

Romanov News 75

By Paul Kulikovsky

July 2014



Commemorations of the Holy Royal Martyrs

By Paul Kulikovsky

In many churches, particular in Russia, but also abroad, was on 16th, 17th and 18th of July commemorated the Holy Royal Martyrs. The biggest event was as usual in Yekaterinburg, where this year came about 30.000 people.



In Yekaterinburg, was the Holy Royal Martyrs commemorated in Divine Liturgy in the night from 16 to 17 July 2014 on the square in front of the Cathedral-on-Blood led by the head of the Metropolitan Vincent of Tashkent and Uzbekistan, concelebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturys, Metropolitan Nikon of Ufa and Sterlitamak, several Bishops, and numerous clergy of Yekaterinburg diocese and other dioceses of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Under pouring rain, tens of thousands of faithful were addressed with pastoral word before the Liturgy by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg.

"Today is a special day in the life of our country, our whole country commits birthday celebration abbot of the Russian Land, St. Sergius of Radonezh. And today, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill held a procession in honor of St. Sergius. And we, God forbid, go through the "royal" procession to the monastery in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs. For us it is very important to reveal a real fraternal Christian unity. And these two procession should lead to the triumph of Orthodoxy, so that we again feel like a God-bearing people, for which the Orthodox faith is the main asset of life, "- said Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturys referring to believers.



During the singing was proclaiming "Eternal Memory" of the servants of the royal family, who went with them into death on the night of 16 to 17 July 1918.

After the litany was prayed for peace in the Ukraine. At the funeral litany was also commemorated the newly-reposed Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev and All Ukraine, the servants of the royal family, victims of fratricidal turmoil in Ukraine, and for the passengers who died in the recent accident in the Moscow metro.

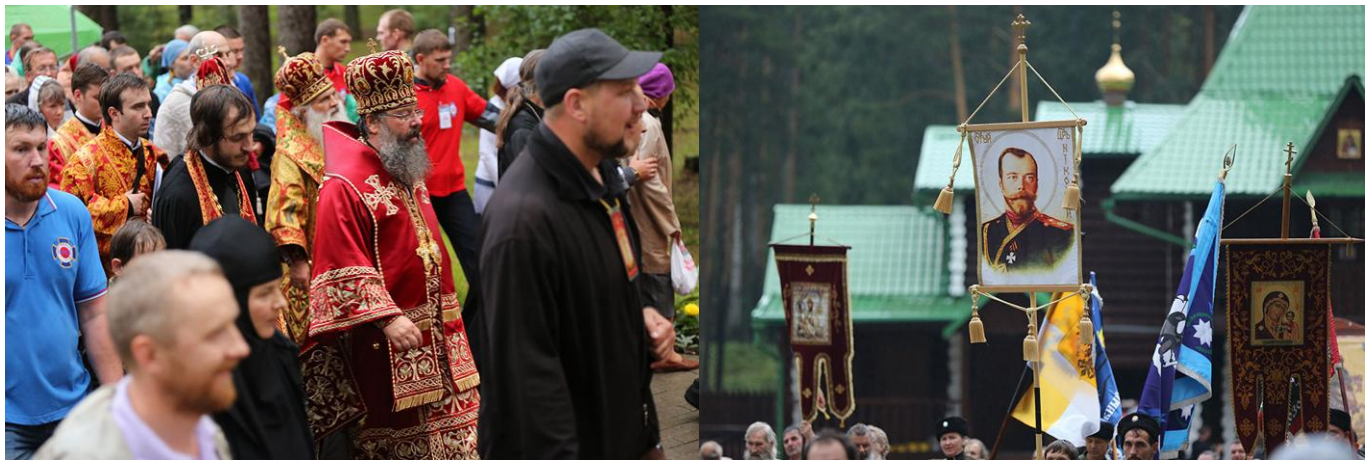


All of the Bishops at the Divine Liturgy . Olga Nicholaievna Kulikovskiy-Romanov attending the Divine Liturgy

After the Divine Liturgy, at night, started the traditional 21-kilometer procession from the Church on the Spilled Blood to the monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs at Ganina pit - the same way the slain martyrs went in 1918. About 30,000 pilgrims participated in the about 5 hours long procession. The procession was accompanied by 25 mobile groups of mercy, which could provide the necessary assistance.



From "inside" the procession. Anna Gromova, chairman of the Elisabeth-Sergey Education Society in the procession. The two above photos by Lyudmila Shumskaya



Before entering the monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs at Ganina pit was organized field kitchen, where the faithful could get a hot meal, near the entrance to the monastery were established five tents as resting places, and at the disposal of the pilgrims were free buses to the train station Shuvakish.



At the Ganina pit was made Lithany and Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg addressed the pilgrims; "The common prayer procession that brings us here, brings as well as the divine liturgy in which we partake of the Holy Mysteries, makes us blood relatives, because the blood of Christ enters our life. This procession brings us at least once a year together. I would like to bow to all of you for the work you have done. We will continue to be strengthened in the faith and always honor the memory of those who gave their lives for our salvation, for the state of our people in the faith, for the fact that we now live and glorify the name of God, and remember those whom we owe our lives and everything we have".



In Moscow



16 July, in Novospassky Monastery, on the eve of Remembrance Day of the Holy Royal Martyrs - Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, Tsarevich Alexis, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia - Bishop Savva conducted Vigil.

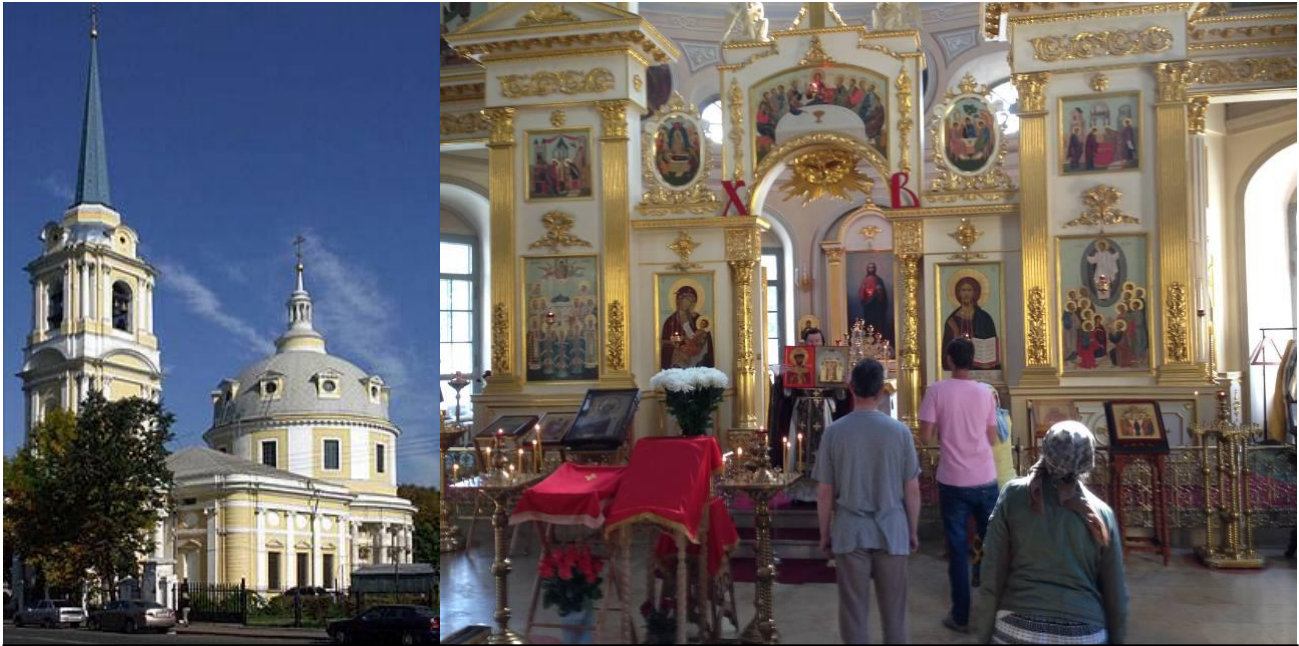
The worship started in the Transfiguration Cathedral, and continued in the courtyard of the monastery. Referring to the faithful with a brief pastoral word, the Lord said that the so-called Italian yard in 1918 became a place of executions. "Here in this place, drenched with almost a hundred years ago, today we lift up prayers to Regal Martyrs - Tsar Nicholas, his wife Alexandra and their children, as well as to the entire Cathedral Russian new martyrs and confessors. God have mercy on us". In the end was read akathist Saint Regal Martyrs.



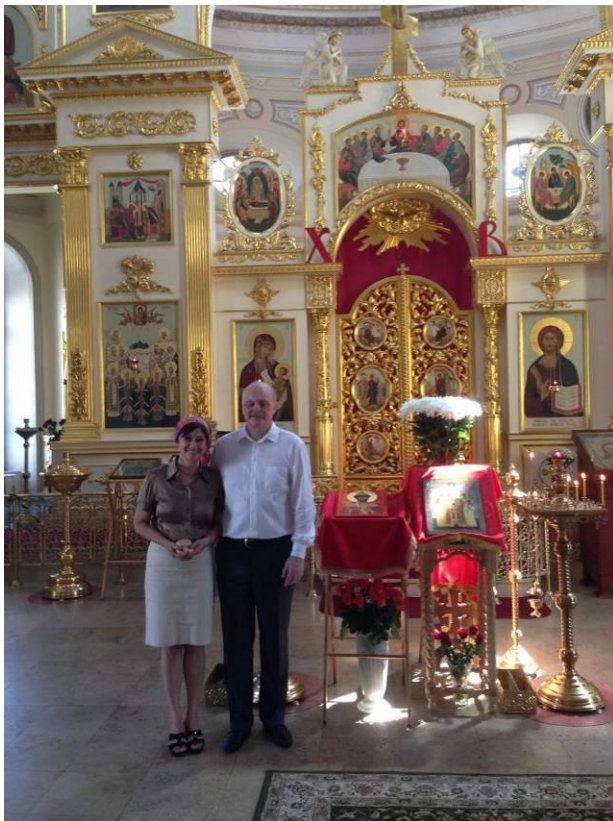
The next day in the church of St. Romanos the Melodist Monk, in the crypt of the Romanov Boyars, in the monastery was Divine Liturgy led by Bishop Savva and commemoration of Saint Regal Martyrs.



In the Church of Ascension on the field Gorokhov, in Moscow, was Divine Liturgy led by Archpriest Vasily Golovanov, followed by moleben, with a cross procession around the church in the middle of the moleben. Before the moleben was sung "God Save the Tsar", led by the singer Jeanne Bichevskaja. Ludmila and I were praying here with other faithful. The church is next to the manor of Count Razumovsky and was originally belonging to his estate in Basmany district. Built in 1788-1793 by architect Matvei Fedorovich Kazakov.



Above - The Church of Ascension on the field Gorokhov. Archpriest Vasily Golovanov with the icons of St. Tsar Nicholas II and the Holy Royal Martyrs.
Below - Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky at the icons of the Holy Royal Martyrs. At the icon of St. Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna was also lit candles.



In St. Petersburg

On the Griboyedov Canal Embankment, Orthodox monarchists gathered for a cross procession and prayer at the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood.

Video - http://piter.tv/event/krestnij_hod_1/



The annual religious procession "Royal Route" in commemoration of the New Martyrs and Confessors Russian, took place in St. Petersburg and the surrounding area from 12 to 18 July 2014.

The Royal Route passed the places associated with the life of the Royal Martyrs: from the fortress participants procession went to Kronstadt, Peterhof, Strelna, Gatchina and then to Feodorovsky in Tsarskoye Selo. During procession were prayers and at stops at churches was committed vigils and Liturgy.

On the night of July 17, the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Sovereign Feodorovsky was headed by Bishop Markel of Tsarskoye Selo. In his address to the faithful Bishop Markel said that "as 2000 years ago in the Holy Land, damning sin of betrayal occurred in Russia a century ago. As Christ was alone, and the Russian Tsar Nicholas II was left alone. We can say there is no past, no present, we live in the same time. We must remember the lessons of this time and learn from his example of courage."

In Krasnodar

In Krasnodar believers walked from the Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky, along the main street, to the park named after Zhukov. Many were holding pictures of the monarch, his wife and children. Near the chapel was held a memorial prayer.

Video - <http://9tv.ru/news/item/49060>



Ural Cossacks was bringing an icon of the Holy Royal Martyrs to Livadia



On the anniversary of the death of the family of Russian Emperor Ural Cossacks carried an icon of the Holy Royal Martyrs in procession to Livadia Palace in Yalta. The icon is made and delivered by donations from Ganina Yama, where it was blessed by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye. The icon depicts Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra Feodorovna and their five children - Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Tsarevich Alexei, all shot in Yekaterinburg. "The Tsarevich Alexei - this is the last Supreme Ataman of all Cossacks Russia, We honor the entire royal family," - said Alexey chieftain of Verkhnyaya Stepantsov. Kuban Cossacks accompanied them to the Kerch ferry, where the waiting time for motorists now reaches 40 hours for going to Crimea.

Video - <http://itar-tass.com/ural-news/1324183>

In Mogilev was consecrated a church in honor of the Royal Passion Bearers

Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, Metropolitan of Minsk and Slutsk Paul performed the great consecration of the church in honor of the Royal martyrs, and the martyrs and confessors of the Russian Church in Mogilev. Concelebrated by His Eminence Bishop of Mogilev and Mstislav Sophronius, Archimandrite Anthony (Doronin), Archpriest Gennady Patsevich, Archpriest Andrey Kuptsov, and Archpriest Sergei Belous.



After the consecration of the church Bishop Paul and his clergy concelebrating the Divine Liturgy in the newly consecrated church.

Then Bishop Paul awarded rector Archpriest Serge Belous, Chairman of the Mogilev city executive committee Vladimir Tsumareva and builders of the church awards and certificates of the Patriarchal Exarch.

In addition was opened the exhibition "Imperial Family", which will be permanently on display at the building located next to the church. The exhibition shows the spiritual beauty of the Holy Royal Passion Bearers and the example of the family of Emperor Nicholas II, in which all its members, parents and five children, canonized, manifest ideal Christian family, which is so necessary in today's world. The exhibition consists of a large number of photographs, reproductions of paintings and text material from diaries, eyewitnesses and historical research of the Holy Royal Martyrs.



Royal procession in Kiev was banned

On July 17 at the walls of the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra, near the entrance to the museum part of the Lavra, where usually people gathers for the traditional processions, under the scorching sun were about a hundred people - with banners, icons, crosses, historic flags. In Lavra prayers were not allowed and the iron gate was tightly closed. Behind them stood a chain of policemen, blocking the procession from entering the street.

According to one of the police officers, a Major, the Kiev authorities have banned the religious procession as the "application of the event" was filed too late." Therefore, says the Major - the police cannot provide security. The procession could be attacked by radicals."

This denies Yuri Egorov, one of the organizers of the religious procession. Yegorov said that the application filed before the deadline according to formal rules, "but the real reason for the prohibition - the reluctance of the new authorities in Kiev to see a religious procession dedicated to the royal family. The amount of police gathered around the monastery, more than enough to ensure adequate protection of the procession. There was no less than four buses."



July 18th in Alapayevsk was commemorated the Alapaevsk Martyrs



In Alapayevsk, in the Holy Trinity Cathedral - the last church where Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, with the Princes of the Imperial blood John, Igor and Konstantin Konstantinovich, attended liturgy in 1918 before their murder and later was held their funeral - were served Divine Liturgy.



6 am, in the crypt of Holy Trinity Cathedral was read prayers. It was here after the funeral that the Alapaevsk Martyrs bodies found at the mine in Lower Selimskaja (18 km from Alapayevsk city) in 1918 were taken. The crypt is arranged in the south side of the altar, and the entrance was walled up with bricks. However later their remains were removed, first to Chita, Harbin and then Beijing. In 1920 Grand Duchess Elisabeth and Nun Barbara was moved to St. Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem.

Photos by Lyudmila Shumskaya

In honor of St. Sergius of Radonezh - 700 year anniversary

Venerable Sergius of Radonezh (14 May 1314 – 25 September 1392), was a spiritual leader and monastic reformer of medieval Russia. Together with Venerable Seraphim of Sarov, he is one of the Russian Orthodox Church's most venerated saints.



*"The Vision of the Young Bartholomew"
original painted by Mikhail Nesterov (1890).
Here shown in the version by Grand Duchess
Olga Alexandrovna.*

He was born to a boyar family near Rostov the Great. He was originally baptized with the name Bartholomew. Although an intelligent boy, Bartholomew had great difficulty learning to read. His life story states that a starets (spiritual elder) met him one day and gave him a piece of holy bread to eat, and from that day forward he was able to read. Orthodox Christians interpret the incident as being an angelic visitation. When the Principality of Rostov fell into the hands of the Prince Ivan Danilovich of Grand Duchy of Moscow, his parents Kirill and Maria became impoverished and moved to Radonezh together with their three sons: Stefan, Bartholomew and Peter.

Upon his parents' death, Bartholomew went to Khotkovo near Moscow, where his older brother Stefan was a monk. He persuaded Stefan to find a more secluded place to live the ascetic life. In the deep forest at Makovets hill they decided to build a small cell and a church dedicated in honor of the Trinity. Thus started the history of the great Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra. Bartholomew took monastic vows, taking the name Sergius, and spent more than a year in the forest alone as a hermit. Soon, however, other monks started coming to him and building their own cells. After some time, they persuaded him to become their father superior, and he was ordained to the priesthood. Following his example, all the monks had to live by their own labor.

During the reign of St. Dmitri Donskoi, his disciples started to spread his teaching across central and northern Russia. They settled intentionally in the most impracticable places and founded numerous monasteries, of which Borisoglebsky, Ferapontov, Kirillo-Belozersky and Vysotsky monasteries could be mentioned. All in all, disciples of Sergius founded about 40 monasteries, thus greatly extending the geographical extent of his influence and authority. As an ascetic, Sergius did not take part in the political life of the country. However, he blessed Dmitry Donskoy when he went to fight the Tatars in the important Battle of Kulikovo field – but only after he was certain Dmitry had pursued all peaceful means of resolving the conflict. Some historians interpreted his political stance as aspiring to make peace and unite Russian lands under the leadership of Moscow.



Sergius died on September 25, 1392, and was canonized in 1452. His incorrupt relics were found in 1422 and placed in the new Trinity Cathedral of the Lavra which he founded. The church commemorates him on September 25, the day of his death, and on July 18, the day his relics were uncovered.

Around Russia almost 600 churches (cathedrals) are named after him. In Moscow alone there are 67 churches and chapels named after St. Sergius of Radonezh. Several other institutions, like hospitals, are also named in his honor - even an explosives factory!

The St. Sergius Samara Explosives Factory's patron was Inspector-General of Artillery, Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich Romanov (son of Mikhail Nikolaievich, the grandson of Emperor Nicholas I). In 1916 was built the Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh in Chapaevsk, consecrated in honor of the Grand Duke's patron saint.

A tile with the coat of arms of the House of Romanov can still be found on the facade of the church



Celebrations

Celebrations to mark the 700th anniversary of St. Sergius of Radonezh was all over Russia, but the main celebration was in Sergiev Posad north of Moscow, on July 18, with a festive Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral Square in Trinity-Sergius Lavra. On this day arrived the Russian President Vladimir Putin and Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill. An estimated 70.000 people participated in the celebration.

Video - <http://www.newstube.ru/media/sostoyalis-glavnye-torzhestva-v-chest-sergiya-radonezhskogo>

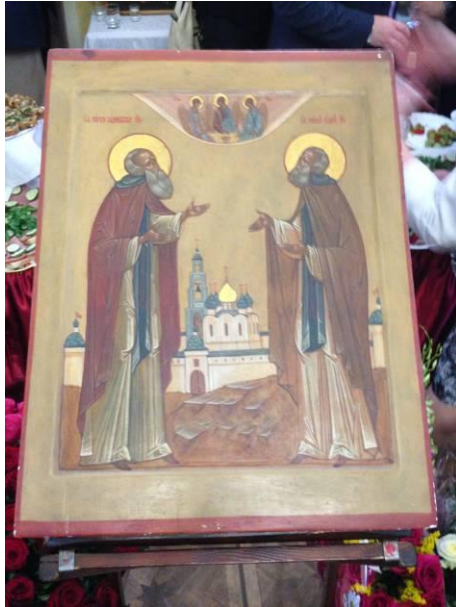


Left - Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill at the relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh. Right - Russian President Vladimir Putin at the relics.

Reception in honor of St. Sergius of Radonezh

On July 13 at the International Foundation of Slavic Literature and Culture was hosted a reception dedicated to the 700th anniversary of St. Sergius of Radonezh. It was organized by the movement "For Faith and Fatherland".

Among the guests were Grand Duke George Mikhailovich, members of the Russian Nobility, the movement "For Faith and Fatherland", clergy and other organisations.



The Solemn meeting opened with a prayer in honor of St. Sergius of Radonezh and prayers for the health of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill.

It was also an opportunity to present heartily congratulations to the founder and spiritual father of the movement "For Faith and Fatherland" Hieromonk Nikon (Sergei Belavenets) on his fiftieth birthday.

He said - "As for me, I'm in my fifty years, I feel like a perfectly happy man because I have the opportunity to serve God, the Imperial House and the Fatherland".

Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich arrived in Moscow on 11 July to commemorate the Abbot of the Russian Land - St. Sergius of Radonezh - in connection with the 700th anniversary of his birth. He visited Sergiev Posad in Moscow Region, was praying in the Church of the Transfiguration of Radonezh and laid flowers at the monument to St. Sergius. Visited Khotko Pokrovsky nunnery to worship the parents Reverend Cyril and Mary. He visited the Museum of the Moscow Theological Academy, and then in Sergiev Posad Museum inspected the exhibition "The Romanovs and the Trinity-Sergius Lavra", dedicated to the 400th anniversary of the end of the Time of Troubles and nationwide calling dynasty on the throne. In the afternoon His Imperial Highness visited the Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh in the village Semhoz.



In Buryatia arrived Grand Duchess Maria Romanova

On her way to Buryatia an Irkutsk, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna Romanova stopped in Moscow. July 20 in the Cathedral of the Intercession of St. Basil in Moscow after the prayer service, she awarded prosecutor of Crimea Natalia Poklonskaya with the Order of the Great Martyr Anastasia. It was given "in honor of the reunion of the Crimea with Russia."



Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna visited the Republic of Buryatia from 23 to 28 July 2014. The Head of the House of Romanov arrived on an official invitation from XXIV Khambo Lama Damba Ayusheev and head of the Republic of Buryatia Vyacheslav Nagovitsyn in connection with celebrations in 2014 of the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the institute of Khambo lamas.

On 24th was meetings with the head of the Republic of Buryatia Vyacheslav Nagovitsyn, the People's Hural of the Buryat Republic, with the mayor of Ulan-Ude A. M. Golkovym and a visit to Ulan-Ude Aviation Plant.

July 25, 2014, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna visited Ivolginsky Datsan, where she meet with the Head of traditional Buddhism in Russia XXIV Khambo LamaDamba Ayusheev. This year Russian Buddhists celebrate the 250 year anniversary of its institution by Empress Catherine the Great in 1764 as post Khambo Lama - Russian Buddhists head of Eastern Siberia and Baikal.

The meeting was considered of historical importance because it was the first communication since 1917 between Russian Khambo lamas with the Russian Imperial Dynasty.



Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYx5sS2vdEU>

Head of the House of Romanov then visit Tarbagatay district, where she met with Sergius, bishop of the Siberian Old Believers Church, and was acquainted with the history and contemporary life "Semeiskie" conservatives.

On the morning of July 28, 2014 in Ulan-Ude was the final press conference for the national media, before the trip continued to Irkutsk.

Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna is to visit the Irkutsk region from July 28 to August 2, 2014, on the official invitation of Metropolitan Vadim of Irkutsk and Angarsk and Mayor Viktor Kondrashov of Irkutsk to participate in commemorative events marking the 100th anniversary of Russia's entry into the First World War.

July 29 she will be visit to Limnological Museum and Architectural-Ethnographic museum "Taltzy".

On July 30 in the morning will be commemorating of the first Irkutsk crypt near the Church of the Saviour, and then, in the Monastery of the Sign she will meet Metropolitan Vadim Irkutsk and Angarsk. The official meeting with Mayor Viktor Kondrashov is scheduled for July 31. Then she will take part in the opening ceremony of the memorial sign at the site of restoration "Arches Tsarevich". In the regional museum will be a meeting with the townspeople. Then a concert of folk drama dedicated to the 100 anniversary of the First World War.

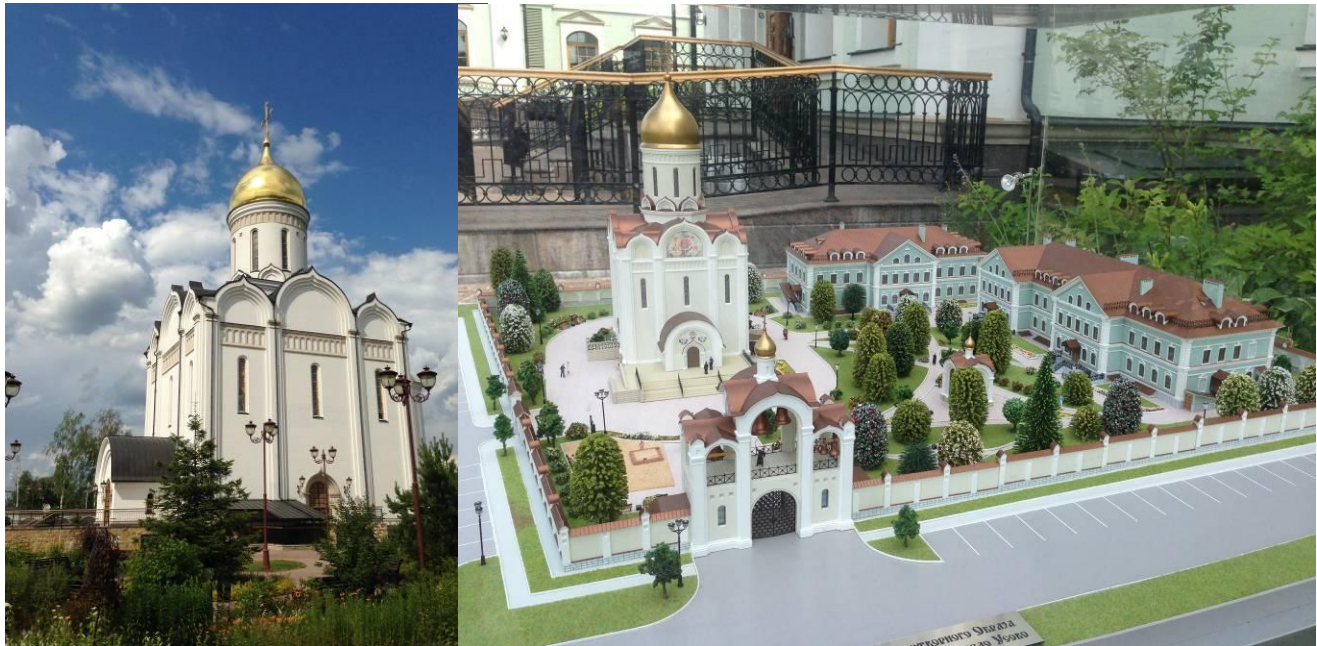
On August 1, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna will participate in the service at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Irkutsk and then take part in the memorial meeting dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the announcement Russia's entry into the First World War.

The visit will end with a press conference with journalists from Irkutsk.

Ilinskoe - In the memory of Grand Duchess Elisabeth and Grand Duke Sergei

By Paul Kulikovsky

On July 8, Ludmila and I went to Ilinskoe, some 35 km west of Moscow center. We were to meet with Anna Gromova, chairman of the Fund Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society, and to give an interview to the TV channel Vesti-Moscow, about the restoration project of the building built by Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, as a maternity hospital on his estate there in 1882. While we were there we also visited other places related to the Ilinskoe estate and the history of Grand Duchess Elisabeth and Grand Duke Sergei.

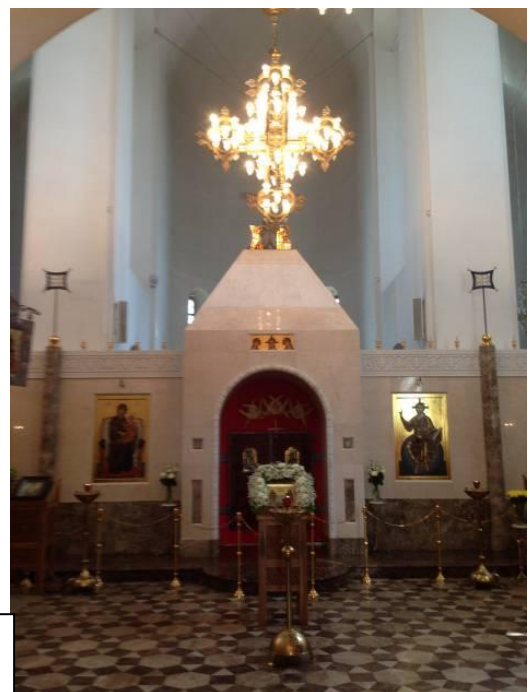


We met at the Orthodox educational center "Usovo-Spassky" ("Usovo-Savior") in the Church of Christ Our Savior. The history of this church is quite special, as there is on the Ilinskoe estate already a Church of Christ Our Savior from old times. It was closed in 1932, but in 2004 it was renovated with elements of reconstruction. The church is however now located on the territory of the residence of the President of Russia, and used as his home church - in other words, not accessible. In 2009 with the help of then Prime Minister Vladimir Putin was bought land in the village and built a new Usovo Church of Christ Our Savior.

The modern temple complex, by the architect V. Izhikov, consists of a church, chapel for blessing of water, a Holy Gate with bell tower, houses for clergy and an educational center "Usovo-Spassky".

The white stone church in ancient church architecture traditions. is more than forty meters high and can accommodate more than 250 people.

The upper church is in honor of Our Saviour and the lower church in the central is in honor of the Reigning Mother of God, and on the sides, in honor of the Holy Martyr Sergius Makhaeva and Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



The iconostas in the upper church of Christ Our Savior in Usovo



The left side for Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and central part of the lower church

In the garden is a monument of Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



In the educational center are multifunctional classrooms with modern equipment, a conference hall, a theater with 120 seats, two gyms, a library with a reading room and a computer room, a ceramic workshop, an exhibition hall and a memorial room dedicated Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



In the memorial room, in the educational center, are several photos and copies of documents. Two photos, shows President V. Putin on 24 September 2003 during a visit to USA, in the Consulate of the Russian Federation in New York. They show him receiving an icon of Saint Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna from His Eminence Metropolitan Lazarus (with Archbishop Mark of Berlin, Germany and Great Britain and Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov) in the photo).

Our "guide" told us the following story - *Metropolitan Lazarus was telling Putin the whole history of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and after some time, when he finally stop, Putin said - "I know it all. I am living in her house"*.

In the House of Clergy is also a memorial room for Saint Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

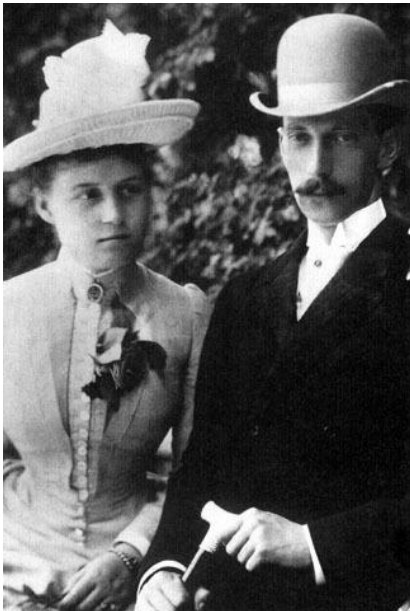


Here is standing an icon of the saint in the middle, with a photo-poster behind of the trees at the mine in Alapaevsk. On the walls are hang poster with photos of the entire life of the Grand Duchess - from birth to Saint, and her legacy.



The maternity hospital

From the Usovo-Spassky center we went to the building that once was a maternity hospital, built by Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. The story starts with Princess Alexandra of Greece (30 August 1870 – 24 September 1891), who was the daughter of King George I of Greece and (Queen) Grand Duchess Olga Konstantinovna of Russia.



On 17 June 1889, in St. Petersburg, Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich married Princess Alexandra of Greece, then being Grand Duchess Alexandra Georgievna. On 18 April 1890 was born their first child - Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna.

Grand Duke Paul was close to his brother Sergei and often visited him at his estate Ilinskoe.

In September 1891 on one of these visits, Grand Duchess Alexandra being seven months' pregnant, while out walking with friends on the bank of the Moscow River, jumped into a boat, and felt as she got in. The next day, she collapsed in the middle of a ball from violent labor pains brought on by the

previous day's activities. She gave birth to her son Dmitri (18 September 1891) in the hours following the accident, slipped into a coma, from which she never emerged. Although doctors had no hope for Dmitri's survival, he lived, with the help of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich of Russia, who gave the premature Dmitri the baths prescribed by the doctors, wrapped him in cotton wool and kept him in a cradle filled with hot water bottles to keep his temperature regulated. "I am enjoying raising Dmitri," Sergei wrote in his diary. She died six days later in the estate Ilinskoe. She was only twenty-one years old, and the cause was almost certainly preeclampsia.



Grand Duchess Alexandra Georgievna with her daughter Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna

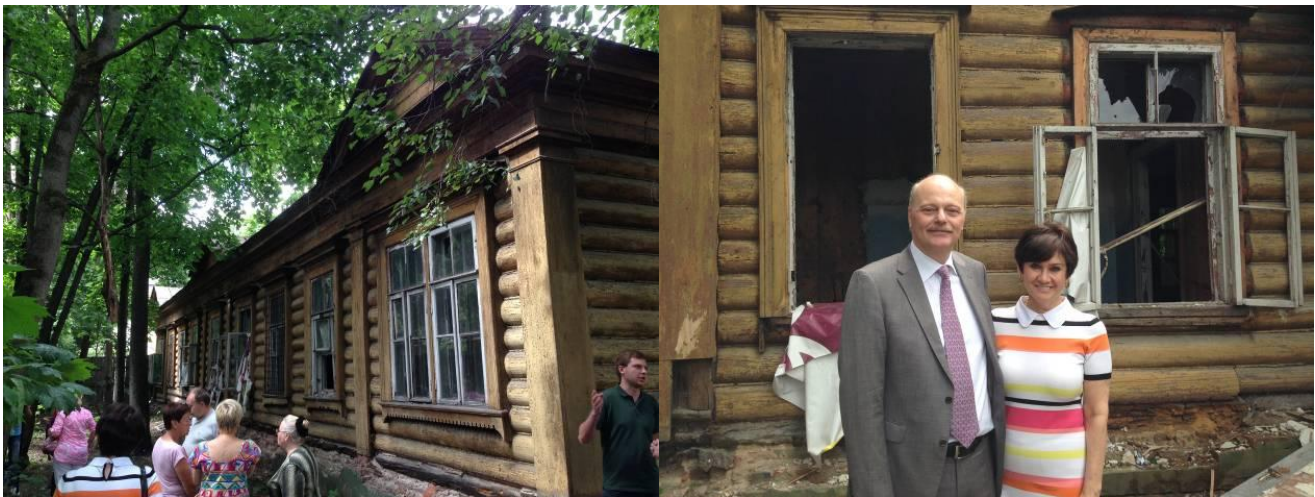


Grand Sergei Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, and others at a construction site

In her memory Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich built in 1892 a maternity hospital on his estate. It was located just outside the main entrance to his estate. In the maternity hospital in Ilinskoe hung photographs of Grand Duchess Alexandra Georgievna, in her memory.

The maternity hospital actually worked until the mid-1960'ties and only then turned into a hostel for health workers, but for the last 10 years it has been abandoned.

On the corner of "Nabereszhnaya Street" and "Street Lenin" we crossed the ditch and went through the trees and in through a hole in the wooded fence. Inside was a brown log building on a brick foundation. Some of the windows still had all of their glass intact, while other were smashed.



We went inside the building to have a look. Of course it was not in a useable condition, but it was not in a so bad state that it looked hopeless. This could easily be restored and used for a museum, cultural or educational center.

In the beginning the local peasants did not come automatically to the maternity hospital to give birth there. They came only after complications. But then Ella and Sergei began to present to babies born there gifts - from clothing, textiles for baby

and ending with a cart of firewood. After six months the peasants realized that the maternity hospital was a safe place, the children did not suffer, and they no longer resisted.



Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna standing on the left at a hospital - Possible Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna standing third from left and Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich standing fifth. Photo about 1900.

The Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society have earlier made campaigns to get the Moscow Region interested in renovating this (and other) houses related to Grand Duke Sergei and Grand Duchess Elisabeth, and it now looks like the cultural department of Moscow Region is at least considering the option. - About 5.10 min. into the video is the report about the maternity hospital;

Video - http://www.vesti.ru/only_video.html?vid=608587



A little further down the "Street Lenin" is another building that has survived - the school for boys. There we could only enter into the garden. It looked very much like the same type of construction as the maternity hospital and old photos confirmed it had not been changed at all in appearance.

We walked back to "Nabereszhnaya Street", turned right, and there is one more old building, however this one is covered up in a more modern appearance with an outer layer of plastic profiles. This is the old infirmary, built to the wounded in the Russian-Japanese war in 1904-05. Here Grand Duchess Elisabeth worked as a nurse.



The next street on the right is "Sovietskaya Street". Here is a local Ilinskoe museum - in the name of "Elisabeth Feodorovna Romanov", which also have a lot of photos of the Grand Duchess and Grand Duke, in addition to Romanovs and the local history, on display.



On the other side of "Nabereszhnaya Street" (Shown below as a thick brown line), is the northern part of the Ilinskoe estate - the Usovo part is on the south side of the river Moscow. In the map can be seen some of the buildings of the estate and some of them has also survived.

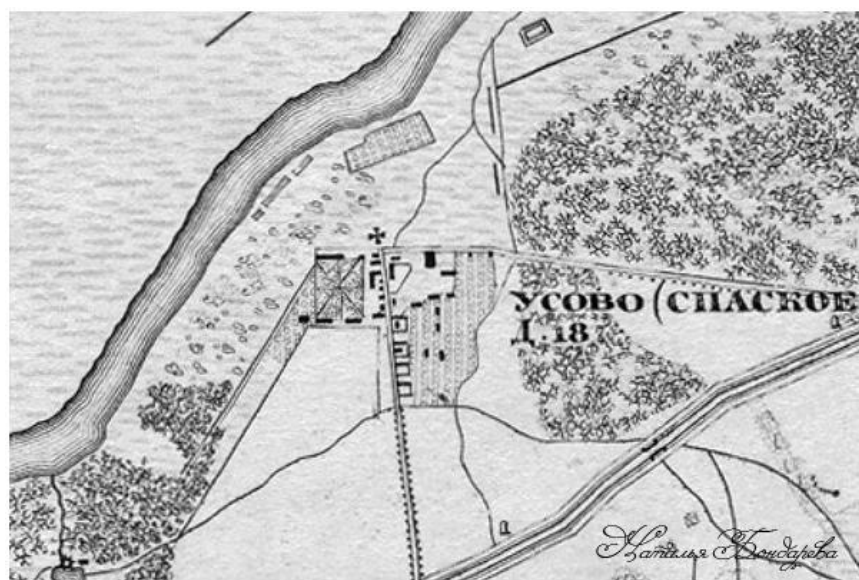


1. The old palace (Lost)
2. Guest house
3. Pavilion "Understand me" (Lost)
4. Servant house
5. Stables
6. "Milovid"
7. Church of Elijah the Prophet
8. Office of Military camp
9. Pavilion "Not Chui Grief"
10. Servant houses (Big house is lost)
11. Greenhouses (Lost)
12. Bakery

Not marked in the map, but on the opposite side of the road of the church of Elijah the Prophet (7) was the school building for girls, built in 1880. It now host the local postal office.

The new manor, in Usovo, was located a little bit south-west of the old.

Most likely few, if any, of the estate buildings there has survive in their original appearance, as this is now a closed area and have been for many years. But it is said that the stable building and the house of the priest, located near the church, still exist.



The church is marked with a cross in the map on the left, and from an old photo (included later in this story) of the new mansion, can the church be seen to the left of it. Then must the black square to the left of the cross, on top of the French park, be the location of the manor house.

History of the Ilinskoe-Usovo estate

The area west of Moscow, along the Moscow River has always been an attractive area. First for hunting in its boundless forest, particular by the sovereign of Moscow. Then it became the path for pilgrimage to Savvino Storozhevsky monastery to worship the relics of Saint Sava of Zvenigorod, to which Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich and Tsar Aleksei Mikhailovich often went, and after them went Emperor Peter the Great and Empress Catherine II. At the end of the eighteenth century along the road and in its immediate surroundings appeared 16 Counts and 4 princely estates. One hundred years later was added two imperial estates.

Near the village Ilinskoe was in 1618 constructed a wooden church in the name of Elijah the Prophet, and from 1634 was the land owned by the noble family Streshnevs (related to the Romanovs).

In 1735 the church Elijah was rebuilt in stone. Side chapels was built in 1818, and in 1828 was attached a three-tier belfry. The church is richly decorated, in particular carved frieze entablature decorated with floral ornaments, delicate carvings decorated pediments and window frames. Belfry has a completed gilded spire. This church still exist and now stand next to the main entrance to the Ilinskoe estate.



Church Elijah the Prophet

In 1775 the estate was bought by Count I. A. Osterman. In 1796 he transferred his title and last name, and with them his possessions to his grandnephew A. I. Tolstoy, the future hero of the War of 1812.

Count Osterman-Tolstoy in Ilinskoe built new main building - a two-story building with a facade length of 35 m, with terraces, decorated with rich carvings.

In 1845 the ownership of the estate was transferred to a Prince L. M. Galitzin, who's widow twenty years later sold the estate for the sum of 108.000 rubles to the royal family.



The view over the river from the Ilinskoe estate. The old Ilinskoe estate's manor.

In 1864, now 150 years ago it became an Imperial estate, when Emperor Alexander II bought the 2,400-acre (9.7 square km) estate of Ilinskoe and Usovo.

July 27, 1864 in decree of Emperor Alexander II: "I purchased from the widow of State Councilor Prince Galitzine and her daughters, wives adjutant-general Ignatev, a real estate in not populated Moscow province in Zvenigorod district, near the village of Ilinskoe with all buildings and facilities on the deed of purchase, done on April 2 this year. Give it as a gift to my wife kind, Empress Maria Alexandrovna. I order, the Department of principalities enroll this estate into the property of Her Imperial Majesty and until further commands take care of its management".

August 16, 1864 in the morning Emperor Alexander II, accompanied by the Grand Dukes Alexander and Alexei Alexandrovich, Nicholas Roerich, Duke Eugene Maximilianovich Leutenbergsky and Minister of the Court, Adjutant-General, Prince VA Dolgoruky visited Ilinskoe.

These places became favorite resting places of their Highnesses. The empress engaged in landscaping their new estates. In 1873, at the request of Empress Maria Alexandrovna in Usovo was built a stone building for a rural school, to which was hired a teacher from St. Petersburg. Then the school was transformed into a parish school.

It was here, in the estate Ilinskoe-Usovo, Emperor Alexander II and the empress went after the funeral of their eldest son, the Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich in 1865.

Ilinskoe was a quiet rural retreat and in the circle of the younger children - Grand Duke Sergei, Paul and Marie, Empress Maria Alexandrovna gradually calmed down and come to life from the experience of grief. For the young children to stay with their parents here was a true bliss. The very location of the house over the Moscow River, old garden, surrounding forests - it was a source of joy and pleasure for the royal family.

In 1869, the Emperor and Empress last visited Ilinskoe. At this time they visited the family Golitsyn in Petrovsky, St. Nicholas church in Galitzine-Uryupin and the Yusupovs in Arkhangelsk.



Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich

In August of 1888 came Alexander III with his son Michael for a visit. He arrived incognito, as an individual, so he could truly enjoy the country life. These days they have traveled around in the neighborhood, collecting mushrooms, visiting neighbors in Petrovsky and Arkhangelsk.

