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Emperor Alexander III died 125 years ago in Livadia

In memory of Emperor Alexander III, the Peacemaker

125 years ago, on November 1st, 1894 (October 20th Old style), Emperor Alexander III died in the Small Livadia Palace, near Yalta, on the southern coast of Crimea.



That year, the Imperial Family arrived in Crimea in early September. The wonderful weather seemed to cheer up the very ill Sovereign. Suddenly on October 5th there was a sharp deterioration. The patient was visited by outstanding physicians of Russia and Germany - Velyaminov, Zakharyin, Leiden, Popov, Klein, Belousov, etc., however, all efforts to save him were unsuccessful, and on November 1st, 1894, in agony, but truly with royal dignity, 49-year-old Alexander III died quietly in the armchair of his bedroom.

After opening and embalming the body, a Concilium of doctors issued an act on the cause of death: "... we believe that the Sovereign Emperor Alexander Alexandrovich died of heart paralysis during degeneration of the muscles of a hypertrophied heart and interstitial nephritis (granular atrophy of the kidneys)."

In the evening at 9½ there was a requiem - in the same bedroom.

The next day, a memorial service for the Late Emperor was held in the Holy Cross Exaltation Church, and there the Heir, Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovich, swore allegiance to the Russian throne.



On November 6, the Yalta newspaper in a special appendix informed the residents of the city, and all those gathered to say goodbye to the deceased, about the approved ceremony of transporting the Emperor's body.

The body in Bose of the late Emperor was transferred from Livadia to Yalta by hands; then from Yalta to Sevastopol by ship, and then to Moscow and further to St. Petersburg on a special funeral train, where his burial was to take place in the Peter and Paul Cathedral.

However, the sea was stormy, and the ceremony was postponed. To give a chance to say goodbye to all classes, the coffin was transferred to the more spacious Ascension Livadia Church, and on November 7, when the sea calmed down a bit, the funeral procession moved to the Yalta pier.



The funeral procession on the streets of Yalta. November 7, 1894

The three-kilometre path to the pier was covered with wreaths of evergreens, as the procession approached, the troops standing along it saluted, played mourning music, drums beat the campaign, and upon entering Yalta, the chime of three city churches and a shot from the guns began with minute intervals between shots.

The last memorial service on the pier, was made by the Bishop of Tauride and Simferopol, and the coffin with the body of the deceased was transferred to the cruiser "Pamyat Mercury" and mounted on dugouts under an awning from the St. Andrew's flag. "A wonderful, beautiful, but sad picture," wrote Nicholas II in his diary.

With a lowered standard of His Majesty, under the escort of the cruiser "Eagle" and the squadron battleship "Twelve Apostles", the cruiser "Memory of Mercury" moved away from Yalta and headed for Sevastopol.

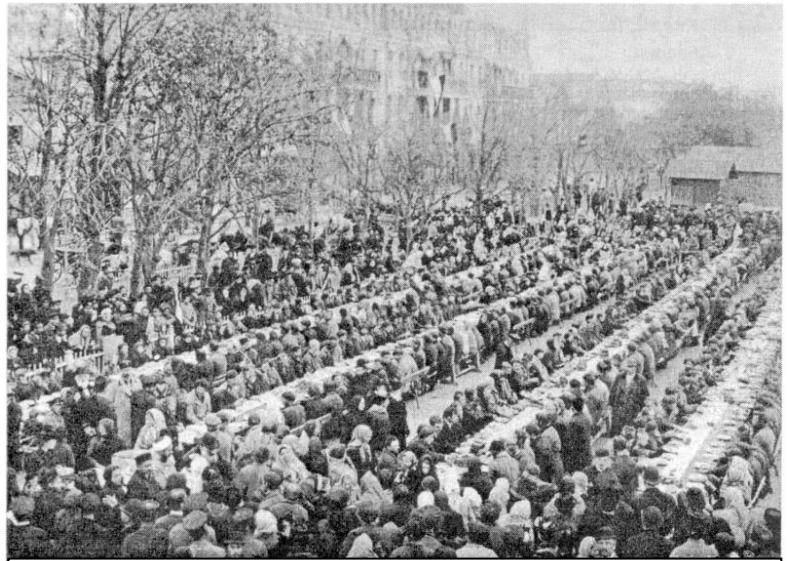
On the waterfront a funeral lunch was served for all those who had come to say goodbye to the late Emperor.

In Sevastopol, while the Russian Black Sea fortress paid the last military honours to the deceased Emperor, Nicholas II and his immediate family brought the coffin into the train carriage.

Soon after the death of Alexander III, a pilgrimage began to Livadia, to the Small Palace, from all over the country. Curious descriptions of how they wanted to honour the memory of the Emperor-Peacemaker were preserved. Among them there is a small book by A.P. Lopukhin "Day in Livadia", published at the end of the 19th century in St. Petersburg. It was written by a man, who personally made a trip to the Crimea for this purpose. Especially interesting is information about the order of admission to the estate and visitors' impressions of the palace and personal rooms of Alexander Alexandrovich.

In the absence of the Highest Masters in Livadia, each citizen of Russia was allowed to visit the Small Palace as part of small organized groups of pilgrims after presenting a passport in the manager's office. Among the latter, most of all were representatives of the middle class, that is, people with modest but sufficient means to make such a trip to the Crimea, and enough education to understand the significance of such places as Livadia on the map of a huge country for the national identity. These were officials, gymnasium teachers, priests, doctors, and entrepreneurs.

Everyone was amazed at the simplicity of the interior in which the life of the Imperial family took place. Here, in particular, is a description of the rooms of the Small Palace where Alexander III lived and died: "The house consists of 2 floors, in the lower room there are common rooms - a hall and a dining room, and on the sides - rooms for the Imperial children. The best and most spacious room is a hall, but it is also so simple and modest that one could positively forget that you are in the palace of the most powerful of the rulers of the world, and not at a cottage of the middle hand of a landowner who decorated his lap with several photographs, portraits, engravings. The lower floor of the Small Palace



Yalta. Funeral lunch on the waterfront. November 7, 1894

still told us about life and the desire for it. But here we go up, and among the visitors some kind of suppressed deaf whisper runs through. This upper room was occupied by Their Majesties, and the same reigns in it, if not yet modesty and simplicity. The place of death is not far from the door and is now marked with a cross." (To the wish of Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, a large maple cross was embedded in the parquet floor of the bedroom there.)

Emperor Alexander III remembered in Livadia

On November 1st, 2019, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky had organised a memorial event in honour of Emperor Alexander III, starting with Panikhida in the Exaltation of the Cross Church in Livadia, laying of flowers at the monument to Emperor Alexander III in Livadia Park, and memorial-words in the White Hall in Livadia Palace.

This were followed by a presentation of the book "25 Chapters of my life", the memories of the youngest daughter of Emperor Alexander III, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, and the showing of the documentary "Olga - The last Grand Duchess".



The Panikhida for Emperor Alexander III was held in the Exaltation of the Cross Church in Livadia. This is one of the few original structures left from the old palace built by court architect Hippolyte Monigetti (1819-1878) in 1862.

Monigetti established the church in the Byzantine style, modelled on the ancient Greek Church of St. Luke, built sometime in Livadia village in Greece.

At the request of Empress Maria Alexandrovna, the church was consecrated in honour of one of the most revered festivals of the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross of the Lord. It was conceived as a treasury and repository of religious relics of the Russian Imperial House.

The church is small, because it was designed only for the Imperial Family and their inner circle. Interior of the church was created in the Byzantine style by the artist Izello on drawings by Monighetti. Famous artist Academician Alexei Ye Beideman made the icons. The iconostasis of white marble became the special decoration of the church. Royal Doors and the sanctuary doors were made of carved bronze.

The vault of the church was painted in blue and studded with gold stars, symbolizing the upper sky.

A small door led from the church to the sacristy, and thence to the office of the Emperor. During the reign of Emperor Alexander III, an elegant belfry with 6 bells was erected next to the church, reproducing the church in miniature with its forms. It is decorated with ornaments, carved out of stone by talented peasant of Orel province T.A. Kostikov. In 1910-1911, architect N. Krasnov redesigning the palace preserved the church, with some small modifications. He increased the chapel with an entrance, added a gallery, connecting the church to the palace. The portal of the church was adorned with a mosaic icon of the Archangel Gabriel. Video showing the church - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rhOEDh2rs8>



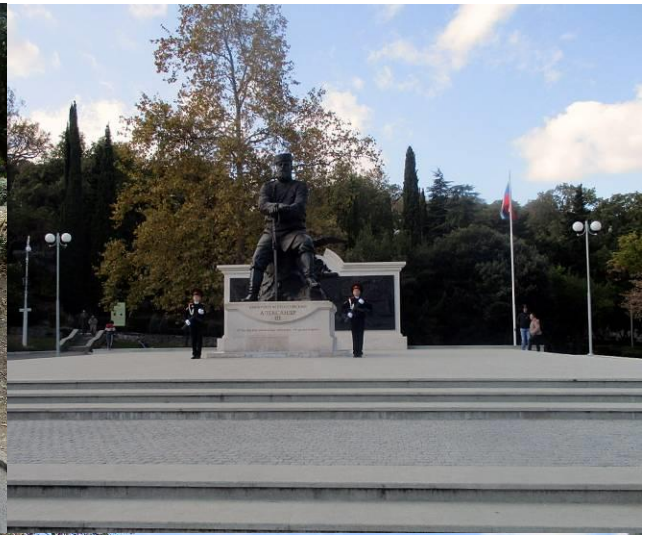
On November 1st, an icon of Saint Prince Alexander Nevsky, the patron saint of Emperor Alexander III, was on the lectern. In the middle of the nave, in front of the table with candlelight, a black and white portrait of Emperor Alexander III stood on a table, with two candles lit, and a kytia memorial (boiled rice with nuts, raisins and honey) in front of it.

About 50 people had arrived, including Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, great-great grandson of Emperor Alexander III, to pay their respect to the Emperor. Archpriest Dimitry (Gotskalyuk) led the service and at the end told some memorial words about the Emperor Alexander III the Peacemaker.



After the service, they walked through the park to the monument to Emperor Alexander III. It stands where once was the Small Palace, in which Alexander III died. The monument, made by sculptor Andrei Kovalchuk, was completed on October 18, 2017, but the official opening was made on November 18 by President Vladimir Putin.

At the monument stood cadets from the Cadet Association named after Emperor Alexander III of Yalta High School No. 11. Flowers were laid at the monument from Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, the Exaltation of the Cross Church, and Livadia Palace Museum.



The cadets of the Cadet Association named after Emperor Alexander III of Yalta High School No. 11 went through a solemn formation, saluting the "Emperor", and laid flowers.



From the monument, the participants went to the Livadia Palace, where in the White Hall the event continued.



Ludmila A. Kulikovskaya greeted the audience.
 - "We cordially welcome everyone who came today and shared this significant day with us! There are a lot of our friends and acquaintances in the hall, we are very glad to see you. We are grateful to the Minister of Culture of Crimea Arina Vadimovna Novoselskaya for her support in organizing this evening, and to the director of the Livadia Palace Museum Larisa Vladimirovna Dekusheva for hospitality.

Pavel Eduardovich and I prepared a whole program - after speeches in memory of Emperor Alexander III, we will present the book - Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's memoirs "25 chapters of my life". This presentation is for 1 hour with a slide show. And of course, we will pay special attention to the topic - "Romanovs and Crimea", because the Romanovs and their descendants have two favourite

places on earth - St. Petersburg, the city they built, and the southern coast of Crimea, where they created the Russian Riviera.

In conclusion, a 50-minute documentary will be shown - "Olga, the last Grand Duchess of Russia". If you have the strength and desire, after this Pavel Eduardovich will be happy to answer your questions.



Before I give the microphone to the speakers, two words about what a significant date in the history of the Romanovs is November 1st.

On this day in 1894, Emperor Alexander III died, whom we remembered today at the memorial service and whom we will recall here.

And on the same day, November 1. but in 1860 - the day of repose of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna - wife of Nicholas I, nee Princess Charlotte of Prussia, mother of seven children, including the future Emperor Alexander II.

And finally, on November 1, 1894, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nee Princess Elizabeth was born. Alexandra Louise Alice of Hesse and the Rhine. Today marks 155 years since her birth and it is widely celebrated - in the Martha and Mary monastery in Moscow, in Darmstadt by the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, and in Berlin by the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. And we have the opportunity to celebrate this significant date in the Livadia Palace.



And now I ask Irina F. Fomenko, Chief Curator of Livadia Palace Museum to tell a few words.

Fomenko - "Dear Friends, this is a very important event for Livadia Palace-Museum, taking place exactly on the day of death of Emperor Alexander III in Small Livadia Palace 125 years ago.

And 125 years ago, for the first time in history Imperial Regalia left St. Petersburg and arrived in Livadia to escort the remains of the Emperor. Foreign media paid a lot of attention to this tragic event in 1894. This October our museum bought a special issue of the French magazine – Petit Journal, which cover the repose of Russian Emperor among other events. Quite rare drawings of artists Mayer were published in this issue. We guess that Mayer was in Livadia in the end of October 1894 because his drawings are quite intimate, they showed,



for example one of the last conversations of dying Emperor with his son, Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich, announcement of the Death of the Emperor and oath of the New Emperor. Acquisition of this artefact is very important for our museum.

Irina Alexeeva, head of Russian Community in Yalta stressed the important role Emperor Alexander III Peacemaker played in Russian history. She told a few words about activity of the Russian Community in Yalta, particularly among young people. In this context memorial event in honour of Alexander III is particularly meaningful for historical education.



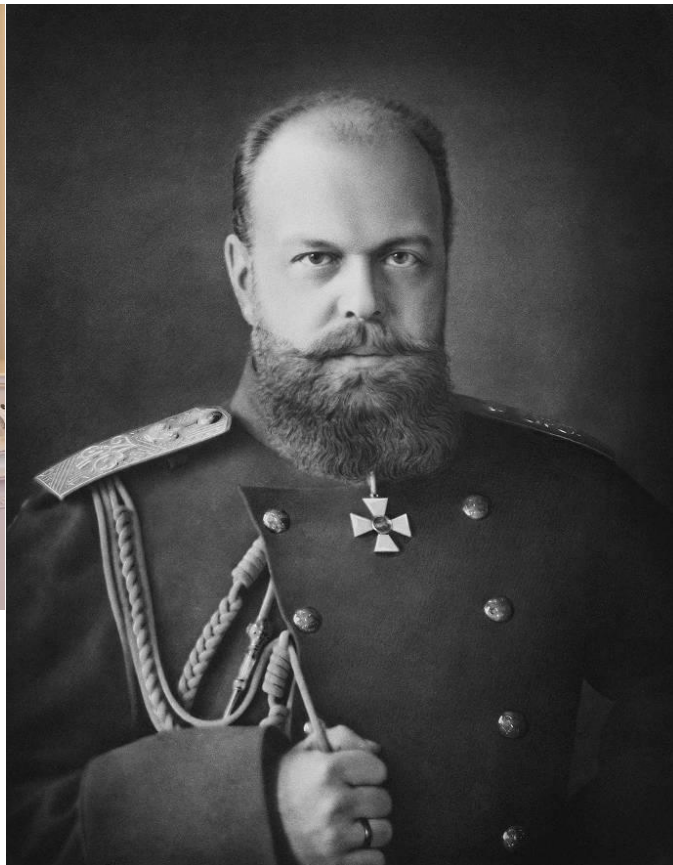
And now Paul Eduardovich will say some words in memory of his great-great-grandfather.

Paul E. Kulikovsky - "Father Dimitry, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you all for coming on this very special day for us.

"God, God, what a day! The Lord has called to Him our adored, our dear, our tenderly loved Papa. My head turns, it isn't possible to believe it." - wrote the new emperor - Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich in his diary on November 1st.

Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna tells - "On the 1st of November – my dear Father passed away. Who would have thought that it would have happened so quickly? Now, afterwards, we can better understand that Father had actually been ill over a longer period of time. He had already felt poorly and tired during the visit to Fredensborg (in Denmark) the previous year, but he didn't want to frighten Mother and we children so had not said anything. His condition worsened with the coming of winter, but then Xenia was to be married and he didn't want to spoil her happiness by taking to his bed."

"His illness continued to worsen and at Mother's suggestion we travelled on to the Crimea. She hoped that the mild, beautiful climate would help to improve Father's health. However, that turned out to be a disappointment. Father's health still went downhill – eventually at breakneck speed. It is sad to think about – and much too sad to write about in detail."



At the time of Emperor Alexander III's death, his youngest child Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was only 12 years old and her memories of him are limited, but precious.

Olga Alexandrovna remember from her childhood -
"Father got up at 7 every morning, washed in cold water, dressed himself, made his own coffee, and then had his breakfast. Sometimes Mother shared breakfast with him - rye bread, butter and hard-boiled eggs."
"My father was everything to me. Immersed in work as he was, he always sparred that daily half-hour for me."

"I was appalled at the amount of work father had to do every day. I think a Tsar was the hardest-worked man on earth. Besides audiences and state functions, every day he was faced with stacks of edicts, ukases, and reports which he had to read and sign."

"Every single evening – it didn't matter where we were – Father would come up to the nursery to say goodnight and to make the sign of the Cross over our tired and sleepy heads. I loved that moment even though I was often only half awake, and I loved the smell of his cigarette smoke which lingered on after him when he tip-toed out of the room so as not to wake us up. That was how Father was."

For many decades, the moral character of the Emperor and his contribution to the history of the state were presented in slanderous and distorted light. A sharp assessment of Alexander III by some circles of the liberal intelligentsia, was passed as the general opinion of the Russian and world public.

The main thing was "forgotten" - Alexander III set the goal of his reign on the economic revival of Russia, which the country needed to ensure lasting peace and internal stability.

The personality of the Emperor was popular not only in the most diverse layers of Russian society - from industrialists and local nobility to ordinary people, but even in Western Europe, known for their democratic traditions.

Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna said it this way -
"How much unkind and unjust nonsense have been written about him! People forget that not since the days of Alexander I had Russia enjoyed such respect in the world. His reign was the only one unmarred by war. Not for nothing was he known as the "Peacemaker". He preferred a direct approach to every problem.
My father was considered a reactionary, and I supposed he was - in a sense. But what choice had he, but to suppress the terrorist. He was opposed to irresponsible liberalism and he refused to placate people who wanted to introduce the governmental reforms of Great Britain and France. Remember, our intellectuals were a minority. The majority, the masses, what could they have made of a democratic government?"



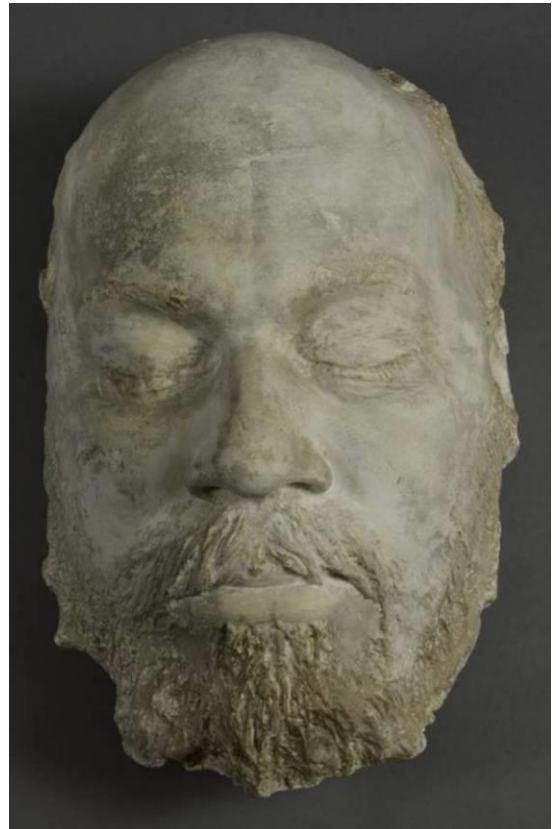
I know my father was deeply concerned about improvements in education and the standard of living - but a mere 13 years was not enough."

