

СВЯТІІ ЦАРСТВЕННІІ М҃ЧЕНИЦЫ



Romanov News
Новости Романовых

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№147

June 2020

The Night Divine Liturgy at the Church on the Blood - the main service of the Tsar's days

On the night of July 16-17, 2020, the main event of the Tsar's days began - the Divine Liturgy in the memory of the Royal Passion-Bearers: Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, Tsarevich Alexei, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, in Yekaterinburg near the Church on the Blood. At that place the brutal murder of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, his family and servants, was committed exactly 102 years ago, on the night, of July 16 to July 17, 1918. The service took place on the square in front of the lower aisle of the Church on the Blood.

The Divine Liturgy was headed by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, Bishop Methodius of Kamensk and Kamyshlovsk, Bishop Eugene of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansk, Bishop Alexy of Serov and Krasnoturinsk, Bishop Leonid of Argentina and South America.

The night service was broadcast by the Soyuz Orthodox TV channel to 87 countries. The broadcast can be viewed here - https://youtu.be/a2t-nD-0q_I

This year, due to the spread of coronavirus infection, all events were held in compliance with sanitary and epidemiological safety measures. The participant's temperature was checked at the entrance to the site. Disinfectants were installed on the territory, so that every pilgrim could clean their hands at any time. Volunteers reminded believers of the need to maintain the social distance.

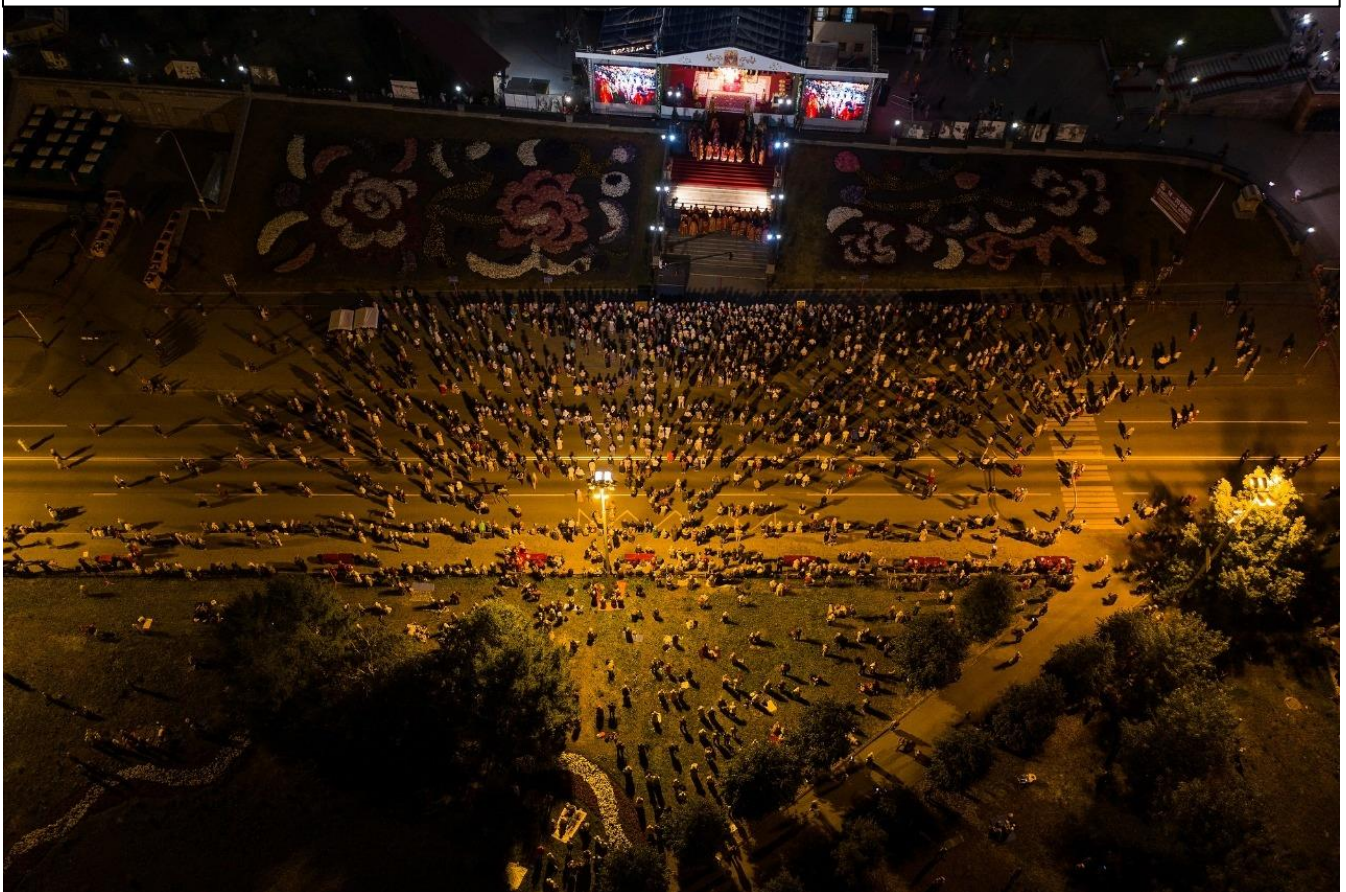
After the celebration of the Sacrament, at approximately 02:30, the Cross Procession began to the Monastery of the Royal Passion-Bearers in Ganina Yama.



Icon with the Royal Passion-Bearers at the Church on the Blood



Due to the Covid-19 much less people attended this year, compared to previous years, and it was maybe even less than 5.000.





Only in front of the stage were lots of people, In the rear there were plenty of space.





“10,000” people took part in the Tsar Cross Procession said the church

After the Divine Liturgy, the faithful began the Tsar Cross procession along the route - through the present city center, VIZ, Tagansky Ryad, Sortirovka, and the Shuvakish village. In 1918, the bodies of murdered members of the Imperial Family were driven exactly the same way.

Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, Bishop Eugene of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansk, Bishop Alexy of Serov and Krasnoturinsk, and Bishop Leonid of Argentina and South America led the Cross Procession.

The procession along its entire length was accompanied by mobile groups of the Orthodox Mercy Service, volunteers of the Tsar's days, representatives of the Nika Foundation and the Cossacks of the Orenburg Cossack Army Society, providing versatile assistance to the pilgrims.

At about 6 o'clock in the morning, the pilgrims led by the clergy, reached the monastery in the name of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in Ganina Yama. The brothers of the monastery greeted the pilgrims and clergy with bell ringing.

Upon arrival, a prayer service was performed to the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers.

Video – 1) <https://youtu.be/-4LUdvpMohY>

2) <https://www.1tv.ru/news/2020-07-17/389669->

[v-godovschinu-ubiystva-tsarskoy-semi-v-ekaterinburge-proshel-krestnyy-hod](https://www.1tv.ru/news/2020-07-17/389669-v-godovschinu-ubiystva-tsarskoy-semi-v-ekaterinburge-proshel-krestnyy-hod)

3) <https://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2375060/>



The cross procession with large and small icons, banners, flags, pilgrims walking 21 km during the night





Arrival in Ganina Yama, tired, but in good spirit, and ready for another Liturgy,



Commemoration of the Alapaevsk Martyrs

On July 18, 2020, on the day of commemoration of the Alapaevsk Martyrs, the Most Reverend Archpastors celebrated Divine Liturgy at the monastery in the name of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church in the city of Alapaevsk.

Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, Bishop Eugene of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansk, Bishop Alexy of Serov and Krasnoturinsk, Bishop Leonid of Argentina and South America led the Liturgy, co-served by numerous clergy of the Yekaterinburg Metropolitanate.

The abbess of the Central Ural convent in honor of the icon of the Mother of God "The Conqueror of Breads" Abbess Barbara (Krygina) and the Abbess of the Bogolyubsky Convent in the village of Sarsy-I Abbess Pitirima (Lisitsyna) with the nuns of the monasteries were present at the service.



At the end of the service, a cross procession took place to the mine, where in 1918, on the night of July 17-18, the Alapaevsk martyrs were thrown - Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nun Varvara (Yakovleva), Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Princes of the Imperial blood John, Konstantin, Igor Konstantinovich, Prince Vladimir Paley and secretary Feodor Remez.



Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye greeted the participants and congratulated them on the day of remembrance. The head of the Yekaterinburg Metropolitanate called on all pilgrims, all guests of the Tsar's Days to turn in prayers "to our Princes, the martyrs of Alapaevsk", to ask them for support and help and receive it through their intercession. - We believe that they are holy people. They are saints, they are pious, they are heroes of the Fatherland and heroes of the Church," Metropolitan Kirill emphasized. His Eminence thanked everyone who honors the history of the Fatherland and reveres the new martyrs:

- Our congratulations to all those who preserve the memory of their great history, preserve and contain holiness in their lives and honor and love our martyrs who defended our country, our people, our Fatherland with their own lives, with their blood, who laid down their lives for that, so that today we here can freely pray and perform our worship of our Lord God and all those saints who stand at the throne of God today.

Metropolitan talked about moral choice. This was exactly what the young Vladimir Pavlovich Paley faced, who died here at the age of 22. Kirill said that when the young Prince, a grandson of Alexander II, was arrested, he was offered to abandon his father. But Vladimir Pavlovich did not make a deal with his conscience and endured it to the end. "How many more people were asked and demanded: give up the father-priest, give up the father-nobleman," the archpastor emphasized. - And some refused, some did not. Someone accepted death and torment, and someone accepted mental anguish and lived, abandoning their parents. Could a society that was built on lies and rejection of the fatherland, and fatherhood be durable?



Therefore, the country (Soviet Union) collapsed, unfortunately, when everything seemed to be calm, there was no foundation.

Therefore, according to Vladyka, today it is very important to preserve the memory of our ancestors and to assert our life without giving up our heritage, our patronymic. Meanwhile, today the tradition of calling people by name and patronymic is gradually being erased, only the surname and first name are mentioned.

- Our patronymic today is quietly excluded. Thus, today our history is being excluded from our life, - said Vladyka. - We have only the Great Patriotic War left of the exploits, we remember it more or less. But we do not know the events that took place a hundred years ago, because these events are inconvenient for the current understanding - they are associated with incredible cruelty, with terrible fratricide, with such a savage injustice that legalized the destruction of the best people of the country. And today we bow our heads, pray and ask them to help.

The "Tsar Days" Program

Despite the Covid-19, it was decided to go ahead with the festival "Tsar Days" in Yekaterinburg. Yevgeny Kuyvashev, Governor of Sverdlovsk region (Yes, still named after a murder) was very close to ban it, but he didn't. According to Mr. Kuyvashev, the event was officially authorized, as it was expected that many Sverdlovsk residents would not refuse it.

"It was obvious that a lot of believers, even knowing about the risks associated with the new coronavirus infection, would not refuse to go in the Cross Procession"- explained Kuyvashev.

The governor said that it was organized in accordance with the recommendations of Rospotrebnadzor. The head of the region noted that it would be better than if this Procession had acquired a spontaneous character.

Besides the main events – the Divine Liturgy and Cross Procession on the night of July 16/17th - the program also offered the usual daily worship in Yekaterinburg' churches, including small vespers with Akathist to the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers, All-night vigil, and Divine Liturgy, in the Church-Monument on the Blood, in the Monastery in the name of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers on Ganina Yama, and the Monastery of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church, in Alapaevsk.

A small Religious procession was arranged along the way of the arrival of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers to Yekaterinburg - from Shartash station to the Church-Monument on the Blood (along the route: railway station Shartash - Kuibyshev str. - Vostochnaya str. - Chelyuskintsev str. - Sverdlov str. - K. Libknekht str.).

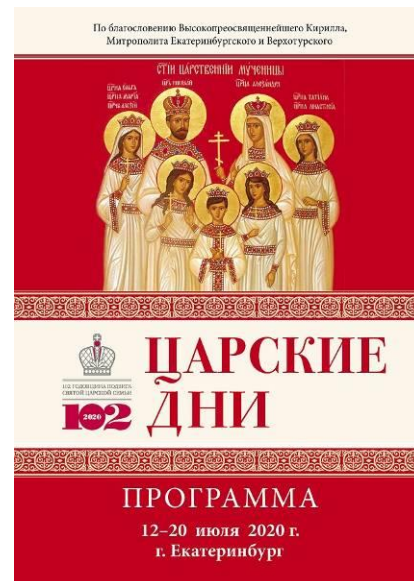
Tsar musical evenings were included to the program: concerts called "Children of Emperor Nicholas II" by the Creative Orthodox youth group "Nikolin Rodnik", and "God Save the Tsar!" by Laureate of all-Russian and international competitions, children's folklore ensemble "Sylyshki", "Code of Honor: Dedicated to the Imperial Dynasty" by the Theater of the Word of People's Artist of Russia Tamara Voronina, etc.

A Bell Ringing Festival.

Lectures: Victoria M. Kalmykova (curator of the Museum of the Holy Imperial Family) "Russian Miracle: Imperial Porcelain"; Dmitry V. Shunyakov (PhD, History, Associate Professor of the Department of Engineering Troops of the Military Training Centre of Ural Federal University; Yekaterinburg) "History of the Russian Imperial Army: Guards Lancers"; Valentina F. Kerner (researcher at the Museum of the Holy Imperial Family): "20th anniversary of the canonization of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers", and others.

Exhibitions were held in the Church-Monument on Blood:

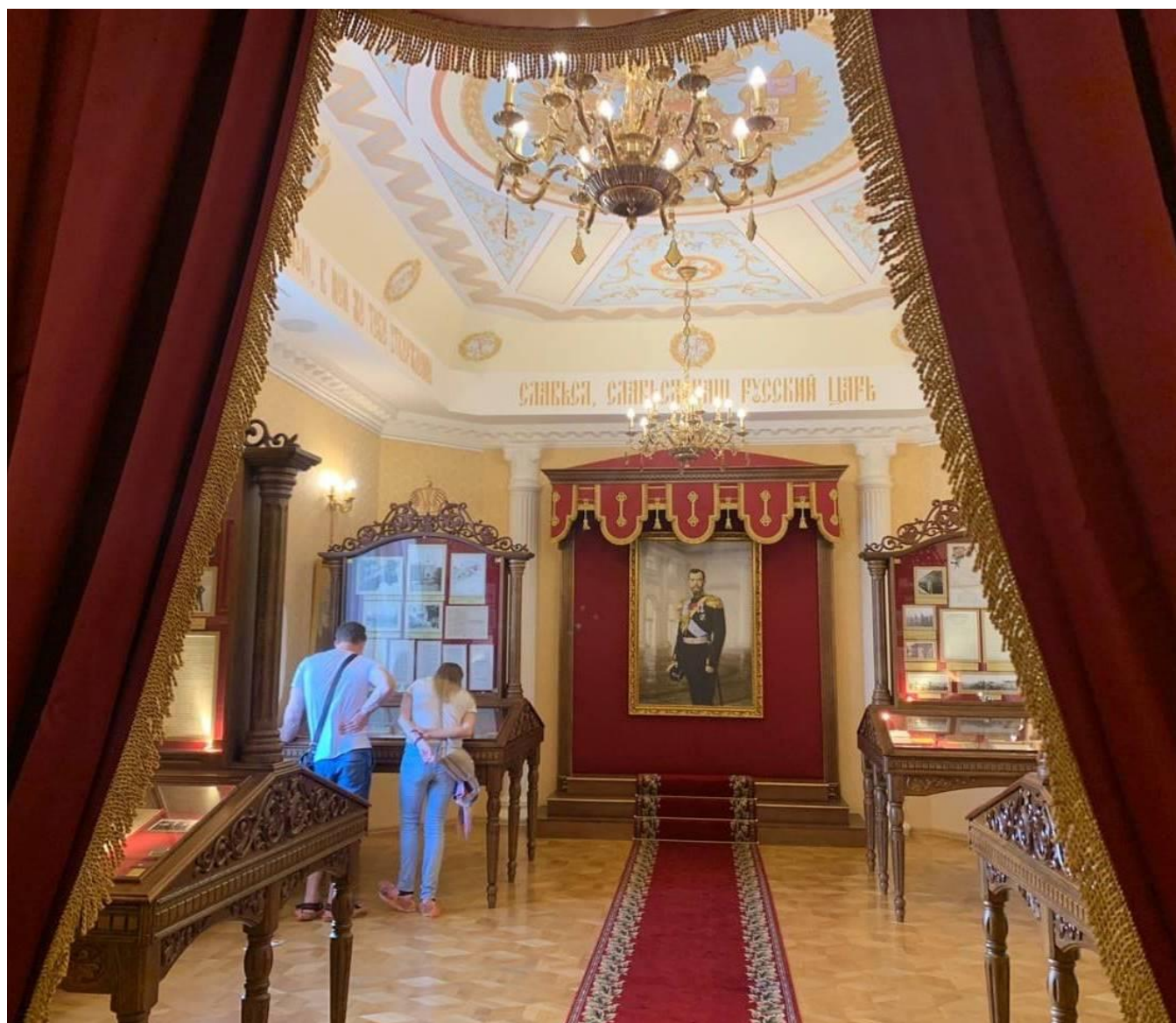
- Photo exhibition "With love for Russia" dedicated to the Holy Royal Passion-bearers and the history of Russia.
- Museum of the Holy Imperial Family. Documents, photographs, personal belongings of the Imperial Family.
- An exhibition of engravings depicting the 300-year history of the House of Romanov from Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich (1613-1645) to Emperor Nicholas II (1894-1917).



- Banner exhibition "Russian Presence in the Holy Land" by the "Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" (Moscow).

In the Multimedia Historical Park "Russia is my story. Sverdlovsk region" were made excursions on the topics:

- "How the Tsarevichs studied. Education of children of the Romanov dynasty";
- "The Russian Empire during the reign of Emperor Nicholas II (1894-1917). Reforms, transformations, achievements".
- "Sports in the era of Nicholas II. "Faster, higher, stronger".



State Duma deputies paid tribute to the Imperial Family and civil war victims

The State Duma honored with a minute of silence the memory of the Imperial Family and all the victims of the civil war of 1917-1920. State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin addressed parliamentarians with a proposal to pay tribute to the memory of all the victims of the 20th century civil war at the beginning of the plenary meeting on Wednesday, July 15.

The State Duma speaker recalled that July 17, will mark 102 years since the day of the innocent execution of the Imperial Family and accompanying persons. The decision was made due to the fact that on Friday, July 17, there will be no plenary meeting.

“Last year, on this day, all factions paid a minute of silence to the memory of all the victims of the civil confrontation of 1917-1920. This is not only a tribute to memory and respect - we emphasize that this should not be repeated. Since we won’t be able to get together on Friday, I propose to honor all the victims of the 20th century civil war today,” said Vyacheslav Volodin.



Video - <https://dumatv.ru/news/deputati-gd-otdali-dan-pamyati-tsarskoi-seme-i-zhertvam-grazhdanskoi-voini>

A banner appeared with the image of the Imperial Family in Novosibirsk

A banner with the image of the Imperial family and the inscription “Not evil will defeat evil, but only love” was placed in Novosibirsk on Kondratyuk Square in July 2020.



“Since June 2017, a banner of the founder of the city of Novo-Nikolaevsk, the last Emperor of the Russian Empire Nicholas II and his family, has been placed on the main streets and squares of the city of Novosibirsk. It was initiated by the Novosibirsk Coordination Council in defence of public morality of

culture and traditional family values and supported by caring citizens” - says the public "Novosibirsk for morality, tradition, family."

The initiators of the banner installation remind that for more than a quarter of a century Novosibirsk bore the name of Emperor Nicholas II (from 1895 to 1904 - as the village of Novo-Nikolaevsk, and from 1904 to 1926 - as the city of Novo-Nikolaevsk).

Previously, banners depicting the Imperial Family have repeatedly been placed on the streets of Novosibirsk. Once it was written on it, "Evil will not triumph over evil, but only love," another time - "Holy Royal Martyrs, pray to God for us."



Kuban remembered

Posters appeared in Kuban (Krasnodar region) and Divine Liturgy on the day of memory of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers was solemnly served in the churches of the Kuban. Hundreds of parishioners took part in them. The services were held with all the recommended rules of Russian Agency Rospotrebnadzor.

"From the Sovereign to a Saint"

In the Moscow Region, a procession "From the Sovereign to a Saint" began on July 15th. The path runs from the monument to Nicholas II in Taininsky to Sergiev Posad.

300 pilgrims set out on the road. According to the experience of previous years, it is expected that in the end of the route it will be several times more participants.

The current procession partially repeats the pre-revolutionary route. Then it was called "The Road to the Lavra (Trinity-Sergius Monastery)" and began from the Kremlin walls.

Sergey Zaburniyagin, organizer of the religious procession "From the Sovereign to the Saint" said – "Today we have 80 kilometers from this place to the Lavra. If we look at the historical route along the old Yaroslav it is also 80 kilometers. For today, we have kept the length of this route. Naturally, we are following a new road, but here the meaning is important. Pilgrims go to the procession for the inner transformation of themselves. And here it is not so important where we are going from, but where we are going, and why we are going."

The organizers say the event has several tasks. Religious struggle against anger, the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and the consecration of territories along the route. Pilgrims expect to complete the procession on July 18th with a liturgy in the Trinity-Sergius Lavra.



A night service was held in memory of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers

The church at the Northern cemetery of Izhevsk is dedicated to the memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs. On the night of July 16-17, a solemn divine service was held here, led by Metropolitan Viktorin of Izhevsk and Udmurtia and Bishop Viktor Glazovsky and Igrinsky. The ruling bishops were co-served by the clergy of the Izhevsk and Glazov dioceses.

Concluding the celebrations, Metropolitan Viktorin thanked everyone who gathered at such a late hour to honor the memory of the royal passion-bearers.

"No matter how many years have passed since that unfortunate night, we will never wash ourselves off and do not deserve forgiveness, because this is not a simple murder, but the murder of God's anointed

one. Remember what the Lord said to Cain: "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the earth; and now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. " What terrible words! Hence all the troubles that our country has experienced and is going through," Vladyka said in his sermon, and also noted that before the overthrow of the Tsarist government, the country was morally strong, since the Church played a key role in education and upbringing. "Now everything has been taken away from the Church, only the opportunity to pray has been left. And we pray and, as we can, stand up for the purity of our life. But there are so few of us left! There are so few young people in our churches! But we hope that our prayers will be answered and that the Lord will accept our repentance. Today's night service is a repentance not only to the Imperial Family, but also to all those who suffered in the time of persecution," the archpastor said at the end of the sermon.

Vladyka Victor joined the words of Metropolitan Victorin. He noted that only those traditions and moral norms help the state to hold on.

"What's next for us? We do not know, but we know that prayer will always be on the lips of believers. And as we have heard in today's apostolic epistle, neither sorrow, nor crampedness, nor persecution, nor hunger, nor nakedness, nor danger, nor the sword can separate us from the love of God. This is how we live," Vladyka Victor said and thanked everyone for the prayer.



A new church was consecrated on the Enthusiasts highway



On July 16, the head of the Eastern Vicariate, Bishop Panteleimon of Orekhovo-Zuevsky, consecrated a church in honor of Nicholas the Wonderworker on the Entuziastov highway. The date was not chosen by chance: one of the chapels of the new church is dedicated to the family of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II, who was shot in Yekaterinburg on the night of July 16-17, 1918 and canonized in 2000.

"The construction of the wooden church for 250 parishioners began two years ago and was fully completed by this Easter, but because of the coronavirus, the consecration had

to be postponed until the summer," said the secretary of the church Marina Smetanina. - The locals were looking forward to this day.

After performing the solemn rite, Vladyka Panteleimon served the Divine Liturgy.

A Cross Procession in memory of the Imperial Family was held in Kozelsk

On the anniversary of the execution of the Imperial Family, a 20-kilometer Cross Procession took place in Kozelsk.



This is a traditional and already twentieth religious procession, people come to us not only from the entire region, but many from Kaluga, all together we honor the memory of Tsar Nikolai, his wife and their children - said Kozelsk Dean Archpriest Vladimir Bakhaev.

This year, the move began not from the walls of Optina Hermitage as before, but from the Epiphany Church at the mechanical plant. Further procession passed the St. Nicholas Church, then believers followed the ring road around Kozelsk and came to the Annunciation Church, then they returned back to the mechanical plant - in total twenty kilometers.

On the way, the participants of the procession made stops, performed prayers. Many people take part in the procession every year, mothers with small children try to walk at least part of the way with everyone.



The family of Emperor Nicholas II was remembered in Kursk

July 17 is a special date for Orthodox Christians. On this day, they remember the martyrdom of the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. In 2010, a church in their honour was consecrated in Kursk city, Progulochnaya Street. Now every year on July 17, a patronal feast is held here, uniting hundreds of believers.

- Today is a special day. It is both tragic and solemn. I would like the events, which we commemorate here today, would never have happen or be repeated.

Each saint must be remembered and treated with reverence for the story of why this or that once-lived person became a saint. And here, too, the history of relatively recent times makes us think about who we are and how we have to live.

- For me, this is, first of all, a feast day in the church, which we have been going to for more than five years, where we confess and receive communion.

This church has already partly become our home. The family of holy royal passion-bearers for me is an example of family, family relationships, the relationship between parents and children, the relationship between husband and wife. This is definitely an example of Christianity, an example of true Christians. That's why I'm here today.

Among the parishioners there were people who specially came from afar to pay tribute to the memory of the Imperial Family, to participate in the cross procession around the church,

to share the grief of this date with others and to share the joy that the names of the last Russian Autocrat and his family have been etched in history for centuries and glorified among the saints.

- Of course, I really respect them. In 2013, I was lucky to attend religious processions in Yekaterinburg, to walk to Ganina's pit, and in Alapaevsk. It was exactly 400 years of the Romanovs' house. The Lord ordered that, I really wanted it, it worked. I live in Kaliningrad, my homeland is Kursk, and therefore I always pray and ask the Lord to give me the opportunity to come to our holy land in the summer and to walk in the procession with our icon "Mother of God Sign" and on the day of remembrance of the Holy Royal Martyrs. That such a wonderful church in honour of our martyrs. And I am always glad that the Lord gives me such an opportunity, just like this time.

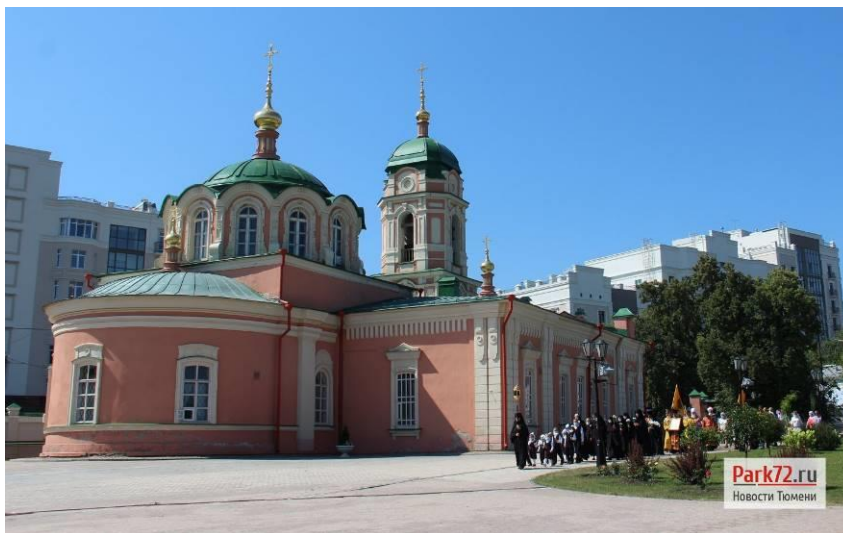


Video - <https://youtu.be/3smmNrSETE0>



The new monument in Tyumen is called “The Holy Family with Many Children”

In Tyumen, the day of the memory of the Imperial Family was celebrated. After the service in the Ilyinsky Monastery, a small cross procession and a prayer service took place next to the new monument erected in honor of the Emperor Nicholas II and family. The bronze monument glorifies the feat of the Christian faith and the love of the Romanovs for the Motherland and each other. The monument was named “The Holy Family with Many Children,” and it promises to become a special spiritual place for young Tyumen residents who start a family life.



On July 17, the Russian Orthodox Church prayerfully commemorates Emperor Nicholas II and his family. “On this day, the Russian Orthodox Church and our Fatherland glorify the Royal Passion-Bearers - Tsar Nicholas and his pious family. The Imperial family is the greatest example of love, Christian faith, family fidelity and devotion,” said Metropolitan Dimitri of Tobolsk and Tyumen after the prayer. Royal Passion-Bearers, Royal Martyrs, the Imperial Family - this is how, after being canonized, the Russian Orthodox Church calls Nicholas II and his family: Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, Tsarevich Alexei, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia. Many people wonder why the Imperial Family is glorified precisely as the “martyrs” and what does it mean? These are saints who

were martyred for fulfilling God's commandments. An important part of the passion-bearer's feat is that the martyr does not hold grudge against the tormentors and does not resist. This is the face of the saints who have suffered not for their actions or for preaching Christ, but for Whom They Were. Faithfulness to Christ is expressed in their faithfulness to their calling and destiny.



"The strength of this family is in the love of God and neighbour. We see that the entire surface of the earth near the Tyumen monument dedicated to the holy family is decorated with white stone. For us, this is the purity of life, which the Tsar's family showed us," Metropolitan Dimitri said, answering journalists' questions.

The place for the installation of the monument was not chosen by chance. It was near the Tyumen Ilyinsky Monastery that the river pier and the Tura railway station were located, where in August 1917 the family of

Nicholas II exiled by the Provisional Government was delivered by train from St. Petersburg. From this place, the family was sent down the river on the steamer "Rus" to Tobolsk, about which the Emperor made an entry in his diary. This record is also carved on a memorial stone installed on the territory of the monastery. Emperor Nicholas II abdicated on March 2, 1917. After his abdication, he and his family, doctor and servants were placed under house arrest in a palace in Tsarskoe Selo. In summer 1917, the Provisional Government sent the prisoners into exile in Tobolsk. In the spring of 1918, the Bolsheviks exiled them to Yekaterinburg. It was there that on the night of July 16-17, the Tsar's family was shot - by order of the executive committee of the Ural Regional Council of Workers, Peasants and Soldiers' Deputies. Some historians believe that the execution order was received directly from Lenin and Sverdlov.