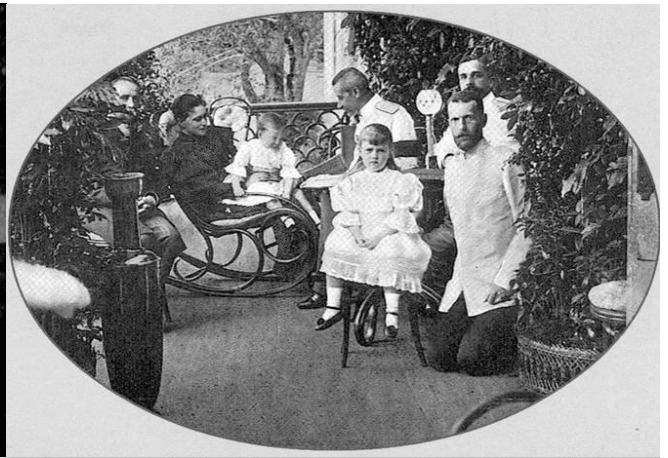
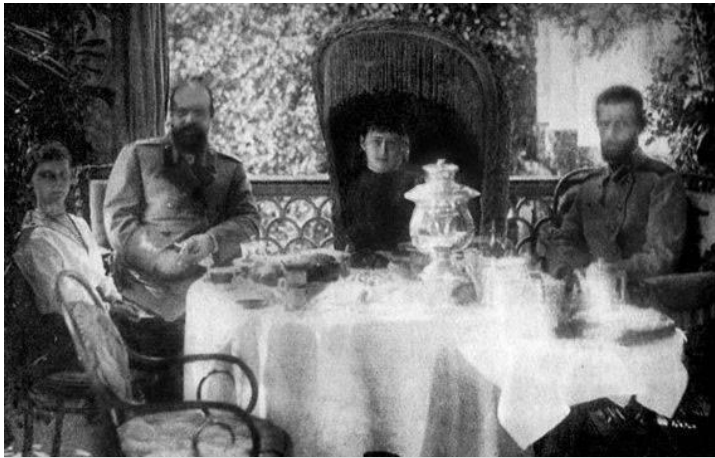
In 1880, after the death of the Empress, the estate Ilinskoye was bequest Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. Here he came with his young wife Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna in 1884 to spend their honeymoon.

In 1880 was built another school building for girls located opposite the Church of Elijah. In the former school building began to study only boys.

At both estates were farming, cows at the old and horses at the new, at both poultry, greenhouses, gardens, fields of flowers, grown specifically for the home. About the rich dairy farms of the estate even wrote the provincial newspapers. New methods of farming, valuable breeds of cattle was bred here, adapted to the local conditions was introduced rare varieties of plants - all these achievements have been used as a way to educate the local peasantry, and the fruits of labor generously was given away at specially arranged fairs by the Grand Ducal couple.



Emperor Alexander III, Grand Duke Michael, Grand Duchess Elisabeth and Grand Duke Sergei, in Ilinskoe in 1888

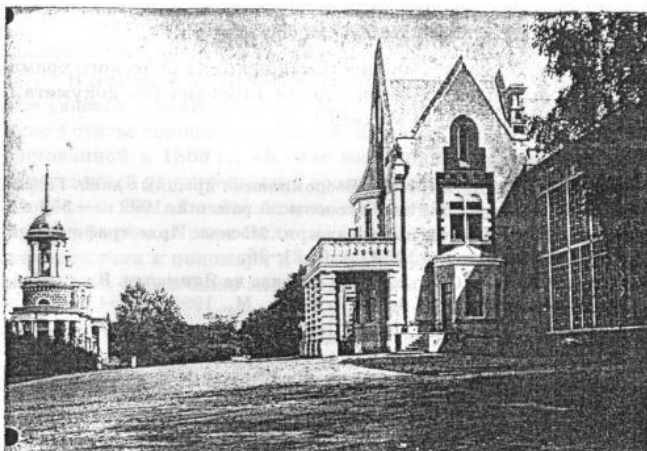
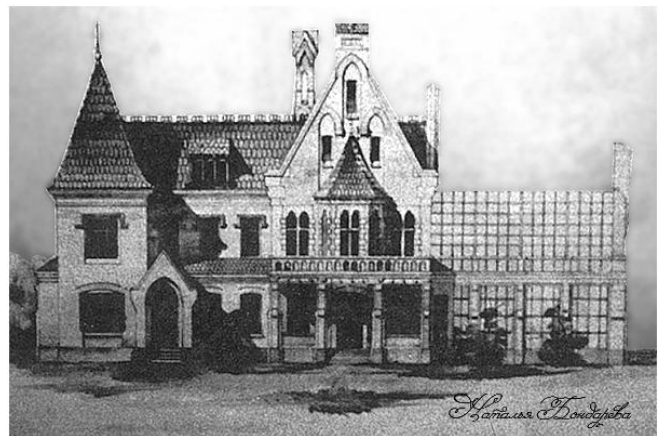


From left - Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, Emperor Alexander III, Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in Ilinskoe. In the right photo can be seen Grand Duchess Elisabeth with Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich and Grand Duchess Marie sitting next to Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in Ilinskoe.

"I remember with pleasure the time spent with you, in nice Ilinskoe, charming like a dream, waiting impatiently for a repeat" - wrote to his brother Alexander III (from Elisavetgrad. August 27, 1888).

In 1889 the manor house was renovated, but it was still just a summer house and for full year living they needed another house.

In 1892 was made a project for a new manor house with an improved heating system on the other side (south side) of the Moscow River in the area called Usovo. "Moscow church statements" from August 26, 1892 elaborated on the project, and mentioned that it was to be built by the young architect S.K. Rodionov. The role of the Grand Duke in the design and future home was extremely high, since he not only chose the project, but also watched over the construction by making permanent instructions and guidance on those or other details.



The new house was built in gray stone, tiled with white brick and the roof was made in zinc. With original feature of an English country cottage, to the palace was added a winter garden of tropical plants under glass. In one of the rooms were collected Italian miniatures and icons, in the winter garden - a conservatory of tropical plants - was placed antiques; fragments of obelisks, fountains, and

monuments. All this recent work of Roman masters, obviously collected by the hosts somewhere in Italy. The new building was comfortable and had all the possible modern amenities - central heating, elevator to the third floor, extensive cellars, including wine, underground passages, connecting it to the kitchen and other buildings.

In the family of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was the children of his younger brother Paul Aleksandrovich - Maria and Dimitri. Maria Pavlovna later wrote in her memoirs: "The most joyful memories of my childhood are associated with Ilinski. Dmitry was born here, we grew up here, this is our little world on the expanses of Russia, those unbreakable bonds that bind me with our native land. The manor was quite modest, which gave it an enchanting beauty".



The Imperial family in Ilinskoe, 1896.

Diary entries of Emperor Nicholas II tells about staying in Ilinskoe after the coronation in 1896 - "On June 26. Thank God, the last day has come. On the way to Kremlin met my daughter, which was on her way to Ilinskoe. Again received extraordinary embassy for congratulations. At 7:00 (pm) was a great lunch for the Moscow authorities and representatives of different classes. Changed cloth ... went to the Moscow-Brest railway to the station Odintsovo, where took carriage to Ilinskoe. It is an indescribable joy to get to this nice quiet place. And most important pleasant to know that all these celebrations and ceremonies are over."

And he continued: "Activities in Ilinskoe: sports, lawn tennis, skiing on the river, horseback riding, swimming. Played charades, from Moscow brought a theatrical wardrobe for tableaux. At ten o'clock the whole group posed for photos near the entrance."



Upon the murder of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in 1905, the estate went to Grand Duchess Elisabeth. But when she in 1909 founded the Martha and Mary Convent, she decided to live there instead. The Ilinskoe and Usovo estate was given to Grand Duchess Maria and Grand Duke Dmitri, who owned the estate until the revolution.

After the revolution, in the old manor was organized a holiday home. The "guests" however also stayed there during winter time and to keep warm they added too much fire, which in 1929 resulted in the building burned down.

The Ilinskoe part of the estate was taken over by the Moscow Government and since has access to the area been restricted.

The Usovo part of the estate was also fenced in from late 1991 and became a protected area used as a government residence. From 2000 it became the permanent residence of President Vladimir Putin and his family members. It is now called "Novo-Ogaryovo" and is located between the banks of the Moscow River and the Rublevo-Uspensky street, near the village Usovo.



President Vladimir Putin not only lives there with his family, but also conducts meetings there. When he moved into the estate it was significantly restructured, with pool, gym, a cinema, extra houses for official receptions, for guests, stables, a home church, a helipad, a greenhouse and an aviary.

The house of the President of the Russian Federation V. Putin, called "Novo-Ogaryovo", is located on the old Romanov estate in the Usovo area.

9th of August - In Memory of Grand Duke George Alexandrovich



By Paul Kulikovsky

Born 9 May 1871 in Tsarskoe Selo, Grand Duke George Alexandrovich was the third son of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Marie Feodorovna. He died suddenly, on 9 August 1899 in Abastuman, Georgia, at the age of 28.

Grand Duke George became ill with tuberculosis in 1890. It was decided to send him with Tsarevich Nicholas (later Emperor Nicholas II) on a nine-month long trip to Japan in 1890. The parents hoped the warm sun and the sea air would improve George's health. They left Gatchina on 4 November 1890. However in India, George had to remain on ship because he had trouble with his leg. Suddenly he had a fever and had to return home. George's poor health made him to relocate to Abastuman - A place popular for its climate and thermal waters, in the southern region Samtskhe-Javakheti, some 200 km west of Tbilisi, Georgia.



deteriorated - "Yesterday, in the garden, he expectorated some blood...that frightened me more than I can tell - the surprise of it was shocking, because he had been so well of late...I am quite desperate that this should have happened "here" wrote his mother. As a result George was forbidden to smoke and confined to bed until he was fit enough to return to Abastuman. Writing to his brother Nicholas back

home once again, George said about his trip to Denmark - "Of course it was good to see the family after 4 years, but it did not really do me any good, as I lost more than 5 pounds which I had put on with such difficulty in May and June. I also get out of breath more easily. So these are the results of my trip. Very annoying."



On Monday, 28th July 1899 (old style)/ 9th of August, the Tsarevich ordered his "cycle with a gasoline engine" to be ready, while he was walking in the palace garden, inspecting the flowers. At 9 am, His Imperial Highness went on the bike on the road towards the Zekarskomu pass. Weather was good, with little wind. The Tsarevich was driving very fast (speeds up to 35 miles per hour).

Behind the palace, Grand Duke George saw ahead of him the slow moving cart of the estate of Count Olsufyeva with Anna Dasoevoy in it. The Tsarevich deigned to give a signal, and the boy Semenihin Athanasius rolled the cart away from the road, freeing the road for the Grand Duke. On passing His Imperial Highness was graciously smiling, deigned to reply bow and quickly went on his way. After this meeting the cart of Dasoevoy all the time went along the edge of the road, leaving it free for the return journey of the Tsarevich.

According to Anna Filipova Dasoevoy, in less than ten minutes after the meeting she saw His Imperial Highness, 35 yards from the place where now is hoisted a cross. Dasoevoy noticed he spat thick blood and there was bloodstains on his jacket. Semenikhin was immediately sent to the palace of His Highness for help, she ran to the Grand Duke, supported the Tsarevich and asked: - What

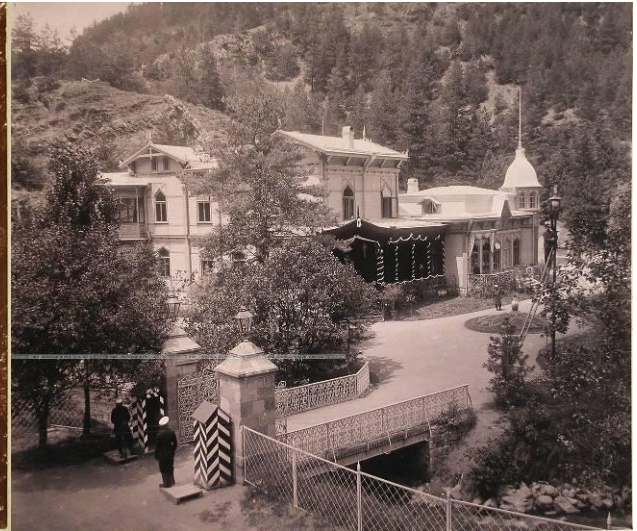
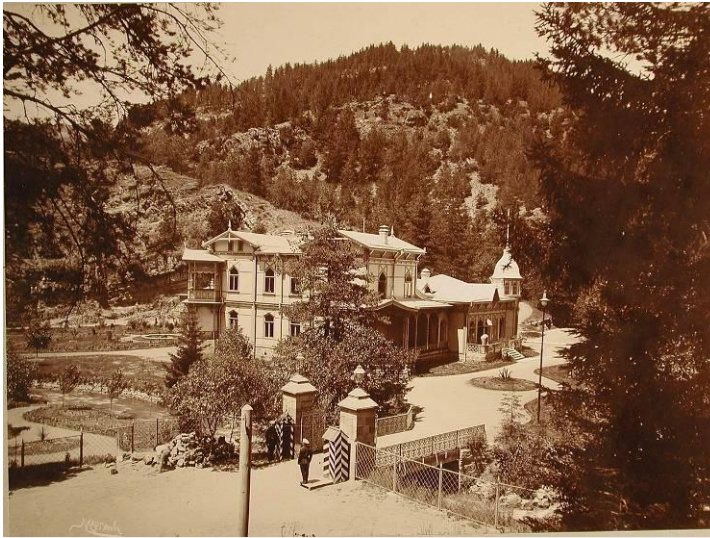
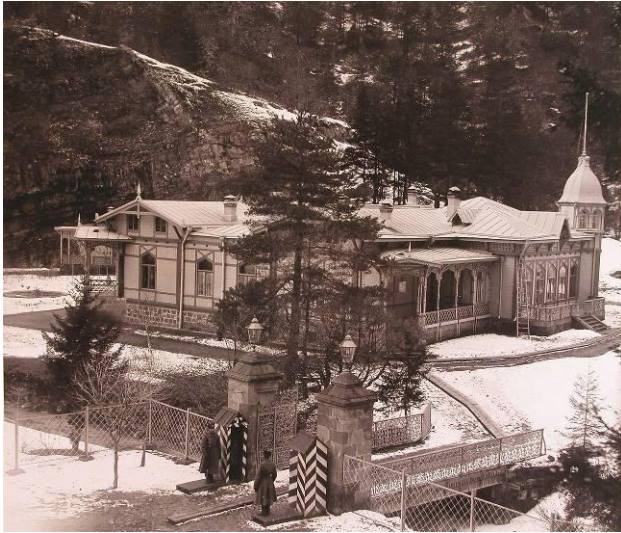
happened to you, Your Highness? "Nothing" - The Tsarevich said in a weak voice, and at this time His Highness knees buckled.

Dasoevoy quietly and carefully lowered the August patient on the ground, on his side, placing his head on a stone, grabbed an empty jug, ran to the river, which flows about 3 yards away from this place. With the refreshing water the Tsarevitch cleaned his head and mouth for dried blood. His Highness, due to the strong bleeding in his throat could not drink water. Here Dasoevoy noticed, to her horror, that on the face of the August person began to appear spots, indicating a near end. At 9 o'clock 35 minutes His Imperial Highness Tsarevich and Grand Duke George Alexandrovich quietly to God reposed.

The news reached Emperor Nicholas II by telegram and he had the difficult task of telling his mother. She broke down and wept. He had seldom been out of her thoughts for the last few years and his death came as a terrible shock. His family were completely devastated. Nicholas was especially grief-stricken at losing his younger brother and childhood playmate.

From July 30th (OS)/11th August was people admitted to the palace to worship the dust of His Highness. The deceased Tsarevich was dressed in naval uniform, resting in a temporary metal coffin. The coffin was covered with a naval flag.

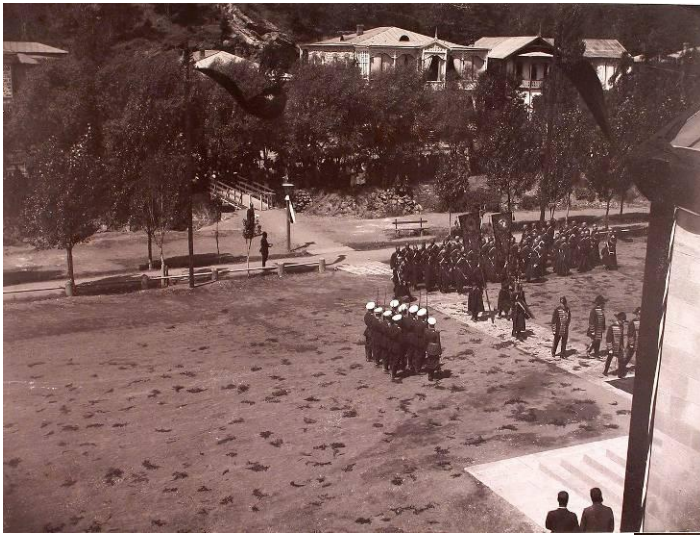
The first funeral service took place in the church of Alexander Nevsky - a replica of the 14th-century Georgian Cathedral of Zarzma, just completed by the Tbilisi-based architect Otto Jacob Simons, commissioned by Grand Duke George. Archimandrite Hermogenes arrived from Tiflis for his burial service. The Tsarevich's funeral was captured in photographs. A few is presented below.



Grand Duke George Alexandrovich's home in Abas-Tuman. Top-left, notice the house is mainly in one floor. Top-right, the surroundings of the now two storey high house. Bottom-left, the entrance to the house. Bottom-right, the house on the day of the transfer of Grand Duke George Alexandrovich's body from the house to the funeral service in Alexander Nevsky Church .

On August 6 (OS)/August 18th, the ninth day of his death, the ashes of the Tsarevich was moved from the palace to the Alexander Nevsky church. The coffin was carried on hands of Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich, Adjutant General Prince Golitsyn, Prince Dolgoruky, Count Olsufyeva, Lieutenant-Generals Amilakhvari, Amirajibi, Major-General of His Majesty suites; Bibikov, Nikolayev, Governor Svechin, personal physician Aykanovym and others. Troops stand on guard, escort and choirs started playing "Glorious."

At 10 o'clock the procession moved to the church. First came the Master of Ceremonies with a rod, adjutant, banners, singers, and clergy in bright robes. The coffin, with gold emblems, was covered by the flag of the Tsarevich; officers were on the sides of the convoy and the Tengintsy regiment behind. Walking behind the coffin of the Grand Duke was the Governor-General, Adjutant of Tsarevich, retinue of His Highness, doctors, ranks of different departments, deputations of different clergy, wreaths, Tsarevich servants, army: the convoy, Tengintsy regiment with a banner and orchestra, playing the funeral march. The procession stretched half a mile and arrived at the church at 11:00. The coffin was lifted up in his arms of the Grand Duke and generals and put on a platform under a canopy with a lot of flowers.



The funeral cortege of clergy, a regiment with flags and standards, military officials, and local residents arriving at the Alexander Nevsky Church. The entrance to the Alexander Nevsky church in the days of mourning.

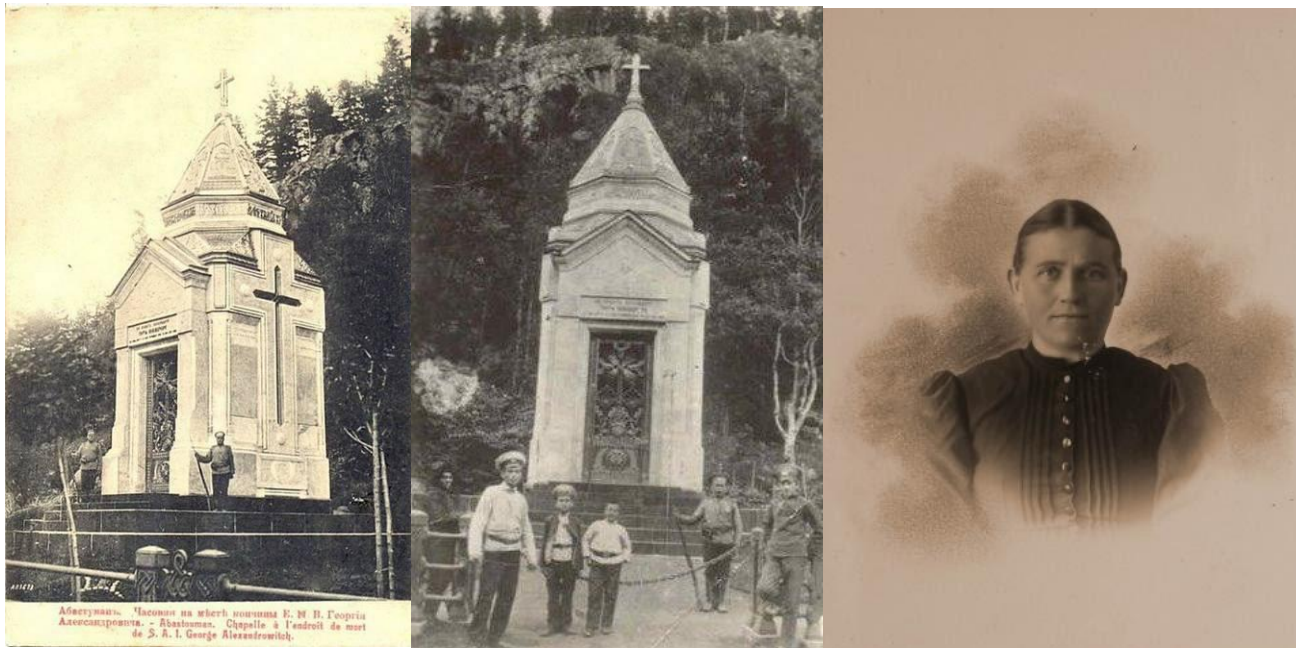
At the end of the funeral liturgy, clergy made panikhida in the presence of generals, authorities, officials of all departments and Anna Dasoevoy, accounting an honored to be present at the last minute of His Highness, the last to see the Grand Duke alive.

After the service, to the church was allowed people to worship. On the coffin, wreaths were laid. The church was open all night. All the time at the coffin was read the Gospel.

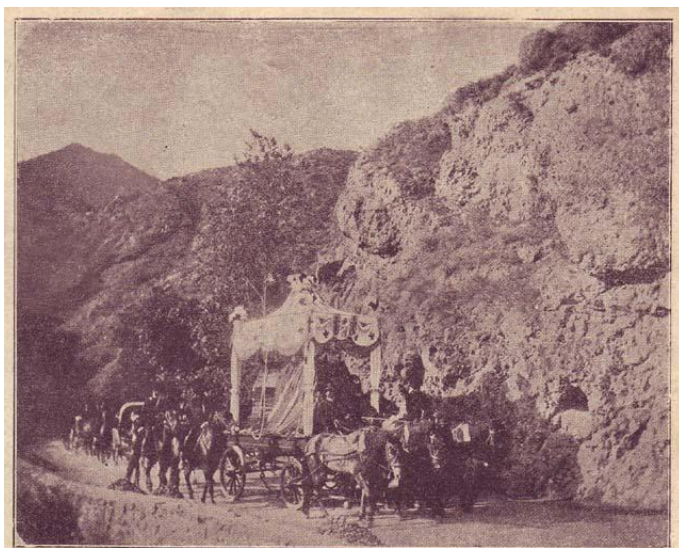


Above, Left - Locals during a memorial service on the spot of death of Grand Duke George Alexandrovich. Above, Right - The wooden chapel built on the spot death of Grand Duke George Alexandrovich.

