

Romanov News 77

By Paul Kulikovsky

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In memory - Prince Nicholas Romanovich

In Tuscany, on 15 September died the almost 92-year old Prince Nikolai Romanovich Romanov. Already same day reported his younger brother Dimitri Romanovich this to the media and commented -"This is a huge loss for us".



3 generations - Grand Duke Petr Nicholaievich, Prince Roman Petrovich and little Prince Nicholas Romanovich

Prince Nikolai Romanovich's father, Roman Petrovich was Prince of imperial blood, a second cousin and godson of the last emperor, and his mother Prascovia Dimitrievna Scheremetev, a daughter of Count Dimitri Scheremetev, a childhood friend and adjutant of Nicholas II.

Nikolai Romanovich was born in Antibes, France, September 26, 1922. After the family moved to Rome, he entered the classical department of the Lyceum. In 1942, 19-year-old Nicholas Romanov rejected the proposal of the fascist government of Italy to become the king of the occupied Montenegro. Since July 1944, he worked in organizations of the allies engaged in military actions against the Nazi propaganda. After the war, the family settled in Egypt, but quickly returned to Europe.



In 1989 he became the president of the Romanoff Family Association, where he set a goal to "achieve a decorous and historically correct" ceremonial reburial of the victims of the Yekaterinburg tragedy.

21st of January 1952 he married Italian Comtesse Sveva della Gherardesca. The family moved to Switzerland, while he continued managing the estate in Tuscany. The princely couple has three daughters; Natalia (4.12.1952), Elisabeta (7.8.1956) and Tatiana (12.4.1961).





In 2002 Prince Nicholas Romanovich took the lead in the process of moving the remains of Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna from Denmark to Russia.

In October 2006 the reburial started in Denmark and ended in the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg. It was so far the last great gathering of the Romanov family.

He expressed no nostalgia for the days of the Empire. On the contrary, he was regarded by some as almost a Leftist, a label that caused him some amusement. "I am not any '-ist'," he told an interviewer, "but I am a lover of history and I have learnt from it." In July 1998, he achieved his goal and participated in the funeral ceremony in the Peter and Paul Cathedral of the remains of Emperor Nicholas II and the royal family. He saw the ceremony as a "moment of repentance, understanding and mutual pardon" which might usher a new Russia "at peace with its past". It was a great gathering of members and descendents of the Romanov family.

One of the other initiatives was the charitable Foundation "Romanov for Russia", which is led by his younger brother Prince Dimitri Romanovich. Among the Fund's activities are assistance to hospitals and kindergartens in Russia.



"The monarchy is not the solution to all problems" - said Prince Nikolai Romanovich in the 1990s in meetings with compatriots in Rome's Institute of Russian Language and Culture. "I would say that now a restoration of the monarchy in Russia, it would be harmful."

After the burial of the remains of the royal family in the Peter and Paul Fortress (1998) a journalist asked what he want to prove with this visit and he calmly explained: "We wanted to prove that we are the Romanovs. And I will always be grateful to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad, which saved my Petersburg."

In his elderly years, he was a person generally very modern. "I'm a man of the third millennium, and not of the XVII century" - he stressed, thereby making it clear that "about Russian Succession today I can only speak with a smile." His argument was the following - "None of the Romanovs no longer has a right to the throne under the laws that existed prior to the abdication of Nicholas II. For a Grand Duke, in the first place, it was obligatory to marriage with an Orthodox, and secondly, the wife should had to be of a royal or sovereign house. Now nobody fits the bill. All marriages were morganatic. All princes living now are married and divorced. I want to emphasize first of all that the title "Grand Duke" or "Grand Duchess" on "status of succession" cannot be today, for no member of the Romanov family. Only the son or daughter of the monarch, or grandson in the male line, is an heir of the monarch, they have a right. No such individuals are alive today. The last Grand Duke, Andrei, died in 1956 and the last Grand Duchess, was Olga, who died in 1960."

"Everyone thinks that now Russia is weak, but it is not so. Russia just seems weak. Impossible to impose her troubled and false boundaries. Russia should have its traditional natural boundaries, but the restoration of the monarchy cannot guarantee it."



The latest interviews with Prince Nikolai Romanovich were regarding the events in Crimea. In an interview showed on Russian television (Vesti) in April, Prince Nikolai Romanovich said "Indisputable historical justice" about the return of Crimea to Russia. "The first reaction - it's time! - he continued.

"We live in times where everything changes" - said Prince Nicholas Romanov. "Mark my words – with time there will only be three great powers - India, China and Russia"

His last public effort was to start the process having his

grand-uncle, Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaievich reburied in Russia (He is now buried in the Church of the Archangel Michael in Cannes, France). In a letter to the Russian State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin he had asked to have Grand Duke Nicholas Nikoleievich, who at the beginning of the First World War was the Supreme Commander of all land and naval forces of the Russian Empire, to be buried according to his will in his native land, Russia, close to his soldiers.

Video - 1) <u>http://www.1tv.ru/news/world/267672</u> 2) http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1214258/



In the Tuscan town of Bolgheri was held a farewell to Prince Nicholas Romanov

On 17 September, in the Tuscan town of Bolgheri in Italy was held a farewell to Prince Nicholas Romanovich. The farewell ceremony in the presence of family members, representatives of the Russian Federation and the city authorities took place in the local church of St. Jacob and Christopher. The deceased will later be buried in the family crypt wife of Prince Della Gerardesca in the nearby town of Pisa.

At the foot of the coffin lay a wreath of flowers in the Russian tricolor, and numerous wreaths. Condolences from Russian President Vladimir Putin gave the Russian ambassador to the Vatican Alexander Avdeev to the family. He also handed a telegram of sympathy signed by the Speaker of the State Duma Sergey Naryshkin. Requiem were served in the Orthodox rite by two priests of the Church of Saint Catherine of the Moscow Patriarchate. Memorial choir sang a Russian choir of this church.