Very little is known about the Yekaterinburg period of the Imperial family's exile. Several entries in the Emperor's diary have come down to us; there is evidence of witnesses in the case of the murder of the Tsar's family. In the house of the engineer Ipatiev Nicholas II, 12 soldiers guarded his family. It was essentially a prison. The inmates slept on the floor; the guards were often cruel to them; prisoners were allowed to walk in the garden only once a day. The royal passion-bearers courageously accepted their fate. We have received a letter from Princess Olga, where she writes: "Father asks to convey to all those who remained loyal to him, and those on whom he may have influence, so that they do not revenge him, since he forgave everyone and prays for everyone, and so that they do not take revenge for themselves, and that they remember that the evil that is now in the world will be even stronger, but that not evil will overcome evil, but only love." Those arrested were allowed to attend services. Prayer was a great comfort to them. Archpriest John Storozhev performed his last service in Ipatiev House just a few days before the execution of the Imperial Family - on July 14, 1918. On the night of July 16-17, the Chekist and the head of the execution, Yakov Yurovsky, woke up the Emperor, his wife and children. They were ordered to get together under the pretext that unrest had begun in the city and there is an urgent need to move to a safe place. The prisoners were escorted to a basement room with one barred window, where Yurovsky told the Emperor: "Nikolai Alexandrovich, by order of the Ural Regional Council, you will be executed with your family." The Chekist fired several times at Nicholas II, other participants in the execution at the rest of the condemned. Those who fell, but was still alive, were finished off with shots and stabbed with bayonets. The bodies were taken out into the yard, loaded into a truck and taken to Ganina Yama. They threw them into a mine, then burned them and buried them. Together with the Imperial Family, the court doctor Yevgeny Botkin and several servants were shot: the maid Anna Demidova, the cook Ivan Kharitonov and the valet Alexei Trup.

The appearance of the monument to the Imperial Family in Tyumen became an important historical event for our region. "Residents of Tyumen region should know that the Emperor's family was in Tyumen. Tyumen and Tobolsk received the Tsar hospitably, warmly, he writes about this in his diary. This place is honored, and it is fortunate that it turned out to be on the territory of a nunnery," the head of the metropolis believes. - This place is taken care of, prayer sounds here. All believers can come here. I think the place will become special for newlyweds, young couples will come to the Imperial Family for a blessing, so that the Lord will give them the strength of union and love.

The territory will be included in the "Imperial Route". According to Metropolitan Demetrius, the monument was highly appreciated by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, who planned to come to its opening. But the visit was cancelled due to the epidemic situation. The project was approved by the patriarch's confessor Elder Elijah (Nozdrin). The model of the monument to the Tsar's family was developed by the academy of the famous artist Ilya Glazunov, and the monument itself was made by the leading sculptor of the academy, Irina Makarova, in the LitArt workshop in the city of Zhukovsky, Moscow Region. A similar one was installed in the Diveyevo monastery, but according to Igor Raksha, (project organizer and the head of the regional department of the Double-Headed Eagle Society), the Tyumen monument is the best. "It took a year to create the bronze sculpture. The boat weighs 3 tons and the sculptors of family members 2 tons, - said Igor Raksha. - Parishioners of Russian churches, as well as by the leadership of the World Russian People's Council, the society for the development of Russian historical enlightenment "Double-Headed Eagle", representatives of the Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, the St. Basil the Great Charitable Foundation provided financial support."

The Emperor and his family are depicted in a large boat, which is named "Rus", as well as the ship that took the Romanovs to Tobolsk exile. They are depicted as in an icon, with crucifixes in their hands. The monument "looks" to the embankment so that the townspeople walking by the river could see it.

Large transparent gates will be installed on the Tura river side. The sculpture will become a new attraction in Tyumen. "It is symbolic that a monument has appeared in the city, the name of which is "The Holy Family with Many Children," says Igor Raksha. - The murder of a large family began with the murder of the holy Imperial Family in Russia. In the Soviet Union, it was not welcomed to have a lot of children... And the birth rate cannot be raised only by economic promises and social assistance, this requires a spiritual basis. We need to return to our values, otherwise Russia may simply find itself in a demographic failure." Already now residents of Tyumen can visit the Ilyinsky Monastery during its working hours and go down to the monument. Small icons with a prayer to the royal passion-bearers are distributed at the monastery. They were issued by the organization "Double-Headed Eagle" with the blessing of Metropolitan Demetrius. You can get such an icon as a gift. The time spent in a beautiful place will be gift to the soul. There is a lot of greenery, flowers and a very special atmosphere. Every detail of the new sculpture deserves attention, and there is something to think about ...



Video - <https://youtu.be/TB0urSNcZzA>

Editor's comment - Many are shaking their head in disbelief of the choice of name to the monument. Why is it not called a monument of the "Holy Royal Martyrs"? Are they trying to downgrade the Holy Royal Martyrs to just being a "family with many children" – like an ordinaire family? – Or are they afraid of the local Communist and think they will not understand who it is? Or is it their way to solve the demography problem in Russia....?

The Republic Srpska honored the memory of Nicholas II

In the capital of the Republic Srpska, Banja Luka, the memory of Emperor Nicholas II and his family members was honoured on July 17. On this day, representatives of the authorities, the Serbian Orthodox Church and public organizations laid wreaths at the monument to the Russian Emperor on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the martyrdom of the Emperor's family.



After the wreath-laying ceremony, the Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic Srpska Dusko Milunovic told reporters that thanks to the great and immeasurable love of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II for the Serbs and Serbia, the Serbian army survived and was resurrected during the First World War. Milunovic also recalled the words of Nicholas II that he was not only the Tsar of the Russians, but also of the Serbs, because he considered them his people.

The minister also stressed that if Russia had not entered the war in 1914 because of its younger brother, then Serbia would not exist now in its present form. He reminded reporters of how the Russian Emperor delivered an ultimatum to the allies in order to save the Serbian army. Milunovic stressed that the entire Romanov family was killed by the communists, who, having come to power, massacred the Russian aristocracy. "Today, on the day of the death of Emperor Nicholas, we salute him and great fraternal Russia," the minister stressed once again.

Priest Miladin Mitrovic, chairman of the local branch of the IOPS, said that the Russian Emperor Nicholas II is a unique person who became the crown of historical Russian-Serbian relations. "By his decision to enter the First World War in order to protect the Serbian people, Nicholas II showed sacrificial love, because it costs him the imperial crown and his life, like his family," said Father Miladin. The Serbian people, according to the priest, not only have a deep moral obligation to pay respect to the Russian Emperor, but also intend to build sincere fraternal relations with the Russian people in the future.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic Srpska, wreaths were laid on the bust of the Russian Emperor by the Minister of Energy and Mining Petar Djokic, Minister of Labor and Social Protection

Dusko Milunovic, as well as members of the IOPS from Banja Luka, who keep the tradition of honoring the Imperial Family.

In Banja Luka the construction of the Serbian-Russian Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord in honour of Nicholas II and the Royal Martyrs is underway. The architectural design of the church was fully prepared by Russian specialists of Moscow Architectural Institute. In September 2018, the foundation of the church was consecrated. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov took part in the ceremony.

Our Lady of Smolensk Church celebrates the Royal Passion-bearers in Ontario

On January 17, 2020, the Province of Ontario ordered the mandatory wearing of masks in public places. Two weeks earlier, Prime Minister of the Province, Douglas Ford allowed divine services to be held in churches as long as attendance was no more than 30% of capacity. The faithful was overjoyed at this news, since previously only clergymen and up to five people could attend.

Under these circumstances the services are being held at Our Lady of Smolensk Church in Jackson Point, ON. By the initiative of the parish rector, Fr. Maxim, the foundations for a chapel dedicated to the Holy Royal Passion-bearers was laid down. A year later this chapel was consecrated. To date it is the sole memorial church to the saints in North America.

This year's centennial of the existence of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia is being celebrated with the limitations imposed by the pandemic. On July 17, festive Divine Liturgy and a procession of the cross. Afterwards, the believers viewed a small photo exhibit under the open sky dedicated to the Imperial Family.



The Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society organized an online conference as part of the annual festival "Tsar's Days"

On July 15, the conference "Outstanding Benefactors and Enlighteners. Yesterday and today" was organised online. It was organised by the Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, the Yekaterinburg Diocese, the Ministry of Culture of the Sverdlovsk Region, the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local Lore named after O.E. Claire and held with the assistance of "Russia Today".

The conference was a part of the annual festival "Tsar Days". It was timed to commemorate the memorable days of the execution of the last Russian Emperor's Family in Yekaterinburg, and the creation of the Museum of Remembrance of Representatives of the Russian Imperial House "Field School in the City of Alapaevsk".

Metropolitan Kirill (Nakonechny) of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye admonished and blessed the participants of the Elisabeth Readings and wished everyone God's help. The archpastor expressed the hope that after the end of the restrictive measures, they will all be able to meet in Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk.

He noted the concern for "the welfare of the subjects and the development of the culture of our Fatherland," which has always distinguished the members of the House of Romanov.

Vladyka emphasized that especially for the women of the House of Romanov, it was a noble tradition to patronize various charitable and charitable institutions and societies.

For example, Empress Maria Feodorovna, wife of Emperor Alexander III and mother of Saint Tsar Nicholas, was a trustee of several charitable societies, and also headed the Russian Red Cross Society. Under the patronage of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, a holy passion-bearer, there were 33 charitable societies. The Grand Duchess Venerable Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna founded the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, in which the sisters of mercy served and girls were brought up. The Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna was the patroness of the "Nursery" society, caring for young children, whose mothers, as Vladyka specified, "first of all, from working-class families, went to day jobs." The daughter of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich Romanov, Princess of Imperial Blood Vera Konstantinovna headed the Berlin Holy Prince Vladimir Brotherhood, whose tasks, among other things, included the construction and maintenance of Orthodox churches in Germany.



- The principles of charity laid down by the Romanov dynasty served to preserve and enhance the cultural, educational and upbringing traditions of Russian society, based on the Orthodox faith, Christian morality and philanthropy. In this connection, it is important to study and familiarize the public with the history of educational and charitable ministry in Russia and for Russia, - said Metropolitan Kirill. The ruling bishop stressed that the Elisabeth-Sergei Society is engaged in such enlightenment and charity "with great success and great efforts, which is very joyful for us".

Metropolitan Kirill expressed gratitude to this organization for many years of joint work. He also thanked the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, "which has strengthened its presence not only in Palestine, but also in different regions, including ours."

The Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Olga Lyubimova noted the role of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society in preserving and popularizing the history of the Imperial House of Romanov and its spiritual heritage. She highly appreciated the national tourism project "Imperial Route", initiated by them, and stressed the particular importance of the project for the education of the younger generation.

"Today's discussion is a great occasion to share knowledge about this era, to reveal subtle, but very important nuances. Let me remind you that in Russia there is a national tourism project called the Imperial Route. It is very important to continue such undertakings and provide an opportunity for the younger generation to see their native country, to understand the connection of times and eras, to realize the greatness of the Motherland and to remember forever the bright moments of contact with the rich cultural heritage," said Olga Lyubimova.

"For us, everything that is connected with the memory of the Imperial Family is a fundamentally important. It takes a special place not only in tourist routes, but also in the souls and hearts of people who live in the region. And when we talk about the opening of new museums, and we have more and more of them today, then for us this, of course, it is a place of public attraction. The last year showed that Alapaevsk and the places associated with the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg and, of course, the Ganina Pit are absolutely special places, and more and more people come there," said Deputy Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Pavel Krekov.

Anna Gromova, Chair of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, announced that the second part of the St. Elisabeth Readings will take place in November 2020 in Yekaterinburg. She emphasized the special "creative" significance of the Ural region for the history and culture of Russia, as well as paid attention to the topic of "breaking the historical memory". Gromova urged to consider the issue of restoring the previous historical names of streets and cities, since the toponymy of the Soviet era consolidated the names of

"terrorists and murderers": in particular, she is outraged that the huge region still bears the name of the Bolshevik Sverdlov, who was directly involved in the repression of members of Imperial House. "It is necessary to firmly root in the minds of young people a creative moment and pride in the history of their country,"

Anna Gromova dedicated her report to the memory of Olga Kulikovskaya-Romanova- the wife of Tikhon Nikolaevich, son of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, nephew of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II. The speaker presented Olga Kulikovskaya-Romanova's book "25 years of service to Russia", published after her death, which contains a detailed story about the work of the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Charitable Foundation.

The conference participants were also greeted by: head of Rostourism Arina Doguzova, Abbess Elizabeth of the Gethsemane monastery of St. Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem, representatives of the government of the Sverdlovsk region and the authorities of Alapaevsk.

Chairman of the Board of the Association of Philanthropists "White Flower" Sergei Rudov made a report "Reviving the traditions of charity in the Urals on the example of the festival "White Flower ". In 1910s the Imperial Family initiated this charity event. A few years ago, it was restored. According to Rudov, within the framework of the campaign, more than 100 million roubles was collected in 90 Russian cities for the treatment of children with serious illnesses. A glorious example of one of the traditions of the Imperial Family, is indicative for us," said the speaker. He expressed the hope that the



White Flower in Yekaterinburg would become a large-scale celebration, as it has already been done in a number of other cities.

Director of the International Charitable Foundation N.F. von Meck, Denis von Meck, made a report about his famous ancestors, who were associates of the Imperial Family in the cause of charity. Thus, Nikolai Karlovich von Meck was a member of the Imperial Philanthropic Society and a special confidant of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, who appointed him treasurer of a handicraft warehouse in the Moscow Kremlin. At the beginning of the Russo-Japanese War, he headed the department for sending charitable goods to the Far East under the Grand Duchess's Committee to raise funds to help the army under the shadow of the Russian Red Cross. And during World War I in 1914, he took part in organizing warehouses on the Kazan railway to help the wounded and sick soldiers, the creation of which was initiated and supervised by the sisters - Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and Grand Duchess Elizaveta Feodorovna. For over 20 years, Nikolai von Meck collaborated with the Grand Duchess in charity work. Vladimir von Meck was Elizaveta Feodorovna's personal secretary and vice-chairman of the Moscow Scout Society, which was patronized by the Grand Duchess. He also participated in many charity events during World War I.

The speaker concluded the report with the words of Nikolai von Meck, which he, a famous engineer and organizer of the construction of railways, told his daughter during a meeting in Lubyanka, after 17 searches and arrests, 2 weeks before the execution in May 1929: "Daughter, just don't hate your country for all this", "Such people surrounded Elizabeth Feodorovna, and she inspired many to help her country," said Denis von Meck.

The main curator of the Museum of the Holy Imperial Family Victoria M. Kalmykova and the head of the department of history of the Romanov dynasty of the Sverdlovsk regional museum Nikolai B. Neuymin talked about preservation and research of the objects related to the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

Elena L. Titeeva, Head of the Museum "Field School in the City of Alapaevsk", and the museum's researchers presented reports about the sister Varvara (Yakovleva) and the museum role in the development of the cultural and historical cluster of the city of Alapaevsk.

Along with other regions, the Sverdlovsk region participate in the project "Imperial Route". Susanna V. Startseva (ESES) and Gulnara G. Demchuk, (Tyumen Museum) devoted their reports to the development of "Imperial Route" project.

During Festival "Tsar's Days", the Tsarsky cultural and educational centre presented the exhibition "Russian Presence in the Holy Land" dedicated to the Russian pilgrimage to Palestine and the protection of Orthodoxy in the Middle East. This banner exhibition was created with the scientific and charitable support of the "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society". It continues the project "I will not keep silent for the sake of Zion, and for the sake of Jerusalem I will not rest" (Is. 62: 1). The August Chairmen of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna."

Video – The entire conference - <https://youtu.be/uWL-cTzbaig>

Video - A TV news report – <http://vesti-ural.ru/news/114352-v-ramkax-festivalya-carskie-dni-proshli-svyato-elisavetinskie-chteniya.html>



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

The Investigative Committee of Russia announced that it continues the investigation of the criminal case on the murder of members of the Imperial Family of Romanov

On July 16, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation announced on their web site that they continue to clarify all the circumstances of the death and burial of members of the Imperial Family in the framework of the criminal case under investigation. A video was also released.

It is worth noting that the announcement was timing to the main commemoration of the Royal Martyrs in Yekaterinburg - the place of their murder. This also happened in 2018, which then upset the church. But this is the time for this kind of news, when there is the most attention in the media to the issue.

Since its renewal in 2015, experts of Investigative Committee have carried out a wide range of actions, and appointed about 37 different forensic examinations. Certain results of expert studies are already at the disposal of the investigation. These data make it possible to exclude some previous judgments regarding the events of those years, including those related to the identification of the remains of a group of persons found near Yekaterinburg. So, on the basis of numerous examinations, the investigation concluded that the remains belong to Nicholas II, his family and persons from their entourage.

Excluding the possibility of a double interpretation of certain circumstances associated with this murder, other examinations necessary for the investigation continue. In particular, as part of the preliminary investigation, two soil science examinations were carried out on the samples obtained at the burial sites. From the conclusions of the examinations it follows that the soil samples presented for the study from the burial opened in 1991 are light and medium sandy loams with varying degrees of

rockiness. In the second burial - 2007 - the soil is represented by medium and heavy silty loams with varying degrees of rockiness. These results indicate the inconsistency of the opinion that in Porosenkov Log, where the Yekaterinburg remains were found, the soil is peaty, which causes peat tanning of bodies.



As part of a handwriting examination of all versions of Yurovsky' Note, the text of which also describes the events that occurred on the night of July 17, 1918, experts found that in the Yurovsky Note from the State Archives of the Russian Federation, handwritten amendments to the text were made by him, and clarifying entries in the margins and addition at the end of the text - by another person. As part of the research, it is established who exactly wrote the lines of Heinrich Heine's poem on the wallpaper in the "execution room".

The investigation also has a 3D model of an artificial jaw, the original of which is kept abroad - in the Museum of Russian History at the Holy Trinity Monastery. It was discovered in 1918 when inspecting the Ipatiev house after the execution. A study carried out within the framework of a forensic (anthropological) examination does not exclude that this removable prosthesis belonged to a person whose remains were identified as the remains of a physician, Evgeny Sergeevich Botkin.

Along with forensic examinations, including historical and archival, forensic (anthropological), molecular genetic, traceological, various investigative experiments are being carried out. Their results are evaluated in conjunction with other materials of the case, and in a number of cases they allow to restore the events. One of such experiments, carried out in a similar "execution" room in the basement of the Ipatiev house, refuted the arguments that such a small room could not accommodate eleven victims and participants in the execution. Another investigative experiment ruled out the theory that the bodies of those killed were destroyed using sulfuric acid and fire.

However, the investigation still has a significant amount of work to do. In particular, the search continues for archival materials that are important for the case, including medical documents - this is a difficult and time-consuming process, since there is no single register of them. The conclusions of the previously appointed forensic examinations are expected.

It should be noted that all the conclusions of the investigation are based solely on data from archival documents and primary sources, as well as the results of forensic examinations conducted by scientists, professors, prominent historians and archivists, outstanding physicians and geneticists, whose names are known and respected by the world scientific community. Among them: President of the Faculty of History of Moscow State University Sergey Pavlovich Karpov, Rector of the Russian State Humanitarian University Alexander Borisovich Bezborodov, Associate Professor of the Historical and Archival Institute of the Russian State Humanitarian University Evgeny Vladimirovich Pchelov, Chief Specialist of the State Archives of the Russian Federation Zinaida Ivanovna Peregodova, Chairman of the Patriarchal Council for Culture Metropolitan Tikhon (Shevkunov), Head of the Department of Orthopedic Dentistry First St. Petersburg State Medical University. acad. I.P. Pavlova Vladimir Nikolaevich Trezubov, Head of the Department of Human Genomics and Genetics, IOGEN RAS, Evgeny Ivanovich Rogaev. Each of them carries out their research free of charge and without interruption from their main job.

Only after receiving the remaining expert opinions and completing the necessary investigative actions in the aggregate a procedural decision will be made and a legal assessment will be given.

Video - <https://youtu.be/RNGnOXM3fI0>

"It can be assumed that there is one or more burials"

17 July 2020, Izvestia, Roman Krezul - Investigator of the RF Investigative Committee Marina Molodtsova - on new details of the case of the murder of the Imperial Family.

How will the 3D model of the hat of Nicholas II, which he was wearing at the time of his injury in Japan, help in investigating the circumstances of the death of the Imperial Family? How are the events related to the murder of the Romanovs classified today? Why has not a Unified Register of Documents on this case been created in more than a hundred years? And why does the investigation need a copy of the artificial jaw, the original of which is kept in the American Museum in Jordanville? On the eve of the 102nd anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family, Marina Molodtsova, a senior investigator for particularly important cases under the head of the Investigative Committee of Russia, talked with Izvestia correspondent.

Investigative acid experiment

- *You have been investigating the circumstances of the death and burial of the Imperial Family and their relatives for more than three years. What new did the investigation manage to find out during this time?*
- Since the resumption of the case in 2015, 37 forensic examinations have been ordered, including forensic (anthropological), molecular genetic, traceological, handwriting and others.

In addition, various kinds of investigative experiments are being carried out as part of the investigation. In some cases, their results allow us to restore a more complete picture of events and exclude some versions.



Marina Molodtsova, senior investigator of the IC.

- For example?
- In the room, the dimensions of which coincide with the room in the basement of the Ipatiev house, the situation and circumstances of the execution of Nicholas II, his family and servants were reproduced. This refuted the arguments of some researchers that such a small room could not accommodate 11 victims and participants in the execution.
Another investigative experiment refuted the version that the bodies of those killed were destroyed using sulfuric acid and fire.

- But many consider it as a fact.
- Yes, such a picture has been reproduced for many years in popular science literature and magazine publications. However, it was found that the application of concentrated sulfuric acid to the surface of biological tissues slows down the process of their subsequent combustion.
- What else became known after the forensic examinations?
- As part of the investigation, handwriting examinations were assigned for all versions of the "notes of Yurovsky" (participant in the execution Yakov Yurovsky, commandant of the "House of Special Purpose" - "Izvestia"). They describe the events that occurred including on the night of July 17, 1918. The experts found that on the "Yurovsky's note" stored in the State Archives of the Russian Federation, handwritten amendments to the text were made by him, and the clarifying notes in the margins and the addition at the end of the text were made by another person. The handwritten corrections in the transcript of Yurovsky's speech at the meeting of the old Bolsheviks on February 1, 1934 (where he also recalls the events in Yekaterinburg - Izvestia) were made by Yurovsky himself.

Now it is being established who exactly wrote the lines of Heinrich Heine's poem on the wallpaper in the "execution room". For comparison of handwriting in various archives, original documents with handwritten texts made by participants in the Yekaterinburg events were seized. Including Petr Voikov, Jan Svikke, Isai Rodzinsky and others.

To address the issues raised in the framework of the judicial historical and archival expertise, a systematization of about 2 thousand historical sources, including those located abroad, was carried out. Some of these sources are multivolume.

- Many books and scientific works have been written about the events surrounding the murder of the Imperial Family. A variety of versions and assumptions are regularly expressed in the media. Does the investigation pay attention to them?

- We check all the versions put forward. In this case, we take into account only the data of archival documents, primary sources and the results of examinations.

- Not everyone admits that the remains found in 1979 near Yekaterinburg belong to members of the Imperial Family and their inner circle. What is the current situation with their identification?

- On the basis of numerous examinations, the investigation concluded that the remains belong to Nicholas II, his family and people from their environment. Nevertheless, we continue to collect materials and carry out all the necessary forensic examinations to eliminate the slightest doubt. Upon completion of all examinations, their results will be evaluated in aggregate.

For example, now experts are proposing to make a 3D model of the hat that was on the head of Nikolai Alexandrovich at the time of his injury in Japan. It is kept in the Hermitage. Three-dimensional copies of the hat and skull, identified as N.A. Romanov, can be compared and it will be possible to assess whether the injuries on the head and the detected injuries on the skull match. These healed wounds were found on the right side of the cranial vault during an anthropological examination. According to the mechanism of occurrence, localization, mutual arrangement, shape and dimensional characteristics, they are similar to the description of chopped injuries on the head of Nikolai Alexandrovich, inflicted on him in 1891.

- *What other documents and items can help in the investigation?*

- Recently we had at our disposal a 3D model of an artificial jaw, the original of which is kept in the Museum of Russian History at the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville. It was discovered in 1918 while examining the Ipatiev house after the execution. A study carried out within the framework of a forensic (anthropological) examination does not exclude that this removable prosthesis belonged to a person whose remains were identified as the remains of the physician-in-chief Evgeny Sergeevich Botkin.

- *What kind of specialists are involved in the investigation. Who do you turn to when working on the criminal case?*

- Honored scientists, doctors and PhD - honored doctors of the Russian Federation, highly qualified forensic experts, prominent historians and archivists, geneticists are involved in carrying out historical-archival, forensic (anthropological) and molecular-genetic forensic examinations. Among them are the President of the Faculty of History of Moscow State University Sergey Pavlovich Karpov, Rector of the Russian State Humanitarian University Alexander Borisovich Bezborodov, Olga Yurievna Vasilyeva - the Minister of Education of the Russian Federation in 2016-2018. - *Izvestia*), Associate Professor of the Historical and Archival Institute of the Russian State Humanitarian University Evgeny Vladimirovich Pchelov, Chief Specialist of the State Archives of the Russian Federation Zinaida Ivanovna Peregudova, Chief Specialist of the Russian State Archive of Social and Political Sciences Lyudmila Anatolyevna Lykova.

I would like to emphasize that all specialists involved by us are not exempt from their official activities and conduct research on a gratuitous basis.

- *How is the study of the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria, found in 2007, progressing? Where are they stored today?*

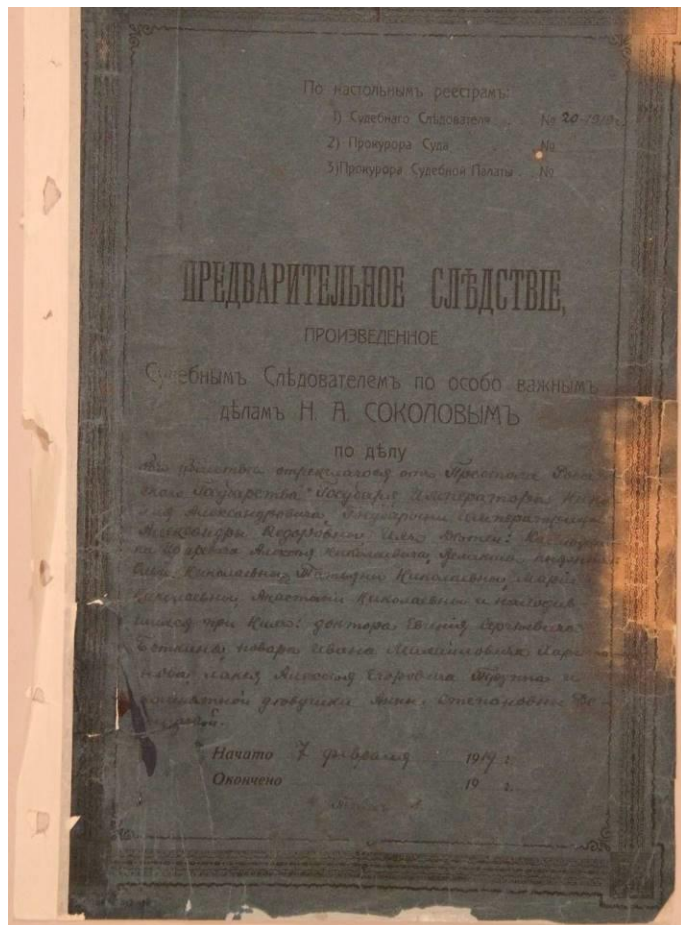
- According to the conclusion of molecular genetic examinations, the remains of two persons discovered in the summer of 2007 near the burial place of nine other killed belong to the daughter and son of Nikolai and Alexandra Romanov. The biological relationship for both parents was established with maximum probability for both Alexei and Maria.



Search for the remains of Tsarevich Alexei, 1999

Due to the small number of bone fragments found, it can be assumed that not far from the place where the remains of two persons were discovered in 2007, there may be one or more of their burials.

Now the remains are stored in the Novo-Spassky Monastery in Moscow, since all the necessary expert studies have not yet been completed with them.



- Does the investigation use the materials that were collected by the investigator Nikolai Sokolov in 1918 on the order of Alexander Kolchak?

- Copies of these materials are attached to our criminal case and are one of the evidences. As part of the historical and archival expertise, for the first time, data from the official examination reports compiled by investigator Sokolov and given in his book "The Murder of the Tsar's Family" were compared. Revealed significant discrepancies in the details and circumstances of the discovery of certain traces and objects. This is of great importance: public opinion in this case was mainly formed precisely on the facts set forth in Sokolov's book, since the primary sources on this issue were not available.

- A criminal case on the discovery of the remains was initiated back in 1993, when the Criminal Code of the RSFSR was in force. For which article was the production started? Has the qualification remained the same today?

- In general, the first one to whom the investigation was entrusted was the investigator for the most important cases of the Yekaterinburg District Court, Alexei Dmitrievich Nametkin. On July 30, 1918, he began

proceedings on the case, qualifying it according to the general criminal composition - the commission of murder by several persons by prior agreement (Article 1454 of the Code of Criminal and Correctional Punishments of 1845).

Considering that more than 100 years have passed since the murder was committed, during which the criminal legislation of Russia was repeatedly changed, the investigation turned to specialists from the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Government of the Russian Federation for scientific advice in qualifying the act. The final decision has not yet been made.

- Does the investigation receive help from representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church?

- We are in contact with the Church Commission to study the results of the investigation of the remains found near Yekaterinburg. The investigation, in the manner prescribed by law, answers all questions that come to us from representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

- Has the full circle of persons involved in the murder in the Ipatiev House been established? Will there be a legal assessment of their actions?

- Some participants in the execution have been identified. Work in this direction continues. After the completion of all examinations in the aggregate, a procedural decision will be made and a legal assessment given.

The search for materials on this criminal case is a very complicated and time-consuming process. There is no single register of all documents in a murder case.

- Why?

- Sources have to be collected literally all over the world. After all, they are in public and private archives, in museums and libraries in different cities of Russia and abroad.

- You are deeply immersed in the topic of the execution of the Imperial Family. How do you personally assess the fact that the Voykovskaya metro station still exists in the capital? Are you ready to apply to the toponymic commission with a proposal to rename it?