Below - Two photos of the stone chapel built instead of the wooden chapel. Today is only the stone foundation left. And a photo of Anna Dasoevoy.



At 4 hours 15 minutes in the morning, on August 8 (OS)/August 19th, to the church came the Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich, and after a lithium at the coffin of the Grand Duke, the coffin was put into a hearse. The procession, preceded by the clergy, went to Mihailovo, the nearest railway station. All the way to Mihailovo were arranged prayers, hundreds of people took to the road on which the cortege moved.



Перевезеніє тѣла въ Божѣ почившаго Наслѣдника Цесаревича и Великаго Князя Георгіа Александровича изъ Абасъ-Тумана въ Боржомъ.
По фот. ген. А. А. Насытѣвича автоітія «Нивы».

The coffin of the late Grand Duke was placed in a special train, which then went to Batum. The funeral train arrived in Batum, at the harbor about 8 o'clock in the morning. At the same time came to Batum the battleship "George", with onboard his mother Empress Maria Feodorovna, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich and Grand Duke Alexander Michailovich. When the train stopped, lithium was served. Then the procession moved to the pier, which was a barge with a hearse. The coffin was moved to the hearse and the barge was towed toward the battleship.

At 9 h 15 m the coffin of the Tsarevich was entering the battleship and then was served lithium by Archpriest Stakhovich of the Cathedral

of the Winter Palace, in the presence of the Empress and the highest persons. At this time, all along the sides of the battleship, was steamers and boats with the public, who wanted to have a last look at the coffin. The coffin was placed on the quarter-deck among tropical plants.



Въ Батумской гавани. Лодки съ публикой, подъѣхавшей къ броненосцу „Георгій Побѣдоносецъ“ для поклоненія тѣлу въ Божѣ почившаго Наслѣдника Цесаревича и Великаго Князя Георгіа Александровича.
По фот. ген. А. А. Насытѣвича автоітія «Нивы».



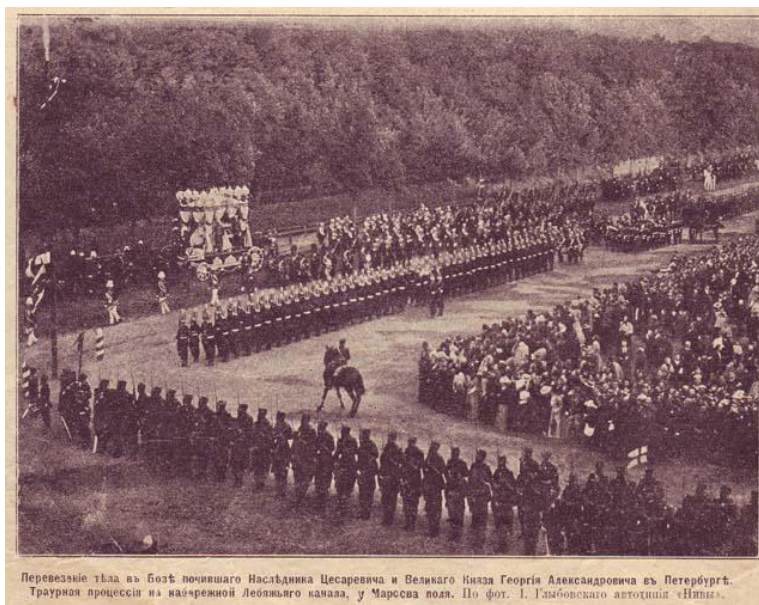
Броненосецъ „Георгій Побѣдоносецъ“, на котомъ было перевезено тѣло въ Божѣ почившаго Наслѣдника Цесаревича и Великаго Князя Георгіа Александровича изъ Батума въ Новороссійскъ.
По фот. ген. А. А. Насытѣвича автоітія «Нивы».

At 10:15 the battleship escorted by a squadron quietly departed for Novorossiysk. On August 9 (OS)/ August 21st, at 11 am it anchored near the train station in the harbor and after the blessing of Bishop Arsenius, Bishop of Sukhumi, the coffin was put to a train. The ships in the harbor gave a farewell salute with several gunshots, while the churches in the city was ringing all their bells. The funeral train departed from Novorossiysk to Rostov-on-Don. August 10th/August 22nd, the funeral train proceeded through the Kuban region and the land of the Don Cossacks. Along the way, the funeral train had to stop several times to make lithium at the coffin.

In Moscow, the funeral train arrived August 11th/August 23rd. The ashes of the deceased was met by His Eminence Vladimir, who then made requiem in the mourning carriage in the presence of Their Majesties and Their Highnesses. In Moscow, as well at stops at all stations on the route of the train, was laying of wreaths on the coffin of the deceased Tsarevich, and people were allowed to worship the body of His Highness.



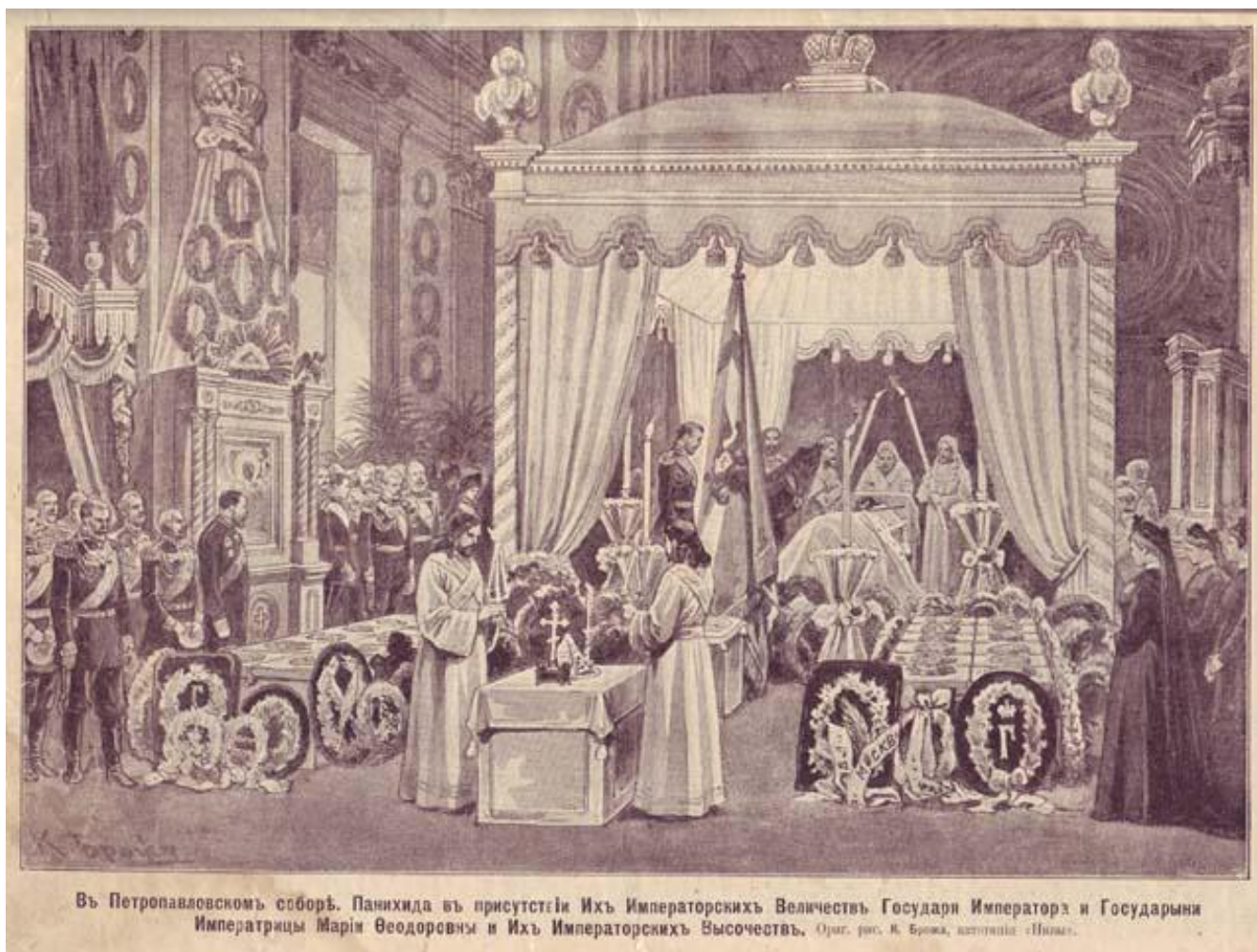
Upon arrival of the funeral train on August 12th /August 24th, at 6 pm in St. Petersburg, at the railway station His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony made before the coffin a litany, after which the Emperor and the Grand Dukes took the coffin from the train to a mourning chariot. The procession headed for the Peter and Paul Cathedral, going along Nevsky Prospekt, Garden street, through Tsaritsyn Meadow along the Summer Garden through Suvorov Square, the waterfront on the Trinity Bridge, and to the fortress through Peter's Gate. Along the entire journey from Nicholas Station to Peter and Paul Cathedral, the streets and buildings were covered in deep mourning.



The mourning chariot was followed by His Majesty the Emperor, Their Imperial Highnesses: the Heir Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, Danish Prince Valdemar and the Grand Dukes. Then came mourning coaches with Her Majesty the Empress Maria Feodorovna and Their Imperial Highnesses the Grand Duchesses and then princesses.

Upon arrival of the procession to the west door of the Cathedral of Peter and Paul, the Emperor, together the Imperial Family, the Minister of the Imperial Court and the Adjutant General, lifted the coffin inside the cathedral and placed it on a bier. A brief funeral oration was made by Metropolitan Anthony, after which began the reading of the Gospel.

Their Majesties and Their Imperial Highnesses then departed from the cathedral. All evening, all night and then all next day and the subsequent night, people was allowed to worship the body of the deceased Tsarevich.



On August 14th (OS)/August 26th, the burial took place. After the funeral liturgy committed by Metropolitan Anthony with all the higher clergy, came the touching moment of the last farewell. First came to the Grand Duke George's coffin his mother, the empress, shedding tears, bowing to the remains of her son. Then his brother, the Emperor. Then in turn came the entire Royal Family. After the singing of "Holy God," the emperor, grand dukes and the Minister of the Imperial Court lifted the coffin and brought the coffin to the grave, near the tomb of Emperor Alexander III. Standing on the edges of the grave, palace grenadiers lowered the coffin into the eternal resting place. At this point, on cue, there was a farewell salute of guns. Over the open grave Metropolitan committed the latest lithium. Their Majesties and Their Highnesses then committed ritual traditions of putting earth to the tomb. The whole church was filled with solemn sounds mournfully "Eternal Memory".

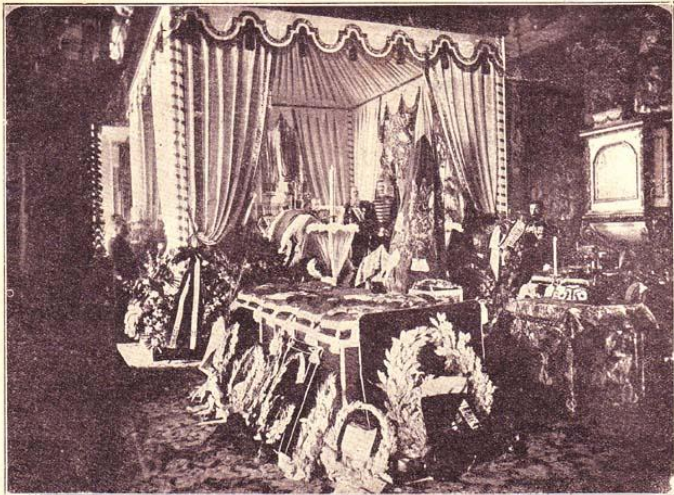
Maria Feodorovna stood next to her daughter Grand Duchess Xenia, holding her arm-in-arm and suddenly, looking at her daughter with widely open, unseeing eyes, she loudly said, "Let's go home. Let's go home, I cannot stand it anymore!" and she rushed out.

St. Petersburg was plunged into mourning, even gas lights on Nevsky were decorated with black crepe ribbons. In all Russian embassies was mourning. Since Grand Duke George was heir to the throne, the court mourning lasted a year.

George's title as Heir was passed to his younger brother Michael, until the birth, in 1904, of Nicholas' son, Alexei. In 1910, Michael named his newborn son, George, after his late brother.

Decades later his body was disinterred from the grave in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg so that a sample of DNA could be taken from the remains to see whether skeletal remains allegedly belonging to his older brother, the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, were legitimate or not. The DNA sample obtained from the Grand Duke's remains indicated that he was closely related to the DNA sample from the (suspected) remains of Nicholas II, confirming their identity. After the completion of

DNA testing, the remains of Grand Duke George Alexandrovich were once again laid to rest not far from those of his older brother and family.



Есть Петропавловскомъ соборѣ. Дежурство у гроба въ Божѣ почившаго Наслѣдника Цесаревича и Великаго Князя Георгія Александровича. Вѣнки, возложенные на гробъ Его Высочества.
По фот. гени. А. А. Насибѣвича авторства «Иппия».



Grand Duke George Alexandrovich sitting in white chokha in front row. Abas-Tuman, 1897.

Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXtUu2HHxfE>

- It is showing the Abas-Tuman Palace in 2010, the Alexander Nevsky church and the place of death, where was built a chapel.

A Rasputin monument is established at a hospital in Tyumen

By Paul Kulikovskiy

On 28 July a monument to Rasputin appeared on the street Daudelnaya number 1 in Tyumen. He is standing with one hand resting on a chair. The location is not chosen by chance. The very first hospital building, stood on the territory of the Perinatal Center, for more than a century. In the beginning, there were five places for patients in the hospital. July 1, 1914 in the village of Pokrovsky in Tyumen district Rasputin was taken to the hospital, wounded by a dagger hit in the stomach committed by the former prostitute Khionia Gusev. He was treated from July 3 to August 17 by the surgeon A. Vladimirov. Rasputin later worked there as an orderly.



All subjects related to Rasputin, is credited with mystical properties. But the most popular among them - is the old bentwood chair of Rasputin. According to popular legend, the chair has healing effect - it treats male disease, increases the potency, and help with fertility. The doctors of the Perinatal Center, now located there, jokes that now there will be less work, as many Tyumentsev and guests will come to sit in this chair, to get rid of diseases.

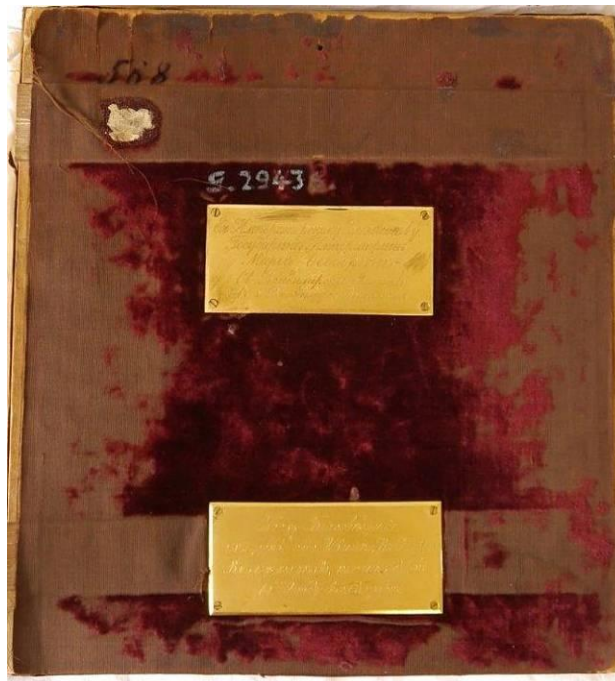
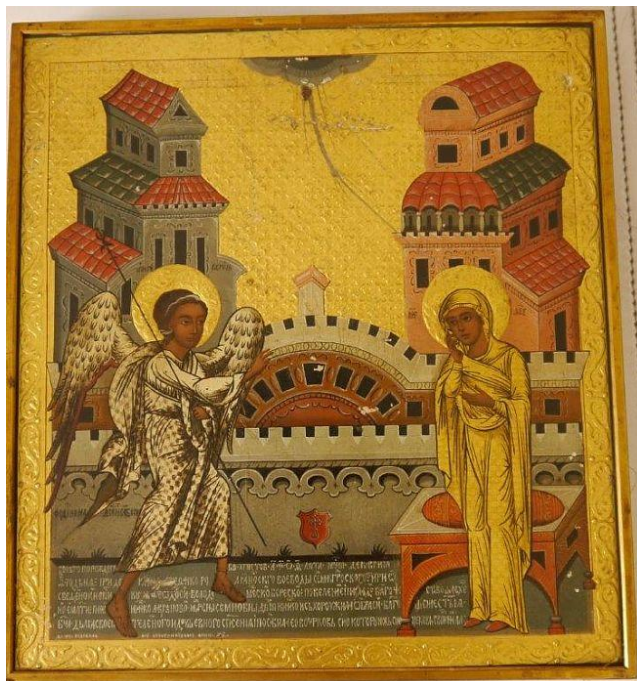
According to the head of the Central Administrative District council Valery Borisov Grigory Rasputin was an interesting personality, extraordinary - "It is possible to think of him in differently ways - good or bad. But if we are talking about him, then - remember. This is our history " - he said.

The 190 centimeters high monument (with pedestal), officially called "the holy elder", is made of glassfiber by Tyumen sculptor Vladimir Zolotukhin and is produced by LLC "SibDizayn service. The initiator of the monument was the Charity Development Fund from Tyumen, and money for the sculpture came from 15 Tyumen companies.

In Gatchina has returned an icon and photos of the Romanov family

By Paul Kulikovsky

In Gatchina museum is returned an icon once belonging to Empress Maria Feodorovna and a collection of photos of the Romanov family. These rare objects were taken from the Soviet Union to Germany during the Second World War. Now, 70 years later, these important witnesses of Russian history are back home.



Two months ago about the existence of this icon, made at the end of XIX century and given to Empress Maria Feodorovna, the museum did not know anything. The icon has both historical and memorial significance, as evidenced by the inscriptions on the back. It was returned by relatives of Henry Max Winterberg, a German soldier, who was in Gatchina in the autumn of 1941. According to family legend, he saved the icon from a fire and sent it together with the army mail home to Germany.

"In this situation it turned out, it was saved" - says chief curator of the State Museum Gatchina Elena Efimova. - "It is an icon that is very cherished."

"Annunciation" - a rare replica of a Vladimir-Volyn Icon of the XVI century. After the war, has been returned to Gatchina three icons, once located in Trinity Church in the palace.

In the 1941 evacuation were moved only a fifth of the exhibits. Low value items in the palace then became easy prey to the invaders. Officers of the Wehrmacht had clear instructions to seize cultural property. Thus, from Gatchina disappeared about 30,000 Romanov photos. In this regard, the museum's income of 33 amateur pictures, taken during the period from 1902 to 1903, is difficult to overestimate.

"Genres are very different. Here they fished near Gatchina mills" - says the head of the scientific archive GMZ" Gatchina "Irina Rizhenko.

Types of Gatchina, parades Cuirassier Regiment, visits to Tsarskoye Selo. Basically, a photographer from the inner circle of the Romanovs took photos of the children of Alexander III in various interiors and mood.

Some of the photos are shown in the collage below. They include Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Nicholas Kulikovsky (from the back), Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, Grand Duke Alexander Michailovich, Prince Peter of Oldenburg, and others.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/114542



Monument to Emperor Nicholas II opened in St. Nicholas Berlyukovsky monastery

On July 24, 2014 in the yard of the St. Nicholas Berlyukovsky Monastery in Moscow region, in the "Alley of glory", was opened a monument to the holy passion bearer Emperor Nicholas II, the Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the Russian Empire from 1915 to 1917.



The opening of the monument was a joint project of St. Nicholas Monastery and the charity fund "Revival of Cultural Heritage", with the support of the Moscow Regional Branch IOPS, sculpture studio of M.L.Serdyukov, and International charitable public organization "Center for Social Support of Compatriots" (ICPO TSSPS).

The project is aimed primarily at the patriotic education of compatriots, the popularization of the great history of Russia, its heroes, generals, priests and rulers, who gave all his strength for the prosperity of our country.



The event was dedicated to the blessed memory of the Holy Emperor Nicholas II, the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

A memorial plaque was unveiled with the inscription that during the war the monastery gave shelter to refugees, provided financial support to soldiers and needy.

There was also opened the exhibition "Heroes of World War I" in the premises of the historic Church of St. Nicholas Berlyukovsky monastery.

Monument to Emperor Alexander I in the Alexander Garden, at the Moscow Kremlin, before the end of 2014!

This was reported by Galina Ananina, head of the Women's Orthodox-patriotic society - one of the initiators of the monument.

"Now there is a closed competition for the best monument. Eight participating sculptors, all known, Muscovites love their work"- told Ananina. According to her, the jury of historians, architects and independent experts will summarize the results of the contest on August 1, "but the final decision will be taken at the highest level."

"Time is running out, it is necessary to perpetuate the memory of the War of 1812. In 2014 ends the 200th anniversary of the war - explained Ananina.



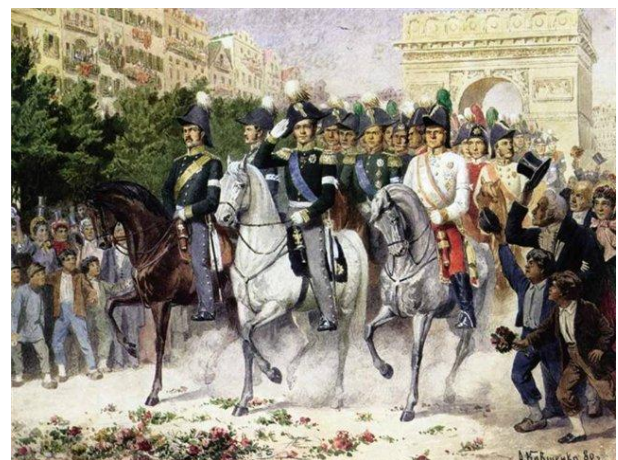
One of the proposal for a monument to Emperor Alexander I in Alexander Garden, at Moscow Kremlin

In Paris on a white horse

10/07/2014, Russian Gazeta. Text: Igor Elkov

Emperor Alexander I stood strong in the Patriotic War of 1812 and the spring of 1814 triumphantly entered Paris. Less well known is that it is during his reign, the Russian Empire annexed Finland, Bessarabia, Eastern and Western Georgia, and much of Poland. And he implemented or launched major reforms, including modernization of public administration. But at the same time, Decembrists created their own secret society in the reign of Emperor.