"Nicholas Romanov was a true patriot of Russia" - said Russian Ambassador to the Vatican, Alexander Avdeev, who represented the Russian Federation at the farewell ceremony. "Nikolai Romanovich - a wonderful representative of the Romanov family. He never claimed anything. He thought that the Romanovs cannot have any dynastic ambitions. But behind them is the high moral and ethical

role, since the whole family is connected with the fate of Russia. Therefore worthy to bear the name of the Romanovs was the purpose of Nicholas Romanovich" - said Avdeev.

He remembered that in conversations Nicholas repeatedly said that he was happy to witness the rebirth of Russia. "He was a true patriot. Well spoken in Russian, and it's a real, beautiful, literary language, which he held to perfection"



Avdeev, who knew him during his work as ambassador to France, and as Minister of Culture of Russia, recalled that their last meeting was held in Italy two months ago. Nikolai Romanovich was already not feeling good, but was encouraged by the news of the return of Crimea to Russia. "Finally, Crimea is Russian!". These were his first words, with which he met me" - said the diplomat.

Video - 1) <u>http://itar-tass.com/obschestvo/1448285</u> 2) <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I-7KtnRR-U</u>

His last TV interview - <u>http://www.newstube.ru/media/nikolaj-</u> romanov-vyskazalsya-po-povodu-vozvrashheniya-kryma

Prince Nicholas Romanovich will be missed - May he rest in peace!



"The Great War of 1914-1918. in memory of Orthodox Russia"

By Paul Kulikovsky

On September 25th, Ludmila and I attended the opening of the 3 days long international scientific and educational conference "The Great War and Russians Abroad" and the exhibition "The Great War of 1914-1918. In memory of Orthodox Russia" in the House of Russian Abroad in the name of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in Moscow.

Among the many guests we met were Prince Alexander Trubetskoy and spouse, Count Sergey Kapinist, Director of Romanov Boyar House Galina Schutskaya, Director of the All-Russian Pushkin Museum Sergey M. Nekrasov, from Russian Nobility Assembly Alexander Korolev-Pereleshin and spouse, author Peter Multatuli, and many more.



In a series of events dedicated to the 100th anniversary since the beginning of the First World War, a conference was organized by the House of the Russian Diaspora. Along with experts, historians, philosophers, political scientists, there were descendants of participants in the war - including compatriots from abroad - all talking about the exploits of participants in the battles of 1914-1918.

The main purpose of the conference was intended by its organizers to be a "substantive coverage of organizations, communities and individual representatives of Russian post-revolutionary emigration for the Study of World War I, saving memory regarding the participation of Russia, the analysis of the art of war of the Russian army and navy, the causes of victories and defeats in 1914-1918".



The opening started with Archbishop of Geneva and Western Europe Michael (Switzerland), who served the opening litany for the dead of the Great War compatriots. World War I, he said - the war ended an era, a carefully planned end of empires and the division into a new world order. Today, shared the Lord his impressions, the memory of the Russian people, who are victims of the First World in Europe, is reborn when we explore the new features, the causes and the true meaning of the war that took the lives of millions of innocent people.

"For our House, today's event is of great importance, - opening an exhibition and

conference", said director Victor A. Moskvin - "After 1920, in the emigration of hundreds of thousands of participants of the First World, piously preserve the memory of the events of his military past, while in the USSR, the war of 1914-1918 was considered as an episode in the country's history. Russians abroad, did not allowed to destroy the true Russia. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, was one of the few researchers in the Soviet Union, working on the theme of the Great War. A significant part of the memories transferred to the writer during his exile was from Russian immigrants, and was associated with the events of the First World War. Today, this archive in the House of the Russian Diaspora, forms

the basis for the famous "National Library memoir," conveyed to Alexander Solzhenitsyn, there are more than a hundred thousand items! That is all from gifts."

The conference, according to the composition of the participants, wearing an interdisciplinary nature, will be useful in the future, according to its curator, deputy director Igor V. Domnin - "hundreds and hundreds of researchers."

On behalf of the descendants of the participants of the First World War, caught up in exile in Serbia, gave welcoming remarks a longtime friend of the House of the Russian Diaspora and generous contributor Alexei Borisovich Arsenyev. At the initiative of both Serbian and Russian sides, said Alexei Borisovich, is in Novi Sad restored several Russian graves of the Great War.



Chairman of the Association of the Memory of the Russian Imperial Guard Prince Alexander A. Trubetskoy presented the Guard Association created in 1924 and included in the structure of Russian Military Union, led by General P. N. Wrangel. After the death of the last union officer, said Alexander, the descendants of the guards decided to create a memory of the Association of the Imperial Guard. The purpose of the association, according to Alexander - in testimony to remember the activities of the officers of the Imperial Guard in Russia and abroad. Two years ago, said Alexander, the associations and Prince N. D. Lobanov-Rostovsky had written a letter to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin with a proposal to install a monument to the heroes of the

First World War. Very quickly, supplemented A. A. Trubetskoy, a reply was received, and now a monument to the soldiers of the Great War stands on Poklonnaya Hill. "The Association has been involved in many commemorative events dedicated to the events of 1914-

1918 - and concluded with - "and, thank God, that Russia remembers them ..."

The letter to the Russian president - continued I.V.Domnin - is "a symbolic transfer of the baton from the memory of the Russian emigration to Russia today."

The following reports were more real military-historical research, with maps, diagrams of battles, supplemented by excerpts from letters from the front members of military operations and personal photos. This kind of priceless historical evidence was presented by: Kira V. Ryushtu (France) in the report on V. I. Nikolaeve her great-grandfather, the famous Brusilovsky offensive; Andrei Musin-Pushkin (France) reported on his great-grandfather - Colonel B. N. Gonorskom, one of the organizers

of the Russian colony in the castle Orzher; Dimitri Glebovich Rar (Luxembourg) about his grandfather V. V. Orehove, the legendary editor of the magazine "Time". An interesting story about his father, a military pilot M.I.Yanove and Uncle V. V. Diterihse presented Nikolay Yanov (France), with incredible details of the life and work of the brilliantly educated and brave Russian officer family Yanov-Diterihs, undoubtedly worth a movie.