Count Sergei Yulyevich Witte summarized it maybe best, when he wrote - "Emperor Alexander III had an absolutely outstanding nobleness and purity of heart, purity of morals and thoughts. As a family man, he was exemplary, he was a model boss... he was a good boss not because of a sense of self-interest, but because of a sense of duty. He was able to inspire confidence abroad, on the one hand, he would not act unjustly in relation to anyone, did not wish for any captures; everyone was calm that He would not seek any adventure. Emperor Alexander III never had a word at odds with deeds. What he said was felt by him."

Eternal memory - Emperor Alexander III, the Peacemaker!"

Ludmila then read a letter from the film director Vyacheslav Khotulov, Laureate of Russian and international festivals, scriptwriter and director of the film "The Peacemaker Alexander III".

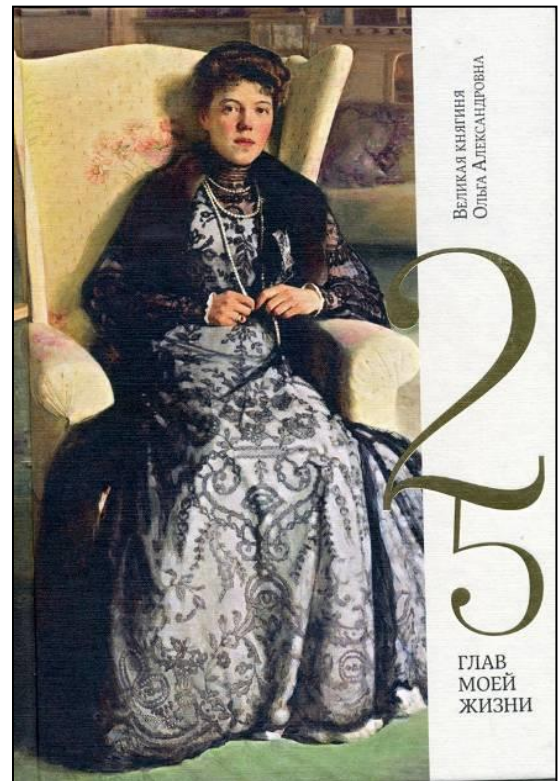
A part of it said - "On this memorable day for Russia and the whole Orthodox world, the memory of the great sovereign Alexander Alexandrovich, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the invaluable help in the filming of our film Peacemaker Alexander the Third. The episode filmed in Livadia became one of the most important in the film."



Then Paul Eduardovich and Ludmila Antolievna presented 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, accompanied by a slide show. 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 revolution, life in Crimea in 1917-1918, life in Kuban, and exodus from Russia.....

The Grand Duchess was experiencing many tragic events and still kept a positive attitude. Her life is a historical lesson and a spiritual travel, that touch people's hearts and leave a deep impression.



Following the book presentation, the documentary film "Olga - The Last Grand Duchess" by Sonja Vesterholt, from 2003 was shown. As the description says - "Rare footage from Russian archives presents a record of momentous events that shaped the century, while contemporary footage, shot in Russia, Denmark and Canada, shows the range of lifestyles she experienced. Interviews with people who knew Olga create an insider's sense of this woman's amazing character, and the narration from Olga's diaries and memoirs allow an intimate view of her remarkable life voyage. This is a story of an extraordinary woman who refused to look back to her glorious past and bravely embraced the perilous future. It is a story of forbidden love, enduring passion, courage and endurance."



At the end of the documentary, Paul once again thank all who had come and was now ready for questions. After a few questions and answers, many from audience came to have their copy of "25 Chapters of my life" signed.



At the portrait of Emperor Alexander III with three red roses on an easel stand, it was then time for some photos in memory of the event. In the front to the left Valentina Shvedova, Livadia Palace Museum, and to the right Tatiana Bukharina, and behind her is Irina F. Formenko and Irina Alexeeva.

Remembering Empress Maria Feodorovna in Denmark

October 25, 2019 a concert and exhibition dedicated to Empress Maria Feodorovna was held at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, in Copenhagen, Denmark, with the participation of Russian Embassy.



The organiser Anastasiia Nadelmann cut the red ribbon for the opening of the exhibition and then addressed the "full house" with a speech:

*"Dear All, who have chosen to spend a Friday evening here with us – commemorating a unique woman Maria – Danes and Russians are together – in one place to enjoy history, culture and art.
What was meant and planned originally as a small concert for the friends became a big event.
Why it happened so? Because nothing is by chance.
The date for the concert chosen quite spontaneously – and mostly out of some practical considerations – turned out to be a date when Maria Feodorovna converted to Orthodoxy.
It was a life significant event for a Danish Princess who has become an Empress of the huge empire.
Dagmar was also born in October. Got engaged and married in October. And passed away in October.
Her personality was somewhat extraordinary as Maria Feodorovna had to experience a series of losses during her life – At the age of 18 she lost her fiancée and then so many others losses throughout her life including 4 sons and 5 grandchildren.
To keep the strong spirit, royal dignity, human loyalty and simply kind sacrificing heart – regardless of and despite to – that was something which impressed me the most, made me so enthusiastic and inspired me to share!"*



Anastasiia Nadelmann and Alyona Petrovskaya.

For many decades she had been a bright symbol of Danish-Russian relations. It is half-forgotten now, but deserved to be maintained as in old days. This is the reason why we are all here today. What can be the most efficient means of uniting the hearts? What exists beyond any contradictions? That is music. And tonight, I am happy and proud to share with you a brilliant example of Russian music represented by Alyona Petrovskaya. I suggest we consider the event and the exhibition open! And the last but not the least. On one of the walls you may notice a list of gratitude to all those who contributed for making the exhibition possible, all sources I used. Special thanks to 2 my closest persons – my dear husband Ivan and my dear mother Tatiana. Thank you. All your endless support and help is so much appreciated."

The first part of the concert, with singer Alyona Petrovskaya from St. Petersburg, included lyrical and a little sad romance and many Russian old and modern folk motives.

The first song was dedicated to Maria Feodorovna - named "I Can't Help It".

In the intermission the guests could enjoy sparkling wine, snacks (including Maria Feodorovna's favourite pies), and of course the exhibition itself and mingling with each other.

During the second Alyona Petrovskaya performed lively joyful music.

Alyona Petrovskaya inherited the priceless, sincere, piercing folk style of singing, the skill to speak about the main things in simple words which touch the audience.



In Alushta a memorial sign was unveiled

On October 20, in Alushta, a commemorative sign was unveiled at the meeting place of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich with his coming bride - Princess Alice of Hesse - in 1894. The initiators of the event were the Double-Headed Eagle Society, and the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, with the support of the city administration of Alushta and the Russian Unity public association.

The event however began with Divine Liturgy in the Holy Cross Exaltation Church of the Livadia Palace, led by Archpriest Dimitry (Gotskalyuk).



Then the participants went the 40 km to Alushta, to the Central City Library named after S.N. Sergeev - Tsensky.

In October 1894 Emperor Alexander III was near his death in Livadia, and Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (later Emperor Nicholas II) hasty called his fiancée Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt to come to the dying Emperor so he could bless their marriage.

October 10, 1894 at the villa "Dove" in Alushta, more or less halfway between Livadia and Simferopol, Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich met his bride Princess. On that day, Nicholas wrote in his diary:
"Woke up to a wonderful hot day ... At 9 ½ went with Sergey to Alushta, where we arrived at one o'clock. Ten minutes later, from Simferopol drove my beloved Alix with Ella. They sat down to lunch in the house of the retired General Golubev. After breakfast, I sat alone with Alix in the stroller, and we two went to Livadia. Oh my God! What a joy to see her at home and be close to me - half the worries and troubles like fell from the shoulders".

The villa "Dove" - a big mansion - located in the center of Alushta (on Lenin Street, 20 - before the revolution - Kutuzov street), was built in 1827 from limestone and diorite. At the end of the XIX century it was bought and converted into a cottage (dacha) for the retired general Golubev (now also called "Dacha Golubeva").





On the territory of the Library a large poster was sanding with information about the meeting that took place there.



The solemn prayer service with the rite of consecration of a foundation stone, where a monument will be erected in a year, was led by Bishop Yalta Nestor (Donenko).



Addressing the residents of the city of Alushta, the head of the ESPO Anna V. Gromova noted the importance of such events aimed at preserving historical memory.

The laying of the memorial stone at the former Golubka estate in Crimea was the beginning of an extensive scientific and public program in the framework of the international conference "Crimea in the fate of the Romanov Dynasty. The beginning and end of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II".



The inscription on the stone says - "On 10 of October 1894, official meeting of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich with His Bride Princess Alice Hessen-Darmstadt and Rhein took place at this place. Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna were at present at the meeting of Royal Bride and Groom. Princess was escorted by Crimean Cavalry Regiment. On the occasion of solemn event a monument will be installed here in 2020."

It should be noted, that the date October 10th is according to Old style, so in our present reality the correct date is October 22nd.

The international scientific conference "Crimea in the fate of the Romanov Dynasty. The beginning and end of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II" in the Livadia Palace

October 21, the two-day international scientific conference "Crimea in the fate of the Romanov Dynasty. The beginning and end of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II" started in the Livadia Palace Museum. It was organized by the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" in conjunction with the Society "Double-headed Eagle" and with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Crimea. The event was timed to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the accession to Orthodoxy of Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt - the future Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and the 100th anniversary of the exodus of representatives of the Russian Imperial House from Crimea.

The greeting of the Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimean Lazarus to the guests and participants of the meeting was announced by Bishop of Yalta Nestor (Donenko).

The Head of the Republic of Crimea Sergey V. Aksenov sent an address to guests and participants of the international conference, which was announced by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Crimea Arina V. Novoselskaya. It noted that in the context of the restoration of historical justice - the reunification of Crimea with Russia, the topic of the international scientific conference is "fundamentally important and necessary."



From left - Bishop Yalta Nestor speaking, and then Elena A. Aksenov, Arina V. Novoselskaya and Anna V. Gromova.

The abbess of Gethsemane Monastery of St. Mary Magdalene (Jerusalem) Abbess Elizabeth (Shmelts), Prince Georgy Mikhailovich; the head of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society Anna V. Gromova; the chairman of the Russian Unity NGO Elena A. Aksenova; the chairman of the Double-Headed Eagle Konstantin V. Malofeev, the Chairman of the Charity Fund named after Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Olga Nikolaevna Kulikovskaya, and Paul E. Kulikovsky welcomed the audience.



Paul E. Kulikovsky said - "Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel love is in the air - love for Crimea, love for the Romanovs - do you feel it too?"

I love Crimea, and feel especially attached to the city Yalta, which my wife Ludmila and I have visited 3 times just within the last 12 months, and we might manage to visit a fourth time on November 1st - God willing!

My ancestors - Catherine the Great, Nicholas I, Alexander II and Alexander III - and the brother of my great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - Tsar Nicholas II - did wonders for Crimea.

Through 130 years the Romanovs polished this raw rock into a pearl in the Empire.

When Empress Catherine the Great signed a 6 pages document in 1783, it all started. Then she made the grandest and spectacular show, when visiting in 1787. It made many in Western Europe very jealous. They even turned Potemkin into a magician, and named a part of the show in his honour - "Potemkin villages".

The love affair of the Romanovs with Crimea developed further when Emperor Alexander I saw the amazing sea view at Oreanda, and quickly arranged to purchase it in 1825. Becoming the first Romanov to purchase property here and making Oreanda the first Imperial estate in Crimea. Emperor Nicholas I and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna came in 1836. Yalta was then just a fishing village, but he changed the status into a city, both in name and in constructions. While his wife Alexandra Feodorovna started to create a new palace in Oreanda.

Many other estates, palaces, churches, administrative buildings, roads, harbours, railways, etc, followed, built on the orders of the Emperors or the Grand Dukes.

They created not just one pearl, but a large necklace of pearls, spread all over the southern coast. The Romanovs started a development boom in Crimea, which only slowed down during the years 1914-2014.



Even Stalin didn't find anything better to impress his Allies with, than to arrange the Yalta Conference in Livadia Palace.

But now the "dark ages" are over. I am very happy to see that wonders are happening in Crimea again and I applaud the new Airport in Simferopol and the bridge in Kerch.

Speaking about Crimea, there are so much positive to tell. But two events are still in the memory of the Romanovs, with a bit of dark clouds.

125 years ago, on 1st of November, my great-great-grandfather Tsar Alexander III died here. Ludmila and I hope to be here on the day, commemorating it at his monument and later here in the White Hall.

100 years ago, on April 11, 1919, it was from the harbour in Yalta, that several members of the Romanov family, including my great-great-grandmother Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, left Russia forever.

There is a memorial obelisk on the embankment in Yalta commemorating this moment, and let me take the opportunity to say thank you to all of those who on April 11, 2019 gathered there to commemorate this 100 year anniversary.

My Great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna had also been here in 1917-1918, but had left in January 1919 to Kuban and ended up living in Novinsky, with her family until they also were forced to leave Russia, and did so from Novorossiysk in February 1920.

Olga Alexandrovna went to Denmark, later emigrated to Canada, where she died in 1960, as the Last Grand Duchess of Russia.

I am born in Canada, grew up in Denmark and was the first descendant of the Imperial family to come to Russia to live and to work. I did so in 2008.

A few days ago, Ludmila and I returned to Moscow from a trip to England. There we attended a conference in Oxford on the topic - "Rescuing the Romanovs", about what happened 100 years ago in Crimea.

Also, Princess Olga Andreanna, the chairman of the Romanov Family Association attended and shared her memories about her grandmother Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna.

I talked about my great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's heroic struggle to stay in Russia as long as possible.

There was an exhibition about the Romanovs, and we prayed at the grave of Father Nicholas, maybe better known as Sydney Gibbes, the tutor to Tsarevich Alexei.

Together with Olga Andreevna, we visited East Cowes on the Isle of Wight. There Tsar Nicholas II and his family visited in 1909, and now there is a Cross Memorial to the Romanovs. We planted a tree in the memory of their visit 110 years ago.

Despite some Russophobia mood in England, they are remembering and respecting the Romanovs, and this year particular their tragic exodus in 1919 from Russia.

I am very pleased, that this theme is also on the agenda here.

Thank you to the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" and the "Double-headed Eagle Society" for arranging this conference.

*Many thanks to the Government of the Republic of Crimea for its support and to Livadia Palace Museum for hospitality.
Wishing you all a blessed day. Thank you!"*

On the first day of the conference, reports were made on the path to Orthodoxy of the Hessian Princesses Elizabeth and Alix, the revival of the Black Sea Fleet by Emperor Alexander III, the naval service of Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich on the Black Sea, the mysterious illness of Emperor Nicholas II in Livadia in 1901, the reconstruction of the church mural system of the Tsar's church in Livadia, the Empress Alexandra Fedorovna's charity work in Crimea, as well as on the geopolitical role of Crimea in the history of Russia. At the end of the first day of the conference, a tour of the Livadia Palace was held for the delegation.



After the conference a tour was arranged in Yalta, visiting the churches of the city. *More about this in the next issue of Romanov news.*

On October 22, the conference continued its work in the sanatorium "Dnepr", (of the Federal Tax Service of Russia), the former estate Haraks of Grand Duke George Michaelovich.

In Haraks, students of the Moscow State University's History Department from Sevastopol attended.



Paul E. Kulikovsky was asked to make a short greeting, and told about the special status of Kharaks - *"Ladies and Gentlemen, and a special greeting to the many who have arrived today from the heroic city of Sevastopol. We are today in Kharaks, a special place for my family, as it was the last place of residence of my great-great-grandmother in Russia. On the 26th of May, 1918, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna moved to Kharaks, with her daughter Grand Duchess Olga and family. The Dowager Empress had been held in captivity in the estate Dulber by the Bolsheviks, but had after the treacherous agreement with the Germans been released. Grand Duke Alexander and Grand Duchess Xenia went back to Ai-Todor with their children.*

Kharaks became a witness of the final dramatic episode of the Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna's stay on Russian land.

When Crimea heard rumours of the death of the Imperial family in Yekaterinburg and Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich's in Perm, all the churches of the peninsula served a liturgy in memory of the dead, all except the church in Kharaks. The Empress banned the memorial service, as she continued to believe that her sons were alive.

In November 1918, after having surrendered to the Allies, the Germans started to go home, leaving those in Crimea to the mercy of the Bolsheviks.

The restored "freedom" made Grand Duke Alexander Michailovich and his eldest son Andrei leave on a British destroyer for France - and they were never to return.

Also, my great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and her husband wanted to leave Crimea and after literally sitting on their suitcases for about three weeks a passenger ship suddenly appeared, they left on January 14, 1919 to Novorossiysk.

Meanwhile, in Kharaks, Maria Feodorovna had finally accepted to be rescued. On April 8th, 1919, she sat down in a small boat at Koreiz going to board the British cruiser HMS Marlborough.

Via Constantinople and Malta, the Dowager Empress travelled to England where she stayed for a short while with her sister, Queen Alexandra, and then returned to her beloved Denmark.

So, for me it is very special to be here today."



Reports were made by the deputy chairman of the Society "Double-headed Eagle" Leonid P. Reshetnikov "Crimean Exodus. The Beginning of Russian Abroad"; director of the Central Public Health Museum of the Taurida Museum Andrei V. Malgin "The accession of Crimea to Russia in 1783: the genesis and implementation of the idea"; Doctor of History, Professor, Head of the Department of Russian History, Crimean Federal University Sergey B. Filimonov "The Romanov Dynasty in the works of the Tauride Scientific Archival Commission".

PhD (History), ethnographer, writer, founder of the "Museum of the Diplomatic Corps", Alexander V. Bskov told about "August owners of the Haraks estate. Grand Duke George Mikhailovich and his family"; Columnist for the TV channel Tsargrad Yegor S. Kholmogorov "Romanovs in the fortress of the Romans. Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich and the creation of the Haraks estate"; PhD (History), chief specialist of the State Archive of the Russian Federation Vladimir Khrustalev "Expulsion by the Provisional ruler of the former members of the Imperial House in Crimea in 1917"; and finally the Director of the Museum of the History of IOPS Grigory M. Manevich talked about Haraks.



At the end of the conference, the delegation visited the Grand Ducal estates Haraks, Dulber and Ai-Todor.

The conference “Rescuing the Romanovs: Crimea - Malta - Britain, 1919-2019” in Oxford

Romanov commemorative events, organized by Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society UK, took place in UK during the weekend of 11th-13th October, 2019.

On October 11th, a special pilgrimage was made to the Headington Cemetery and a Panikhida was served by Father Stephen at the grave of Archimandrite Nicholas Gibbes, tutor to the Imperial children. Flowers were laid by Maria Harwood on behalf of the Society, Princess Olga Romanoff and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky.



Sidney Gibbes was the tutor of first Maria and Anastasia, and later Tsarevich Alexei. From 1908 until 1918 Gibbes had been with the Imperial Family, and followed them all the way to Tobolsk and Yekaterinburg.