Another interesting historical parallel. Today we have entered a period of difficult relations with the European Union. But it is useful to recall that the current EU, OSCE, PACE and other European institutions are based on the prototype of the historic - the Congress of Vienna, which in the 19th century established a new European order, relevant to the present day. One of the key founders and leaders of the Congress was our Alexander I. About the emperor we are talking with Galina Ananina, the head of the Women's Orthodox-patriotic society - one of the organizers of the monument to Alexander I in the center of Moscow.



Monuments of historical figures are usually installed on the occasion of some anniversary. Alexander I was born in 1777, on the throne since 1801, died in 1825 - where is the round number?



Galina Ananina: "It's not a date, but we need to honor the memory of this great man. But if you need an anniversary, please: next month will we celebrate 200 years as the Synod, the Senate and the State Council awarded Alexander I the title "Blessed, benevolent powers restorer." When Alexander I was asked to put up a monument of him in Moscow. The Emperor refused, explaining that the best monument - people' memory".

The fact that our Cossacks were in Paris, is known to many. Actually, a French bistro is now also called so in Russian. But an almost unknown fact: Paris the Russian-Prussian troops took in just one day, but on that day was killed 8,000 soldiers, including 6,000 Russian. And Alexander I was present at all the battles. And on the day of the assault - March 31, 1814 - he led the troops personally when they entered the conquered Paris.

Galina Ananyina: "Many facts of his biography - are revelations to the public. Not all Muscovites know that the Manezh was built by Emperor Alexander I, 5 years after the end of the war in 1812. To him belongs the idea of creating the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. And the Kremlin itself is associated with his name because the first Kremlin Museum - the Armory - is created by his decree. Besides the victory over Napoleon, government reform, a significant expansion of the empire during the period of the reign, he abolished torture, founded five universities,

outfitted the first Russian world expedition. But it so happened that of him was not put up so many monuments, as compared to Alexander II. At one time it was suggested to put a monument to him in Christ the Saviour Cathedral or in the Kremlin at Arsenal. But the story was that at the Kremlin was put a monument to Alexander II, and at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior one of Alexander III. Unfortunately, in Moscow a monument to Alexander I, despite the fact that such desires were, has not been put any. I am convinced that it is necessary in Moscow. True and symbolic that it will be installed in the Alexander Garden".

Did not know that the garden is named in his honor?

Galina Ananina: "This garden was built by decree of Alexander I from 1820 to 1823. Originally called the Kremlin garden. And only in 1841 it was renamed Aleksandrovsky garden".

At what stage is the project?

Galina Ananina: "Now comes the closed competition for the best monument. 8 sculptors are involved, all known, Muscovites loved their works. Decision will be made on August 1, the jury consists of historians, architects and independent experts, but the final decision will be taken at the highest level. The monument to Emperor will be established before the end of this year".

Why is the contest closed?

Galina Ananina: "Time is running out. It was necessary to perpetuate the memory of the War of 1812. In 2014 - this is the 200th anniversary of the war. Competition, though closed, but brought sculptors from different regions of Russia, for example, from Krasnodar. Invited artists and sculptors, those who are already engaged in creating a sculpture of Alexander I and whose sculptures have been installed".

Galina, not so long ago, a monument to Patriarch Hermogenes, and now the Emperor Alexander. What's the hurry to perpetuate the historical characters at the walls of the Kremlin?

Galina Ananina: "This is not a rush, but a return of historical debts. And there has been accumulated a lot. If we are talking about the Patriarch Hermogen, then the monument to him was to be put back in 1803. The society had initiated in Moscow a monument to Minin and Pozharsky, and to Patriarch Hermogenes. Every 100 years, the initiative was repeated, for example, in 1912 the Princess Uvarov organized two competitions, but a monument to the Patriarch has not been put.

The Patriarch Hermogenes monument project I became involved in 2009. For me, a candidate of historical sciences, he was the Patriarch of the Troubled Times. Now I know a lot about him, about his life and about his exploits for the country. It was such a proposal - to create a spiritual triangle Kazan Cathedral, Minin and Pozharsky and monument to Hermogen on Red Square. By and large, the spiritual triangle we still turned, but it is now much bigger.

After all, what it meant for our country to overcome the turmoil? In fact, we then retained statehood. At the unveiling of Hermogen, Patriarch Kirill said that without Patriarch Hermogen, there would be no Russia.

So we are indebted to the great, and these debts are accumulated over centuries. They have to be returned. That is what happening now".



Galina Ananina, head of the Women's Orthodox-patriotic society originally created in 1812. Photo: Olesya Kurpyaeva / RG.

With UNESCO there will be no problems? They cautiously react to all new buildings at the Kremlin.

Galina Ananina: "You know, there was a time when you and I could not imagine that on the Red Square will be restored Kazan Cathedral. (Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan in 1936 was destroyed and in its place was built a pavilion in honor of the "III International" and a public toilet. The cathedral was rebuilt in 1990-1993 on public donations.)

Today it stands, and the impression is that he was there all his life. As the Resurrection Gate - double pass-gate at the Kitaygorod wall (in 1931 demolished under the pretext of cars. In 1995 restored).

In general, many has the impression that all the monasteries was always there. Even that many were demolished, no. Therefore, when I hear UNESCO say we cannot here and there, in Alexander Garden, etc - then the question arises, why so, it is actually not difficult or impossible.

After all, with the monument to Patriarch Hermogenes in the Alexander Garden, they also thought it was impossible. But the monument stands!

So everything is possible when there is a popular initiative, and spiritual support of the Patriarch and of the first person - the president. That is, when people are together, the church and the state".

Why is the installation of such monuments initiated by a women's organization?

Galina Ananina: "Female Orthodox-patriotic society, which I chair, was established in late 1812 as the first women's charity. Subsequently it became the imperial female patriotic society. First Matron was Elizabeth A., wife of Alexander I, and the charter of the society asserted himself Alexander I. Therefore, we have taken the initiative on setting the monument to Emperor. But these popular initiatives were many - a monument in Moscow must be installed".

And inside the Kremlin walls there are ideas to restore or put monuments?

Galina Ananina: "I was one of the consultants on the monument to the Liberator Tsar Alexander II, erected in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior (All Saints by us). The monument by sculptor Alexander Rukavishnikov is wonderful, but personally I had a great desire to restore this monument in the Kremlin. Why there? At one time in the Kremlin was a monument to Alexander II. There was 33-portrait mosaics of Russian rulers from Rurik and Romanov, and the emblems of all territories of the Russian Empire. A kind of monument to the whole of Russia and simultaneously a museum of history of Russia and its state symbols.

That majestic monument to Alexander II was built over five years, it was located on the slope of the Kremlin hill facing the Moscow River. It opened in the presence of Emperor Nicholas II in the summer of 1898. A funding plaque on the colonnade said: "Erected by grateful Russian people." In 1918, this monument was destroyed".



At the Kremlin was also a monument to Lenin?

Galina Ananina: "Yes, and about the same place, in Tainitsky garden - from 1967 to 1995. The monument was of bronze and pedestal from dark gray granite. It was dismantled and moved to the first "Art Park" at the Yalta embankment and then to Gorki. I do not know if someone tries to return the monument to the Kremlin".

Given your knowledge of the Kremlin architectural, are there any plans to restore the eagles on the Kremlin towers?

Galina Ananina: "I can tell you about my personal perception of the Kremlin stars. My life is mostly lived in the Soviet Union. The stars is history. Yes, and in their artistic perception like majestic stars. So I cannot unequivocally say that they should be removed.

But here's an interesting fact: Lenin lived and worked in the Kremlin from 1918 to 1924. And all these years on the Kremlin towers was adorned with huge copper headed eagles. According to documents the leader has repeatedly demanded to remove the royal symbols and was angry that he was not listened to. But the Eagles have not been taken off, and they did not prevent Lenin build the proletarian state. The Kremlin stars Ilyich never saw. The first five-pointed star was set on the Spasskaya Tower in 1935.

Symbols of an era often coexist peacefully in another era. Much in the Soviet Union reminds the same in the Russian Empire. The first Soviet money, these huge green bills with Lenin repeated prerevolutionary money. And we are now quietly accepting the eagles on the Historical Museum. Thank God that society understands and accepts. I think the same opinion from the representatives of our government, the stars - it's not something that keeps us from living".

Public like the monument to Patriarch Hermogen. The personality of Alexander I, in your opinion, will not cause any controversy?

Galina Ananina: "Of course, he is a great reformer and collector of land. But secret society, the future Decembrists - is also episodes of his reign.

I think that today it's time to reassess and rethink the personality of Alexander I. And yet I would put emphasis on this undeservedly forgotten part of our history as the War of 1812. Look how many

monuments to Napoleon! His name is immortalized thoroughly. But he was not a winner in the great war?

The name of Alexander I is immortalized, in the Alexander Garden in Moscow and in the Alexander Column in St. Petersburg. His name was given to land near Antarctica, a street in Helsinki, Berlin area, a church in Kiev, a fort at Kronstadt. But most of the monuments to Alexander I have not survived, and the rest are mostly abroad.

Or here's another question: does everyone knows that the Arc de Triomphe on Poklonnaya Hill was put in honor of the victories of Alexander I? Therefore, a monument in the center of Moscow must be installed. And no controversy will be caused by his personality".

Officially Alexander I died December 1, 1825 in Taganrog. But there is a legend that the emperor was not really dead, but became a monk. And did not die in 1825, but in 1864?

Galina Ananina: "Yes, the popular rumor personifies him with the Siberian holy elder Fyodor Kuzmich. The same legend exists about his wife, according to which she lived after the "official death" under the name Vera Molchalnitsy. For many years, these puzzles have engaged historians, and still this question is raised. But I think no one can reliably say today whether this is so or not.

But there is something more interesting. Definitely Alexander I in the Great Patriotic War had a revaluation of values. He saw what happened to his country, saw the terrible sacrifices and great deeds, and saw the destroyed and burnt Moscow, desecrated shrines.

The rumors and legends rooted in people are talking about people's love for the emperor and his wife. This kind of love is not just created. You know, ordinary people would love to extend their earthly life, not just as some mysterious hermits. People have preserved the memory of the Emperor and Empress as holy. And this is important. Note that the holy elder, which represent Alexander I, to him many pray, worship and still go to his grave".

"Alexander the Blessed - Liberator of Europe"



On July 11, 2014 at the State Museum-Preserve "Pavlovsk" opened the exhibition "Alexander the Blessed - the liberator of Europe. It is dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the victory over Napoleon. The exhibition was prepared on materials from the museum related to the Rose Pavilion in Pavlovsk park where exactly 200 years ago July 27, 1814, Empress Maria Feodorovna received her son Emperor Alexander I, crowned with laurels, after defeating Napoleon, liberator of Europe, and got the title "Blessed". To this day, the pavilion was built and decorated as a ballroom.

The festive program was by order of Maria Feodorovna including music, a gala dinner, dance and nightly fireworks. It was a memorable celebration wrote many contemporaries.

This event prompted the idea two centuries later to make an exhibition, which reflects the victory of the Russian army in the war with Napoleon, and the contribution of the generals, officers and soldiers in the liberation of Europe. A special place is occupied by the Emperor Alexander I and members of the imperial family. The basis of the exhibition is prints and watercolors from 1813-1815 in facsimile copies from the

museum's collection. First of all, is works on the occupation of Paris, "Alexander I, under the walls of Paris", a watercolor by Ivanov, "The entry of Alexander I in Paris," watercolor by an unknown artist, "Cossacks on the Champs Elysees," engraving by G. Opitz, "Parade of Russian troops on the Place de la Concorde in Paris April 10, 1814", an excellent multi-figure composition by engraver I. Klaubera. Great historical and artistic interesting is the work of German engravers F. Yugel "Entry of

the Allied troops in Paris March 31, 1814", D. Berger's "Liberators of Europe", colored etchings by Russian makers: I. Tupyleva heroic scenes and cartoons Terebenev, and visitors can see the work of the English engraver G. Meier and I. Klaubera, including the excellent engraving from the original medallion of Tolstoy.

For the exhibition is upgraded the interiors of the Pink Pavilion. In flower boxes, which are the main parts of the pavilion decoration, are new composition of roses. In the central Rotunda, the architectural masterpiece of A.N. Voronikhin placed, as in the times of Maria Feodorovna, an unique chair, a historical relic that had been kept in the Rose Pavilion. This chair is made of birch wood and upholstered with embroidery, made of silk on canvas. On the back in a wreath of white roses and bay leaves - initial Emperor Alexander I, over which a crown is sewn with golden silk. On the seat in the same technique - double-headed eagle under a crown, and on its breast a plate with the letter "A". On the sides of the seat - embroidered inscription in French: "Log of Alexander I in Paris March 31, 1814."

There is in the Rotunda a replica of dress of Empress Maria Feodorovna from 1810s. Silk crimson, almost bell-shaped, cut with a high waist, according to the fashion of the time, decorated with satin ribbons, fringe, and on the bodice - braid-cord, as a hussar Dolomanov. It was the same color as in the uniform of the Life Guards Hussar Regiment, which was formed by Tsarevich Paul Petrovich in 1792 and which Maria Feodorovna patronized. The guards were always on duty in the palaces during her stay.

The organizers sought to show that the Pink Pavilion is "a monument to the glory of the victor over Napoleon - Alexander I - and at the same time make it his celebration, honored peacemaker in Europe inside the walls of this building."

The exhibition is open until October 31, 2014

"Order of Malta"

2014-07-16. An Official Statement from the Chancellery of the Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, on the activities of organizations which falsely refer to themselves as the "Order of Malta"

The Chancellery of the Russian Imperial House occasionally receives inquiries from individuals and organizations about its relationship to groups that refer to themselves as the "Order of St. John of Jerusalem," including so called "Orthodox" and "Russian" "Orders of Malta", "Priories", "Commanderies", and so on.

In each such instance, it is necessary to clarify that no one has the legal right to use modified names or symbols of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta (hereinafter referred to as the Sovereign Order of Malta), which has a unquestionable historical and legal continuity from the moment of its founding, and which is recognized as a sovereign entity under international law, and which maintains diplomatic relations with more than 100 States around the world.

The Orthodox Russian Grand Priory was founded by Emperor Paul I in 1798 and was abolished by Emperor Alexander I in 1817. Since then no legitimate authority has reestablished it. Local attempts to revive its activities on a legal basis have not been successful, and all "Orthodox Order of St. John" organizations are illegitimate and offer a means of deception, including the trafficking in false "knighthoods."



Unfortunately, sometimes members of ancient Russian noble families, some of whose ancestors were members of the genuine Sovereign Order of Malta, have taken part (presumably out of ignorance or carelessness) in the activities of some of these pseudo-Order of Malta organizations. This is especially regrettable because it discredits historic traditional values, and damages the good name of these ancient families and the reputations of their descendants in Russia and the world over.

Therefore, taking into account the long-standing historical and friendly relationship between the Russian Imperial House and the Sovereign Order of Malta, the Chancellery of the Head of the Russian Imperial House considers it necessary to provide the following detailed clarification of the legal and historical position of the Sovereign Order of Malta over the centuries.

1. The founding of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta occurred before the formal schism of the Church into the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church in 1054, but all of its history and activities are connected with the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Paschal II formally recognized the Order and placed it under his protection in 1113. In this way, the Sovereign Order of Malta has always been and remains a Catholic Order. All assertions that the Order of Malta is “non-denominational” and “inter-confessional,” or that it is “Masonic” and so on, are absurd and do not stand up to scrutiny.
2. Emperor Paul I of Russia was elected to the position of Grand Master at the most critical moment in the history of the Order of Malta. He saved it from destruction and sought to make it not only an Order of Chivalry of the Russian Empire, but also an influential global force in the struggle for the values of Christian civilization that are common to Orthodox and Catholics. That election, however, never received the necessary legal confirmation on an international level. Some violations of procedures in his election (for example, the inability of a large number of electors to participate in the election, as required by the Statute of the Order) could be considered insignificant and not affecting the legitimacy of the outcome of the election, especially in view of the extreme situation in a Europe that was then being torn apart by revolution and war. Even so, the lack of any formal recognition of the legality of the election of Paul I by Pope Pius VI and Pius VII makes it impossible to consider him Grand Master de jure. He is properly honoured as the Protector of the Order and as de facto Grand Master only.
3. The Orthodox Grand Priory of Russia, and the activities of the Order of Malta inside the Russian Empire, were entirely abolished in 1817 by Emperor Alexander I, and there has not been any legitimate restoration.
4. Attempts by descendants of the Russian Orthodox Noble (hereditary) Commanders of the Order of Malta to revive the “Orthodox Grand Priory of Russia” after 1917 have not been successful. The historical memorial association that was established after the Russian Revolution was formed legitimately and for a time even enjoyed the support of the Russian Imperial House and the Sovereign Order of Malta. However, unauthorized actions by this organization in the 1970s deprived it of recognition from the House of Romanoff and the Sovereign Order of Malta.
5. All so-called “Orthodox” and other false “Orders of Malta” are, at best, a kind of childish game and, at worst, a source of fraud and political provocation. The philanthropic slogans of such organizations serve only as a cover for harmful activities. Belonging to a false order conveys no rights or duties of any sort, and certainly none of the rights or duties belonging to genuine knights of the Sovereign Order of Malta.
6. Protestant Orders of St. John (in Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Great Britain) share the same historic tradition and the same mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta: giving assistance to the sick and the poor. These four orders have gained recognition by virtue of their having been instituted by the legitimate hereditary sovereigns of these nations, and by the subsequent recognition of them by the Sovereign Order of Malta. There is no possible

comparison between these Protestant Orders of St. John and the clearly false “Orthodox Orders of Malta.”

7. Any person who elects to enter one of the false “Orders of Malta” or who supports any contact with them, risks becoming a victim of deception and of suffering reputation or financial loss.

All questions relating to the legitimate Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, which maintains formal and friendly relations with the Russian Imperial House, should be directed to the following address:

Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta
Magistral Palace
Via Condotti, 68 – 00187 Rome – Italy
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e-mail: info@orderofmalta.int
Official Webpage: www.orderofmalta.int

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119019 Moscow Russian Federation
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A.N. Zakatov
Director of Chancellery of H.I.H.

Moscow
July 16, 2014

For complete text: <http://www.imperialhouse.ru/eng/>

In memory of painter Pavel Ryzhenko



On July 16 died Pavel Ryzhenko, only 43 years old. Pavel Ryzhenko was a stunning historical painter. Distinguished by his ability to create an idea, a plot, a message, a meta-sense image, the ability to characterize the situation, genuinely and sincerely patriotic, orthodox, Russian history teller, great sense of details, and subtle humor. Someone says Ryzhenko is Semiradsky, Surikov, Vasnetsov and Nesterov all mixed into "one". And indeed, his creations in the previous years is enough to ensure him a place in the front row of the geniuses of Russian painting...

The kingdom of heaven has welcomed another great artist!

A few examples of his works is shown below....

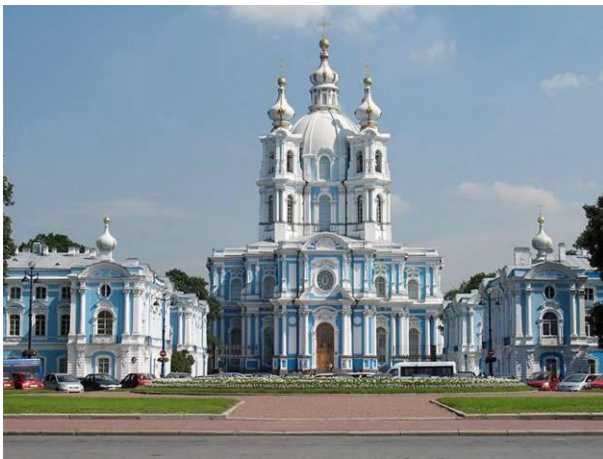


"Era of Mercy" in Smolny Cathedral

- In memory of Maria Feodorovna, Empress benefactress

The State Museum-complex "St. Isaac's Cathedral" is upon numerous requests from visitors in the Smolny Cathedral showing an updated historical-documentary photo exhibition under the new name "Era of Mercy". The name of Empress Maria Feodorovna, wife of Emperor Paul, is related to the emergence of charitable and educational establishments in Russia. Thanks to the Empress charity became a matter of state, acquired a monarchical protection and care. "Minister of charity" she was called by her contemporaries.

Smolny Cathedral was also completed on order of Emperor Nicholas I, as a monument to the Empress, his mother. At one of the piers of the cathedral was a memorial plaque with the inscription in gold letters: "This church was named the monument of all educational institutions in the memory of the Empress Maria Feodorovna, patron of the youth." And in the altar of the cathedral to this day is kept a marble plaque on which were carved and gilded names of institutions based and patronized by the Empress Maria; Smolny, Catherine and Kharkov Institute for Noble Maidens, School of deaf-mutes, the Mariinsky and Pavlovsky institutions, Orphan School in Gatchina, St. Petersburg orphanage - where today is located Pedagogical University.



Photos, documents and decrees, a copy of the Oath of compassionate, menus, poems for anniversaries, interiors schools - classes and workshops, dormitories and dining rooms, laundry and dryers, pharmacies and operating theaters, wards for infants and foundlings, etc., portraits of inhabitants - students and pupils, servants, nurses, and the rulers of persons - all this visitors can see.

Part of the exhibition is devoted to the St. Petersburg widow home. About it is told in more detail, as it was here, in the Smolny Cathedral surrounding buildings, they lived after the pupils of the Smolny Institute left. Here began the history of women's health ministry in Russia. First Compassionate widow unselfishly went

to the hospital to care for the poor aching. During the war of 1853-1856 Compassionate, despite advanced age, went to the Crimea to care for the wounded. Updated exhibition supplemented materials on the activities compassionate widows during the Crimean campaign, provided the Military Medical Museum.

History Widows' Home as versatile as it is unfamiliar, is well known for a wide range of visitors. About the young Smolnians is known only a few objects in scientific collections. But Smolny Institute was located in these buildings for about forty years. Widow's house - for more than a century.

