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By Paul Kulikovsky

August 2014



A monument of Emperor Alexander I in Alexander Garden, at Kremlin, is coming!

Monument to Emperor Alexander I in models

By Paul Kulikovsky

The closed project competition of the planned monument to Emperor Alexander I has entered its final stage. Proposals have been made as models and are now only waiting for the final decision. The contest is for a placement of a monument of Emperor Alexander I at the central alley, in the middle of the Alexander Garden - named after him.



In the competition participated 6 well known Russian sculptors, most of them with two projects; Alexander Apollo, Andrei Kovalchuk, Alexander Rukavishnikov, Salavat Shcherbakov, Vladimir Surovtsev and Zurab Tsereteli. They have all in recent years in one form or another been working on the image of Alexander I and are familiar with this topic.

Out of these are now chosen three projects, made by Salavat Shcherbakov, Andrei Kovalchuk and Alexander Rukavishnikov, which are so to say in the final run.

The final decision on the project is to be made by President Vladimir Putin and the winner is expected to be announced soon. A good guess is that the opening will be timed to the Day of Unity in Russia, on 4th of November 2014. This leaves very little time for the practical work with the casting of the sculpture, in arranging the fundament in the area and the landscaping around it.

On August 13, Ludmila and I visited the exhibition of the projects and saw the models and accompanying boards with detailed information, only missing the sculptor's names - only a number identified it.

We walked around the models, all placed on top of small pedestals, as to put them in easy viewing height. A board, sometimes just standing on the floor, was showing the model inserted into the real environment in Alexander Garden, the entire monument and the surrounding area, details of the monuments and giving supporting historical information.

We saw Emperor Alexander Pavlovich standing, with hat on his head or in the hand, and without hat, with sword, orb, scepter, sitting on a horse and as a bust. Some of them very simple in its design, while other was full of details and more complex.



In the following are my photos of the models on display.







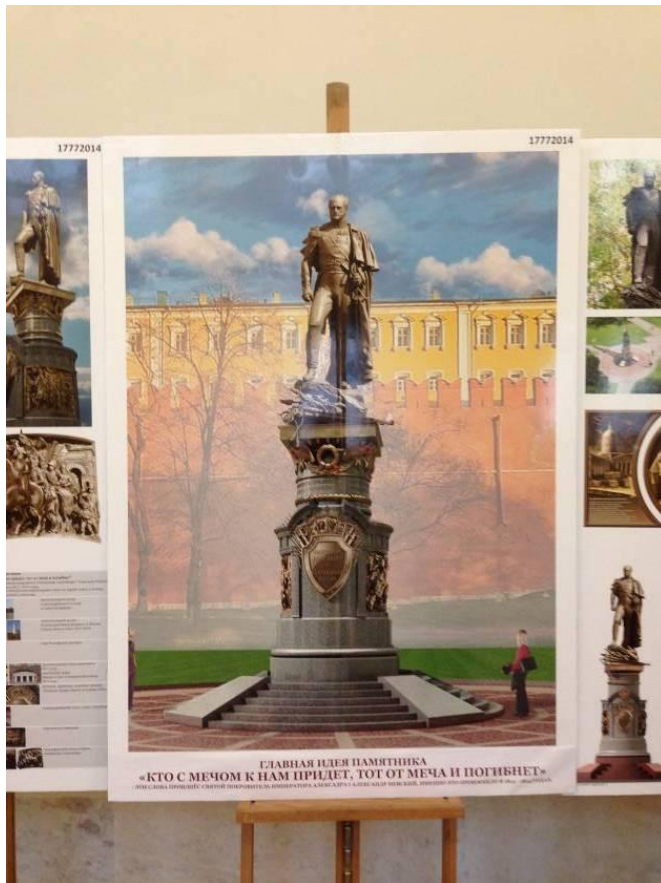
To the previous and to the following sculpture of Emperor Alexander I there is in addition a suggestion to be a wall with a relief of the emperor's entry into Paris.





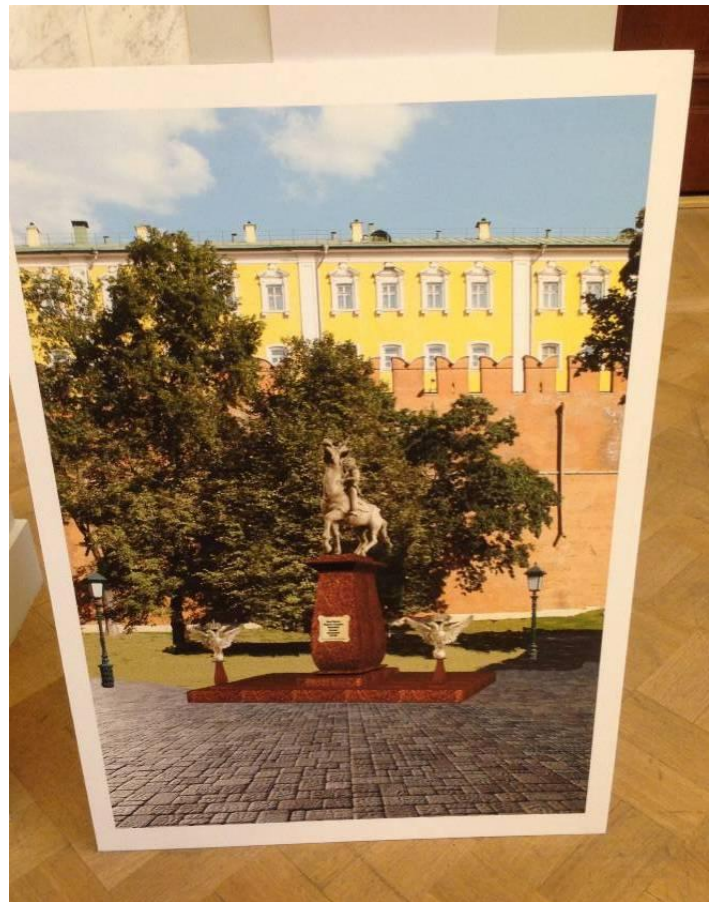
There are two reliefs to be included on the pedestal - Battle at Borodino and the emperor's entry into Paris.





In addition to the statue of Emperor Alexander I, has this project a wall with reliefs and information about the emperor.







While walking around the models, Sergei Arssenev, Vice-president of Shukhov Tower Foundation, asked for our comments to the idea of the monument to Emperor Alexander I in Alexander Garden, and to each of the models on display - while he were filming it. He later "boiled it down" to a 10 minutes video, now available on YouTube - see it here; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-RFMIZ3HZo>

There were several projects that looked good and would do it nicely in Alexander Garden, but there were clearly one that stood out in our opinion - the one where Emperor Alexander I is standing on some captured weapons, has his right hand closed in a fist, and the left resting on his sword, with a face looking focused, determined - like saying "I told you, I will fight to the end" - all in all a very powerful pose. I think this will be the right sculpture to put in memory of Emperor Alexander I, the Blessed.

The commemorations of the First World War

By Paul Kulikovsky

The month of August was full of events commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. New monument were unveiled, exhibitions opened, books published, documentary series started on TV, etc.

In Russia, the major event was the one commemorated on the 1st of August - unveiling of the monument to the Heroes of the First World War on Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow, as here participated the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Kirill, several foreign and Russian VIPs, and it was the opening of the biggest monument for the WWI heroes in Russia.

The International Forum "The Great War. Lessons of history"



Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky arrives at the forum in the museum at Poklonnaya Hill

However, it all started the day before, July 31st, when in the same place was an International Forum "The Great War. Lessons of History", dedicated to the centenary since the beginning of the First World War, in the museum on Poklonnaya Hill (Victory Park) in Moscow.



In the big meeting hall of the museum, the international forum was arranged by the organisation "Franco-Russian dialogue", who's co-presidents: the President of Russian Railways Vladimir Yakunin and deputy of the National Assembly of France, Thierry Mariani, from the stage guided us through the forum.

At the start of the forum was read an address of President Vladimir Putin - in part:

"This global conflict was a tragedy for all mankind ... For Russia the First World War was a national



catastrophe. From 1914 to 1918 on the battlefields were killed more than three million of our citizens. It was during this difficult period of the contradictions that have led the country to the revolutionary upheavals and fratricidal civil war.

In Russia we will always honor the feat of soldiers and officers defending the fatherland. Since last year is August 1 celebrated as the Day of Remembrance of the Russian soldiers who died in the First World War. We intend to continue to restore historical justice... The memory of this tragedy will help us extract the right lessons from the past. It is necessary to give an objective assessment of the events of those years, avoiding distortion and bias in their coverage.

I am confident that the Forum will help to solve this important problem, will contribute to the development of European humanitarian cooperation."

Then started a long list of speakers, including the chairman of the State Duma Sergei Naryshkin, Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, Director of the State Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky, Chairman of the Heraldry Council under the President of Russia George Vilinbakhov, Prince Alexander Troubetzkoï, the Permanent Secretary of the French Academy Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, French Senator Emery de Montesquieu-Fezensak d'Artagnan and many historians.

State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin started his speech with announcing that he had received and supports a request of the "descendants" of the Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaïevich to rebury the Grand Duke in Russia. (He is now buried in the Church of the Archangel Michael in Cannes, France).

"I have been approached by representatives of the Romanov dynasty, descendants of the Grand Duke Nicholas Romanov, who at the beginning of the First World War was the Supreme Commander of all land and naval forces of the Russian Empire. The last will of the Grand Duke, according to the family, was his desire to find peace in his native land, Russia, close to his soldiers. I think, it will be right to support this on a personal and on state level, the initiative of the descendants of the Grand Duke of a reburial of his remains at home".," said the speaker of the State Duma.



This announcement was a few days later replied by Alexander Zakatov; "This initiative was not from the House of Romanov, but members of the organization "Romanoff Family Association", Nicholas and Dmitri Romanov, grandnephews of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaïevich. Attempts to adore the Grand Duke Nicholas and put it on a par with the outstanding military leaders, unfortunately, have no basis," - said to "Interfax" director of the Office of the House of Romanov Alexander Zakatov.

According to him, the activities of the Grand Duke as commander in chief was not successful, Emperor Nicholas II in August 1915 removed him and took supreme command himself.

"In March 1917, Grand Duke Nicholas joined the conspirators, and demanded that his great-nephew abdicate. Nevertheless, the Head of the House of Romanov Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna believes that if there is confirmation of the desire of the Grand Duke Nicholas to be buried in his homeland, he has every right to do," - said A. Zakatov. "Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna believes that in every person's life there are bright and dark events, but it is better to remember the good.

As a member of the Imperial House, the Grand Duke has the right to be buried in the family vault in the

Peter and Paul Fortress. But the proposal to bury him at another church and make this some kind of luxuriant actions, the Russian Imperial House finds strange and incorrect, especially with respect to the memory of the Grand Duke Nicholas" - said the director of the Office of the House of Romanov.



Sergei Naryshkin then continued and mentioned the crisis in Ukraine; -

"Exactly one hundred years ago, the world could be saved from the war, but failed to do so. There was fighting in Serbia, mobilization begun in Europe, but before August 1, there was a chance to resolve the conflict through negotiations. Russia suggested this way, but on August 1, Germany declared war on our country. The politician called 1914 fatal for Europe - this year "sent into oblivion the whole epoch, with its optimism and belief in progress, with its hopes and expectations."

According to him, the global threats have changed in a hundred years, but there were many relevant factors of the conflict - primarily lack of readiness for dialogue. But today, unlike their predecessors, at the disposal of politicians have much more experience analyzed errors. And this gives us hope that a new global confrontation could be avoided.

"In today's world, the confrontation of empires is gone, but the containment policy towards our country and geopolitical intrigue to weaken it still are there. Some Western leaders, especially overseas regard themselves as judges, appoint blame and determine the degree of responsibility for countries and peoples. In this case, the bloody conflict in Ukraine, many are either remote or too biased judge, without seeking to understand the true nature of the Ukrainian crisis. The question is, what they want internal and external forces, why not follow the path of a search for consensus within the Ukrainian society, why force military action?"

"It is well known that violence against its own citizens eventually splashes outside, and the logic of war twice already misled the world to the brink of the abyss" - warned Sergei Naryshkin.

Following his speech, Sergei Naryshkin and the Head of the Federal Agency of Communications Oleg Dukhovnitsky had a small ceremony stamping the same day issued stamps dedicated to the anniversary date of the beginning of the First World War.

The set consists of 4 stamps and two First Day Covers, each with two stamps on; "First World War 1914-1918" 1) Defense of "Osovets" Fortress. September 1914 - August 1915.", 2) " Erzerum Operation January - March 1916." 3) Brusilov Breakthrough June - August 1916. and 4) Russian Expedition Corps 1916-1918.

This set was also given to all the participants in the forum.



Stamp series "First World War 1914-1918"; 1) Defense of "Osoveti" Fortress. September 1914 - August 1915.", 2) "Erzerum Operation January - March 1916." 3) Brusilov Breakthrough June - August 1916. and 4) Russian Expedition Corps 1916-1918.

Then the Director of the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War Vladimir Zabarovsky made a greeting, the co-presidents of French-Russian Dialog - Vladimir Yakunin told about "First World War in the humanity agenda" and Thierry Mariani told about "Russia and France - Allies", and Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky greeted the audience.



Participants then discussed topics related to the origins of the First World War, the names and fates of military leaders and participants of "The forgotten war", "The Russian Expeditionary Corps in France", "Origin of the conflict. Lessons of the past for the present", "100 year anniversary of First World War. Return of national memory", etc.

The most interesting presentations were made by Prince Alexander Troubetzkoe, who talked very engaged about "the Imperial Guard in the beginning of the First World War and its role against the "Schlieffen Plan".

Director of the State Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky told about "First World War in the Hermitage mirror", in which he noted the contribution of artists who reflected the events of those years, thanks to them we can now recover the details of battles.

Chairman of the Heraldry Council under the President of Russia George Vilinbakhov talked about the "Activity of the Trophy commission - People and Artifacts".

There was also a presentation of a coming movie about a female battalion's participation in the war, by director Igor Ugolnikov, actor, director, television presenter and producer. A short clip from the movie "Death battalion" was shown. It is a film about the patriotic experiment of the Provisional Government, established in 1917 under the leadership of Maria Botchkareva. To embarrass the men who did not want to fight, these fearless girl went to the front.

A video report about the movie -

<http://www.1tv.ru/news/about/256843>





Left - Director of Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky talking about artist in the First World War now in the Hermitage collection. Right - Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy talking about the Imperial Guard.

Then followed two parallel session - one on the theme "First World War. Prologue, history and present" and the second "First World War in historical memory of the people. Heroes of war and sons of Fatherland". The speeches here dropped in quality and often went beyond their allocated time. One of them were particular bad, as apparently some "dinosaur communist", calling himself a historian, had found its way into the list of speakers and only had one message - Emperor Nicholas II was solely responsible for the First World War (!!!?).

All in all an interesting forum, but with too many speakers not staying on the topic of the forum - the lessons of the First World War.

Video - 1) <http://www.newstube.ru/media/v-stolice-vspomnili-uroki-pervoj-mirovoj-voyny>
 2) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97qZ6rtKaq0#t=36>

The Society of descendants of participants of the First World War

At the end of the forum was held a constituent assembly for the "Society of descendants of participants of the First World War". Many persons from the Society of the descendents of the participants of 1814 war showed up and it was also its chairman Vissarion Alayvdin, that took the lead on this meeting.



The registrations showed 96 persons were ready to participate, and they voted during the session on the founding rules of the society, the chairman (who became Alayvdin), the members of its board, etc. After the assembly a group photo was made outside the entrance to the museum.

The monument to the Heroes of the First World War

The next day, in 32 degrees Celsius and with the sun burning merciless (some found protection under umbrellas), Ludmila and I arrived again at Poklonnaya Hill.

The monument to the Heroes of the First World War was already standing there and was not covered up. Only the low wall in front of the monument with the name of the monument was covered up. There were plenty of soldiers, some standing guard and others as part of the audience.



The ceremony were attended by President Vladimir Putin, State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, Mayer of Moscow Sergei Sobyanin, members of the State Duma - among them Vaycheslav Nikonov and Vladimir. Zirinovsky, and of foreign guests participated Prince Alexander Troubetskoy, Prince Nikita Lobanov-Rostovsky, and Helene Carrere d'Ancoss.

There were also representatives of other religions, members of the military-historical clubs and members of the newly formed Society of descendents of participants in the First World War.

The Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to the Supreme Commander the fact that everything were ready for the ceremony. Then started the ceremony of the unveiling of the monument to the Heroes of the First World War. Over the speakers were made an introduction and then it were announced that the monument is opened - followed by the cloth over the low wall with the name of the memorial being removed.



The low "wall" with the name of the memorial monument - "Heroes of the First World War"

The national anthem was played and then President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin were to speak.

President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin's speech;

"Dear friends, A century ago on this day, Russia found itself obliged to enter World War I. Today, we are unveiling this monument to its heroes – Russian soldiers and officers. We are unveiling the monument here on Poklonnaya Hill, a site that preserves our grateful memory of Russian military glory and of those who at various moments in our country's history have defended its independence, dignity and freedom.

The World War I soldier and his comrades in arms have their place of honour here too. It was the fate of many of them to later fight again on the frontlines in the Great Patriotic War. These experienced veterans inspired and brought out the best in the young soldiers and passed on to them the traditions of military comradeship and brotherhood and the traditions of military honour.

The Russian army's great values and the heroic experience of the generation who fought in World War I played a big part in our people's spiritual and moral upsurge at that moment. This was a generation that was fated to go through not just the difficult trials of the first global world war, but also the revolutionary upheaval and fratricidal civil war that split our country and changed its destiny.

But their feats and their sacrifices in Russia's name were forgotten for many years. World War I itself, which the rest of the world calls the Great War, was erased from our country's history and was labelled simply 'imperialist'.



Today, we are restoring the historical truth about World War I and are discovering countless examples of personal courage and military skill, and the true patriotism of Russia's soldiers and officers and the whole of Russian society. We are discovering the role Russia played in that difficult and epoch-changing time for the world, especially in the pre-war years. And what we see reflects very clearly the defining features of our country and our people.

Russia over many centuries supported strong and trusting relations between countries. This was the case on the eve of World War I too, when Russia did everything it could to convince Europe to find a peaceful and bloodless solution to the conflict between Serbia and Austro-Hungary. But Russia's calls went unheeded and our country had no choice but to rise to the challenge, defend a brotherly Slavic people and protect our own country and people from the foreign threat.

Russia stayed true to its duties as an ally. The Russian offensives in Prussia and Galicia upset the adversary's plans and made it possible for our allies to hold the front and defend Paris. The enemy was forced to turn its attention east, where Russian regiments, a large part of our forces, put up the fiercest possible struggle. Russia withstood the attack and was then able to launch an offensive. The Brusilov offensive became famous throughout the whole world.

But the victory was stolen from our country. It was stolen by those who called for the defeat of their homeland and army, who sowed division inside Russia and sought only power for themselves, betraying the national interests.