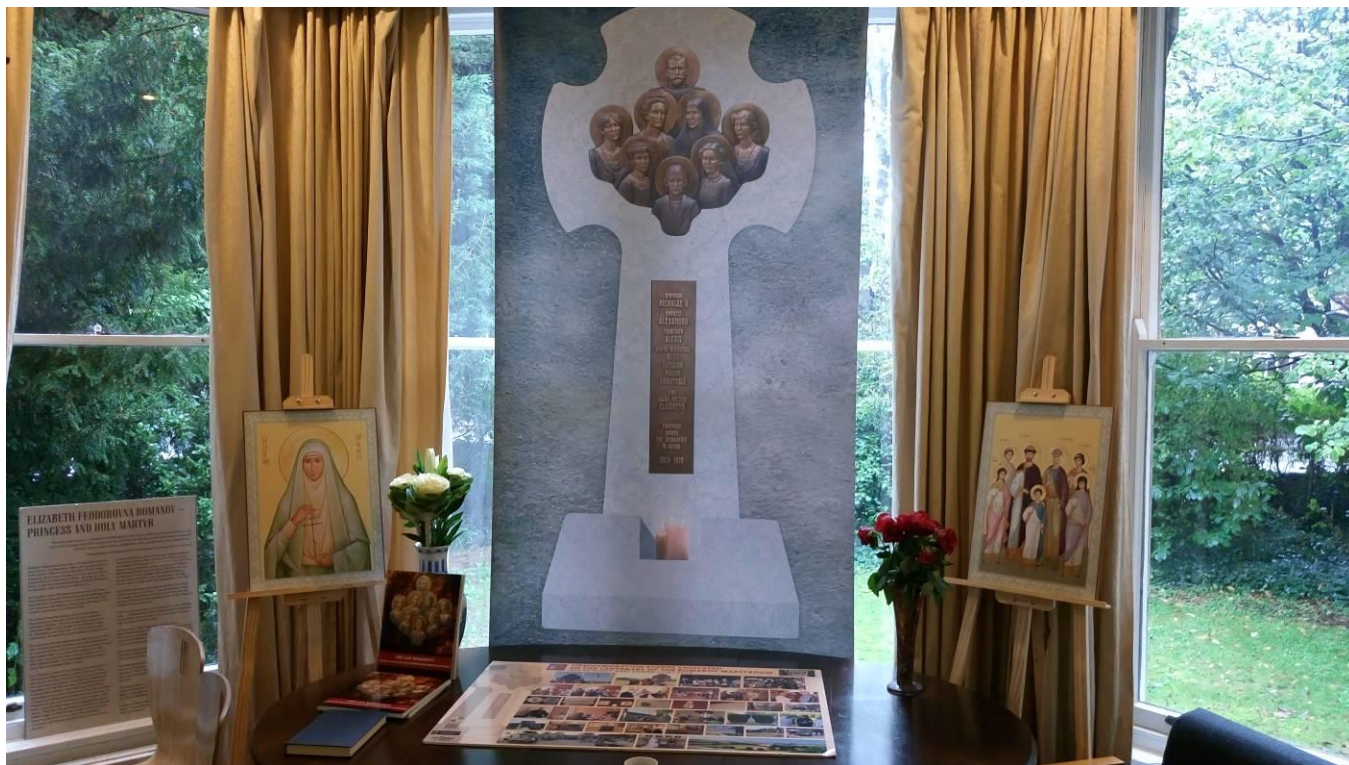
In 1934 he converted to Russian Orthodoxy and became a priest.

Gibbes died on 24 of March 1963 and his funeral was held on 28 of March at the Russian Orthodox Church at Ennismore Gardens in Knightsbridge. His coffin was then taken back to Oxford where he was buried in Headington Cemetery.



In the evening, the exhibition "Romanov Estates in Crimea" was opened by the Society's Chairman, Dr Maria Harwood in the House of St Gregory and St Macrina.

She welcomed the trustees, members and guests who had travelled from far and wide to Oxford (including from Russia, Japan and Switzerland) to participate in the Romanov weekend. She explained that the presented panels are the result of almost four years of the Society's educational work.



Father Stephen Platt welcomed guests to Oxford and to the House of St Gregory and St Macrina. The House of St Gregory was founded in 1959 as an ecumenical residence for students and visiting scholars; as a meeting place for the Orthodox parishes in Oxford; and as a place of scholarly interaction for those with an interest in the traditions of the Christian East and West and in relations between the two.

Mr Michael Wynne-Parker spoke on behalf of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society and expressed a wish for continued friendly collaboration.

A quartet from the choir of the Russian Orthodox cathedral (ROCOR) in Chiswick gave a most moving concert of liturgical hymns and Russian songs of the First World War.



On the 12th, the conference “Rescuing the Romanovs” started at the House of St Gregory and St Macrina. It was dedicated to the Centenary of the British operation in Crimea to rescue the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna and other members of the Romanov Family. Under the title “The Last Days of the Romanovs” the Society also brought to Oxford their displays and collection of the photographs depicting the Imperial Family, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, Dowager Empress Maria and her daughters Grand Duchesses Xenia and Olga during the Great War and the tragedies of Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk in July 1918.



Bishop Irenei of London and Western Europe (ROCOR) opened the conference with a speech about the meaning of Royal Martyrdom. Starting with the words of St Paul about "All being One in Christ" he spoke about this oneness, and clear human differences of gender and social status which exist and have been sanctified by God. We live in an age which sweeps these distinctions away and rejects monarchy to the extent of violently subjecting rulers to martyrdom. This was an extremely penetrating discourse on the theological and Biblical meaning of martyrdom, monarchy and human differences.

Coryne Hall then discussed one episode illustrating the reaction of the British monarchy to the plight of the

Romanovs: "Awkward Encounters: Meetings between Grand Duke Dmitry and George V, 1918-1920 ". This was a sobering account using the newly discovered and unpublished diaries of Dmitry Pavlovich. The quotations from these diaries showed the changing attitude of George V to Dimitry and other representatives of the House of Romanovs. In the end Coryne announced her next book "Queen Victoria and the Romanovs", which is about the attitudes of Queen Victoria towards Russia and is due to be published in February 2020.

The section dedicated to the relationship between the Royal House of Windsor and Imperial House of Romanov was concluded by Stephen Patterson, Curator of the Royal Collection, who presented an account on the renovations made to Frogmore House, Windsor, to suit the needs of the Grand Duchess Xenia and her growing family. He used unpublished documents and photographs from the Royal Collection, full of interesting details confirming that these renovations were approved and closely supervised by King George V. This highlighted a different aspect of Windsor-Romanov relations.

In the afternoon the participants had the pleasure and honour of welcoming Princess Olga Andreevna Romanoff, granddaughter of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (sister of Emperor Nicholas II) and President of the Romanov Family Association.

Maria Harwood presented Olga's recent book of memoirs, written in collaboration with Coryne Hall, "A Wild and Barefoot Romanov" (2017), and initiated a dialogue with the Princess, later involving members of the audience. As a result, Princess Olga

shared with us incredibly personal and vivid recollection about the personality of Grand Duchess Xenia and her elder son, Olga's father, Prince Andrei Alexandrovich. And about Provender, where Olga Andreevna has been living since her childhood, houses mementoes of the evacuation of her grandmother and father from Crimea.



Another Romanov descendant, who had travelled from Russia to speak, was Paul Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna (the Tsar's other sister).

He started with a question - "Imagine if Russia's allies during the First World War would have joined forces and saved Emperor Nicholas II in 1917. - How the world could have look different today!"

Then he thanked the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society for organizing the exhibition and the conference, and continued - "We think it is important to constantly remind people about what happened in Russia during and after the revolution, that many were killed, and among them many Romanovs, but not all of them."

"100 years ago, a rescue operation was launched at Crimea, more specific at the city of Yalta.

This is marked in the city with a memorial obelisk erected on April 11, 2009, on the 90th anniversary of this historic event. It stands on the waterfront promenade, at the harbour, marking the place from where members of the Romanov family left Russia in April 1919.

Having just been to Yalta in September, Ludmila and I of course visited this monument.

On the granite obelisk are plaques in metal - one with an inscription in Russian and another in English.

The English text says - "On April 11, 1919, the British battleship HMS Marlborough departed from Yalta taking into exile the surviving members of the Russian Imperial family, among them the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna."

When reading this text, I always stumble at the word 'surviving', as it indicates that we are talking about the last ones alive in Russia. This is incorrect, and perfectly illustrates the story I want to tell today.

After April 11, 1919 there were actually still Romanovs in Russia, among them Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna."

He and his spouse Ludmila then presented an account of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's stay in Crimea and Kuban, before finally having to leave Russia in 1920.





Princess Catherine Galitzine then showed photographs, never before shown publically, of the "Journey from Crimea into Exile of Prince Vladimir Galitzine and his wife Catherine", her grandparents. Prince Vladimir was actively involved in organizing the evacuation and Galitzine's family archives to the UK

Robert Jarman, a celebrated archival historian, presented a paper on "British Government Policy towards the Romanov Refugees: Theory and Practice". This gave us a fascinating contrast to the picture given in Coryne Hall's talk. Here the focus was not on King George personally but on the British Government. Robert provided copies of Home Office documents and other letters which make shameful reading.

John Harwood returned to Bishop Irenei's theme of Royal Martyrdom, examining especially the case of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, the first of the Romanovs to perish. Michael Alexandrovich had several interesting connections with England and his wife and son escaped here. John also looked at Royal Martyrs of past ages, especially Prince Michael of Tver - the Grand Duke's patron saint - the Emperor Paul and several Anglo-Saxon kings.

David Gilchrist, the Society's Secretary and skilful conference chairman, brought the talks to an end, adding a moving meditation of his own based on the last recorded words of the Holy New Martyr Elizabeth when she was taken from her beloved Sisters in Moscow towards certain death.

After the guest speakers had finished, there was the opportunity to see a video with the talk given by Frances Welch: "Dowager Empress and other Romanovs on board the HMS Marlborough", where Frances summarized her book "The Russian Court at Sea" (2011). Frances was unfortunately not able to attend the conference so this was a wonderful chance to present to the audience the main characters and faces of those who left Crimea hundred years ago.

After the conference, Princess Olga Andreevna, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky and the Society trustee Michael Edwards went from Oxford to the Isle of Wight, for a next day commemorative event organized by David Hill, a friend of the Society.



In East Cowes on Isle of Wight

In August 1909, Emperor Nicholas II and his family visited the Isle of Wight aboard the Russian Imperial Yacht Standart. The Empress, granddaughter of Queen Victoria had spent holidays at Osborne as a young child, and had invited Nicolas to visit before they were married. The occasion for the visit in 1909, was Cowes Week of the annual sailing regatta, and thus the town and harbour were extremely busy. The Russian Imperial family stayed onboard the Yacht Standart, which was guarded by two Russian cruisers, three destroyers and the ships of the British Fleet. On their first night, they boarded the British Royal Yacht, the Victoria and Albert for a reception hosted by King Edward VII, and also held similar receptions on board the Standart over the next few days. The Emperor also had meetings with the Prime Minister Asquith and Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey.

The Grand Duchesses, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia and Tsarevich Alexei spent one afternoon ashore playing with their cousins on the private beach at Osborne. Olga and Tatiana also made a second trip ashore and were allowed to walk through the streets of Cowes (with their chaperones and detectives) for a bit of shopping. Unused to being able to move freely, they were extremely animated and bought pennants of the various nations and commemorative picture postcards of their royal relatives (including their own parents). They visited Benzie, the jewellers where they purchased jewellery with the guidance of the ladies in attendance, and Beken & Son pharmacy where they bought perfume. Word quickly spread around that they were in the town, and they were persuaded by their detectives to cross to East Cowes on the floating bridge where they were taken in a carriage to Whippingham Church.

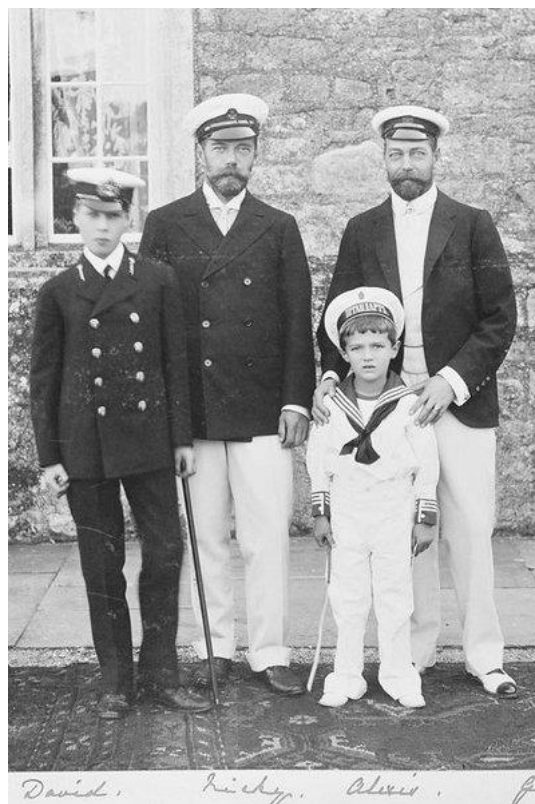
The following day - August 4, 1909 - all the family visited Osborne House and the children played in the Swiss Cottage, and they then had tea at Barton Manor.

Upon his departure, the Emperor gave a gift of £600 for distribution among the poor of the two towns, West and East Cowes. It was reported in newspapers at the time that the Councils met to discuss this gift and George Fellows, A. E. Marvin and S. E. Saunders all declared that the Emperor's visit was most successful and that they hoped that, 'it may not be long before a visit which leaves such pleasant recollections may be repeated'. As we know, Emperor Nicholas II and his family never did return to The Isle of Wight.

On July 7th 2018, on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the July 17, 1917 martyrdom of Emperor Nicholas II and his family and their faithful servants, along with Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth, in their memory a memorial cross was unveiled in the town of East Cowes on the Isle of Wight. The monument was opened by the Deputy Chairman of the Romanov Family Association Prince Rostislav Rostislavovich Romanov. And an exhibition was held at the Barton Manor, all organized by the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society, with support from East Cowes Town Council and Isle of Wight Council.

110 years after the Imperial Family's visit and one year after the opening of the Romanov Cross, East Cowes was again visited by relatives of the Imperial Family.

In the morning of October 13th, Princess Olga Andreevna Romanoff and Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky arrived at the Jubilee Recreation Ground memorial on York Avenue, in East Cowes on Isle of Wight. They were greeted by the Deputy Mayor Michael Paler; Director of Beken Archives Kenneth Beken; Isle of Wight councillor Karl Love; David Hill; and local residents. The lovely ladies Margaret and Sue presented flowers to lay on the Romanov monument.







After laid flowers at the Romanov Cross, Princess Olga and Paul Kulikovsky were invited to plant a tree next to the monument. The tree was already standing in a hole in the ground, so all that was needed was to add earth to fill the hole. The deputy mayor Michael Paler finished the "hard work".



This was to be a living monument, which later will have a sign next to it recalling this historical day. Let's hope it will grow tall and strong, and remind those coming to the park about a piece of Russian and Romanov history that took place in East Cowes.

"What a wonderful day, where God have been so gracious to spare us so much life-giving water" - said Paul E. Kulikovsky, sitting on the "Bicentennial Bench". It was unveiled on May 23, 2019 by HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and is in memory the 200th anniversary of the births of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

From the "Bicentennial Bench" the honoured guest could enjoy the view of the Romanov Cross.

The monument was created by the Russian artist Elena Besborodova and presented as a gift to the people of East Cowes by the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society UK and private donors on July 7th, 2018.



In honour of the visit of relatives of the martyred Russian Imperial Family a reception at Albert Cottage (where Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich stayed as a child) was organized.



*Top left - Michael Paler greeting the guests. Right - Paul Kulikovsky speaking.
Bottom left - Kenneth Beken speaking. Right - the guests under the gaze of Prince Albert.*



Deputy mayor Michael Paler greeted all the guests and told about the history of the Albert Cottage. It was built the 1840s probably by Thomas Cubitt – leading master builder in London – Albert Cottage was bought in 1852 by Prince Albert (Husband of Queen Victoria) to be part of a Botanic Garden development of the Osborne House Estate, and was used together with the adjacent Osborne Cottage by Royal guests.

In 1899 a covered corridor was constructed to link the two properties and allow easy movement between them without guests having to brave any inclement weather.

When Queen Victoria died in 1901, her successor Edward VII kept both cottages for the use of Victoria's youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice. In 1913 the Princess moved to Carisbrooke Castle and Albert Cottage was sold to Sir Richard Burbidge, philanthropist and Managing Director of Harrods. It was again sold in 1924 to The Hon. Elizabeth Storr, widow of Major L.P. Storr DSO, a war hero killed in action in France in 1918. After later neglect it was turned into a hotel in 1999.

Paul E. Kulikovsky told about the special significance of the day, thank everybody who had arranged the event, and then added there was another reason for this special significance - 13th of October was the day of repose of the mother of Emperor Nicholas II - Empress Maria Feodorovna. The great-grandmother of Princess Olga and the great-great-grandmother of Paul Kulikovsky. He then ask all to stand up for a minute of silence in her honour.

Kenneth Beken told about his family business, which had actually served the Grand Duchesses upon their visit in East Cowes. The Beken family started their business in East Cowes in 1888 when Alfred Edward Beken (1855-1915) opened a pharmacy. The Grand Duchesses visited this pharmacy and bought almost the entire stock of perfume and hairbrushes. They still have the records of the sale.

It was his son Frank (1880-1970) who was so impressed by the classic yachts sailing off Cowes that he started the Beken Marine Photography Archive. He arranged a boat to sail out to the Russian Imperial Yacht Standart in 1909, so that he could make photos of it. He made a few photos, before he was chased away.

Each generation has earned the title "Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society" and the Company has held three Royal Warrants for excellence.

Up to 1970 the photographs were signed Beken & Son by hand in white ink. From 1970 when colour photography came to the fore, until the darkrooms closed in 2008, all photographs were signed Beken of Cowes again by hand with white ink.

In 2005 Beken changed to taking their photographs digitally. In 2008 with the advancement in the quality of digital printing came the move to supply all prints digitally too, and after 120 years of service the darkrooms were finally closed. Beken have a small range of Silver Gelatine Photographs left which they sell from their Gallery in Cowes.

Kenneth Beken then presented two framed photographs of the Imperial Yacht Standart at East Cowes in 1909, while Michael Paler presented another set of framed historical photographs from East Cowes, to Princess Olga and Paul Kulikovsky.

They then visited Osborne House, the summer residence of Queen Victoria, St Mildred's church where Victoria, the elder sister of Ella and Alex, is buried, and Barton Manor, where a series of famous photos of the British royal family and the Russian Imperial Family were made.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert bought the Osborne estate on the Isle of Wight in 1845. There they created a private home away from court life. Victoria used Osborne for over 50 years, entertaining foreign royalty and visiting ministers, finding solace there after Albert's death in 1861. Today, many of the rooms are still filled with original furniture and works of art, while the planting in the grounds is to Albert's designs.

The interior reflects only the period of Queen Victoria, so there is not much related to history after 1901. This means the historical meeting of the English and Russian royals in 1909 is not mentioned. On one wall is a few photos and a one-page sheet telling about "Princess Alice, the Imperial Family of Russia, and the Mountbatten family". It ends with saying - "In 1894 Alice and Louis' sixth child, Princess Alix married Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. In 1918, during the Russian revolution, they were executed along with their five children. As there was no surviving issue from the Tsar and Tsarina's marriage, the present head of the exiled Russian Imperial Family.

H.I.H. George Michaelovich, is descended from Emperor Alexander III"

.....What! He is neither the *present head* or a *descendant of Emperor Alexander III*.

This rubbish is basically all there is of Romanov connection in Osborne House.



The history of Barton Manor spans over 900 years and was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is a Jacobean manor house in Whippingham, on the Isle of Wight. While it retains two 17th century elevations, other frontages were renovated, as was the interior in the 19th century. Two medieval lancet windows originated at a former Augustinian priory.

Queen Victoria first rented Barton Manor for a period of a year from 1844, in order to assess its suitability as her family home. However, obviously deciding that it was too small, she purchased the nearby Osborne House instead. She had long been associated with East Cowes, since staying at Norris Castle, as a girl. She also tried to buy Norris Castle in 1845, but failed.

However, the Queen still bought Barton Manor in 1845 for £18,000. Her main reason for purchasing the estate was so that she could house Crown equerries and visiting European royalty there.

Inheriting the estate from Queen Victoria, Edward VII decided to retain Barton Manor for his own use, after gifting Osborne House to the nation in 1902.

King George V held to the estate until 1922, when he decided to sell it, ending 75 years of Royal ownership.

The main event, was however on August 4th, 1909, when King Edward VII held a tea party at Barton Manor for the Russian Imperial Family.



Osborne House had after Queen Victoria's death been converted into a naval collage and convalescent home. The Imperial family arrived there and looked around. "Nicholas II Emperor of Russia" was signed into the guestbook, and then they proceed to Barton Manor.

A Persian carpet was laid out in front of the house and several photos were made of the entire party and of them in smaller groups.

Then tea was served on the lawn.



A photoshopped and colorized photo of the British royal family of King Edward VII and the Russian Imperial Family with Emperor Nicholas II sitting outside Barton Manor on August 4th, 1909, including a detail of a photo of Princess Olga Andreevna and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy from October 13th 2019 at Barton Manor.

Standing at the back, from left to right, are: Prince Edward of Wales (later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor), Queen Alexandra, Princess Mary of Wales, Princess Victoria, and the Grand Duchesses Olga and Tatiana. (Behind then Princess Olga Andreevna and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy). Sitting, from left to right, are: the Princess of Wales (later Queen Mary), Emperor Nicholas II, Tsarevich Alexei, King Edward VII, Grand Duchess Anastasia, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, and the Prince of Wales (later King George V), sharing a chair with the Grand Duchess Maria.