The exhibition "The Great War of 1914-1918. in memory of Orthodox Russia".

For the House of the Russian Diaspora theme of the exhibition is of particular importance. After the Revolution and the Civil War remained in exile hundreds of thousands of military participants in the war of 1914-1918. As known, in the Soviet Union First World War for ideological reasons was "forgotten." In contrast, the Russian Diaspora the memory of Russia's participation in the Great War (this is the name most often used in exile) was kept holy. There carefully was gathered evidence and relics, and studied its history, created museums, archives, libraries, scientific, cultural and educational society, published scientific papers and priceless memoirs. Emigration was shown touching concern for the Russian military disabilities, and died in a foreign country with honor accompanied on his last journey. Friends and the public find the strength and the means to set a worthy monument to the defenders of Russia. Russian abroad perform the mission of the national custodian of the memory of the Great War of 1914-1918.

This exhibition aims to at least show a small fraction, illustrate the great work of zealous storage, nearly century-old effort of the emigration, due to which the voltage of the people and armies of Russia exploits in the Great War are not forgotten.

It is based solely on the basis of the museum storage of the House of the Russian Diaspora, and this is also its main feature. Almost everything that can be seen in the room came from donors and zealots Houses - compatriots living in the global Russian Diaspora - from Australia to America.

The exhibition consisted of about three hundred exhibits. Among them - documents, photos and photo albums, things, awards and decorations, objects of applied arts and crafts, prints, maps, sculptures, lithographs and posters. Mostly originals. It is the memory of hundreds of military alliances and associations, primarily - "regimental family"; memory of military historians and writers; memory of families and genera (home archives and collections); memory from church services and Remembrance, in public meetings, etc.













As an independent part of the exhibition, in the corridor leading to the exhibition room, is photos in posters size of "Unforgotten graves." This is a small part of the necropolis of Russian military abroad: more than a hundred graves of Russian soldiers rest in different countries around the



world. Their tombstones and monuments - this is a visible memory of the defenders of Russian emigration late nineteenth - early twentieth century.

It's all Russian heritage - all exhibits, are not only a valuable and yet

insufficiently studied informative cultural base, but also a compelling example and indicator of the military and the general culture, intellectual and spiritual strength of emigration, primarily military exiles, their creative productivity, historical responsibility and tendency of thought to the future of Russia. Faith in their homeland was inexhaustible.

In Feodosia was opened a memorial plaque to Emperor Paul I

By Paul Kulikovsky

On the 260 years birthday of Emperor Paul I was opened in Feodosia, Crimea, in a courtyard the first in the history of Crimea a commemorative plaque dedicated to Emperor Paul I.

Emperor Paul Petrovich, was celebrated in two cities in the Russian Federation - in Gatchina and in Feodosia. In Gatchina, Emperor Paul has been celebrated through many years, but in Feodosia it was for the first time.



Unlike his mother Catherine the Great, Paul Petrovich was never in Feodosia, but in 1798 he issued an edict on granting the status of a free port to two Crimean cities - Feodosia and Yalta. This status gave the city a right to trade duty-free for 30 years, to increase its speed of development. In those days, the main source of income for Feodosia was the trade in the habor.

Konstantin Vinogradov, chairman of the club of history buffs said - "In this case, we felt it our duty to remind Feodosia about this glorious page, not only of the Russian state, but also the house of Romanov. We decided to make a certain contribution to the perpetuation of the bright, mysterious, if not yet known representative of the Romanov dynasty".

On the memorial plaque it says;

Emperor and All-Russian Autocrat Paul I 20.9 (1.10) 1754, Summer Palace, St. Petersburg. 12 (24). 3. 1801 Mikhailovsky Palace, St. Petersburg gave by his decree on 15.2.1798 the status as freeport for 30 years to Feodosia's merchant harbor.

From grateful citizens of Feodosia 1.10.2014



Monument to Peter the Great in Nizhny Novgorod

By Paul Kulikovsky

On September 24 a monument to Peter I was opened on the Lower Volga embankment just in front of the Zachatskoy tower in Nizhny Novgorod.

The monument is 6.3 meters high, the bronze figure of Peter - 3,65 m, and the granite pedestal - 2,65 m. The sculptor is Aleksei Shitov. On the pedestal is a bronze bas-relief with the decree of Peter I, approved on January 26, 1714.



"Today we are talking about the Nizhny Novgorod land as a major scientific and industrial, cultural, business center, and a lot of it was laid by Peter I, who first recognized the potential and opportunities of our region - said the head of the region Valery Shantsev. - It was after his Decree agricultural land was allocated, implemented commodity-money relations and the social division of labor, began construction and development of industry. In each district of Nizhny Novgorod region still has what originated and was developed there in those times: leather and steel production, rope factories, shipbuilding. Peter I did a lot for science and education and the economy."

The head of the region emphasized the need to preserve and pass these traditions to the younger generation. "Each of us should remember the origins of our land. If we know the history, we can work to ensure that the future is great and bright - this is calling us to the person of Peter I, the irrepressible human and striving forward, calling us by example only to victories and development. Let us sanctify our history, to maintain and develop the Nizhny Novgorod land,"- he told.

"It is symbolic that the monument is in this place - Peter I look at the river and behind him there is Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin and Zachatskaya tower. In my opinion, it turned out pretty cool. Here joined the history, present and future: the Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin, the militia, the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the province by decree of Peter I - all of this can be felt immediately. I am sure that at the monument to Peter I Nizhny Novgorod will be hold ceremonies, landmark meetings, carry out important activities" - also said Shantsev.



- 3) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNxrCJrW8-0
- 4) http://nnovgorod.rfn.ru/video.html?id=91832&type=r
- 5) http://www.otr-online.ru/news/v-nizhnem-novgorode-34759.html





To the 310 anniversary on Boguchar city's waterfront opened a monument to Peter I





On the waterfront of the city Boguchar was made a monument to Peter I, which is one of the legends gave its name to the river Bogucharka running through the city - Peter was pouring wine into the river with the words: "This God charka" and a little later the town was renamed Boguchary.