The exhibition presents more than 100 copies of documents and photographs related to the activities of the Department of Institutions of Empress Maria.

The exhibition will run until August 7.

"Yusupov Album"

An open-air exhibition about the Manor Arkhangelsky in photographs late XIX - early XX centuries.

The outdoor exhibition shows rare photographs from the collection of the State Museum-Estate "Arkhangelsky". The museum contains over 1,500 photos from the family archive of Yusupovs from daguerreotypes late 1850s to images of the 1910s. Along with past events and persons they reflected kinds of different places, including historical appearance of Arkhangelsky. One of the first in 1860 making photos of the estate was the Swiss Emil Prikam, followed by many Russian photo masters at the turn of the century. There are also many amateur photos may made by members of the Yusupov family.



The exhibition presents three sets of images: interiors, views and genre photography. From the old photos one can get an idea about how was the decoration of the palace interiors in Arkhangelsk, reflecting the lifestyle and taste of the owners. Species photos convey a recognizable part of the manor ensemble and provide an indication of lost or altered form of the contemporary monument.



In particular, in a rare photo from 1860 can be seen the lost commemorative column in honor of Emperor Alexander II, which was standing before the Great Parterre.



Princess Zinaida Yusupov, with her two sons Nicholas and Felix, in the park at Arkhangelsk Palace. Painting by Francois Flamengo

The photographs shows many interesting signs of the times: over belvedere palace princely standard flies, from the fountain on the upper terrace of the park has water, the front yard is covered with grooves from the wheels crews. Genre pictures tell about everyday life and festivals in the estate during its last owners. Princess Zinaida Yusupova and her husband Felix Count Sumarokov-Elston, who spent much time in the Archangel with their sons Nikolai and Felix, receiving guests - representatives of the nobility, of politics and culture. They made walking, hiking and horseback riding, were engaged in sports games, sit for portraits, arranged tea. Summer festivities with swings and roundabouts, and fairs attracted all the inhabitants near the manor.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/113963

Anniversary of the Poltava victory

By Paul Kulikovsky

On 10 of July 2014 was celebrated the 305 anniversary of Poltava battle and the Sampson church. Emperor Peter the Great rightly believed that this victory should remain forever in the memory of the people. At the behest of the emperor in St. Petersburg was founded a church in the name of St. Sampson the Hospitable.



Today the Sampson church, a part of the State Museum-complex "St. Isaac's Cathedral", is known for its ancient icons, gilded carved iconostasis and architecture, combining the features of church construction of Baroque.

In 2003, with the help of the museum, was on the square opposite the bell tower of the church of St. Sampson restored the monument to Peter I by the sculptor N. E. Lancere and architect M. M. Antokolsky, which was dismantled in 1938.

In honor of the anniversary of the victory at Poltava and the Sampson church, was on its ground first a Divine Liturgy with thanksgiving, which made the vicar of St. Petersburg Diocese Bishop Markell of Tsarskoye Selo, followed by a cross procession around the church. At the service were the director of the State Museum-complex "St. Isaac's Cathedral" Nikolai Burov and his deputy Vitaly Payatigorsky.





Outside at the monument to Emperor Peter the Great was held a lithium for Emperor Peter the Great, Field Marshal Alexander Menshikov and warriors for the faith and Fatherland. Flowers were laid at the monument to the emperor. Military musicians in the uniform of Peter's time played March of the Preobrazhensky Regiment.

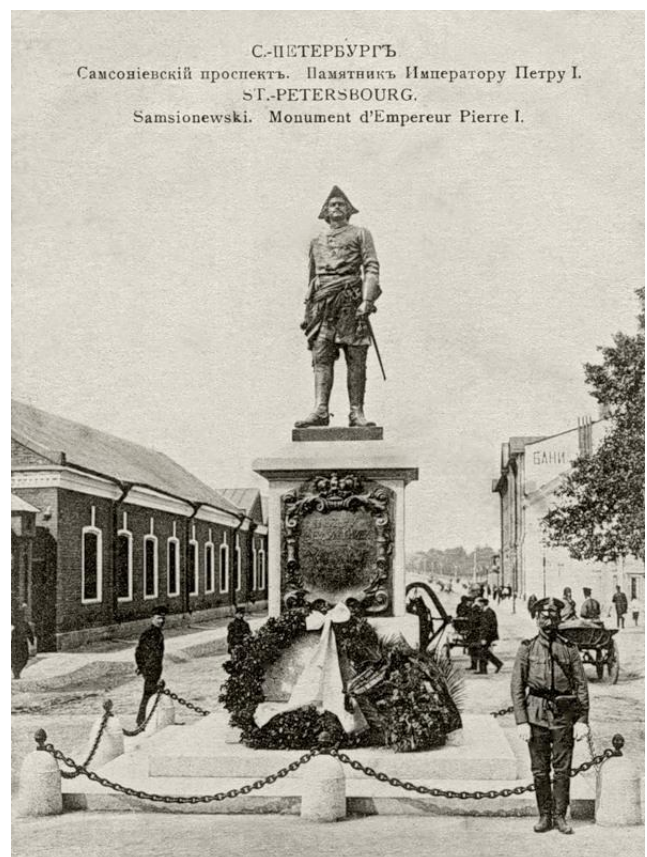
Then procession returned to the church, where the service continued led by Archpriest Alexander Budnikov.

"Today in the history of our Motherland 305 years ago was a great day, on the feast day of St. Sampson the Hospitable, the Russian army under the leadership of the great Emperor Peter the Great and his chief assistant Field Marshal Prince Alexander Menshikov won with the help of God a glorious victory over the army of the Swedish King Charles the Twelfth. The historical significance of this victory is that Russia became a great European power, which was recognized in the whole world at that time. Praise God that these historical dates began to remember in our time. In Russia was a great tradition to remember historical events, to erect monuments and churches or chapels. This church was dedicated to the Reverend Sampson the Hospitable, as it is on the day of his memory was victory at Poltava. The magnificent church, a monument to the glory."- said Father Alexander.

He congratulated the congregation on their feast day, and recalled that after the Cathedral of Peter and Paul Fortress, the Sampson Church is the second cathedral, built in the imperial capital.

In reply, Bishop Markell said, remembering the dead on the battlefield, we are trying to stop the spiritual devastation in our minds: "We need to restore monuments and memory. No memory - no future."

The celebration ended with a concert by Smolny Cathedral Chamber Choir.



The Winter Palace garden's original iron fence is neglected

10.07.2014. Karpovka. By Elvira Egorova

A subject of cultural heritage of regional importance - the garden fence from the Winter Palace's garden, restored just three years ago, is again in a deplorable condition. The beautiful curves of ancient iron lace, forged by the sketch of Robert Friedrich Melzer, is heavily corroded. Paint is falling off and exposes the more than a century age iron.



The garden fence at the west side of the Winter Palace - Top, seen from the Neva River, and bottom, from the Palace Square.

The fence now stands in Stachek, on the road from the center of St. Petersburg to Peterhof, where it came in 1924 directly from the western facade of the Winter Palace, where it had graced the garden of His Majesty. Its construction was originally a matter of emergency - near the royal residence ran a horse-drawn railway. The busy traffic created noise, which ruined the peace of the royal family, whose chambers is located in the west wing of the palace. In addition, in 1879 in the Winter Palace was an explosion - the handiwork of revolutionary Stepan Halturina. As a result, it was decided to built near the western wall of the building flower beds and to plant trees. The garden became a kind of buffer zone between the "world" and the royal house.

The garden fence was made in the years 1899-1901 by renowned architect Robert Friedrich Melzer. A picturesque pattern of stylized acanthus leaves with imperial monograms and the national emblem of the country was forged at Egelsona workshop. In 1902, the fence was set up on high pedestals of sandstone with a granite foundation.

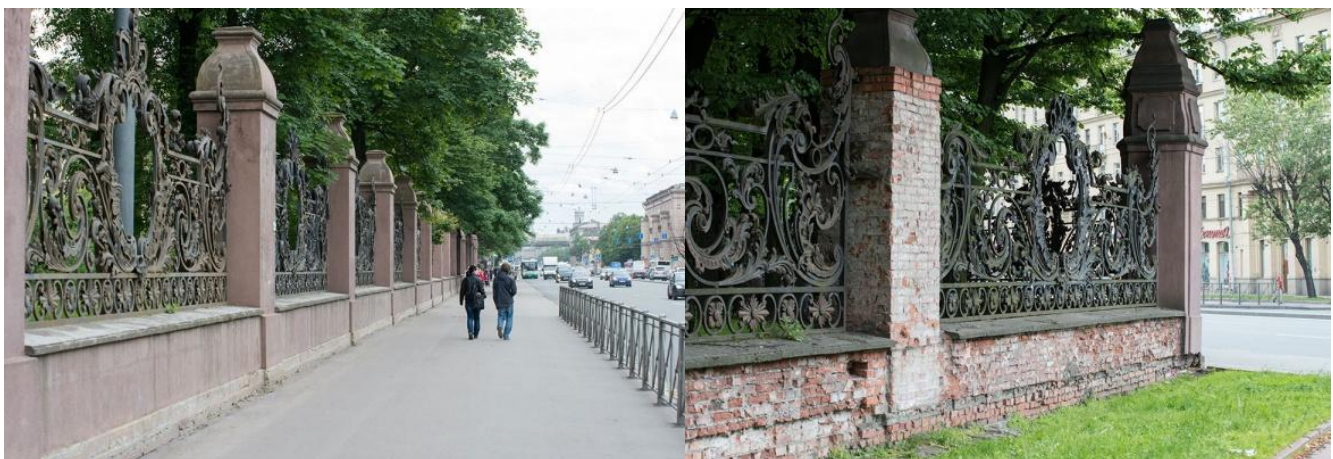
The skillfully executed work was appreciated not only by compatriots: a few lattice units and decorated fence posts, took the Grand Prix at the World Exhibition in Paris.



In 1917 all the monograms in the garden's fence was covered up.

However the Bolsheviks came to power and did not appreciate the creation of Meltzer. On May 1, 1920 the fence was dismantled. A part of the fence, however, someone managed to save. Four years later, the architect Leo Ilin used the units without the eagles and monograms, on the garden on Stachek avenue, then called the "Garden of Remembrance of the Victims of execution in 1905" (Now Garden of Jan. 9).

In the early 2000s there was a need for an acute restoration of the age-old lattice. According to the Committee on State Control, Use and Protection of Monuments of History and Culture (KGIOP), from 2004 to 2011 from the budget of St. Petersburg were performed work on the restoration and installation of 20 units more and the repair and restoration of the brick pillars. Why now, only 3 years after many years of restoration work the fence is again in disrepair - is unclear.





In the 1990s, there was talk about returning the fence to its historic site - the Winter Palace. This question was even considered at the scientific advisory council KGIOP. But then, in 1990, the majority of the council members was in favor of keeping the modern location of the fence. The same opinion had representatives of the Hermitage, which now occupies the building of the Winter Palace - "When we delved into the history, we learn that the fence was installed at a time when the building of the palace was a red-pink color - said the head of the press service of the Hermitage Larisa Korabelnikova. - It was a fence on a high pedestal of red granite. Now it does not fit the color nor the historic appearance. Besides the garden now no longer belongs to the museum, as it is administered by the city. So it is for it to decide."

Position is clear, as the old wise saying goes, out of sight out of mind. On Stachek the shabby appearance of cultural heritage hurts nobody's eyes - there the fence can safely live out its life, until it finally wears out and must be replaced.



The "new" monument to Emperor Peter the Great in Orenburg is "leaky"



July 10, 2014, RIA "Orenburg"

The new monument to Peter I on the Champ de Mars, unveiled on June 13th this year, became an unpleasant story in Orenburg, as some argue that the monument is defective, as evident by the gaps on the coat of Peter, during which can be seen the frame of the monument.

The monument appeared in Orenburg partly due to Honored Artist of Russia Yuri Rysuhin. It was he who, having learned about the announced competition, invited the sculptor Leonid Baranov from Moscow to participate. The author of Peter I he met two years ago at an exhibition.

The time to make the monument was not enough. In Moscow the sculptor had a ready monument, which eventually was given preference in Orenburg. The sculpture stood in the studio Baranova about ten years. Almost the same monument of Peter I was put in Rotterdam, only smaller in stature, with a different slant of the head 10 years ago.

According to Yuri Rysuhin, the Peter I monument in Orenburg Leonid Baranov considers his best work.

About the history of this memorable monument and its condition told the son of the sculptor Peter Baranov;

- First, as to "obscure materials", of which the monument is made. Peter is made of bronze, it is the most important. Hence the words of corrosion of this material - it's all ridiculous arguments as bronze is the only material with which nothing happens after 10 years and even over 50.



- Now that the monument supposedly is defective. In fact, I did this, Peter was made a long time ago, it is an author's work, and not an order. With regard to money and finance, the monument was set in the city on public money and private investors. Therefore, corruption and stolen money here is stupid talk.

- Regarding the holes on the coat of Peter I, so is the style for decades in works by Leonid Baranov. You can see his sculptures in various museums, this is elements of its author's ideas, which he uses - summed Peter Baranov.

Video - 1) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVLLuM99CJ0>

2) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQo_LtaJb1M

3) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeYaceQO5k#t=45>

The "Wild Division"

09.07.2014. Grozny-Inform



In Grozny opened an exhibition dedicated to the 100-anniversary of the Caucasian Native Cavalry Division, better known to history as the "Wild Division".

The National Library of Chechnya exhibited materials of soldiers - Highlanders, who fought in the First World War for the integrity of the Russian state. Here is regimental and field notebooks, reports of battles, awards soldiers, and many other documents that prove the glory of the brave riders. Objects are from Archives Department of Government of the Chechen Republic, together with colleagues in Moscow of the Russian State Military Historical Archive, which has been collected over four years and has created a huge documentary fund, numbering several hundred cases: more than 3 thousands documents and about 600 photos. Part of this archival collection became the basis for today's exhibition - "Caucasian Native Cavalry Division."



The official opening ceremony was attended by President of the Parliament Dukvakha Abdurakhmanov, Deputy Prime Minister Magomadov Abdullah, Minister of Culture Khoj-Baudi Daaev, Chairman of the Board at the development of civil society and human rights Timur Aliyev, head of the Archives Department of the Government Mohammed Musa, as well as descendants of warriors of the "Wild Division".

D. Abdurahmanov noted in his speech that the long cherished memory of the fallen heroes was betrayed with undeserved oblivion, because of political trends in the country and the ideological

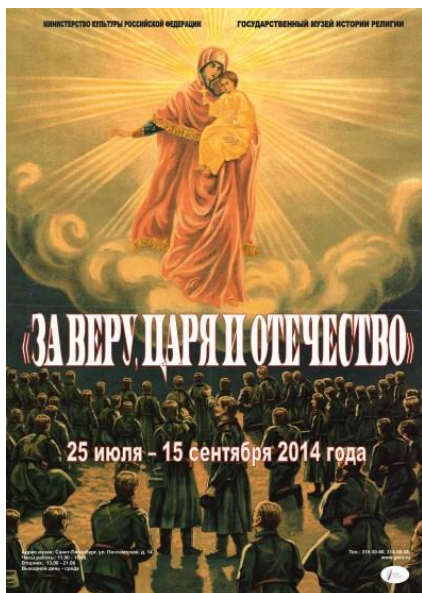
system of the USSR the events of those years were presented distorted. Now, thanks to the fact that we live in a free democratic country, it became possible to speak openly about it.

Caucasian Native Cavalry Division was created August 23, 1914 on the personal orders of Emperor Nicholas II. It composed of volunteers Caucasians to defend the common Motherland. Commander of the division became the Tsar's younger brother Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich.



From December 1914 to July 1917 Caucasian Native Cavalry Division fought in the South-West and on the Romanian front - against the Austro-Hungarian and German troops. Officers and riders participated in major operations in the Russian army offensive in Przemyśl, a campaign in the Carpathian Mountains, the battles on the Dniester, and the famous Brusilov breakthrough.

"For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland" in St. Petersburg



In the State Museum of the History of Religion in St. Petersburg opened an exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War - "For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland".

In the exhibition can be seen unique icons, paintings, sculptures and graphics (posters, postcards, flyers), military medals, military uniforms, photographs - more than 120 objects from the collection of the museum - reveal hitherto unknown military history page of 1914-1918 - activities of the "spiritual front."

It focus not on the military, but the ideological and spiritual confrontation between the two military-political blocs, which was held at the front and rear, as well as the role of the priesthood of the Russian military in maintaining the morale of the army.

In the exhibition can be seen the icon "Holy Mother of God Reigning" - received, according to the report of Metropolitan Tikhon of Moscow, on the day of Emperor Nicholas II's abdicated March 2, 1917), memorial icons with inscriptions, a collection of Orders of St. George and St. George medals - all four degrees, awards and orders for chaplains, a full uniform of a Private from 297 Kovel Infantry Regiment, the painting "Madonna phenomenon soldiers" made in 1914 by Anglican pastor BS Lombard in St. Petersburg, where he served in the church at the British Embassy and the icon "Our Lady of the phenomenon of soldiers" (1917) inspired by it. The jewel of the exhibitions is the makeshift church of His Imperial Majesty Consolidated Infantry Regiment, with a set of unique items, including details of military priest vestments and church furnishings, including -

the original candlestick made of bayonets to the rifle Berdan number 2.

Open from July 25 to September 15

Video - 1) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1157816/>

2) http://www.otr-online.ru/news/news_31466.html

3) <http://www.newstube.ru/media/v-peterburge-otkrylas-vystavka-o-pervoj-mirovoj-voine>



"For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland!" in Karelia

09.07.2014. Vyatka regional museum

In the museum "Kizhi", in the capital of Petrozavodsk and Karelia, opened an exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the First World War. It is dedicated to the fate of our countrymen, participants in the First World War.

Olonets Province, now Karelia, was a territory remote from the theater of hostilities, but, like all regions of the country, carried the burden of a long war. In our region was for the army mobilized thousands, and Petrozavodsk factory produced shells. By the hands of Russian workers and Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war was built the Murmansk railway connecting the port city of Murmansk and Petrograd.



The First World War - was the last war of Tsarist Russia, and in it sounded the imperial army's motto: "For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland!". The outbreak of war was accompanied by the rise of patriotic sentiment across the country. Since the beginning of the First World War, now 100 years ago, has been preserve family stories about our ancestors - the soldiers officers, and nurses.

Feodor Arkhipovich Baryshnikov came to the opening ceremony as one of the first. For this, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, had a special reason. His father Arkhip Baryshnikov, a native of the village Yaransk fought in the First World. He was a senior non-commissioned officer - served in the famous 19th Cavalry Regiment Dragoon Arkhangelsk. Peering into the exhibits, Feodor Arkhipovich recalls his father's stories about the battles at Königsberg in East Prussia and how his father got a St. George Cross for bravery on the battlefield handed by Emperor Nicholas II.

Feodor Baryshnikov, son of a St. George Knight: In the hospital, he was lying, and said - Now comes the Tsar himself, can you put the pillow under my back, raise me up, and then the Tsar came and gave him the cross, patted him on the shoulder - fellow non-commissioned officers and he said - I serve the Tsar and the Fatherland!

Feodor Arkhipovich has to the exhibition brought family heirlooms - the document awarding the St. George Cross and a front-line photo of his father. Through such people live family traditions of the heroes of the Great War.



Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SFqMU07dVM>

It is Mary Shestova - grandmother of Tsar Michael Feodorovich - claims research report

08.07.2014. Mangazaya

July 8, in Cheboksary was held a round table on "The archaeological research of the historic city" and the key historical moment of the meeting was the publication of the results of the anthropological examination of the remains found last fall at the alleged tomb of Mary Shestova - grandmother of the first tsar of the Romanov dynasty - Michael Feodorovich.



The meeting led by Mayor Leonid Cherkesov was attended by eminent scientists, historians, priests, archaeologists and representatives of the administration of the capital of Chuvashia. An "extraordinary event", "the most important archaeological find", "happy moment of history" - not by chance were these epithets repeated as a red thread through all of the meeting. On the findings of the examination briefed the mayor. Studies showed similarity in 22 shaping parameters in the skull and facial skeleton with those of the daughter Tatiana of the first Russian Tsar. Also findings confirm it belongs to a woman who died in the range of 40-45 years, and a height of about 153 centimeters. According to the craniology, odontology, osteology, osteokopii, paleopatologichesk analysis most likely with almost maximum certainty it can be believed that who is found in the Cheboksary burial is Mary Shestova.

"There is made serious and ambitious historical work. This is a great event for our city, and science in general, "- said Leonid Cherkesov.

"With the support of the city administration, we excavated, and we were able to attract the best anthropologists. There is plenty of material for further research"- said the head of the archaeological site of Natalia Berezina.

Participants stated that to confirm hundred percent it belongs to the Romanov dynasty is possible only by genetic analysis. To do this, must be done a comparison with the remains of Mikhail Romanov daughters that are stored in the Moscow Kremlin. Concluding the meeting, the mayor assured the audience that the important work of establishing the historical truth will be continued. "We will follow the specialists roadmap for the required DNA analysis".

Recall that the remains and other artifacts of the era were found on the street Ivanov Konstantin, where in the 17th century was built the Nikolsky Cathedral. Here, according to historians, was buried the alleged representative of the House of Romanov after being exiled by Tsar Boris Godunov.

Private object of a Faberge manager in a Yekaterinburg exhibition

By Paul Kulikovsky

In Yekaterinburg, opened an exhibition which includes unique pieces by Faberge. In the Museum of the History of lapidary and jewelry opened on July 4 the exhibition "Remembering the old master", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Arthur Ivanovic Mitkevich-Zholtko, head of the jewelry department of the Moscow factory of Faberge company.

The exhibition shows books, albums, tables and artistic silver, jewelry and stone-cutting products, works by the masters of Faberge and the tools by which was created these masterpieces. To recreate the atmosphere of a bygone era are also documents and photographs.

Among the exposure are personal belongings and domestic relics, including "Faberge" from the Yekaterinburg branch of the family Mitkevich-Zholtko.



The fate of Arthur Ivanovich Mitkevich-Zholtko is closely linked to Yekaterinburg, as there he lived for many years with his daughter - Lydia Arturovna Kisliakof and their descendants are still living there. Arthur Mitkevich-Zholtko was born in 1864, and became an orphanage in early age. He was put into the school in the Cadet Corps. Arthur showed no inclination to any service or to sciences, but became interested in fine hand work. He initially worked in the St. Petersburg workshop of Faberge, but was seen and recognized by Carl Gustavovich. And in 1902 he was sent to head the jewelry department in Moscow. Contemporaries testified that things was created there under the guidance and with the participation of Mitkevich-Zholtko, so it complied with the best quality work.