Photoshopped and colorized by Olorin Maiar.

The Imperial Family's visit ended at Barton Manor in 1909, and so did the visit of Princess Olga Andreevna and Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy 110 years later.

In the local media "Onthewight", October 14th it said - "Russian royal descendants visit town for memorial service.

On Sunday (13th October) the Russian Princess descendant of the House of Romanov, HH Princess Olga Andreevna Romanov, along with Mr and Mrs Kulikovskiy who travelled from Moscow to lay flowers at the Romanov monument.

This was their first visit to East Cowes and our Island which they found to be a moving experience. Members of our community turned out in the pouring rain to welcome them and we owe many thanks to you all for helping make this a special occasion.

Cllr Love said, "The event was a great success and it was an honour to host the Royal Party and bring to life our town and Island's rich cultural history.

"David Hill planned the event after receiving a request from our friends at the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanov Society to enable this to happen." The event will be reported in the Russian Media which helps to raise the profile of our Island and town as a tourist destination."

He went on to say, "Deputy Mayor Michael Paler and Kenneth Beacon presented pictures to the HH and Mr and Mrs Kulikovsky.

"The pictures were of East Cowes and the Imperial Russian yacht, the Standart, serving Emperor Nicholas II and his family in the bay of East Cowes in 1909, which was sadly to be the last time the imperial family visited the Island."

Cllr Love finished by saying, "The monument has been a great success since its unveiling last year which allows our community to participate and visitors to enjoy our heritage. It has already inspired successive Royals to visit our town which raises the profile of East Cowes.

"I very much hope that you enjoy all that it can bring to our town now and in the future."

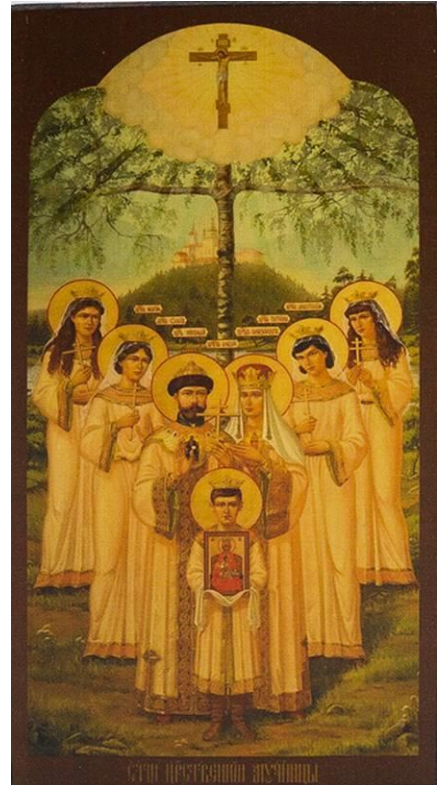


The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

Nothing new!

There have not been published any new results of the Investigation Committee or any information of how the case is progressing. All information about the case have also disappeared from the media. Everybody is suspiciously silent.

Is it silence before the storm, or an attempt to make the public forget the case?



155 years since the birth of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna

Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow invited to a joint prayer on November 1. The Divine Liturgy was accompanied by the children's choir of the St. Demetrius School under the direction of Eugene Tugarinov. After the Liturgy, guests could enjoy tea drinking, tours of the house-museum of the Great Mother.

In the evening a concert of classical music dedicated to the birthday of Elizabeth Feodorovna took place in the Cathedral Chamber of the Diocesan House (PSTU).



“...Моя главная цель - облегчить страдания человечества, дать ему Божественный свет, стать, если Бог даст милость...”
Святая преподобномученица Великая княгиня Елисавета Феодоровна

1 ноября 2019 **155-лет со дня рождения**
св. преподобномученицы Великой княгини Елисаветы Феодоровны Романовой

9:00	Литургия в Покровском храме в сопровождении детского хора Димитриевской школы под руководством кандидата искусствоведения Евгения Тутаринова
10:30	Чашение
11:00	Экскурсии в доме-музее Елисаветы Феодоровны
16:00	
19:00	Торжественный концерт классической музыки с участием струнного квартета Большого симфонического оркестра им. П. И. Чайковского и лауреатов международных конкурсов Анны Трушковой (рояль) и Алексея Бугаяна (рояль). Место проведения - Соборная палата Епархиального дома (ПСТУ, адрес: м. Цветной бульвар, пер. Лихов, д. 6).

Билеты на концерт можно приобрести в церковной лавке Собора и на официальном сайте www.pstu.ru
Марфо-Мариинский собор: м. Новосадская, ул. Доминья Стрелица, 34, м. Павлова, Третьяковская, Погодаулицкая.

The abbess of the Martha-Mary monastery of mercy, Mother Superior Elizabeth, welcomed the guests.

The concert program included works of Rachmaninov, Mozart, Bach, Tchaikovsky performed by the string quartet of the Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra named after P.I. Tchaikovsky and pianists, with laureates of numerous international competitions Anna Trushkova and Alexei Bugayan.

In the first part, were: Vasily Pervakov - 1st violin, Dmitry Rafaeliants - 2nd violin, Elena Bakulina - viola, Natalia Raspopova - cello.

In the second part, a literary and musical composition "Music in the life of the Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna": Anna Trushkova - piano, Alexey Bugayan - piano, and the text is read by Sergey Ilyashenko.



According to the records and diaries of the Grand Duchess and members of the Imperial Family, her birthday was never mentioned as a day of especially magnificent celebrations: Divine Liturgy and tea drinking with friends, warm, sincere congratulations, modest gifts. This day was like that, even after many decades.

XXII Elizabeth-Sergei Readings - The international scientific conference "Hessian Princesses. Traditions of upbringing and education in Russia and Germany. 1840-1918"

On October 29, the conference dedicated to the 155th birthday of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna was opened in the Moscow State Linguistic University, on Ostozhenka Street. It was arranged by the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society.



Ostozhenka Street is a special place in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, who paid great attention to charity, upbringing and education of children. In the neighboring building of MSLU was the Moscow Council of Children's Shelters - Sergievsky shelter, headed by Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. In House No. 37 was erected for the craft workshops of the Sergievsky Shelter on Ostozhenka, where a year later the classes of the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, which was later reorganized into the V. Surikov Moscow Art Institute.

The XXII Elizabeth-Sergius readings was devoted to the traditions of upbringing and education in Russia and Germany, which were followed by the prominent representatives of the Imperial House of Romanov - Empress Maria Alexandrovna - the wife of Emperor Alexander II, Empress Alexander Feodorovna - the wife of Emperor Nicholas II and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna - wife of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, Governor of Moscow.

Within the framework of the conference a mobile poster exhibition "Hessian Princesses in Russian History" was opened.



"The Russian gymnasium and university education system took a lot in Germany. It solved the main task - the sequence of training and ensuring the maximum graduation of those specialists that Russia needed," said Igor Zimin, doctor of History.

"We all know the great state accomplishments, great victories, but the true sources of the greatness of the Russian state, benefactor, enlightenment, as a rule, remain in the shade," noted Alexander Gorbenko, deputy of Moscow mayor.

Video - <https://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/171406/>

The Days of Elizabeth in the Land of Hesse

During October 31st to November 2nd, the "Days of Elizabeth" was organized in Wiesbaden and in Darmstadt, by the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society.

On October 31, 2019, the 2nd session of the XXII Elizabeth-Sergei Readings was held in Kurzal of Wiesbaden, which is the administrative center of the State of Hesse (Germany).

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Federal Republic of Germany Sergey Y. Nechaev, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Frankfurt am Main Alexander B. Bulay, Archbishop of Berlin and German Mark, Head of the Hessian House, Landgraf Henry Donatus Philip Umberto greeted the guests and participants of the XXII Elisabeth-Sergei Readings.

The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Sverdlovsk Region Lyudmila V. Babushkina, Head of the State Archive of the Russian Federation Sergey V. Mironenko, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Sverdlovsk region Tatiana G. Merzlyakov, the Minister of Science and Art of Hesse Angela Dorn, project manager of "classical school" Tatiana Altushkin, and Huno Duke of Oldenburg attended.

During the conference, speakers from Russia and Germany talked about the multifaceted and extensive educational activities of the representatives of the Imperial House of Romanov; the achievements of Empress Catherine II in the Enlightenment; German scientists in Tsarist Russia at the turn of the XVIII - XIX centuries; the development of the middle education during the reign of Emperor Nicholas II and the training of Russian students in European universities in the second half of the XIX - early XX centuries; and the basic principles of education in institutions under the auspices of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. In the framework of the conference a poster exhibition was shown.

ЕЛИЗАВЕТИНСКИЕ ДНИ В ЗЕМЛЕ ГЕССЕН 2019

Ведущий: Сергей Яковлевич Нецаев, Посол Российской Федерации в ФРГ

К 155-летию со дня рождения Великой Княгини Елизаветы Федоровны

31 ОКТЯБРЯ
ВИСБАДЕН

18:30 - начало
18:30 - Торжественное открытие Выставок

1 НОЯБРЯ
ДАРМШТАДТ

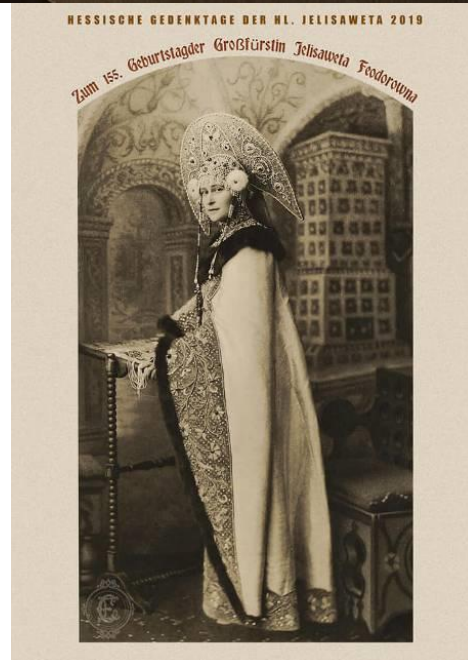
День рождения святой преподобномученицы Великой Княгини Елизаветы Федоровны
09:30-11:30 - Архиерейские богослужения в храме св. великой Марии Магдалины в сопровождении канцелярии духовной консистории: СВТМОН, Екатеринбургский митрополит, Россия
Kistel, St. Maria Magdalena, Wiesbaden 15

19:00-20:30 - Благотворительный концерт в зале св. ап. Павла, посвященный 155-летию со дня рождения Великой Княгини Елизаветы Федоровны в исполнении детской политематической команды СВТМОН, Frankfurt/Main, Wiesbaden 20

2 НОЯБРЯ
ВИСБАДЕН

10:30-11:00 - Встреча на русском кладбище, Русская гора Неробург
11:00-11:30 - Посещение храма св. прп. Серафима
11:30-12:00 - Богослужение в храме св. великой Марии Магдалины в сопровождении канцелярии консистории СВТМОН, Frankfurt/Main 1

Конференция с выставками посвящена 155-летию со дня рождения в России и Германии, которые сыграли выдающуюся роль в истории России. Великая Княгиня Елизавета Федоровна, урожденная Мария Павловна, была одной из самых выдающихся представительниц династии Романовых. Она была не только великой княгиней, но и святой, которая была канонизирована в 1992 году. Ее жизнь и деятельность являются примером для всех. В рамках конференции будут представлены выставки, посвященные ее жизни и деятельности. Также будут проведены богослужения и концерты. Конференция будет проходить в двух городах: Висбадене и Дармштадте.





On November 1, on the birthday of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Divine Liturgy was held in the Church of Mary Magdalene on Matildenhöhe in Darmstadt, led by the Archbishop of Berlin and Germany Mark (Arndz).

The delegation visited the tomb of the parents of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Rosenhöhe Park and other memorable places.

In the evening, a concert of the Bishop's children's singing chapel of the Yekaterinburg Metropolitanate "OKTOIH", was held in the Cathedral of St. Paul, as a musical gift to the people of Germany on the birthday of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.



On November 2, the delegation from Russia visited memorable places related to the life of the Hessian Princesses. The guests followed the "Imperial Route", which the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society is developing in Germany. It unites the places of memory, the Highest stay, visits and pilgrimages of representatives of the Russian Imperial House.



On November 3, with the blessing of the Archbishop of Berlin and Germany, Mark, a poster exhibition started in travel in Germany. The first stop was in Frankfurt. The exhibition is available for visiting in the church of St. Nicholas - the oldest center of Russian emigration in Germany.

A charity concert of the bishop's children's chapel "OKTOIH" was held, after which and representatives of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society - Elena Golovanova and Lyudmila Shumskaya presented the poster exhibition.

The exhibition "The Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna Romanova and her abode of mercy" was held in Berlin

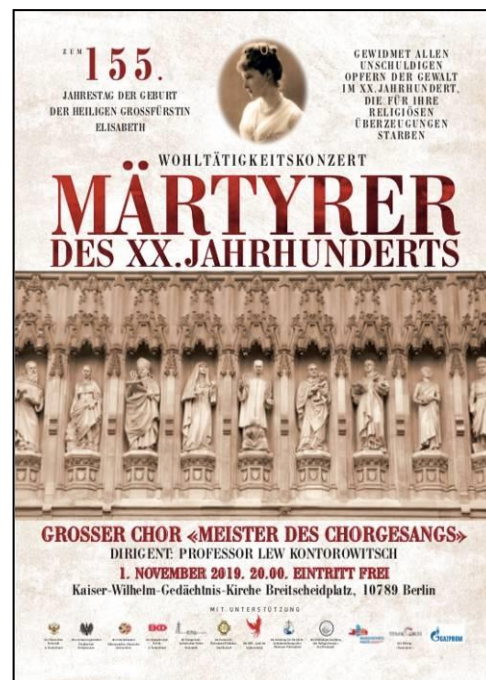
October 23. Fund Saint Gregory - On October 17, 2019, in the exhibition hall "Tolstoy" of the Russian House of Science and Culture in Berlin, the exhibition "Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna Romanova and her abode of mercy" opened for visitors on the 155th anniversary of the birth of the Martyr. Today in Russia, the traditions of mercy, laid down by Elizabeth Feodorovna, are being revived. Her holy image connects Russia and Germany. The exposition will be available until November 17, 2019.

The exhibition was prepared by the Saint Gregory the Theologian Charity Foundation in conjunction with the Resurrection Country Autonomous Non-profit Organization based on photographs and documents from the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the Main Archival Directorate of Moscow, the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, the Moscow Patriarchate Publishing House, the Martha-Mary Convent of Mercy, and the photographer's personal archive Vladimir Khodakov. The curator of the exhibition is Igor Lapshin.

The exposition covers all stages of the biography of Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Visitors will see family, children's and youthful photos of the Princess of Hesse, learn how they solemnly met the bride of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in St. Petersburg. Some of the photographs were taken in the Ilinskoye estate near Moscow, where the couple lived. One of the sections is devoted to their pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the other tells in detail about the activities of the Martha-Mary monastery. The presented archival documents recreate the tragic atmosphere of the last months of the life of the Martyr - from arrest to her death.

The exhibition was organized with the support of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Berlin and Gazprom dobycha Urengoy LLC.

November 1, the birthday of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, in the framework of the program of the international cultural project "Russian Seasons" in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin, a concert entitled "Martyrs of the 20th Century" was dedicated to the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna Romanova and all the innocent victims of tyranny, violence and wars of the XX century. The concert was by the Academic Big Choir "Masters of Choral Singing" under the direction of People's Artist of Russia, Professor Lev Kontorovich. The spiritual and secular works of Russian and Western European composers was heard. The event was designed to strengthen the cultural ties between Russia and Germany.



Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna items are exhibited at the Tsarsky center

November 1, 2019 marks the 155th anniversary of the birth of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. For this anniversary date, the Tsarsky cultural and educational center has opened a museum and library exhibition "... A road full of light, which the Lord has shown me ...".

"Not every generation is destined to meet such a blessed gift of heaven, as the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna," said Archbishop Anastasius (Gribanovsky) in a speech dedicated to her blessed memory, published in 1925 in Jerusalem. It was he, long before the canonization of Elizabeth Feodorovna in Russia, laid the foundation for the compilation of her life," was told in the center.

The exhibition presents unique things that (supposedly) belonged to the Grand Duchess: a porcelain mug, plates for second courses, a glove, fragments of her blouse, lace collar and others. In addition to these items, the Museum of the Holy Royal Family exhibited a rare edition of 1909: L. Belsky "Legends and Tales of St. Elisabeth of the Hungarian Landgrafina Turengenskaya" from the library of the Martha-Mary Convent with an author's inscription.



The library "Derzhavnaya" acquaints with the books, which tell about the life of Elizabeth Feodorovna. Childhood in the family of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt Ludwig IV and Princess Alice, who laid the foundations for her noble Christian education and love for others. It is impossible to comprehend the path that she followed without the personality of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich: wholehearted acceptance of Orthodoxy, educational and charitable activities, pilgrimages to the Russian provinces and a visit to the Verkhotursky Nikolaevsky Monastery in 1914, self-denial and service to God and neighbors in the Martha-Mary Convent of Mercy founded by her after the tragic death of her husband, martyrdom in Alapaevsk and glorification in the face of saints.

- Despite the tragic fate of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, acquaintance with the exhibition leaves bright feelings. The exhibition is decorated with her favourite flowers - white lilies. In this connection, I want to recall again the words of Archbishop Anastasius: "She brought the pure fragrance of a lily; perhaps that is why she loved white colour so much: it was a reflection of her heart," the exhibition organizers noted.



A monument to Emperor Nicholas II opened in Alexeevskoye

On the territory of the St. Nicholas Church in Alexeevskoye village, in the north of the Moscow region, a solemn lighting of the bust-monument to the holy noble Tsar-Martyr Nicholas took place. Archpriest Anthony Tirkov, Dean of the Solnechnogorsk District, led the celebration, along with Archpriest Vadim Eliseev, accompanied by the rector of the church.



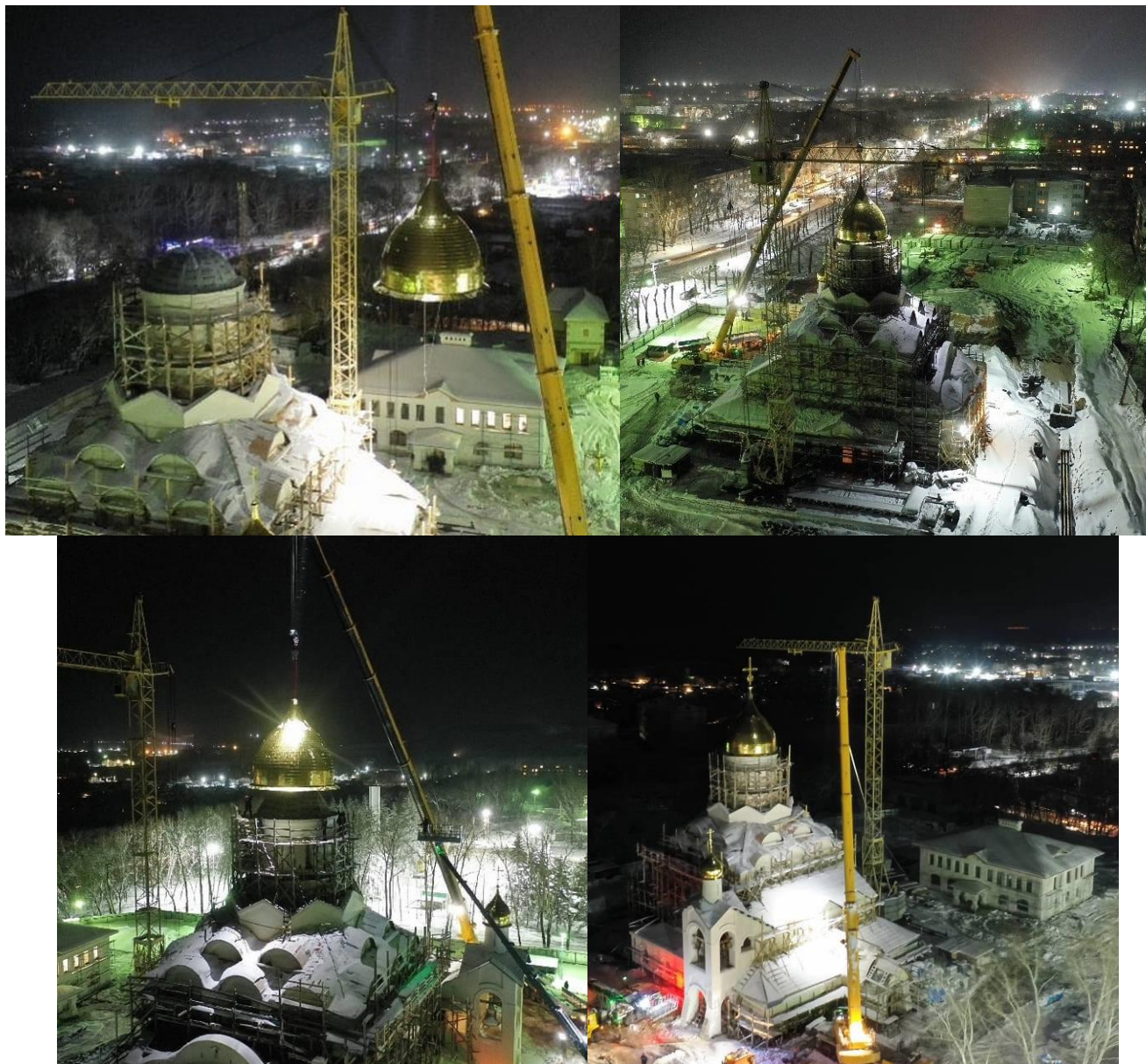
- The acquisition of the monument and its installation on the territory of the parish was carried out thanks to assistance of active parishioners. This is the second time that a monument to the Holy Tsar has been erected in our diocese,” said Dean of the Solnechnogorsk District Archpriest Anthony Tirkov. The first such monument to the Tsar was made in the Nikolo-Birlyukovskaya monastery.