The more than 8 meters high monument was made ready for the city's 310 years anniversary on 20 September. "The workers worked there day and night" - says the mayor Ivan Boguchar Nezhelskaya.

Commissioned by the district and municipal authorities the sculptor Victor Grishchenko with colleagues from Moscow casted the figure of Peter I. What materials are used for this purpose, the master is silent about, noting that it is a trade secret.

In Zalari opened a memorial to commemorate the visit of Nicholas II

23 September. Usolie.info

In Zalari., Irkutsk region, on 13-14 September 2014 passed "Royal Days" and in the central park a memorial in honor of the visit in the village of Tsar-martyr Nicholas II was opened over 100 years ago. To the foundation was brought a portion of earth from Ganina Yama, where was burned the bodies of the royal family. This earth was kept for a year by parishioner Galina Nikolaeva of Holy Dormition Church in Ust-Kut, who is the initiator of the construction of the memorial.

Honorable right to cut the ribbon was given to the mayor of the district Vladimir Samoylovich Zalarinsky, Galina Nikolaeva and abbot of the church Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Nun Varvara father Gennady Znaydenko. The cross and arch are all built on donations from local citizens. The arch is built of brick and is lined with white marble. Then was held a public service.



After the opening of the memorial was a concert of local artists, as well as a fair, with souvenirs and national cuisine. In honor of this event for residents and visitors of the village was a celebratory dinner. In the program "Royal Days" was a conference on the "reign of Tsar Nicholas II",

which took place on September 13.

In Irkutsk, on June 23, 1891, arrived His Imperial Highness Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich on the steamer "Speransky". On the waterfront, the Tsarevich was met by representatives of the Council, headed by the city mayor Vladimir Sukachev. From the



citizens of Irkutsk he received bread and salt on an elegant dish. Then Tsarevich Nicholas wished to look into the hinterland of Irkutsk province, which brought him to the village Zalari. The Tsarevich stopped at the house of the merchant Jacob Shvets and spend the night there. And the next day went from the house of the merchant Jacob Sweden to St. Nicholas Church, where was a solemn liturgy. Zalarintsy long remembered about the visit of the Tsarevich, and now, after more than 100 years in Zalari is a memorial plaque in honor of this event.

A monument to Emperor Nicholas II in a Kalmyk village

19.09. bloknot-volgodonsk.ru

In the village Erketinovskoy is established an unusual monument. In its place, in the middle of the nineteenth century was located a Buddhist temple, a draft of which was approved by emperor Nicholas II. The founder of the temple Dumbo Ulyanov was an outstanding educator of the Kalmyk people, a recognized authority in the field of Buddhist philosophy, medical faculties which were legendary not only among the Kalmyks, but also among the Russian population. The legend tells that it is because of the prayers of the famous Kalmyk the Emperor had a son. And as a reward he asked the emperor to approve him building a stone khurul in the village.

During the Civil War, all khuruls were destroyed, some were burned, some dismantled for building materials. Two years ago, the descendants of the Cossacks, Kalmyks, who lived in the village Erketinovskoy, established a Council and decided to immortalize the place where stood the khurul, with a commemorative plate. At the grand opening was a lot of people, and Buddhist lamas who read prayers for the health of all people living in the area Dubovsky and for the benefit of all beings.



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На этом месте в знак благодарности будлийскому ламе ст.Эркетеновской Войска Донского Дамбе Ульянову по указанию российского царя Нико.лая II был возведен буддийский храм



In Buturlinovka a monument to Emperor Alexander II

06.09. Moe-online

In the city of Voronezh region Buturlinovka on September 5 a monument to Emperor Alexander II was opened. On the main square, next to the Savior's Transfiguration Cathedral, in honor of this event were about two hundred people.





The monument is a replica of the monument, established in 1912 at the same venue on the 50th anniversary of the abolition of serfdom. To recreate the atmosphere of the era, was invited to the opening an orchestra, which played old waltzes and actors in stylized costumes.

To the celebration came the sculptors Maxim Dikunov who created the monument, and his father, Ivan Dikunov. He explained that he was trying to make a sculpture as similar to the previous (after detailed pictures of the monument, not only a description). Maxim Dikunov said that he spent a lot of time on a thorough study of the image of the Tsar, and at the same time trying not to invest in the way of his personal perception. "It is interesting to learn from the experience of the great Opekushin - this is to some extent a copy" - he said and expressed the hope that this monument will bring Buturlinovka a particle of the great history of Russia.

The Director of the Museum of Local Lore in turn thanked all citizens and patrons who raised money for the creation and installation of the monument. In all spent just 3 million rubles.



A unique collection of minerals of the Romanov family goes on show in Novosibirsk

22.09. Tayga.info

The rare geological collection of Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaievna, Queen of Württemberg, now in the collections of the National Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart is exhibited in Novosibirsk. Russian Emperor Alexander II presented collection of minerals to his sister in the middle of the XIX century. The exhibition was opened 27 September at the Museum of Nature of the Novosibirsk State Museum of Local Lore and will run for 10 weeks. To the exposure are added pictures from the album of Evelyn Massenbach, the maid of honor of Grand Duchess Olga, and samples of European furniture of the XIX century.



This collection of Russian minerals contained 820 samples of minerals and ores mined at the deposits of the Urals and Siberia. It arrived in Stuttgart from St. Petersburg in October 1865 and was assigned to the royal collection of scientific collections Naturalienkabinett, whose legal successor is the National Museum of Natural History of Stuttgart.

Especially for the exhibition in Novosibirsk original wooden cases were made, similar to the old shipping crates, such as those that were used in 1865. They will show the most significant part of the collection - 147 samples.

Of the 427 preserved specimens, some of them are still equipped with the original label of the Royal Secretariat - "Konigen Olga. 1865" (Queen Olga.1865). Some of the exhibits were lost during the Second World War, but the bulk of the collection has remained intact - the geological collection was divided into several pieces and hid in the mountain monasteries of the Black Forest and the minerals was not taken by coalition troops.

The collection will be exhibited publicly for the first time in the post-war period.