- Roman, you are interviewing an investigator. I hope you were interested to know the details of the investigation. In any case, this conversation was interesting to me. After all, it turned out to be the quintessence of many years of work of investigators, experts, scientists and researchers. The purpose of the investigation is to restore all the events and their participants as fully and objectively as possible, using all the achievements of modern science. This is precisely the task set by the chairman of the Investigative Committee when he decided to transfer the criminal case to the Main Directorate for the Investigation of Particularly Important Cases. We try to do our job professionally, efficiently and in strict accordance with the law. And the solution of questions of this kind does not apply to our work - it should rather be addressed to the public.



The remains of the Imperial family in Yekaterinburg, 1997

"The Bolsheviks shot the Imperial Family" says Kremlin

July 17. Radio Sputnik. - The press secretary of the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Peskov assessed the new details of the investigation into the murder of the Imperial Family, according to Argumenti.ru.

Prior to that, it became known that experts intend to make a 3D model of the hat of Nicholas II as part of the investigation. In response, the Kremlin spokesman said that "the Bolsheviks shot the Imperial Family" and added that the essence does not change whether "there will be a 3D or 2D hat".

Peskov explained that the authorities are not impressed by the idea of revising the historical past. He called for the preservation of both good and bad episodes.



The Investigative Committee has dispelled many myths around the death of the family of Nicholas II

17 July, Vesti - Dozens of examinations, investigative experiments, molecular studies, document study and comparison of facts. The Investigative Committee continues to investigate the death of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family. Today, on the anniversary of those tragic events, new facts have been made public. And in Yekaterinburg, thousands of pilgrims joined the procession last night in memory of the last rulers of the Russian Empire.

Divine Liturgy in memory of the events of that tragic night. Common prayer at the Church on the Blood, built on the site of the Ipatiev House, where the Imperial Family was brutally murdered.

From Yekaterinburg, the procession crosses the path of 21 kilometers - along the supposed route, which on the night of July 16-17, 102 years ago, the Bolsheviks took out the bodies of Tsar Nicholas II and his family.

"This is a tribute to his feat, which he brought for the sake of us, for the sake of his country. Which he loved most in life," explained Andrey Kormukhin, a resident of Yekaterinburg.

There are still many discrepancies and speculations around the death of the last Russian Emperor. In order to establish for certain all the circumstances, the Investigative Committee resumed the investigation of the criminal case in 2015.

Almost four dozen expert examinations were assigned, including 3D modeling, and a number of investigative experiments were carried out.

One of them - in a similar "execution" room in the basement of the Ipatiev house, refuted the arguments that such a small room allegedly could not accommodate eleven victims and participants in the execution.

And this is footage of another experiment, which ruled out another popular version that the bodies of those killed were allegedly completely destroyed using sulfuric acid and fire. For verification, a special fire-technical expertise was carried out.

"Based on numerous examinations, the investigation concluded that the discovered remains belonged to Nicholas II, his family and people from their entourage. Other necessary examinations are continuing. In particular, two soil studies were carried out on samples obtained at burial sites. Their results showed characteristics of soils that did not interfere with the possibility of determining DNA from bone remains," - said Svetlana Petrenko, head of the PR department.

And historians have established that the Bolsheviks conducted more than one disinformation campaign in order to hide, and then somehow justify the murder of not only the Emperor, but also the wife of Alexandra Feodorovna and children, including the youngest Tsarevich Alexei, who was 13 years old. At first, the revolutionaries said that only Nicholas II had been shot, and the family was safe. This is how they announced the incident to the residents of Yekaterinburg, in the new theatre building. The voice of a participant in those bloody events.

"The audience was random, ladies in hats. Some had tears in their eyes. Some could not believe that the Tsar could have been shot. True, Goloshchekin said too much," which he should not have said," from the documentary film by Elena Chavchavadze "The Murder of the Romanovs. Facts and Myths".

Some facts were revealed in the same July 1918, when Yekaterinburg was taken by the White Guards and the investigator for especially important cases of the Omsk court, Nikolai Sokolov, soon began interrogations.

Supporters of alternative versions now often refer to the data of that investigation.

"The remains were not found at that time, although large studies of the area in the Ganina Yama area were carried out. And on the other hand, the lack of accurate information about the fate of the family gave rise to many different versions and rumors. Starting from the fact that some of the Imperial Family members or even the whole family, except for the Emperor Nicholas II, survived. This myth was, of course, refuted," says Evgeny Pchelov, head of the department of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

Investigation of the circumstances of the case and carrying out expert examinations continues. Then, as they say in the Investigative Committee, a procedural decision and a legal assessment will follow. The moral assessment of those events by society and by history itself has already been given.

Video – 1) <https://www.vesti.ru/article/2430933>

2) <https://www.1tv.ru/news/2020-07-17/389626->

[v-sledstvennom-komitete-rf-rasskazali-o-rassledovanii-gibeli-tsarskoy-semi](https://www.1tv.ru/news/2020-07-17/389626-v-sledstvennom-komitete-rf-rasskazali-o-rassledovanii-gibeli-tsarskoy-semi)

3) <https://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/188227/>

The Romanov Family Association hopes that the remains of the children of Nicholas II will be buried in 2021

The grand-niece of the last Russian Emperor, Princess Olga Andreevna, believes that the situation with the burial of the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and his sister Maria, found in 2007.

July 17. TASS. - The Romanov Family Association hopes for an early resolution of the situation regarding the burial of the remains of the children of Nicholas II, Tsarevich Alexei and the Grand Duchess Maria, and that the opportunity to bury them will appear on the 103rd anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family (July 2021). The chairman of the association, Princess Olga Andreevna, spoke about this in an interview with TASS on the Day of Remembrance of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers. Princess Olga Andreevna, representing the line of Mikhailovichi, the descendants of the youngest son of Nicholas I, Mikhail Nikolaevich, has headed the Association of members of the Romanov clan since 2017. She was born in London on April 8, 1950 in the family of the Prince of the Imperial Blood Andrei Alexandrovich (1897-1981) and his wife, Princess Nadine, née McDougall. The father of Princess Romanova was the eldest son of Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich and Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, sister of the last Tsar. Olga Andreevna is the great-niece of Nicholas II.



"We want Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria to be buried next to their parents and sisters. We have always dreamed that they would be buried in the Peter and Paul Cathedral. They have the right to rest ... and soon," said the interlocutor agencies, noting that this year's COVID-19 pandemic prevented the Romanov family from gathering together in Russia for Memorial Day.

- Given the coronavirus-related restrictions, [coming to Russia again] is unlikely to be possible until at least next year. The burial of the remains of [Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Mary] would be a great occasion to visit St. Petersburg again. Perhaps we could celebrate the 103rd anniversary of their death (in 2021 - TASS comment) by burying them and reuniting them with a family".

The remains of Tsarevich Alexei and his sister Maria, which were found in 2007 near Yekaterinburg, were supposed to be buried in the fall of 2015. In September 2015, the Russian

Orthodox Church expressed a desire to continue its own research into their authenticity, after which the day of the funeral was postponed, a new date has not yet been announced.

The unification of the Romanov clan advocates communication with the Russian Orthodox Church on the issue of reburial of the remains, said Princess Romanova. "We were always available for discussion. We would welcome negotiations with the Russian Orthodox Church and would very much like to establish communication so that the well-grounded wishes of our family are taken into account," she said.

In her opinion, the situation around the burial of the remains is too protracted. "More than five years have passed since President Putin gave the go-ahead for the burial. We will have to turn to the President and / or Prime Minister to set the situation in motion in this regard. We consider it a moral and Christian duty to bring the burial to an end." - said the head of the Association.

Day of Remembrance

Since representatives of the Romanov family this year will not be able to come to Russia due to the coronavirus pandemic, Princess Olga Andreevna will spend the Day of Remembrance of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in prayers and visit the grave of her father, Prince Andrei. "My father's grave is not far from my house, I will come there and pray, as in other years when I could not come to St. Petersburg," she said.

The recognition by the Russian Orthodox Church of the authenticity of the Yekaterinburg remains with the Bishops' Council

July 20. TASS. - The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) is familiar with the results of the examinations of the "Yekaterinburg remains", but the last word in the issue of the Church recognizing their authenticity remains with the Bishops' Council. This was told to TASS on Monday by the secretary of the Patriarchal Commission to study the results of the examination of the remains found near Yekaterinburg, Metropolitan of Pskov and Porkhov Tikhon (Shevkunov).

"The Church is aware of the results of the examination; we work directly with the scientists participating in it. We also conduct our own examination. For the Church, the last word [on the issue of recognizing the authenticity of the Yekaterinburg remains] rests with the Bishops' Council," the Metropolitan said.

Editor's comment – Interesting that the representative of the Russian Orthodox Church felt a need to give a comment, but at the same time the statement was as expected – not really saying anything new, and hanging on to the notion that they have the last say (at the Council of Bishops).

Here it is important to remind that (1) Emperor Nicholas II and his family already are canonized as Royal Passion-Bearers by the Russian Orthodox Church and (2) the authenticity of the remains for a long time has been established as those of the Imperial Romanov family by the authorities of the Russian Federation, so the only thing the church is to decide is if it (as a church) will accept the conclusion of the Investigative Commission of the Russian Federation or continue its denial of the fact accepted by the rest of the world. Actually, what the Russian Orthodox Church has to decide is only one question - Is the church going to venerate the remains of Imperial Romanov Family and Dr. Evgeny Botkin as holy relics or not?



“The Murder of the Romanovs. Facts and Myths”

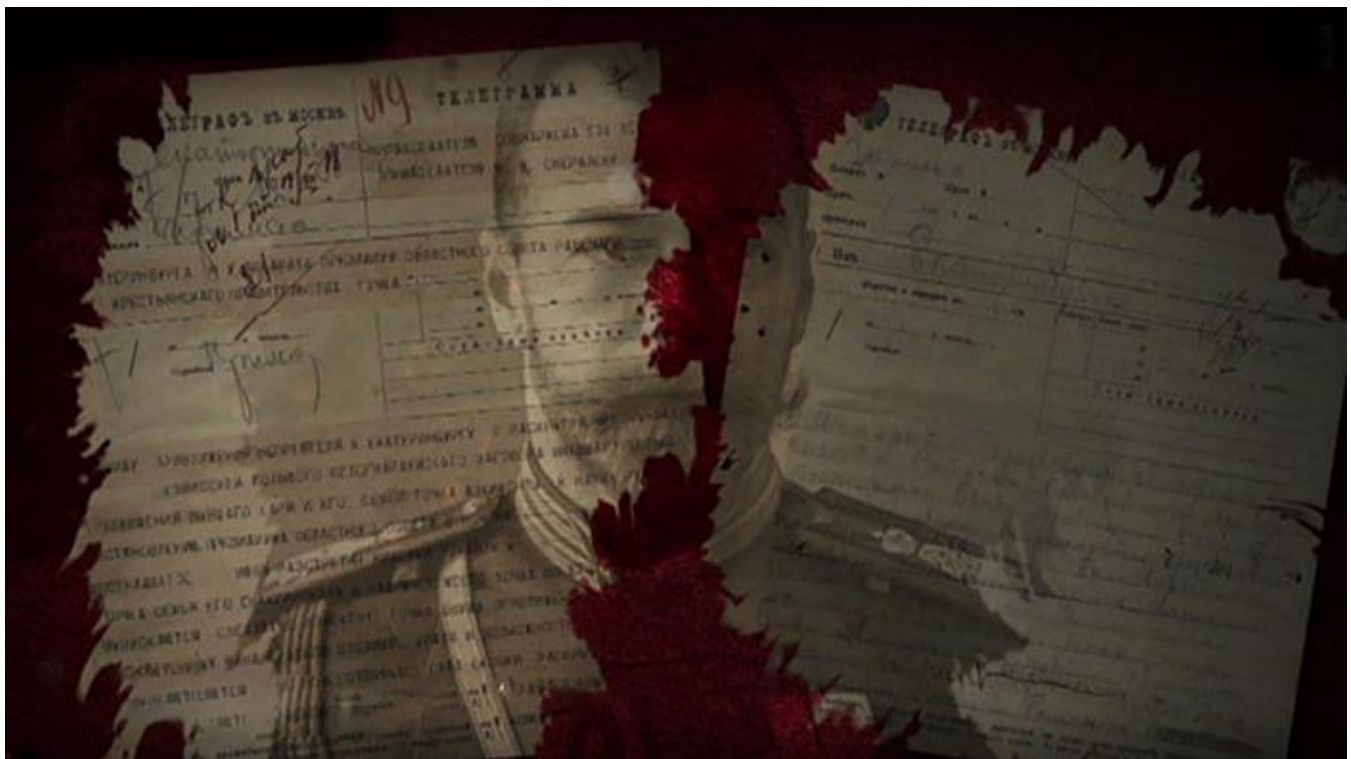
The tragic death of the Imperial Family and other representatives of the Romanov family in the Urals, a hundred years later, is still shrouded in mystery and continues to excite the minds. Disinformation is the main weapon of those who wanted the truth about this atrocity to be never revealed. A new investigation film by Elena Chavchavadze, based on unique documents, sheds light on the hitherto unknown circumstances of the murders in Perm, Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk in the summer of 1918.

On July 18, the documentary “The Murder of the Romanovs. Facts and Myths” was shown on Russia 24, and on July 19, in the night on Russia-1 TV channel.

Video - https://youtu.be/7al_5pR2nX4

Here is an interview with the documentary filmmaker, Honored Art Worker Elena Nikolaevna Chavchavadze. Translated by Jesse Dominick.

July 16, 2020, Pravoslavie.ru. Daria Strizhova

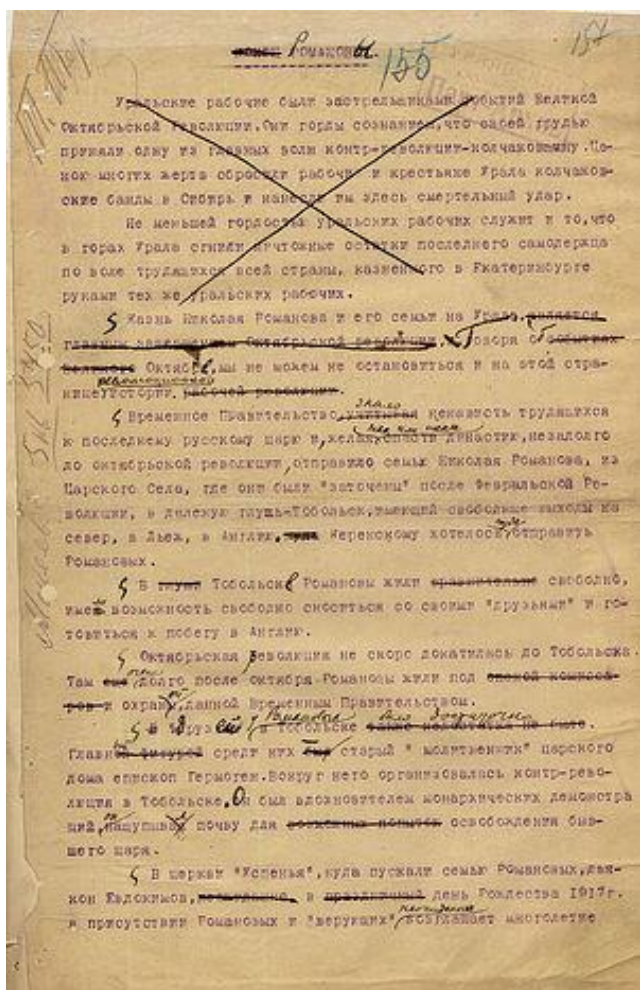


Elena Nikolaevna, tell us about the background of making these films dedicated to the Imperial Family. How did it all begin?

- Part of the code of honor for me and my family is to always to seek the truth in everything. By the time we started working on the films on the murder of the Romanov Dynasty for the TV channel Russia, we had already filmed five episodes of the series, “Romanovs: A Royal Matter,” “War and Peace of Alexander I,” “Alexander III: Strong, Powerful.” The material itself showed us which direction to go next. And it was impossible to avoid the topic of regicide.

I was worried, realizing that the topic is too big. Let’s recall the words of Voykov who said: “The world will never find out what we did to them.” This is a challenge for researchers. Is it possible to unravel this tragic mystery? But you know how it is: Fear has big eyes. As far as I know, a number of fundamental studies by anthropologists, criminologists, geneticists, graphologists, and other scientists are nearing completion. And we hope that the next film in the cycle will be dedicated to the results of this long-term work.

—Your film is called, “Murder of the Romanovs: Facts and Myths.” I’d like to dwell on this in more detail. What is a fact and what is a deliberately created myth? The film quotes Lenin’s words: “We don’t need to tell Joffe the truth (about the murder), so it will be easier for him to lie later.”



- Unfortunately, the majority form their personal opinion not based on documents, not on the materials of the investigation, but on articles in the press and online. How many books have been written justifying this or that theory!

KIN OF CZAR BURIED ALIVE, THEN STONED, BERNSTEIN ASSERTS

Five Versions of Nicholas' Death Circulating All Through Russia.

By HERMAN BERNSTEIN,
Staff Correspondent of the Globe-
Democrat and New York Herald
with the American Forces in Si-
beria.

Omsk, via Vladivostok, Dec. 7.—
The mystery surrounding the report-
ed death of Nicholas Romanoff, one-
time czar, deepens as time passes.
In Ekaterinburg I familiarized my-
self with practically all the testi-
mony bearing on the case.

I have heard at least five versions
of his death. The first was that he
was killed by Red Guards in the
neighborhood forest. The second
was that he was killed by a bomb,
the third that he was shot in the
house now occupied by Gen. Calda
and the Czechoslovak staff.

The fourth, that he was murdered
in a secret passage from the house
and that all his family was subject-
ed to humiliation and torture before
he was killed. The fifth that Nicho-
las was removed to Germany by the
Bolsheviks when the city of Perm
was liberated.

Further evidence bearing on the
case may be found later, as many
Russians know something about it,
but are afraid to declare it now.
However, I have obtained the most
complete and authentic information
available, which I will write for the
Globe-Democrat and New York Her-
ald on my return home.

Hurled Alive Into Mines.

The judge of the court who invest-
igated the case declared to me that
90 per cent of the evidence goes to
prove that Nicholas was murdered,
and that it is absolutely certain that
Prof. Bolkin, Nicholas' physician,
two lackeys and a maid, Mlle. Dem-
dork, were killed by the Bolsheviks.

Also that he believes that the
czarevitch, the czarina and the grand
duchesses were shot in Ekaterinburg.
He expressed himself as absolutely
certain that Grand Duke Sergius, the
sister of the czar and the children
of Grand Duke Constantinovitch and
Prince Paley were murdered in Ala-
payevsk soon after Grand Duke
Michael escaped.

In all these murders there was the
same general plan and union of ac-
tion. Examination of the bodies at
Olapayevsk showed that they had
been thrown into mines alive, head
downward, and then rocks were
hurled on them.

I have obtained important and in-
teresting documents regarding Nicho-
las Romanoff's life in Tobolsk and
Ekaterinburg which doubtless will
attract widespread attention.

- And therefore, I think it's necessary to dive into the archival material, to compare facts. Who was familiar with whom and when; where could this or that declaration come from? Beginning work on the film, the director G. Ogurnaya and I decided not to stick to any of the previously voiced theories. We simply did our work, during which connections and details started to emerge. Our films feature previously unknown documents that have only now become available—in particular, the note of Colonel Baftalovsky, which is of great interest. It is the testimony of the officers who were the first to arrive at Ganina Yama.

- *There is an opinion, including from experts, that they could in no way have destroyed their bodies at Ganina Yama; and there are opposite statements as well. This is difficult to understand...* Clothing and personal items were burned. Baftalovsky's note is a very important testimony. Undoubtedly, the interest around this topic is so great that various people sprout up like mushrooms in the information space, clearly and colorfully expounding various theories. And amateur trackers -they are innumerable - sometimes write appalling nonsense. But people believe them, revere them, and look up to them. But there is another position, which was voiced by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, and for us it is the only true and possible one: it is the path of painstaking work and conscientious scientific methods. I believe the truth will be voiced by the Russian Orthodox Church.

The first film - "Regicide: A Century-long Investigation"—is dedicated exclusively to the murder that was committed in the Ipatiev House. The second film - "Murder of the Romanovs: Facts and Myths," which was shown thanks to the channel Russia-1 and the History of the Fatherland Foundation - covers a short period of time in the summer of 1918 and reveals a certain connection between three crimes. At first, we had the idea of focusing more on each of the events and making an individual film for each - on Perm, Alapaevsk, and Ekaterinburg - and we could have gathered enough material for this. But, unfortunately, we were limited by screen time. So, we tried to isolate the main points.

Even now you can find opinions among the researchers dealing with the Romanovs that, for example, Alapaevsk (the murder of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth) and Perm (the murder of Grand Duke Michael) were both the decision of the local Council of People's Commissars. Gabriel Myasnikov, for example, wrote an entire book about this. But when we went to Perm and started talking with people who work in the archives with the originals, we were presented a completely different picture. We were fortunate enough to meet some wonderful archivists.

—*You managed to convey their very conscientious attitude to the work: It's not just an academic interest, but a deep personal experience.*

—People work for decades with great love for their inconspicuous but extremely important work, not expecting any encouragement or rewards. They know their topic incredibly well. As you have correctly noted, they perceive what happened as if it happened yesterday in front of their eyes. Just like us, they

perceive these events very deeply, and I'm glad that our joint work on the film expands our circle of not only professional acquaintances, but also personal ones.

—*The film provides a unique archival audio recording. How did you manage to get it?*

—It's a restored archival audio recording that was preserved as "top secret." It just recently became available to researchers, and, indeed, it sheds light on many facts. Other materials are stored in the Russian state archive of socio-political history. Many storylines from this story were not included in the film. We would be happy to continue this work, but not before all the appointed examinations are finished. This is science, not the pursuit of spectacular sensations. Even if the resolution of the investigation doesn't suit someone, or disappoints someone, or someone says: "No, it can't be," because some materials came from people who aren't very churchy, for example—it's still an insufficient argument.

—*How much only the information trail from Geli Ryabov is worth...*

—Geli Ryabov became a believer thanks to what happened. He spoke with Archpriest Alexander Shargunov and passed on some of his findings to him. We filmed Fr. Alexander for "Regicide: A Century-long Investigation." Ryabov's second wife told us a lot. All the circumstances of his story turned out to be simpler and more logical, and in the end, everything really falls into place, like pieces of a puzzle. (1)

The murder of Tsar Nicholas II is spoken of as a ritual act, but it would be more correct to speak of it as sacred; and I, as a researcher, cannot completely deny this. But to be fair, it should be said that when we were in New York, working with newspapers published before the revolutionary events of 1917, we came across cartoons in articles about Russia where the head of Emperor Nicholas II was drawn separately. Can be this be considered an argument for the theory about his decapitation? I don't think so. Why would they have carried his head to Moscow, thus taking a completely unjustified risk, since random people could have witnessed it? And as you've probably already realized from the documents presented in our film, the last thing in the world Lenin and his cohorts wanted was to be connected with the murder of Emperor Nicholas—for political gain, of course. And these people knew how to appreciate benefits.

—*In other words, the expression "sacred murder" has a symbolic meaning?*

—The expression "sacred murder" is just not only in relation to the Sovereign Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, but first of all to Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, who in fact was the main contender for the Russian throne. The reception of power was postponed until the Constituent Assembly was called. And if Kolchak had managed to win, no doubt the Constituent or National Assembly would have been called first. It's quite likely that it would have called Michael Alexandrovich to head the state, because the dynasty was not interrupted. The Pavlovian laws (the Act of Succession of 1797) provided that if someone leaves, then another member of the dynasty is placed on the throne by force of law, "so the state wouldn't be without heirs, so the heir would be appointed by the law itself, so there wouldn't be even the slightest doubt as to who is to inherit, so as to preserve the right of birth in the inheritance, without violating the rights of the natural heir, and to avoid difficulties in the transition from generation to generation."

Marie Stravio's collection | 2018

Chicago Daily News (Chicago, 1919. №265, November 5, p. 2.)

SLAYING OF EX-CZAR IS FINALLY CONFIRMED

Russ Ruler, His Wife, Four
Daughters and Son Shot and
Their Bodies Burned

BY ISAAC DON LEVINE.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE DAILY NEWS. Copy right 1919 by The Chicago Daily News.

Berlin, Germany, Nov. 5. — Nicholas Romanoff, the former czar, his wife and their four daughters and only son Alexis are dead beyond any shadow of doubt. They were all executed together in Ekaterinburg on the night of July 17, 1918. Heretofore reports of the fate of the Romanoff family all came from sources outside the soviet realm, whereas the only authoritative place to get the facts was naturally soviet Russia. Unfortunately the bolshevist leaders are reluctant to discuss the matter.

Tells the story with shame

With great difficulty I succeeded in finding a responsible communist who was present at the secret session in Moscow at which the president of the Ekaterinburg soviet reported the circumstances of the Romanoff deaths. This person was **Mikhail Pokrovsky**, acting commissioner of education and a man of the highest integrity. He bowed his head in shame as he told me the story.

"Ekaterinburg was surrounded on three sides", he said, "when four letters written in French and signed 'officer' were found in possession of the Romanoffs. These letters proved the existence of an organized plot to kidnap the czar and his family. The local soviet then hurriedly evacuating the city took the matter up and decided to execute the czar, czarina and all the children. The tales of torture are untrue. On the night of July 17 after a short notice the Romanoffs were taken out and shot. In order to give no opportunity to the monarchists later to sanctify the Romanoff relics and use them for counter-revolutionary agitation the seven bodies were cremated. We make no attempts to justify this horrible deed."

Letters to Czar Photographed

Pokrovsky had photographs of the four letters showing how the attempt of escape was to be made. He also obtained the czarina's diary from January, 1918, to the day of her death. She had made entries while in Tobolsk and Ekaterinburg.

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Copyright, 1919, by The Chicago Daily News Co.

Berlin, Germany, Nov. 5.—(Special Cable News.) The Russian revolutionaries have confirmed the slaying of the czar and his family. Their four daughters and only son, all of whom are dead beyond any shadow of doubt. They were all executed together in Ekaterinburg on the night of July 17, 1918, and their bodies were burned. Heretofore reports of the fate of the Romanoff family all came from sources outside the soviet realm, whereas the only authoritative place to get the facts was naturally soviet Russia. Unfortunately the bolshevik leaders are reluctant to discuss the matter.

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FOR TWO IRISH PARLIAMENTS

British Cabinet Accepts Scheme

That's why the murder of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was first. The Bolsheviks weren't sure of their position; they had to hurry. According to the documentary evidence, the greatest amount of disinformation was aimed at concealing the murder of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

As bitter as it is to realize, investigator Sokolov and other researchers paid very little attention to the investigation in Perm. The official story is that it was a disappearance. A man disappeared. He was there, and then he suddenly disappeared. There was a lot of evidence that he was seen here and there, then in Harbin, then somewhere else. The officers swore they caught a glimpse of him in the crowd—a mass psychosis, an unwillingness to accept the reality. If Michael Alexandrovich is alive—no matter where—it means they have hope. And Russia has hope. Do you get it? This is a very deep motive. And it is this motive that can cast doubt on all such evidence taken together.

When we put the three murders in a line, a lot of things became obvious. At that time, the English Consul Preston—who reported in London on what was happening—was in Ekaterinburg, along with a mass of representatives of international organizations, including the American, Finnish, and Swedish Red Cross. It was full of outside observers. The Brest Peace, which was treasonous to Russia, had already been concluded. The Germans were sitting in the Council of People's Commissars—just like the Americans sat in our government under Chubais (2) a few decades later.

—There is the view that a "ticking time bomb" was placed under the edifice of the Russian state at this time. What do you think about this?

—I agree with this hypothesis. It's no accident that the name "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" doesn't have the word "Russia" in it. An interesting fact: In August 1916 in Switzerland, there was a meeting of bankers from warring powers, including Germany, to which Russia was not invited. Russia was to be divided into spheres of influence according to the principle of divide and conquer. This would have been impossible to do under the existing monarchy. Lenin was entrusted with ensuring that Russia lose the war. The plan was to have Russia leave the war through the revolution and, as a result, violate the agreements with its allies about how no one warring party should conclude a separate peace treaty. This would automatically exclude Russia from the list of future winners, which is what happened. A massive information attack to discredit Tsar Nicholas II was carried out throughout the entire world. When we were dealing with this historical period for the film "Revolution: A Trap for Russia" and were

communicating with English researchers, they said that society in England was even more certain than in Russia, that revolution was coming in Russia, that the Tsaritsa was a German spy, and that everything was controlled by Gregory Rasputin, and so on. That's how the propaganda worked.

—*One of the conclusions of your film is that the facts of the history are very malleable, and to establish the truth, we still have to reexamine and reevaluate our past. The question for modern man is: If this was done on such a scale and with such success, is it possible that the mechanism turning myths into facts is still active today?*

—Of course. We see this in the example of our brothers in Ukraine, or if we look at what is happening in the United States right now. If we replace the word “proletariat” with “black,” we'll get a traced copy of the events of a century ago in Russia. The scenery changes, but the rhetoric remains the same: “oppressors and the oppressed”—it's nothing new.

There's an expression: You have to accept your past, your successes, and your failures. It seems to me this is happening in Russia now. The best thing we can do is to accept the historical truth. It's my Russia, and I accept its history as God gave it to us, to paraphrase Pushkin.

1. Together with Alexander Avdonin, in 1979, Ryabov discovered the remains that are believed to belong to the Royal Martyrs.
2. A Russian politician and businessman who was responsible for privatization in Russia as an influential member of Boris Yeltsin's administration in the early 1990s.

A life blessed by the Tsaritsa

By Vladimir Soloviev, Pravoslavie.ru, 17 July 2020.

Translation by Nun Cornelia (Rees)

Not long ago was the fortieth day after the repose of Archbishop Agapit (Gorachek) of Stuttgart (ROCOR). More and more reminiscences about this remarkable man have been sent to the Russian website Pravoslavie.ru and continue to come; that is what an indelible impression this bright personality has left in the hearts of those who knew him.

This is a story of Archbishop Agapit, but through him also of the “Yekaterinburg remains” - bone fragments discovered in a gully outside Yekaterinburg, which recent investigations have shown with near certainty to be those of the Imperial Family. These investigations were conducted for over ten years on the highest level. They encompassed all aspects of forensic science, including genetic testing in a number of laboratories. It is told by one of the main investigators, who through his work gained a personal understanding of Archbishop Agapit's close connection with the Holy Royal Martyrs and his service to them in this important matter.



On the eve of the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, Archbishop Agapit (Gorachek) of Stuttgart, a vicariate of the Berlin and Germany diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR), departed to eternity.