The church of the Martyr Tsarevich Alexei in Svobodny was crowned with a cross and a dome

A cross and the main dome were erected on the Church of the martyr Tsesarevich Alexei under construction in Svobodny in Amur.

The gilded giant weighing five tons was installed using special equipment in two hours. Despite the bad weather that broke out on Friday, October 25 - snow and wind - all work went well.

A week ago, the cross and the main dome of the Svobodnensky church were consecrated by the Archbishop of Annunciation and Tyndinsky Lukian. Also, the ruling bishop blessed the bells already installed on the belfry.



The construction of the church in honour of the New Martyr Tsarevich Alexei, the son of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, began in 2017. The new church will accommodate 500 parishioners. The only church now available in Svobodny is no longer enough to accommodate everyone who comes to church services.

A spiritual and educational centre in honour of the martyr Tsarevich Alexei for children, youth and people of age will also appear on the territory of the church under construction. In addition, a Sunday

school, refectory, prosphora and other services necessary for a full life of the parish will be placed there.

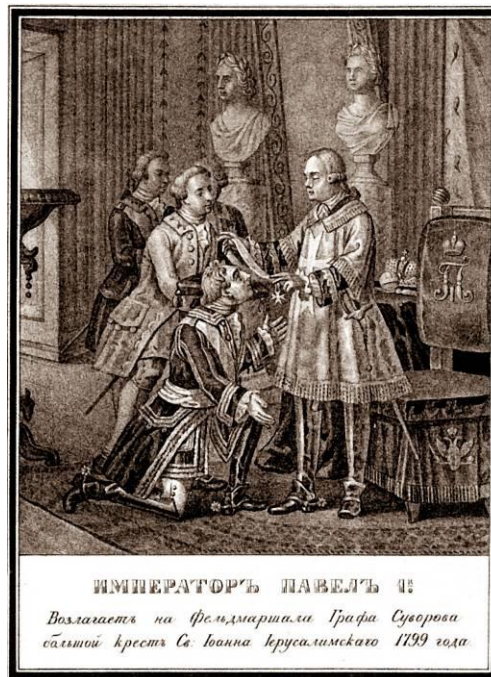
Since the start of construction, services have already been performed in the church: on the 100th anniversary of the murder of the Imperial Family, in 2018, and also on the day of memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs, July 17 this year.

"Paul the First and Suvorov" opened in Gatchina Palace

"Pavel the First and Suvorov" - an exhibition dedicated to the anniversary of the Swiss campaign in 1799 was opened in the Gatchina Museum.

An old Suvorov soldier in the uniform of the Absheron Regiment beats away the "gathering" team, but the rarities in the halls have already attracted the attention of military history experts. For the Gatchina Museum-Reserve, this exhibition is also an important moment in the strategy for further development.

"Gatchina, when it opened in '85, moved along the path of the interior museum, but now we still want to talk more about people. That is why this exhibition is so important to us. We are not just showing objects here, but talking about personalities. This exhibition paves our way to the future, because the future lies in the conversation about those people who lived here," said Vasily Pankratov, director of the Gatchina State Museum-Reserve.



The most famous inhabitant of these places is Paul the First. Here, Suvorov was on manoeuvres in Gatchina Park. It was Paul who introduced the overcoat, which remained in the army until the beginning of the 21st century. Before that they wore short uniforms that did not protect from the cold. Not without excesses. Pavel introduced wigs with letters for officers according to the Prussian model, and the soldiers were forced to build something similar from their own hair.

"My hair was in boucle and braids. It was terrible, because fat and all kinds of rubbing - they had nothing to do with hygiene. As for uniforms, shoes are uncomfortable. As for the pants, the culottes, despite the fact that they look rather strange, they allow you to sit down, unlike the Alexander uniforms," explained the rector Feodor Molchanov.

Suvorov did not approve of the Prussian order in the army and said: "Powder is not gunpowder, curls are not a gun, braid is not a cleaver, and I am not German, but Russian." The intriguers took advantage

of the conflict and reported: Suvorov allegedly was in a conspiracy, for which Alexander Vasilyevich was exiled to his estate without the right to leave for more than 10 years. But when Paul called him to fight Bonaparte, Suvorov immediately rejected all resentment. "Both were such knightly people who followed their convictions, and this caused a conflict, I think so," said Vasily Pankratov.



Silver sculpture reflects the true nature of the relationship between Paul and his generalissimo. The Emperor rewards the commander for the Italian and Swiss campaigns, he kneeled-deeply, but with dignity accepts royal mercy.

"He ordered the Russian guard and to give all the troops, even in his presence, honours equal to those that give him to the imperial majesty, Suvorov," says Vladimir Gronskey, director of the State Memorial Museum of A.V.Suvorov.



In parallel with the exposition, an educational program was prepared at the museum. And on November 24, visitors will be able to visit the exhibition for free, provided that they come in historical costumes.

Video - 1) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/351506/

2) <https://topspb.tv/news/2019/10/17/nauka-pobezhdet-v-gatchinskom-dvorce-otkrylas-vystavka-pavel-pervyj-i-suvorov/>

The exhibition "The Chair of Her Majesty the Empress - witness of the three coronations"

On October 25, 2019, an exhibition of one exhibit entitled "The Chair of Her Majesty the Sovereign Empress - witness of three coronations" opened at the Gatchina Museum-Reserve.

Visitors will see the throne chair of Maria Alexandrovna. The temporary exposition will introduce the coronation ceremony in the Russian Empire and the history of the creation of a unique piece of furniture art of the 19th century.

Before the revolution of 1917, the throne was considered one of the symbols of imperial power and played an important role during the coronation. A piece of furniture received a sacred meaning and had high artistic value: the best artists and masters worked on it. With the onset of the Soviet era, the brilliant ceremonies of the Imperial court were forgotten, and the throne chairs turned into museum exhibits.



The throne of Maria Alexandrovna got into the collection of the Gatchina Museum-Reserve in 1977, along with seven other coronation chairs of Russian Emperors and Empresses. The administration of the Moscow Kremlin museums handed over throne chairs that were not used in the exposition, as the Kremlin commandant demanded that part of the premises occupied by the fund storage be vacated.

During the preparation of the exhibition, the employees of the Gatchina Museum-Reserve carried out serious scientific work: they studied archival documents and literary sources, clarified the attribution of the exhibit - they learned the names of the performers, the time of creation and the details of the changes to which the item was subjected.

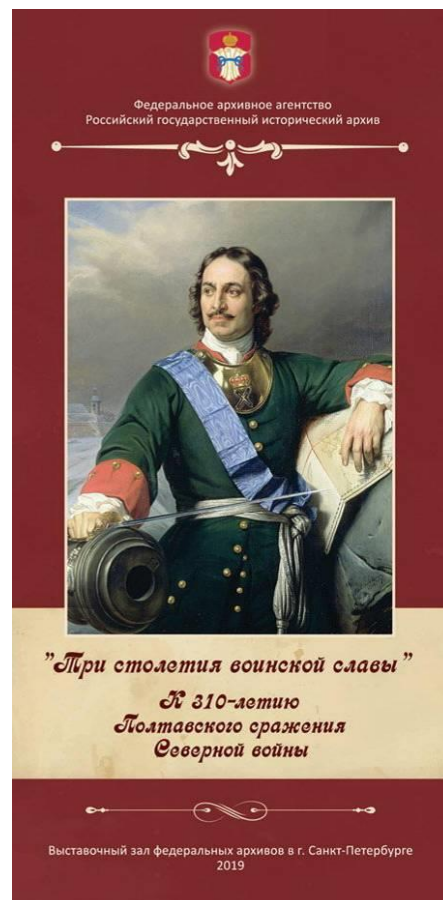
The throne chair was made for the coronation of Emperor Alexander II in the workshop of E.I. Blechschmidt designed by the heraldist and numismatist B.V. Köhne in the newfangled "Russian

style". The chair of Empress Maria Alexandrovna was intended to be placed on a throne in the St. Andrew's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace.

In 1883, at the coronation of Alexander III and Maria Feodorovna, the chair was "fixed": stamped brocade was replaced with velvet with gold embroidery. The exhibition will feature a previously unpublished photograph of the throne chair before replacing fabric from the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA). At the coronation of Alexander III, the Empress's throne chair and the Emperor's throne chair made for him were used on the throne in the Faceted Chamber during the days after the Holy Coronation.

Three centuries of Russian military glory

On October 16, 2019, the historical and documentary exhibition "Three Centuries of Military Glory. To the 310th anniversary of the Poltava battle of the Northern War" was opened in the Federal State Archives in St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg, 36 Zanevsky Prospekt). Among the participants is the State Archive of the Russian Federation. The exposition is a unique project, for the first time over 300 documentary certificates are presented to the general public, comprehensively covering the history of the wars waged by the Russian Empire during the 18th - early 20th centuries.



A leaflet for distribution to the participants during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Patriotic War of 1812 in 1912.

Documents and exhibits tell about the Northern War, the Russian-Turkish Wars of 1768-1774, 1787-1791 and 1877-1878, the Russian-Swedish War of 1808-1809, the Patriotic War of 1812, the Crimean War, the Russian-Japanese War, First World War. The exposition creates a voluminous image of military conflicts that contributed to the formation of the geopolitical borders of the Russian Empire, and also had a key influence on the development of Russian statehood and socio-economic relations.

Decrees and manifestos, letters and telegrams, newspapers and magazines, maps, drawings and photographs allow us to trace the dramatic struggle of the Russian state for access to the Baltic and Black Seas, reveal the heroic pages of the confrontation of Napoleonic France, highlight the history of the creation of new armed forces in the era of Alexander II and tell about their struggle for the liberation of the Balkan Slavs, to pay tribute to the participants of the last military conflict of the Russian Empire -

the First World War. Particular attention was paid to the personalities of prominent Russian commanders and naval commanders - B.P. Sheremetev, P.A. Rumyantsev, A.V. Suvorov, A.G. Orlov, F.F. Ushakov, M.I. Kutuzov, M.D. Skobelev, A.A. Brusilov, and others.



A letter of honour granted by Empress Catherine II to the adjutant wing at the headquarters of G.A. Potemkin, Chevalier de la Tessonieru for noble dignity. 1781



Left - Letter A.D. Menshikov, to Lieutenant A.I. Ushakov from September 29, 1707 admission recruit and horses.

Right - The drawing of the medal "In memory of the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878", which was highly approved on September 14, 1878.



Letters of Peter I and A.D. Menshikov are shown for the first time. Autographs of great-grandfather A.S. Pushkin - military engineer A.P. Hannibal. Rescripts and letters of commendation of Catherine II to Russian military chiefs. "Charter on military service" approved by Alexander II. Manifesto of Nicholas II on the outbreak of war with Germany.

In addition to the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the exhibition participants are: the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, the Russian State Military Historical Archive, the Russian State Archive of the Navy, the Russian State Archive of Film and Photo Documents, the Central State Archive of Film and Photo Documents of St. Petersburg, the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the RF, Belarus and Moldova, State Memorial Museum A.V. Suvorov, Military History Museum of Artillery, Engineering and Signal Corps, Central Museum of Railway Transport of the RF, State Academic Mariinsky Theater.

The exhibition runs from October 16 to December 13, 2019.

A Russian review of the HBO TV series "Catherine the Great"

10/16/2019. Cultura, Pavel Surkov - On one of the British channels, the show of the series "Catherine the Great" ended, in Russia the film will be available on the Internet. "Culture" tried to figure out what this project is - a good movie, another cranberry or skilful provocation like the acclaimed "Chernobyl".

There are such figures in world history whose significance is obvious to everyone - regardless of immersion in a national, cultural or historical context. Titans, on which the movement of eternal processes itself is based, and after centuries, they remain in the people's memory as certain symbols, often ambiguous and multifaceted. And at the appropriate time they are evaluated differently. It is all the more offensive when this characteristic turns out to be superficial.

So it happened with Catherine II, who had long ago turned into the international symbol of a strong woman, who took power with a firm hand and strengthened the Russian Empire in the world political arena. Yes, in the rugged biography of the ruler, there is always something to catch on to numerous fiction writers - be it her power or love ambitions. The second for filmmakers is often much more attractive than the first, because it is much easier to bribe the mass audience with juicy amorous adventures. Philip Martin's new mini-series, Catherine the Great, is another review of the Empress's life, but this time presented from the point of view of an absolute European of the beginning of the 21st century.

A recent series of appeals to Russian history has not turned out to be very successful - just remember with a bang the failed series "The Last Tsars" dedicated to the tragic fate of Nicholas II, which, by the number of historical errors, seemed to break all conceivable and unimaginable records. So inevitably from "Catherine the Great" you are waiting for just a pseudo-historical plot - a miserable film comic strip about the crazy Empress in the environment of her many favourites. However, in fact, it turned out to be a rather curious, although very ambiguous spectacle.



Helen Mirren is assigned to the role of Catherine - a very strange choice. The main lady of British cinema really has great experience playing local crowned people - she has already transformed into

Elizabeth I in the series of the same name by Tom Hooper, and Elizabeth II in the play "Audience" and the movie "Queen" (2000), and now it's time for our Catherine. But is it too late? After all, neither computer graphics, nor makeup, alas, can hide the age mismatch. To portray the 33-year-old Empress (the action begins with the coup of 1762) 70-year-old Mirren is clearly not in power.

That's because of such trifles, the series actually "falls apart." Even Jason Clark does not save in the role of Count Potemkin - in many ways he is the main character of the series, in fact determining the development of the plot. Need Crimea? - Gregory is right there. Need to solve army issues? - Potemkin is always ready. Tame former favourites? - the iron hand of the count will solve any problems.

"Catherine the Great" is actually nothing more than a banal and extremely ordinary story of an aging woman's love for a young and strong man — simply immersed in the surroundings of rich chambers and conditionally connected with the events of Russian history. It is "conditional" - since the historical processes in the series are shown quite fragmentarily, and even attempts to focus on the burden of power are unsuccessful.



Although, it would seem, the first series has a promising beginning: overthrowing Peter III, Catherine goes to the prisoner in the fortress, Ivan VI, meets Mirovich in the same place - and the viewer has a hunch about a serious bid for a story about political intrigues or at least costumed adventures in the "Iron masks", but then the impassive Potemkin enters the frame, and the Empress instantly forgets everything. However, we give the series its due - it had the opportunity to slide into frank cranberries and vulgarity, but in full, fortunately, this did not happen. Even vodka in the frame is drunk only once - and then for an important reason: after the victorious Crimean

campaign. Naturally, there are no scenes of debauchery; the director resisted the wild temptation to force the elderly Mirren to be as frank as possible. Excessively colourful scenery depicting the imperial chambers complement the visual disaster. In such a clumsy surreal "comic book", the serial Catherine does not look like a historical figure, but rather like a heroine of myths and jokes.

Perhaps, for the modern foreign viewer, the series broadcasts the following two important thoughts. The Russian Empress is the founder of feminist discourse and could well fit into the now fashionable concept of a "strong woman" (in some frames she even subtly reminds Angela Merkel in her best years), but at the same time she is not devoid of human qualities. And the fact that individual ladies tearing to power today are sometimes frankly inferior to the strong and wise Catherine (although human weaknesses are not completely alien to her).

The second one. Russian history is quite worthy of becoming a source for large-scale dramas referring to the current political situation (in any case, after watching "Catherine the Great", the western inhabitant will definitely not have questions like "Whose Crimea?"). And her figures are real giants to whom an excellent, deep, multi-layered narrative can be devoted. And it's possible - just an interior alcove drama about how a handsome military man in a perfect uniform drove the Empress crazy. Which, however, pretty tightly held on to power and did not seat the favourite on the throne. And if this forces the foreign viewer to take up a Russian historical novel, say, of the same Mirovich Danilevsky, then one can even consider such a rather superficial story as Catherine the Great, not in vain.



But judging by the number of mistakes and inaccuracies in this series, the authors should have studied the correct textbook of Russian history. After all, the devil, as you know, is in the details. And he is always ready to deceive those who themselves wanted to deceive.

"Catherine the Great", United Kingdom, 2019, Director: Philip Martin. Cast: Helen Mirren, Jason Clark, Joseph Quinn, Rory Kinnear, Gina Mackey, etc



"Catherine. Impostors" - The Empress is back!

TV channel "Russia" presents a new episode of the movie saga about the fate of the brightest and most independent woman on the Russian throne. "Catherine. Impostors" is a series about the formation of the Russian Empire, an alarming period in the history of the country and the Great Empress who created this story. The first two seasons were: "Catherine" (2014) and "Catherine. Takeoff" (2017),

and was awarded the TEFI and Golden Eagle awards; took third place in the top 20 best series in the recommendations of the reputable foreign publication Hollywood Reporter.

The saga about the love and power of the Russian Empress was translated into 20 languages, the rights to display were bought in 104 countries.

"This is one of the most dramatic and difficult stages of her life. This season, Catherine is the most vulnerable and she will defend herself at all costs. Catherine will face losses and betrayal - not only on the political front, but also on the love one" - says Marina Alexandrova, the actress playing Catherine.

"Catherine deserves the whole world to talk about her! An incredible person in our history: a German by birth, she became absolutely Russian on the Russian throne in thirty years and indeed, she has done much more for Russia than many rulers before and after her" says Marina Alexandrova.



"1774, the reign of Catherine was under great threat from four sides. There is a war with Turkey, which could turn into either a successful world or a crushing defeat for Russia. In addition, in Paris in the hands of fugitive Poles and French adventurers is an important trump card against Catherine - Elizabeth Tarakanova, the self-proclaimed daughter of Elizabeth Petrovna. In southern Russia, a peasant uprising of Emelyan Pugachev, another impostor who declared himself Peter III, flares up. Finally, danger is brewing in the palace: Panin is calculating options for transferring power from Catherine to Paul. The fate of Russia depends on the decisions of the Empress."

Part 1 - https://russia.tv/video/show/brand_id/63256/episode_id/2211040/video_id/2233030/

In the Tula region the monument to Alexander II is restored

October 12th. / TASS - The bust of Emperor Alexander II, was restored from old photographs and opened in its original place.

"The bust of Alexander II was installed in Venev in 1911 to mark the 50th anniversary of the abolition of serfdom and was destroyed after the October Revolution of 1917.

The height of the bust with a pedestal is about four meters, the total weight of the sculptural composition is 3.5 tons. The bust itself made of bronze, the pedestal is lined with marble, there are signs on it describing the most significant events during the reign of the Emperor," said the head of the city tourist information centre Denis Mahel.