Today, we are restoring the links in time, making our history a single flow once more, in which World War I and its generals and soldiers have the place they deserve, and our hearts hold the sacred memory that they rightfully earned in those war years. As the saying goes, "better late than never." Justice is finally triumphing in the books, in the media and on cinema screens, and of course, in this monument that we are unveiling here today.

This must continue. There is a need for large-scale educational work and serious archival research. This will help us to learn more about the exact causes of the war and its events and identify the names of all who took part, so that present and future generations can learn about the fate of their own forebears and know their family's history.

It is very important to properly immortalise the memory of our soldiers, and find and bring order to World War I burial sites, of which there are hundreds in Russia. They are the resting places of soldiers from many countries, all of whom are forever bound together now by this common tragedy.

This tragedy reminds us what happens when aggression, selfishness and the unbridled ambitions of national leaders and political establishments push common sense aside, so that instead of preserving the world's most prosperous continent, Europe, they lead it towards danger. It is worth remembering this today.

World history gives us so many examples of what a terrible price we pay for refusing to listen to each other, or for trampling on others' rights and freedoms and lawful interests in the name of our own interests and ambitions. It would be good if we could learn to open our eyes and to calculate at least a step ahead.

It been long since the time that humanity learned and accepted the single great truth that violence breeds violence. The road to peace and prosperity is built out of goodwill, dialogue, and the memory of our past wars, the people who started them and why.

This monument to the heroes of World War I is not just a mark of tribute to their feats but is also a warning and reminder to us all of our world's fragility. It is our duty to look after peace and remember that the most precious thing on earth is peaceful, calm and stable life.

We cherish the memory of World War I heroes. Glory to Russian arms and to our hero-soldier!

After the speech, the President, together with the mayor of Moscow, State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin, Patriarch Kirill, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky laid flowers to the monument, and while standing there the Guard of Honor was making a parade passing them.

Then together with the creator of the monument sculptor Andrey Kovalchuk, they walked around the monument.



The backside of the monument - a cavalry attack and a list with year of major Russian victories.





The author of the monument is sculptor Andrey Kovalchuk, who last year won the honor in a competition. The monument consists of two parts - a soldier on a high pedestal, which depicts the St. George's Cross, - and the second part - infantry, going on the attack. Background is the image of the Russian State Flag, and cavalry is on the backside of the monument.

Among the infantry can be seen St. Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna with a dying soldier.

The total cost of the creation of the memorial was about 180 million rubles. Money was collected both in Russia and abroad, but in the end Moscow government had to make a large contribution.

Video - 1) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9MCBQVVKwM#t=15>

2) <http://itar-tass.com/obschestvo/1355093>

After this splendid start of the commemorations of the heroes and the fallen in the First World War, several other monuments and exhibitions were opened in Russia in August.

The next monument was unveiled the same day in St. Petersburg and the first exhibition was opened in Manezh Exhibition Hall in Moscow.

Monument to participants of the First World War opened in St. Petersburg

August 1, 2014 - the day of the 100th anniversary of the entry of the Russian Empire in the World War I - a monument in honor of the great battles was opened in St. Petersburg . As the location for the monument was chosen the area in front of the Vitebsk Station. In 1914-1918 army went to the west from this capital station.

The height of the sculpture of the monument "Russian guards in the Great War" is 4.3 meters. In cast bronze is a stylized train wagon - shaped as a cross - in which ordinary soldiers was sent to the front.

The opening ceremony of the monument was attended by high-ranking officials, including the Governor Georgy Poltavchenko, chairman of the Legislative Assembly Vyacheslav Makarov, and members of the Government of St. Petersburg.





"With the opening of this monument, we restore historical justice and pay tribute to Russian soldiers and officers who gave their life to defend the fatherland. This monument is very important for the younger generation. We must keep the memory of the past, honor tradition and great deeds of our ancestors" - said the Governor.

Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg Vyacheslav Makarov noted that the tragic date reminds us how important it is to prevent war. This is a lesson of courage and valor of people who today is especially important. "This is a date we celebrate not only as a day of remembrance, but also as a day of great traditions of heroism of the Russian soldier".

Acting Governor Georgy Poltavchenko and Vyacheslav Makarov, thank for the work on the monument to the studio M.B. Grekov, Moscow sculptors Michael Pereyaslavets and Alexey Ignatov and St. Petersburg architect Anton Queen, as well as the company that undertook all the financial costs associated with the installation of the monument.



To the sounds of the march "Farewell to Slavyanka" the participants laid flowers at the monument to the heroes of the First World War. After the ceremony, Bishop Peterhof Markel served lithium in memory of soldiers who died on the battlefields of the First World War.



"Changing times... Russia in the Great War 1914-1918"

By Paul Kulikovsky

In Manezh, Moscow on 1st of August was the opening ceremony of the exhibition about the First World War. State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin and Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky participated in the ceremony.

Visitor entering the Manezh could see lot of white walls and in the middle, flanking a red carpet, are tall white boards with famous poems about the war.

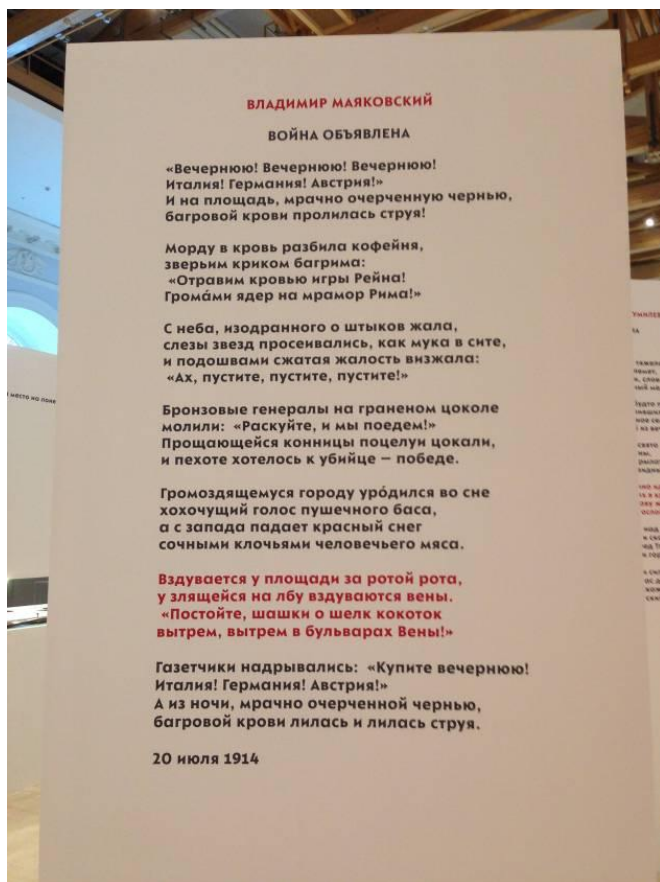
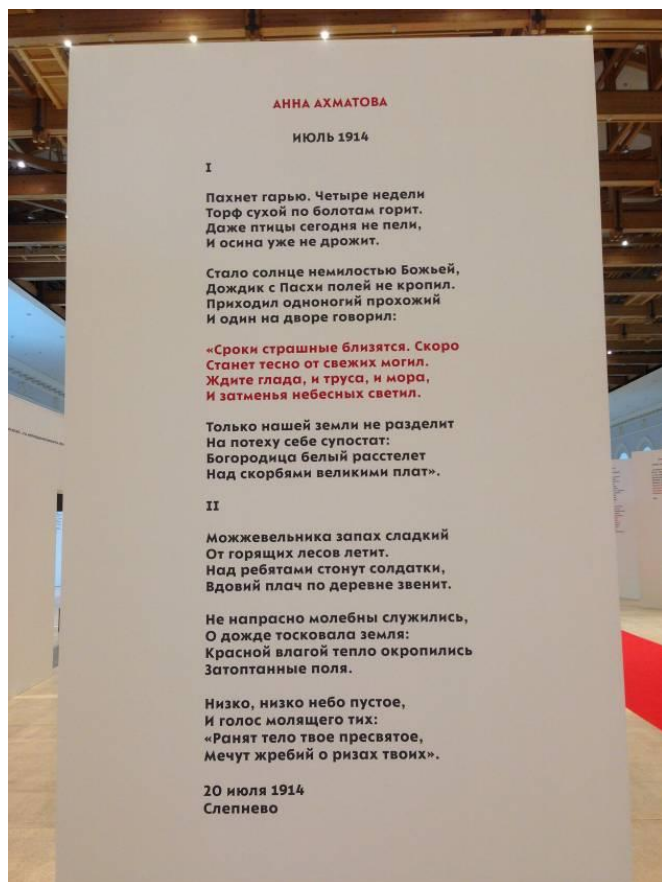
The "real objects" - uniforms, guns, swords, airplanes, etc - are just for decoration, as the main feature of the exhibition are the 450 original posters, showing the Russian heroes, battles of the war, propaganda against Germany, Austria or Turkey, and the request for support - and of course some posters related to the revolution.

Interesting is also the collection of the famous magazine "Annals of the Great War", which one can look through on the interactive screens.

There are also a lot of places where one can sit and watch old documentary. This exhibition - it's not a great historical narrative, but a kind of memorial installation, designed to convey a sense of grief for the loss of life of the first global conflict of the XX century.

There are a few items related to the Romanovs - copies of documents of Emperor Nicholas II, illustrations and some photos in magazines - but not much.







Russia's first Museum of the History of the First World War opened in Tsarskoye Selo

By Paul Kulikovsky

On 4 August opened Russia's first permanent exhibition dedicated to the events of WWI. The Museum of the History of the First World War is located in the Martial Chamber - conceived by Emperor Nicholas II as a pantheon of military glory - in Tsarskoye Selo.



Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Medinsky, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Sergei Naryshkin, and Governor of St. Petersburg Georgy Poltavchenko attended the opening.

"Sometimes the memory of events is not easily recoverable. For decades the memory of the First World War in Russia was ignored - it could give rise to a number of uncomfortable questions. Example, the loss of victory or how inevitable were the event in October 1917. Important for us not only to restore the memory of those events, but also to relate them to what is happening today, in order to predict the risks of today's Europe and around in the world, and to prevent large-scale bloody wars like the one that broke out on the ground for us brotherly Ukraine" - said Sergei Naryshkin.





Ratnaya Chamer was built in 1913-1918 under the project of architect Sidorchuk. The museum opened its doors in early 1917, but a year later the exhibition was closed, items taken from Tsarskoye Selo and dispersed in public repositories. Some documents have been lost and part of the exhibits are destroyed.

Now has been carefully restored building facades, restored historic layout of the rooms, interiors of the central hall, galleries and towers, made preservation of monumental and decorative painting, restored staircase, and floors.

The exhibition "Russia in the Great War" is dedicated to the most prominent operations of the Russian army and the heroism of Russian soldiers and officers. In the exhibition are over 2.000 exhibits from the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo": weapons and household items of participants of the First World War, steel and leather helmets, archival photographs and maps, uniforms and even a collection of field telephones. Complementing the exhibition are videos and interactive tables. They can give more information about the major milestones of the once-forgotten war. In Ratna Chamber can also be seen a gallery of portraits of Knights of St. George.



On the basis of the museum in Ratna Chamber is planned to be established a museum center, which includes a lecture and film hall and a children's center. There will also be held meetings of the Northwest Branch of the Russian military-historical society. In the museum will be created a book collection on World War I (in the imperial museum was provided facilities for the storage of historical documents and a library).

Video - 1) <http://www.tv100.ru/news/v-aleksandrovskom-parke-carskogo-sela-otkryli-muzej-pervoj-mirovoj-voiny-98204/>
2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1184796/>



«The First World War. The Last Battle of the Russian Empire»

By Paul Kulikovsky

On August 21st, 2014 the State Historical Museum opened a major international exhibition devoted to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The main goal of the exhibition is to restore the historical memory of the war.

The Historical Museum began to form the collection dedicated to the history of the First World War immediately after the outbreak of hostilities in August 1914. Later the origins of acquisitions were from the trophy commissions, the Military-and-History Museum and the Historical Artillery Museum, transfers from families of war veterans, as well as items brought from expeditions organized to the places of fights. As a result the Historical Museum has a rather large collection of monuments on the history of the First World War.

However, for the exhibition to show the involvement of the many countries, objects has been received on loan from several Russian

and foreign museums and archives: the Imperial War Museum (London), the Army Museum (Paris), the Bavarian Army Museum (Ingolstadt), the Polytechnic Museum, the Museum of Putilov's Factory, the Archives of the Department of History and Records of MFA of RF, the State Archive of the Russian Federation, Film and Photo Archives, Political Archive of German Foreign Ministry and others.



When Ludmila and I arrived, an orchestra was playing in front of the museum and Guards of Honor were standing along the entrance. Inside were what looked like each and every one of the Russian TV channels lined-up, taking front row on both side of the alley from the entrance to the first steps of the stairs, where the speakers were to stand, leaving the guests to stand behind a forest of cameras.

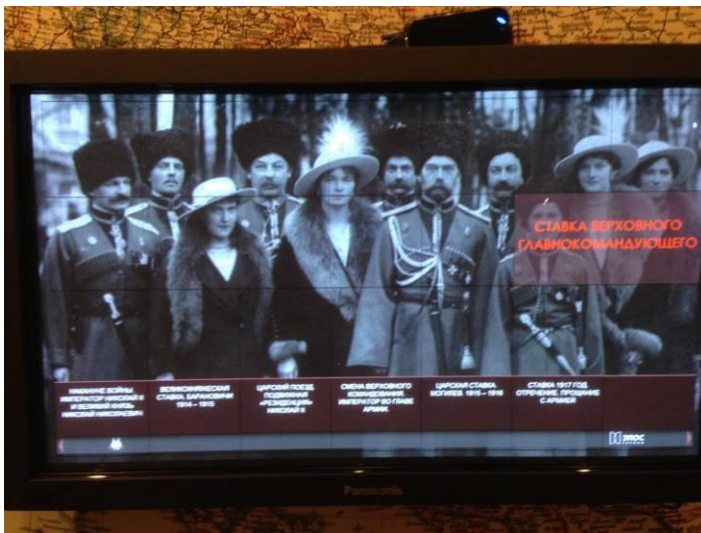


Main guests were State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin and Deputy Minister of Culture Elena Milovzorova.

"Results of the First World War in Russia were particularly tragic, huge human losses, the collapse of the monarchy - And then the revolution. And a bloody civil war. These events pushed the memory of the First World War from the consciousness of its contemporaries, and especially their descendants." - said Naryshkin. Speaking were also the Director of State Historical Museum Alexei Levikin, Deputy Minister of Culture, Ambassador of Germany in Russia, and the Commandant of Kremlin.



The "Our Lady of Augustow" icon - Painted 1915, Moscow.



Colonel's cherkesska and beshmet of His Imperial Majesty's personal escort belonged to Emperor Nicholas II.

At the exhibition there are banners, weapons, military awards, items of military life, maps of battles, as well as posters, paintings, documents, and photos.

Some of the more unique items are the homemade spoons, pipes, vases of shells casings, chairs, as well as toys from the cartridges and other military equipment.

Another excellent exposure - a must in Russia - is the gallery of portraits of the Knights of St. George - heroes of the war.

Seen before, but wonderful to see again, is the Faberge figures with allegory of the countries at war and other war related objects.



For the first time at an exhibition one can see the British Army marshal uniform that belonged to Emperor Nicholas II.

- By the way, did you know that an order was given in 1916 from the English War Office to the jeweler Garrard & Company for a Field Marshall's Baton engraved with inscription - "F. M. H.I.M. Nicholas II Emperor of Russia" - for the princely sum of £55.



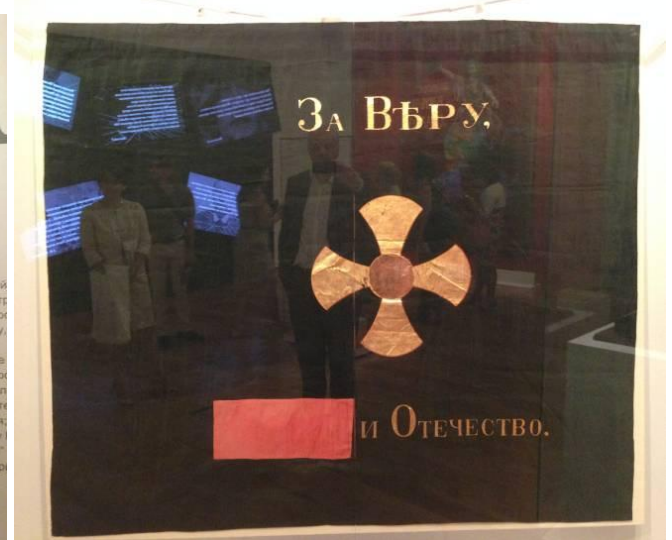
The portraits of Knights of St. George among the low ranks were created for Ratnaya Chamber on special order of Emperor Nicholas II. After the Revolution survived only around 75 of 500 portraits. Now the originals are in the State Historical Museum and the Artillery Museum in St. Petersburg.



Overcoat (children size) from 23rd Infantry Regiment, which belonged to Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich







...And then came the fatal year of 1917...the Russian Empire died....now the battle continued only for the Faith, XXXX, and Fatherland.

Millions of deaths, four years of fighting, betrayal by fellow countrymen robbed the victory from the Russian army.... The many objects in several museum rooms is not enough to make up for decades of lost memory, but at least now has the First World War ceased to be forgotten in Russia.

The exhibition is opened until 8 February 2015.

- Videos - 1) <http://www.otr-online.ru/news/v-moskve-otkrilas-32881.html>
 2) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/48210>
 3) <http://itar-tass.com/kultura/1392910>
 4) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/116562
 5) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/culture/265990>

"Look into the eyes of the war. Russia in the First World War in the newsreels, photographs, and documents"

By Paul Kulikovsky

On 28 August, Ludmila and I attended the opening of the exhibition "Look into the eyes of the war. Russia in the First World War in the newsreels, photographs, and documents", arranged at the Moscow Exhibition Hall "New Manege", located just behind the State Duma building. It was officially opened by Prime Minister Dimitry Medvedev.



At the opening ceremony he said - *"For a long time in our country the First World War was in the shadow of the revolutionary events and subsequent shocks. In Soviet historical science in the public mind, it remained almost unknown and undervalued. Opening the exhibition today, we are largely in terms of restoring historical justice.*

Political consequences, as we know, too, were devastating. It was the start of an era of revolutions. All this, by the way, ultimately ensured the rise to power of the Nazis, who dreamed of revenge, which started World War II..... Painstaking daily work on the discovery of forgotten or unknown pages of our great history in this direction should be continued, and today's opening of this unique exhibition - is another significant step in this direction."