This man's whole life was mystically connected with the fate of the last Russian Emperor, Nicholas II and his family, whose sincere and dedicated venerator Vladyka always was. He had a profound

knowledge of the life and sufferings of the Royal Passion-Bearers - not only the history of their last days while imprisoned in Yekaterinburg, but also the chronicle of their murder by the Bolsheviks, the attempts to hide and destroy their bodies, and the secret burial of the Imperial remains.

Vladyka was the only bishop who in 2008 supported and blessed the publication of the book by N. L. Rosanova, written as an apology for the remains of the Imperial Family. The author presented the manuscripts for the book, archival documents, photographs and other materials to Vladyka Agapit and openly shared her research with him. After the book was released it was sent to practically the entire Orthodox episcopate, to many clergymen and laypeople, along with the letters of Vladyka Agapit, who in this way became the first apostle of the Imperial relics.

I was periodically officially involved in the forensic investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of the Russian Imperial House, from 1993 to 2015 (in 1991–1993, before the opening of a criminal case, I directed the verification of documentation on the discovery of the remains). As a person who had for many years studied the history of the Imperial Family's death, I had the good fortune to spend time with Vladyka Agapit. Certain episodes in his life were personally known to me, while others I learned from our shared acquaintances. Many amazing facts about the now reposed archbishop's activities are still in the shadows. Therefore, today I would like to reminisce about how Vladyka Agapit served the memory and glorification of the Imperial Family during his lifetime.

He firmly believed that he was born on this earth thanks to the heavenly patronage of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, and he always particularly honored her. Vladyka saw the spiritual connection between his own family and the Imperial Family in the Empress's miraculous intercession for his parents during the days of their youth and love. He spoke of his family's, his mother's heritage in the following story:

"In 1981, on July 17, on the commemoration day of the murder of the Imperial Family, my father died. That this repose day was internally connected with the Imperial Family was revealed to me only later. "I occasionally visited my widowed mother. One day she told me how she met my father in the camp for political refugees from Russia, the so-called "DPs" (displaced persons), and what troubles fell to their lot. This was in the village of Menchhof near the city of Kassel in Western Germany in the late 1940s. My father fell deeply in love with my mother. But the two were threatened with separation. My mother's parents were preparing to emigrate to America, and in no way did they want to leave their only daughter in the ruins of Germany. No tears, nothing could persuade them otherwise. My father was desperate. Mother was torn apart. It was nearly the eve of their departure to America on the steamship when my mother had a vision in a dream. The Tsaritsa-Martyr Alexandra Feodorovna appeared to her and said, "You must stay in Germany!"

In the morning, mother told her father about the dream. My grandfather - my mother's father - had served under the Tsar in His Excellency's battalion. Giants from all over Russia were gathered into it; they had to be over two meters tall. My grandfather was the shortest man in that battalion. Therefore, he marched in the very last row, in the right flank. Because he possessed a beautiful tenor voice, he served as headman in that battalion. They say that it was a dazzling spectacle when these parade battalions walked along the streets and sang Russian army songs...

"When he heard from his daughter about the appearance of the Tsaritsa, my grandfather fell silent and then uttered, 'Well, if that's so, then we must obey!' And so, my mother's parents left for America without their daughter." (1)



Portrait of Tsar Nicholas II by Valentin Serov.

Vladyka was born in Frankfurt-am-Maine in 1955. He grew up literally “in the parish”, was brought into church life from infancy, and from age seven was already serving in the altar of the Church of Christ the Savior. A portrait of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich hung in the Gorachek home—a black and white copy of the work by Valentin Serov.

“We rarely talked about the Imperial Family,” Vladyka recalled. We mainly discussed the possibility of restoring the monarchy in Russia, about which my father himself had his doubts, because he understood that the times had changed and there was no longer any spiritual ground ready for this.” (2) Vladyka’s father published the periodical, *Posev*, and was also an active member of the NTS. (3) The future archbishop also participated in this movement, and helped his father typeset the well-known magazine.

In his youth, out of his love for architecture Vladyka became a student at the architectural department in Darmstadt. But at one moment—his inherent yearning to fathom the depths of everything made itself known - he decided to study history, political science, and philosophy in his hometown university of Frankfurt-am-Main. However, his studies did not satisfy his inner search, apparently because he was an independent thinker with an inquisitive, free mind.

In 1978, Vladyka travelled to Toronto as a member of a delegation from the diocese of Germany to the All-Abroad Assembly of Russian Youth, and after it closed, he went to visit the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, one of the spiritual centres of the emigration. Here he had a meeting that would prove memorable and significant for his whole life.

“After the feast,” he related, “the current abbot, our [at the time of this citation. - Ed.] First Hierarch Metropolitan Laurus called me to himself and handed me the protocols of the investigative case by Nikolai Sokolov concerning the murder of the Imperial Family. This was a copy that General Dieterich had made for himself when he was commander of the military region in Yekaterinburg, where an investigation was being conducted under the direction of Nikolai Sokolov.

“I was entrusted with taking the protocols to Frankfurt. The Holy Trinity Monastery had rejected the publication of it due to their lack of an in-house scholar competent to work through such a document. Subsequently the *Posev* publishing house (which I participated in, because my father was the officially responsible publisher (4) published these protocols under the title, *The Murder of the Imperial Family*”. All the materials were edited with commentary by the historian Nicholas Ross.

“I remember how stirred I was about all of this when I saw the photographs of the murder site, when I read the blood-curdling testimony of witnesses, etc.” (5)

During that trip, at the All-Abroad assembly, Vladyka made his final decision about his path in life, later joking that he had gone to America to find a bride, but in the end chose monastic life.

In early 2004, Vladyka Agapit wanted to spend time in Russia, and dreamed of visiting the Russian Golgotha - Yekaterinburg. Having arrived by airplane to the capital of the Urals, Vladyka shared his travel impressions with those who came to meet him and noted:

“In the airplane we found an article on the Ipatiev House; the Imperial theme is travelling with us, and this is our main reason for coming!”

When he first stepped upon the territory of the “Ganina Yama” monastery, a curious but quite telling meeting took place. One young man, having spotted the well-known bishop, went up to Vladyka Agapit for a blessing and asked, “Vladyka, where are you from?”

“We’re from far away,” I said in avoidance.

“But really, where are you from?” the young man said unperturbed.

“We’re from Germany.”

“Is that where Mt. Athos is?”

“No,” Vladyka replied seriously and without the slightest hint of a smile, “We don’t yet have an Athos in Germany...”

Characteristic of Bishop Agapit was his unfeigned respect for every person, his ability to relate to all as individuals, as a father. It was plain that the bishop received this unexpected and funny question about Mt. Athos in Germany sincerely and not as a joke. Perhaps it is because the Monastery of St. Job of Pochaev, where he was a monastic from 1980 on, truly was considered the “Athos of Munich”; it had an Athonite coenobitic rule and had inherited Athonite traditions. Vladyka Agapit, like its abbot Archbishop [now Metropolitan] Mark (Arndt), had visited Mt. Athos many times over the course of several years and

spent much time with the hagiorites. At the same time, his words to this young Russian man who had happened along were testimony to his monastic modesty.

In Yekaterinburg, Archbishop Agapit first learned the historical facts about the secret burial of the Imperial remains and their discovery in 1979 by a group of enthusiasts, G. T. Ryabov and A. N. Avdonin. He was stunned, as he said, at the discovery that had “crashed down upon him” and which completely changed his view of the “Yekaterinburg remains”, as well as to the place where they were found. During his brief stay in the Urals, from April 17–24, Vladyka visited Porosenkov Log [where the remains were found], prayed at the place of the Ipatiev House prisoners’ secret burial, and took many photographs. He was an avid amateur photographer, took his camera everywhere on the trip. During his first trip to Russia, Archbishop Agapit met with Natalia Roznova, the future author of the book on the Imperial remains, when heated polemic was going on concerning their authenticity. The manuscript of the book, which was originally named, “At the Threshold of the Grave”, the author gave a copy through her acquaintances to Metropolitan Laurus of Eastern America and New York in hopes that he would support its publication. When Archbishop Agapit heard about this, he apparently guessed what the reaction would be and encouragingly said to the author: “Don’t worry, if they reject it, all the more glory for us!”

Truly, despite the good inclinations of the First Hierarch of ROCOR, who welcomed the necessity of research into the subject of the murder of the Imperial Family, he decided not to get involved in the study of the “Yekaterinburg remains” issue, considering that “the time has not yet come”. It was then that Archbishop Agapit resolved to support the book and its researcher himself.

Beginning from 2004, Vladyka made every attempt to get the higher clergy interested and attract their attention to the study of this matter and the recognition of the Imperial remains. Natalia Rosanova did much to help the archbishop in determining his own position on the issue. She acquainted him thoroughly with the investigation documents and the forensic research. Natalia Rosanova’s book, *The Royal Passion Bearers. Their Posthumous Fate*, published in 2008, and which is to date probably the best publication amongst many publications dedicated to the “Yekaterinburg remains”. Archbishop Agapit also put no little effort into learning more deeply about the history of the burial, and he had the courage and faith to write in the prologue to it:

“This book can give an answer to the question of the authenticity of the remains found in Porosenkov Log and on the Koptyakov road, and shed light on the history of this terrible and evil deed.” (6)



Vladyka Agapit with pilgrims from Germany at the railroad tie bridge. Reading the service to the Royal Passion Bearers. October, 2004.

In October of 2004, Vladyka Agapit again flew to Yekaterinburg, bringing with him a group of eighteen pilgrims - the priest and parishioners of the Church of St. Nicholas in Darmstadt. The pilgrims from Germany acquainted themselves thoroughly with the history and all the facts surrounded the murder of the Imperial Family and the Romanovs in the Urals, taking the full route of the Royal road.(7) They prayed also at the railroad tie bridge in Piglet Gully, where the bodies of those murdered in the Ipatiev house were hidden. It can be said without exaggeration that representatives of Russian Church Abroad were the first Orthodox to venerate and pray at the Imperial Family’s burial site. When the pilgrims returned home, they published a report with photographs of their

travels in the periodical, *Journal of the German Diocese of ROCOR*. (8)

Several years before the historical reunification of the Russian Churches, a pilgrimage group, with the blessing of their local bishop, received Communion in churches of the Moscow Patriarchate. This showed the position of Vladyka Agapit, who was a fervent and systematic supporter of the reunification. The Monastery of St. Job of Pochaev in Munchen, where he was a resident monk, was one of the places where the "Act of Canonical Union of ROCOR and the ROC" was drafted. There were also meetings conducted for dialogue between the commissions of ROCOR and the Moscow Patriarchate.

On May 17, 2007, in the Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, Metropolitan Laurus of Eastern America and New York and Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow signed the historical document of canonical communion between ROCOR and the ROC. And in that same year, a significant and conclusive event in the history of the Imperial Family's murder took place.

Many remember His Holiness Patriarch Alexy's statement to the President of the Russian Federation and the General Prosecutor of Russia, wherein in 1995 he put forth the famous ten questions, which if left unanswered, the Church would refuse to recognize the Imperial remains as authentic. The prosecutor answered nine out of the ten questions, but question no. 7 - "Clarification of the fate of the remains of Alexei and his sister" - remained unanswered. Over the span of more than ten years, attempts to find their remains had been unsuccessful. The last excavations, organized in 2004 by the Moscow medical forensics expert Sergei Nikitin, stopped sixty meters from the true place of burial. To be honest, the prosecutor's office had no intention of continuing the search.

Having studied a heap of historical materials, and having conducted enormous analytic work, the Ural trackers Leonid Vokhmyakov, Nicholai Neumin, Vitaly Shitov, and Andrei Grigoriev found the burial site of the Imperial children. It was discovered and opened on July 29, 2007.

In August of that year, in the Russian General Prosecutor's office where I was working as a prosecutor-criminologist, important structural changes were taking place. The organization changed, and within it was formed the Investigative Committee, headed by A. I. Bastrikin. (9) All of the colleagues involved in the investigation were formally let go, and the Investigative Committee staff was formed anew. I did not view the prospects of working in the new sub-department of the General Prosecution as something very rosy. It was during those days, when the continuation of my service was hanging in the air, I received a call from Yekaterinburg. The message stunned me. Seventy meters from the burial site of the members of the Imperial Family were found certain half-burned remains, which could belong to the Tsarevich Alexis Nicholaevich and Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna.

The people in the Urals kept the discovery secret. My attempts to ascertain at least some details by telephone ended in nothing. I had to go to the locality. I am grateful to A. I. Bastrikin for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to continue my work on the "Yekaterinburg remains". On August 17, 2007, fragments of the remains were transferred to the Bureau of judicial-medical expertise, and on August 21, after my report to A. I. Bastrikin, the Russian General Prosecution renewed its investigation into the criminal case. I will not describe all the complications with which we had to deal; we were able to overcome them. At first it was not clear whether we would be able to successfully conduct an identification of the remains. Truly, the small bone fragments had lain in the earth for nearly ninety years. The bodies had been burned, and drenched in sulfuric acid. Only late in 2007, when geneticist Evgeny Ivanovich Rogaev reported that organic matter was preserved in the bone and tooth fragments, did any hope arise in a successful genetic investigation.

It was good to know that this time, the excavations were conducted with the participation of Church representatives, who scrupulously recorded everything in videos and a mass of photographs. Moreover, Bishop Agapit (Gorachek) quite unexpectedly came to the Urals in August of 2007. As soon as Vladyka heard about the discovery of the remains of the Imperial children (even before it officially made the news) he straightway flew to Yekaterinburg. He decided to come to the locality to sort out and acquaint himself with the history of this find himself. In 2007 I was unable to meet with the bishop, but they told me how attentively he delved into studying the circumstances and documents on the discovery of the bone remains, and discussed it with practically all the specialists connected with the search and primary investigation.

He spent time in the office of N. I. Nevolin, head of the bureau of judicial-medical expertise in Sverdlovsk province, where he held the discovered relics of the Imperial children in his hands. The bishop again visited Piglet Gully and there met and spent much time with the searchers from the military-historical club, "Mountain Shield", as well as the original discoverer of the Imperial Family's

burial site, A. N. Avdonin. At the time, excavation work was ongoing. Ceramic shards of thick-walled jars used to contain sulfuric acid were unearthed. The Bolsheviks had used these jars, and the excavators showed them to Vladyka.

Vladyka Agapit was a Russian patriot and related to Russian people with great love, especially the simple folk. He never wanted to be spiritually separated from his brothers in Russia, and after inquiring about their names he would always commemorate the excavators and researchers of the Imperial remains at the proskimedia, or pray for them in his cell.

He always remembered his meeting with the excavators as a gift from above, and often said that he was “thankful to God for this meeting” on the Koptyakov road:

“For me personally, my meeting last summer at Piglet Gully with the people who had uncovered the remains of Tsarevich Alexis and Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna was a bright event. The Lord granted that Russian people find each other at His holy place.” (10)



A discussion between Vladyka Agapit and A. N. Avdonin. Piglet Gully, August 21, 2007.



Meeting of Bishop Agapit with the searchers of the military-historical club, “Mountain Shield”. Left to right: L. G. Vokhmyakov, S. N. Malinnikov, N. B. Neiumin, S. O. Plotnikov. August 21, 2007.

After returning from Russia, Vladyka Agapit flew to the U.S. for the ROCOR Synod meeting, where he presented his report on the discovery near Yekaterinburg of the place with the Imperial Children’s remains were hidden. As always, he had his camera with him the whole way, and so he attached his photographs to his reports in America and Western Europe. Bishop Agapit’s attempt to independently sort out the problem of the remains undoubtedly influenced the hierarchs and clergy of the ROCOR.

In February 2008, Vladyka Agapit again visited Yekaterinburg. He was invited to the international Orthodox conference entitled, “The family and the future of Russia”, where he gave a report, the theme of which was the Imperial Family. He knew that an investigation of the

remains was being conducted and he was waiting for its completion, about which he openly reported at the conference. His view of the problem concerning the “Yekaterinburg remains” was that church society has yet to ripen in order to accept them as holy relics. It must be recognized that Archbishop Agapit’s position of ten years ago remains relevant today:

“The Russian Church has glorified the Imperial Family, the Russian Church prays to the Imperial Family (a testimony to this being the icons of the Royal Martyrs hanging in prominent places in our churches), but we are not yet worthy to venerate their holy relics.

"To this day it is still unclear where the path of dishonor ends in connection with the martyrs' remains - does it end at Ganina Yama or at Piglet Gully? We hope that perhaps this year, with God's help, this question will be answered..."

"And I am sure that according to the measure of our spiritual growth and our ability to fathom the stand and feat of the Imperial family, we will be vouchsafed, at the right time, to venerate the holy relics of the Royal Passion Bearers.

"Let us together pour out our prayers, so that the holy Imperial Family would give the Russian Church and the Russian people final peace and clarity on the long road to our maturity and consciousness of their sanctity!" (11)

On December 5, 2008, at the international conference in Yekaterinburg, the results of the investigation of the remains of Tsarevich Alexis Nicholaevich and Grand Duchess Maria were made known. At the same time, the authenticity of the remains found on the Old Koptyakov road in 1998 was confirmed with a high degree of reliability. It is a great pity that His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II died that same day; it was at his initiative that the question of investigation of the "Yekaterinburg remains" was posed at the governmental level.

Vladyka Agapit always looked for an opportunity to learn and explain something new for himself in the history of the investigation into the Imperial Family's murder. Thus, in 2008 he made the acquaintance of the grandson of Lieutenant General M. K. Diterich, Andrei Anatolievich, and studied his archive. And in 2012, at his insistence his spiritual children found and visited in Salbri, France the grave of the researcher N. A. Sokolov in order to serve a pannikhida there.

He did not remain indifferent to anything having to do with historical truth. In 2000 in Yekaterinburg a struggle ensued around the land belonging to the "Romanov Memorial". There were plans to establish a cemetery on the territory of Piglet Gully, where the remains of the Imperial Family had been hidden. Vladyka Agapit fully sided with the defenders of this historical place, and even took his own measures to preserve it.

In November 2008 in New Jersey, in the town of Red Bank, there was the first cross procession with the relics of the Royal Martyrs. They were kept in the local Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas, belonging to ROCOR. Particles of the relics had ended up in the church after the completion of genetic research in U.S. laboratories. Archbishop Agapit took the initiative and was able to ensure that fragments of the Imperial Family's remains be transferred to Western Europe, to the old church in the city of Stuttgart, where he was the rector.



Vladyka with the descendant of Lieutenant General M. K. Diterich (far left), 2008.



Preparing a reliquary with the relics of the Royal Family in the altar of the Cathedral of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessor of Russia and St. Nicholas the Wonderworker in Munchen. December, 2010

In the history of the investigation of the Imperial remains, Vladyka's and my paths ran very close to each other, and one day they finally crossed. Vladyka Agapit, as I was later told, had a strong desire to meet me and spend more time with those who had already been involved in the case for many years, about whose activities he had already heard many times but whom he had not yet met. So, when he arrived once again in Moscow, the bishop met and became acquainted with the man who discovered the burial site, Geliy Trophimovich Ryabov, (12) and also with me.

On Monday, November 16, 2009, the phone rang in my office. The caller introduced himself as "Bishop Agapit". His speech was unusual - the first wave emigrants and their children have a particular Russian language, what has long been lost in Russia. We met that evening in a tiny church in the Zamosckvarechie district of Moscow. The bishop was of an unusual appearance: two meters tall, thin, broad-faced, with a long, bright red beard that reached his belt. He had a sincere face and a pleasant smile, which inclined one toward talking with him. We were brought some tea and pirozhki or bagels. We talked for nearly five hours.

I asked Vladyka how as a Czech he spoke such good Russian. He laughed good-naturedly at my question. "Of course, I could be called a Czech because my grandfather was a true Czech from Prague. But a long time before the revolution he had entered St. Petersburg University, where he fell in love with my Russian grandmother and then worked for a long time on the railroad as far away as Archangelsk governate. So Russian is my native language, and in my soul I have always felt Russian."

It was pleasant for me to see that Bishop Agapit was well acquainted with the subject of the Imperial Family. Our conversation was not vague and rambling but perfectly concrete.



The temporary reliquary with the Imperial relics.



Meeting with criminal investigator V. N. Soloviev. November 16, 2009.

In 2004, Vladyka Agapit served temporarily in the Brussels cathedral and at the same time thoroughly studied the archive in the memorial church dedicated to Righteous Job the Longsuffering, built in memory of Emperor Nicholas II. I was always interested in finding an answer to the question of whether the Brussels church contained Empress Alexandra Feodorovna's famous blue case containing fragments of the "bones" found by researcher N. A. Sokolov near Ganina Yama in 1919. The Bishop assured me that the case was never in that church, and of the "Sokolov" material evidence there remain only fragments of uninvestigated "fatty tissue" excavated from the mineshaft at mine no. 7. During his lifetime Sokolov never gave anything for safekeeping to any church, and left no such will and testament.

Vladyka took pictures of documents from the archives belonging to the Kotlyarovskys, who built the memorial church and gave to N. Rozanova, who related to me how the bishop told the story of his research in Brussels:

"As the overseer at one time of the northern deanery of the Western European diocese, I often served in the memorial church in Brussels. I would stay at the home of Countess Maria Nicholaevna Apraksina, nee Kotlyarovskaya, whose family built the memorial church.

"Maria Nicholaevna confirmed unequivocally that the bone remains are not kept in the church. She showed me documents showing clearly that there can only be talk of the fatty material found by Sokolov in Ganina Yama. There are three glass jars in the church containing fatty tissue. Two were received from Prince Shirinsky-Shikhmatov from Paris (Met. Seraphim was the intermediary). The third was received from the Bulygin inheritance. (13)

"It must be mentioned that Nikolai Sokolov never gave these fatty materials for analysis to any laboratory, neither in Russia nor abroad." (14)

The version that the Empress's blue reticule and a series of other material evidence from Sokolov's case were immured in the walls of the church's altar has never been proven. (15) I gave Bishop Agapit a copy of all the main documents. He advised me to address the head of the Church Abroad, Metropolitan Hilarion. I followed Bishop Agapit's advice and prepared documents for Metropolitan Hilarion, and later I met with him.

Beginning in 2012, there were three exhibitions organized in Russia entitled, "The Murder of the Family of Nicholas II. An investigation that lasted a century". Organised by the largest Russian archives, along with representatives from the ROCOR, the Holy Trinity Seminary, and the Russian History Foundation from Jordanville, New York. The representatives of the Holy Trinity Seminary together with Russian historians were the authors and coordinators of the exhibitions, writing articles for it. By that time, they already had other experience of joint exhibitions in Russia.

In the archive of the Holy Trinity Seminary and in its museum in Jordanville, unique materials were preserved: the investigative case of N. A. Sokolov, and memorabilia and things belonging to the Imperial family that were brought out of Russia by researchers to Western Europe and later given to the Russian Church Abroad by Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna for safekeeping. Many unique expositions, documents, and possessions of the Imperial family were first displayed at exhibitions in Russia by the Holy Trinity Monastery and Seminary, where they were kept.

At the opening of the first exhibition, which took place in 2012 in Moscow at the State Archives of the Russian Federation, was the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York. And when in July 2013 a similar exhibition was conducted in Yekaterinburg, Vladyka Agapit came to its opening. This was his last visit to the Urals...

In 2015, a criminal investigation was reopened. The question of the burial was officially resolved, and the date was set. We could have proceeded according to the old scenario of the 1990s and simply buried the remains, so that they would rest in peace. But I wanted to correct the impossible; I wanted that the

representatives of the Church would finally see and be convinced themselves that these truly are the holy relics. My meeting with Fr. Vsevolod Chaplin completely turned back this process. He stated the conditions under which the Church representatives would be able to reconsider their position. I agreed, at the time still naively believing that with the help of historical truth and conscientious expertise, something could be proved to the doubting. Our relationship did not come together, a new investigator was appointed, and despite the multitude of dishonest information addressed at me, despite the claims against the quality of my work, the new investigation led to the same conclusions as mine. Genetic analysis conducted by independent experts assigned by Church hierarchs completely confirmed that the remains belonged to the Imperial Romanov Family.



Bishop Agapit at the Exhibition opening. Ekaterinburg, July 11, 2013.

The results of the genetic investigations allowed for a more open discussion of the matter in the Church community concerning the authenticity of the “Yekaterinburg remains”. In November of 2017 in Moscow, within the walls of the Sretensky Seminary, an Orthodox conference was held to which Archbishop Agapit was invited. He observed the discussion with great interest, and when the question arose as to why no miracles have occurred from them, he asked with surprise, “You are expecting miracles? Can miracles be expected by such a militant opposition?” (16) It was obvious to him that an experience of grace is impossible without faith. It was the bishop’s thought that precisely the canonization of the Imperial Family [by the Moscow Patriarchate] became the mystical cause for the reunification of the two parts of the Russian Church, and he viewed the long drawn-out polemic of many years about the “Yekaterinburg remains” as a strange “spiritual phenomenon”.

“We, outside of Russia, do not doubt the Imperial remains, but in Russia there is doubt and people have not recognized them. The researcher Sokolov’s version is outdated, but they refuse to let go of it...”

At the conference Vladyka Agapit was allowed to give a word of introduction in which he presented the position of the ROCOR hierarchs regarding the Imperial remains. It was impossible to imagine at the time that the archbishop’s speech, which was heard throughout the Orthodox world, would be his swan song:

“In the 1990s there was such unsettled discussion in Russian society, and this particularly had to do with the investigation of the first burial, in 1998. And the way that the newspapers presented it was for us abroad just terrible - simply to the measure that it was presented in the newspapers, etc. That is why we didn’t take much part in it.

“In 2000, the situation began to change. And I for example can relate from my own experience. In the 2000s I travelled to Yekaterinburg and began going to Koptyakov road to look and acquaint myself with the local historians who participated in the first burial site. Then in 2007 I was hospitalized in Peredelkino [a suburb of Moscow], where there is a cardiology hospital, and I was being treated there. I got a phone call: “Vladyka, come to Yekaterinburg, they’ve found the second burial site.” I caught a plane without delay, flew to Yekaterinburg, and met the searchers, including Leonid Vokhmyakov who intuitively dug into this pit and noticed a piece of bone. I can speak for myself. Other hierarchs of the Church Abroad have had similar impressions, made analogous experiments. And we had a Synod meeting in New York, where the Metropolitan asked a blessing from the Synod, those hierarchs who had received particles of those relics: Do we have the right to venerate them? And the Synod blessed this! (17) As you know, we had an investigation of them in Washington, in the Pentagon, and that is how these particles found their way abroad. The Metropolitan also had the particles in his possession, and he was asking the opinion of the Synod.

“I can say that simply with the presence of the investigations that are currently being conducted, we have no doubts. A large portion of the Hierarchs of the Church Abroad do not doubt and have no reason to doubt those investigations completed in the 1990s, as well as in 2007; and what is most joyful, in the last two years the Church has directly taken part in the investigations.” (18)

Archbishop Agapit’s approach to the question of the “Yekaterinburg remains” could be set forth as an example of a clergyman’s and true citizen’s honest approach to a matter that has troubled Orthodox people of all countries. This is not politicking on unproven rumors but the scrupulous study of primary sources, discussions with researchers, with experts and participants in the events. What he was able to accomplish in his place is called by aviators the “point of no return”; that is, a certain critical borderline, and after crossing it, one can no longer return to the condition at departure. To a great extent thanks to Bishop Agapit’s correct position, the Imperial remains are now venerated by the Orthodox in the American continent and in Western Europe, and they can no longer be called a “chimera”. The Russian Church Abroad was the first to canonize the Imperial Family, and it is the first to show the initiative to have the Royal Martyrs canonized in Russia. History is repeating itself in the case of the Imperial relics, and the first step has already been made...

Probably time will pass before Orthodox people in Russia also will see with their minds and be able to take an unprejudiced look at all the facts in the history of the Imperial Family’s murder. And this time will definitely come, I am certain of it. I am likewise certain that the soul of the now reposed Vladyka Agapit will rest with the saints. The Lord will unfailingly account his service to Him in the glorification of the

relics of the Royal Passion Bearers. He entered this world thanks to the protection of the Russian Tsaritsa, and he justified this supreme trust: His whole life, like a burning candle, was dedicated to the memory of the Imperial Family.

Vladimir Soloviev, Senior investigator and criminologist of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, former head of the investigation into the criminal case surrounding the murder of the members of the Russian Imperial House.

1 Bishop Agapit (Gorachek), "The Royal family - one experience of knowledge: a report given at the Fifth International practical science conference, 'The family and the future of Russia,' Feb. 2008. Personal archive of V. N. Soloviev.

2 Ibid.

3 NTS—Народно-трудоу союз российских солидаристов (Folk-labor union of Russian solidarians.

4 Collection: Murder of the Royal Family, published in 1987 in Frankfurt-am-Main, has on its title page a copyright to Vladimir Gorachek, Bishop Agapit's father. It is a copy of the investigative case of N. A. Sokolov, published at the initiative of ROCOR representatives, and to the present day is considered one of the best documentary collections on the theme of the murder of the Royal Family, and is the most used by researchers.

5 Bishop Agapit (Gorachek), "The Royal family - one experience of knowledge: a report given at the Fifth International practical science conference, 'The family and the future of Russia,' Feb. 2008. Personal archive of V. N. Soloviev.

6 The group visited Ekaterinburg, Alapaevsk, Tobolsk, and other cities in the Urals.

7 Journal of the German diocese, ROCOR. 2004. No. 6.

8 Ibid.

9 Those who follow the history of the investigation of the "Ekaterinburg remains" know that A. I. Bastrikin came out in 1998 with a critical report on my work at the International research conference, "The Royal case and the Ekaterinburg remains".

(https://ruskline.ru/analitika/2008/02/16/processual_nokriminalisticheskij_analiz_materialov_svyazannyh_s_obnaruzheniem_i_issledovaniem_zahoroneniya_neizvestnyh_lic_obna)

10 N. Rosanova, The Royal Passion Bearers. Posthumous fate. P. 6.

11 Bishop Agapit (Gorachek), "The Royal family—one experience of knowledge: a report given at the Fifth International practical science conference, 'The family and the future of Russia,' Feb. 2008. Personal archive of V. N. Soloviev.

12 Bishop Agapit spoke very warmly of Geliy Ryabov and always prayed for him. After Geliy Timofeyevich's repose on 13.10.2015, Vladyka continually commemorated him in prayers for the reposed, saying, "He is always with me at the proskimedia!"