The monument was erected, in the same place - in the square near the building, which now houses the children's art school. "In this house, on August 17, 1837, Tsarevich Alexander stayed for the night. He finished his studies, and his mentor Vasily Andreyevich Zhukovsky developed a study tour in Russia. The route also went from Ryazan to Orel through the Tula province, through Venev," - said Mahel.



About three years ago, the city local history club came up with the idea of restoring the monument, sponsor of the bust was the head of the sculpture workshop from the Krasnodar Region Mikhail Serdyukov. Due to the administration of the Venevsky district, the territory of the square was landscaped.

Venev was founded in the XVI century, located in the north-east of the Tula region, 52 km from the regional centre. Among the most significant sights of the city is the bell tower of the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, 77 m high, built at the beginning of the 19th century. For a long time it was in desolation, now restoration is underway. The population of the city is about 14 thousand people.

Alexander II was born on April 29, 1818 in Moscow, he was the eldest son of Emperor Nicholas I and Empress Alexandra Fedorovna. He ascended the throne on March 3, 1855, during his reign a number of significant reforms were carried out, including serfdom was abolished in 1861. On March 14, 1881, as a result of the assassination attempt, Alexander II was mortally wounded, buried in the burial vault of the Romanovs in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg.



Prince Michael of Kent honors the memory of his holy relatives

On October 2, 2019, a relative of the Tsar's family, Prince Michael of Kent visited the shrines of Yekaterinburg: the Church on the Blood - the site of the murder of the holy Royal Martyrs and the Museum of the Holy Royal Family in the Tsarsky cultural and educational center.

A tour of the Church on the Blood and the Museum of the Holy Royal Family for His Royal Highness was conducted by the head of the Tsarsky Cultural and Educational Centre, Priest Viktor Belsky, together with the guide of the Yekaterinburg diocese, Irina V. Tveryakova.

In the Church on Blood, His Highness saw the updated "Tsar Room" - the altar of the chapel in honor of the Royal Martyrs built on the site of the assassination of Sovereign Nicholas II and his family. The altar is embellished on the memorable date of the centenary of the feat of the Tsar's family with the blessing of Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhotursky. Also, in the upper church, the first-cousin twice removed of the last Russian Emperor was shown the Three-Handed icon of the Mother of God, before which the Tsar's family prayed in the last days of its earthly life.



Note that Prince Michael of Kent already visited the site of the execution of the Imperial family in 1992, when at the site of the future church complex there was only one wooden chapel in the name of the Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna.

- I am very glad to see everything that has been done here in order to preserve the memory of this place. What happened over 100 years ago with the Tsar's family makes a very strong impression on me," the descendant of the Romanov dynasty shared his feelings.

Looking at the personal belongings of the Royal Martyrs at the Museum of the Holy Imperial Family in Tsarsky Center, his Royal Highness was extremely moved by the fact that these things were saved with care and love and donated to the museum.

- Everything that concerns the Imperial family touches the heart of his Royal Highness. He expressed a desire to come to Yekaterinburg again, to have more time to explore the many documents and photographs presented in the museum," said priest Viktor Belsky.

In the museum, the Prince left an autograph in the Visitors Book.



Recall that Prince Michael of Kent was named in honour of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, the younger brother of Nicholas II. Prince Michael of Kent is a member of the British Royal Family - cousin of Elizabeth II, grandson of King George V (cousin of Nicholas II) and Queen Mary.

Prince Michael of Kent at the Yeltsin Centre in Yekaterinburg recalled the past

October 2. Ural Aif - The cousin of Elizabeth II and the grand-nephew of Nicholas II, Prince Michael of Kent, got acquainted with the exposition of the Museum of the First President of the Russian Federation at the Yeltsin Center in Yekaterinburg.

A relative of the last Russian Emperor came to Yekaterinburg as part of a delegation of entrepreneurs from the UK, where he was given a tour of the Yeltsin Center and the Boris Yeltsin Museum. The director Dina Sorokina told about the work and exposition of the museum.

“The Prince of Kent shared his memories of previous visits to our country. For the first time he came to Russia in 1994, visiting Yekaterinburg. Then he visited Ganina Pit and the place of the Ipatiev House that was demolished in 1977,” the Yeltsin Centre press service said.



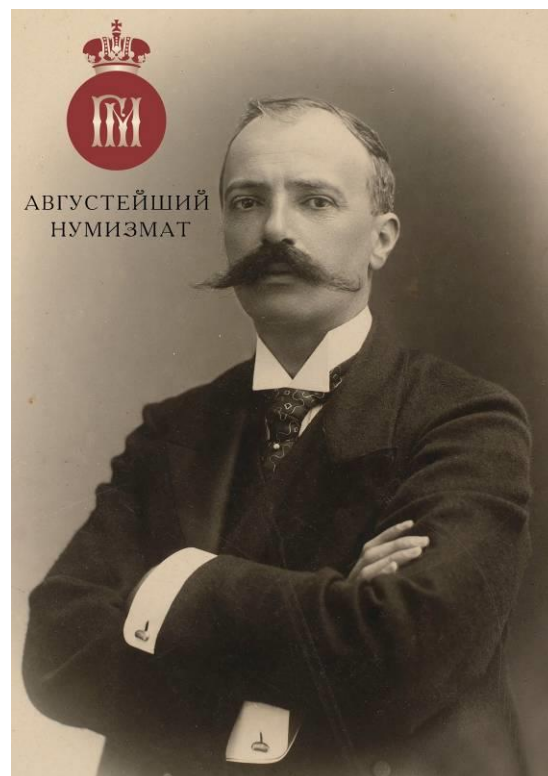
Moreover, in 1998, the Prince also participated in the burial of the remains of the Romanov family in St. Petersburg's St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, and was captured in one of the photographs from this ceremony, which is at the museum's disposal.

“August Numismatist. Grand Duke George Mikhailovich. Fate and Heritage”

October 1, 2019, the Museum of the International Numismatic Club and the Ministry of Culture of the RF presented a unique comprehensive research project as part of the grand opening of the exhibition “August Numismatist. Grand Duke George Mikhailovich. Fate and Heritage”.

The exhibition "August Numismatist" opens in the year of the centenary of the tragic death of the Grand Duke. It presents a variety of exhibits related to his life and work collected bit by bit from the funds of various museums. These are genuine items from the collection of the Grand Duke - coins and medals, archival documents and printed books, materials illustrating the preparation of the publication of the “Corps of Russian Coins”.

Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Medinsky and the founder of the Museum of the International Numismatic Club Vagit Alekperov greeted the audience.

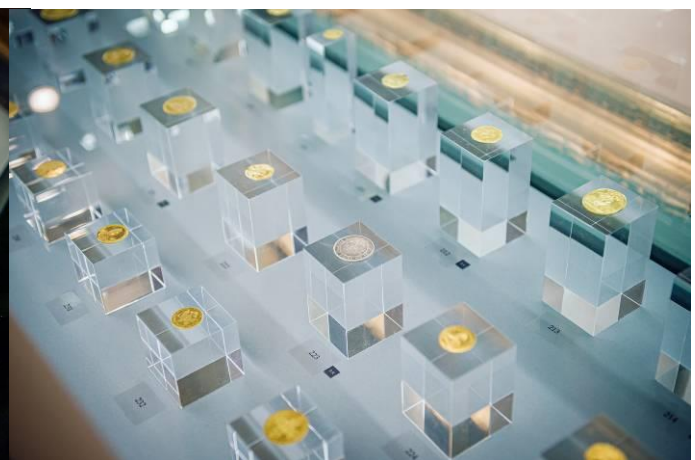




“Exhibition“ August Numismatist. Grand Duke George Mikhailovich. Fate and Heritage” is part of a large research project. Today, a scientific conference begins, bringing together scientists and numismatists from all over Russia. Also the other day a popular science book was published dedicated to the life of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich. The exhibition has begun work” - said Vagit Alekperov. “I want to thank the staff of our museum: a lot of work has been done so that this entire body of information is found, collected, systematized and properly formatted.”

The exhibition features more than 250 items, many of which the public will see for the first time - these are both the exhibits of the Museum of the International Numismatic Club and items from the collections of partners. Ministry of Culture helped to select artefacts from the state museums.

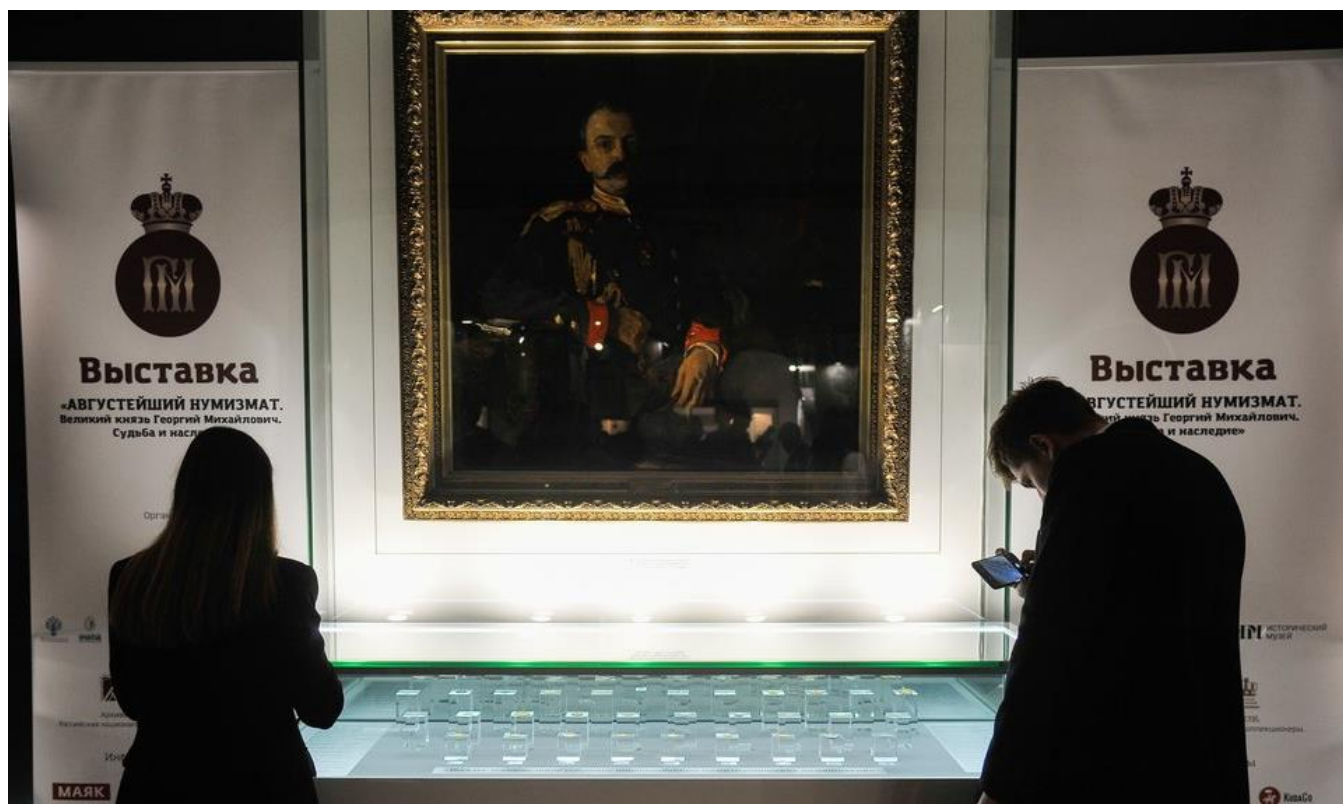
In addition, there are stamps of a medal commemorating a visit to the münzkabinet of Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich, stamps of a medal for participants in the Russo-Japanese War, its drawing was created with the participation of the Grand Duke.



“For everyone who is interested in numismatics and the history of our country, a very rare exhibition has been opened. The exhibition is dedicated to Grand Duke George Mikhailovich, the man who laid the foundations for numismatic collecting in our country, is one of the founders of the State Russian Museum. And we are very glad that not only state museums, but also private collectors help show the treasures of our country to everyone,” said Vladimir Medinsky.



Director of the State Russian Museum Vladimir Gusev, Director of the Samara Regional Museum of History and Local Lore Vladimir Liseychev, Director General of the Saratov State Art Museum Lyudmila Kalinina, head of the numismatics department of the State Hermitage Vitaly Kalinin, head of the numismatics department of the A.S. State Museum of Fine Arts Pushkina Sergey Kovalenko, Deputy Director State Historical Museum Marina Chistyakova, took part in the opening ceremony.



Also, exhibits were provided by Goznak, State Archives of the Russian Federation, RGIA, RGAKFD, TsGAKFFD St. Petersburg, the Russian National Library and private collectors. Exhibition "August Numismatist. Grand Duke George Mikhailovich. Fate and Heritage" is opened at the Museum of the International Numismatic Club (Moscow, Bolshoi Afanasyevsky Lane, 24) for everyone from October 2, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

October 2 - 3, as part of a series of events dedicated to Grand Duke George Mikhailovich, the International Numismatic Club holds a scientific conference "Numismatics in Russia. Grand Duke George Mikhailovich and his era."



The Russian Museum completed the restoration of an armchair from the House of Peter I

The Art Newspaper - From school years, everyone knows that Sovereign Peter Alexeevich was a jack of all trades. His own armchair has now found a new life and, possibly, will last another three centuries.

The unusual design of the chair, made by the type of English library chairs of the XVIII century, intended for reading (reading chair), restored by the masters of the State Russian Museum. In the "Historical Description of the Palace of Emperor Peter the Great on the Petersburg Side and Its Sights", a work compiled in 1844 by the caretaker of the House of Peter I, it is reported that this chair is "of the personal work of Emperor Peter the Great". The same is said in the guide published in 1891: "A chair made of birch wood with a leather cushion full of hair, Peter's own work, is preserved in the House as a memorable rarity." So, the restorers of the timing had in their work to compete with the Emperor.

As Yury Makarov, the head of the veneered furniture restoration department, told, it was necessary to bring the item to the exposition state, preserving the historical elements as much as possible. "The chair was restored in the 19th century, the restoration was then thorough, today it is also a kind of relic, so we decided to keep the traces of the restoration a century and a half ago," he said. - There were problems with the design of the chair itself. His armrests are too long, the load on them and on the assembly of the parts is uneven, which is why I had to use additional fasteners. "



A distinctive feature of this type of reading chair was that the person was sitting in it back to front, facing the back. A folding music stand for books was installed on the back of the back. The back of the chair of Peter I has slotted grooves on the outside for the proposed music stand, which, unfortunately, was lost at the beginning of the 20th century.

Over the centuries the chair has gone through several redesigns; by the beginning of this century, the skin of the seat was very dry and cracked, stains from previously used connecting

materials appeared on the wooden parts, the tree cracked in the places where the parts were mated.

In mid-March 2019, an expanded meeting of the restoration commission of the Russian Museum was held, leading restorers from the Russian Ethnographic Museum and the State Hermitage were invited. As a result of the discussions, a restoration program was adopted. Upholstery material was fixed: the skin was strengthened without removing it from the seat, and in places of loss, inserts made of leather similar to the original were used. Restored The original coating of wooden parts was restored. The museum object returned structural strength sufficient for exhibiting.

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Tsarskoye Selo will restore five rooms of Catherine the Great for more than 300 million roubles

The State Museum-Reserve Tsarskoye Selo has announced a competition to recreate the decoration of the five personal rooms of Catherine II in the Zukofsky outbuilding of the Catherine Palace. We are talking about the Bedchamber, the Silver Cabinet, the Dome Hall, the Snuffbox room and the Mirror Cabinet, located in the Zubovsky wing. Restoration work must be completed before the end of 2022, the maximum amount of the contract is 311 million roubles.

The interiors of the five named rooms were created by architects Charles Cameron and Giacomo Quarenghi in 1780-1785. From the technical specifications it follows that it was completely destroyed during the Great Patriotic War. During the reconstruction of the outbuilding in 2005-2006, a spatial solution of the premises was partially restored, but the decor was not recreated. In the 1980s, an apartment restoration project was developed, original design drawings were used for it.



It is interesting that the parquet boards of the Mirror Cabinet have been preserved - they were stolen and discovered in 1947 in Berlin, and returned to the St. Petersburg Museum. Also fragments of details of the historical decoration of bronze, porcelain and glass are preserved in Tsarskoye Selo Museum.

The results of the competition will be announced on October 28. Funding will be provided by an extra budgetary cultural institution.

"This is the last grandiose project to restore the premises of the Catherine's Palace, destroyed during the war," said Director Olga Taratynova. She emphasized that the restoration of the Zubovsky wing of the palace was a "dream of many generations" of museum workers in Tsarskoye Selo, after which only the Small Enfilade and the chambers of Alexander II on the ground floor will remain unreconstructed, but they are distinguished by simpler decoration.



The first eight interiors of the Alexander Palace will be opened in 2020

The Tsarskoye Selo Museum Reserve showed media representatives the progress in the restoration of the interiors of the Alexander Palace, the last house of the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, who has lived here permanently since 1905.

Work began in 2012, from 2015 the palace was closed to visitors. In the middle of next year, it is planned to open the first eight interiors of the first floor of the house, - the private rooms of Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

In 2011, specialists from the Studio 44 Architectural Studio, led by Nikita Yavein, developed and agreed on a project for the reconstruction, restoration, technical re-equipment and adaptation of the Alexander Palace for museum use. According to the project, the palace will become a multifunctional museum complex, which will include: exhibition halls, temporary exhibition halls, rooms for scientific research and conferences, a library, a children's center, and premises for operating the building. On the ground floor there will be a cafe, lobbies with ticket offices, wardrobe, tour desk, museum store, as well as technical and auxiliary rooms. The contracting organization is LLC PSB ZhilStroy.

First of all, construction, installation and restoration work was carried out in the basement of the building (basement deepening, reinforcement and waterproofing of foundations), most of the general construction work was performed in the aboveground part of the building, as well as work on the installation of external and internal engineering networks, equipment and automation systems. Strengthening the supporting structure of the building. These works were carried out in 2012-2016.

The first visitors could discover 8 historical interiors, in which the bulk of the work has already been completed. These are the Suite, the Bedroom, the Lilac Office and the Rosewood Living Room, as well as the Reception Office, the Study, the Moorish Restroom and the Valet Room.

Restorers rely on the iconography that the museum has - amateur photographs of members of the Imperial Family from state archives, the 1917 autochrome. In addition, the Tsarskoye Selo and Pavlovsk museums-reserves store tissue samples that recreate the fabric decoration of some interiors - Chintsy (waxed cotton fabric with printed pattern) in the Bedroom, silk in the Lilac Office, reps in the Rosewood Living Room.

During the restoration, all genuine elements of the historical decoration of the interiors are preserved, including oak wall panels, coffered wooden plafonds, and ceramic tiles.



Work is carried out at the expense of funds allocated by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation; the museum's own funds, as well as charitable donations (Transsoyuz Charitable Fund allocated 17 million rubles for the restoration of the Hall with a slide). For general construction work in 2012-2017, funds were allocated from the federal budget. Since 2016, the museum has additionally invested money that it earned. The final completion of work is planned not before 2022.

Following the first interiors of the personal half, it is planned to open for visitors the Maple and Corner Drawing Rooms, the State Office of Nicholas II, as well as the rooms of the Library.

Personal chambers for Nicholas II (then Grand Duke Nikolai Alexandrovich) and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna were placed on the former "retinue" half of the Alexander Palace. Alterations have been made since 1894 under the leadership of Alexander Vidov and Alexander Bach. Then, after the death of Vidov, they were briefly led by Silvio Danini, who, in turn, was replaced by Roman Meltzer.

Reception of Nicholas II - Since 1905, the Alexander Palace became the main Imperial residence, and therefore the epicenter of the state life of the country, and the layout of the working premises strictly followed the court ceremonial. Officials who arrived at an audience with the Tsar first got to the Reception Hall, where the adjutants were constantly on duty. The room was decorated by the company of the Meltzer brothers in 1899. The walls are surrounded by high massive oak panels with shelves; an oak coffered ceiling and a fireplace of dark green marble in an oak casing with a pyramidal finish in the corner of the interior complete its decoration. The reception has largely preserved the finish after the German occupation of 1941-1944.