"That's a silver cigarette case with precious inserts (Faberge, of course), presented by colleagues to Mitkevich-Zholtko in 1912 on the tenth anniversary of their teamwork. The main work of the Moscow Branch of Faberge was to fulfilling individual orders for wealthy people, merchants, actors, and musicians. Arthur Ivanovic worked on jewelry for the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and was creating a necklace and a tiara with diamonds and emeralds for the Russian ballet star Catherine Geltser. Part of the silver spoons from Faberge (this luxurious suite is also on the show) was "eaten" - he had to sell in order to feed his family after the revolution.



On display are miniature Faberge Easter eggs, a cameo brooch, a purse with pearl caps, and a bracelet. This bracelet Mitkevich Zholtko-made for his wife Mary Andreevny, and when she died - in 1920, a year of famine and devastation - was the bracelet put on her daughter's arm Lydia. The bracelet Lydia Arturovna Kisliakofs (by her husband) was wearing her whole life. Museum workers remember her as she helped in the early 1990s with the establishment of the Museum of History of lapidary and jewelry. Thanks to her, in the museum's collection is included a collection of Faberge. Now with the new exhibition has helped arrange her granddaughter, great-granddaughter Mitkevich Zholtko.

For what was canonized the royal family?

07/03/2014, Subbota. Interviewed by Valeria Posashkov.



July 17 - the day of the Holy Royal Martyrs. In 2000, the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family (Tsarina Alexandra, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, and the Tsarevich Alexei) were canonized by the Russian Church in the face of the saints. Their canonization in the West - in the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad - occurred even earlier, in 1981. Although holy princes in the Orthodox tradition is not uncommon, this canonization is still in doubt and controversial.

Why among the saints is glorified the last Russian monarch? What makes his life and his family in favor of canonization and which arguments exist against it?

About this magazine "Foma" decided to talk to a member of the Synodal Commission on the Causes of Saints, the rector of St. Tikhon Orthodox Humanitarian University Archpriest Vladimir Vorobiev.

- From where comes such a term - Royal Passion? Why not just martyrs?

- In 2000, when the Synodal Commission on the Causes of Saints had discussed the glorification of the royal family, it came to the conclusion that although the family of Nicholas II was deeply religious, to the saints, they can be attributed primarily to its perceived Christian suffering and violent death.

Yet it was necessary to clearly understand and articulate who exactly killed the royal family. Maybe it was just a political assassination? Then they cannot be called martyrs. However, the people, and the commission had a consciousness and a sense of the holiness of their feat.

Because as the first saints in Russia were glorified pious princes Boris and Gleb, called Martyrs and the killing of them was also not directly related to their faith, the thought came to discuss the glorification of the emperor Nicholas II's family in the same countenance.

Martyrs - are Christians who have undergone suffering ("passion" - in Greek) from their loved ones and co-religionists - because of their wickedness, covetousness, conspiracy.

In addition, the family of Nicholas II was so incredibly slandered by contemporaries, and the Soviet government, it was necessary to establish the truth. Their murder was a landmark, it strikes satanic hatred and cruelty, leaves a feeling of mystical events - the massacre by evil of God-established order of life of the Orthodox people.

- What were the pros and cons of canonization?

- We very meticulously examined all the arguments. Someone said that this cannot be done because the Tsar Nicholas II was "bloody", he was blamed for the event on January 9, 1905 - shooting of peaceful demonstration of workers.

But as a result of the study of archival material it was proved that the Tsar at this time was not in Petersburg, he was in no way involved in this shooting and did not give such an order - he was not even aware of what was happening. This argument was dropped.

Similarly considered all other arguments against, until it became apparent that there are no weighty counter-arguments.

- Why can we not just call it a political murder?

- The Bolsheviks did not just want to destroy the possible contenders to the throne, he was hated as a symbol - Orthodox tsar. And by killing the royal family, they would destroy the very idea.

This is understandable in the context of the interpretation of the Byzantine imperial power. In the Synodal period in 1832 was published in "Fundamental Laws of the Empire" - "The emperor, Thou Christian Emperor, is the supreme defender and guardian of the dogmas of the dominant faith and guardian of orthodoxy in the Church and all the holy deanery. And in the act of succession (from April 5, 1797) is the emperor referred to as the Head of the Church."

The Emperor and his family were willing to suffer for the Russian Orthodox, for their faith, and they understood their suffering. Holy Righteous Father John of Kronstadt wrote in 1905: "The Tsar righteous and pious life, God sent him the heavy cross of suffering as His chosen and favorite child."

- How to understand the abdication of Nicholas II from the throne?

- While the Tsar signed the abdication of his duties as state manager, it did not mean the renunciation of his kingship. In the minds of all the people he was still the tsar. Just perceived and that even by the Bolsheviks. If as a result of the emperor's abdication he became an ordinary man, why and who would have to chase and kill him? When ends, for example, a president term, who will pursue the former president? The Tsar did not seek the throne, did not campaign, he was designed for this from birth, it has been committed over the liturgical rite of the anointing of the holy peace to the kingdom.

Anointing of Nicholas II could not be refused without a successor, and he is perfectly understood everything. And, handing power to his brother, he went to perform his managerial duties not out of fear but because he was a humble man and the idea of the struggle for power was completely alien to him.

He could emigrate to organize a reliable protection, secure his family. But in 1906, during the Kronstadt rebellion the sovereign reported to the Foreign Minister and said: "If you see me so calm, it's because I have an unwavering belief that the fate of Russia, my own fate and that of my family - in the hands of the Lord. Whatever happens, I bow to his will."

And shortly before his death he said: "I would not want to leave Russia. I love her, I'd rather go to the farthest end of Siberia."

In late April 1918, already in Yekaterinburg, the Emperor wrote: "Perhaps the atoning sacrifice is necessary for the salvation of Russia: I will make that sacrifice - God will be done!"

- But many see in the abdication a weakness...

- Yes, people strong in the usual sense of the word would not renounce the throne. But Nicholas II power was elsewhere: in faith, in humility.

Grand Duchess Olga wrote from prison in the Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg, "Father asked me to tell all those who remained loyal to him, and those whom they can have an impact, so they do not avenged him - he forgave all and prayed for all, and asked to remember that the evil which is now in the world, will be even stronger, but that no evil will conquer evil, but only love."

- The way they lived and believed influenced their canonization?

- Certainly. Preserved many materials that indicate very high spiritual dispensation of the Emperor himself and his family: diaries, letters, memoirs.

It is known that Nicholas II built many churches and monasteries, he, the Empress and their children were deeply religious people. In conclusion, they constantly prayed, and three days before the death was a priest allowed to make liturgy in the Ipatiev house, in which all members of the royal family took communion. And the Emperor wrote in his diary: "I firmly believe that the Lord is gracious to Russia and dying passion in the end. Be His Holy Will."

Dining with the Tsars. Fragile beauty from the Hermitage

6 September 2014 – 1 March 2015

The Hermitage Amsterdam's fifth anniversary exhibition "Dining with the Tsars. Fragile beauty from the Hermitage" opens on 6 September 2014. Eight magnificent porcelain and creamware services from the collection of the Hermitage in St Petersburg will be exhibited in a setting that conveys what the balls and banquets of the Tsar's court were like. Visitors will imagine they are guests, in possession of a coveted imperial invitation, climbing the steps of the Winter Palace, reviewing the rules of etiquette and preparing for a festive occasion. Finally they enter the main hall where the fine porcelain dinnerware is set out in a festive display.



The exquisite porcelain services, comprising no less than 1,034 pieces, exhibited on authentically laid tables with decorative centre pieces, reveal the enchanting grandeur of the Tsars' banquets. The exhibition tells the story of the lavish ball and banqueting culture that reached its zenith under the reign (1762-1796) of Catherine the Great, Queen of Feasts, when hundreds of dishes would be served at a single banquet and thousands of guests attended the balls. The last tsar, Nicholas II (ruled 1894–1917) and his wife Alexandra, who organized the largest balls but were only present for as briefly as possible.

With their abdication, the ball and banqueting customs that had once captured the imagination of all the courts of Europe came to an end.



The finest pieces are from the dinnerware collections of Catherine the Great, such as the Green Frog Service (Wedgwood, England), the Cameo Service (Sèvres, Paris, exhibited for the first time with silver gilt flatware), which at one time comprised nearly a thousand pieces, and the Berlin Dessert Service (Königliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Berlin). The services of later Tsars were no less impressive and significant for their connection to European history. The services are exhibited in accordance with the rules of etiquette, augmented with ornate centrepieces, gold-rimmed crystal glassware, candelabras, vases, detailed silverwork and wall decorations. The exhibition features a wide range of pieces, from ice buckets for liqueur bottles and ice-cream coupes to salt and pepper sets and table figurines.

The exhibition also offers a culinary view of imperial dining customs, in a culture where banquets of 300 dishes were no exception. Dessert was the highpoint of the meal and the ideal course for showing off the host's wealth and refined taste. Richly decorated delicacies were served with exceptional inventiveness. There is attention for iconography and the diplomatic function of giving services as gifts and hosting state dinners in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. And the balls and performances, gossip and scandal also feature in the exhibition. Evidence of the excesses of the imperial court abounds. Particularly revealing are the quotes drawn from the memoirs of Marie Cornélie van Wassenauer Obdam. She visited the Winter Palace in 1824 as a member of the retinue of Anna Paulowna and the later King Willem II.

The surprising final exhibit is the service given to Stalin by the Hungarian people in 1949, which has never been used or exhibited before. It illustrates the diplomatic role that dinnerware also played in the twentieth century.

Never before have so many porcelain dinnerware pieces from the Hermitage been exhibited in the Netherlands. The rich collection of European porcelain from the Hermitage in St Petersburg comprises over 15,000 items, purchased by or given as gifts to the Tsars of Russia between 1745 and the years prior to the First World War. The services, which include many unique pieces, were produced by leading porcelain manufacturers such as Meissen, Sèvres, Gardner and Wedgwood and decorated to the highest artistic standard.

3 monuments for the Russian soldiers in the campaign of 1814 were installed in France

In France, on June 28 was opened three granite obelisk in honor of the Russian soldiers who died in France during the foreign campaign of the Russian army in 1814.

Two centuries later the memory of the victims of Grenadiers, Lancers and Cuirassiers and Cossacks of the Russian army, which came to Paris to put an end to the aggressive policy of Napoleon, was immortalized in three French cities - Bergeres-les-Vertus, Fere-Champenoise and Reims.

The obelisk opened in Reims is in the historic museum of St. Remy. At the Rhine during battle March 14, 1814 Allied forces lost more than two thousand people, of which 700 were Russian soldiers. The next battle was at Fir Champenoise March 17. Thanks to the heroism of the Russian cavalry and infantry the victory was won, which allowed the Russian army and its allies to advance on to Paris. This battle went down in history and the fact that in this battle Russian cavalry could have destroyed the young soldiers of the France army, but Alexander I showed generosity and spared the retreating

The opening ceremony was also attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to France Alexander Orlov, heads of city hall Reims, Fer-Champenoise, and Bergeret-les-Vertus, representatives of the regional authorities and the French National Assembly.

Вечная слава
героям
павшим в боях
за
Борисинском поле
в 1942-1943
в дни великой
отечественной войны
Советского Союза

Здесь захоронены
воины 32 и 108 стрелковых
дивизий
погибшие на Борисинском поле
в сентябре 1941 года

The 21st "War and Peace Ball"

Count Andrei Dmitrievich Tolstoy-Miloslavsky has now launched the web site for the 21st War and Peace Ball, commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris (1814) at the prestigious Hotel George V in Paris.

The Battle of Paris was fought on March 30-31, 1814 between the Sixth Coalition - led by Tsar Alexander 1 of Russia and the First French Empire. After a day of fighting in the suburbs of Paris, the French army surrendered on March 31, resulting in Emperor Napoleon's first abdication and exile to the island of Elba. Although temporarily interrupted by Napoleon's unexpected escape from exile and 100 days restoration of his rule, the first Treaty of Paris, signed on 30 May 1814, formally ended twenty years of Napoleonic wars and reinstated the Bourbon dynasty under a constitutional monarchy in the person of Louis XVIII.



The War and Peace Ball is inspired by Leo Tolstoy's masterpiece in which the charming Prince Andrei Bolkonsky invites the young Countess Natalia Rostova to dance at her first ball.

Founded in 1988 as a fund-raising vehicle in aid of the construction of the first Russian Orthodox Church in London, the War and Peace Ball is now considered as one of the most prestigious international high-class Russian events. Nineteen balls were held in London. The 20th War and Peace Ball was held in 2010 at the summer residence of the President of the Russian Federation, the Constantine Palace, Strelna, near St Petersburg, Russia. Now for the first time will it be in France.

The requested attire is dress "style Empire", which will let guests from all over the world relive the atmosphere and excitement of the Russian ball two centuries ago!



Guests of Honour are Le Comte et La Comtesse de Paris, Duc et Duchesse de France,

The ball is also offering; champagne reception in the Salon Auteuil, gala dinner, the choir of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, dance spectacular performed by graduates of the Vaganova Ballet Academy directed by Nina Ivanovich, charity auction conducted by Sothebys, members of Young Artists Programme of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, sopranos, Anush Hovhannisyan and Nadezhda Karyazina, classical ballroom dancing and orchestra. The evening ends with wild and lively Russian and Gypsy Cabaret.

The charity auction conducted by Sotheby's is for restoration of the cupolas on the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Paris, and for the Summer Youth Camp Laffrey organised by the Vitiav Association.

The XXI War and Peace Ball will be on Saturday 22 November 2014, in Salle de Bal "Vendome", Hotel George V, from 7.00 pm - 1.45 am.

Tickets: 750 euros / 850 euros (around the dance floor) / 1250 euros (at top table)

Visit the web site for more information: www.warandpeaceball.org.uk



The Russian spiritual theater "Glas", with the blessing of Metropolitan Paul of Minsk and Slutsk, on August 29 presents on stage of the House Officers the play "Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The return" by artistic director - Nikita Astakhov. Performance starts at 19:00. Tickets are already on sale. Ask in the church benches Minsk St Elisabeth Convent, Place des Arts, the department store "Belarus", Central Department Store, Art in Transit. m "Stone Hill" in passing on the street. Kirov.



You are invited for a Virtual tour of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy. Without leaving your seat, you can walk along the famous garden, go to the church to view Nesterov's paintings and even down to the crypt (which is rarely possible for "real" visitors!), as well as explore the chambers of Saint Grand Duchess Elisabeth.

Follow this link - <http://www.miloserdie.ru/articles/virtualnaya-progulka-po-marfo-mariinskoj-obiteli>



From June 21 to July 6, 2014 in Tyumen Fair was successfully held the exhibition "Orthodox Russia. My Story. Romanovs." In 16 days, visited 35,075 people. One of the significant achievements of the project were doubled, in contrast to the expected attendance and soaring up indicators of interest to the historical content, presented in a new format. Thus, the coefficient of public interest Tyumen (0.05) in two and a half times the capital figures and a half times higher than the level in St. Petersburg.



On July 6 the Museum "Gatchina" invited to a festive program dedicated to the birthday of Emperor Nicholas I (1796-1855). The program to the birthday of Nicholas I - was a "time travel", where visitors saw a parade on the Palace ground, had a tour of the exhibition "House of Romanov - donors and collectors" - and saw the treasures stored in the Gold Room of the Ethnographic Museum and in the collection of the Gatchina Palace. On the day was also be an excursion to the signal tower, where in the days of Nicholas I was running one of the world's longest line of an optical telegraph. The final of the program was a concert in the White Hall of the Gatchina Palace, where was played music from the court of the Emperor performed in salons.



In St. Petersburg is being made a new large-scale TV series about "Catherine the Great". Despite the fact that the project is not yet completed, it has already been bought for show in a few countries: the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium. The empress is played by the star of "The Inhabited Island" Julia Snigir and its main partners are Sergei Shakurov (Vice Chancellor Bestuzhev) and Pavel Derevyanko (Peter III). Shooting took place in the beautiful interiors of Peter and Paul Fortress, the Constantine Palace, Catherine Palace with its Amber Room and also parks and squares of the city. For some time, the team moved the series to "thumbnail". After working in an authentic scenery incredibly expensive, and imposes strict technical limitations. So Catherine's chambers, for example, had to build the pavilion, because many historical rooms just do not fit for work because of their small size. But now the team returned to the "nature". Filming in Pushkin House



architect, Nabokov Museum, at the Constantine Palace. Just the other day was the coronation of Empress Catherine in the Cathedral. This is one of the most beautiful scenes in the film. Dress and crown, which will be on Julia Snigir - exact copies of historical samples, artists and costume designers used expensive fabrics. Stones in the crown, of course, is not natural, but quality work. Only had to slightly increase the size, because Catherine (by today's standards) was short. Filming ... the first season will end in August, it will cover the time of formation of Catherine as a person (from her visit to Russia as a bride before the coronation of Peter III).



The Chelyabinsk Museum of Fine Arts is showing works of the sculptor Natalia Kulikova. The exhibition will feature 32 works of different genres and themes. Viewers can see examples of monumental, cabinet sculptures, miniatures, and icons of iron. Natalya Kulikova is superbly versed in the art of iron casting in the Kaslin style. Among the exhibits is the sculpture "Emperor Peter I", which was created in 2004 on order of the State Duma. Natalya Kulikova portrayed Peter in the early days of his great undertakings. The emperor is dressed in armor and ermine mantle, holding in his hand a model sailboat. The exhibition will last until October.



June 27 in Prague opened a Russian exhibition "The First World War. Prologue of the twentieth century". The exhibition marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the war, which is commemorated this year. 450 exhibits from the Moscow State Central Museum of Contemporary History was presented for the first time. The exhibition features items such as, the keys to the rooms of the Alexander Palace - where the Romanovs were arrested, model cruiser "Aurora", and things associated with the Czechoslovak legionnaires who fought on the Eastern Front in Russia. The exhibition will run until September 7.



On July 11 in the Ethnographic Museum of Transbaikalia in Ulan-Ude opened an exhibition dedicated to the stay of Tsarevich Nicholas in Trans Baikal land in 1891. Scientific secretary Natalia Konstantinova of the regional museum says - "The exhibition feature photographs, about the stay of the Tsarevich in Trans Baikal, a saddle, which was presented to the Tsarevich, and a memorial plaque - as evidence of his stay on the Trans-Baikal land". The exhibition also feature exhibits relating to the reign of the Romanov House.



In preparation for the 2000 anniversary of city Derbent has begun work on the creation of a museum of Peter I, which will be installed in the place where once was the house of the great Russian

emperor during his Persian campaign. The Persian (or Caspian) campaign was carried out by Peter I in 1722-1723 in the south-eastern Caucasus and Dagestan, then part of Persia. The main object of the museum will be to renovate the pavilion Colonnade, built in the XIX century on the dugout in which Peter I stayed during the campaign. According to historical evidence, in front of the pavilion were two guns constantly guarded. Above the entrance to the pavilion was attached the following inscription: "Resting place of Emperor Peter the Great."

In 1848 was built over the house a colonnade, for protection against rain and dust. Both Emperor Alexander III and Nicholas II on arrival in Derbent as the first thing visiting this place. Nicholas came to the city by train and walked from the station to the house of the great Emperor.

During the Soviet period the place was lost and is found only in our day. As it turned out, the colonnade pavilion was converted into a house in which lived for about 80 years ordinary residents of Derbent.



In Great Novgorod was damaged a monument to Peter I, located on the embankment of the river Gzen. Vandals broke of the emperor's sword.

The monument to Peter I was opened on 9 June 2009. The monument was donated in honor of Great Novgorod's 1150 anniversary by Solecki factory.



The Mayor Victor Agueyev of the Crimean capital Simferopol intend to offer the restoring of the monument to Catherine II to Russian sculptor Zurab Tsereteli. According to him, the issue of restoring the monument to Catherine II has repeatedly been raised by the public of the city. In the last conversation the mayor held with Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimea Lazar, he says "the Lord promised to communicate with Tsereteli to order a monument from him, if he agrees, we will promote it". The monument to the Russian Empress Catherine II, which was associated with the Russian annexation of Crimea, was established in Simferopol in 1890 and destroyed in 1921.



Tsarskoye Selo Museum has announced a competition for the restoration of the pavilion "Arsenal" in the Alexander Park. The initial contract price is more than 248 million rubles. It is assumed that the work will take 17 months. Currently the building is in ruins. The hall was badly damaged during World War II and for 60 years has not been repaired. There is basically only the walls left. Construction of "Arsenal" by the architect A. Menelas was started in 1819 and finished by A.A. Ton in 1834. The tall brick building, in the English Gothic style, housed a collection of rare military objects. On two floors and on the stairs was up to five thousand pieces of weapons and firearms. Besides weapons was stored such relics as the cane of Empress Catherine II, Hungarian war trophies, Polish saber of "dictator" Tadeusz Kosciuszko, axes and maces of Imam Shamil, a saber and mace of Mazepa, and personal belongings of the Emperor Napoleon. After restoration, in the Arsenal is planned to show the preserved part of the collection of arms of Emperor Nicholas I, in a joint exhibition with the Hermitage.



On 22 July opened the exhibition "Imperial China. Thread of Times" in the Catherine Park Pavilion "Grotto" in the Museum "Tsarskoye Selo". The exhibition introduce both modern production and the oldest porcelain from the Imperial Porcelain Factory in Russia, which this year celebrates 270 years. It exhibits pieces from the collection of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" and the Foundation "Heritage" and will tell about innovations and traditions that is carefully preserved by the factory.

Video - 1) <http://topspb.tv/news/news48969/>

2) <http://topspb.tv/news/news49053/>





On July 8 the State Museum "Peterhof" presented in Tambov regional museum the exhibition "Mikhail Lermontov: Peterhof. Poet. Epoch", as this year marks the bicentennial of the birth of the great Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov. For the exhibition has been gathered those directly or indirectly items related to the poet's "Peterhof" period. It consists of several sections: "Peterhof in the reign of Nicholas I", "Peterhof holiday", "Imperial family reads Lermontov", "1812 in the works of Lermontov and scenarios of power", etc. Visitors can see dishes, from which ate Nicholas I and his wife Alexandra, house ware of the Imperial Cottage, and even the gilded throne of Nicholas I. The exhibition also comprises many authentic items belonging to Emperor Alexander I: epaulettes, sword and other items. This travelling exhibition will go to three Russian cities - Tambov, Lipetsk, and Penza.