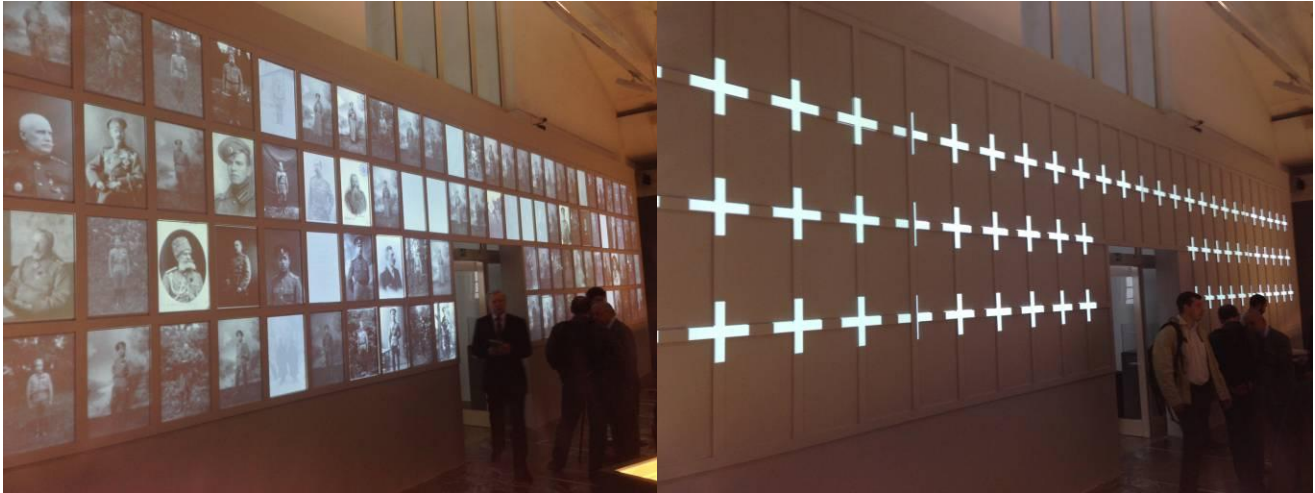
Medvedev was guided around the exhibition by Director of the State Archives of Russian Federation, Sergey Mironenko and in his company were Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, Deputy Minister of Culture Elena Milovzorova, and Chairman of Russian Railways Vladimir Yakunin.

Later we met Sergey Mironenko, Director of "Rosizo" Zelfira Tregulova; Director of Peterhof Museum Elena Kalnitskaya; Deputy director of Hermitage Museum George Vilinbakhov; Archpriest Vladimir von Tzurikov, Dean of Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville Monastery (USA); Vicar of the Moscow Sretensky Monastery, Rector of the seminary Candlemass, Executive secretary of the Patriarchal Council for Culture Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov); Prince Dimitri Schakhovskoy, with his wife and son (France), Victor Petrakov, Victor Moskvina, and Konstantin von Eggert.



The basis of the exhibition is about 500 original articles, newsreels, photographs, letters, maps of major battles, eyewitness accounts, postcards and posters, and documents, provided by museums and archives in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Germany and the UK.

On display are unique documents that shaped the course of history of the twentieth century, among them - the correspondence of Emperor Nicholas II with European monarchs and commanders of armies, the diaries of Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexei, a farewell order to the army signed by the Russian emperor, the documents of the Provisional Government, photographic albums of Imperial Family and regimental albums, famous paintings of Russian and European artists and the visitors to the exhibition can see for the first time an electronic copy of the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty, which has never been exhibited in Russia before.



Especially designed for the exhibition is a Gallery of Glory - Knights of St. George - with hundreds of photos of the real heroes of the First World War, and a description of their exploits, and an interactive booth with the story about the Order of St. George. The projection of the photos on the wall changed regularly to a wall of small white crosses.



The main emphasis is on the use of interactive multimedia technology. 15 short documentary newsreel films, interactive screens, holographic images of the "latest technology" during the First World War, military marches, songs and verses in authentic performance allow a deeper dive into the era, literally "look into the eyes War" and "hear" it.



On the loose hanging white sheets runs the newsreels and in the black display tables are original photos, albums and documents.



Emperor Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexei visiting the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol on 12 May, 1916.



Interactive screens showing a timeline of the developments of the war in maps.

The use of theatrical effects and the dynamic setting creates a special atmosphere. It is like there are noise from a battlefield, flickering lights from explosions, screens of cloth are moving like dark clouds above you, the non-straight paths through the rooms are like uncertainty, making an escape difficult, as chaos in a labyrinth.

The creative designers of the exhibition is film director Pavel Lungin, architects Eugene Assom and Cyril Assom, and documentary filmmaker Elena Yakovich, who have tried to create a special emotional atmosphere, prompting the viewer to interpret the events presented as a tragedy of biblical proportions.



"Now there is a new trend - to attract directors and playwrights to create exhibitions. Previously, the museum was seen as a big room, where was collected items and documents. Now in the Museum a person spends a couple of hours, it can be correlated with the length of a movie or show. This means that he should go and experience some emotional and cognitive moment" - said Lungin.

According to him, the First World War was largely a biblical war: "On the one hand, it determined a new time. Everything there was in the 20th century, started the war. Technology developed the art of killing - weapons of mass destruction, toxic substances, the destruction of empires, the beginning of national movements, the redrawing of the map of Europe. In all this there is something biblical - to a large extent it was a fratricidal war in a Biblical sense, also because all the imperial families were related."

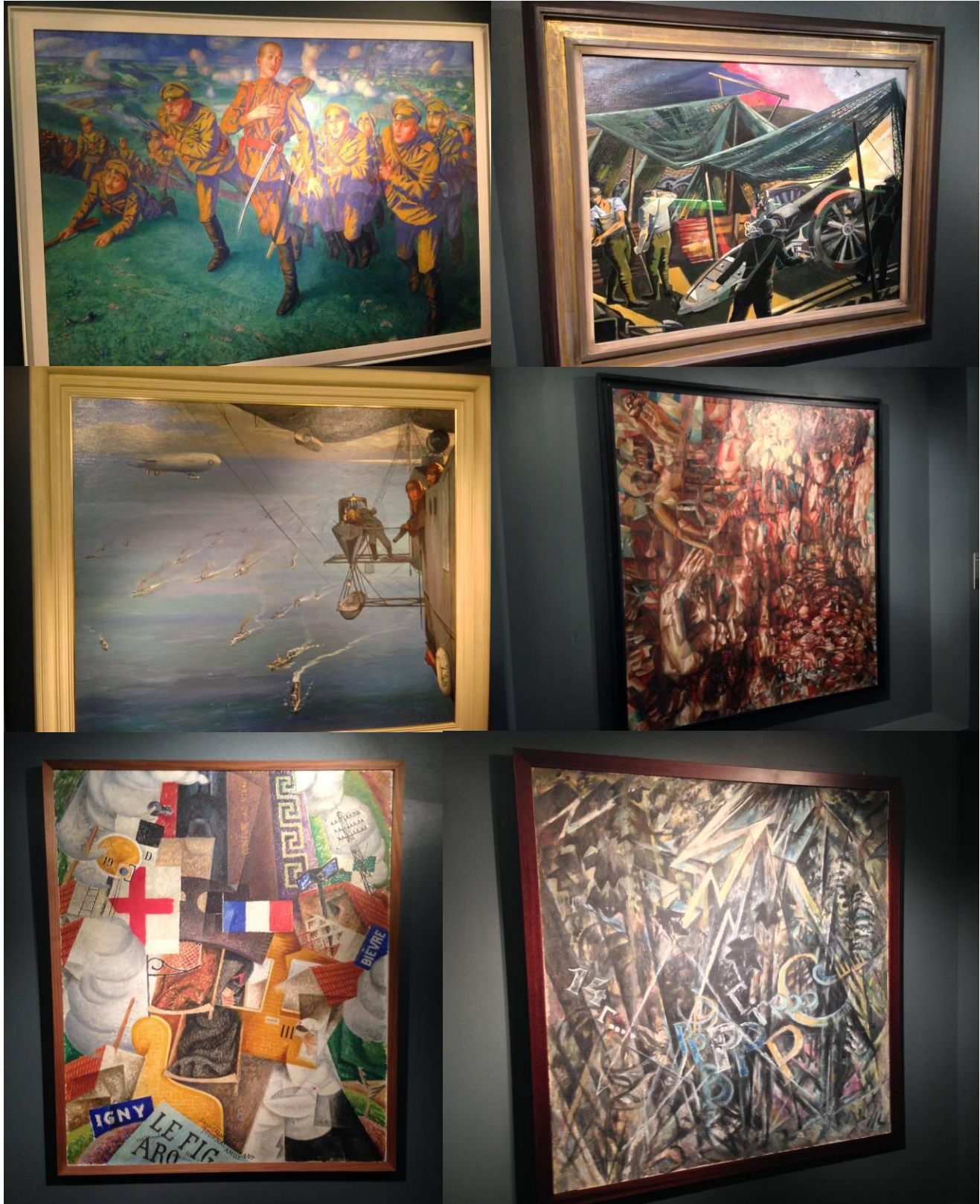
In one of the halls the designers came up with an unusual idea - the floor is lined with thin zinc plates (like on a roof), but installed slightly crumpled and uneven. This creates a rumble when people are walking on them, so that you have a feeling as if you were on the battlefield.

Another room is designed like a lazaret, with white wooden floor, white wooden columns and thin white cloth hanging with photo projections on.



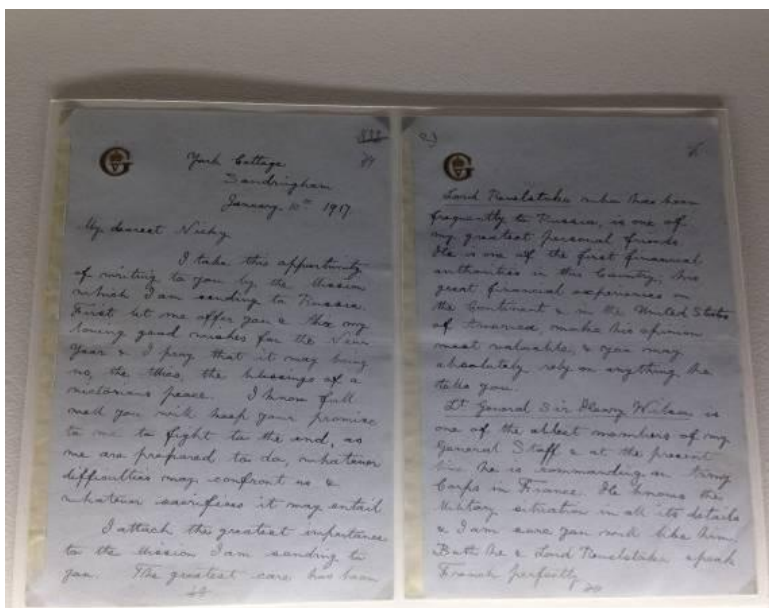
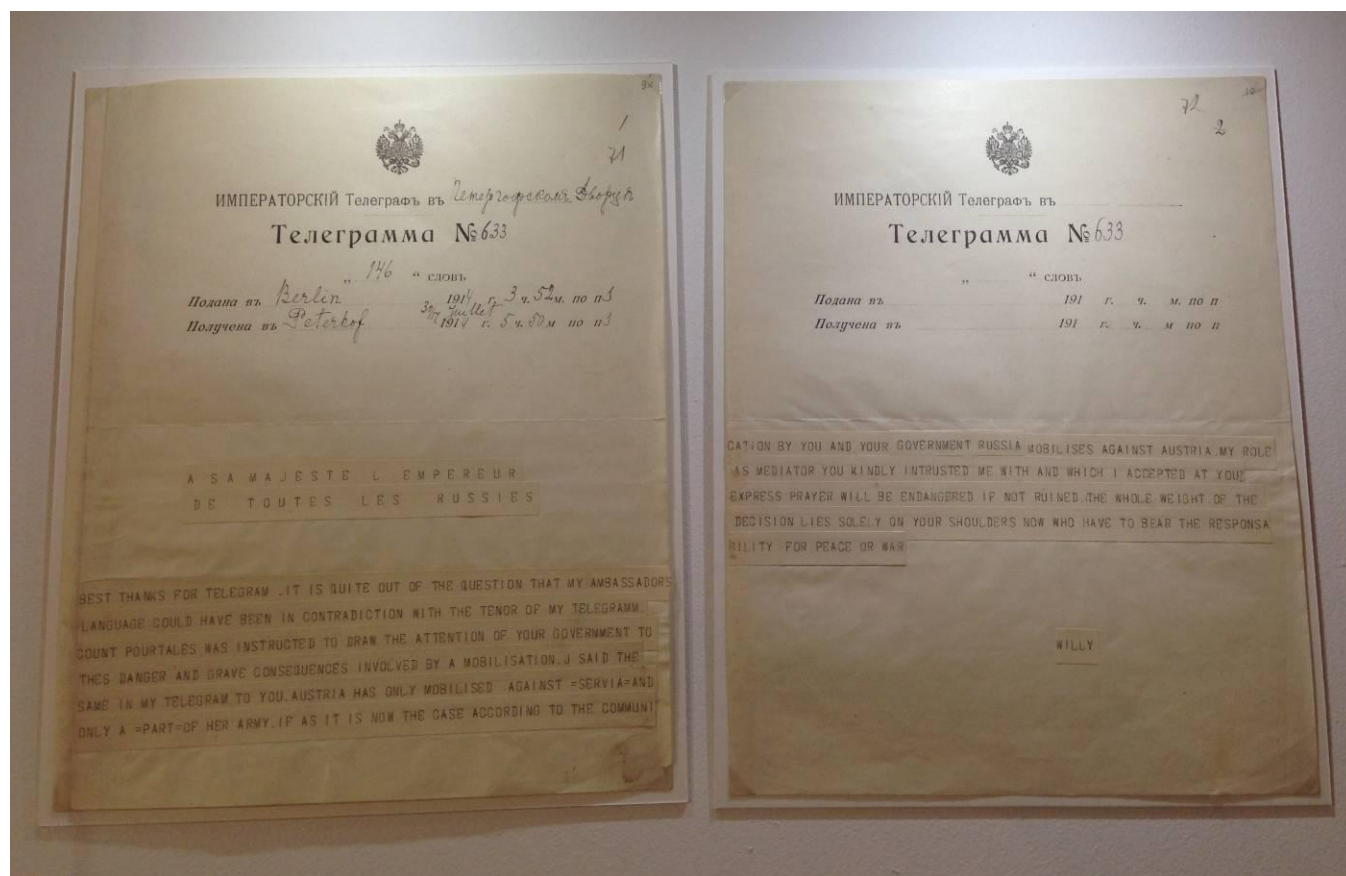
Along the walls there are art from the collection of the State Tretyakov Gallery, the State Russian Museum, the Imperial War Museum in London and from private collections - Majestic and menacing "Michael the Archangel" by Viktor Vasnetsov, "German War" by Pavel Filonov, "1914" by Alexander Shevchenko, "Craters" Richard Carline, "Sunrise" Paul Nash, and others - all demonstrating different

art approaches to the war - the desire for documentary accuracy, or desire to portray the horror, fear and confusion, the destruction of the usual way of life.

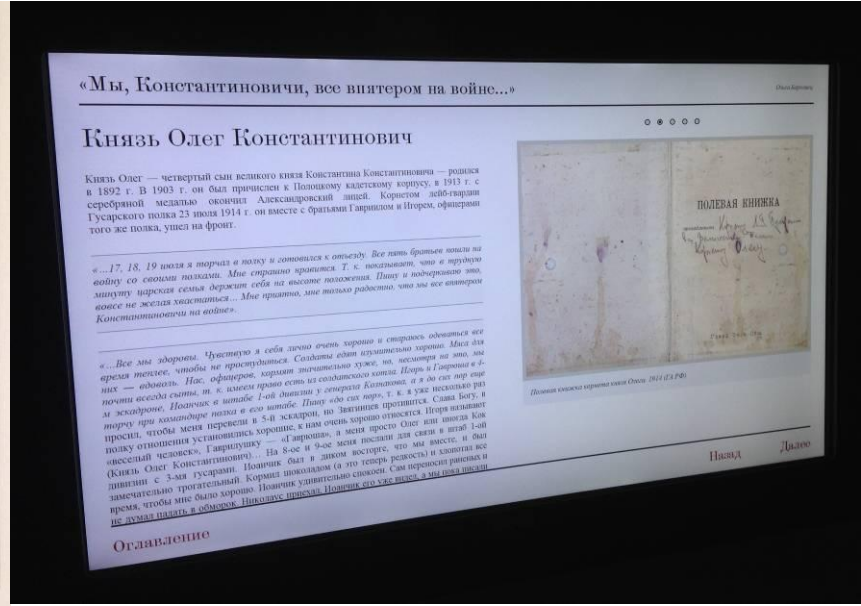


The famous work "Sanitar Train" (above, bottom, left) by Italian avant-guard artist Gino Severini, is exhibited in Russia for the first time.

The exhibition actually starts with a section showing the original correspondence of Emperor Nicholas II with other head of states - here is of course the telegrams to and from Kaiser Willy just before the outbreak of the war. There is also a letter from English King George V. And one from Empress Alexandra to Dowager Empress Maria.

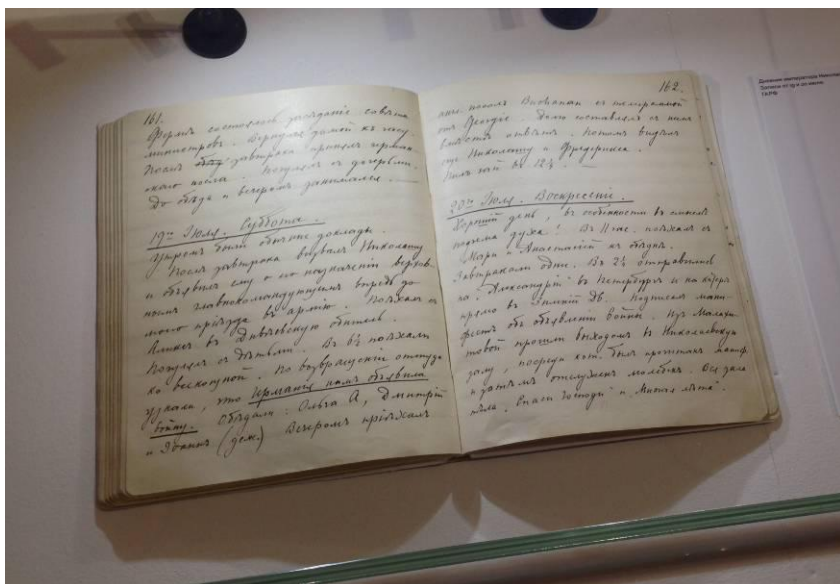


There is a room devoted to the only member of the Imperial family who died in action during the First World War - Prince of Imperial Blood Oleg Konstantinovich.



There are several original photo albums from the Imperial Family on display and on screens in the table one can go through them page by page....