Video -

http://nsk49.ru/index.php?id=9&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=4232&cHash=9a73eca03a2b 50ab23ef6d7ad5ca88ad

"The Art of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna" in Kaluga



At the opening ceremony, where several hundred people gathered, suddenly appeared a star of the national ballet Ilze Liepa, though not as a ballerina, but as the head of the charity fund "Culture - the children." It turned out that 20 September in Kaluga Museum of Fine Arts opened an exhibition of 200 paintings made by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - daughter of Alexander III, the younger sister of Nicholas II. The exhibition is devoted to the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty.

The organizer of the exhibition were the daughter-in-law of the Grand Duchess, Olga Nicholaievna, head of the Foundation in the name of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and she were present at the opening.



was a surprise for both the public and for Olga Nicholaievna. Liepa decided to wish her a happy birthday, which was on the 20th of September. The great dancer presented her a basket of flowers, and then joined the public, trying not to attract attention.

Olga Nicholaievna said - "Today, in the halls of the Kaluga Regional Art Museum, we are opening an exhibition of artwork and personal belongings of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - daughter of Emperor Alexander III and younger sister of the holy Tsar-martyr Nicholas II. The exhibition is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the First World War, in which the Grand Duchess was Chief of Akhtyrsky 12th Hussars and a nurse in the hospital, which she created.

Kaluga land is inextricably linked with the Romanov dynasty. Kaluga land is famous as the birthplace of the first three tsarinas of the Romanov Dynasty: Evdokia Lukianovna Streshneva, wife of the first Tsar of the House of Romanov Mikhail Fedorovich; Natalia Naryshkin, the mother of Emperor Peter I, the second wife of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich; and Evdokiya Lopukhina, the first wife of Emperor Peter I, the mother of Tsarevich Alexei.

"The heart of Kaluga" called the Holy Trinity Cathedral, is built on order of Empress Catherine the Great. In it prayed Emperor Nicholas II during his visit to the city. Such a close relationship for me as a daughter of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna has a special meaning. Feel the thrill and excitement of peace, bringing to demanding kaluzhan creation of the august artist.

Watercolors and artistic works of the Grand Duchess has been exhibited in the best museums in Washington and Moscow, St. Petersburg and Tyumen, Yekaterinburg and Yaroslavl, Kostroma and Balashikha, Tobolsk and Lipetsk, Odintsov and Vladivostok and met a warm welcome everywhere.

Exhibits cover the life and career of the Grand Duchess, inviting visitors on a fascinating journey in the historic space and time. Deep feelings, observations and experiences are displayed on a background of cultural and natural features of the three countries - Russia, Denmark and Canada, in which at different stages of her life remained the family of the Grand Duchess.



Thank you all - regional and city authorities, the Metropolitan of Kaluga Russian Orthodox Church, employees Kaluga Regional Art Museum, volunteers - who helped to organize the exhibition of Grand Duchess Olga in Kaluga.

I hope that the touch of the amazing art of one of the most worthy representatives of the Russian autocrat Dynasty - Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna brings viewers joy and repose."





Especially for the centenary of the Great War, or as it was called in Russia, World War II, the Charity Foundation of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna has released a light album called "Life at War", made up of rare vintage photographs and drawings, and letters of august artist of the period.



"On Heroism, on exploits, on Glory ... "



24th of September the State Kremlin Armory opened the exhibition "On the virtues, of heroism, of glory ...", marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the World War I. Minister of Culture Valdimir Mendinsky opened the exhibition together with Director of the Kremlin Museums Elena Gagarina.

Over five hundred historical relics and documents are presented at the exhibition to reveal the significance and importance of the exploit performed by Russian soldiers and officers, the gallantry displayed by many distinguished representatives of the Russian people during the World War I. There is a noteworthy memorial item - an officer cavalry sword, which had belonged to Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich of Russia, who was appointed Inspector general of Artillery.



In 1917, when Saint-Petersburg (Petrograd) was under threat of attack of German troops, treasuries of the Imperial family as well as precious decorations and various order insignia from the Chapter of the Russian orders were carefully transferred to the Armoury Chamber. The collection of the Royal family was successfully rescued and preserved in 1918 during the fighting for the Kremlin and later on in 1920s-1930s, in the period of expropriation of the Kremlin treasury, when the newly formed Soviet authorities, requiring a serious financial support in foreign currency, were on the edge of selling the Tsars' treasuries for nothing.



The project introduces military insignia — orders and medals — received by Russian soldiers and officers, including those of the Order of Saint George — the highest military decoration of the Russian Empire. The exposition presents foreign decorations, some of which were awarded to Russian warriors. Most part of these artifacts was transferred to the museum in 1918 as a part of the Chapter of the Russian orders collection. Statute of the Order of Saint Olga, Equal-of-the-Apostles, is of special interest — this decoration was intended for women as an award "for the merits in the various arenas of public and community service, as well as for the deeds and works for the benefit of their neighbor." Elena Gagarina, the general director of the Moscow Kremlin: "Here we show the rarest Statute of the Order of Saint Olga. This award, which was established just in time for the First World War, and which should be awarded to a woman who made a great contribution to the victory."

The exposition incorporates photographs from the State Archive of the Russian Federation, which still preserve the images of Russian war heroes. Among them are the general A. Brusilov, major-general I. Kostin as well as photos of ordinary soldiers and officers, decorated with various military insignia. A special group of the exposed relics is closely related to the history of the Royal family. Emperor Nicholas II assumed the role of commander-in-chief of the Russian armed forces in August 1915, therefore took the responsibility for the military actions of Russia in war, its victories and losses.



There are the famous Easter egg by Carl Faberge firm, which was presented by the Emperor to his wife - Empress Alexandra Feodorovna - for Easter of 1916. The uniqueness is that it is the only one of such creation Faberge made of steel, without any precious stones and metals. Tatiana Muntean, leading researcher of the Armory Chamber of the Moscow Kremlin: "This egg, is not just luxurious as the rest of the eggs, it is most true to the spirit and atmosphere of those years, it was very difficult for the whole of Russia, as well as for the royal family."