Work in the Reception Room of Nicholas II: restoration of oak panels, parquet, fireplace, ceiling and fabric, manufacturing of built-in sofa.

The study of Nicholas II - Decorated in 1896-1897. Here the Emperor received ministers daily, listened to reports, worked with papers. The decoration and furniture of the Study - panels, built-in wardrobes, as well as a desk and chairs - were made of walnut wood. There was also the personal library of Nicholas II, which totaled about 700 volumes of military, historical literature, books on state affairs, fiction and periodicals. The interior was destroyed during the fascist occupation.

Works in the office of Nicholas II: recreation of curtains, fireplace, panels, walnut furniture, carpet.



Moorish Restroom - The Emperor's bathroom in the Moorish style was designed with a swimming pool with a capacity of more than a thousand buckets. The pool was filled with water of the right temperature in a few minutes. From the corridor, the pool was separated by an openwork partition made of maple, from which a ceiling was also made. On the site in front of the pool was a fireplace, tiled with oriental ornaments. The pool and all the design of the bathroom were carried out according to the project and under the guidance of the architect and engineer Rochefort. In the apartments of Nicholas II, the Moorish was the only room for relaxation. The interior was lost during the Great Patriotic War.

Works in the Moorish restroom: during the cleaning of the room under the floor, they found a bowl of the pool with fragments of ceramics, which allowed restorers to recreate the pattern and determine the color of the tiles. Recreated: fireplace, pool, partition, fabrics, carpet.





Rosewood Living Room - This interior was designed by Roman Meltzer in 1896-1897. The architect chose rosewood as the main material - expensive wood, which was delivered from abroad. High wall panels with a shelf, framing of a fireplace installed in a corner and furniture were made of rosewood. In the first years in the palace, Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna often spent time in this particular interior. Then the living room became the place of breakfast and dinner of the Imperial family. Works in the Rosewood Living Room: fabric patterns of walls, drapes, panels and a rosewood fireplace decorated with fabric inserts and special facets (special processing of faces and the outer edge of the glass) were recreated according to historical samples.

Lilac Cabinet - Over the two decades of Alexandra Feodorovna's life in Russia, the Lilac Cabinet - her favorite room in the Alexander Palace, created by Roman Meltzer - has never been redesigned, despite the change in artistic fashion at the turn of the century. To decorate the interior, silk - mauve with a pattern of interwoven vertical threads - was ordered from a Parisian company Charles Bourget. The wood panels at the bottom of the walls and the furniture designed by Meltzer in imitation of the Rococo style were painted in two colors like ivory. Many furnishings, a corner sofa, half cabinets are built-in and connected with wall panels. Here the Emperor and the Empress with children often drank coffee after breakfast, gathered for evening tea, here Alexandra Feodorovna spent a lot of time working and reading.

Works in the Lilac Cabinet: according to historical patterns, fabric upholstery of walls, curtains, built-in furniture, carpet, wood panels, fireplace, picturesque frieze were recreated.



Bedroom - It was located in the place of the room, which was used for the same purpose when the guests arrived at the palace. In 1873, mother of Alexandra Feodorovna, Princess Alice stayed here, who came to the wedding of her brother, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna. The bedroom was arranged without significant alterations. The architect tightened the walls and the partition with the English chinet (Charles Hindley) chosen by Alexandra Feodorovna.

Work in the Bedroom: recreated alcove, fabric upholstery, curtains, carpet.



Artificial marble, parquet floors, cornices are being restored in the Corner Living Room and the Library. The Maple Living Room was returned with a historical spatial solution (after the Great Patriotic War, this hall was divided into two), the mezzanine and plaster molding, built-in furniture are recreated.

Video - 1) https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/351484/

2) <https://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/171113/>

3) https://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201910252248-zGsf3.html

4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Db2JkCPoKA>



Confiscated objects were transferred to the museum

The saber of musicians, the cross of Hindenburg and other curiosities replenished the collection of the Tsarskoye Selo museum-reserve. The Directorate of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Northwestern Federal District, by order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, transferred to the museum for permanent storage confiscated weapons and other items of the XIX-XX centuries of cultural value. Some of them will be included in the exposition of the museum "Russia in the Great War" in the Military Chamber, others will be kept in funds and participate in temporary exhibitions.

Among the transferred items - an officer sword in a sheath of a sample of 1860 (USA); infantry officer saber of the sample of 1861 in scabbard; sword of military officials of the sample of 1911 with a scabbard (Austria-Hungary). Such weapons were not previously in the collection of the Tsarskoye Selo Museum-Reserve.

The museum now also stores four confiscated German awards from the First World War. Among them is a block consisting of the Iron Cross of the II degree and the Medal of Honour of the First World War, known as the "Hindenburg Cross"; sugar bowl (Western Europe, Osterman (?), second half of the 19th century).

The sword of military officials of the sample of 1911 with a scabbard. Austria-Hungary.

Military officials of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were obliged, in the performance of their direct duties, to wear long-bladed edged weapons in the form of a sword of an official statutory model. The specimens transferred to the museum date back to the period of the First World War.





On October 5 (according to the old style) marks the Day of the Angel of the Heir of the Russian Empire Alexei Nikolaevich - the fifth child and only son of Emperor Nicholas II.

For this holiday, on October 6 (Sunday), a master-class for children was held in the Livadia Palace Museum. Researchers told about the difficult fate of the Tsarevich, his activities and hobbies, about some traditions of Imperial Family of the last Russian Emperor. And in the end, young guests were able to take part in a master class and learn how to paint little angels with paints.



The "Imperial Route" was replenished with new directions. In Moscow, the Fund for the Promotion of the Revival of Charity traditions, which has been involved in this historical tourism project related to the Romanov dynasty for almost 10 years, has signed an agreement with further 9 regions of the country.

"This is an opportunity for us through new objects, new museums, exhibitions to take a fresh look at our history and to introduce our younger generation to the continuous chain of historical events so that there are no gaps in our memory," said the chairman of Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society Anna Gromova.

The "Imperial Route" includes places visited by representatives of the Russian Imperial House. These are not only the estates and palace complexes of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Crimea, but also numerous cities and towns across the country. For example, more than 2 thousand tourists travelled along the Tyumen - Tobolsk route only this year.



On October 17, a photo exhibition dedicated to the Russian Emperor Nicholas II opened in the Pleven panorama. It was prepared by photographer and artist Dmitry Ostroumov in 2018 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of the last Russian Emperor.

The exhibition features rare photographs and copies of interesting historical documents that trace important points in the life of Nicholas II and his family.

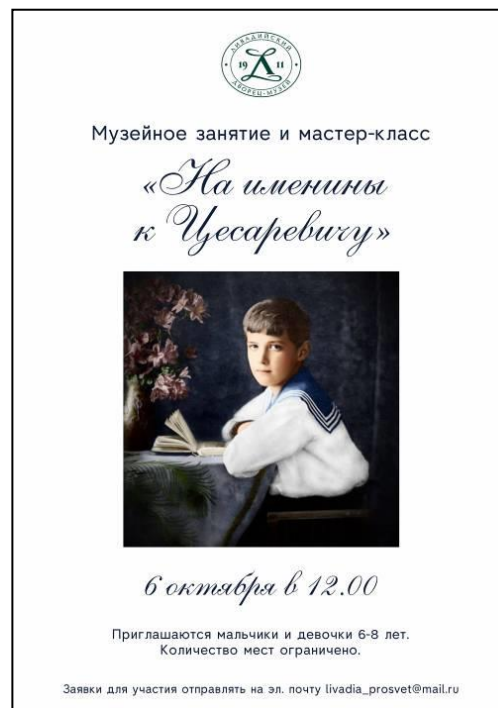
The last Russian Emperor was born on May 6 (18), 1868. He ascended the throne at age 26. His brilliant education was combined with deep religiosity and knowledge of spiritual literature, which was not often characteristic of statesmen of that time. Emperor Nicholas II ruled a huge empire during one of the most crisis periods in its history.

The exhibition in the panorama "Pleven Epic of 1877" will run until November 17.



A video tour of the exhibition "The English taste of the Empress. Tsarskoye Selo of Catherine the Great".

Video - <https://youtu.be/pX64nU5mDAw>





On October 21, a stamp was issued with the image of St. Andrew's hall as part of the Grand Kremlin Palace series.

The Grand Kremlin Palace was built in 1838–1849 at the behest of Emperor Nicholas I. Its opening took place on Easter April 3, 1849 in the presence of Emperor Nicholas I and members of his family. The palace serves as the main residence of the head of state.

It was built by the famous St. Petersburg architect K.A. Tone. Five ceremonial halls on the second floor of the palace - Andreevsky, Alexandrovsky, Georgievsky, Vladimirsky, Catherine - are dedicated to Russian orders, elements of which are included in the stucco decoration of each hall.

Artist: V. Nikonov. Design: O. Savina. Denomination: 53 Roubles. Brand size: 50 × 37 mm, sheet size: 178 × 177 mm. Release form: sheet with framed fields of 12 (3 × 4) stamps. Circulation: 156 thousand.



Cartier and the Russian influences - Russia is one of the major stylistic influences present throughout the history of Cartier. During his first journey there in 1904, Cartier discovers a world of influences: from enamel work to folkloric headdress, hard stones with new color combinations.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=159&v=ipIDoXUqV2I



The cottage of the Prince of Oldenburg on Kamenny Island was sold for 135 million roubles.

In the Northern capital, the house of a member of the Romanov family found a new owner, it follows from materials published on the website Dom.rf.

It became known on October 15, in St. Petersburg at the auction they sold the wooden cottage of the nephew of Emperor Nicholas I, Prince Peter G. of Oldenburg. The price proposed by the investor amounted to 135 million roubles.

As the winner of the auction was recognized JSC "Legion".

According to the bidding documents, the investor is obliged to carry out work to preserve the object of cultural heritage and comply with the conditions of the security obligation. A land plot of 3.5 thousand square meters and a house located within its borders belong to the areas of recreation, sports, tourism, hotels and pensions.

Note, the building is located on Kamenny Island, on the banks of Malaya Nevka. This is an architectural monument of federal significance. It was created in the first third of the XIX century according to the project of Smaragd Shustov for one of the Dolgorukov Princes, however, it was bought by Peter Oldenburgsky in the year of completion. During the 20th century, the building burned twice.



In Lokot, Bryansk region, the family estate of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich will be transformed.

A reconstruction of the Apraksin Park continues. In its territory in the XIX century the family estate of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich was located.

Mostly, the contractor will upgrade the children's town, where bike paths will appear, there will be more swings and carousels, and for the first time they will install paid attractions. Local authorities promised to complete work by the end of October. The park will be brought into proper form for seven million roubles under the federal program "Creation of a Comfortable Urban Environment".



On September 28, in the suburb of Belgrade, Batajnice, another children's Chess tournament was held in honour of Emperor Nicholas II and the Imperial Family. The tournament was organized by the Tsar Nicholas Society from Belgrade, the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the GLIGA Chess Club from Bateinitsa. Before the tournament began, the Orlici church choir, led by Elena Pavlovich, performed the hymn of the Russian Empire "God Save the Tsar," and Nikola Drobnyakovich, editor-in-chief of the publishing houses "Khilandarskaya Zaduzhbina" and "Bernard", addressed the participants.

About 70 children took part in the tournament. All participants in the tournament received a portrait of the Tsar's family, a portrait of Emperor Nicholas II, letters of thanks and diplomas as a gift. Winners were awarded with medals and cups.

The awards were presented by the director of a chess tournament in honour of Emperor Nicholas Milan Tatishich.

This is the second tournament organized by Tsar Nicholas Society. The first was held in May 2019 in Belgrade and was timed to the birthday of Emperor Nicholas. His name is especially revered in Serbia.



The Kuybyshevsky District Court of St. Petersburg have ordered Russian Railways OJSC to begin work on preserving the station in Malaya Visher, Novgorod Region, within a year and a half from the moment the court decision came into force.

Malaya Vishera station was opened in 1851. Then, one of the few circular depots preserved in Russia was built here. On the night of February 28 to March 1, 1917, at the Malaya Vishera station, the Emperor's train stopped and was forced to delay until morning. Here Emperor Nicholas II was informed that Luban and Tosno were occupied by the rebels.

According to the press service of the courts of St. Petersburg, the transport prosecutor of Novgorod filed a lawsuit against Russian Railways. According to the court's decision, Russian Railways needs to apply to the Inspectorate for the State Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Novgorod Region with a request for a permit to work and to carry out these works within three years.

In 2018, the governor of the Novgorod region, Andrei Nikitin, drew attention to the need to carry out work to maintain the railway station complex, however, the issue had to be decided in the court, the company did not heed the appeal of the head of the region.





"Princes Yusupov and Tsvetaevsky Museum" is a new joint project of the Pushkin Museum and the Arkhangelskoye Estate Museum. The last owners of Arkhangelsk played a special role in the creation of the Museum of Fine Arts - the exhibition on Volkhonka tells about it.

In the Roman Hall - rare documents. Next to the photograph of the founder of the museum, Ivan Tsvetaev, is the Yusupov couple: Zinaida Nikolaevna and Felix Feliksovich, and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich with his wife Elizabeth Feodorovna. The families were friends, here in the guest book are their autographs.

"The Grand Ducal couple, which was practically present at all the festivities in the Arkhangelskoye summer estate, also because their Ilyinskoye estate was very close to the Arkhangelskoye. And they very often visit each other in the summer," said Lyubov Savinskaya, curator of the exhibition.

The Museum of Fine Arts was created with private donations. The Yusupovs - owners of a large fortune, collectors and philanthropists - significantly invested in the museum. Felix Feliksovich funded the work of the artist Reiman to copy early Christian frescoes in Roman catacombs. The Princely couple paid for the construction of the Roman Hall of the museum. This is Tsvetaev's letter in which he asks the Princess - after whom to name the hall? Here are her letters in pencil "the name of my great-grandfather Nikolai Borisovich."

"In memory and in tribute to the service of his Fatherland to his ancestor the great Nikolai Borisovich Yusupov, this hall was called when the Museum of Fine Arts of Alexander the Third existed, it was called the Yusupov Hall," explained Vadim Zadorozhny, director of the Arkhangelskoye estate museum. Continuation of the exhibition - in other halls of the museum. On display are dozens of paintings from the Yusupov collection. This is the work of Italian masters, Dutch and French artists. They are marked with white stripe labels. An educational program has been specially developed for the exhibition.

"The curators of our museum, the curators of the Arkhangelskoye estate museum will talk about different but at the same time united by one topic things related to the Tsvetaevsky Museum and the Yusupovs inside the museum collection," the director of the Pushkin Museum Marina Loshak.

The creation of the Roman Hall, the contribution of the Yusupovs to the collection, the history of the creation of the Arkhangelskoye estate are just some of the topics of the lectures.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/351894/



After restoration, the wall fountains-sinks were opened in the Pavilion Hall of the Small Hermitage. They were created in the middle of the XIX century on the model of the "Fountain of Tears" in the Bakhchisarai Palace in Crimea.

In total, in the Pavilion Hall there are four such cascades of white and coloured Carrara marble. Restorers cleaned carved sinks, installed filters, made two new tanks, and restored lost decor details. The restoration of the complex lasted five months. The ceremonial launch of the fountains was held by the director of the Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky.

"A park has been introduced here in the Winter Palace, and this adds a park-like paradise. Here, marble, everything was thoroughly cleaned, restored, it was, in general, in good condition, but any restoration requires great skill. Everything is simply brought into some kind of beautiful shape so that it can play even better with falling water," said Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director General of the State Hermitage Museum.

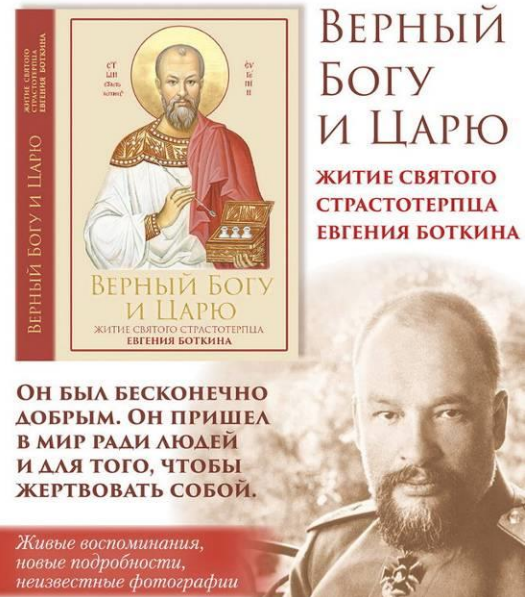
Video -

https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/351896/





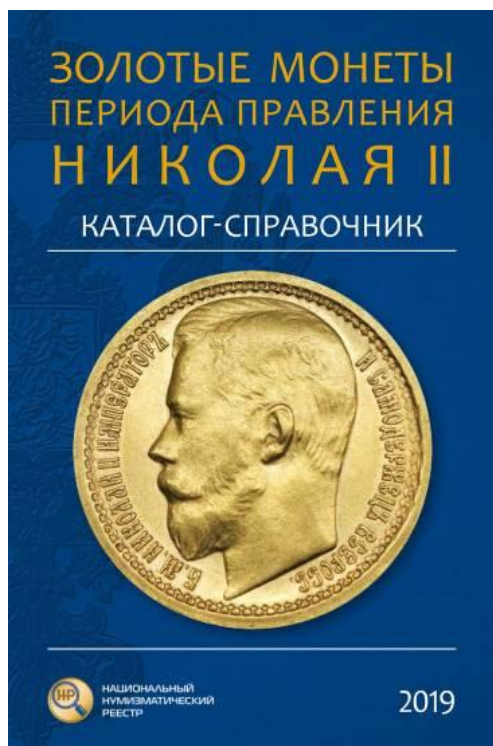
The book about the life of the Tsar's family doctor, the martyr Eugene Botkin, "Faithful to God and the Tsar. The Life of St. Passion-Bearer Eugene Botkin", published by the Alexander Nevsky Novo-Tikhvin Monastery, took third place in the nomination "Best Historical Book" at the XIV open competition of publications "Enlightenment through a Book". The award ceremony took place in the St. Sergius Hall of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. The Enlightenment through the Book contest is held with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. The organizer of the competition is the Publishing Council of the Russian Orthodox Church with the support of the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications. It should be noted that for the fourteenth season of the competition 159 books were submitted from 51 publishing houses, three diocesan publishing departments, six dioceses and one Synodal department. The geography of the contestants covered the regions of the Russian Federation, as well as Ukraine and Belarus.



"Revealing the Divine: Treasures of Russian Sacred Art" is a special exhibition on view September 22, 2019 to November 3, 2020 in The Russian History Foundation Museum in Jordanville, New York. It presents over 160 liturgical and devotional objects created in the Russian Orthodox tradition. Featured are artefacts in a remarkable array of media and styles. Intricately painted icons, richly embroidered vestments, glittering chalices, hand-illustrated books, ornamented Easter eggs – these and many more provide insight into the importance of sacred art in the religious life of Russia. From simple icons painted by provincial artists to a diamond and amethyst panagia (bishop's pendant icon) fashioned by a leading jewelry firm, the objects demonstrate the function, symbolism, and significance of Russian sacred art.



these and many more provide insight into the importance of sacred art in the religious life of Russia. From simple icons painted by provincial artists to a diamond and amethyst panagia (bishop's pendant icon) fashioned by a leading jewelry firm, the objects demonstrate the function, symbolism, and significance of Russian sacred art. The exhibition commences with an overview of religious art created in imperial Russia for public worship and private devotion. It touches upon the role of monasteries, the phenomenon of pilgrimage, and the use of religious symbolism in the Russian Imperial Army. A number of artefacts used or commissioned by members of the imperial Romanov family are displayed, some for the first time. The Russian Revolution of 1917 led to destruction and confiscation of ecclesiastical art and a halt in its production. It also resulted in the exodus of innumerable Russians from their homeland. Despite severely limited resources, the creation of sacred art and the preservation of age-old traditions continued both in the Soviet Union and in the Russian diaspora. Objects made in Soviet labor camps, in interwar Russian émigré communities, and in Displaced Persons camps tell this story. The continuing development and practice of religious art in the Russian tradition is explored in the concluding section of the exhibition. Prominent émigré iconographers, such as Archimandrite Kiprian (Pyzhov) at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY, painted icons and frescoes for communities in North America, Europe, and Australia. Today, ecclesiastical art in the Russian tradition is created both in post-Communist Russia and by artists of diverse ethnic backgrounds all over the world. Objects from the Russian History Museum on display in Revealing the Divine: Treasures of Russian Sacred Art are supplemented by artefacts on loan from twelve private collections.