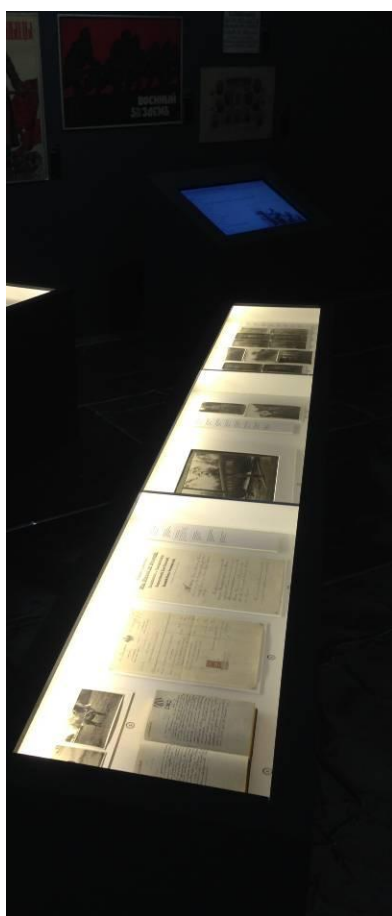




The diary of Emperor Nicholas II, opened on the day of 19' and 20' of July 1914 - dates in old style, they correspond to 1st and 2nd of August 1914. The day of Germany declaring war on Russia, and the day after.



Above - Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in original photos.
 Below - Emperor Nicholas II and Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholeievich



The exhibition will last until September 28, 2014.

Video - 1) <http://itar-tass.com/kultura/1406656>
 2) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/116925

Memorial plaque for Sisters of Mercy - Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna and Princess Helena Petrovna of Serbia

23.08.2014 Kaliningrad diocese

On August 22, in Chernyahovsk, Kaliningrad region, was unveiled a memorial plaque for Sisters of Mercy, the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna younger and Princess Helena Petrovna, who served in a mobile hospital in Insterburg during the First World War. Kalinigrad region It is the only one in modern Russia, where battles took during place the First World War. For us, its citizens, it is especially important to keep the tragic and heroic pages of this war, which serve as an example of valor, courage and sacrifice of the Russian people.



Russian nurses have become a real phenomenon, immune to the unraveling of our opponents. Such nurses became representatives of the imperial family, in whose honor was opened the memorial plaque created by national artist of Russia, honorary citizen of Chernyahovsk, Vladimir Alexandrovich Surovtsev. He, together with the head of Chernyahovsk, was granted the right to open the memorial plaque. Under the prayerful singing of the choir of St. Michael Church, Father Joseph Ilnitsky consecrated the relief, while parish nurses released into the sky white doves.



Vladimir Alexandrovich Surovtsev at the opening of his plaque.

Princess Elena Petrovna was the only daughter of King Peter I of Serbia, Karadjordjevic dynasty - She was married to Russian Prince of the royal blood John Konstantinovich. Her

husband and his brothers on the night of 18 to 19 July 1918 were dropped alive into the pit at Alapayevsk and then grenades were thrown. During the First World War Helena Petrovna organized at her own expense a hospital train, and like many other women of the royal family she went to the front. She was joined by the daughter of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich - Maria Pavlovna the younger.

The infirmary was arranged in Insternburg. There was stationed the command of the 1st Army under General Rennenkampf, while Russia was fighting in Prussia (from 24 August to 11 September 1914). The infirmary was allocated in a fairly spacious three-storey gymnasium building, now high school № 6. Thanks to the great energy of the sisters, inspired by the personal example of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna and Princess Helena Petrovna, the infirmary was initiated only 10 hours after the relevant order,

and was ready to receive 200 wounded. Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna worked enthusiastically and for that the wounded nicknamed her "The joyful sister." The equipment was the most modern in a hospital. In the first place was the comfort of the wounded. They were assigned the best room. As for the deployment of personnel, it was more than modest. Here's how described the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna - "on the first floor, where the rooms were smaller, we use the crates as chairs. The room allotted to me ... as for others, had a stone floor and gray dirty walls. The only furnishings were our beds and small suitcases. We washed in the school toilet in the basement."



Infirmary Marble Palace worked as a casualty clearing station: incoming wounded was bound up, fed and sent to hospital trains. Seriously injured were detained in the hospital for the necessary operations and dressings. Infirmary was operating to the dawn of September 11, 1914, when it received the order to evacuate immediately. In just a few days of work have gone through more than 200 wounded, including 6 officers and 64 seriously injured. For the treatment was made 11 surgeries. According to a senior doctor at the hospital B. G. Sharetsky, the Sisters of Charity at hospital of Marble Palace showed amazing stamina, dedication and extraordinary capacity

for work, and the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna and Princess Helena Petrovna did not differ from the rest of the sisters. The command of the 1st Army appreciated the works of Maria Pavlovna and Helena Petrovna, and nominated them for awards. June 2, 1915 followed by his Imperial Majesty assent to award her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna the younger and HRH Princess Helena Petrovna both the St. George medal 4th degree "for dedicated work as Sisters of Mercy at the infirmary of the Marble Palace in Insternburg in August 1914."

Vladimir Putin proposed new navy ship could be named Emperor Alexander III

14.08.2014. RG

Vladimir Putin proposed to call one of the future warships of the Russian Navy in honor of the Russian Emperor Alexander III.

During a meeting with cultural figures in Yalta in Crimea, the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky showed to the President the restored St. Andrew's flag, from the last ship of the Imperial Russian Navy, which had the name "Emperor Alexander III". The flag was kept in the Russian Orthodox Church in Australia and only this year was returned to Russia.

"I think we can agree that one of the new ships - I still do not know which one, but together with the Navy we will make the decision - to give the name "Alexander III", and thus additionally connect present and our history" - said the president looking at the flag.



This flag has long been in the custody of the Australian captain, M.I. Maximov, a descendent of Russian immigrants, according to Archpriest of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Administrator of the Diocese of Australia and New Zealand Michael Protopopov. It is believed that this was the last of the flags lowered in 1924 on the French naval base in Bizerte on Russian ships of the squadron. The flag was stored in the emigre wardroom of Russian naval officers, and was used to cover the coffins of marine ranks at their funeral. In 1975, M.I. Maximov, the last remaining member of the wardroom, handed the flag for storage to Michael Protopopov, the priest

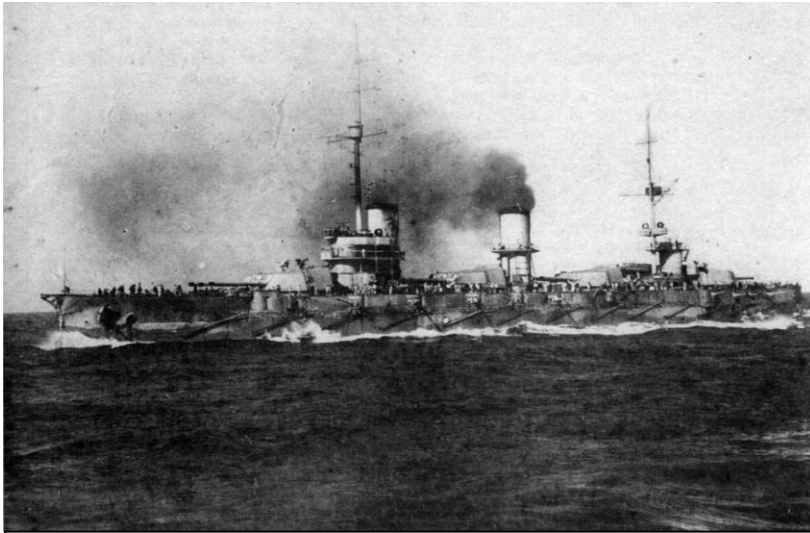
and the son of an officer of the Russian Imperial Army. The last time the flag was used in public was in 1985 in Melbourne during the funeral of a former officer of the Black Sea Fleet.

In 2014, the priest and hereditary Cossack learned that Sevastopol has once again become part of Russia, and presented the flag to the Russian Military Historical Society (RVIO). At the State Research Institute of Restoration in Moscow work was completed on the restoration of the St. Andrew's flag of the legendary battleship "Emperor Alexander III".

In October 2014 the relic will be transferred to the Maritime Museum of Sevastopol.



"At first we had doubts whether this is the flag" - admitted Dmitry Antonov, director GosNIIR. - By design features all the same - it has a waistband, which is passed shkertik - that the flag was attached to the halyard of the flagpole. But the main thing - the members of the wardroom officers of the former Imperial Navy were absolutely sure of the authenticity of the flag. How can we not trust them? Silk flag size 134 x 216 cm takes up almost half of the huge table in the restoration workshop. It is a little faded in some places was wiped, but compared with other relics of its safety is close to ideal. Restoration work, according to experts, took only two months. - We washed flag recorded damage to holes in the fabric did not disperse. Now it can be normal to exhibit and, if necessary, even to carry on the trade show - said Dmitry Antonov.



"The Will" at sea, 1917.

Battleship "Emperor Alexander III" was launched from slipways April 2, 1914, from the yard "Russud" in Nikolaev. It was the second battleship with the name Emperor Alexander III, as the first one had been sunk in the Battle of Tsushima in 1905.

The new battleship became operational on June, 15th, 1917, but after the February revolution it had been renamed "The Will". For a short period it was in the hands of the "Reds", but on June, 19th, 1918 in Sevastopol it was taken by the German army. November, 24th, 1918 it was taken by the English-French interventionists and became a part of

the White Guard naval forces of the South of Russia. On 17 October 1919 it was renamed again, this time to "General Alekseev" in honor of the commander of the First World War. It participated in combat operations against the Red Army who occupied the coast of the Dnieper-Bug estuary, conducted artillery duel with Ochakovskaya batteries, and reflect their attack aircraft. All this time, the St. Andrew's flag was flying the battleship.

14 November 1920, as a part of Russian squadron "General Alekseev," led a caravan of ships to evacuate the White Guards from the Crimea.

- Evacuation of white from Sevastopol is considered one of the most prominent operations evacuation of troops in history, - says Nikolay Manvel, RVIO consultant on the history of the Russian Imperial Navy.

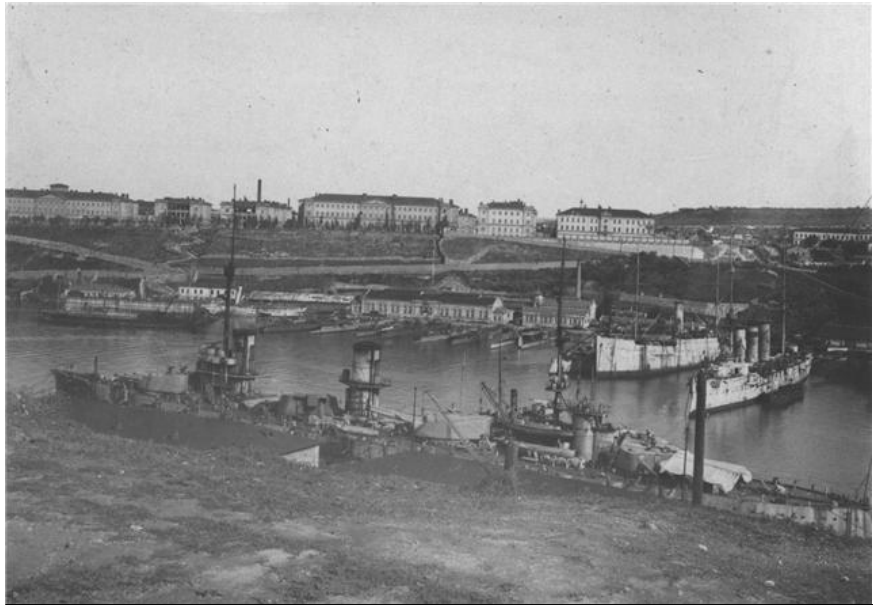
- 150 ships evacuated about 150 thousand persons, of which the military personal was only 35-40 thousand. Others was families of officers and soldiers, refugees and clergymen. Russian squadron arrived in Bizerte, a French naval base on the African coast. November 30, 1924 the flag was lowered - it happened on the day after France recognized the Soviet Union.

- Descent of the flag on the most powerful ship - "General Alexeyev"
- marked the end of Russian squadron - sums Nicholas Manvel.

- We do not know how it ended up in Australia. But for 50 years it has been used by Russian sailors during funeral ceremonies. Thus the symbol of Russian squadron testified care of her last participants.

- Flags of the Imperial Navy ships - a rare phenomenon - adds Dmitry Antonov.

The battleship was interned by the French authorities in Bizerte, but because of the difficult international situation it was not returned to USSR. In the late twenties it was sold by "Rudmetalltorgom" to a French private company for demolition and in 1936 it was cut-up in Brest (France) for reuse of its metal.



Battleship "Alexander III / General Alexeyev" in Bizerte, 1920.

Emperor Nicholas II and Russian songs

By Caroline de Souza & Sue Woolmans



For once it is a nice summer in the UK so sunshine blessed the Art in Action event in the grounds of Waterperry House in Oxfordshire, England this July. This is an annual event that incorporates all disciplines of art with lectures and demonstrations for the public to increase understanding of how creative people create! One of the lectures this year was by Maxim Kravchinsky and was entitled "Russian Songs in Russian History". It was the story of Nicholas II's love of traditional Russian music and its performers.

Gypsy singers immediately spring to mind as we have all read the many tales of Rasputin and Felix Yusupov going out to the islands in St Petersburg to hear the gypsies perform. Nicholas's favourite gypsy singer was Varya Panina (1872-1911). She was born in Moscow into a family of horse traders, and started her career, when she was just 14, in the choir of the "Strelina" restaurant in that city. She was a success, and moved swiftly from being in a choir, to running her own choir, at the Yar restaurant. She also sang solo and became very popular in Moscow. In 1902, she performed at the Petersburg Nobility Assembly Hall before touring Russia as a solo performer. Her career went from strength to strength and she became known as the "Queen of Gypsy romance song". Her performances were dramatic and emotional - her deep voice captivating listeners. Amongst her fans were Chekhov, Tolstoy, Blok and Chaliapin. Blok described her as "celestial" with a voice of "enormous power and beauty". The first concert the Imperial family went to after the 1905 revolution was one of Panina's and it was the Tsar that inspired her next move - a recording career. Nicholas had a small pocket gramophone and after one of Panina's concerts, he asked her manager why there were no recordings of her. 3 months later, he was presented with a set of Panina's recordings by a record



company. Around 100 of her records are still in existence today and have been re-mastered and released by the All-Union Melodia Studio label. Panina died of a heart attack in 1911. She was buried at the Vagankovo Cemetery though her image lives on in a Faberge figurine. We've found a picture of this on page 315 of "Faberge Imperial Jeweller" by Geza von Habsburg and Marina Lopato. Around Panina's neck is a necklace of medallions each featuring a portrait of Nicholas II. The figurine is now in a private collection.

Hear her voice here - <http://yandex.ru/video/search?filmId=-Xvw3c9o8gE&text=Varya%20Panina>



In March 1913, Nicholas recorded in his diary that he had heard the mezzo-soprano, Nadezhda Plevitskaya (1884-1940) singing Russian folksongs. She was born into a peasant family in the village of Vinnikovo near Kursk. She started singing in a religious choir before turning professional in Kiev, specialising in songs from the Kursk area. There she married a Polish dancer called Edmund Plewicki. Her next move was, unsurprisingly, to the Yare and then she undertook a concert tour in 1909. The great tenor Leonid Sobinov heard her on this tour and started to be her greatest supporter, bringing her to the attention of Nicholas. Soon Plevitskaya was singing regularly for Nicholas whom she reputedly reduced to tears with her emotional voice. Alexandra presented her with a diamond brooch in the shape of a beetle. This did not stop her becoming a Bolshevik after the October Revolution and singing for the Red Army. In 1919 she was captured in the Crimea by a White Army unit led by General Nikolai Skoblin. After the defeat of the Whites, they fled into exile in Turkey where Skoblin became the head of the

Russian Military Union. They married (we can't trace what happened to her 1st husband) and Plevitskaya became the most popular singer amongst the émigrés, moving them to tears with her song "Russia, You've Been Covered with Snow".

Plevitskaya toured Europe and in 1926 went to America where she was accompanied by Rachmaninoff – in fact he based the last of his "Three Russian Songs" on one of her favourite numbers. But she wasn't making much money singing so in 1930, Plevitskaya and Skoblin allowed themselves to be recruited by the Russian secret police (later the NKVD). Their counter-intelligence work in Western Europe was so effective that they were invited back to the Soviet Union where Plevitskaya posed as a clerk in government offices uncovering "enemies of Stalin" that might work there. But in 1937 they overstretched themselves, organising the abduction of General Eugene Miller. He was the head of the white Russian Military Union in Paris, and he was spirited back to Moscow, tortured for 19 months then executed. The pair immediately came under suspicion. Skoblin abandoned his wife and fled, probably to Spain. Plevitskaya was followed by the French police who then arrested her, searched her flat, and found evidence of her espionage activities. In 1938, she was sentenced to 20 years in a French prison. And she died in prison, in Rennes, of a heart ailment, in the autumn of 1940. Vladimir Nabokov's short story, "The Assistant Producer" is based on her life. Her husband's fate is not known.



A recording - http://www.russian-records.com/details.php?image_id=19967&sessionid=h8aa43ne6mu f76rpkstc12j686

Hear her voice here -

http://yandex.ru/video/search?filmId=A_upPue18gE&text=Nadezhda%20Plevitskaya%20&_id=1408880522562&safety=1

In 1915, Yuri Morfessy sang in front of Nicholas. He was born in 1881 to a Greek family who had immigrated to Russia. Again, he was a singer who specialised in the Russian romantic genre but during the First World War, he sang many patriotic songs, and it was these he was singing on the deck of the Polar Star to Nicholas II. He was presented with diamond cuff links representing the two-headed eagle which were sadly lost when he emigrated from Odessa to Constantinople. Like many Russians, he settled in Belgrade. In 1941, he was happy to see the Nazis occupy Yugoslavia as he mistakenly believed that they would rid Russia of Communism. He died in 1949. Morfessy wrote of the Tsar: "I was fascinated by his manners, looks and noble simplicity. It was impossible to break away from his soft violet eyes of some unusual shape which I had never seen before".

Hear his voice here -

http://yandex.ru/video/search?filmId=hRvePgZX8gE&text=Yuri%20Morfessy%20&_id=1408880734718&safety=1



The most famous Russian singer, possibly of all time, was Feodor Chaliapin (1873-1938). Nicholas was a great fan of his bass voice, magnetic personality and vivid performances. "All the family gathered in the gallery. Mephistopheles was on. Chaliapin sang brilliantly", Nicholas wrote in his diary. Chaliapin was another singer from a peasant family, this time from Kazan. He studied music at home, moved to Tbilisi to continue his studies, and in 1894 was employed by the Imperial Opera in Petersburg. In 1896, he moved to Mamontov's private opera and worked with Rachmaninoff, who taught him a great deal, especially the role of Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov. This became his signature character. Much success followed, both in Europe and the States working with both Toscanini and Diaghilev. The Revolutions caused Chaliapin much personal anguish and, although the Soviets claimed to revere him, they made his life difficult. After 1921, he did not return to Russia, settling eventually in Paris. He continued to tour, and his last performance was in Monte Carlo in 1937. He died

the next year, of leukaemia. He was interred in Paris but in 1984, he remains were transferred to the Novodevichy Cemetery.