13 The fatty tissues were taken to Paris by Prince K. A. Shirinsky-Shikhmatov for temporary safekeeping in the Cathedral of the Mother of God "of the Sign" in January 1940. After the death of Captian Bulygin, who died in Uruguay, the fatty tissues were given through his widow Agatha Timofeyevna to the memorial church by Lieutenant D. G. Luchanin on March 20, 1975.

14 Letter of Archbishop Agapit (Gorachek), personal archive of N. L. Rosanova.

15 Nevertheless, the blue case brought out of Russia by N. A. Sokolov and preserved at his grandson's in France was discovered in 2011 by Peter Sarandinaki. The case turned out to be empty.

16 By "opposition" Vladyka meant those opposed to the recognition of the Imperial remains.

17 The resolution of the ROCOR Synod on the veneration of the Imperial remains was passed on May 9, 2009.

18 Videos of the conference, "The case of the murder of the Imperial Family: new expert analysis and archival materials." Archbishop Agapit (Gorachek). Introduction. November 27, 2017.



Australia marked the 100th anniversary of the Russian Church Abroad

Celebrations were held in Australia to mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, and of Australia and New Zealand, First Hierarch of ROCOR, a festive reception was held on July 24, 2020, in the Queen Victoria Building, one of the most splendid edifices in all of Sydney.

The organizers invited the Russian Orthodox Male Choir of Australia and New Zealand under the direction of Nektary Alexandrovich Kotlaroff, who sang Russian hymns and patriotic songs. As noted by Mr. Valery Malinovsky, one of the organizers of the event, all the singers are descendants of Russian White emigres. The choristers preserve love for their Homeland, traditions and the culture of the Russian people. The festive event included an exhibit of historical photographs of Emperor Nicholas II and the Imperial Family, titled "The Romanovs - Imperial Service," reflecting the epoch of the rule and personal feat of the last Russian Sovereign, whose name is held sacred in the Russian ecclesiastical diaspora. The Russian Church Abroad glorified the members of the Tsar-Passion-Bearer Nicholas II in 1981.

Boris Lavrentiev: "The past, the present and, I think, the future have united here. And it was very nice to see the hierarchs of the church gathered from different cities. And at the same time, to see the young growth in the form of the same choir. Which sang church songs, and of course others too."

The cultural component was carefully selected, led by Valery Malinovsky, the leader of the Russian community in Australia. On this day, not only sacred music sounded, but also simple songs in Russian. The descendants of emigrants from Russia carefully preserved Russian and taught their children to speak their native language. Immigrants from Transbaikalia are in the forefront. Arsentiy Zakharov, a descendant of emigrants from Transbaikalia: "The atmosphere is filled with aristocracy, importance. And it is a great honor for us to take part here today. We were a flag group. The Australian Ambassador Department of the Transbaikal Cossack Army."

The ancestors of many of those who live in Australia today did not accept the ideology of Bolshevism. But today everything that happened more than a century ago is already history, and the current generation treats it with respect, this is also demonstrated by the choir members. Nektariy Kotlyarov, choir director of the Russian Orthodox male choir in Australia: "They are all Russian emigrants in the third and fourth generations. Today we sang the Anthem of the Russian Federation, the Australian anthem. And the hymn known to all "God Save the Tsar." For the first time in a hundred years. This hymn is sung in Australia."

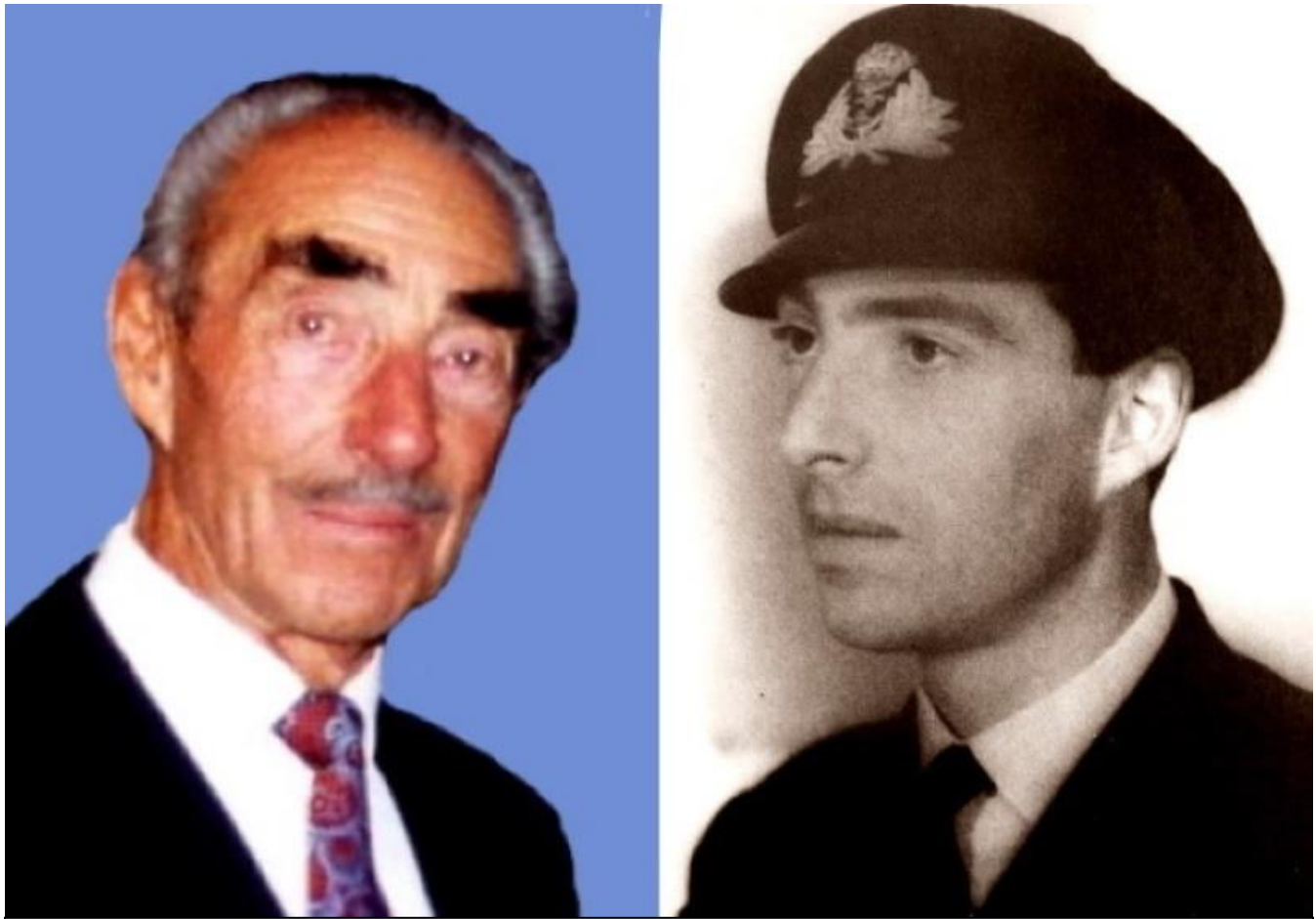
The widow of Prince Mikhail Andreevich Romanov, Princess Julia, also took part in the celebration. She praised the efforts of the Russian-speaking diaspora in Australia. Princess Julia Romanova, widow of Prince Mikhail Romanov: "I managed to be at this incredible celebration, and I will never, never forget this choir. It filled my heart with emotions. I cannot say with joy. Because the events that we remember are not only joy. These are, of course, tragic historical moments."

The Russian world abroad is concentrated around the Orthodox Church. The diaspora of compatriots keeps the traditions of their ancestors. George Kanbersky, Bishop: "The celebration itself is perfectly organized. And this all leads to a softening of the atmosphere, which is very tense today due to the coronavirus in the world. It's nice that we could just get together as Orthodox Christians."

Video - <https://gtrkchita.ru/news/?id=33366>

They were not forgotten, remembered with dignity ...

July 21, 2020. Unification, Alexey Ivachev.



Prince Mikhail Andreevich (1920-2020)

In Sydney, at the Botany cemetery on July 15, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Prince Mikhail Andreevich Romanov, the grand-nephew of Emperor Nicholas II, the grandson of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, the eldest daughter of Emperor Alexander III, was celebrated. They also remembered Leonid Guryevich Kulikovsky, who was buried five years ago in Darwin, great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. They remembered their parents, grandmothers and all Russian Orthodox Christians buried in this historic Sydney cemetery off Botany Bay.

The initiative to hold a memorial service at the cemetery at the grave of Mikhail Andreevich on the day of the 100th anniversary of his birth came from the author of these lines. I knew Mikhail Andreevich and his wife Julia for many years and was at his funeral when he died in 2008. I voiced this idea for the first time at a volunteer clean-up held at Rookwood Cemetery on July 4.

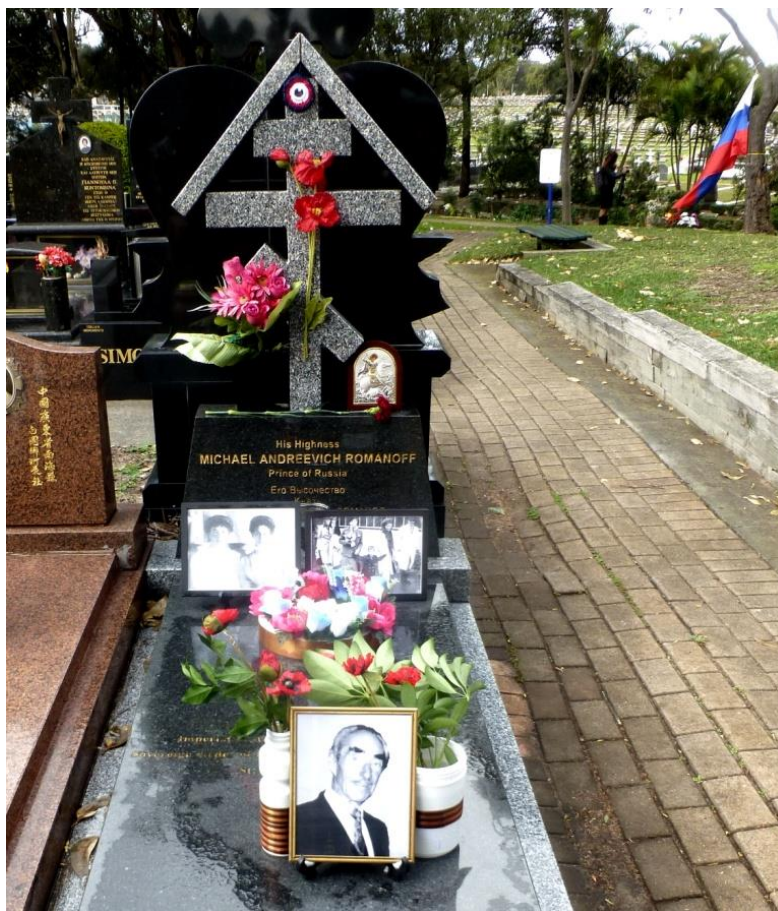
Consul General of Russia Igor Nikolaevich Arzhaev, who took part in the cleanup, immediately supported it. It was also supported by the heads of the recently opened Australian branch of the Russian public organization "Double-Headed Eagle" Valery Malinovsky and Semyon Boykov. Through their efforts, a memorial meal was organized at the cemetery (in a tent with tables and food they had set up for this) and transport was provided for the presence of the 90-year-old widow of Prince Mikhail Andreevich Julia Crespi-Romanova at the event.

The grave of Mikhail Andreevich was decorated with flowers, a wreath was laid on it, an icon, an icon lamp, his portrait and portraits of the young Leonid Guryevich and their grandmothers, the Grand

Duchesses Xenia and Olga, were installed.

It should be noted that nearby (opposite his grave) are buried Elizaveta Grigorievna (the youngest daughter of White Lieutenant General G.M. Semyonov) and her husband Nikolai Mikhailovich Yavtsev. They knew Mikhail Andreevich, they respected him very much. Their monument was also decorated with flowers, a wreath was laid, an icon, an icon lamp and a portrait were installed, where they were filmed with Mikhail Andreevich.

The requiem was served by the priests of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR), Dean of the State of NSU, Archpriest Nikita Chemodakov and Father Superior Dorofei Urusov. The event was also attended by the Consul General I. N. Arzhaev, Matushka Yekaterina Chemodakova, members of the above-mentioned organizations and journalists - more than 20 people in total.

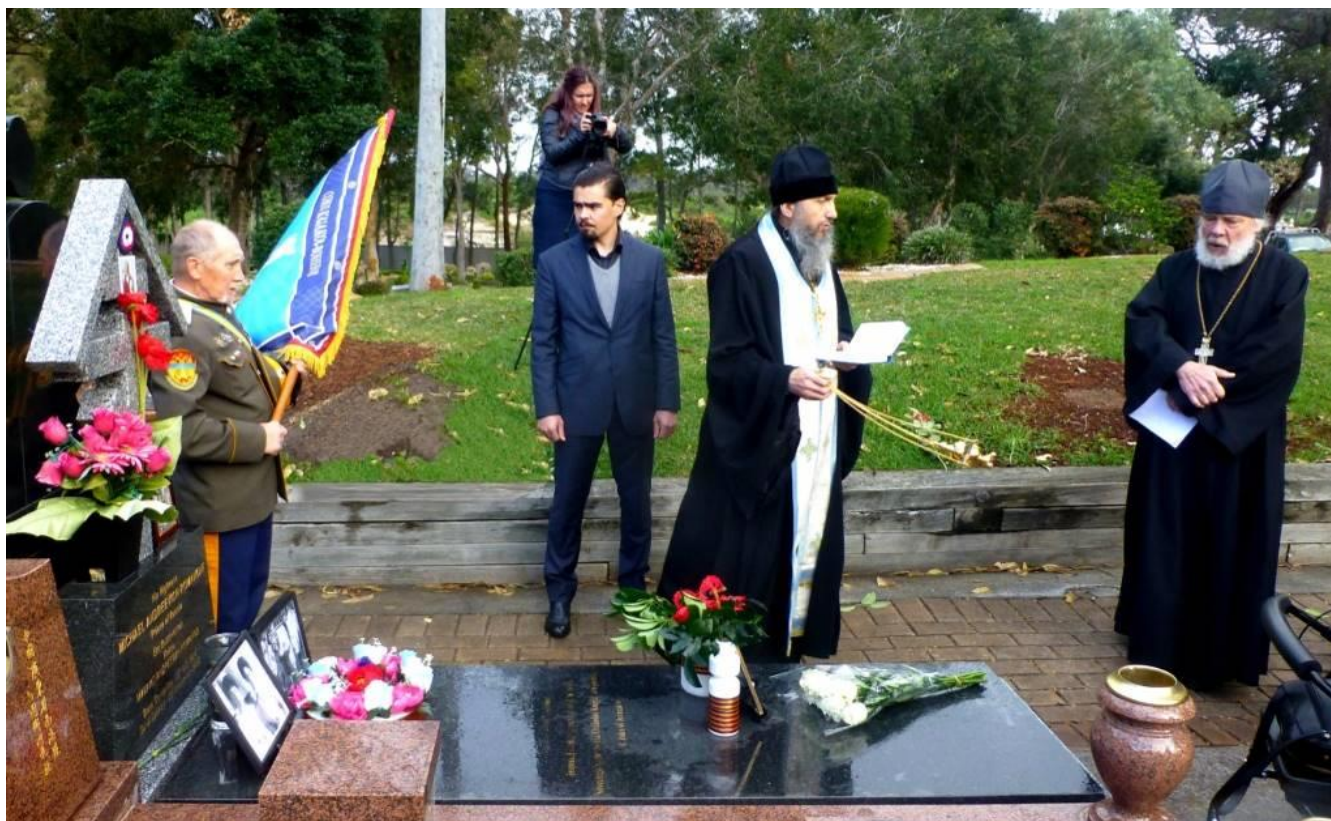


On this day, the weather was cloudy, from time to time it rained and a strong wind blew, it was noticeably cold. However, with the end of the funeral service and before the commencement of the memorial meal, the rain stopped, and the sun peeped out from under the clouds.

Father Nikita, in his speech in memory of Prince Mikhail Andreevich Romanov, whom he saw off on his last journey in 2008, noted that the Prince is very close to all of us, that in a sense he was an exile, although he was born in France.

"All the exiles were cut off from their homeland," he said, "they all experienced a lot ... with pain in their hearts they left Russia, they missed it, rooted for it, many wanted to return. And it is also significant that July 17 is the Day of Remembrance of the assassination of the Imperial Family of Nicholas II, canonized by the Church Abroad in 1981".

In conclusion, Father Nikita once again thanked everyone who took part in organizing the memorial event. I wished Mikhail Andreevich and all Orthodox Christians who died in the cemetery for the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal rest. He also congratulated everyone on the upcoming 100th anniversary of the founding of the ROCOR.



Mikhail Andreevich's widow, Princess Julia, also thanked everyone for organizing and participating in the memorial event. I was very glad for the opportunity given to her on this anniversary day to be at the grave of her late husband and to commemorate him. Princess Julia said that she was touched by the attention shown to her, noting that they were first in Russia in 1998 at the burial of the remains of the Imperial Family, with a return visit in 2006 at the reburial of Empress Maria Feodorovna and noted how important and impressive these events were for them.

Somehow quickly, one by one, our relatives, friends and relatives, people who were once famous and respected in our society, passed away. Over time, the memory of them fades, but some moments from the past remain with us for a long time, delight and excite the soul.

And on that day, remembering Mikhail Andreevich, I again felt his strong dying handshake, recalled communication with him at the burial of the Imperial remains in St. Petersburg, meeting at his apartment in the Sydney district of Double Bay, recalled his cheerful voice, big eyebrows and expressive eyes, his modest, affable, joyful and trusting friendly nature.

Much has been written about the Romanovs, who survived and ended up in the West after the revolution, including about Mikhail Andreevich's grandmother, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna

(1875-1960), about her seven children, about their fates. Here I would like to note that Mikhail Andreevich was born in France (in Versailles) in the family of her eldest son, Prince Andrei Alexandrovich Romanov (1897-1981) and his first wife Princess Elizabeth Fabritsiyevna (1887-1940). Mikhail Andreevich grew up in England in Windsor, lived with his grandmother Xenia Alexandrovna. He attended Royal College of Windsor and graduated from the London Institute of Aeronautical Engineers. Served as a lieutenant in the British Navy Air Force Reserve. After the war he was sent to Australia, settled in Sydney, where he lived until the end of his life.

The Prince loved music, played the balalaika. He loved the sea terribly and swam all year round. His favorite vacation spot was Nielson Park with its beach. In the first years of his stay in Australia, he actively participated in the life of the Russian Sydney community, was an honorary member of the Russian Club. Prior to retirement, he worked as an engineer in the aviation industry and was also engaged in business.

He kept in touch with other members of the Romanov family and until his death was its oldest representative. He was a member of the Order of Malta Orthodox Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. He was a member of the Australian Constitutional Monarchy Movement. He was married three times, but he had no children. He married Julia Grespi in 1993. They got married in St. Vladimir's Church. Here is a brief summary of his biography.

It seems that the choice of the site for the grave of Mikhail Andreevich was successful. This place in the cemetery is very picturesque, there is a lot of greenery, next to a small memorial park with an artificial stream surrounded by boulders, and there are also small bridges thrown over it. The singing of birds is constantly heard. They say about this place that there really is an outside world and its worries are forgotten, they seem very distant, a kind of magical silence reigns.

And now, what else couldn't help but note for yourself on this day. The road leading to the site, and next to it, this small memorial park was, one might say, consonant with our commemorative anniversary event on this day. Their names also marked the 100th anniversary - Centenary Avenue, Centenary Park.

Consul General Igor Nikolayevich noted that he was at this cemetery for the first time, asked how many more and where Russian people were buried. There are very few of them in this part of the cemetery. Together with Father Dorofey, he visited the graves of a Russian naval officer, Baron Alexei Medem (1898-1974), journalist Pyotr Patrushev (1942-2016), linguist and psychologist Anna Maslova-Messerer (1937-1996), actress of the Vakhtangov Theater Marina Zvolinskaya (1906 –1999).

There are about 300 Russian graves in this cemetery, and almost all of them are located in other sections of the cemetery, mainly in the area designated by the letters GBD. In the distance from the central road of the cemetery, eight-pointed Orthodox crosses of white marble are visible. Many graves fell into complete decay. There are no relatives left alive, there is no one to care for them. The tumbled down gravestones, erased inscriptions. Here are, among others, the graves of Fr. Innokenty Seryshev and Fr. Agafangel Morev, journalist Boris Domogatsky, the graves of the military, including two white generals Pyotr Burlin and Vladimir Kosmin (whose grave is generally razed to the ground), the wife and daughter of General Vladimir Sidorin (in disrepair), the graves of prominent public figures in the past and many, many others.

They began to disperse at sunset. Everyone was pleased with how they honorably celebrated the anniversary of Mikhail Andreevich and, along with honoring his memory, honored the memory of other members of the House of Romanov and all the Russian people who had found rest in this cemetery.

Kingdom of heaven to all of them and bright eternal memory!

A Russian Prince designed a watch using his own blood, and he says it shows his 'dual identities' as an artist and a royal

By Mikhaila Friel, Insider.com, 16 July 2020.



Prince Rostislav Romanov designed a watch using a drop of his own blood to commemorate the assassination of his ancestors during the Russian Revolution.

Rostislav — a British-Russian painter who resides in the UK — said the experience highlighted the "conundrum at the core of the dual identities of artist and prince." The watch was a controversial move, especially for a royal. He said it allowed him to "push boundaries" that most princes would avoid. Rostislav spoke to *Insider* about how he navigates life as both a prince and an artist.

If you were to bump into Prince Rostislav on the street, you'd be forgiven for not knowing who he is. Most likely to be seen wearing a beanie and a pair of paint-splattered overalls, the British-Russian prince's natural habitat isn't a royal palace. It's his art studio. He describes himself on Instagram as an "artist who strives to capture the beauty and strangeness of the world and beyond." His feed rings true to that depiction, with paintings, information about upcoming exhibitions, cute dog photos, and the occasional snap of his son, Leon. There's no use of his royal title, or mention of his connection to the royal family who were brutally assassinated during the Russian Revolution in 1918.

He may not regularly broadcast it to the world, but Rostislav — great-grandson of Grand Duchess Xenia — is proud of his royal roots.

The prince even designed a watch using his own blood in 2017, to commemorate a century since the execution of his ancestors.

Rostislav spoke to *Insider* about the controversial design — and about how he navigates life as both an artist and a prince.

The year 2018 marked a century since Tsar Nicholas II, his wife, and their children were executed, after more than a year of being held captive by the Bolshevik secret police.

Rostislav decided to mark the anniversary with the design of a special watch in collaboration with Russian watch brand Raketa. The watch, which features the family crest, also includes a drop of the prince's blood in the dial to symbolize the blood spilled during the Revolution.

"I think we can all agree that an artist must experiment and take risks," Rostislav told *Insider*. "The role of Prince is a perfect juxtaposition to this.

"A prince is judged on how well he personifies a code of conduct that is deeply traditional and conservative ... a prince cannot push boundaries."

Rostislav added that while some people loved the watch, "others were offended." No matter the public opinion though, he said it won't stop him from taking similar creative risks in the future.

"I will not always get it right, but I am committed to trying," he said. "It highlights the conundrum at the core of the dual identities of artist and prince."

It's been two years since the design was unveiled, and yet there are likely some royal watchers who aren't aware of its existence. Rostislav doesn't draw attention to the watch on his website or on social media, the same way he doesn't make reference to his royal title.

"Sometimes I think that the surviving Romanoffs are the world's best-kept secret — I have been told so many times that the Romanoff family have all perished during the Revolution," he said.

"People are very attached to their version of history, and certainly there is an enduring fascination with my family.

"I do not shy away from my title, but it is rather obvious with my surname, either there is a history there, or a pretension. I like the idea that it's up to each individual to follow the breadcrumbs and piece together the story," he added.

Rostislav was 'mercilessly teased' about being a prince during his school days

It wasn't always an easy path to art. Nor was it easy to accept these "dual identities" the prince speaks of.

Rostislav spent his childhood in the East Sussex countryside in England. Being far from his family's home country allowed him to detach, and form an identity of his own.

This was especially the case when he enrolled at Milton Abbey boarding school and started to surround himself with peers who weren't impressed by his royal title and status.

"I don't think anyone gave a second thought to my title once they got to know me," Rostislav said. "In fact, I seem to remember being mercilessly teased about it.

"My wife and friends still call me 'the artist formally known as prince.'"

Of course, at this point in time, Rostislav wasn't an artist — and he didn't become one until after the death of his father in 1999.



Prince Rostislav with Tessy Antony de Nassau, former Princess of Luxembourg, Sheikha Sara Al Mualla of Umm Al Quwain, and Henri Estramant, Managing Director at Royal Bridges. Matjaž Krivic/Royal Bridges

Rostislav, who was just 13 at the time, says he was "affected deeply" by the loss.

He was encouraged to channel his grief into painting. Mentored by his school teacher, the hobby went from being a lifeline, a passion — to something that would change his life.

Art ultimately led Rostislav to Russia. Despite his family history, the prince had never lived there before and had only visited once. He ended up staying there from 2009 until 2012, when he returned to the UK.

"I was the first member of my family to return and live back home," Rostislav said. "Russian history and culture have had a tremendous influence on my work.

"I am fascinated by Russian folk art, the colors, music, and literature. It really speaks straight to my soul.

"Whenever I have the opportunity, I return home — not just Moscow and St Petersburg, I like to travel extensively to the far-off corners of the country. It has been more challenging recently as I have struggled with poor health, but I am recovering and hope to travel again soon. I can't wait to show my son," he said.

These days, Rostislav resides in the UK with his wife and son, where he continues to work on his art. There isn't another blood watch in the pipeline (that we know of), but the prince is currently working on some other exciting projects, including providing the illustrations for two books of Russian tales.

And, of course, he gives updates on Instagram along the way.

"I want, and hope, that my work is louder than my title," he said.

"I did not choose to be a prince but I have chosen to be an artist — I realize now that for me these identities are not separate.

"At the end of the day, why is it important on Instagram? It is a visual platform for people to consume visual stimuli; a title is not visually interesting," he added.

"People may follow me because of my name and title, but I hope they stay for the art."



Prince Rostislav in his art studio.



Prince Rostislav and his son, Leon.

Emperor Alexander III again “returned” to Pervomaiskaya Street

On July 10, the monument to Emperor Alexander III was opened in Kushva city, Sverdlovsk Region. In 2020, Kushva turns 285 years old. On this occasion, the Council of Veterans and the leadership of the Kushvinsky District decided to make a gift to all the townspeople and re-establish the monument to Alexander III.



The Emperor, who is called a peacemaker in Russian history, was not preparing to be a ruler. But in 1881 he had to take the throne. Alexander strove for everything simple, unpretentious, truly popular. Generously gifted with physical strength, from childhood he tried to embody the ideal of an epic hero, a good and just Emperor, loving and trusting the Russian people.

Speaking about the merits of the Emperor, historians note that Alexander III always deeply felt the enormous personal responsibility for the fate of the country and did everything to develop and strengthen the power, increase its influence and authority in the world.

During the reign, the industrial potential of Russia developed rapidly and dynamically. At the same time, labor legislation was adopted that was progressive for that time and was ahead of the practice of many other states of the world, protecting the rights of workers. Factories were opened, new industries were created, a network of railways was developed. During the reign of Alexander Alexandrovich, a qualitative re-equipment of the Russian army began. At the same time, the reign of Alexander III was an era of national revival, a real upsurge of Russian art, painting, literature, music, enlightenment and science, a time of returning to one's roots and historical heritage.

It is worth noting that the people loved their sovereign. After the railway accident of the imperial train near Kharkov in 1888, a wave of fundraising for the monument by the miracle of the surviving Emperor began throughout Russia. In total, over 40 monuments to the Emperor were erected.

The authorities of the Kushvinsky factory also decided to build a monument in honor of the rescue of Alexander III from danger. Funds for its construction were collected by the population of the plant. The order for the sculpture was made by the artist Meisner. A bronze statue according to his model was cast at the St. Petersburg factory of Berto.

On June 19, 1901, the original monument was unveiled on the main factory square, in front of the administration building of the district. The Emperor was depicted in full growth, with his head uncovered, with his right hand laid over the side of his uniform. The four-meter figure stood on a cast-iron pedestal in the form of a rock. On its front side was Alexander's gilded monogram under the crown and a myrtle branch. The inscription was placed below: "The population of the Kushvinsky plant to the unforgettable Monarch in memory of the miraculous event of October 17, 1888." On the back of the pedestal was the date of the opening of the monument - "June 19, 1901." The pedestal of the monument rested on three round granite steps.

But the monument suffered the fate of other monuments of the Russian autocracy. In the spring of 1918, according to the decision of adherents of the Soviet regime, the figure of the Emperor was discarded and melted down.

A four-meter wooden obelisk, crowned with a globe symbolizing the world revolution, was placed on a pedestal. In the autumn of 1918, commissars who died in battles were buried at this monument. In December, Kolchak occupying Kushva destroyed these graves and a wooden obelisk. And in the 1920s, a bust of Karl Marx was installed on an Alexander pedestal with a preserved myrtle branch. Since the 90s of the last century, the pedestal has been empty.



The idea of restoring the monument to Alexander III Pervomaiskaya Street was discussed for a long time. According to the surviving layout, the Kushva sculptor Pyotr Yakushev made a copy of the monument. Ideas came true in 2020.

"The city, like our factory, is 285 years old. By this date, we decided to make a gift to ourselves and to all Kushva residents - to restore the monument to Alexander III. Now the square has acquired its original appearance," said Radiy Gimaletdinov at the opening.

At the opening ceremony, Colonel General Vyacheslav Vasenin also spoke, in details about Sovereign Alexander III and his trace in the Russian history. The head of the Kushva city district Mikhail Slepukhin stressed the significance of the event. The right to open the monument to the Tsar-Peacemaker was granted to the factory workers who took an active part in the restoration of the monument, Kirill Tambulatov and Sergei Serebrennikov.



Bishop of Nizhny Tagil and Nvyansk Evgeny consecrated the monument. "Today, neither the factory nor the road has been restored; today, historical memory is being restored. And I want the example of Kushva residents to "infect" the residents of other cities, so that they could express their memory to historical characters and events of the past in such images," – emphasized the Bishop.