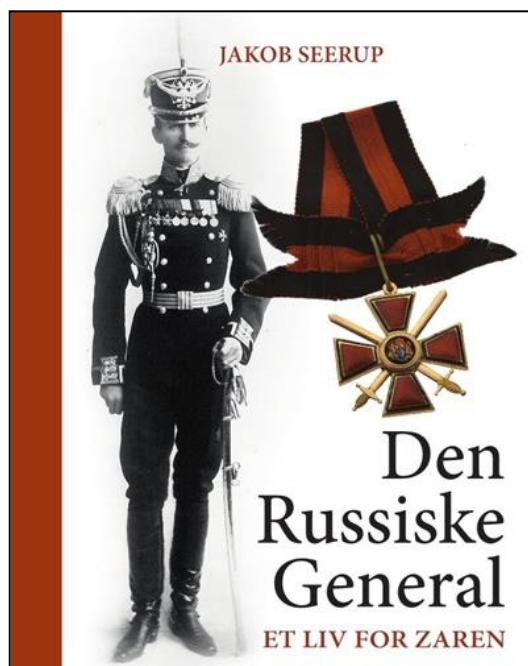


The catalogue "Gold coins of the reign of Nicholas II" edited by the National Numismatic Register

The catalog contains information about the gold coins of the regular minting period of the reign of Nicholas II, as well as the period of the Soviet minting of gold coins of the Imperial model in 1923-1926. The catalogue contains images of varieties of coins with a full description, indicating rarity and estimated cost in different conditions. Also, in the catalogue, a separate section presents examples of fake gold coins.

Author of the publication: V.Yu. Sidorov. The circulation of 2,000 copies.

The catalogue is intended as a practical guide for collectors, museum workers and auction houses to form private and museum collections.



The Russian General - A life for the Tsar

Based on the National Museum's unique collection of Russian uniforms from the Imperial Era, Jakob Seerup rolls up the story of the man behind the collection, General Paul Gudim-Levkovich. We hear about his time as a page for Tsar Alexander III, his military career, emigration to southern France in 1917, and how his large uniform collection of all places ended up in Denmark.

To be released in November 2019.

Publisher: Syddansk Universitetsforlag, Denmark. Hardcover. Language: Danish. Pages: 328. ISBN: 978-87-408-3146-7. Price Dkk 325, or online Dkk 260.

Under the Hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Doyle, New York, USA, October 30

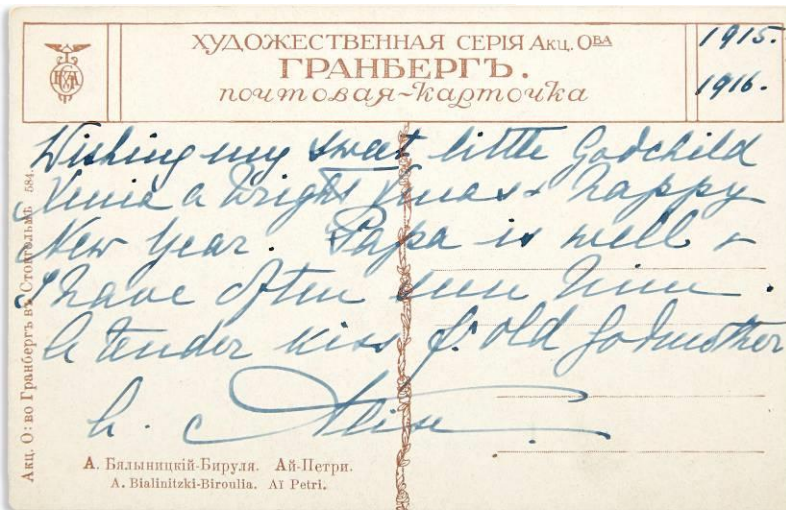
Postcard Inscribed to Princess Xenia Georgievna and Signed by Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia

Inscribed in

Russian: Congratulations to sweet Xenia and Happy Holiday / Olga Tatiana / Maria Anastasia and dated 1915.

Property from the Descendants of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich of Russia

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



Postcard Inscribed to Princess Xenia Georgievna and Signed by Empress Alexandra Feodorovna

Dated 1915-1916.

Inscribed in English: Wishing my sweet little Godchild Xenia a bright Xmas and happy New Year. Papa is well + I have often seen him. A tender kiss fr. old godmother A. Alix.

Property from the Descendants of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich of Russia

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

Portrait photograph of Grand Duchesses Xenia Alexandrovna (1875-1960) and Olga Alexandrovna (1882-1960)

Shown half length, signed by both sitters and dated December 6, 1921, by H. de Nikolajeff, 1921, in a giltwood frame. Height 12 inches (30.5 cm), width 9 5/8 inches (24.5 cm).

Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000





Portrait photograph of Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich (1879-1956)

Shown half-length, by Boissonnas et Eggler, signed Andrei and further inscribed in Russian: [To] Count S. Zubov in memory of St. Moritz 1914, in a gilt-tooled leather frame. Height 10 5/8 inches (27 cm), width 8 5/8 inches (22 cm). Estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Portrait photograph, Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich (1856-1929)

Shown full length, signed Nikolai and dated 1925, in a wood frame with a gilt-metal Russian Imperial crown. Height 12 inches (30.5 cm), width 9 5/8 inches (24.5 cm). Estimate: \$3,000 - \$5,000



Photograph Frame Fabergé Silver-Gilt and Guilloché Enamel

Workmaster Feodor Afanassiev, St. Petersburg, 1908-1917. Circular, enamelled in translucent pink over an engine-turned ground, mounted with a wreath of berried laurel set with flowerheads at intervals and centering a circular aperture with a beaded bezel, enclosing a later photograph of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich, all within a stiff-leaf border, with wood back and scroll strut. Diameter 5 3/4 inches (14.6 cm). Estimate: \$12,000 - \$15,000

Russian Jeweled Gold, Silver and Enamel jetton of the Life-Guards Second Tsarskoye-Selo Rifle Regiment of Grand Duke Dmitrii Pavlovich

St. Petersburg, circa 1915. Centering the initial of Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich beneath the Russian Imperial crown, on a red enamel ground, within an octagonal border inscribed in Russian: Second Imperial Rifle Battalion March 27, 1856 on a black enamel ground, above a ribbon inscribed in Russian: For Arab-Konak on November 21, 1877, all on the star of St. Andrew, the reverse centering the date 1914 on a red enamel ground, within the Russian inscription: [To] Maj. Gen. V.G. Vasmundt, enclosing hinged pages inscribed with the names of officers of the battalion, in a red leather case applied with a silver plaque inscribed in Russian: His Imperial Highness / Grand Duke Dmitrii Pavlovich / August Chief and Protector of the Union. Height 1 7/16 inches (3.65cm.), width 1 5/16 inches (3.33 cm.).



Vladimir Georgievich Vasmundt (1872-1941) came from a noble family, the son of Lieutenant General George Robertovich Vasmundt (1838-1904), the Chief of Staff of the Guards and the St. Petersburg Military District. Vladimir was a graduate of the prestigious Corps des Pages and enjoyed a long and highly decorated military career, serving as commander of the Life-Guards Second Tsarskoye-Selo Rifle Regiment from September to December 1914. Subsequently, he served as 1st Chief Quartermaster of The Main Directorate of the General Staff (GUGSH), the highest organ of the operational-strategic command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Empire.

The inscription and date on the reverse of this jetton indicates that it was presented to Vladimir Georgievich Vasmundt for his service. Even though it is not marked with an assay date, it can be dated based on both the 1914 inscription on the reverse and the signatures engraved inside. The first signature is that of Colonel Eduard Alexandrovich Vertsinskii, Commander of the regiment from January 1915 to June 1916. Further evidence is the signature of Lieutenant Pavel Leonidovich Lesh, who was killed in action in January 1915 and laid to rest in the Tsarskoye Selo Fraternal Cemetery in March 1915. Lesh's engraved signature is marked with a cross, indicating he was deceased. Therefore, a date of 1915 is probable. Among the other names engraved on the pages are Colonel A.A. Stessel, Colonel D.K. Söderholm, Colonel N.V. Nagaev and Captain S.V. Matseevsky.

The Life-Guards Second Tsarskoye-Selo Rifle Regiment was formed in 1856 as the Second Infantry Battalion. It took part in the Polish uprising of 1863 and the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878. In 1877, the battalion distinguished itself in the Battle of Arab Konak, which is memorialized in an inscription on

the jetton. In 1910, the battalion was reorganized into a regiment. During World War I, the regiment suffered heavy losses in early battles and later distinguished itself in the Brusilov Offensive in 1916.



Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich (1891-1942), the son of Grand Duke Pavel Alexandrovich (1860-1919) and Grand Duchess Alexandra Georgievna (1870-1891), née Princess of Greece, grandson of Emperor Alexander II (1818-1881). Dmitri was raised in the family of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich (1857-1905), graduated from the Officer Cavalry School and served in the His Majesty's Life Guards Horse Regiment. From 1905 to 1917, Grand Duke Dmitri was the honorary head of the Life-Guards Second Tsarskoye-Selo Rifle Regiment. His monogram is depicted on the regiment's jetton, which performed the function of a regimental badge.

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

*Russian Silver-Gilt
Presentation Medallion for
the Russo-Turkish War,
1877-1878*

Oval, the obverse with a portrait of Emperor Alexander II in profile, the truncation with the Cyrillic initials P.M. for P.A. Meshcheryakov, the reverse centering the Russian Imperial double-headed eagle surrounded by the Russian inscription: For excellence in the Turkish War 1877 and 1878. Height 1 5/8 inches (4.13 cm).

Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000



Watercolor and pencil on paper by Grand Duchess Olga (1882-1960).

Floral Still Life. Signed Olga lower right

Provenance: Hereditary Prince Knud of Denmark (1900-1976). With Obro Art Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Acquired from the above by the present owner, 2006.

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



Portrait of a Cossack on Horseback by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna (1882-1960)

Oil on cardboard. Signed Olga and dated 1944 (II). 28 x 24 3/4 inches (72 x 62 cm.).

Provenance: Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. Gury Kulikovsky.

Grand Duchess Olga Archives.

Acquired at the above sale by the present owner.



The reverse of the painting is affixed with a note in Danish, which reads: This picture was painted in 1944 by Grand Duchess Olga for the Chief of Department, C.G. Worsaae, as thanks for his support in releasing her son, First Lieutenant Kulikovsky, from the German security police prison for espionage at the German airport in Vaerlose [Denmark]. It turned out that all the German accusations about his guilt were lies. -- C.G. Worsaae.

Estimate: \$5,000 - \$7,000

Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna (1882-1960)/ Otto Schrayh - The Adventure of the Three White Bears [Æventyret om de tre hvide Bjørne], 1924.

Each page with illustrations by Grand Duchess Olga and English translations of the original Danish text handwritten by the Grand Duchess, also with a dedication inscription by the Grand Duchess: For dear Robin from his loving Godmother Olga / 1924.

Estimate: \$800 - \$1,200



Grand Duke George Mikhailovich: Drawing of His Prison Cell in Petrograd, 1918

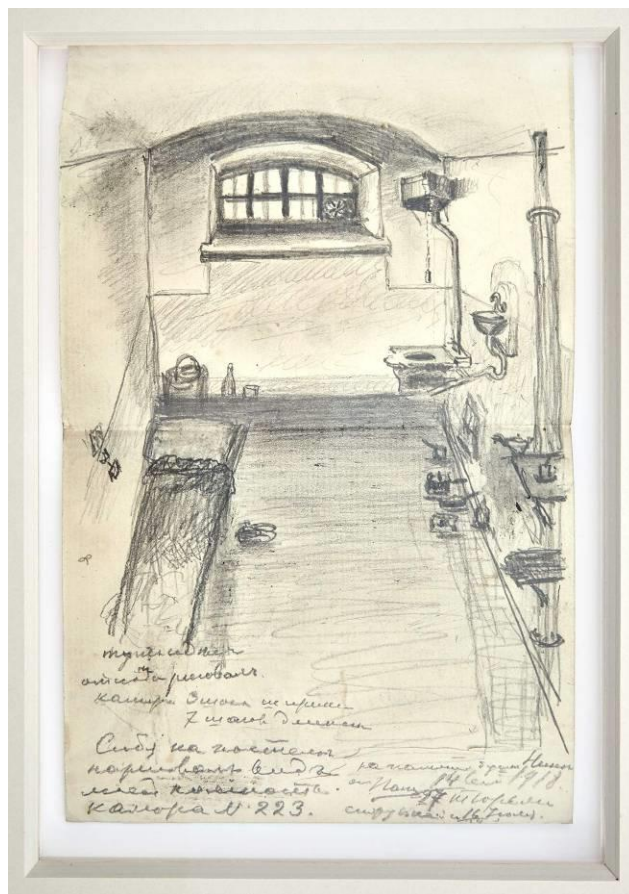
Addressed to Princess Nina Georgievna and depicting his prison cell in Petrograd, inscribed in Russian: Cell / 3 steps wide / 7 steps long / Sitting on my bed to draw a view of my room, cell 223 / It will be a keepsake for Nina from Papa / 14/27 September 1918 / Prison in which I have been held / Since 16/29 July, the reverse inscribed in Russian: For my soul Nina as a keepsake from Papa, together with a list of supplies delivered to the Grand Duke's prison cell; framed together with a reproduction photograph of the Grand Duke. Height of letter approximately 8 1/8 inches (20.6 cm.), width 5 1/2 inches (14 cm.).

In the summer of 1918, upon his return from Finland and exile in Vologda, Grand Duke George Mikhailovich was arrested, returned to Petrograd and imprisoned together with his brother Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich (1859-1919) and cousin Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich (1860-1919). "If it were not for you three who are everything to me in life," he wrote at the time to his wife, Grand Duchess Marie, "it would, I believe, be indifferent to me if I were shot" (Grand Duchess George, *A Romanov Diary: The*

Autobiography of H.I. & R.H. Grand Duchess George, G.N. Tantzios and M.A. Eilers, ed., New York, 1988, p. 232). Only several months later, in January 1919, George and the two other Grand Dukes were executed by a Bolshevik firing squad. It was not until February 1919 that the Grand Duchess read of her husband's death in the newspaper, confirmed by wire from Finland the following day. She wrote, "It is useless to try to describe the agony I went through having to tell this news to my poor girls." (Grand Duchess George, *ibid.*, p. 239).

The present lot is one of three drawings completed by Grand Duke George Mikhailovich and sent to his wife and daughters in England. One of the other two drawings was sent to his wife, Marie, and is referenced in the Grand Duke's letter dated August 10/23 1918 (which is offered as part of lot 102). The other, dated 15/28 September 1918, was sent to his younger daughter Xenia and was sold Christie's, New York, May 20, 2015, lot 77.

Property from the Descendants of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich of Russia
Estimate: \$5,000 - \$7,000



Grand Duke George Mikhailovich: Letter to Princess Nina containing a Letter from the Four Grand Duchesses, August 1, 1916

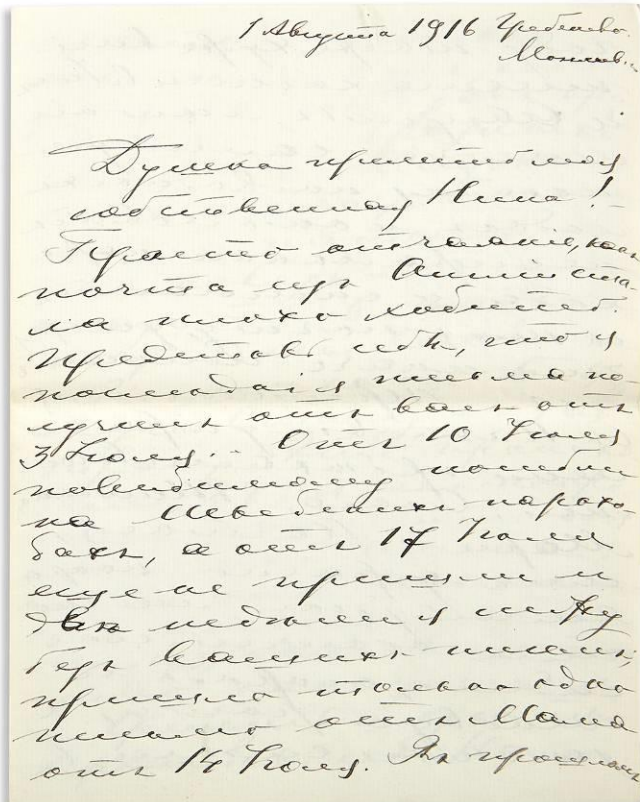
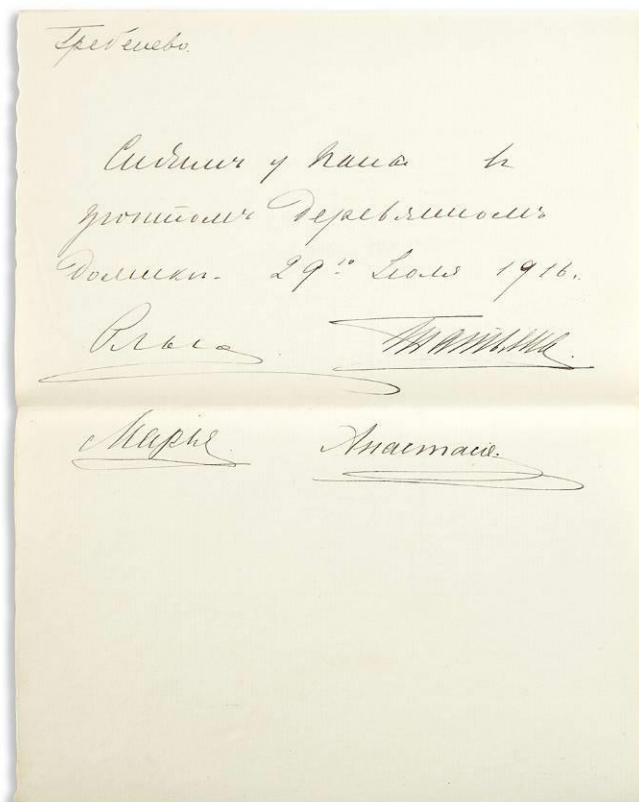
Inscribed in Russian: On the third day at 11 o'clock in the morning the following people came to visit me: Olga, Tatyana, Maria and Nastasya; they enjoyed it enormously here; first we went around my little garden, the larger garden and pine grove, and then we sat in a covered gazebo and fed chickens, who came running from different directions to my call. They stayed with me for more than an hour and then I drove them, or better to say in their car we all went together to the Tsar's Headquarters for breakfast. This happened on the 29th; I asked them to write their names for you; and so they wrote and I am sending it to you, as a testimony, how comfortable it is in my Grebenevo.

"Grebenevo / We are sitting at papa's in a cozy little wooden house, 29 July 1916.

Olga Tatyana / Maria Anastasia"

Property from the Descendants of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich of Russia

Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500



Shapiro, New York, USA, November 3

A pair of Faberge gold, enamel, sapphire and diamond cufflinks

Workmaster August Fredrik Hollming, St. Petersburg, 1899-1904. Each with the white enamelled K in Cyrillic intertwined with an anchor and topped by a silver crown set with diamonds above a sapphire-colored enamel bar centered with a cabochon, connected by a gold-link chain to a gold bar set with diamonds terminating in sapphires, for either Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich (Russian 1876-1938), captain of the Russian Imperial navy and commander of the cruiser Oleg or Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich (Russian 1858-1918), chief of the equipage of the navy.

Each marked with 56 standard, assayer's mark Ya L in Cyrillic for Yakov Lyapunov, workmaster's mark A*H in Latin for August Frederik Hollming; length of each including bar: 3.5 cm (1 3/8 in.); overall weight: 10.2 g (0.325 zt)

Estimate: \$2,500 – \$3,500