Hear his voice here -

http://yandex.ru/video/search?filmId=EIK_iAXjs3M&text=Feodor%20Chaliapin&_id=1408881212387&safety=1

For more on this subject you can buy Maxim Kravchinsky's book about Russian singers at:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/5367007589?SubscriptionId=0QCHRJVSKG6F3BRGBNG2&tag=pbs_00005-20&linkCode=xm2&camp=2025&creative=165953&creativeASIN=5367007589



The famous portrait of Shalyapin, painted in 1921, in St. Petersburg, by Boris Kustodiev.

Plaque honors Russian Romanov prince's visits to Torquay

August 16, 2014. Herald Express

A BLUE plaque has been unveiled in Torquay in memory of a member of the Russian royal family who made friends and influenced people during his stays in the resort.

The current resident of the Villa Borghese in Ridgeway Road and Torbay Civic Society had the plaque installed and it was unveiled by council chairman, Cllr Jane Barnby, and chairman of the society Ian Handford.

Villa Borghese was the first Italianate house to be built in Torquay during the late 1830s.



Jane Barnby and Ian Handford unveiling blue plaque at Villa Borghese in Torquay

It is believed to have been commissioned by the Capel-Cure family to house their collection of art and sculptures collected from a tour of Italy, while awaiting the building of Badger Hall in Shropshire. The Rev Edward Capel-Cure, who lived at Villa Borghese, was chaplain to Queen Victoria.

Romanov Prince Peter Georgievich of Oldenburg, a first cousin to Tsar Alexander II of Russia and also a cousin to Queen Victoria came to Torquay in July 1850, fresh from being formally received by Queen Victoria at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight two days earlier.

He informed the Queen that he was leasing the villa for a few months to enjoy the glorious scenery and the seawater bathing which had become all the rage.

During his stay with his family, he was invited to lay the foundation stone of the new Torquay Hospital, now Castle Chambers in Higher Union Street.

He was also involved in the Royal Torbay Regatta, acting as a steward and on his birthday on August 26, the town celebrated with a triumphant arch in the town.

The prince and princess also attended Paignton Regatta with the local pub being renamed the Oldenburg in their honour.

The blue plaque was donated by Mrs M Gould, who currently lives at the villa.

In the city of Jasnogorsk in Tula region a monument to Empress Catherine II was unveiled

15.08.2014. Tulapress

The event was attended by the governor of the Tula region, Vladimir Gruzdev and the head of the Moscow railway - branch of JSC "RZD" Vladimir Moldaver.



"The monument to Catherine the Great - one of a small number of monuments dedicated to the representatives of the royal dynasty that ruled Russia for centuries. Today, opening the monument, we pay tribute to the memory and gratitude for the great things that have been made by Catherine the Great. In the Kremlin's Catherine Hall is awarded state awards because she - one of the few rulers who could increment the population of Russia. With her name is associated with stage of development of the state, industry and culture. Before the First World War, Russia has developed very actively, including through reforms of

Peter I continued by Catherine II. Today we are opening this monument and paying tribute to the memory of the great Empress", - said the governor of the Tula region, Vladimir Gruzdev.

In the Livadia Palace the exhibition "The Romanovs. My history" was opened

15.08.2014. RG

The interactive exhibition "The Romanovs. My history" successfully held in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Tyumen, opened Friday 15 August in the Livadia Palace near Yalta.



- For us, the opening of the exhibition in Livadia - a huge responsibility and a great joy, - said the executive secretary of the Patriarchal Council for Culture, Archimandrite Tikhon. - Because Livadia Palace is very closely connected with the Romanovs and the accommodation of the exposure within the walls of the period of their rule means the return of their history to our contemporaries.

The history of the Romanov family is presented with the help of modern multimedia technology - 3D and animated collages, lightboxes, touch panels and projection screens.

- This show was very popular, and it proved that museums need to have a new function - the function of education - said the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Medinsky. - And so the opening of the exhibition, which is actually an exposition in the Livadia Palace is very important. Everything you see - all the exhibits and all the equipment - will be donated to the Livadia Palace. And the exhibition will be supplemented, expanded. This is a sort of return to the land of Russian emperors, who for the last Romanovs had a special place. It was during this dynasty Russian empire experienced its triumph and its downfall, his most glorious military victories and bitter defeats. And because of this, is this period is not only very interesting, but also a good example for the analysis of historical lessons, that has particular relevance today. The exhibition will not only tell you about the history, but also answer the question, how to live, not to repeat the mistakes.

- The Romanov dynasty has made an enormous contribution to the formation of the Russian state and the development of the Crimea, - said Russian presidential envoy in the Crimean Federal District Oleg Belavenets. - And if it were not for the Romanovs, the Crimea would not be the same as today. After all, 225 years ago, Catherine II, visiting Tauris, founded the city of Simferopol and Sevastopol, and the Black Sea Fleet was created.

Video - 1) <http://www.otr-online.ru/programmi/v-yaltu-privezli-27185.html>

2) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/265546>



"The sovereign's fun" at Peterhof

12.08.2018 Itar-Tass



Personal belongings of Peter the Great near modern multimedia books are among the exposure of the new interactive museum of imperial leisure and entertainment XVIII-XIX centuries, which was opened on Tuesday in Peterhof.

The new museum space of nine rooms, is located in one of the houses of Cavalier and has been called "the sovereign's fun." Visitors of this historical and cultural project will be able to find the most famous hobbies of Russian tsars - fountains and fireworks, which in ancient times was called "water fun and gun" theater, building palaces and rural pastoral life. The most modern exhibition is dedicated to the imperial bikes - here visitors to the museum will be able to make bike rides.

"This fusion of ideas of scientific personnel, custodian, designer, architect, and lighting designer, playing with space elements of theatricality and interactive, allow us today to assume that this is a new form of museum," - said General Director of the State Museum Elena Kalnitskaya.

"Peterhof" promise that in each of the halls of the new museum offers not only cognitive exposure, but also interactive fun. For example, in a hall dedicated to the theater, you can look into the space under the stage and consider mechanisms that move the sets and scenes. The construction of "a funny palace" with the holographic images can be seen of Peter the Great, and in the halls of "fire and water fun" viewers will witness a colorful light show over the Peterhof fountains and find out what is the principle work loved by many famous fountains-friendly crackers.



Videos - 1) <http://topspb.tv/news/news50705/>
2) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/culture/265648>

Olga N. Kulikovsky-Romanova in Sevastopol

07.08.2014. New Sevastopol



Acting Governor of Sevastopol, Prime Minister Sergey Menyailo met with Olga Nikolaevna Kulikovskaya-Romanova, chairman of the Charity Foundation in the name of Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. Olga Nikolaevna, widow of Tikhon Nikolayevich, the grandson of Emperor Alexander III and the nephew of Tsar Nicholas II, came to the Crimea to see personally the situation that prevailed in the peninsula after the return of the Crimea to Russia. To do this, Olga held several meetings with representatives of the city authorities and bishops of the Orthodox Church.



During a brief but very warm conversation, Sergei Menyailo and Olga Kulikovskaya-Romanov exchanged views on the current life of the Crimea and Sevastopol, the need to preserve its historical heritage and multi-faceted, unique culture. Then there was the laying of a wreath at the Eternal Flame at the Memorial to the heroic defenders of Sevastopol. After that, the guests answered questions from journalists of Sevastopol.

The meetings with Crimeans helped Olga Nikolaevna, as the head of the charitable fund in the name of Her

Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, wanted to identifying points of intervention of this fund in the Crimea and Sevastopol, the most important areas of cooperation with organizations in need of support: hospitals, orphanages, and cultural institutions.

The 110th Anniversary of the Birth of Holy Martyr Tsarevich Alexei



Moscow - Prayers in Novospassky Monastery

August 12, 2014, on the day of the 110th anniversary of the birth of the most famous patient in Russia, - the Holy Martyr Tsarevich Alexis (Romanov), Novospassky Stauropegial monastery was visited by members of the Russian Society of hemophilia.

In the church in the name of St. Romanos the Melodist in front of the icon of Tsarevich Alexis with the blessing of the governor Novospassky monastery, vicar of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Resurrection bishop Sava was moleben served by Archimandrite Paisius (Jurkov), elected and named bishop Schigrovsky and Manturovsky (from 25.07.2014).

On the common prayer of different cities - Moscow, Borowski, Kaluga - gathered more than 50 people, among whom were not only suffering from hemophilia and their families, but also medical experts (eg Professor Vladimir Y. Zorenko, a leading specialist SSC Russian Ministry of Health).



Archimandrite Paisius at the end of a prayer addressed the audience with heartfelt words of comfort and support, "The Lord does everything for our salvation. For 20 years I visited patients and staff of the Oncology Institute of Herzen. Over the years I've seen a lot, and today I am deeply convinced that the Lord sends serious illness is not accidental, but in order for people to reconsider their lives. More than once I have personally witnessed how the Lord through disease called people. And if they begged him not to extend their years of his life to the full horror of the disease is left behind, and to allow time to correct, and then happened what we call a miracle. Over the years I have seen dozens of cases of healing when doctors measured out period of a few months, and people overcome serious illness, in all relying on the will of God, lived for ten years. Have trust in God!".

At the conclusion of the prayer service, the guests were given a tour of the monastery, during which was told the history of the monastery, of the Romanov dynasty, and about a visit to the monastery of Saint martyr of Tsar Nicholas II and his family.

After the tour, the children with the help of adults planted flowers in the monastery.

To this memorable day in Novospassky monastery was organized a small photo exhibition dedicated to the anniversary date. The exhibition features a selection of photos of St Tsarevich Alexis, who was called "The Golden Heart of Russia."

Recall that the Martyr Tsarevich Alexis is revered as the patron saint of patients with hemophilia, he prayed, asking the intercession before God and Queen of Heaven, in the days of the ordeal, inevitable during illness.



St. Petersburg - Religious procession from Tsarskoye Selo to Peterhof

The two-day religious procession in honor of the birthday of the last heir to the Russian throne - St. Tsarevich Alexis, for the eleventh time was committed on August 11-12 from Tsarskoye Selo to Peterhof.

After the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of the Sovereign Feodore and prayer service at the monument to Emperor Nicholas II, fifty pilgrims went to the places associated with the life of the saint of the royal family. It was a way "from sorrow to joy" from Alexander Palace, where the Romanovs were in prison, to the Lower Palace, where the crown prince was born and spent the happiest days of his life. Some were for the first time, but the majority were permanent members of the prayer procession. During stops at places of memory was committed prayers and guided conversation about the royal family.

In the evening of the first day the procession of believers came to the Church of Martyr Andrew of Crete in the town of Sergiyev. There was all night singing incessantly akathist royal martyrs, and was made an early Divine Liturgy.

In the morning on the Lower road pilgrims met with a small procession, coming from the church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Znamenka. Prayerful procession ended with a prayer service at the worship cross at the Lower Palace. There was being built a church of St. Tsarevich Alexis and held a gala concert.

The tradition of the St. Alexis procession was born in 2004 on the day of the 100th anniversary of the "Golden Boy of Russia." "At that time I was working in an orphanage, and one artist gave us an icon of the Tsarevich. We talked a lot about it to the children, and when they learned about the place of his birth is near, we decided to walk there with our icon. So was born the idea of an annual celebration of the birthday of the last heir to the throne,"- said the organizer of the procession Vladimir Znahur.

The only son of the royal couple was born on 12 August 1904 in 13 hours and 15 minutes on the summer residence of Peterhof Lower Park Alexandria. Tsesarevich shared the fate of the last of the Romanovs: on the night of July 17, 1918 14-year-old Alexis was shot along with other members of the royal family in Yekaterinburg. In 1961 the Lower Palace building was blown up. However, every year since 1994, on its ruins in the day and hour of the birth of the heir to conduct worship services, the monument Crown Prince at the palace cottage flowers are laid.



Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich's maternity hospital in Ilyinsk became a monument

12.08.2014. Narublevke

The historic maternity hospital building in the village Ilynskoe has been included in the list of identified cultural heritage. According to chairman of the Moscow Region Branch VOPIK Eugene Sosodov, now the building is protected by law from demolition and the distortion of its historic appearance.



"The wooden building as a maternity hospital was built in 1891 through the efforts of the holy venerable Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in memory of the Greek Princess (Grand Duchess) Alexandra Georgievna, wife of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich (Brother of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich) who died in September 1891 in Ilyinsk after childbirth - says a neighbor.

The maternity hospital did not suffer during the revolution, as the local peasants were guarding it from being plundered. It worked until the mid-1960s, until a new maternity hospital opened in Krasnogorsk. After that, in the building of the maternity hospital doctors and nurses

lived. In the last 10 years the building has been abandoned and neglected, and the lovely patio was used for garbage."

Local residents have recently carried out voluntary work on clearing the area, and the Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society came out with a proposal for the restoration of the building and the creation of a memorial museum in it.



Grand Duchess Anastasia's shoes

The collection of Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" has been replenished with a valuable item - a pair of shoes from the beginning of XX century. Experts suggest that they may have belonged to Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna.



The shoes are made of white fabric and decorated with a buckle. Leather sole has the mark "VKAN 24 III 1909 g». Length - 21.5 cm - size of children's shoes and is comparable to the size of the feet of an eight-year girl. Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna in 1909 was eight years old. Such shoes were worn by the daughter of Nicholas II, which can be seen in photos at the beginning of XX century.

- In the collection of our museum stores we have nothing similar. But in the Hermitage there are a few

pairs of shoes, at the period of infancy. On the shoes from the Hermitage collection are no marks on. However, a similar abbreviation indicated by the letters and numbers are present in the children's trousers from the Hermitage collection. Accordingly, this form of marking of personal belongings of Nicholas II's children was practiced, - says custodian of the female costume "Tsarskoye Selo" Catherine Potselueva.

The shoes was purchased at the museum's own expense at an auction in Paris. The acquisition of this exhibit is of special importance for the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" - picking memorial items of the imperial family to the museum is a priority. This exhibit will be on display at the Alexander Palace - favorite family home of the last Russian emperor.



In the village Lubyтино in Novgorod a new bust of Emperor Alexander II

08.08.2014. Novgorod TV

The first monument to the emperor appeared in Lubyтино (then it was Borovichsky county) in 1911. The event was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of peasants from serfdom. During the Revolution, the monument disappeared. In year 2000 the original bust was found in the Museum of History of Borovichsky district. Two years ago, residents of the area appealed to Governor Sergei Mitin's assistance in the reconstruction of the monument.



The new monument to the Tsar Liberator was established with the help of sponsor - Nebolchsky mining and processing plant. It is a copy of the original from the museum. Consecration of the monument made Archbishop Ephraim of Borovichsky and Pestovskij. The governor, the head of the region, the chairman of the regional Duma Elena Pisarev, clergy, and residents of Lubyтинsky district participated in the ceremony .



Video - 1) <http://novgorod-tv.ru/news/8341>
2) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=al16z6iNOIM#t=42>

In Tretyakov Gallery is refurbished one of the great paintings by Ilya Repin

05.08.2014. TV Kultura

Today marks 170 years since the birth of the Russian painter, master of portraits, historical and genre scenes - Ilya Repin. In the Tretyakov Gallery has started work to recreate one of the most significant and monumental paintings of the master - "Acceptance of township heads by emperor Alexander III in the yard of Petrovsky Palace in Moscow."

The grand canvas of Repin was supposed to be a solemn symbol of the beginning of the reign of Tsar Alexander III, the peacemaker, and was - a living testimony of the era. The painting captures the historic meeting of the newly risen to the throne emperor with the peasants: they are for the first time in the history of Russia to take an oath to the Emperor. Tough, confident look of the Tsar in the crowd - waiting.

To make this picture Repin was persuaded with difficulty. "Repin did not like official orders and tried to avoid them", - says the head of the department of painting in the second half of XIX - early XX century in the State Tretyakov Gallery Galina Churak. - "There were such circumstances that he could not refuse that order, and discouraged Tretyakov wrote that he was sorry that he got in touch with this order." In letters to friends Repin was indignant: "The royal family does not want to pose." The artist had

first to make the yard of the Petrovsky Palace in Moscow, and then later the protagonist. According to the memoirs of the painter, the emperor he had to make in the Peterhof Palace. Fitting for the painting it was placed above the main staircase of the Grand Kremlin Palace. In the early 50's the painting took its place in the hall of Repin in the Tretyakov Gallery. The restoration is the first time in half a century. In fact, just to clean it, has gone a month of work. Restorers remember: freed from the layer of dust and yellowed varnish the painting came to life before our eyes. "There is a feeling that you stand next to it- said the artist-restorer Yekaterina Volkova. - "Almost human height. The feeling that you are in the same crowd."



Although the picture is in need of repair, most serious work is the damaged frame - or "Tsar-frame" as it is called by restorers, by analogy with "Tsar Cannon". Massive, to match the picture, the work of the Moscow carvers of the XIX century, the years lost not only shine, but also part of the carved elements. "We will remove all toning, restore gesso, gold, that is, we will do the restoration of it all, - says the artist-restorer Vladimir Klepov. - Gold leaf cover will be like the old one. So it will look in the same style."

In order to complete all the work, restorers has just over a month. The painting of Repin "Receiving township heads" will return to the exposure on September 9 - as the pearl of the upcoming gallery exhibition "Painting and frame."

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/115464

In the fortress "Nicholas II and his family"

31.07.2014. Go812.

In the Engineering building in the Peter and Paul fortress opened the exhibition "Imperial family on postcards of the XX century." The exhibition is presented in the framework of the project "The Romanovs in St. Petersburg."

Curator of the exhibition, senior researcher at the State Museum of St. Petersburg Lyudmila Petrova said - "presented here are those chosen to give an idea of what was on offer for the replication of photo chronicles of the family of Nicholas II".

According to Petrova it is not much known about Pre-revolutionary publishing. But it is known, for example, that the Community of St. Eugene printed 5-6 thousand copies of such products.



The exhibition presents about 60 postcards

and photographs from the collections of the State Museum of History of St. Petersburg, on the life the last of the Romanov dynasty. The exhibition consists of three sections. The first - the official chronicle of the royal family, the second - the privacy of the Romanovs, the third - a collection of postcards from the First World War. This section focuses on the personal contribution of the imperial family in the war.

The exhibition concludes with a series of four cards of Soviet times - photos of Ipatiev House, where was shot the family and the servants of the Emperor.

Video - 1) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/115185

2) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9II1tLCoz0#t=14>

Monument to Catherine II installed on the seafront in Yeisk area

July 29, 2014, Yuga.ru

A monument to Empress Catherine II was opened in Yeisk area. The sculpture is installed on the banks of the Sea of Azov Sea in the courtyard of the Museum of Ethnography agrarian "Kuban little farm" in the Marine village.

The monument was installed under the project "Alley of Russian glory". Thus, it was decided to perpetuate the return of the Crimea to Russia. After all, the Empress Catherine II in April 1783 signed a manifesto of accession of the Crimean peninsula to Russia, the islands of the right bank of the Kuban and Taman" - told in the press service of the Kuban Cossack Army, adding that the author of the monument was famous sculptor Alexander Apollo.

