. 76.72 mm; 216.31 g.
Estimated price: 200.00 €

12th Chairs Auction, Moscow, Russia, June 26

A letter by Grand Duchess Tatiana Nikolaevna in Tobolsk to Z.S. Tolstoy. Dated January 6, 1918
Tobolsk, 1918. - 1 page, written on both sides; 19x29 cm. Manuscript. Ink.

Apparently, it has not yet been published before: it is not included in the well-known publications of the corps of letters of the Imperial family from prison or in the main edition (Letters of the imperial family from imprisonment / edited by E.E. Alfereyev. Jordanville (NY): Holy Trinity monastery, 1974. 543 pp., III.). Nor is it included in its expanded version (Letters of the Imperial Family from Imprisonment / [under the scientific editorship of O.G. Goncharenko]. M.: Veche, [2013]. 397, [2] p., [8] lil. (Tsar's Crown).

The addressee of the letter is Zinaida Tolstoy (1880–1961), born Bekhteeva, the spouse of P.S. Tolstoy, Colonel Cavalry Regiment. During the First World War, she worked in the lazaret in Tsarskoye Selo together with Alexandra Feodorovna and the Grand Duchess. In January 1918 she was in Odessa.

The persons mentioned:

1. Doctor Derevenko's son Nikolay Vladimirovich Derevenko (1906 - ca. 2000) - son of a life-surgeon V.N. Derevenko, friend and playmate of Tsarevich Alexei. In Tobolsk was with his father.
2. Isa - Sofya Karlovna Bukshoevden (1884–1956) - Baroness, Maid of Honor of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. She arrived in Tobolsk voluntarily at the end of 1917 in the company of an elderly Englishwoman, her mother's friend. At first she lived in the Kornilov house together with members of the imperial suite, then she was evicted and rented accommodation in the city.
3. Rita - Margarita Sergeyevna Khitrovo (1895–1952) - maid of honor of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, friend of Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna. She came to Tobolsk voluntarily, but did not stay in the city. Due to suspicions of preparing a monarchist conspiracy, she was searched, arrested and sent under guard to Moscow.

4. Tili - Alias Yu.A. von Den and her son Alexander. Made up of two nicknames Lily (Julia) and Titi (Alexander). Julia Von Den (1885–1963), nee Smulskaya, the wife of Captain 1st Rank K.I. von Dehn, a friend of the Empress and Grand Duchess. Son of Ju.A. Den Alexander, nicknamed Titi, was Alexandra Feodorovna's godson. She took part in the organization of illegal communication, bypassing the guard, with the Imperial Family in custody. At the specified time she lived in Ukraine in a family estate, came to Odessa.

5. Nick- Yak Nikolai Yakovlevich (1896–?), Staff captain of the Crimean Equestrian H.I.H. Empress Alexandra Feodorovna's regiment, acquaintance of A.A. Vyubova and Yu.A. Den. He participated in the establishment of an illegal connection between Tobolsk and Petrograd. For some time he was in Tobolsk and Tyumen, in June 1918, along with other officers, tried to save the Imperial Family.

6. Dem. - Nikolai Dmitrievich Demenkov (1885–1950), Lieutenant of the Guards crew, participant in the First World War and the Civil War. He served on the imperial yacht "Standart". Friend of Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna. In December 1917 - January 1918, he was in Odessa in a hospital with suspected appendicitis.

7. Rod - Nikolay Nikolayevich Rodionov (1886–1962), senior lieutenant of the Guards crew, captain of the 2nd rank. He served on the imperial yacht "Standart". During the First World War he was the commander of a company of the Guards crew, during the Civil War he fought in southern Russia. At the specified time was in Odessa. During the Civil War fought in southern Russia.

Starting price: 370,000 roubles