Knights of the Priory invited to the festival "St. John's Day" on July 6 in Gatchina. The knights are celebrating the most important holiday of the Priory of the Knights of the Order of Malta - Day of St. John the Baptist. It started in the summer 1799 on the orders of Emperor Paul I, who was Grand Master of the Order of Malta. The historical reconstruction is traditionally held at the Priory Castle and includes tournaments, archery, and concert.



On July 27th in Moscow was commemorated the fallen in the First World War. In the capital's Memorial Park "Falcon" on the eve of the centenary of the First World War was commemorated the fallen of that terrible war. In its fraternal cemetery are buried 18.000 soldiers. With the sounds of the Russian national anthem, accompanied by the presidential regiment - this commemorative event was held in Russia for the second time. Like last year, Sergei Naryshkin laid a wreath to the memorial to the fallen in World War I.

"We should never forget about the terrible and tragic side of any military conflicts" - said Sergey Naryshkin. "This war showed the highest heroism of the Russian people and it's part of our history, and we cannot forget about it" - said Russian President's Special Representative for International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoi.

After the official part, the Bolshoi Theatre soloist trumpeter Andrew Ikov performed the tune of "End". It accompanied the those killed in war. The tragic music this day sounds not only in Russia, but in all the countries participating in the First World.

Video - <http://5-tv.ru/news/87236/>



On July 18, in Feodosia was inaugurated the city's first memorial plaque for Empress Catherine the Great, at the sanatorium of the Ministry of Defense. According to local historian Konstantin Vinogradov, who was the initiator of the memorial plaque, is "this a memorial plaque dedicated to the Russian Empress Catherine the Great, in who's time the Crimea became part of Russia".



The opening ceremony was held on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the sanatorium. The plaque is decorated with St. George ribbons along the portrait of the Empress, her personal signature and monogram. There are also quoted the words of the decree of 10 February 1784 about the fortifications in the Crimea, in particular, in Feodosia.

Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvv8OKks5II>



Tatfondbank presented a coin commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. In the Tatfondbank one can now buy silver coins called "Tsar's road." On the obverse is a scene of Alexei Mikhailovich being rescued from a bear by St. Savva. The reverse shows the route from Moscow to Zvenigorod, one of the largest shrines of Savvino - Storozhevsky Monastery, as well as color image of the royal motorcade.



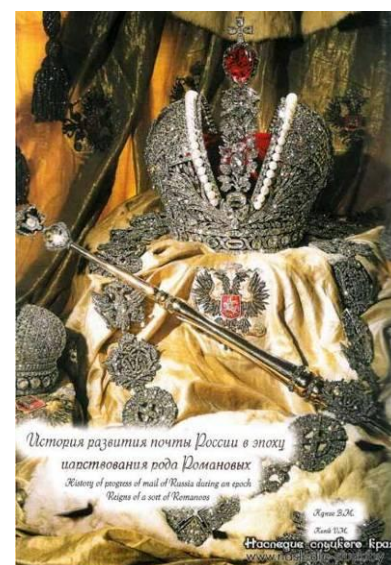
Tomsk region administration has announced an auction for the construction of house of "the Tsarevich". For the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty Tomsk region administration announced its intention to restore the road home of Tsarevich Nicholas II. The house was built in 1891 in the village Semiluzhki by brothers Kuhterin in Tomsk region for the future emperor, en route from the Far East to St. Petersburg. The first stone of the future museum was laid in the village Semiluzhki in mid-July 2013. Previously it was assumed that the construction will be done by private companies. But wishing to participate in the project at their own expense there was none. In turn, the district administration offered to provide building materials and to offset the cost of 1 million rubles. "There were no volunteers. Therefore, we have found the funds in the district budget. In accordance with the law, we will announce a tender for work" - said deputy Valentin Zhelezchikov, Tomsk region. The building of the "house Tsarevich" is estimated in total to cost 3.2 million rubles.



© Philatelist Vladimir Kunik, on the basis of his own collection has published the book "History of postal development in Russia during the reign of the Romanov family." The book is devoted to the development of mail from 1613 to 1917, when the foundations were laid for the modern postal service.

In early times of the postal service was it in fact just a messenger with a letter that "flew" on horseback across the country, passing information, then the Romanovs began to develop an autonomous public service. Under Emperor Paul I was created an extra-mail analogue, like current express mail. Where an ordinary messenger could rest on the way, an extra messenger raced nonstop only changing horses in organized postal stations. And during the time of Emperor Alexander I for these messengers were published the first pocket atlas indicating the postal routes, the number of miles, addresses of postal stations and places to stay.

- My book is about the people who started the whole thing. About those first messengers that in any season in any weather brought letters to and from princes. The first postman was bringing people together, long before the advent of mobile communications and the Internet - said Vladimir Kunik.



- Stamps are a kind of monuments, business cards of state that are sent all over the world and thus advertise great events, achievements and outstanding personalities.

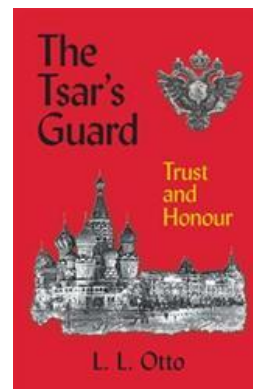
The book of Vladimir Kunik has won a diploma and a gold medal at the International Philatelic Exhibition "Rossika 2013" in Moscow. And in the spring of this year was awarded the Grand Prix at the Brest regional philatelic exhibition "Brest-995." Later this year the book will take part in the International Exhibition in London.

The book contains 300 pages in color, on coated paper, A4, hardback. Text in Russian and English languages. All who wish to purchase this publication may order at the author by phone +375 29 642 7720 or on <http://nasledie-sluck.by/ru/contacts/>

☺ As a child, author L.L. Otto grew up listening to the fascinating stories of his grandfather, who was once a member of the Russian Tsar's Imperial Life Guard. Otto's new historical fiction, "The Tsar's Guard: Trust and Honour" (published by Archway Publishing), combines thorough research with his grandfather's exciting tales to create a coming-of-age story that portrays the honor of the guards and the beginning of the end of the Russian Empire.

Set in 1850s Ukraine, "The Tsar's Guard" tells the story of Samuel Orloff, a young boy. Samuel knows his father was once a Life Guard, but his past is kept secret until Samuel meets Charles Kovnik, his father's old friend from the guard who becomes his mentor. As political unrest rages on, secrets are uncovered, and Samuel realizes that his family's past has everything to do with his future. Will he follow in his father's footsteps or choose a different path?

Otto writes, "The story highlights that life-paths cannot always be clearly chosen, but often thrust upon us by events, and it is how we deal with those events that define us."



Tsar school. Tsar Nicholas II and the Imperial Russian education



In this book is considered the system of primary, secondary and higher education in the Russian Empire. The decisive role of the Emperor Nicholas II in conducting large-scale reform of national education in the early XX century. The book is designed for a wide range of readers interested in the problems of national history and national education.

Publisher; Cultural and educational center of Russian publishing in the name of Basil the Great, Moscow. Hardcover, size 170 x 240 mm, 600 pages. Isbn no. 978-5-4249-0024-2

The Russian army during the reign of Emperor Alexander III



This book by A.N. Kaigorodtsev, G.V. Vilinbakhov, and V.G. Danchenko traces the process of modernization and further evolution of Milyutin (General, Minister of war) military reforms in the period from 1881 to 1894. In the course of the narrative it deals with the battle to strengthen the formations and units of the Russian army, the order of acquisition, weapons and rations.

Publisher: Academia, St. Petersburg. Hardcover, size 205 x 240 mm, 331 pages. Isbn no. 978-5-02-038366-1



Under the hammer...
Romanov related items in Auctions



Auction House Coutau-Bégarie, Paris, on 14 November;



The next historic auction in the Auction House Coutau-Bégarie take place in the centenary of the Great War and highlight a famous and macabre history page of Imperial Russia. It concerns the murder of Gregory Rasputin (1869-1916), orchestrated by Prince Felix Yusupov (1887-1967), Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich (1891-1941) and three accomplices in the evening of 30 December 1916.

Archives that are offer for sale comes directly from Prince Yusupov and were recently found at the bottom of a basement of a Parisian apartment where they lived for

45 years. This archive traces the precise course of the event and the consequences it had for the Imperial Family and Russia, by highlighting new details remained unknown until now.

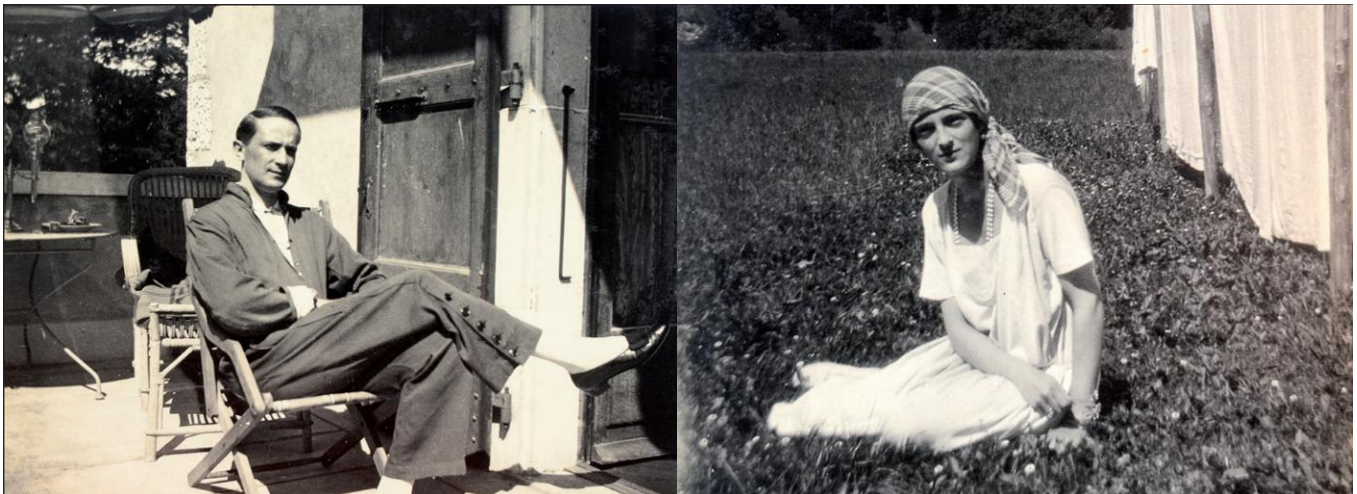


Photo of Prince Felix Yusupov, circa 1925-1928. (Est.: € 4/600) and photo of Princess Irina Yusupov, circa 1925-1928. (Est.: € 4/600)

In addition to the narrative established by Nicolas Sokoloff (judge in charge of the investigation into the execution of Nicolas II and his family), is in the collection a statement from the mouth of the Prince in May 16, 1921, its role and the reasons for his involvement in the murder of Rasputin, and the correspondence between Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich and Prince Felix Yusupov.

In addition are correspondence consisting of several hundred letters exchanged between Prince Felix and his wife Princess Irina of Russia, niece of Emperor Nicolas II dating from 1914 to 1960; all correspondence from Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (1875-1933) and her husband Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich of Russia (1866-1933) with their daughter, Princess Irina, dating from 1914 to 1960, referring to the political events this period, the Russian Revolution, imprisonment and murder of the Imperial Family, the departure into exile of Romanoff, etc.

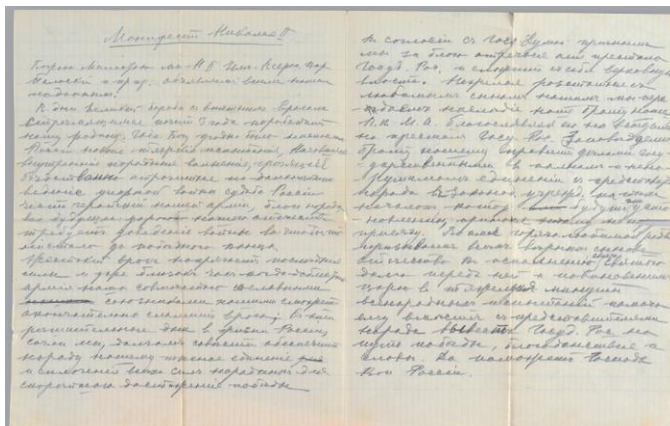


Correspondence between Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich of Russia and his daughter Princess Irina Yusupov dating from 1917 to 1933 (Est.: € 6,000 per batch).

Correspondence between the Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich (1891-1941) and his sister Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1890-1958) with Prince Felix Yusupov, concerning the murder of Rasputin. (Est.: € 3000)

A highlight is the handwritten statement of abdication of Emperor Nicolas II, signed 15 March 1917 and that of his brother Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich dated 16 March 1917.

The auction house tells, that the most moving of the entire archives is undoubtedly the work reported by judge Sokoloff, used by Emperor Nicolas II during his captivity in Ekaterinburg, during the last weeks of his life, before he and his family was horribly murdered on the night of July 16 to 17, 1918.



Abdication of Emperor Nicolas II. Handwritten text in the document signed by the Tsar : March 15, 1917 (Est.: € 3000).

There are several handwritten journals by Prince Felix Yusupov and his mother Princess Zinaida Yusupov recounting the life and tragic end of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, massacred by the Bolsheviks in 1918; a large number of letters exchanged by members of the Imperial Family, including the Empress Maria Feodorovna, Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna, Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich and several members of the branch Mikhailovich.



Book with the report by Judge Sokoloff, used by Emperor Nicolas II in Yekaterinburg. (Est.: € 5000)

On sale will also be albums of photographs highlighting this period, several photographic portraits autographed by members of the Imperial Family.

Auction House Kuenker, Osnabrück, Germany, on 4 October;

The auction house Kuenker has announced that on 4 October will be auctioned an original St. Andrew order, with an estimated value of 750,000 euro.

"We expect that we will achieve a surcharge and get around one million euro for the Order," said Michael Autengruber from Kuenker. "It is expected that a financially potent Russian businessmen wants to show that he can afford it. Since it is then also important to demonstrate power" said Autengruber. A collector who has inherited the Order, sells it because he just wants to take advantage of these market opportunities. "As currently all Russian antiques achieve very good prices," said Autengruber.



The order was made in 1899-1903. There are strong provenance. Autengruber says there is sufficient evidence that members of the family of Nicholas II have worn the order.

The full name is - The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called. It is the highest order of chivalry of the Russian Empire. The Order was established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, in honor of Saint Andrew, the first apostle of Jesus and patron saint of Russia. It was bestowed in a single class and was only awarded for the most outstanding civilian or military merit.

Count Fyodor Golovin was the first recipient of the order. Until its abolition following the Russian Revolution of 1917, just over one thousand awards had been made.

Sincona AG, Zurich, Switzerland, on 13-14 October;

Sincona AG in Zurich is preparing the third installment in their series of auctions of one of the greatest collections of Imperial Russian coins to come to market in the past 100 years. About 9,000 coins (6500 in silver and 2500 in copper). Although the size and scope of the collection is certainly impressive, it is the quality and rarity of many of the coins – some offered only once in a lifetime – that set this collection apart and distinguish this as a landmark set of sales in Russian numismatics.

In the auction on Oct. 13-14 in Zurich, should be a coin of the 1886 Pattern Rouble of Alexander III by L. Shteinmann. This coin was one of several pattern portraits being prepared by Shteinmann and A.G. Griliches, coins which would be the first in 90 years to show the portrait of the Tsar. Ultimately, one of the pattern Roubles by Griliches was chosen for production.

While the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., has the full set, the excessively rare Shteinmann pattern offered here last appeared in the 1968 auction by Hess Leu in Luzern. There should be no surprise, if the million dollar mark is exceeded once again.



Note - Above photos of coins are just for illustration, they are not those from the actual auction.

Another great rarity to be offered is a Russo-Polish 1827 Pattern 10 Zlotych with a portrait of Alexander I and the initials of the Warsaw Mint Master IB. From 1816 to 1834 Poland was under Russian rule and the Russo-Polish issues of this period displayed the portrait of Alexander I, even though portraits were not used on coins in Russia proper at the time. Interestingly, the use of Alexander's portrait continued on Russo-Polish issues even after his death in 1825. The only other example of this coin that we know of was in the collection of Count I.I. Tolstoy, sold in Frankfurt in 1913 by Adolph Hess Nachfolger.

Did you know....



... That the Winter Palace was used as a hospital from 1915 to 1917.

The Winter Palace had in reality already in 1904 ceased to be the official royal residence. At the start of the First World War on 1 August 1914, stopped normal life in the palace, and many of its treasures was photographed, numbered, put in boxes and then moved to Moscow.

On the 10th of October 1915, on the wish of Emperor Nicholas II, was in the empty state rooms of the Winter Palace arranged a hospital in the name of Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich.



Left - Armorial Hall. Sisters preparing covers and pillowcases, October 1915. Right - Hospital staff at the Jordan Staircase of the Winter Palace in December 1915.

Shortly after the start of the war, was from the front a large number of wounded and already existing hospitals could not accommodate all those who need help. In the Winter Palace was the halls that housed the hospital wards was the floors covered with linoleum, not to spoil the magnificent parquet floors. In some halls was the chandeliers removed, instead hung on cords a light bulb, and the night lamp was only purple.



The Nicholas Hall ready for the wounded in October 1915 and later full of wounded.

The hospital was superbly equipped and staffed with first-class specialists. Hospital staff consisted of 35 doctors, mostly surgeons, 50 Sisters of Charity, 120 nurses, 26 person in administration and 10 secretaries. Formally, the chief physician was A. A. Rutkovsky, doctor of the Office of Minister of War. In fact, the head surgeon of the hospital became the personal physician A. K. Valter. Many of those working in the hospital - working as Sisters of Mercy - were both women of humble origin and representatives of famous noble families, but here it did not matter. Among the hospital doctors was even a Siamese prince, who graduated from the Page Corps in Russia, and then the Military Medical Academy as surgeon - Prince Valpakorn (or Mom-Chau).



From the memoirs of a nurse Nina Valerianovna Galanina

"The grand opening was held on 10th October 1915, the day of "name day" of the heir Alexis, who the hospital had been named after. Eight staterooms on 2nd floor: Antechamber, Nicholas Hall, East Gallery, Field Marshals, Petrovsky, Armorial Hall, St. George Hall and Alexander Hall were turned into hospital wards. On 1st floor were equipped with auxiliary facilities: emergency room, pharmacy, kitchen, bathrooms, multiple rooms, the economic part, the office, the Surgeon General's office and others. Entrance to the hospital was from Palace Embankment, through main entrance and main staircase. The staircase of the palace - Jordan - were lined with boards, and here was taken up the wounded, delivered food and medicine.

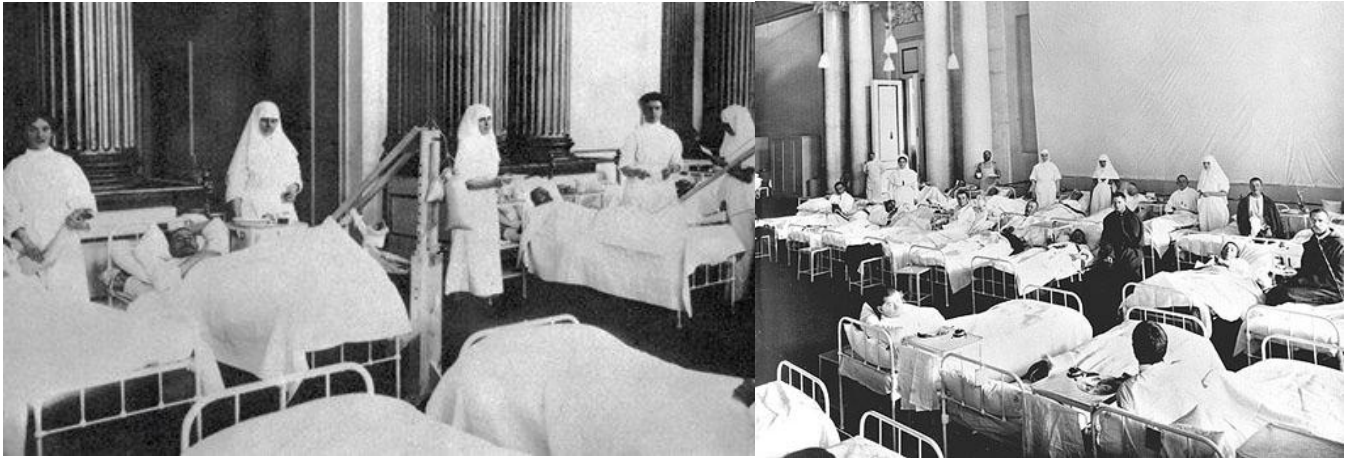
Only the seriously wounded soldiers that required complex operations or special treatment could get into this hospital. The recovery rate was very high, on average 85-90%. When they started to get better and could go, they were transferred to other medical institutions, and their places occupied again by other wounded in serious condition.

Patients were placed according to injury, So, in the Nicholas Hall was 200 beds set rectangles in 4 rows perpendicular to the Neva, was wounded in the head (in the skull, eyes, ears, jaw); wounded in the throat and chest. And also very heavy patients' spines.

Great evil were the frequent visitors to the hospital. There were many of the "highest" - members of the imperial family, and various noble foreigners (remember King Romanian, Japanese Prince Kan-Ying, the Emir of Bukhara and others); and other "high" visitors - senior Russian officials; and endless foreign delegations of the Red Cross - French, Belgian, British, Dutch, and so on".

Empress Alexandra wrote about her work in a hospital:

"Glory to God for what we have, at least, have the opportunity to bring some relief to those who suffer and can give them a sense of comfort in their home alone. So you want to warm up and support these brave men and replace them their loved ones who cannot be near them!"



During the February Revolution armed soldiers roughly elicited sisters, suspecting them of hiding the Emperor's ministers. They were looking under beds of wounded, in tanks with dirty laundry, even in the bedrooms of sisters. After the Bolsheviks seized power the picture became even more terrible. Leaders of the February Revolution came to royal residence, but did not drive out the wounded. This happened only after the Bolshevik Revolution.

After the events of October 1917 the palace hospital ceased to exist - October 28, 1917 the hospital in the Winter Palace was closed.

Soviet historians have "forgotten" about the palace "hospital for the lower ranks". It was not favorable to mention this page of history of the hated tsarist regime. The first materials about the hospital appeared in the Hermitage only in 1975, after B. Piotrovsky, director of the museum, found the memories of N.V. Galanina, who once served as a nurse in it.