It is worth noting that the opening of the monument was the first mass event in the city over the past four months. Everything went with strict adherence to safety measures due to the coronavirus.



Exactly 110 years ago, Nicholas II planted oaks in Riga. What happened to them?

July 11, 2020, Natalya Lebedeva. Baltues Balss.

Most Riga residents do not suspect that the Russian Emperor Nicholas II, being with his family in Riga at the celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of Livonia's entry into the Russian Empire, planted a small oak grove on July 5, 1910. The inhabitants of Riga did not forget about this and celebrated the 110th anniversary of the Royal Oak Grove.

There were seven members of the august family - and on the left bank, near the Holy Trinity-Zadvinsky Church, which turns 125 this year, seven young oak trees appeared.

July 5, Riga residents gathered on a green island, now fenced on all sides by roads, and saw six heavy trees tied with colorful ribbons with inscriptions in Russian and Latvian in honor of the memorial date.

"I marked the trees of the Tsar's daughters with three red ribbons, the oak of the heir, Tsarevich Alexei, with blue and the orange trees of Alexandra Feodorovna and Nicholas II,

with two orange ribbons," said the event organizer Stanislav Razumovsky. - Alas, Anastasia's oak was cut ... It was through the place where he grew up that underground communications passed.

On tapes it is written, on behalf of which of the family members or who exactly planted this tree - in Russian and Latvian. Between the ribbon and the trunk, we put flowers and we plant these, from flowerpots, at the foot of the trunks.



- Some sources indicate that this oak grove was planted on the site of the Kobron-trench, or Kobronskanst - a fortified redoubt from which Peter I allegedly shot at Riga. But this is not so! In fact, Kobron-shanz is located 1 km from this place - I have a map on which it is clearly marked. By the way, the Kobron-Shanz was not built by the Russians, but by the Swedes, in 1621, when they besieged Riga. And they named it in honour of the Swedish commander Kobron. There still flows the river Kilejseinagravis, which flows into the Daugava. On the pre-war map, all this is indicated, and even this is a fortification. And on the left is the railway.

The Kobron-trench, the Oranienbaum trench, or the chance of Peter I, was partially torn down at the end of the 19th century, and by now has been completely eliminated.

After the Poltava battle in 1709, the Russians came to Kobron-shants and from there began to fire not at Riga, but at the rampart from the Moscow Forstadt. There were Ivanovo gates, through which the enemy could easily enter the city. There was no point in shelling Riga. To shoot at civilian homes - why? After all, the Swedes erected two shafts at the Ivanovo Gate, shot back.

It is clear that on such a "misinformation" about the shelling of Peter I of Riga, society can be negatively inclined towards these oaks. Yes, and never Nicholas II would plant oaks at the site of fortifications. Nonsense.

This thought was slipped in 1989. And the Emperor planted trees just in the green zone.

About how Stanislav understood where and whose tree he is, he says this:

"Very simple, if you know a little about the family of our last Emperor." Daughter Olga, his first child, was born in 1895, Tatiana - in 1897, Maria in 1899, Anastasia in 1901, and Alexei in 1904.

The daughters' trees are put in order of seniority. In the photo of that time, Olga was always closest to Nicholas II. And her oak is closest to the Tsar's oak. Then - Tatiana's oak, followed by Maria - but they sawed it down. And the youngest is Anastasia. The daughters' trees stand in an arc. Behind them is a large oak tree next to the asphalt - their mother Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. The heir's tree was put forward, because he's the Tsarevich.

When trees were planted 110 years ago, they did not take him because he was sick and had to be carried. Moreover, he was then six years old. And the Tsarevich was left at home in the care of Tatiana and his mother. And Olga, Maria and Anastasia went with their father. Three more trees were planted "on behalf of."

This information is also in the book of Friedrich Schwan, "The 200th Anniversary of the Accession of Livonia to Russia, the Stay of Their Imperial Majesties in Riga on July 3-5-5, 1910," published in our city the same year. It is written in Latvian of the still old spelling; it is difficult to read. This publication provides a plan indicating the place where the trees were planted, and who planted them and at which place.

- I wrote to the Riga City Council, the Society for the Protection of Monuments, and the Ministry of Culture so that the Royal Oak Grove would be included in the list of protected monuments. I received an answer that it is not in the list of protected monuments. Because there are no signs that would transform this place into a certain Park of Culture.

But we ask not to register the park, but the memorial Tsarist oak grove of Nicholas II.

Back in 2013, they answered me from the Ministry of Culture: "Thank you for the information provided and we acknowledge that these oaks are evidence of a certain period of time. We urge the Riga City Council to make the necessary changes to the communications construction project."

Nothing has been done so far, and by the decision of the current meeting, we again ask to add this grove to the list of protected cultural monuments.

It is necessary to at least restore the soil layer - there they removed the chernozem and exposed the sandy soil. It turns out that oaks, without food, dry out. On almost all trees, dry branches have already appeared.

- I tried to understand why the authorities have such an attitude to their own history. Tsar Nicholas II did nothing wrong with anyone here, on the contrary - with all due respect to the Latvian people. Not to mention the fact that under him, in 1913, Riga was the third city of the vast empire after Moscow and St. Petersburg in economic, technical and social development, welfare, etc.

I think that such an unenviable, dramatic position of the Russian people here is a consequence of the fact that they forgot their history. And history does not like to be forgotten. And begins to take revenge - very cruel. Protect the story, and it will protect us.

And what then can be respect for the Russian man? He does not respect his ancestors - why should others respect him?

I suggest that the Riga City Council make this grove a tourist attraction. There is no answer yet.

Oak of Emperor Alexander II

In the beginning of Alexander I the reign, the restructuring of the Admiralty area in St. Petersburg began. On the site of the Admiralty meadow, a boulevard was constructed according to the project of architect Luigi Ruska. The famous English gardener William Gould, the creator of the Tauride Garden, planted a triple alley of linden trees, lilac bushes, viburnum and honeysuckle, which, curving, stretched 1200 meters from St. Isaac's Square along the southern and eastern facades of the Admiralty to the Palace Marina.

Access to the boulevard was regulated with the help of cross turntables guarded by sentries, oil lamps were installed on the territory. According to the project of architect V.P. Stasov, a Coffee House was built.

In 1817, when the serf moat around the Admiralty was filled in, the boulevard was moved closer to the building. Instead of Gould, who had died by then, garden work was carried out by Fedor Lyamin.

On this boulevard Pushkin's Eugene Onegin and all secular Petersburg went for midday walks.

Having stepped onto the park path after crossing Admiralteysky Prospekt, look carefully to the left. A sprawling oak tree behind a low fence is known as the "oak of Alexander II."



In 1872, in the year of the 200th anniversary of Peter the Great, the St. Petersburg City Council decided to split the public garden around the Admiralty. The work was entrusted to Eduard Ludwigovich Regel, a botanist and scientific gardener, who in 1875 will head the Imperial Botanical Garden in St. Petersburg.

"The Alexander Garden covers an area of 21,600 square meters of fathoms (98,328 square meters) or 9 acres, including the boulevard that entered the garden on the southern and western sides of the Admiralty. Specially purchased: machines for replanting large trees and for mowing grass, trees, shrubs, perennial herbaceous and annual flowering plants, all the necessary garden tools, 115 cast-iron garden benches and seeds for arranging lawns", - this is how E. Regel describes his work on landscaping the garden in the Bulletin of the Russian Gardening Society in St. Petersburg in 1875. More than 5 thousand trees, almost 13 thousand bushes and "thousands of perennial herbaceous plants and annuals" were planted in the garden. It was a rich collection of plants of various geographical origin - from the Far East to the Caucasus. The garden was opened solemnly on July 8, 1874.

Here's how the Petersburg Leaflet wrote about it.

"The Alexander Garden was opened very solemnly, although the ceremony took place on a rainy Monday. Emperor Alexander II himself arrived. Leaving the carriage, he deigned to go to the lawn against the portal of St. Isaac's Cathedral, where he personally planted an oak. There he gave his consent to the name of the garden."



С.-Петербургъ. — Открытіе Александровскаго сада 8 июля. — Е. И. В. Государь Императоръ изволилъ сажать дубонъ.
(Рис. К. Брожъ, грав. Э. Даммюллеръ).

The opening of the Alexander Garden on July 8. H. I. H. The Emperor deigns to plant an oak tree. Drew K.O.Broz, engraved by E.K. Dammuller. Source World illustration: magazine. - 1874.

Next to the oak of Alexander II, the Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich, Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich (future Alexander III) and his wife, Tsarevna Maria Feodorovna, planted their seedlings. Whether they survived to our time is unknown.

“The 300th Anniversary of the History of the Romanov Imperial House in the Graphics of the 18th – 20th Centuries.”

On July 5, 2020, the “Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society”, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, opened the exhibition “The 300th Anniversary of the History of Romanov Imperial House in the Graphics of the 18th – 20th centuries.” from the funds of the Kaluga Fine Arts Museum. It took place in the Orthodox educational centre “Usovo-Spasskoye”.

Visitors will see a unique collection of engraved and lithographed portraits (in copies) of representatives of the Russian Imperial House and famous figures of their time, types of residences, palaces and churches of Moscow and St. Petersburg, created by Russian and foreign masters in the first half of the 18th - early 20th centuries. The collection belonged to the hero of World War I, a hereditary nobleman, Alexei Sergeyevich Gershelman. Recently he lived in Argentina. In 2015, his daughter Marina A. Aksakova donated the engravings to the Kaluga Fine Arts Museum, in memory of her husband Sergei S. Aksakov, a native of the Kaluga Region.



stored in the “Gallery of Peter I”, the other in the Gatchina Palace, in the office of Emperor Alexander III. At the same time, permission was obtained to publish portraits in a separate album, “Collection of 24 Portraits of the Imperial Family” (from Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich to Emperor Nicholas I). An incomplete version of this album was preserved in the collection of A.S. Gershelman. It is known that these engravings belonged to Maria Alexandrovna Vasilchikova, the former maid of honor of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

The portraits of the Imperial Family members in the collection of A.S. Gershelman was supplemented by lithographs from the album “Views of St. Petersburg. 1837”, owned by the famous Italian ballerina Maria Taglioni. Forming for many years his Tsar's collection, Alexander S. Gershelman supplemented it



The exhibition contains two collections. One of them is a gallery of portraits from the famous and rare edition “Collection of twenty-four portraits of the Imperial Family” by the painter Jean Henri Benner, who worked in Russia since 1817. Benner created portraits of the Imperial Family using the miniature technique on enamel and repeated the series once more by order of the court. One of them was

with images of famous places in Russia associated with the memory of Russian Imperial House - the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, the Imperial Winter Palace, the House of the Moscow Governor-General, the Page Corps of the times of Emperor Alexander II and others.



It is symbolic that for the first time the exhibition is shown in the Orthodox educational centre located in the only Imperial estate in the Moscow Region - "Ilyinskoye-Usovo", owned by the August patrons and philanthropists, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The opening of the exhibition took place on the 10th anniversary of the consecration of the Spassky Church in Usovo village. The main celebrations will take place in September 2020, during the holy days of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and IX Elizabeth Cross Procession.



Russian Minister of Culture Olga B. Lyubimova, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Kaluga Region Pavel A. Suslov, the adviser to the Governor of the Moscow Region for Culture Narmin O. Shiralieva, collectors, art historians, scientists, artists, representatives of the business community and other honored guests took part in the opening of the exhibition.

Olga B. Lyubimova, appreciated the creative and scientific approach of Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society's experts. "The lithographs and engravings of the remarkable Russian and foreign masters presented here reveal to us the

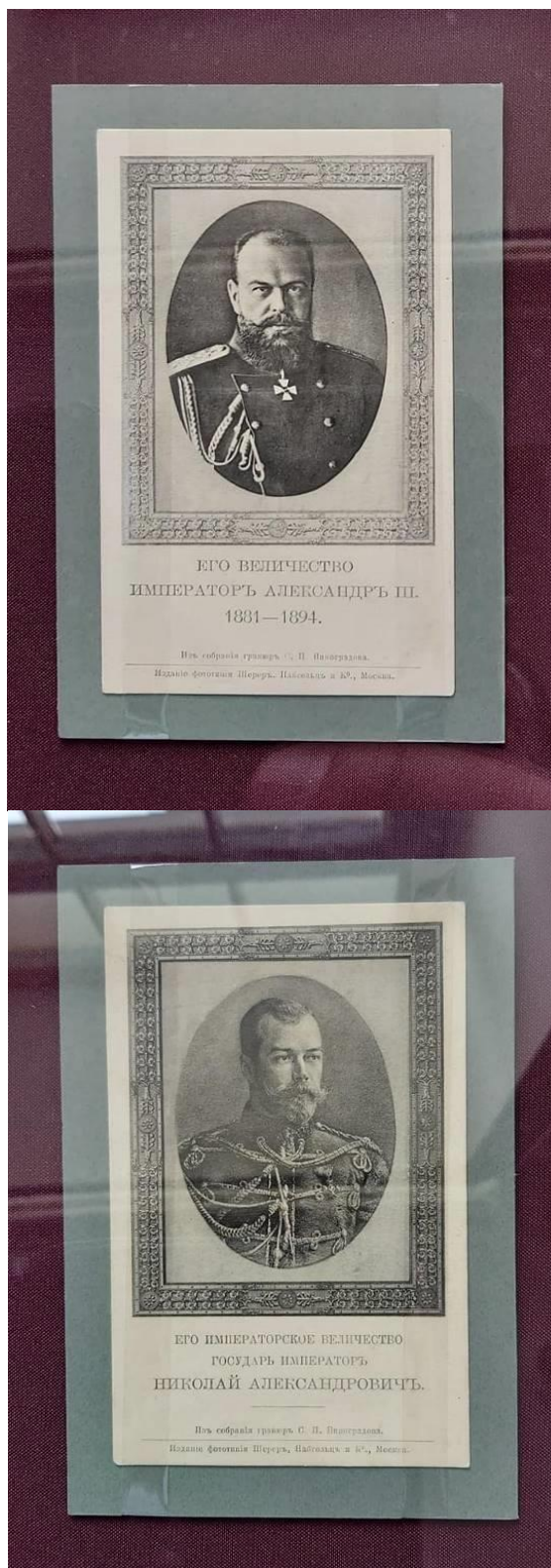
unique world of the Romanov Imperial House. This is a very important work of our colleagues who undertook to implement the exhibition project during the difficult period of the resumption of museum activities.”

Anna V. Gromova, drew the attention to the fact that the exhibition dedicated to the 300-year-old history of the Romanov Imperial House is being held in the only Imperial estate Ilinskoye-Usovo in the Moscow region. For 10 years, the ESPO Foundation has been working to restore the historic buildings of the estate, and this year, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Moscow Region, the administrations of the Krasnogorsk and Odintsovo city districts, museums dedicated to the August owners of the estate - Empress Maria Alexandrovna - will appear in Ilyinsky and Usovo. In the fall the ESPO Foundation will open the Maternity and Infancy Museum in the building of the Shelter, built by the decision of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in 1892 in memory of Grand Duchess Alexandra Georgievna who died in childbirth (the wife of his brother, Grand Duke Pavel Alexandrovich).

The museum "August Owners of the Manor and the Russian Red Cross Society" will be created in the building of the Infirmary for the wounded warriors of the Russo-Japanese War, erected by Grand Duchess Elizabeth Elizabeth in 1905. It is also planned to create a "Museum of School and Childhood" in the public school of Empress Maria Alexandrovna in Usovo. "Only by studying the history of our country and preserving the places of historical memory, we can hope for a future. A traveling exhibition of unique engravings and lithographs from the collection of Alexander S. Gershelman is very important for us.

Already on July 14, the Fund will present the traveling exhibition from the collection of A.S. Gershelman "The 300-year-old history of the Romanov Imperial House. Portrait of the Dynasty" in Yekaterinburg. The event will be a bright moment in the Tsar Days international Orthodox festival, which takes place annually in Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk in memory of the members of the Romanov Imperial House innocently killed in the Urals in the summer of 1918.

The exhibition will be opened in other regions participating in the Imperial Route project - in the Perm Territory, the Bryansk Region, Sevastopol, and then return to Kaluga. In the Museum of the Educational Centre "Usovo -Spasskoye" traveling exhibition will be open to the public until the end of November 2020.



Video – 1) <https://youtu.be/2kKpK-Awql4>
2) <https://youtu.be/V-yJJBCEmLo>

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



The Atlas of the times of Rastrelli returned in the 21st century

In the museum-reserve "Tsarskoye Selo" was another discovery during restoration. In the Alexander Palace, where a large-scale restoration is currently underway, at the opening of the floors in one of the office rooms in the central part of the building, the craftsmen discovered the plaster head of the atlant - one of those who "hold the sky" at the facades of the Catherine Palace. Presumably, the head got there during the re-equipment of the Alexander Palace in 1949 for the military department. At the same time on the facade of the Catherine Palace, work was underway to restore the Atlantean figures that were severely damaged during the Great Patriotic War. Particularly damaged parts of the sculptures, mainly the heads, shoulders, arms, were replaced with more durable cement parts on metal fittings.

Restorers carefully cleared the found fragment and even found the remains of gilding on it. In terms of plasticity, dimensions, workmanship and, first of all, the preserved fragments of gilding, it became clear that this young man was created during the time of Rastrelli, which, of course, makes this find extremely valuable for the museum.

Atlant is one of the decorative elements of the facades of the Catherine Palace, created by Francesco Rastrelli. Elizaveta Petrovna ordered gilding the whole decor, but in this form, it did not last long, because the gilding quickly wore out in a harsh climate. Already under Catherine II, due to the extraordinarily high cost of restoration of gilding, it was decided to paint the entire decor and not to gild anymore. During the Great Patriotic War, the facades of the Catherine Palace were badly damaged.



The hunting horn of Don Luis, son of the Happy

On 23 July, the exhibition "Knightly oliphants from the collection of the State Hermitage" opened at the Tsarskoye Selo Museum-Reserve. Two rarities of the 16th century is displayed in the Arsenal pavilion in Alexander Park. These ivory oliphants (hunting horns), kept in the Hermitage, were once part of the collection of the Tsarskoye Selo Arsenal. On the bell of one of these horns there is a relief inscription IMFAMTE DOM LVIS (Infante Don Luis), below on one side is the coat of arms of Portugal, on the other is the cross of the Order of Christ and the armillary sphere (an astronomical instrument used to



determine the equatorial or ecliptic coordinates of celestial bodies). The first mentions of this oliphant are found in 1646 in the book "Danish Monuments" by the physician, collector and naturalist Ole Worm. The head of the Arsenal Florian Gilles in one of the publications reports that Don Luis was the second son of the Portuguese king Manuel I, nicknamed the Happy, and the father of Antonio Prior Cratu, who for some time was recognized as the Portuguese King.

The second oliphant, presented at the exhibition, is similar in the nature of the carving and in images to the horn of Don Luis. In terms of stylistic features, both oliphants can be attributed to the same workshop.



Restorers have begun work in Catherine II's private quarters in the Zubovsky wing of the Catherine Palace.

Work is being carried out in five rooms: The Dome Hall, the Silver Cabinet, the Bedchamber, the Snuffbox and the Mirror Cabinet.

The director of the museum, Olga Taratynova, said that the timing of the restoration was not significantly shifted. "The pandemic caused minimal damage to this project, and the deadlines were practically not violated. Only a couple of weeks, as the restorers stood, and then they received permission to continue," she said. During the Great Patriotic War, the Catherine Palace was badly damaged, the Empress's private chambers were practically destroyed. During the reconstruction, specialists will focus on the preserved watercolors, photographs and autochromes made in 1917.



Romanov **buzz**



The sisters of Saint Elisabeth Convent in Minsk have created a "Digital story of St. Elizabeth". To promote it, they have also created a video - <https://youtu.be/B--bupS8bus>.

As they say – "In Russia Elizabeth Feodorovna was known not only as a granddaughter of the English Queen Victoria, a sister of the Empress and a wife of the Tsar's uncle, but also as an institutor of a major progressive charitable organization.

Why is it important to tell about Grand Duchess Elizabeth today?

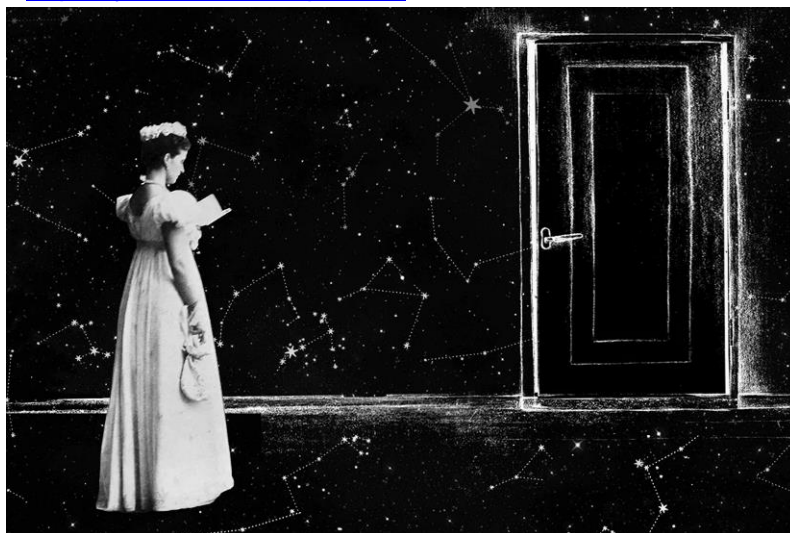
First of all, she is very close to us time-wise (what is 100 years on a scale of history?). Second, she lived at the time when many key events in the history of Russia happened: the Russo-Japanese War, the First World War, the revolutions of 1905 and 1917. And -

third - Elisabeth Feodorovna is a personality who keeps surprising and inspiring many.

She became one of the brightest philanthropists of Russia. One can enumerate funds and committees organised by her - it could take a while, there are hundreds of them. One can recall the number of people she helped - there are hundreds of thousands of them. One can count all of the personal assets she donated - there are millions of them. But the main driving force was her compassion, without formalism and hypocrisy which she condemned at all times.

It is not our goal to tell the life of Elizabeth Feodorovna in chronological order. The goal of the project is to show the development of her as a person who, despite of all tragic events, devoted herself to helping her People"

To see the actual project please go to: <https://st-ella.art/>





In Sevastopol, they honored the memory of the outstanding Russian naval commander Pavel Stepanovich Nakhimov. On the occasion of the anniversary of Pavel Nakhimov's birthday (July 5, 1802), a flower laying ceremony was held on the square named after the Hero.

The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Sevastopol Vladimir Nemtsev and the Chairman of the Sevastopol branch of the RVIO, the director of the Sevastopol military-historical museum-reserve Nikolai Musienko attended the ceremony. They laid flowers at the foot of the memorial on Nakhimov Square.

- Here we made a fateful decision in 2014, all our most important holidays are held here. The life of Pavel Stepanovich is an example for all generations of Sevastopol residents. This is the only way to live - honestly, sincerely, following your vocation for the good of the Fatherland," said Vladimir Nemtsev. Pavel Stepanovich Nakhimov - an outstanding sailor and naval commander, served in the Russian Imperial Navy from 1818 to 1855. He traveled around the world on the frigate "Cruiser", at the end of the expedition he was awarded the Order of St. Vladimir of the 4th degree. Since January 1834, Nakhimov served in the Black Sea Fleet. During the Crimean War, commanding a squadron, Nakhimov blocked the main forces of the Turkish fleet in Sinop, and then defeated them in the Sinop battle. In 1855, Pavel Stepanovich was appointed commander of the Sevastopol port and interim governor of the city. He enjoyed great authority among soldiers and sailors, who called him "father-benefactor." The image of Pavel Stepanovich Nakhimov, along with the names of other prominent domestic sailors, will be embodied in the design of the Alley of Heroes of the Navy in Kronstadt. They were selected according to the results of the popular Internet voting from the extended list proposed by the Russian military-historical society, and will become the personification of the most important topics from the history of the Russian Navy.



On July 11-13, 2020, Prince of Prussia George Mikhailovich, a descendant of Emperor Alexander II, visited St. Petersburg. On July 12, on the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, before the Liturgy, was performed the rite of joining to the Orthodox Church his girlfriend R.V. Bettarini and she was named in Orthodoxy as Victoria Romanovna. This is a formal step for them to be married according to Russian Orthodox Church tradition.



Commemorative events dedicated to the 250th anniversary of the victory in the Battle of Chesme took place in Tsarskoye Selo and St. Petersburg.

The day of the legendary battle, which became a turning point in the Russian-Turkish war of 1768-1774, was previously officially declared the Day of military glory of Russia.

- The victory in the Chesme Bay impressed contemporaries, this is one of the extraordinary events in our military history, this bright victory achieved by the naval genius of the Russian admirals is also relevant for modern Russia, therefore July 7, 2012 has become a day of military glory, said Nikita Buranov, Chief Specialist of the Russian Military Historical Society.



In 1774 -1778, in memory of the feat of Russian sailors, the Chesmenskaya column was built in Tsarskoye Selo, in St. Petersburg - the Chesmensky Palace and the Chesmenskaya Church of St. John the Baptist. The name "Chesma" was a squadron battleship of the Russian Navy.

- In the Chesme battle, the enemy fleet had almost a double numerical advantage in strength, in addition, the Turkish ships significantly exceeded the Russians in a number of their characteristics, including the number of guns. It seemed that there was practically no chance of victory, but the Russian sailors were able to win brilliantly, - said the expert RVIO.

In the Chesme battle, the Russian naval commanders laid the foundation for the creation of a new manoeuvrable tactics of the Russian fleet.

- The sea battle and the death of the flagship caused the Turkish fleet to "flee" to Chesme Bay under the protection of the coastal batteries of the fortress. Council of admirals and commanders, decided to block the Turkish fleet in the bay, and burn it there by fire-ships (vessel, laden with flammable or explosive substances), - said Nikita Buranov. - The victory of the Russian fleet over twice the enemy's forces was achieved due to the correct choice of the moment for delivering a decisive blow, surprise attacks and the use of firewalls and incendiary shells unexpected for the enemy. It helped a well-organized interaction of forces, as well as high moral and combat qualities of Russian sailors. But the naval art of the Russian admirals, which boldly abandoned template linear tactics, became decisive.

In St. Petersburg, the memory of that battle is carefully preserved in the Church of St. John the Baptist.

- Of course, it was the most amazing victory, one might say wonderful. In memory of this victory, Empress Catherine II ordered the construction of a church. Also, of course, wonderful architecture. Now we just have the Day of Military Glory" - shared Archpriest Alexei Krylov, Rector of the Church of St. John the Baptist.

Column, erected at the end of the 18th century according to the design of Antonio Rinaldi. Today it is included in the ensemble of the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve.

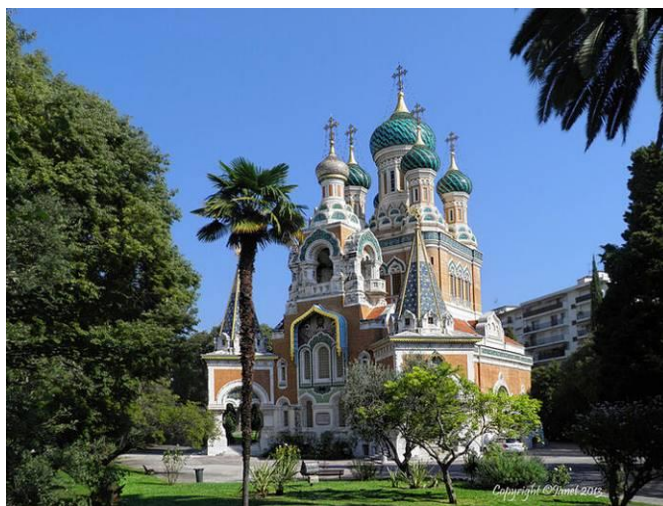


The beautiful Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker in Nice, France, was honored recently, being included in the shortlist for the competition, "Best Architectural Monument of France 2020."

Support for St. Nicholas Cathedral has already been expressed by the Mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, reports the Korsun Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church.

This year, there are 14 nominees on the shortlist, including such famous attractions as the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, the Champ-de-Bataille palace-park complex in Normandy, and the Belfort Citadel.

The voting took place on the contest's website, by clicking on the image of the cathedral and then clicking the "Valider" button. The cathedral was the last monument shown. Voting ended on July 26.



Specialists from the State Museum of Urban Sculpture in St. Petersburg have completed restoration work on the Anichkov Bridge. It should be reminded that at the beginning of the summer the sculptural group "Horse Tamers" was damaged by vandals.

"The restorers have connected the deformed reins of the bridle," the museum's press service said.

They discovered that the vandals tore out the halter from one of the author's fasteners, so it was damaged and hung on the second fastener. Historically, the upper fragment was not sealed, the experts decided to keep the author's method of connecting the fragments. The old brass fasteners were replaced with a similar new one.

Four sculptural compositions "Horse Tamers" were made by Peter Klodt and installed in 1841. Emperor Nicholas I liked the statues so much that he ordered copies of them to be made and presented one of the copies to the Prussian King Frederick William I, and the second - to the King of both Sicilies Ferdinand II.



The St. Petersburg Diocese and Russian Ministry of Culture have jointly developed a roadmap for a large-scale restoration of the entire complex of buildings of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg, designed for a 10-year period, Alexey Odintsov, assistant to the monastery's restoration governor told. Some of the objects - the Gateway church, the Dukhovskaya Church and the Prosphora Corps, built in the 18th-19th centuries - are supposed to be restored to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of the Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky, which will be held in 2021, according to Patriarchy.ru. "The roadmap developed by us together with the Ministry of Culture covers a ten-year period in which the first three years go to design work and the rest to actual work - naturally, some works will be layered on others. Now we have the most crucial moment when we begin designing the entire complex of buildings of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra. This is not only a historical square, but also buildings that are historically laurel," said A. Odintsov.

The North-West Directorate for the Construction, Reconstruction and Restoration of the Ministry of Culture announced a tender for design in June, with an initial price of 405.6 million roubles. The winner of the competition was FSUE Central Scientific and Restoration Design Workshops (TsNRPM). "This, of course, is the best provider of design restoration services in our country. On their account the most important monuments. Therefore, we have no doubt that everything will be designed well" - A. Odintsov noted.

"At the same time, we should have the first stage - this is the design of repair of those facilities that will be restored to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Alexander Nevsky. We assume that this should be a Gateway church, the Dukhovskaya church and the Prosphora building," said A. Odintsov, explaining that these objects are located along the path of the solemn procession on the day of memory of Alexander Nevsky (celebrated on September 12, the day when in 1724 Emperor Peter I personally transferred the relics of St. Alexander Nevsky, which had previously rested in Vladimir, to the man's monastery founded by him).