Grand Duchesses of the Romanov family made a valuable contribution to the development of military medicine in Russia during the war: the mother of Nicholas II, Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, the

president of Russia's Red Cross, and her daughters were involved in the organization of hospitals, sanitary trains and sanatoriums; they worked as medical nurses, provided financial support for various social activities, participated in public events intended for the Russian servicemen, injured during the hostilities. At the exhibition you can see decorations granted to medics and other health-care workers - the insignia of the Order of Red Cross - as well as remarkable photographs with Grand Duchesses in hospital.



As in the Soviet period the World Was I has been referred to as a tragic "Imperialist war", launched by European countries along with Russia, the project provides a unique opportunity to learn something new about this historical period, to unveil an interesting page of the Russian history.

Video - 1) http://5-tv.ru/news/89683/

- 2) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/118822
- 3) http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/50915



Solemn procession dedicated St. Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna

Sunday, 14 September, a solemn procession from church to church on opposite banks of the Moscow River, was dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birthday of the Reverend Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna. It went through Ilyinsk - the former estate of Grand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

It started with Orthodox gathered 9.30 in the village Ilyinsk for prayer in the church of the Prophet Elijah.

- It was here more than a century ago, 20-years old Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna first learned about the Orthodox faith and began her compassionate participation in the life of the local peasantry - reminded the chairman of the Orthodox Palestine Society Vitaly Gorokhovatsky.

On the threshold of the church was put the huge Kaluga icon of Elizabeth Feodorovna.





The participants in the procession could receive raincoats, which came in handy after half an hour. They had to overcome the three kilometer walk to the neighboring village Usovo. Turning off the paved road, in the pouring rain believers went to the river. Here it was necessary to stand in a queue, waiting for one of the five wooden rafts, to be taken across the Moscow River.



Once in the village Usovo continued the procession along Rublevskoe highway. It made a short stop at the school established by Empress Maria Alexandrovna. In the end was a prayer service in the Saviour in the Church Holy Image in Usovo. Tasty treats and hot tea helped believers to warm up.

Anna Gromov, Chairman of the Supervisory Board and founder of the Foundation for Assistance to revive the traditions of charity and "Elisabeth-Sergievskoe Educational Society" - "For the third time, before the name day of the Grand Duchess, we had an Elizabethan Procession. We have undergone weather obstacles, but still this year, which marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Feodorovna, even more people gathered than before. I am pleased to see that there were a lot of young people. I hope that in every heart there was a desire to do something good, like St. Elizabeth taught us."

Videos - 1) http://www.kp.ru/daily/26282.7/3159601/

- 2) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3T3rzkA5Ug#t=46
- 3) http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/50163
- 4) http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/267645



On the anniversary of the coronation of Empress Catherine the Great



By Paul Kulikovsky

In the days before and after 12 September - the day were Empress Catherine the Great put on the big imperial crown in 1762 - were a lot of news stories about her in the Russian media. Of interest were the announcements about two new TV series about her life and one about a musical in Crimea.

A new historical drama in 12-parts about "Catherine the Great" is ready for TV.

The film tells about the life of Empress Catherine II before the ascent to the throne. Nearly 20 years of palace intrigues, conspiracies, the struggle for power and personal dramas, is presented to the audience in the film by the company "Mars Media."

Directed by Igor Zaitsev it is starring Julia Snigir. Actors also involved are Pavel Derevyanko, Roman Madyanov Natalia Surkov, Sergei Shakurov,

Viktor Rakov and Mark Bogatirev. The exact date of the premiere of the series is not yet determined. But a trailer and several photos from the film has been released.

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw3UUpO5d28#t=80





The TV channel Russia 1 will also have a premiere of a "Catherine the Great" series in the fall 2014. This largescale historical film from the production company "Amedia" will tell about the ascent to the throne of Sophia Frederica, the future Catherine the Great. Her dreams of simple happiness and a strong family face a harsh reality, and Catherine goes instead on a thorny road to power through intrigues and political conspiracies. Artistic director of the project is Vladimir Menchov and directors are Alexander Baranov and Ramil Sabitov.

The title role in this series is performed by Marina Aleksandrova, Julia Aug plays Empress Elizabeth, and Alexander Yatsenko is Peter III.





The musical "Catherine the Great" in Crimea

Sverdlovsk State Academic Theater opened the season in the Crimea. On the stage of the musical theater in Simferopol, Crimean audience was presented the musical "Catherine the Great." It a Musical Chronicle of the Empire in two acts and is one of the best musical performances of the decade. The musical is awarded the National Theatre Award "Golden Mask" for "Best Costume Design in musical theater" and "Best Actress" (Maria Vinenkova for the role of Princess Fike).

- it's not just dive in the era of imperial magnitude, but also the history of women's lives and the Empress. Empress Catherine II is played a People's Artist of Russia Nina Chambery.

The musical subtly embodied the dreams of modern Russia of former greatness. The end of each scene the audience noted with applause. Special response from Crimeans caused episodes of liberation of the peninsula from the Turkish yoke, and the establishment of the Black Sea Fleet. Kaleidoscope of costumes and scenery, and the power of the Russian empire truly stunned with new impressions for the Crimean viewer.

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThEijgNmoGQ#t=34



Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich's gothic castle in Borkan is almost restored

Referred to as the Borkowski Castle, it is the only architectural monument of significance in Lipetsk region. Located in the village of Borky Terbunsky, district of Lipetsk region, the palace complex was built in 1902-1903 by St. Petersburg architect Alexander von Gauguin. It was intended for the Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich, a cousin of Emperor Nicholas II. It is said that in the construction of the castle there is a "women's trail." The Grand Duke was in love with the ballerina Mathilde Kshesinskava, and they even had an illegitimate child. Having the baby, according to some, was the impetus for the construction of the castle. However, it is unsure if the grand duke ever lived there, or even once was in Borkah.



The castle is stylized as a medieval castle with fortifications. In 1915 the building was sold to a Sheremetiev, and in 1917 - nationalized.