The project "Alley of Russian glory" is being implemented in cities and regions of Krasnodar Region with the support of non-governmental organizations "Combat Brotherhood Kuban", Cadet Suворov-Nahimovskiy Union, the Military Historical Society of the Kuban and the charity fund "Feat of arms."



An exhibition with objects related to Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna is in the History Museum in Novgorod.

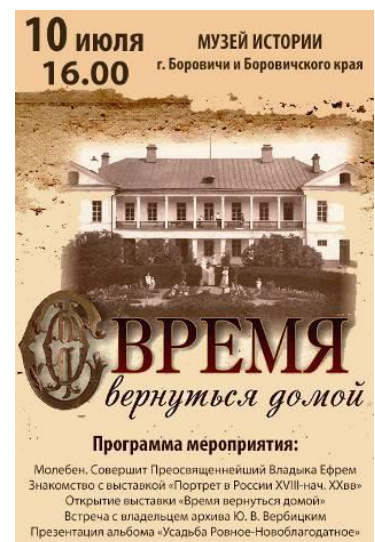
By Paul Kulikovsky

I missed this exhibition for the July issue of Romanov News, but as it display objects related to Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, I still would like to mention it.

The exhibition "Time to go home ..." opened on 10 July in the History Museum, Borovichsky district, Novgorod region, Borovichi str. Dzerzhinsky d. 7.

It shows objects from the family archives of the family Nikushkin-Verbitsky, the last owners of the nearby manor Steady-Novoblagodatnoe. It's an aristocratic Russia family that went into emigration in France. Archival documents and photographs relating to the life in exile is of great interest: family meetings, gala events and everyday life, arranged according to the traditional Russian way.

There are rare printed materials from different periods: the leaflet "The tricolor flag"; "The winning song of the Volunteer Army in 1919"; leaflet newspaper with personal signatures of the officers of the regiment Akhtyrsky in 1934, the 20th anniversary of the First World War; booklet "Prologue tragedy", published in Paris in 1930; several issues of the



newspaper "New Time" (1924-1925), published in Belgrade bulletins from Russia; newspaper clippings obituary about the death of General N.P. Nikushkin etc.

There are personal items: leather purse with Russian imperial coat of arms and initials; two canes belonging to Vera Nikolaevna and Vsevolod Nikolaevich Verbitsky; shrine, candlestick, knife for cutting paper, a child's toy-bear, dressed in a jacket and shorts sewn by young Yuri Verbitsky. This part of the family archives Nikushkinyh-Verbitsky returned to Russia to talk about the fate of compatriots in exile.



Of special importance is materials illustrating the meeting of officers of the 12th Hussars regiment Akhtyrsky with Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the chief of the regiment. While living in Canada, she came to the meetings in Paris, "to her favorite Akhtyrsky." On the group photos there is a big family of these glorious hussars, at the special meeting in exile.

According to traditions the Grand Duchess became the godmother of the first-born of all Akhtyrsky officers. In 1928, she became godmother of small Yuri

Verbitsky. Preserved postcard with a greeting from the Grand Duchess to the birth of the first child: "Very happy to be the godmother of your little son Yuri! ..." And a letter of April 31, 1951 "dear godson Yuri" with gratitude for the "beautiful silk scarf" and the caption: "The Lord bless you. Loving you Godmother Olga."

There is also one of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna paintings - a winter landscape, reminiscent of Russian view - normally kept in the house of Verbitsky. Now, it is transferred to the museum.

The exhibition is on until 20 September.



Collector's coin dedicated to the imperial stables

07/08/2014 YarNews.net

In "Sberbank of Russia" has sale started of silver coins dedicated to one of the most striking monuments of architecture of the middle of the XIX century - the main imperial stables, built in Peterhof 140 years ago.



The main imperial stables is a complex of buildings, designed and built by the architect Nicholas Benois in 1848-1854, in the Gothic Revival style, for 330 horses, veterinary services, forge, barn, carriage house, pool and living quarters for the staff. At the final stage of construction funding was cut down, but even then the complex amazed contemporaries with its size and technical equipment. At the moment the imperial stables are a part of the Museum "Peterhof".

In the central part of the obverse is the relief image of the fragment of the XIX century engraving by K. Venermana overlooking the royal stables in Peterhof. Below is a portrait of architect Nicholas Benois, made by digital printing.

On the reverse of the coin are portraits of Emperor Nicholas I and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. In the center is a part of the painting by O. Vernet called "Tsarskoselskaya Carousel" where Nicholas I and his wife are on horseback in medieval clothes.

The coin is packaged in the original case with a monogram of Nicholas I.

The coin "Royal Stables" is made of silver 999 and weighs 250 grams. Mintage is only 400 copies.



On 12, 13 and 14 September in Peterhof will be a spectacular multimedia show. The large-scale show this year is called "Dedication genius. Sketches of Russian culture." Last year's show was devoted to the 400th anniversary of the Romanov House - "The Romanovs. Legends and destiny" - See the 36 min long video of last year's show here - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5yThTRfs4Q>





In Yekaterinburg, on the Day of Russian Cinema, August 27th, was shown the documentary feature film about the Crimean War "Defense of Sevastopol". The film was the first Russian feature film. In the set of pictures attended regular units of the Russian army and veterans of the defense of Sevastopol 1854-55 period. In the audience of the first show of the film was Nicholas II and the royal family, on October 26, 1911 at the royal palace in Livadia.



35 short documentary videos about the Russian army in First World War, with a few of them showing Emperor Nicholas II, has been digitized and posted on the internet by the British "Pathe" film archive on the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. See the videos in the Russian article - <http://www.pravmir.ru/rossiya-v-velikoy-voyne-35-arhivnyih-kinohronik-video/>



On August 7, 2014 at the Historical Museum of the Smolensk opened the exhibition "The last war the Russian Empire", dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. In the exhibition is widely represented graphics, reflecting significant events in the war. A collection of photos from the museum-reserve allows to develop a theme of participation of Smolensk in World War I and as a frontline city - Smolensk had several hospitals and at the Smolensk station were trains with refugees. It is known that the locals in the eve of the war, were among the first to be sent to the front. Special focus of the exhibition are the personal belongings of the famous Smolensk aviators: G.V. Alekhnovich, M.N. Efimova, Knight of St. George and I.S. Sokolov-Mikitova, the later known Soviet writer. The exhibition runs until the end of 2014.



A movie about Emperor Nicholas II and Matilda Kshesinskaia is on its way. Alexei Uchitel has chosen for the role of Emperor Nicholas the German actor Lars Edinger and says "it is too early to talk about who will play the female lead". Nevertheless, in St. Petersburg, the team has erected a copy of the Assumption Cathedral of the Kremlin. According to rumors, the picture has a multi-million dollar budget and the script was written by Paul Schrader (author of "Taxi Drivers"). Historians write that Mathilda met with the future emperor directly at the ballet school, and immediately broke out passion. But in the film the most tragic period of their relationship will be shown - the coronation of Nicholas and his wedding. Matilda at the time suffered much. And for these scenes the main character is not required, and they have more time to think about the candidacy of a ballerina.



The Estonian cultural, educational and sports society "Hero" invites young people to a quiz dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The First World War is one of the largest armed conflict in human history. As a result of unprecedented hitherto the number of victims and the ravages of war have disappeared off the map a few of the great powers, including the Russian Empire. In the centenary year of the war, Estonian cultural, educational and sports society "Hero" holds a historical quiz "The Great War of 1914 - 1918", the purpose of which is the restoration and preservation of the historical memory of the First World War. To participate in the quiz young people aged 15 to 35 years are invited. Answers to questions are accepted until October 15 to the email address vitjas@ymail.com.

The winners of the quiz will receive valuable prizes and gifts, and all participants of the quiz will take part in the youth education conference and other events dedicated to the anniversary date.

Some of the 15 questions;

1. How was called the war in Russia until 1917, and when in the historiography was established the term "First World War"?

6. Which part took members of the House of Romanov and August Family of Emperor Nicholas II in the events of World War I?

11. Who was the most successful Russian commander during World War I? Explain your answer.

See all the Quiz questions in the Russian article - <http://baltija.eu/news/read/39793>



On 19 August Museum "Peterhof" received a unique equestrian portrait of Peter I made by Soviet graphic artist Konstantin Rudakov. The watercolor "Peter I in the Battle of Poltava" illustrated a poem by Alexander Pushkin's "Poltava" published in 1948 by the publishing house "Detgiz." The painting depicts Peter the Great on horseback to the moment in "Poltava" is described as "far away did not come cheer: regiment saw Peter."

The picture was received as a gift from BBR Bank, which bought it from the widow of a famous St. Petersburg collector.



On 31 July, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin met with Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin, Deputy Director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums Andrei Batalov, rector of the Moscow Architectural Institute Dmitry Shvidkovskiy and commandant of the Moscow Kremlin, Sergei Khlebnikov. During the meeting the idea of restoring the Kremlin Ascension and the Miracle Monastery was discussed. Putin said - "What is the idea - to restore the historical appearance of the place with two monasteries and the church, but giving them, of course, character only of cultural value. Of course, you will need to talk to the public - the Moscow public, the architectural community - to coordinate this issue with UNESCO, as the Kremlin is under UNESCO protection, and generally work out everything quietly, without fuss, with a thorough approach to solving this problem." The ancient architectural ensemble of the Kremlin includes the Chudov/Miracles Monastery, Church of St. Alexis, the Small Nicholas Palace and Ascension Monastery. After the demolishing of the present office building no 14, excavation will start. The project, from archaeological site and to the construction itself may take five or ten or fifteen years, all depending if it is just to be a facade or a full reconstruction.

Video - <http://www.1tv.ru/news/culture/266181>



On August 20 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Nizhny Tagil there was solemn awarding ceremony where artists received the honorary Order of Carl Faberge Memorial Fund. For significant contributions to the development of the Russian jewelry and lapidary art was jeweler Nicholas Romanov awarded the Order of Michael Perchin, the Small badge of the Order of Michael Perkhin went to the jeweler Galina Fomicheva and the Small badge of the Order of Franz Bierbaum received sculptor and medalist Peter Bolyuh. A Big badge of the Order of Franz Bierbaum this year also was awarded to the Urals artist-cutters Denis Bogomazov.

At the ceremony, President of the Foundation of Faberge, jeweler's art historian, an expert on evaluation of artistic treasures of the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation, Valentin Skurlov gave a lecture on "Faberge: known and unknown."



In Makhachkala, was a scientific and public forum, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Caucasian Cavalry Division. The event was attended by the Speaker of the National Assembly Khizri Shihsaidov, Deputy Prime Minister Ramazan Jafarov, ministers, scholars and visitors from other regions of Russia.

Vintage photographs, documents and letters. Everything connected with the "Wild Division" are on display at the ground floor of the House of Friendship. And in White Hall there is talk about the Caucasian Cavalry Division and its role in the First World War. Among the guests at the White Hall - Mikhail Lermontov. This is not just a coincidence. He is a descendant of the famous poet, famous for

his works from the North Caucasus. The Wild Division was formed in August 1914. Interested in its creation was, above all, Tsar Nicholas II. Therefore, the commander of the mountaineers became his brother Mikhail. During the four years of service to the fatherland Caucasians showed itself only with the best hand. About three and a half thousand were awarded the St. George Cross and medals. The forum participants discussed and agreed that this topic as much as possible needs to be covered in the media, to develop a separate series of classes for students in high schools, to publish materials of the Congress in the form of brochures, and most importantly - to the heroes of the Wild Division of Caucasus in Dagestan to make a monument.

Video - <http://rgvktv.ru/news/26353>



The St. Petersburg Suvorov Memorial Museum on 20 August opened an exhibition devoted to the 100th anniversary since the beginning of the First World War. The museum presents Suvorov chronicles of war through the prism of personal details and documents of soldiers.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1199477/>



In the center of Pskov, was on 22 of August opening ceremony of the Monument to the Heroes of World War I made by the People's Artist of Russia, sculptor Salavat Shcherbakov. The monument is a figure, going ahead of the Russian soldier, going on the attack with a rifle. Behind it develops banner Pskov Regiment depicting the Virgin and the coat of arms of Russia. The sculpture "heroes of the First World War" has taken its place in the park, near the Tsar's chapel, set in the memory of the abdication of Nicholas II of the Russian throne.



In Gusev, Kaliningrad, on 24 August, as part of the military-historical festival "Gumbinnenskoe battle" was opened the sculpture "bayonet", an WWI exhibition, a memorial park and a sculptural group "In Memory of the forgotten war that changed the course of history."

The monument "bayonet" is a six meter high monument of an attacking Russian soldier, by sculptor Vladimir Surovtsev. The sculptural composition "In Memory of the forgotten war that changed the course of history" by the famous sculptor Mikhail Shemyakin consists of three pieces: an emaciated soldier crucified on "Wheel of Fortune" and two women - widows and mothers, - symbolizing mourning families of the war dead. "This is a monument to the tragedy of war", - said Mikhail Shemyakin, stressing that it is international, and "dedicated to the drama of mothers, widows, sisters who have lost their loved ones - their sons, their husbands, their brothers in this field (Gubinnenskogo battle)."



On 29 August opened in the Palace of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich in Kolomenskoye, Moscow, an exhibition of architectural watercolors. The Palace of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich was one of the main royal residence of the first Romanovs. Built in 1667-1672, it was called "the eighth wonder of the world", but never the less existed only a hundred years and was dismantled by order of Empress Catherine II. To preserve the memory of the palace: she decree to make a "true" model of the palace. During the reign of Emperor Nicholas I (1825-1854) society paid more attention to Russian antiquities, recognizing their aesthetic, iconographic and memorial significance. After a visit of the Emperor to Kolomenskoye in

1835, was discussed the possibility of the restoration of the palace ensemble. Architectural assistants of the Moscow Court Office performed measurements of the surviving monuments of Kolomna and a series of watercolor drawings of the palace of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich was made. These works, together with earlier and later architectural drawings can be seen in the exhibition. The exhibition is open from 29 August to 30 November 2014



On Sunday, August 24 was the concert "First World War. Music and Words" on Palace Square, St. Petersburg. The audience got military songs and romances, poetry by Alexander Blok, Anna Akhmatova, Nikolai Gumilev, Vladimir Mayakovsky, works by Tchaikovsky, Glinka, Lyadova, fragments of symphonies of Nikolai Myaskovsky and Russian choral religious music, including "Vigil" by Sergei Rachmaninoff. In addition dramatized scenes from the life of St. Petersburg of 1914-1918, a series of reconstructions with soldiers, the Sisters of Charity, the citizens and military equipment. The concert featured the People's Artist of USSR Irina Bogachyova, People's Artist of Russia Svetlana Kryuchkova, Honored Artist of Russia Pogudin, soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, Peter the Winkies, Pelagia, the State Hermitage Orchestra, Choir of the Valaam Monastery and choir, all introduced by the Honoured Artist of Russia Mikhail Morozov.

Video - <http://5-tv.ru/news/88372/>



In Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia (in North West Russia), a memorial monument established in June 2010 recently attracted a lot of attention. Locals have in the media attached the memorial for Karelian border guards, as they say it contains a large number of historical and factual errors - How come that nobody previously noticed it in its 4 years of existence? There are three memorial plates - "Border guards of the Russian Empire", "Border troops of the USSR" and "Border Guard Service of the Russian Federation." Depicted on the plates are border guards during operation and geographical maps. But on the plate to border guards of pre-revolutionary Russian Federation a modern coat of arms is made instead of the imperial double-headed eagle. The map is to show the empire of the 20th century, but on it is shown the city of Murmansk. However, in tsarist times there was no city of Murmansk, this settlement was named Romanov-on-Murman. There was no city of Byelomorsk in tsarist times, though for some reason it is marked on the map. But the most glaring error of the makers of this memorial is a "gift" of the vast territory of the Russian Empire to ... Sweden! In fact, at the beginning of the 20th century (the date of the card) the territory to the west of Karelia belonged to the Russian Grand Duchy of Finland - not Sweden! There are also errors in the other plates. Local authorities have not yet decided what to do.





In the end of August was the first meeting of the Expert Council of the St. Petersburg Museum of Faberge. It consists of seven leading experts on the work of Carl Faberge: Geza von Habsburg (USA), Marina Lopato, leading researcher of the Hermitage; Kieren McCarthy, director of antique firm Wartski (United Kingdom); Tatiana Muntean, a leading researcher of Museums of the Moscow Kremlin; Valentin Skurlov, expert of Ministry of Culture and the consultant of the auction house Christie's; Ulla Tillander, historian Faberge (Finland), and Mark Schaffer, director of antique gallery A La Vieille Russie (USA).

It was mentioned that Geza von Habsburg will be the curator of an exhibition of Faberge from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg. This is a big project with a display about 100 works, including all five Imperial Easter gift, the most famous of which - egg Pelican 1897. Now the museum is under construction, and there was a good excuse to show its treasures in St. Petersburg. In addition, the Expert Council discussed the development of a memorial exposition of Carl Faberge. It will include archival documents, as well as machines that was running in the wizard firms - their temporary show is to be organized with the help of Ulla Tillander.

The next meeting is scheduled for October, when the museum will hold the Third International Symposium of professionals and collectors dedicated to the work of Faberge. This event will be held in Russia for the first time.



English BBC2 showed in August a two part documentary called "Russia's Lost Princesses", a series focusing on Tsar Nicholas II's four daughters, combining interviews with leading historians, stunning archive and dramatic reconstruction to reveal the real girls behind the fairytale images. Each part is an hour long.

The first part "The Gilded Cage" tells about "the childhoods of Tsar Nicholas II's four daughters - Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia - and the truth behind the fairytale images. The sisters were the most photographed princesses of their day, attracting the same frenzied press attention as Princess Diana later would, but their public profile masked the reality of their strange and very isolated upbringing."

The second part "The World Turned Upside Down" tells about "the final four years in the lives of Tsar Nicholas II's four daughters, concluding with their brutal murders in the bloody climax to the Russian revolution."

The two parts are available on YouTube;

- 1) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMHLVfFs33E>
- 2) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC3KkuAaLhY>



On 9 September at the Museum "Neva Outpost" opens the exhibition "Calling me a voice of war...", dedicated to the Sisters of Mercy of 1914-1918. From 1914 charity work in Russia for several years was almost entirely devoted to the care of the injured and the families of soldiers. In imperial Russia women were not called to the battlefield, but they sought to the front, where they helped as Sisters of Mercy. Presented at the exhibition are photographs, medical supplies and instruments, documents of the era that tell of the courage and patriotism of these girls and women. Also on display will be the activities of charity "Neva Gate" during the First World War.



Director of the Pushkin Museum Sergey Nekrasov presented on Friday, August 15, in the central library of Narva his documentary about Prince of Imperial Blood Oleg Konstantinovich. The documentary is 26 minutes long tells about the prince who was the only member of the House of Romanov, who died in the First World War. Prince Oleg became the first Romanov, who received

a civic education before the military rank. He became the first Romanov, who studied in the Alexander Lyceum. But his vocation was in the service of his country, and of course he had to enlist in the military. After the Lyceum, he was enrolled in the Life Guards Hussar Regiment with the rank of cornet (a junior officer rank in the former cavalry). Sergey Nekrasov expressed the opinion that if it were not for the war, Prince Oleg could have been a bright representative of Russian culture. To get into the mood of the distant era, before the film entertained the vocal trio "Seno", with folk songs and romances of the last century.