According to Odintsov, the quality of the restoration is of paramount importance, and not the desire to complete it by the date of the celebration. From the point of view of reconstructing the interior, A. Odintsov called the Dukhovskoy church the most complex object. It was also used for burials until the beginning of the 20th century. In 1881 Fyodor Dostoyevsky was buried there. "This is a church that was rebuilt four times during the Soviet period, nothing was left of its interior. <...> It is one of the most important churches of the Lavra, which needs not just reconstruction, but scientific restoration and adaptation (research, design and production work carried out in order to create conditions for the modern use of the cultural heritage site)."

A. Odintsov called the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the main church of the monastery, another complex restoration object, because of the multifaceted nature of the work. "Its restoration was in 1957, and you need to understand that it was then carried out in the conditions of economy and haste. <...> [Repair] was made well, efficiently, but for 65 years it really has exhausted its resource".

"In 2013, for the 300th anniversary of the Lavra, we managed to reverse the process when it collapsed faster than we had time to restore it. And now we can pick up those beginning of destructive processes and proactively put it in order for decades to come. If we don't do repair it now, if we don't think about the future of the Lavra, it will be in emergency condition," A. Odintsov said.



The Russian Museum will place an exhibition on the history of the Romanov dynasty in the state rooms of the Mikhailovsky Castle, which were vacated after the move of the Central Naval Library. As the general director of the Russian Museum Vladimir Gusev said at a TASS press conference, the restored halls will be opened in November as part of the St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum.

"Work is in full swing. These are wonderful ceremonial halls - the Throne, Arabesque, the chambers of Naryshkin and Kutaisov. There will be an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Romanov dynasty," Gusev said.

The Mikhailovsky Castle regularly hosts temporary exhibitions about representatives of the Romanovs. In spring, an exhibition dedicated to the founder of the Russian Museum, Alexander III, was opened there; it was unavailable during the forced closure of the museum due to the pandemic; therefore, it was extended until the end of September. After the restoration of the Mikhailovsky Castle, it is also planned to open an exhibition of the original sculptures from the Summer Garden.

The Russian Museum is carrying out restoration works in the Resurrection, Heraldic, Pre-Throne and Great Throne Halls of the Mikhailovsky Castle, which have never been accessible for visitors. Four large-format canvases dedicated to significant events in Russian history will return to one of the halls after almost two centuries. These are paintings by John Atkinson and Grigory Ugryumov, created for the Mikhailovsky Castle by order of Paul I, but were removed after the refurbishment of premises for departmental institutions back in the 19th century.

Large-format canvases were kept on ramparts in the storerooms of the Russian Museum and the Tretyakov Gallery.

The Mikhailovsky Castle was built in the end of the 18th century in the center of St. Petersburg next to the Summer Garden for Emperor Paul I, who himself created the sketches of its layout. This palace was the Imperial residence for only 40 days - its creator was killed in it in March 1801. After, the state chambers of the castle were adapted for various departmental institutions; for two centuries, military educational institutions were located there. In April 2018, the funds of the Central Naval Library were completely transferred from the Mikhailovsky Castle to a new building on Vasilyevsky Island, which allowed the Russian Museum, which has been in charge of the castle since 1991, to begin the restoration.



During the pandemic, the employees of St. Isaac's Cathedral continued to collect. Thanks to this, several new items were added to the museum fund, said the director of the museum, Yuri Mudrov.

Among the finds were graphic portraits of Alexander II and Catherine the Great, a silver token of 1892 for the opening of the monument to Alexander II in Moscow, a silver teapot of the Romanovs' house and others.

But a silver tray in the Art Nouveau style with an engraved image of the Savior on Spilled Blood is of particular importance.

"With almost one hundred percent probability, this is a genuine item that belonged to St. Isaac's Cathedral. This is the fourth artistic silver tray that we have purchased for our funds," said Yulia Ushkova, head of the department for accounting of funds of the museum-monument.

She explained that such trays were used for prosphora, carrying the cross to the bishop of the service and not only. The exhibit was purchased from the descendants of a priest who served in St. Isaac's Cathedral in the 1920s.

All new items will be added to the "Seek and Find" exhibition in the Sacristy of the Savior on Spilled Blood Museum.



A video has appeared on the internet, showing the visit of the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Caucasus Army, Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich in Kars in 1915. In the video, it is stated that the Grand Duke visited Kars to control the Russian-Turkish front during the First World War. According to the images, a military ceremony is held for the Russian commander who descends from a

train in Kars. He visited a church in the city, then supervised the Russian military units in the region. Kars castle and mosque are also seen in the images.

Video - <https://youtu.be/AIGTn8A107Y>



The opening of the Oldenburg Palace (Ramon village, Voronezh Region) is scheduled for late 2021. Before the revolution it belonged to the granddaughter of Emperor Nicholas I and the niece of Alexander II Eugenia Oldenburg. By this time, the regional authorities plan to complete the restoration of the first floor of the palace, the press service of the Voronezh region government said after Governor Alexander Gusev visited it.



"In 2021, the restoration of the first floor of the Palace should be completed, and it will be fully opened to visitors. After 2022, the plans include the reconstruction of the facade of the palace and completion of work in the lower park. Reconstruction of the Oldenburgskys' palace complex in the next two years is estimated at 300 million roubles," - informed the government of the Voronezh region press service.

The historical and cultural center "Palace complex of the Oldenburgskys" is located in Ramon, Ramonsky district of the Voronezh region. The reconstruction of the estate began in 2010. As the press service of the Voronezh Region government clarified, according to the project of the French architect Olivier Dame, the upper park of the complex was reconstructed in 2013, two years later the restored suite building was opened, then the roof, basements were repaired in the Palace and other works were carried out. The regional authorities expect that the Oldenburgsky Palace will become the most important part of the region's tourist routes, including weekend trips for residents of neighboring regions, Moscow and the Moscow region.

Before the revolution the complex includes a palace in the English style. It had three floors, some original interiors have been preserved, as well as the suite building and various services, a large park. In 2014, a museum was created on the territory of the complex - the historical and cultural centre "Palace complex of the Oldenburgskys", in which the first exposition was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Emperor Nicholas II and his daughters to Voronezh, later it developed a thematic route to the 405th anniversary of the coronation of the Romanov dynasty ... Over 40 thousand tourists visited Oldenburgsky' Palace annually.



On July 24, 2020, the feast day of St Olga, Equal-to-the-Apostles, a videoconference of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia took place. The Archimandrite Roman (Krassovsky), Chief of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, noted that in the coming January, the 100th anniversary of the translation of the relics of Holy Martyrs of Alapaevsk to Russian Gethsemane will be celebrated. Fr Roman suggested adding the celebration date of 17/30 January into the 2021 calendar.



On July 27, the exhibition "The Romanovs and the Fleet" was opened in the Kaliningrad History and Art Museum, organized jointly with the Central Naval Museum named after Emperor Peter the Great (St. Petersburg).

Since the inception of the Russian Navy (1696), representatives of the reigning Romanov dynasty have been inextricably linked with it. The fleet created by Tsar Peter I became his favorite brainchild and played a huge role in the growth of the power of the Russian state. Empress Catherine II, Emperors Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II, many Grand Dukes, including the heads of the Russian Naval Ministry, paid great attention to the construction and development of the navy. At the

end of the 18th - 19th century, a whole fleet of imperial yachts was created for the August Family. It was considered the largest in the world. On these yachts, the Emperors with their families and relatives rested, met foreign crowned heads, and conducted diplomatic negotiations. All this sank into oblivion with the Great Russian Revolution of 1917.

In the collection of the Central Naval Museum named after Emperor Peter the Great, the theme of the attitude of the ruling dynasty of the Romanovs to the Russian fleet is quite fully presented. The exhibition displays a number of interesting museum items. Among them are a plaque with a cast of the palm print of Peter I, a jack from his boat - "grandfathers of the Russian fleet", a silver St. George horn "For Distinction in the Turkish War of 1877 and 1878", six mortgage boards of ships of the fleet - from the beginning to the end of the XIX century, model of the mine boat "Xenia" in 1876, admiral's and officer's epaulettes, uniform of V. Halkiopov, an officer of the Russian fleet of the early XX century, the ship's bell of 1855 and the bell of the participant of the

Moonsund battle of the destroyer "Thunder" in 1915. The case for the drawings of the uniforms of the uniforms of the Russian fleet is unique. More than a dozen photographs of the early XX century captured the stay of Emperor Nicholas II and members of the August Family on warships and imperial yachts of the Russian fleet, as well as groups of personnel of these ships. A separate block of photographs tells about the topic of Orthodoxy and ship priests of the Russian fleet.



On July 27, the exhibition "The Imperial Family of the Romanovs" was opened in the Kaliningrad Museum of History and Art. The exhibition of the artist Vladimir Zenin "The Imperial Family of the Romanovs: the ideal of love and Orthodox piety" (St. Petersburg) was made in cooperation with the department of education and the cultural council of the St. Petersburg diocese and presents a series of 10 paintings illustrating events associated with Nicholas II and his loved ones.

Christian culture draws examples from sacred history, but the manifestations of Christian virtues in recent history, documented in the archives, are no less valuable.

Many artists of the XX-XXI centuries. reflected on the fate of the dynasty, creating historical paintings. However, the creative method of Vladimir Zenin is to generalize knowledge about the history, art and life of the era and create images of the Imperial Family as part of Orthodox culture. Vladimir works in series, this allows the composition of the picture to be perceived as part of a single story, similar to how the hallmarks on a Russian icon are built into a narrative. But the artist does not pretend to be an icon painter, but remains within the framework of a secular picture. He comprehends the historical personality as part of the country's culture. Each of Zenin's heroes - Sergius of Radonezh, Dimitry Donskoy - is, rather, symbols of the era, cleared of specifics, some illustrations of the concepts of nobility, parity, kindness, humility.



Video about the Romanov dynasty in portraits from Hermitage Online – Join an excursion to the Eastern Gallery of the Winter Palace, where portraits of representatives of the Romanov dynasty are

presented. All portraits sound the idea of an inextricable connection between all members of the Imperial dynasty who performed a common cause - serving the Fatherland.

The gallery was shown to the guests of the Imperial residence, proud of the "glory of the ancestors". Ceremonial portraits were commissioned both by Russian artists and representatives of Rossica - foreign portrait painters who worked in Russia. The works in the East Gallery are distinguished by a huge stylistic variety - from the "Parsuns" of the 17th century to the portrait of the Baroque era and then classicism to the works of famous European portraitists of the second half of the 19th century - George Doe, Franz Kruger, Christina Robertson and others.

Video - <https://youtu.be/FMzT3F6sOXM>



The Russian Museum has opened a grand exhibition "Gifts. Selected" in honor of the 125th anniversary. The curators have selected about 1,000 works of art for display from those that have been received in more than 100 years from hundreds of donors. When the centenary was celebrated, the emphasis was on the fact that the State Russian Museum is the keeper of the thousand-year history of Russian art. Now the focus is on donors as the main driving force behind the replenishment of the museum collection.

Emperor Nicholas II not only moved art to the museum, he opened it. His personal contribution was the works of Vasily Vereshchagin and Valentin Serov, acquired at posthumous exhibitions of artists. First of all, this is the Vereshchagin diptych - "After the Success" and "After the Failure", non-military paintings - "In Jerusalem. Tombs of the Kings" and "Retired Butler". Vereshchagin's late works from the Japanese cycle - "Shinto Temple in Nikko" and "Walk in a Boat" also became important for the museum collection. Serov is shown more modestly, with historical gouaches, for example, "Peter II and Tsarevna Elizabeth on the hunt with dogs." But the Emperor had strong competitors: his mother, who presented portraits of her children - Olga and Michael - at a young age, as well as Princess Maria Tenisheva, who presented the piercing landscape "Winter". However, two more important characters in the history of gifts at the beginning of the twentieth century are the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the diplomat and collector Vladimir Argutinsky-Dolgorukov. The now canonized sister of the Empress presented the textbook painting "Catherine II Walking in Tsarskoye Selo Park", two portraits of Alexander I by Vladimir Borovikovsky and George Doe, as well as a rare landscape by Fyodor Vasiliev "Eriklik. Fountain". Argutinsky enriched the Russian Museum with Mikhail Vrubel's sketch for the painting "The Swan Princess" and his sketch "Lilac".



The first stage of a large-scale restoration of the Upper Garden is starting at the State Museum-Reserve "Peterhof". Work will begin with dismantling and transporting the 18th century sculptures "Minerva" and "Mercury".

The Upper Garden was founded in 1714. The space of the garden was planned personally by Peter the Great.

Complex restoration has not been carried out here for over 50 years. The masters have large-scale work ahead. By December 2023, it is planned to restore the objects of the water supply system, restore the historical collectors and fountain water conduits, as well as the Oak and Mezheumny fountains, the garden fence and gates, gazebos, bersos and stairs. Engineering networks will be repaired and the historical species composition of the garden's green spaces - trees, flowers and shrubs - will be restored.





Portraits of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna. Riddles and finds

By Galina Korneva and Tatiana Cheboksarova

In Russia, until the Revolution of October 1917 names and photographs of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1854-1920) and her spouse Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich (1847-1909) did not leave the pages of magazines, newspapers and were well known not only in Russia and in Europe, but also even in the USA. For example, information about valuable gifts which were given to the grand-ducal couple on the occasion of their silver wedding on 16 (28) August, 1899, appeared in an article in New York Herald. The manager of the London Fabergé shop, Charles Bainbridge in his memoirs called Maria Pavlovna “the most outstanding and amazing lady in Europe”. Under reign of Alexander III, the elder brother of Grand Duke Vladimir, and during the later years of Nicholas II’s reign, the Court of Grand Duke Vladimir and Maria Pavlovna was the second most significant court in the Russian capital.

But the 20th century changed the smooth developing of history. The names of Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Vladimir were mentioned only in science literature during the next hundred years. It was forbidden to tell about their contributions even in the Club of Scholars of the Russian Academy of Science, which is located in a former palace of Grand Duke Vladimir and Grand Duchess Maria in St. Petersburg, at Dvortsovaya (Palace) embankment, 26. Historians are usually discussing only that the Grand Duke gave an order to fire at the peaceful demonstration of workers on 9 (22) January 1905, and that his widow Maria Pavlovna headed family plot against Emperor Nicholas II. The first book about the life and activity of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna in Russian, and a bit later in the same year in English, was issued only in 2014 (1).

The only theme that has been discussed widely in recent years is the description of a unique jewelry collection belonging to Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna. Interest in this collection grew after a sale in London at Sotheby’s in November 2009, “Romanov Heirlooms: The Lost Inheritance of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna”, where cigarette cases and cufflinks were sold.

They were packed in two pillow-cases and safely preserved in the hands of the Swedish Diplomatic service.

But analysis of the collected paintings of the grand-ducal family (2) demonstrated that the value of this treasure is as great in value as jewellery. Impeccable taste, refined eye, and high-level knowledge of art attributed to its owners were helpful in creating the collection. Moreover, Grand Duke Vladimir and Grand Duchess Maria alternately headed the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint-Petersburg for almost half a century. This position gave them opportunity to know well the main directions and events in the world of art in Russia and Europe.

¹ Korneva G., Cheboksarova T. “Velikaya Knyaginya Maria Pavlovna”. SPb. 2014; Korneva G., Cheboksarova T. “Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna”. SPb. 2014.

² Look for articles written by G. Korneva and T. Cheboksarova in issues of magazine “Khudozhestvenny Vestnik” [“Art News”] in 2016, 2017, and 2018

There can be no doubt that the grand-ducal family selected even more carefully the artists chosen to paint their own portraits and portraits of their children. Among them were well known Russian and foreign Masters: Konstantin Egorovich Makovsky (1839-1915), Boris Mikhailovich Kustodiyev (1878-1927), Lev Samuilovich Bakst (1866-1924), Stepan Fyedorovich Aleksandrovsky (1842-1906), Aleksander Mikhailovich Leontovsky (1865-1928), Ernst Karlovich von Lipgart (1847-1932), Baron Heinrich von Angeli (1840-1925), Francois Flameng (1856-1923), Albert Edelfelt (1854-1905), and Sophia Vladimirovna Khotyaintseva (1837-1891). Even in a circle of these famous artists, the name of French painter George Bekker (1845-1909) stands out. He painted a portrait of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna set in her Cabinet in their St. Petersburg Palace. This portrait has some unquestionable merits from historical, art, and other points of view. It is notable also from its financial value. Unfortunately, history of many portraits that we were able to find in files of the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA) in Saint-Petersburg is still unknown. But checking hundreds of financial documents belonging to Grand Duke Vladimir's and Grand Duchess Maria's Court, we formed a list of the portraits, figured out the names of the artists, found out dates the portraits were created, knew the sums which were given to the artists for their work, and sometimes read curious details about the contacts between consumer and executer. Letters of H. von Angeli, B. Kustodiyev, A. Edelfelt which we discovered became important sources of trusted information for us. Details from the catalogues of auction houses, materials of international conferences, good contacts with researchers of history of Romanov Dynasty, living in different countries in Europe and USA, were extremely useful also.

The reader will find information in the book about the artists – the creators of the portraits of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna – whose names were consigned to oblivion in the 20th century, but nowadays their works are highly appreciated. Collectors are now bidding for them with enthusiasm at prestigious sales.

In the 1920s and 1930s, art funds were redistributed in Russia between museums in different cities of the country and paintings were sent also to republics of former Soviet Union, where new museums were in the process of being created. In addition, part of valuable canvases was also sold to foreign collectors through dealers and auctions. Very often in such a case the portraits of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna were given new labels i.e.: "portrait of unknown... unknown artist".

Nowadays when a hundred years have already passed, it is not easy to recognize the style of a particular artist and the person he depicted. And still, some additional pictures were recently found and attributed: a portrait of Maria Pavlovna's children painted by A. Edelfelt (State Historical and Art Museum-Resort in Rybinsk), and a portrait of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna with her children created by K. Makovsky (State Museum of Art in Tashkent – Uzbekistan). We do believe that new discoveries are awaiting all of us in the future.

SPb., "Faces of Russia" - ANO RUSSIA "Faces", 2020. 204 pages. ISBN 978-5-87417-602-0

U.S. professor continues photographic legacy of Prokudin-Gorsky in new book

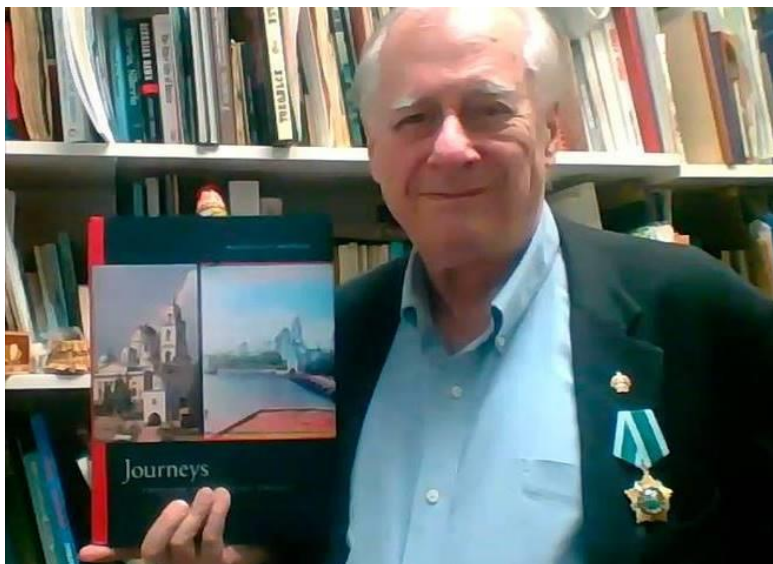
Anna Sorokina, Travel, 16 July 2020

'Journeys through the Russian Empire' reveals how the architectural heritage of an empire managed to survive from the time of Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky to the present.

William Brumfield, Professor of Slavic studies at Tulane University, photographer and *Russia Beyond* contributor has released a new book titled *Journeys through the Russian Empire: The Photographic Legacy of Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky*. The book, which took more than 20 years to put together, examines the early 20th-century work of photographer Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky in comparison with Brumfield's documentary photography several decades later.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Russian photographer and chemist Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky developed a pioneering method for capturing color images on glass plates. Under the patronage of Tsar Nicholas II, he travelled across the country taking shots of the cultural diversity of Imperial Russia, from the western borderlands to the Volga River, the Ural Mountains, Siberia and Central Asia. After the Bolshevik Revolution, Prokudin-Gorsky left Russia in 1918 and resettled in France, where he was reunited with his collection of photographic negatives. In 1948, the U.S. Library of Congress purchased the collection from his descendants. The collection has now been digitized and is freely available to the public.

William Brumfield has devoted years of effort to study and present the Prokudin-Gorsky collection to a worldwide public. Starting 1985, he curated the first exhibition of Prokudin-Gorsky's photographs at The Library of Congress in Washington, DC. He subsequently annotated the collection for the World Digital Library project. Brumfield especially valued the extensive support of Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress from 1987 to 2015. "Dr. Billington used to say that the main goal of a library was 'to get the champagne out of the bottle'. I totally agree with that sentiment, and I have greatly benefited from the cooperation of colleagues at *Russia Beyond* in spreading the word about Prokudin-Gorsky's remarkable work."



As a leading American specialist in Russian architecture, as well as a distinguished photographer, Brumfield has been visiting Russia since 1970. For five decades he has studied and documented Russia's architectural landmarks, from the ancient monasteries of the North to modernist architecture in Moscow, from industrial towns in the Urals to small wooden villages. (You can read about his travels in *Russia Beyond's* *Discovering Russia* section). Ann Kleimola, specialist in medieval Russian history, has noted: "William Craft Brumfield's work is a major catalyst for making people aware of the richness of Russian culture. Journeys through the Russian Empire is an innovative book and an invaluable resource for coming generations of cultural historians".

While working with the Prokudin-Gorsky collection, Brumfield realized that many of his own journeys followed in the footsteps of the Imperial Russian photographer. As a result, he conceived of a project to compare his photographs of architectural landmarks with those taken by Prokudin-Gorsky several decades — even a century-earlier.

Brumfield noted: "The core of my new book consists of eight 'journeys' in which I compare Prokudin-Gorsky's photographs with my own. All the journeys are fascinating, but I am particularly drawn to the final two. Journey Seven juxtaposes Prokudin-Gorsky's photographs of Samarkand and Bukhara (a part of the Russian Empire then known as Turkestan) with my views taken in 1972 during a fantastical trip arranged by Leningrad University at the end of my year there as a graduate student. And the final journey includes the mystical site of the Transfiguration Monastery on Great Solovetsky Island, photographed by Prokudin-Gorsky in 1916 and again during my trips in the late 1990s. How much history — often tragic — hovers over that interval!"

This large-format book, 520 pages in length, contains some 400 stunning full-colour images of ancient churches, towns, and landscapes taken by two great explorers, who have preserved so much of Russian culture through their photography.

Under the Hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Millon, Paris, France, July 10

Nicolas II (1868-1918). Color lithograph depicting the last Emperor of Russia in uniform of the hussar regiment riding a dapple gray horse in an entourage of flowers and palm leaves, titled in Russian "His Imperial Majesty the Sovereign Emperor Nicolas Alexandrovich Autocrat of All Russia".

Engraved in Moscow on May 17, 1897 by M.T. Soloviev in Dolgorukovskaya Street. Mounted under a green neo-russian style mat. H. 41 x L. 28 cm. Frame: H. 57 x L. 45 cm.
Estimated price: € 300 - € 500

Gelatin silver print depicting the visit of Emperor Nicholas II to the automobile company in 1913, in Saint Petersburg. Unit created on May 29, 1910. Training officers of all arms can be seen in their uniforms. The Emperor is in hussar of the guard. The company is commanded by Colonel P.I. Sekretev, second to the right of the Emperor, after W.A. Sukhomlinov, Minister of War. On the left, in the second row, the Grand Duke Nicolas Nikolaïevich with, in front of him, General Y.G. Jilinski, then Chief of the General Staff. Framed. H. 32 x L. 48 cm (at sight).
Estimated price: € 300 - € 500

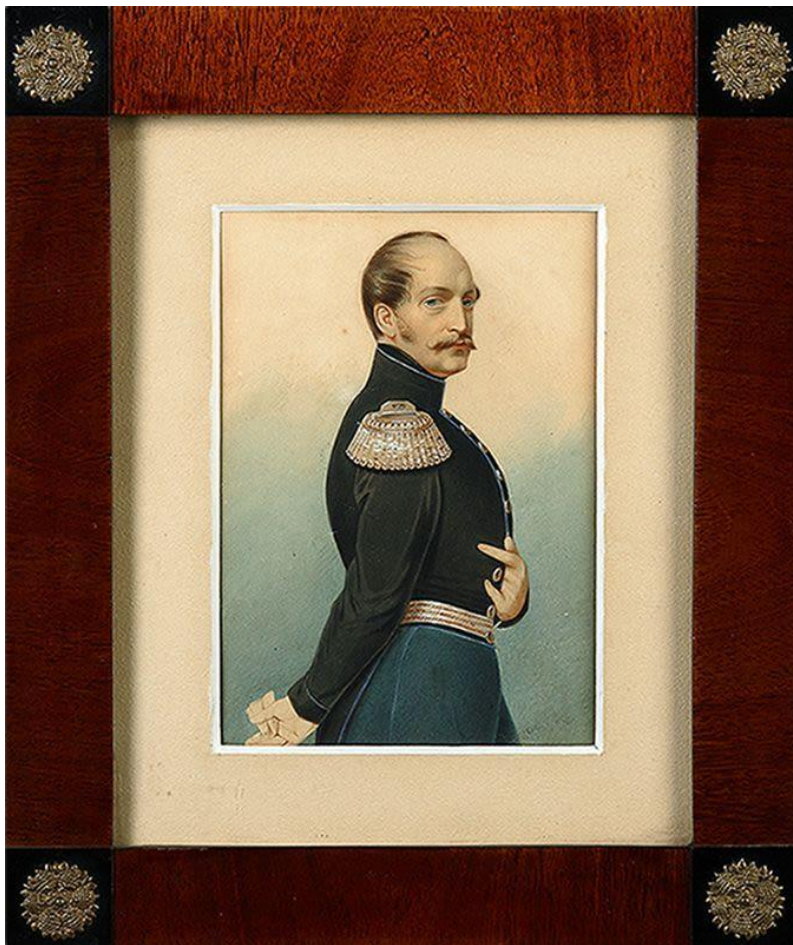


The reception of Nicolas II at the Hôtel de Ville in Paris in 1896. French school around 1900. Brown wash heightened with white gouache on paper, signed lower left "Mallbrun?"
 Tsar Nicolas II and Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna alongside Félix Faure appearing on the staircase of the central courtyard of the Town Hall in October 1896.
 Framed, with a legend on the back. H. 21.5 x L. 28 cm (at sight).
 Estimated price: € 300 - € 500



Prince Félix Youssoupoff (1887-1967) - Gold dog medal engraved on the obverse Prince Youssoupoff's figure "Y" under a princely crown, in a blue enamelled circle. The reverse engraved in French "Prince / Youssoupoff / 19 rue de la / Tourelle / Boulogne s / Seine", the address of the Youssoupoff couple between 1920 and 1939. French work around 1920-1930, without apparent hallmark.
 Gross weight: 2.4 g. D. 1.5 cm.
 Estimated price: € 600 - € 800





**Three Centuries, Moscow, Russia,
July 22,**

"Portrait of Emperor Nicholas I", the first half of the XIX century. Watercolor on paper. Size in light 18 x 12 cm. Decorated in a frame.
Estimated price: 120,000 - 140,000 Roubles

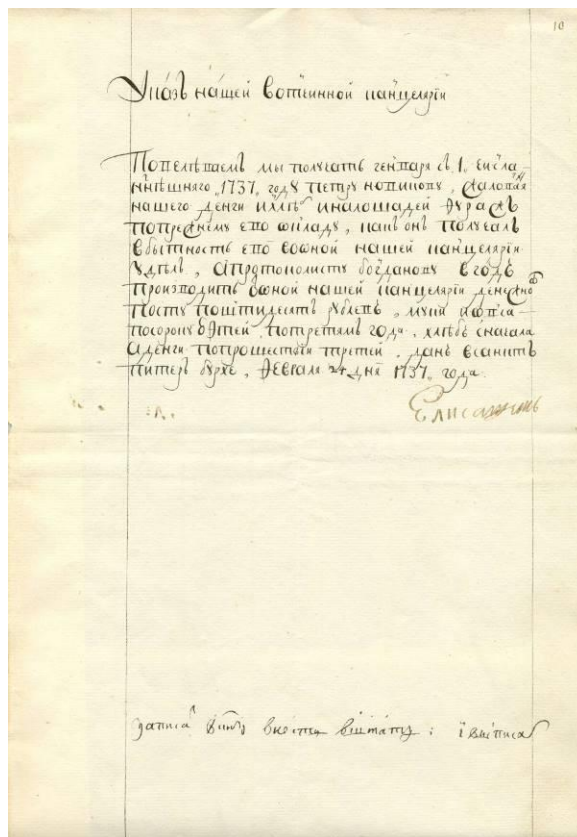
**International Autograph Auctions,
Malaga, Spain, July 23**

Peter II (1715-1730) Emperor of Russia 1727-30. Grandson of Emperor Peter the Great. Orphaned at the age of two, his mother died ten days after giving birth and his father, imprisoned by his own father Peter the Great, died in prison in 1718. When Peter the Great died in 1725 he was succeeded on the throne by his second wife, Catherine I who also died two years after, leaving the eleven years old Peter, although ignored and kept till then in seclusion, as the only male-line grandson of Peter