November 7, 1918 it was opened as House of Children, which later was renamed the Children's Home. In 1925, in the manor house was located Borkovskaya high school. In 1941 the castle burned. The restoration was completed in 1954 and in 1956 in the manor house was again placed Borkovskaya high school.



According to the decision of the Lipetsk Oblast Executive Committee number 51 dated 26 January 1983, the castle has been submitted to the State list of protected sites as an architectural monument of

regional importance. In 1999, the school was transferred to a newly constructed building, after which the manor complex came into complete neglect.

In 2007 the castle was bought by S.A. Gribanov, CEO of agricultural holdings "Selhozinvest." The new owner planned to renovate the estate complex, to house a hotel and entertainment complex. In 2009 he got permission and started its restoration.

Now it is being reported that the restoration of the castle is completed and a new consecration according to Orthodox tradition is scheduled soon. Currently is being worked on the territory. It is still expected that after completion it will be used as a guest house or hotel.

Decree of Alexander II is inscribed on the new monument in Zlatoust



By Paul Kulikovsky

September 9 in honor of the anniversary of the city on the Red Hill was opened a stone monument - on the plate was inscribed date May 5, 1865 and the decree of Tsar Alexander II that Zlatoust was granted city status.

The red ribbon on the new monument was cut by the head of the district Vyacheslav Zhilin and honorary citizen of Chrysostom, General Director of "Construction" Valery Rostov. It was he who initiated the creation of the monument. The new monument was consecrated by the dean of the mining and factory area Alexander Krivonogov.

The stone for the monument was brought from the shores of Lake Ladoga. It weighs 13 tons and a plaque was casted in the factory.



Kokoshnik owned by Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna acquired by Tsarskoye Selo

10.09. Gorodpushkin

The collection of the State Museum Tsarskoye Selo gained another valuable object - kokoshnik owned by Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna. The museum acquired it at his own expense in a private collection in New York, via mediator from the auction house Sotheby's. Invaluable for the museum, the object was estimated at more than 15 thousand dollars.



The kokoshnik was commissioned to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty in 1913. It is made in the traditional style in the form of a crown, covered with velvet peach. On the external side is embroidered with silk and silver threads, decorated with rubies, emeralds, moonstone



and pearl. At the central crown cloves, embroidery with double-headed eagle, the other with floral ornament. Inside is the kokoshnik covered with silk fabric peach color, the edges of the long satin ribbons. Kokoshnik survives today in its "native" package.

On the outside of the box is a metal plaque with the inscription in Cyrillic: "Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna, Nikolaev Starotorzhsky convent, Galich, Kostroma Province. 1913" (now revived as a monastery). On the bottom of the box is glued a label with the inscription: "Alexander Palace ... baby half princesses living ...". Similar kokoshniki were made to the four daughters of Nicholas II. Two of them (Olga and Mary) were sold abroad -

presumably in the 30s of the last century. The other two belonging to the Grand Duchesses Tatiana and Anastasia, in the years of the Great Patriotic War were evacuated, survived and are now part of the museum collection is the State Museum "Pavlovsk". Location of Maria's kokoshnik is unknown. The acquisition of this exhibit is of special importance for our museum, as gathering memorial things of the members of the imperial family for us a priority. This exhibit will take place in the exhibition in Alexander Palace - says curator of the female costume GMZ "Tsarskoye Selo" Catherine Potselueva.

Russian senator asks Putin to bury the remains of two children of Nicholas II

09.09. Fontanka

The representative of St. Petersburg in the Federation Council Vadim Tulipanov appealed to President Vladimir Putin asking to bury the remains of the unburied two children of the last Russian emperor - the heir Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria.

In his address to the head of state senator he recalls: 7 years ago genetic examination finally confirmed the authenticity of the remains found on Koptyakovskaya road near Yekaterinburg. They all belong to the family of Emperor Nicholas II, who was shot on the night of July 17, 1918. In this case, the remains of Tsarevich



Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria were buried separately and were found 16 years later. As a result, they are still not buried, despite the fact that there is no doubt of the Investigative Committee of the remains that are in the State Archives of the Russian Federation.

"I ask you to consider the possibility of burial of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria in the crypt of St. Catherine in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg, where lie the rest of the family of the last Russian emperor, - writes Tulipanov. - I believe that it will serve as the restoration of historical justice, would be in compliance with Orthodox rituals and play an important role in preserving the memory of the history of our country."

Later same day.....

St. Petersburg Senator Vadim Tulipanov wants to appeal to Patriarch Kirill with the proposal to convene a committee with the participation of the clergy, which would dispel the ROC doubts about the authenticity of remains found of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria.

"In 2018 will be 100 years since the murder of the royal family. Prior to this period, it would be good to bury their remains. And in 2014, marks the 110th anniversary of the birth of Tsarevich Alexei and 115 years since the birth of Grand Duchess Maria. So it would be possible for these dates coincide,"- said the member of the Federation Council.

Senator also noted that the details about the existing problem he learned from one of the television channels during a conversation with the head of the Heraldic Council under the President of Russia George Vilinbakhov, who was a member of a commission to work on the identification of the remains of Nicholas II.

....according to Spb.aif.ru.

"Willy and Nicky"

On 8 September on Russian TV channel Kultura was shown the documentary "Willy and Nicky", based on the correspondence of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II and the German Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Russian Emperor Nicholas II carried the heavy burden of authority, responsibility to their people and centuries-old dynasty. They tied the best, most romantic memories of youth. It was the German Kaiser Nicholas chose as godfather for his long-awaited heir. And yet, in the five days of July 1914, when the world stood on the brink of disaster, they could not agree. The First World War not only destroy the empire, redraw the map of the world, but also predetermine the tragic fate of our heroes.