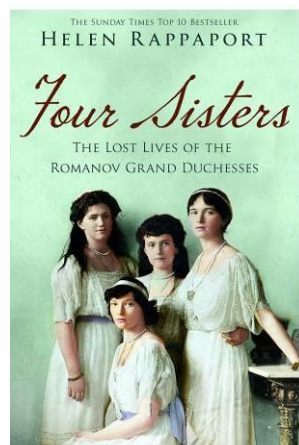
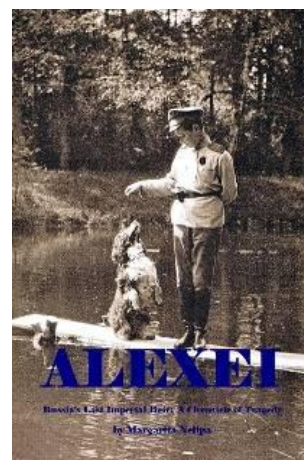
On 29 August a monument to the hero of the Patriotic War of 1812 - Peter Kristianovich Wittgenstein was unveiled at the walls of the Pskov-Caves Monastery. He went down in history as the savior of Petersburg when he stopped Napoleon's army on the way to what was then the capital of the Russian Empire. The victory of Russian troops in Yakubov and Klyastitsy forced Napoleon to abandon his plans to move to Pskov and St. Petersburg, and instead continued to Moscow.

St. Petersburg sculptor Albert Charkin created the bronze bust, height of 1.2 meters, and at the plant "Sculpture" produced the pedestal of height 2.3 meters.

Present at the opening were Vladimir Yakunin, as chairman of the Center of National Glory and the Governor of the Pskov Region Andrei Turchak.



Margarita Nelipa tells that her third book: "Alexei: Russia's Last Imperial Heir" is nearing completion. She adds that by referencing medical records and diary entries, the book also discusses the alleged relationship between Grigorii Rasputin, the imperial family and Alexei by addressing the numerous misconceptions about their relationship that continue to be perpetuated. The book will be published in 2015.



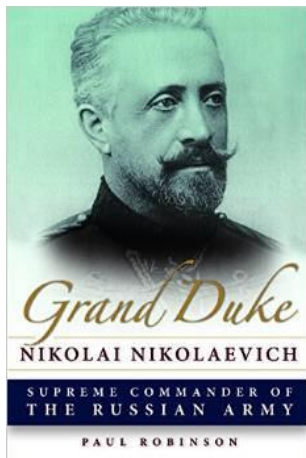
Helen Rappaport's "Four Sisters" will be out in a paperback version in January 2015 and it has a different cover. She says her publisher - "clearly have taken their lead from the US edition, using the same photograph, which our in-house designer Justine Anweiler has coloured and styled."

Ural businessman, politician and the leader of the "Monarchist Party" Anton Bakov in collaboration with writer Anna Matyukhina has published the book "The Golden Bull in 2014." The book is marketed as a monarchist revival plan in Russia. The 192-page book is "a manifesto of the monarchy, as amended, for the XXI century". A similar document, a set of

laws, was issued in the XIV century by the Emperor Charles IV. On 3 September will be held its presentation.



Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich: Supreme Commander of the Russian Army



Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich Romanov (1856–1929) was a key figure in late Imperial Russia, and one of its foremost soldiers. At the outbreak of World War I, his cousin, Tsar Nicholas II, appointed him Supreme Commander of the Russian Army. From 1914 to 1915, and then again briefly in 1917, he was commander of the largest army in the world in the greatest war the world had ever seen. His appointment reflected the fact that he was perhaps the man the last Emperor of Russia trusted the most. At six foot six, the Grand Duke towered over those around him. His fierce temper was a matter of legend. However, as Paul Robinson's vivid account shows, he had a more complex personality than either his supporters or detractors believed.

In a career spanning 50 years, the Grand Duke played a vital role in transforming Russia's political system. In 1905, the Tsar assigned him the duty of coordinating defense and security planning for the entire Russian empire. When the Tsar asked him to assume the mantle of military dictator, the Grand Duke, instead of accepting, persuaded the Tsar to sign a manifesto promising political reforms. Less opportunely, he also had a role in introducing the Tsar and Tsarina to the infamous Rasputin. A few years after the revolution in 1917, the Grand Duke became de facto leader of the Russian émigré community.

Despite his importance, the only other biography of the Grand Duke was written by one of his former generals in 1930, a year after his death, and it is only available in Russian. The result of research in the archives of seven countries, this groundbreaking biography—the first to appear in English—covers the Grand Duke's entire life, examining both his private life and his professional career. Paul Robinson's engaging account will be of great value to those interested in World War I and military history, Russian history, and biographies of notable figures.

"This is a well-written and important biography. Robinson has tackled an important figure with energy and diligence and has produced the definitive study of Nikolai Nikolaevich's life."—Joshua A. Sanborn, author of *Drafting the Russian Nation: Military Conscription, Total War, and Mass Politics, 1905–1925*



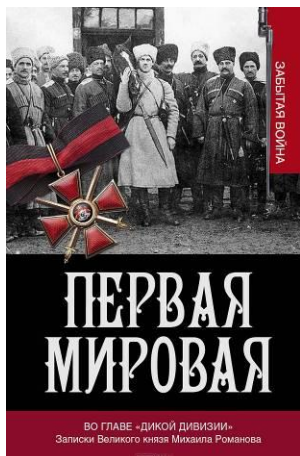
"The most valuable materials introduced in this book are from the personal and official correspondence of the Grand Duke with his family, Tsar Nicholas II, his commanders, and others. Robinson has also mined the published and unpublished memoir literature of persons close to the royal court (such as ladies in waiting, other members of the imperial family, ministers of various governments) and paints a lively and often touching portrait of the Grand Duke as he moves through several stages of his life. The maps and photographs are excellent and very helpful in situating and visualizing the Grand Duke and his career."

Mark Von Hagen, Arizona State University

About the Author: Paul Robinson is professor of history public and international affairs at the University of Ottawa. He is author of several books, including *The White Russian Army in Exile, 1920–1941*, and, most recently, co-author of *Aiding Afghanistan: A History of Soviet Assistance to a Developing Country*.

Publisher: Northern Illinois University Press. Hardcover, 465 pages, language: English.
ISBN-10: 0875804829 / ISBN-13: 978-0875804828

First World War. Commander of "Wild Division". Notes of Grand Duke Mikhail Romanov

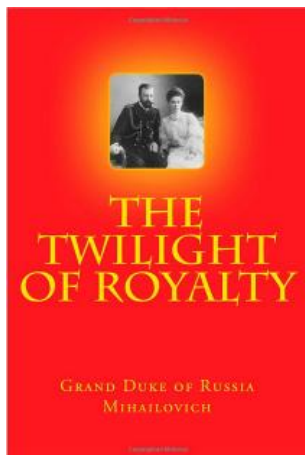


Most of the material contained in this publication has long been in the "special storage", many of which are unknown not only to a wide range of readers, but also to professional historians.

In the book, historian and archivist, candidate of historical sciences V.M. Hrustaleva describes the little-known wartime episodes from the life of the younger brother of Emperor Nicholas II, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich during the First World War, when he commanded on the South-Western front the famous "Wild Division" and the 2nd Cavalry Corps.

Publisher: AST, Moscow. Hardcover, size 130 x 200 mm, 667 pages. Isbn 978-5-17-084808-9

The twilight of royalty - by Grand Duke of Russia Alexander Mihailovich



Paperback re-issue

"The more I see of Democracy, the less I am inclined to believe that its contribution to human progress contains anything startlingly new or makes the return of absolutism impossible. There is very little indeed in the practice of the modern republican rulers which could be considered an improvement on the system created by the Czars, the Kaisers and the Caesars of the Holy Roman Empire. Sometimes, when I watch a Monsieur Chiappe disperse a parade of Parisian workers or a Mr. Mulrooney handle the May Day crowds in Union Square, I even begin to fear for the morals of the exiled royalty, lest on their return to the thrones they be tempted to try the methods of upholding "personal liberties" used in the United States and France. I dread to think of what the great American Press would have said, what meetings of protest and indignation would have been staged throughout the world, had the much

maligned Cossacks dared to behave in the manner of New York's Finest. Not that I envy Democracy the efficiency of its watchdogs. God forbid. In the words of Georges Clemenceau I would merely like to ask Monsieur Chiappe: "Brother Chiappe, what didst thou to Liberty?" I must likewise admit that it is rather puzzling for me to realize that, having seen at the age of six the jubilant procession of Garibaldi in Naples, I am witnessing today, sixty years later, the universal, overwhelming triumph of what my German professors used to call the Polizeistaat. Something must have no doubt happened to the Onward March of the Masses that sent them rolling all the way back with a speed that ominously warns of the probability of many an imperial comeback. Always mindful of that roundtrip itinerary which reads Bourbons-Robespierre-Napoleon-Bourbons, I consider that now is as good a time as any to retrace the lives and the careers of the contemporary Royalty-on-Leave. The percentage of resurrection of those buried by the editorial writers is amazingly high." ALEXANDER, Grand Duke of Russia Autumn 1932

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback, 106 pages, language: English. ISBN-10: 1499157460 / ISBN-13: 978-1499157468

The Princesses of Oldenburg



The author Emma A. Annenkov examines in detail the fate of the representatives of the female line of the glorious princely family of Oldenburg, who lived in Russia since the beginning of the XIX century. Princess Oldenburg found in Russia, second homeland, and considered themselves to be Russian. These remarkable women, being among the most enlightened and educated ladies at the Russian imperial court, conducted extensive charity work, and were evangelical ideals of charity, truth and goodness.

One chapter in the book is about Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.

Publisher: Tonci. Hardcover, size 238 mm x 166 mm. Isbn 9785912150999

Russia in the First World War, 1914-1918. In 3 volumes.



The encyclopedia "Russia in the First World War. 1914-1918" is scientific reference publication devoted to Russia's participation in World War I and honoring the centennial of one of the central events of the Russian and world history of the twentieth century, who had a decisive influence on the fate of the world.

The encyclopedia presents over 1,400 entries covering a wide range of issues, describing different aspects of Russia's participation in the First World War. The encyclopedia reproduce more than 1,000 rare photographs and graphic works. The publication includes biographs on the main representatives of the military and political leadership of the Russian Empire, the senior officers of the Russian army and navy, the most prominent government, public and political figures; articles on diplomatic actions; articles on the history of military operations on the Russian front of World War I, the various military branches, large groups and associations

and on the art of war the Russian army in 1914-1918, on weapons and uniforms, articles on the main bodies of state administration and political institutions of the Russian Empire of that period; articles of organization of life and work of the rear, on the economy in general and the defense industry, some of its enterprises in particular; articles on political parties, party-political struggle and the main events related to the crisis of the old regime in Russia, the revolutionary events of 1917, and others.

Three volumes of "Russia in the First World War. 1914-1918" - is a fundamental encyclopedic work, factual and analytical material which gives an objective picture of the real victories and defeats, successes and failures of Russia in the preparation and conduct of combat operations, providing front, economic mobilization and concentration of resources the country in solving the problems of war.

The team of authors of the project amounted to more than 190 researchers from archives, museums, universities, academic institutions of the Russian Federation.

Publisher: Political Encyclopedia, Moscow. Hardcover, size 220 x 290 mm. Isbn 978-5-8243-1882-1.



Under the hammer...
Romanov related items in Auctions



Northeast Auctions, Portsmouth, NH, USA, on August 17;

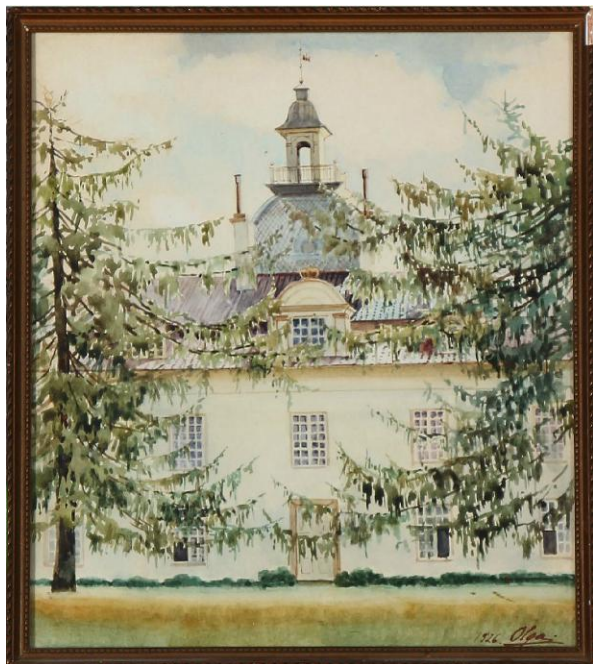
A pair of Chinese export porcelain armorial plates made for Catherine the Great of Russia, circa 1785.

Painted in gilt-heightened sepia with the Imperial Russian double-headed eagle charged on the breast with St. George and the dragon, the cavetto surrounded by a floral garland entwined with a purple ribbon, the reticulated rim within an iron-red and gilt cable band. Diameter 7 1/2 inches.



Catherine II (1729-96) commissioned several dinner services during her long reign, including two Imperial Russian services made by Wedgwood, the 'Husk' service commissioned in 1770 and the 'Frog' service in 1773, a Sevres service completed circa 1779, and two Chinese export services. Literature: A plate from this service is illustrated in Howard and Ayers, "China for the West," vol. II, p. 455, no. 461.
Estimated Price: \$5,000 - \$8,000

Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 18 August;



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. View of Charlottenlund Palace. Signed and dated Olga 1926 with dedication on the reverse: "For dear Thyra from Olga 1921 X-mas". Watercolour on paper. Visible size 25 x 22 cm.

Provenance: Present from Grand Duchess Olga to her cousin, Princess Thyra of Denmark (daughter of Frederik VIII); then descendants of Frederik VIII until today.

Price est.: kr 8,000 / € 1,050

Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 31 August;

Russia, medal bronze, 1903, 64 mm, 1703 - 1903 - The 200 year anniversary of St. Petersburg. In original box, which is very rare.

Price est.: kr 500 (€ 67)



Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 8 September;

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. Flowers and fruit on a garden table. Signed Olga. Oil on cardboard. 48 x 56 cm.

Price est.: kr 15,000 (€ 2,000)



House of antique books in Nikitsky, Moscow, Russia, on 21 August;

"The Life of Peter the Great, Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia, the father of the Fatherland", from various books in French and assembled by Galland. From 1744. Size 20.3 x 14.3 cm. Leather bound. Estimate: 50,000 - 55,000 rubles.



Decrees of Empress Catherine I, to All-Russia. Her Imperial Majesty's accession to the Russian imperial throne from 28 June 1762 to 1763. Printed on Her Majesty's command in the Senate, 1763. 207 pages. Size 21.5 x 13.5 cm. Leather bound.

Part of copies of all "decrees" publications. A detailed manifesto on the accession of Her Majesty on the Russian throne, which is taken out of the book at the behest of Paul I and sent to the General Prosecutor.

Estimate: 90000 - 95000 rubles.



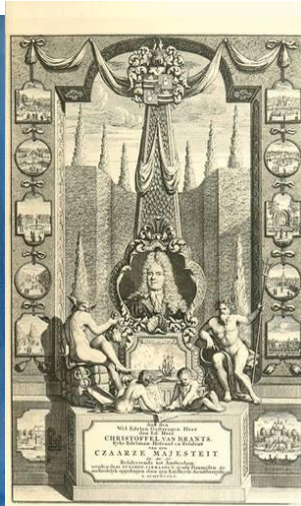
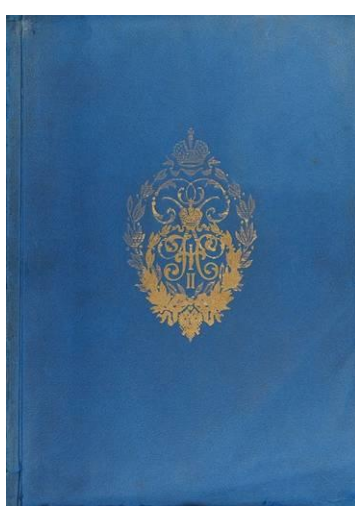
The announcement of the accession to the throne of Emperor Alexander II. [1855]. 28 x 21 cm. Sheet dubbed in cardboard.

Estimate: 15,000 - 16,000 rubles.



His Majesty approved ceremony of holy baptism of Her Highness Princess Irina Alexandrovna. St. Petersburg, 1895. Size 29.5 x 20 cm. Folder with gold lettering and the imperial coat of arms on the top cover.

Irina - Princess of the imperial blood, the only daughter of Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich and Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna. From 1914, the wife of Felix Yusupov. The ceremonial shows the persons who will be present at the baptism, the order of directions to the church, etc. Ceremonial compiled manage the Ministry of the Imperial Court Baron Fredericks. Estimate: 25000 - 26000 rubles.



200th Anniversary of the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty. 1704-1904. Historical research by order of the supreme commander of the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty, the Minister of the Imperial Court adjutant-general Baron V.B. Frederiks. St. Petersburg, 1911. Size 27.5 x 19.5 cm. On the front of the cover gold lettering monogram "H II" in a frame of floral ornament. A set of illustrations on separate inset.

From the preface: "This book is in our literature, the first record of historical research on the question of the origin and fate of the Cabinet Imperial Majesty, and the development of this issue required a very extensive archive research." Among the sources: Archives of the

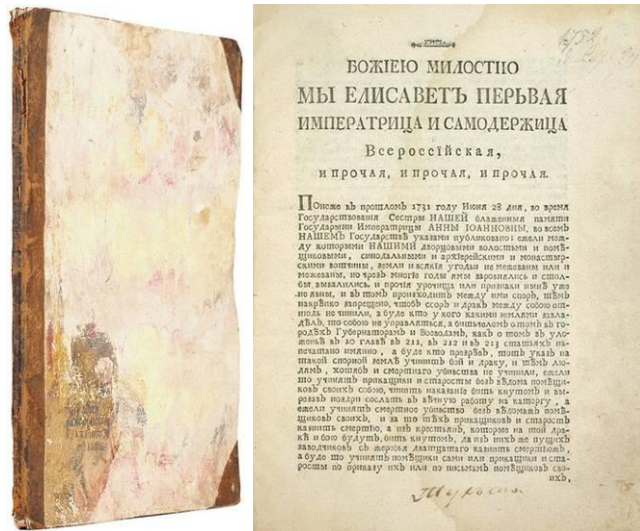
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Archives of the Ministry of the Imperial Court, the archive of the State Council, the Imperial Home affairs and two dozen archives and libraries. Compilers have paid special attention to the search for portraits of the former chiefs of the Cabinet, owing to this circumstance edition contains extensive illustrative material.