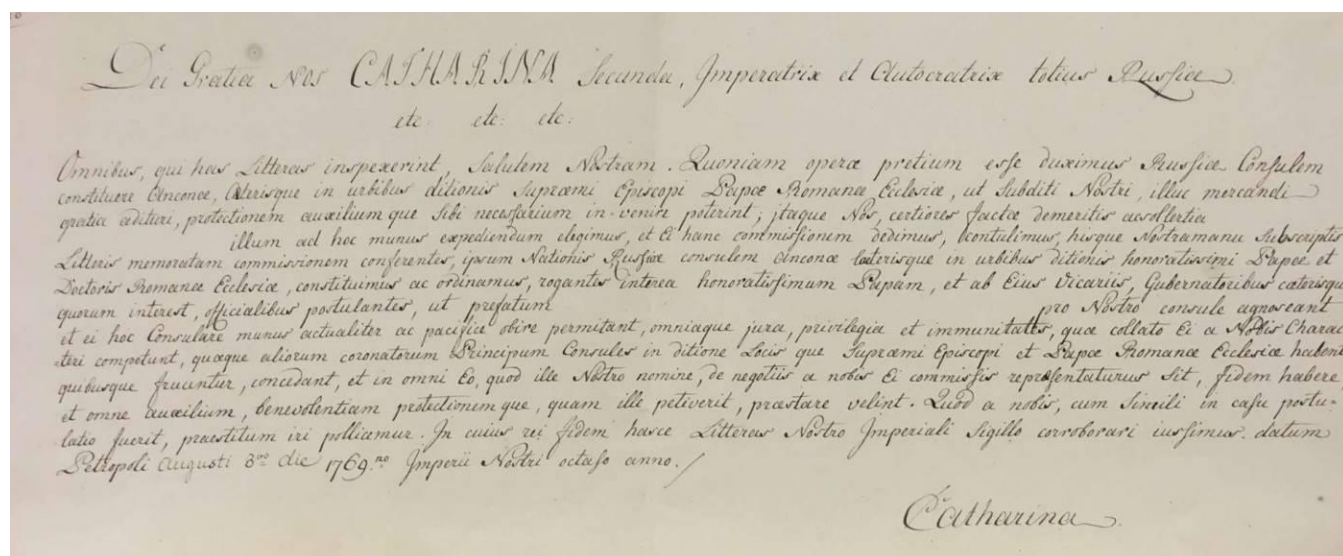
the Great. Peter II reigned as Emperor of all Russias only for two years and half and died at the very early age of 14. Extremely rare, signed on behalf of the Emperor, one page, vellum, oblong 4to, Saint Petersburg, 23rd August 1728, to Ivan Maslov, in Cyrillic.
The partially printed document being a decree according to which Officer Ivan Maslov is promoted to the rank of General. The order states 'By God-s Will We, Peter II, Imperator of the whole Russia. Everyone to acknowledge the fact and to demonstrate to Ivan Maslov the proper respect. We expect and anticipate that in his new rank as General he will continue to act as appropriate to his new position. As a proof of this Decree, this document is signed and notarized with our Country's Seal.' Signed on behalf of Peter II in his capacity as Emperor and Autocrat of all Russias by Duke Grigoriev and Stepan Ignatiev, the Emperor being only twelve years old. With remnants of a former seal at the base.
Estimated price: € 1,500 - € 2,000

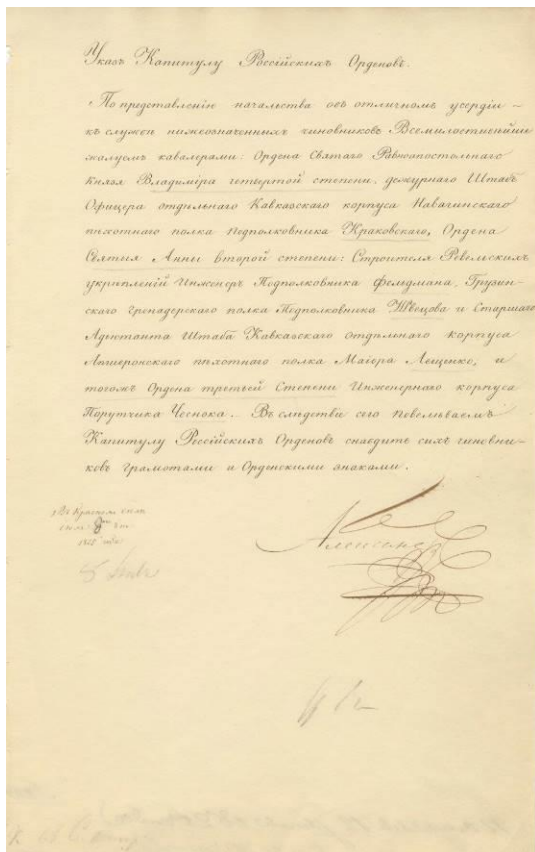


Elizabeth I (1709-1762) Empress of Russia 1741-62. One page, folio, Saint Petersburg, 24th January 1737, in Cyrillic. The manuscript document is a Decree to the Patrimonial Chancery, instructing that attention to Piotr Novikov's horses has to be maintained and that the same money he was receiving when he was working for the chancery as salary has to be paid in future. Further also instructing that the sum of 150 roubles has to be paid annually to the notary Bogdanov, as well as 800 kilos of flour and oat every four months, first the flour at the beginning of each period and after, at the end of each period, the money.
Estimated price: € 1,000 - € 1,500

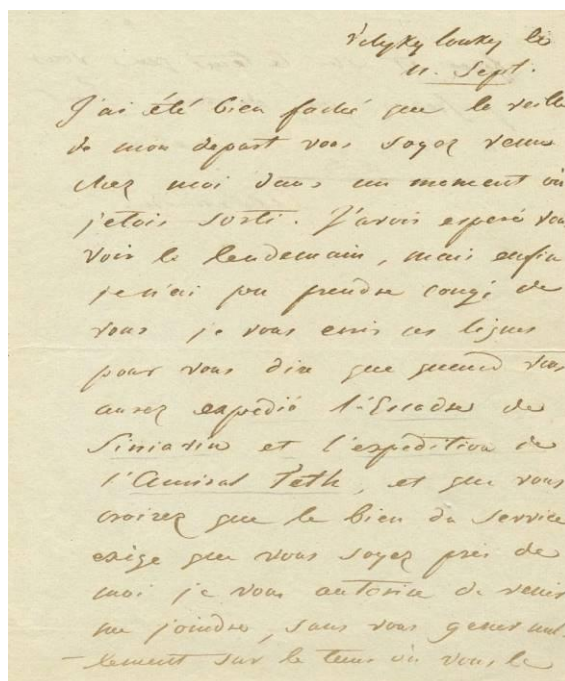


Catherine II the Great (1762-1796) Empress of Russia 1762-96. An excellent and very attractive D.S., 'Ekaterina', in Cyrillic, a bold and good signature example, one large page, oblong 15 x 21 folio, Saint Petersburg, 8th August 1769, in Cyrillic. The document bears to the front a splendid and very large paper seal with coat of Imperial arms and is signed by the 'Empress and Sovereign of All Russias..', being a title given, appointing a representative to the Pope Clemens XIV, who will carry out his duties from the Russian consulate established in the port city of Ancona on the Adriatic Sea. Countersigned at the base by Prince Alexander Golitsyn. It is likely that this appointment was postponed or cancelled, the name of the diplomat having never been completed. It was probably part of a political strategy of Catherine II who, after the occupation of Poland, had waited only a spark to launch a war of expansion against Turkey, under the false pretext of providing help to Christians against the unbelievers. It will be done in September 1768, and the port of Ancona, natural gate to Turkey, will serve as a base for the Russian fleet already installed in the Mediterranean Sea. In 1771, Russia will seize Crimea and the Turks will finally sign peace in 1774. Accompanied by an official contemporary translation into Latin, attached to main document signed by Catherine II. Prince Alexander Golitsyn (1718-1783) Russian Marshal and Diplomat. Governor of Saint Petersburg. One of the main Russian military leaders involved in the war against Turks.
Estimated price: € 3,000 - € 4,000





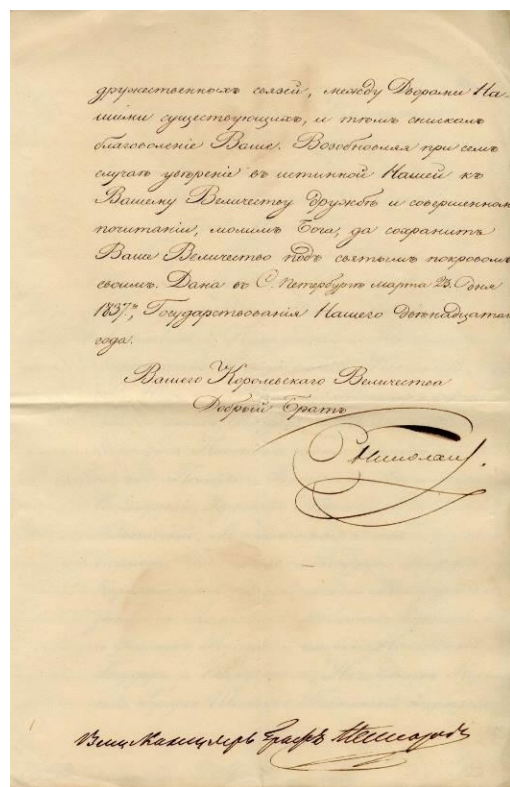
Alexander I (1777-1825) Emperor of Russia 1801-25. L.S., a good signature example with large flourish, one page, folio, Krasnoye Selo, Saint Petersburg, 8th July 1825, in Cyrillic. The document being a decree to the Chapter of Russian Imperial and Royal Orders, to issue insignias and credentials to several Lieutenant Colonels, bestowing them Knights with the Order of Saint Grand Prince Vladimir or the Imperial Order of Saint Anna. The present document is signed only four months before Alexander I passed away. Estimated price: € 800 - € 1,200



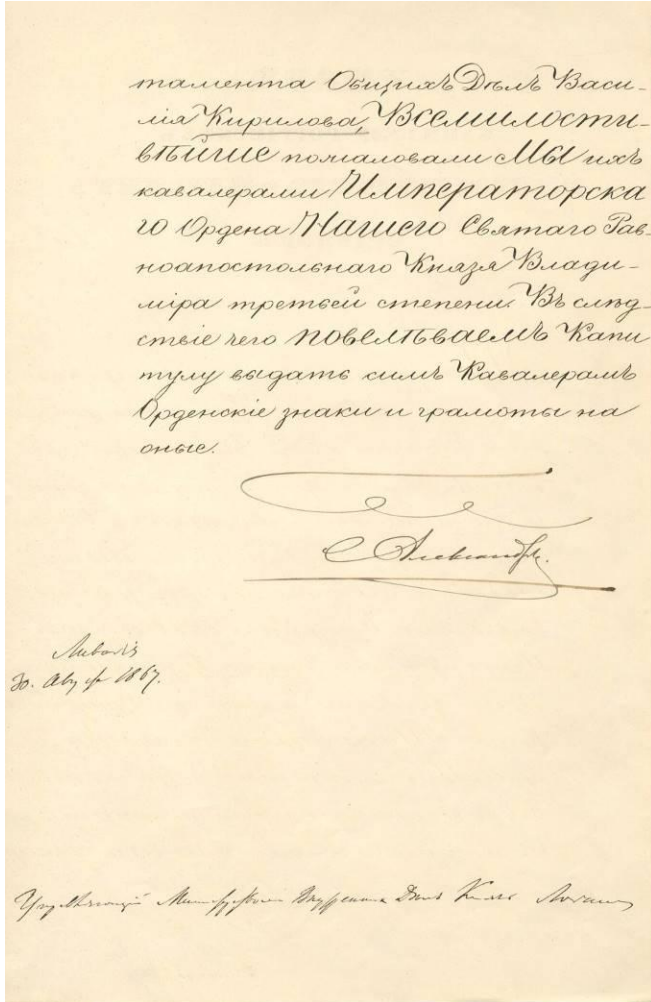
Alexander I (1777-1825) Emperor of Russia 1801-25. Rare A.L.S., Alexander, two pages, 11th September, [1804/05], to an unidentified correspondent, in French. The Tsar states in part 'I am quite crossed learning that the day before my departure you came to see me at home while I was away. I was hoping to see you the day after..' further saying '..I write to you these lines to tell you that when you will dispatch the Siniatin squadron under Admiral Teth, and once you consider that for the best of the service and duty you should be close to me, I authorize you to join me, at your ease regarding the time you will do so and the time you will spend close to me.' Paper bearing a J. Honig & Zoonen watermark.

Estimated price: € 2,000 - € 3,000

Nicholas I: (1796-1855) Emperor of Russia 1825-55. L.S., a good and bold signature example, three pages, folio, Saint Petersburg, 23rd March 1837, to His Majesty the King of Naples, in Cyrillic. The manuscript letter informs the King, 'Our Dear Brother and Friend. After having accepted the petition received from our Privy Councillor, Chamberlain and Cavalier Count Adam Matushevits, who is residing now at the Court of Your Majesty as our Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister, we relieve him from his duty and Envoy.' Countersigned at the foot by Karl Nesselrode. Accompanied by the original envelope wrapper bearing a large Imperial paper seal. Ferdinand II (1810-1859) King of the Two Sicilies 1830-59.



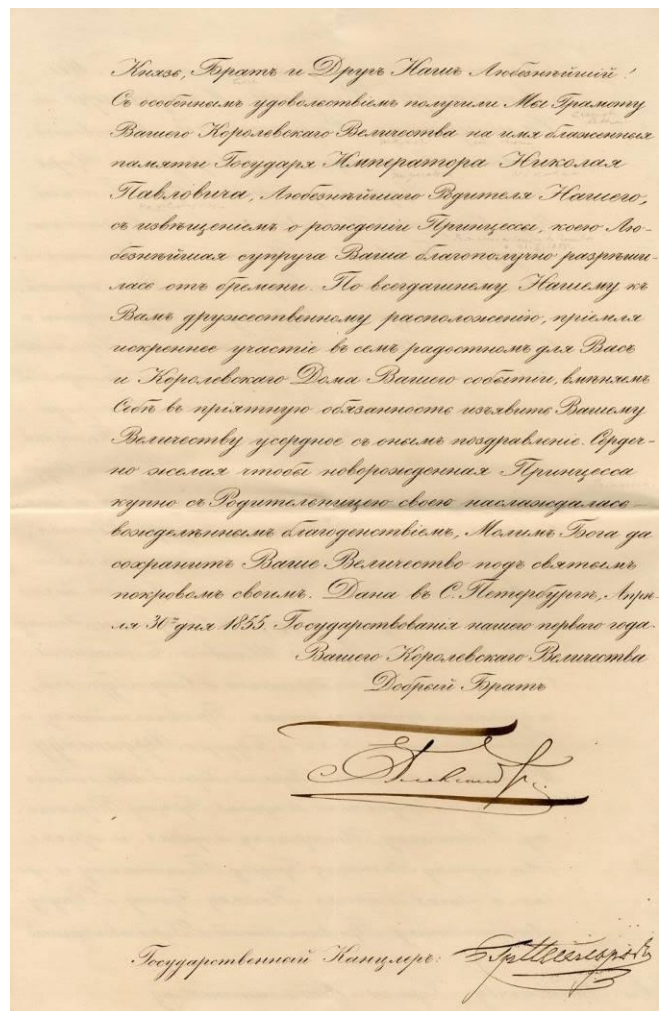
Karl Nesselrode (1780-1862) Russian Count and Diplomat. Foreign Affairs Minister 1816-56.
Nesselrode served under Tsars Alexander I, Nicholas I and Alexander II.
Estimated price: € 1,000 - € 1,500

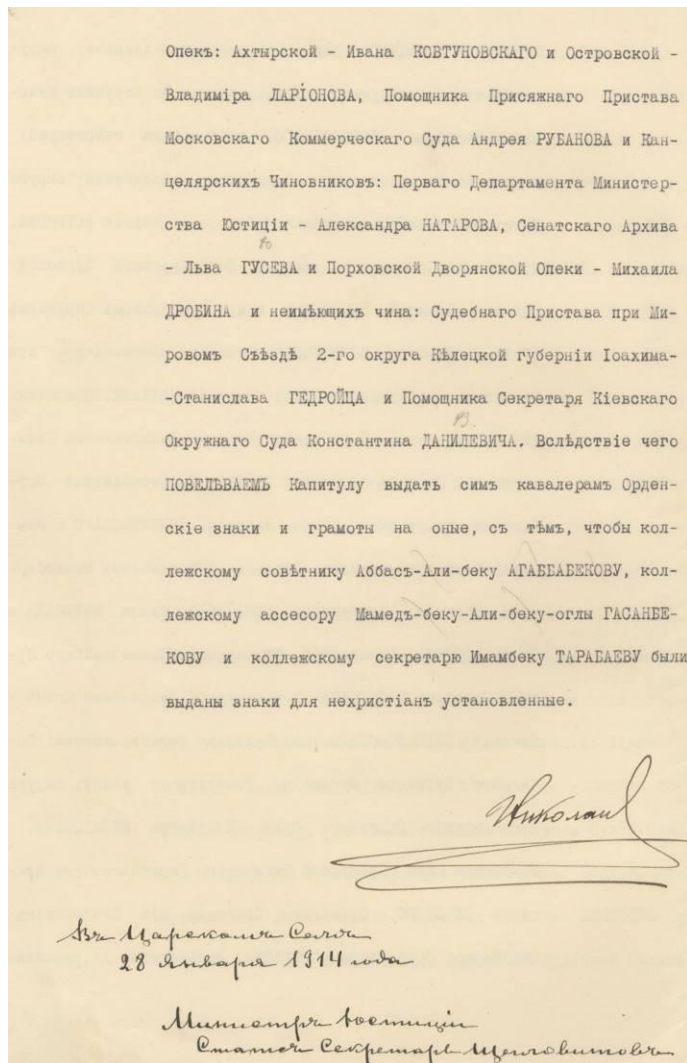


Alexander II (1818-1881) Emperor of Russia 1855-81. Assassinated. A good and bold signature example, two pages, folio, Saint Petersburg, 30th April 1855, "On the first year of our reign", to King Ferdinand II, in Cyrillic. Alexander II as Emperor and Autocrat of all Russias congratulates his correspondent stating 'We have received a letter from Your Majesty addressed to the Emperor Nicholas Pavlovich of blessed memory, our dear father, in which You inform that Your spouse gave birth to a Princess'. Countersigned at the bottom of the second page, beneath the Tsar's signature, by State Chancellor Nesselrode. With blank integral leaf. Accompanied by the original envelope, addressed to King Ferdinand II, with an extensive presentation in Cyrillic, and bearing a large paper seal affixed.

Ferdinand II (1810-1859) King of the Two Sicilies 1830-59. He succeeded his father Francis I at the early age of twenty. Princess Maria Luisa of Bourbon-Two Sicilies (1855-1874) Youngest daughter of King Ferdinand II of the Two Sicilies and Maria Theresa of Austria. Princess Maria Luisa was known for her charity to the poor. The Princess died at the very early age of 19 shortly after her return from Egypt suffering high fever. Karl Nesselrode (1780-1862) Russian Count and Diplomat.
Estimated price: € 800 - € 1,200

Alexander II (1818-1881) Emperor of Russia 1855-81. Assassinated. Two pages, folio, Livadia, 30th August 1867, to Fedor Beklemishev, Karl Schumacher and Vasily Kirilov, in Cyrillic. The partially printed document is a decree according to which Alexander II as Emperor and Autocrat of all Russias bestow the Order of Saint Grand Prince Vladimir to the first, and the Imperial Order of Saint Anna to the second and third, for their dedicated services.
Estimated price: € 800 - € 1,200



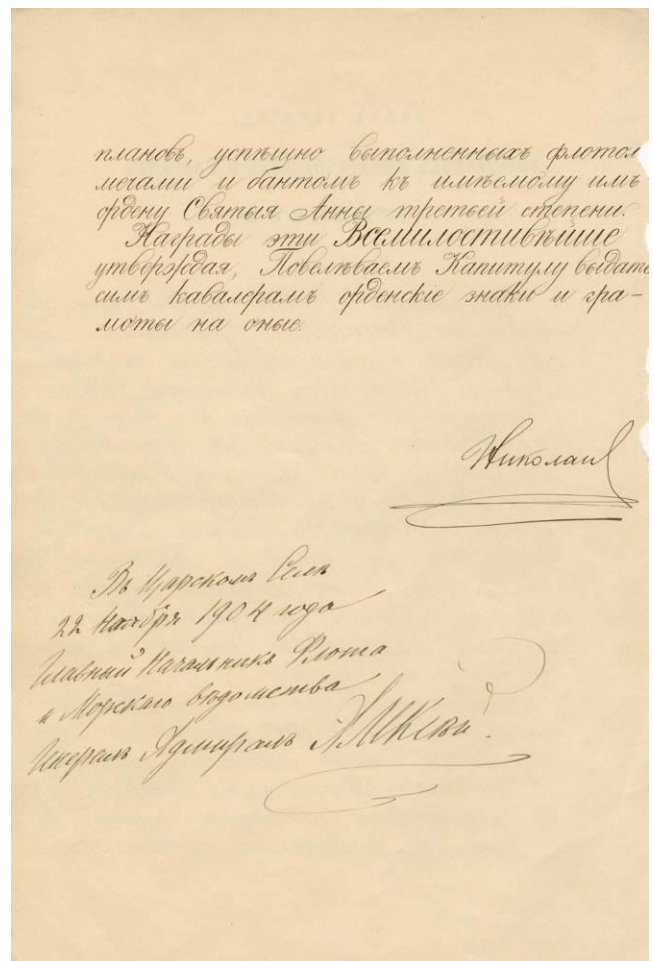


Nicholas II: (1868-1918) Emperor of Russia 1894-1917. Assassinated. Two pages, folio, Tsarskoye Selo, 22nd November 1904, in Cyrillic.

The partially printed document is a decree addressed to the Chapter of Russian Imperial and Royal Orders bestowing three imperial orders, including the Imperial Order of Saint Anna, second class, with swords, in favour of Lieutenant-Colonel, General of Staff and Pacific Ocean Fleet Commander-in-Chief Nikolai Aycard, for his dedicated service in Port Arthur. Two further Orders of Saint Anna and Saint Vladimir are granted to officers Voskresensky and Klado for their tactical plan's achievements and war time efforts. Nicholas II orders the Chapter to issue in favour of the awarded officers the knights' insignias and credentials. Countersigned by Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich `Aleksei`, in Cyrillic, Commander-in-Chief and General Admiral of the Navy.

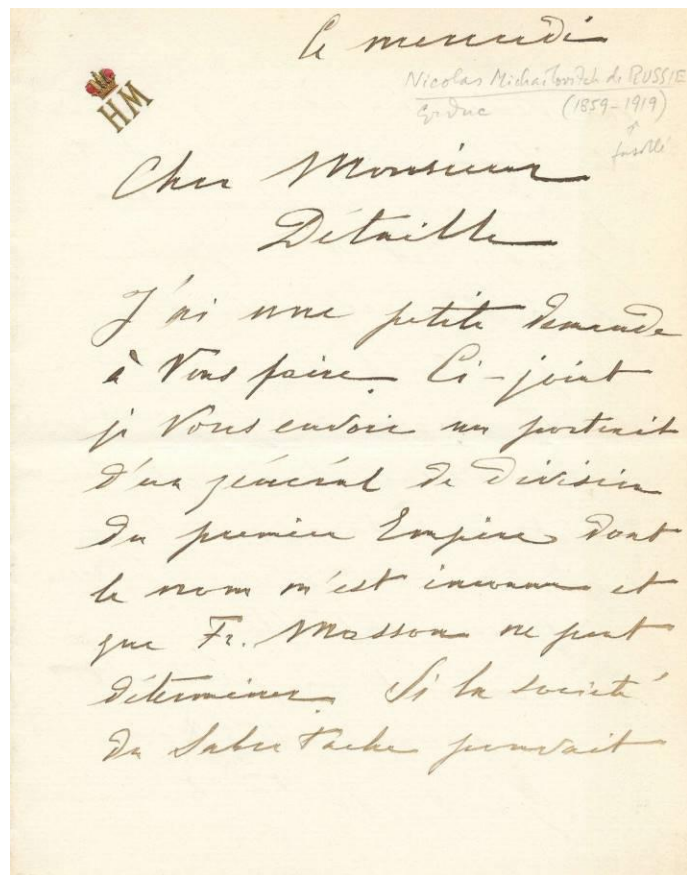
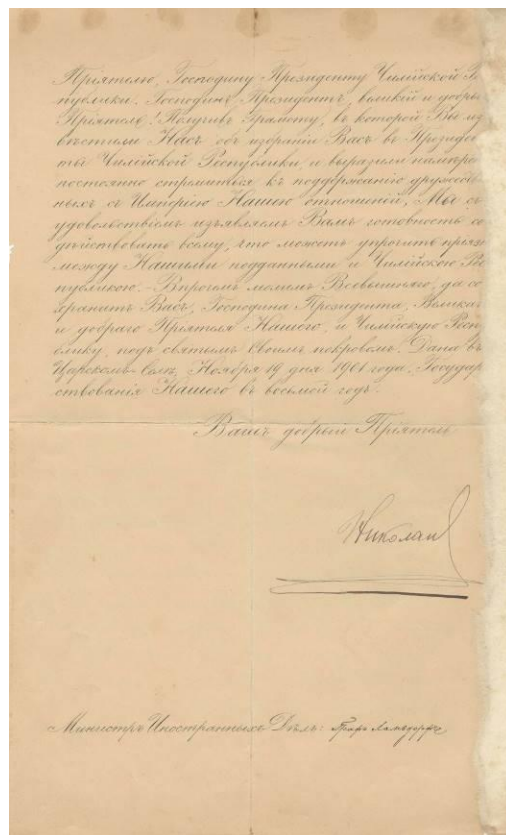
Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich of Russia (1850-1908) son of Tsar Alexander II of Russia and Marie of Hesse. General-Admiral of the Russian Navy from 1883 until 1905. Well-remembered for his visit to U.S and for his buffalo hunts, Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich was the favourite uncle of Nicholas II. He was relieved of his command in 1905, six months after signing the present decree, after the Russian defeat in the Battle of Tsushima. He retired and lived in Paris until his death three years later. Estimated price: € 1,200 - € 2,000

Nicholas II: (1868-1918) Emperor of Russia 1894-1917. Assassinated. Fifty-four pages, folio, Tsarskoye Selo, 28th January 1914, in Cyrillic. The clean document being a decree to the Chapter of Russian Imperial and Royal Orders, which according to the testimony of the Minister of Justice, bestow Imperial and Royal Orders to an extensive number of civilian people, granting different award such as the Order of the White Eagle or Knight insignias. Addressed to Minister and Secretary of state Shcheglovitov. Estimated price: € 1,200 - € 1,800



NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA: (1868-1918) Emperor of Russia 1894-1917. Assassinated. Two pages, folio, Tsarskoye Selo, 19th November 1901, to the President of Chile, in Cyrillic. On a letter bearing the printed heading "By the Grace of God, We Nicholas the Second, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias", the Tsar congratulates his correspondent for his Presidency election, stating 'We have received the letter in which you inform Us that you have been elected President of the Republic of Chile, and express your commitment to the maintenance of friendly relationships with Our Empire. We are pleased to express Our willingness to contribute to everything that can strengthen the affection between our subjects and the Republic of Chile. God bless you' At the base, copy to Count Lamsdorf. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

German Riesco Errazuriz (1854-1916) President of Chile 1901-06. Count Vladimir Lamsdorf (1845-1907) Russian statesman of Baltic descent who served as Foreign Minister of the Russian Empire 1900-06 a crucial period which included the Russo-Japanese War and the Russian Revolution.
Estimated price: € 1,500 - € 2,000



Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich (1859-1919, grandson of Tsar Nicholas I. Nicholas was an eminent Historian and a Reformist, internationally recognized abroad, but fell from favour under Tsar Nicholas II, mostly because of the Empress Alexandra disliking his liberal views. Nicholas Mikhailovich was shot by Bolsheviks outside the St Peter & St Paul Fortress along with his brother and cousins. An excellent A.L.S., 'Nicolas M', three pages, Wednesday, n.d., to Monsieur Detaille, in French. The letter bears an attractive embossed gilt crown to the heading. The Grand Duke states in part 'I have a small request for you. I send you attached a portrait of a General of Division of the first Empire whose name I ignore and which Fr. Masson cannot determine. I am not at all in a hurry and kindly asks you to delay the shipment of the portrait..' and further saying 'Regarding the Bonaparte's portrait painted by Gros, I will try to send it to you as soon as possible and I will take care of this matter as soon as I will be back in Russia.'

Edouard Detaille (1848-1912) French Painter and Military Artist, noted for his precision and realistic detail. Frederic Masson (1847-1923) French Historian. Antoine-Jean Gros (1771-1835) Baron Gros. French neoclassical Painter. Gros studied under Jacques-Louis David. Forced to leave France, he moved to Genoa where he witnessed the nearby Battle of Arcole in 1796. Inspired by an event during the battle, he produced the portrait of French Commander Napoleon Bonaparte, then a newly promoted general. The portrait brought Gros to public attention and gained the patronage of Napoleon.
Estimated price: € 200 - € 300

Nicholas II (1868-1918) Emperor of Russia 1894-1917, & Alexei Nicholaevich (1904-1918) Tsarevich of Russia. Both assassinated. 7.5 x 5.5 photograph, 17th March 1917, the image showing the Tsar and Tsarevich in full length poses, dressed in military uniform, saluting the troops when leaving the staff church at Tsarkaya Stavka (Army Headquater) on the Russian front. A year before their assassinations. Estimated price: € 400 - € 600



HELIOS, New York, USA, July 26

WWI photograph depicting the Russian Emperor Nicholas II and Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich (the seated figure depicted on the right of the Tsar). Dimensions: 6 3/8 x 4 1/2 in., (16.3 x 11.4 cm.) Estimated price: 300 \$ -400 \$





Gorod Myz SPB, St. Petersburg, Russia, July 24

Photo of Empress Maria Feodorovna on the garden path during her visit to Abas-Tuman, 1896. Size 29.9 x 24 cm. From TsGAKFFD St. Petersburg. On the reverse side in the lower right corner there is a stamp "Centre. state archive / cinema-photo-phonodocuments / REPLACEMENT / NOT SUBJECT "

Maria Feodorovna (at birth Maria Sophia Frederica Dagmar) - Russian Empress, wife of Alexander III, mother of the last Emperor Nicholas II. Daughter of Christian, Prince of Glucksburg, later Christian IX, King of Denmark.

Start price: 3,000 Roubles

Photo of Emperor Nicholas II (left) in the Crimea. With Prince George of Greece and Grand Duke George Mikhailovich, 1907. Photographer K.E. von Hahn.

Size 30.5x24 cm.

Start price: 3,000 Roubles



Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 3

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna (1882-1960).

The tea table is ready. Sign. Olga 1949. Watercolor on paper mounted in mat. Dimensions 33 x 42.
Estimate 12,000–15,000 Dkk.