Estimate: 220000 - 250000 rubles.



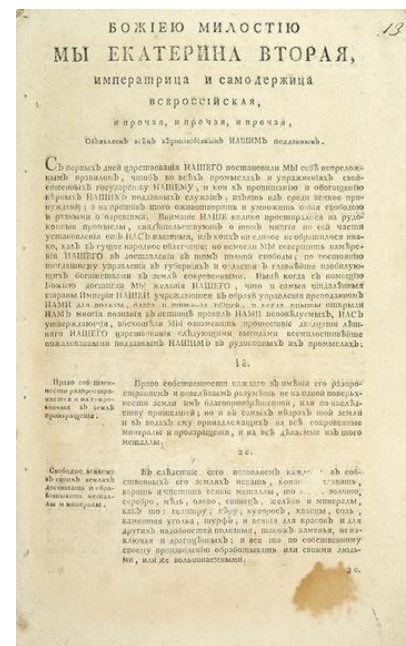
Court Calendar for 1914. St. Petersburg, 1914. Size 14.2 x 11.2 cm. Cover with gold lettering on the spine and upper cover. The calendar includes historical data, tables of ecclesiastical and secular holidays, lists all the current members of the Imperial House. Also placed in the calendar list of the court of Their Imperial Majesties, including ladies and secretaries with custom staying abroad. There is an alphabetical index to the calendar.
Estimate: 32000 - 35000 rub.

"Day forever glorious coronation Sovereign Grand Empress Elizabeth Petrovna to All-Russia" - Koenigsberg Academy, with the deepest reverence solemnly respected by Johann Georg Bock, professor Koenigsberg University and a member of the Academy of Sciences. St. Petersburg. The Imperial. Acad. Sciences, 1758. Size 25 x 19.5 cm. Published in 600 copies - In May 1758 by 40 copies issued by Lomonosov, and 549 by the Academy shop.
Estimate: 30,000 - 32,000 rubles.



Decree of Empress Catherine the Great on ownership and possession of all minerals on private land. 4. July 4, 1782.
Estimate: 6000 - 7000 rubles.

Decree of Empress Elisabeth on banning of quarrels and fights in the event of disputes about land surveying. St. Petersburg. 1776. Size 25 x 19 cm.
Estimate: 18,000 - 20,000 rubles.



The image shows the front cover and spine of an antique book. The binding is made of dark brown leather, which is heavily aged and shows significant wear, including cracks and discoloration. The spine is decorated with blind-stamped bands and a central label with gold lettering. A faint circular stamp is visible on the front cover. The book is standing upright, showing the spine on the left and the front cover on the right.

КАБИНЕТЪ
ПЕТРА ВЕЛИКАГО.

ИЛИ

Подробное и обстоятельное описание
восковаго ЕГО ВЕЛИЧЕСТВА изо-
браженія, носимой и гражданской одеж-
ды, собственноручныхъ Его издѣлій
и прочихъ достопамятныхъ вещей,
лично Великому сему Монарху прина-
длежавшихъ, нынѣ въ Санктпетербург-
ской Императорской Кунстъ-камерѣ
сохраняющихся, съ присовокупленіемъ
къ нимъ достоверныхъ извѣстій и
любопытныхъ изысканій.

Ч А С Т Ь І

ИЗДАНО
трудами и издѣніемъ Надирателя
Императорскія Кунстъ-камеры,
Осипа Бѣзлева.

*Въ Санктпетербургѣ,
при Императорской Академіи Наукъ,
1795 года.*



Von Gottes Gnaden,
Wir Alexander der Erste,
 Kaiser und Selbstherrschter aller Rußen
 K. K. K.
 Thun allen Unseren getreuen Unterthanen kund.

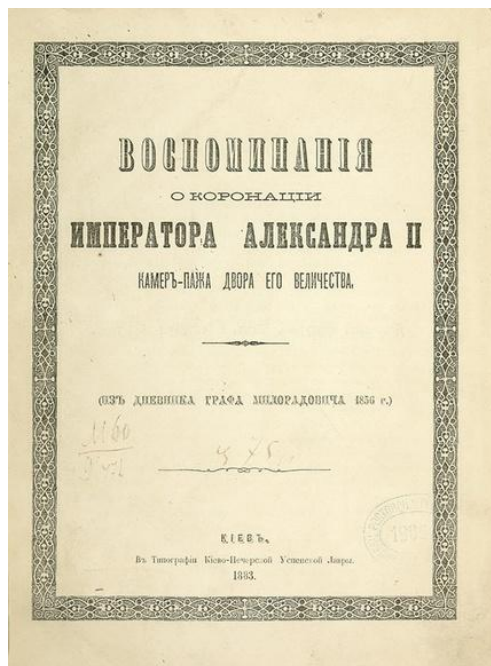
Es her dem Willkürigen nach seinem Reichthum gehalten, das
 Leben Unsers geliebten Vaters, des Herrn und Kaisers
 Paul Petrowitsch abzuklagen, indem Verleibte in der Nacht
 zum 1sten auf den 1sten dieses Monats durch einen Schloßhofs
 Schlüssel in die Engelsburg verführt worden ist.

Jedem Wir nun der Ecks Folge nach den Kaiserlichen
 Thron allerhöchsten befehlen: so überwunden Wir persönlich die Zer-
 brüchlichkeit, das Uns von Gott anvertraute Volk nach den Ge-
 setzen und nach dem Heinen Unsrer in Gott ruhenden Ober-
 deßen Groß-Mutter, der Großen Frau und Kaiserin
 Catharina der Großen, deren Andenkens und dem jungen
 Kaiserlichen Sohn theuer seyn wird, zu regieren; damit Wir nach
 Ihren weisen Rathschlüssen Auspruch auf den höchsten Bischof des
 Reichs bringen und Unsern getreuen Unterthanen die deutsch-
 regte Willkürigkeit verordnen: Weislaß Wir selbste wiederum auf-
 fordern, ihr Treue gegen Uns vor dem Angesicht des allmächtigen
 Gottes durch einen Eid zu bekräftigen und Ihn ansehn, daß
 Er uns Kraft verleihe wolle, die jetzt auf uns ruhende Last zu
 tragen. Gescheh zu St. Petersburg, am 12ten März, 1801.

Das Original ist dem Kaiserlichen
 Hofen 11. April 1801 übergeben worden.
 Kopie davon ist hienach begeben.

Unters. von G. Petersen am
 1sten März 1801.

Alexander.



"Memories of the coronation of Emperor Alexander II". From the diary of Count Miloradovich 1856, a Page in the Court of His Majesty. Kiev-Pechersk Lavra of the Assumption, 1883. Size 26 x 20 cm.
Estimate: 10.000 - 11.000 rubles.



Photo of Emperor Nicholas II on the day of arrival in Yaroslavl on the occasion of the celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the Romanov House May 21, 1913. Photographer K. Bulla. 1913. Size 25,7 x 19,8 cm. Stamps on the back of the photo in French language: All rights reserved. LYNX. Photographic news agency. 142 Montmartre, Paris 2.

Nicholas II and his family and retinue on 21 May 1913 arrived in Yaroslavl on a steamer. "Diocesan Gazette" describes the event: "By nine o'clock, in tents near the Tsar's wharf gathered all those persons who were awarded the possibility of direct meeting distinguished guests. Here were the governor and other local military and

civil authorities, the person of the sovereign suites, arrived yesterday. The mayor and council members with vowels, provincial and district leaders of the nobility, the chairman of the provincial rural council and chairmen of county governments. (...).Emperor accompanied by a retinue of ministers and V.N. Kokovtsev, N.A. Maklakova, S.V. Rukhlova deigned to descend from the steamer, adopted the report of the governor and walked down the gangplank to the tent. (...). The first words of the distinguished guest were addressed to the marshal of the nobility, I.A. Kurakin, who was standing at the entrance to the tent from the shore to the right first. Governor Earl D.N. Tatischev, was standing along the balustrade first leaders of the nobility, then representatives of the Zemstvo, and finally heads of various departments and educational institutions."

All officials, police sergeant, policeman, village chiefs and elders of the parish were awarded a medal to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. The emperor was satisfied with the trip. Estimate: 28000 - 30000 rub.



Album of photographs of the imperial family. 11 photos. Size 14.3 x 21 cm. Leather cover with engraved metal plates and enamel medallion depicting on the top cover.

The album contains photographs of Emperor Alexander III, Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich, Mikhail Nikolayevich and others. Pictures made in the workshops of "Alexander's", "Rezenberg" and "Desmaisons".

Estimate: 28000 - 30000 rub.





Photo of Grand Duke Boris Vladimirovich (1877-1943). 16.5 x 11 cm. Cabinet photograph. His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Boris Vladimirovich - in His Majesty's Retinue, Major-General, the third son of Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna, the grandson of Emperor Alexander II. During the First World War he commanded the Life Guards Ataman Regiment. Estimate: 10,000 - 12,000 rubles.

Heritage, Long Beach, USA, on September 3-5;



Emperor Nicholas I, platinum Proof 3 Roubles 1829. St. Petersburg mint. Obv. Crowned double-headed Imperial eagle. Rev. Date and value in circle. Full mint brilliance, with deeply mirrored fields and superbly defined devices. A Gem example of this rare Proof issue. Estimate: \$15,000 - \$17,500.



Emperor Nicholas I, platinum Proof 3 Roubles, 1831. St. Petersburg mint. Crowned double-headed Imperial eagle. Rev. Date and value in circle. A truly superb example, with heavily frosted devices contrasting against the mirrored fields to give a spectacular cameo appearance. The strike is near-flawless and the surfaces pristine. Estimate: \$15,000 - \$20,000.

Weschler's, Washington, DC, USA, on September 19;



Set of Nine Russian Imperial Porcelain Plates from the Golden Service. Imperial Porcelain Manufactory, Designed by Stepan Pimenov and Andrei Voronikhin, Circa 1828.

Each decorated in bands of cobalt blue and light-green with gilt decoration ending in a molded gilt-decorated rim. Each unsigned.

Diameter: 9-1/4 in (23.5 cm).

The Golden Service was commissioned by Czar Nicholas I for his mother, the Empress Maria Feodorovna. Originally made for the Gatchina Palace, the set is currently housed in the Throne Room of Pavlovsk Palace, St. Petersburg.

Estimated Price: \$8,000 - \$12,000

Set of Eleven Russian Imperial Porcelain Plates from the Golden Service. Imperial Porcelain Manufactory. Designed by Stepan Pimenov and Andrei Voronikhin, Circa 1828. Each plate having a central white ground with gilt initial M below a crown for Empress Maria Feodorovna, continuing to a gilt leafage decorated blue banding ending in a molded rim. Each unsigned. Diameter: 9-3/8 in (23.8 cm).

Estimated Price: \$8,000 - \$12,000



Russian Imperial Porcelain Tazza from the Golden Service. Imperial Porcelain Manufactory. Designed by Stepan Pimenov and Andrei Voronikhin, Circa 1828. The circular bowl decorated in shades of cobalt blue and light-green with gilt decoration, raised on an acanthus-molded gilt pedestal foot. Underside with green printed Nicholas II monogram above 1907.

Height: 7-1/4 in (18.4 cm); Diameter: 9-1/2 in (24.1 cm).

Estimated Price: \$5,000 - \$7,000

Czerny's International Auction House, Sarzana (SP), Italy, on September 20;



An imperial tie pin and cufflinks in gold, diamonds and rubies. Shaped as the Russian imperial eagle, covered with antique-cut diamonds; cufflinks featuring a ruby at the centre, and diamonds. These beautiful jewels were donated by Tzar Nicholas II to high rank figures and diplomats for the celebration of 300 years of the Romanov family in 1913.

Estimated Price: €10,000 - €13,000



A Saint George honour sabre of Colonel Ivan Koutchevsky with documents. Monogram "N II" for Tzar Nicholas II, quillon with inscriptions in Cyrillic "to the Valor" on both sides, cap with monogram of the Tzar, featuring the Order of Saint George with remains of the original enamelling. Complete with the original documented (numbered 1134) dated 1915 and another document (four pages) of the owner, all written in Cyrillic.

Ivan Martinovich Koutchevsky (1882-1971) was the son of Lieutenant General Martin Albertovich Koutchevsky. He was Officer in Life Guard Dragoon Regiment, Author of the anniversary edition of "Memo Life Dragoon 1814-1914", St. Petersburg, 1914. He fought during World War I; being Staff-Captain of the same regiment, he was awarded the Order of Saint George for his role in the battle of the forest of Kulishki Mrochko, May 26th 1915. Colonel of the Regiment in 1918, member of the white movement in Southern Russia in "Volunteer Army", "VSYUR" and Russian Army. From 1909 to 1919 he was Commander of the First Cavalry Regiment Chechen of the famous "Wild" division. In 1921 he was part of the "Reserve Cavalry Division". From 1951 he was Chief of Life Guard Dragoons Association, associate of the Saint George cavalry Union, of the Cadets Union, of the Guard Union and the "Librarian Abschekadetsky" association (France). He got married with Catherine Petrovna and had his only child Michael. Koutchevsky was buried in Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois cemetery, near Paris.

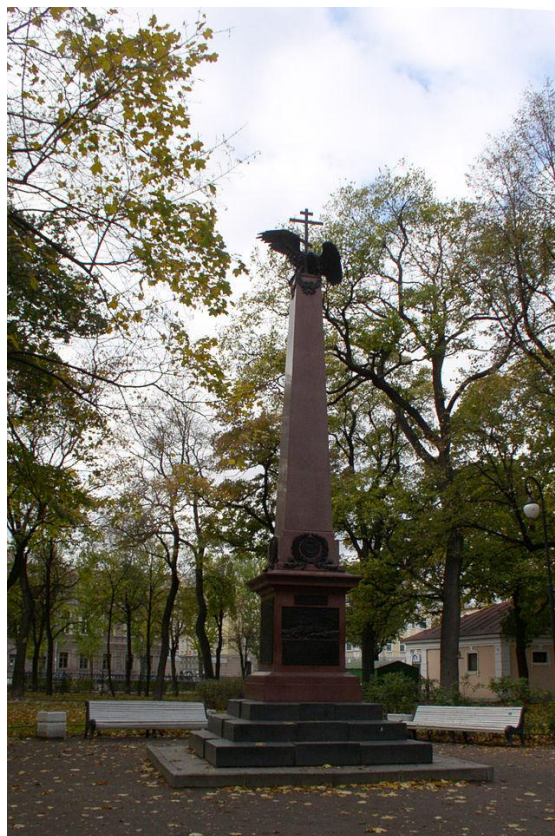
Estimated Price: €30,000 - €45,000

Did you know....



... That on May 14, 1908 (Old Style), the third anniversary of the Battle of Tsushima, in the square of St. Nicholas Naval Cathedral of the Epiphany in St. Petersburg was hosted the grand opening of the monument dedicated to the perished seamen of the battleship "Emperor Alexander III", which was sunk in the battle of Tsushima Island on 14th May, 1905.

The opening ceremony was attended by Empress Maria Feodorovna, Queen of the Hellenes Olga Konstantinova, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the navy commander Rear Admiral N.M. Tolstoy, Guards, families, relatives and friends of the dead sailors, and the townspeople.



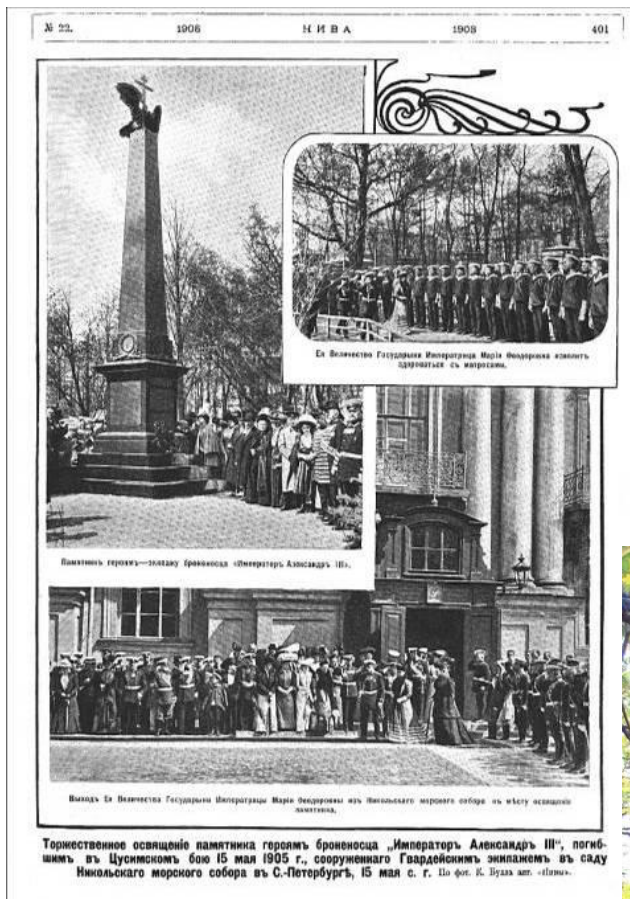
*Left - a photo by Karl Bulla, 1908; Opening of the obelisk in memory of battleship "Emperor Alexander III".
Right - the monument as seen today.*

Sailors of the Guards was standing all around the monument. From the cathedral came a procession led by the abbot Mitred Archpriest Kondratov. Guard saluted when the music played "Glorious." As the procession approached the monument, scored drums, and at the monument was unveil. Deacon proclaimed eternal memory for those who died at sea, and to a quiet solemn singing by a choir, the empress, queen and all participants in the area fell to their knees.

Empress Maria Feodorovna laid at the monument an icon of St. Nicholas with the following touching inscription: "Eternal memory to the heroes of my dear Guards who valiantly died in the battles of the last Russian-Japanese war of battleships: Emperor Alexander III, Petropavlovsk and cruisers Admiral Nakhimov and the Urals. Maria".

Then at the foot of the obelisk placed flowers and wreaths.





№22 in magazine "Niva" for 1908 includes photographs from this memorable ceremony. Photographer - the famous Karl Bulla. Though the obelisk was dedicated precisely to the crew of the battleship "Alexander III", in fact it was a monument to all the sailors - the heroes who fell at Tsushima. It became known unofficially as the "Tsushima obelisk." This name remained until the present day.

The granite monument was created by sculptor Artemy Lavrent'evich Ober (1843 - 1917) and architect Yakov Ivanovich Philotas (1875 - 1920's) on the design of the Colonel of the Life Guards regiment of Prince Mikhail Sergeyevich Putiatin (01/02/1861 - 24/05/1938).



On the front side of the monument is placed a bronze plaque with a bas-relief depicting the battleship "Alexander III" in battle with exploding shells around it. Above the inscription "14 May 1905".

On the opposite side of the rectangular bronze plaque depicts a map on which the route of the battleship "Alexander III", around Africa to the distant Sea of Japan.

On several plaques are listed all the names of those that died. All the plaques with names of the crew and bas-reliefs in the years of Soviet power were removed from the monument and melted. They were recreated from sketches and photographs only in 1973.