"The idea of the project was taken from the book by Alexander Solzhenitsyn's "The Red Wheel." When I read this novel, I suddenly discovered that Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Russian Emperor Nicholas II had a long-standing friendship, based on correspondence - says writer Irina Semashko. - At some point, I myself was very interested in that they wrote to each other, and in fact how were the relations of the two great men. I began to investigate the matter more closely and carefully. Later I discovered that the letters have been preserved. However, not all, but only those that are was kept by Nicholas II. Russian emperor generally kind to these letters and always carried them with him, even when the royal family was arrested and sent first to Tobolsk, and then to Ekaterinburg. When Nicholas II was shot, the personal items and letters were found. They were transferred to the archives, where they have been for a long time. Americans are the first to publish them, much later, under the editorship of Professor Pokrovsky these letters were printed for us.

Those letters that wrote Wilhelm II, was preserved in drafts and are located in Germany. We looked for them and found them! In this we were helped by the historian Elizabeth Heresh that at our request made a request to the Privy Prussian archives, where we saw the real letters of Nicholas II. In our project featured a number of letters that have never been published anywhere else! In general, the basis of the draft - the personal correspondence of two great men, who owned half the world, but have been involved in events that do not depend on them. The story ended tragically for Nicholas and dramatically for William."

The film stars Victor Sukhorukov (Wilhelm II) and Konstantin Lavronenko (Nicholas II). In it takes part German, English and Russian historians: Daniel Shenpflyug, Arnulf Scribe, Jurgen Lu, Dominic Lieven, Vladimir Bruchanov Irina Kukushkin, and Vladimir Krystal. "In other countries of the First World War, its causes, objectives and results are paid much more attention than in our country. Therefore, the program is mainly attended by European historians. For example, we are very proud that in our project is involved British historian Dominic Lieven, whose ancestors had long been at the Russian court. Dominic Lieven - one of the greatest experts in the world on the history of Russia (in 2013 by the Decree of the President of Russia was awarded the Order of Friendship) - says Irina Semashko. Used are materials from the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the Prussian Secret Archive (Germany), the German Historical Institute in Moscow, and the German Historical Museum in Berlin.

See the entire documentary here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1mAtf2zyHo

Photo album of Emperor Alexander III on display

5 September.

Irkutsk Art Museum opened the exhibition "Irkutsk Story in Pictures" from the collection of the State Historical Museum (Moscow). In it is for the first time made a public presentation of the monumental in size, design and luxury, a completely unique content album with a gallery of photographic portraits of people of Irkutsk. The cover of the album is in silver and enamel and has the inscription: "Nikolai Petrovich Sinelnikov from residents of Irkutsk."

The album was made in St. Petersburg in 1874 by the best jewelry company at that time under the direction of scientist and artist Paul Ihnatovich Sazikov. It is exceptional for its representativeness and significance of jewelry work. Decor album represents a synthesis of the various arts. Relief images of the city of Irkutsk, the peoples of the province, in harmony with the beautiful enamel of coats of arms of noble family Sinelnikovo and Irkutsk. In his declining years Sinelnikovs wrote: "Siberians sent me an extremely valuable album with photographic post cards of Siberian inhabitants. The album I had the pleasure to present to Emperor Alexander, when he was the heir on the 1st May 1880."



The future emperor, knowing the value of the gift, transfers the relic to Moscow, to the management of the Executive Commission of the then just being built History Museum. So, the album with portraits of Irkutians from the heir to the throne (and honorary chairman of the Historical Museum), less than a year before announced being Emperor Alexander III, give it to the museum of national history.

The 38 cardboard sheets album is with 302 photos. It opens with portraits of members of the House of Romanov, among them the royal donor of the album - Emperor Alexander III. And then it goes to the images of Irkutians.

In the exhibition can also be seen photos from the "Departure from Irkutsk His Highness Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich."

The exhibition will run until November 20.



Exhibition of portraits of Faberge Dynasty

04.09. Rus.err.ee

In Pärnu Central Libraries there is an exhibition of portraits of members of the dynasty Faberge - the world-famous jewelers. Five generations of masters for the first time are presented to the public in Estonia. The author of the work was artist Vello Paluoja.

At the opening ceremony Pärnu artist Vello Paluoja recognizes that finding any documents to paint the portraits of family members Faberge was difficult. Only one portrait - Gustav Faberge, who was born in Parnu, the artist was able to get in the local museum, the others he searched for himself wherever he could.

"This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Gustav Faberge, and I at the beginning of the year drew a portrait and presented it to the Society of Pärnu friends of Faberge. This developed an interest to work on," said Paluoja.

The exhibition features five generations of the family of Faberge. There is also a diagram of the family tree, which can be traced to the parents of Gustav Faberge.

"In this exhibition of portraits are the

main members of the dynasty of Faberge. Founder - Gustav Faberge. First resident of the city of Pärnu - Peter Faberge Carl Faberge, of course," - explained the board member of the Society of Pärnu Friends of Faberge Tiina Oyaste.



Library staff completed the exposition with interesting publications, telling about the world-famous dynasty of jewelers. So the exhibition is not only art, but also an educational event. Pärnu Friends of Faberge in 3 years of existence, has generated great interest among the citizens to the family of Faberge. Not so long ago, not everyone in the city knew about the dynasty of artists, famous throughout the world. Especially the fact that it in Parnu was born the founder of the jewelery company - Gustav Faberge.

And in January 3, 2015 in Pärnu will be opened a monument to Gustav Faberge. "On the same day will be a ball of Faberge, for which we are waiting for visitors from around the world," - added Oyaste.

Video - http://rus.err.ee/v/culture/22476bcb-dd5d-42af-b820-fcbb414e5991



"Dining with the Tsars"



Hermitage Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, opened on 6 September an exhibition of more than 1.000 pieces of exquisite porcelain, who witnessed the luxurious feasts, royal balls and banquets, in the Winter Palace. "Dining with the Tsars" is dedicated to the fifth anniversary of the founding of the branch on the Amstel of the famous Russian museum.

Eight porcelain dinner services from the collection of the Hermitage on the Neva give an idea of how to look at the tables at royal balls and banquets. King Willem-Alexander has also, according to the museum, provided exposure to 20 hand-painted plates.

Visitors to the exhibition devoted to the culture of balls and banquets at the royal court in Russia XVIII-XIX centuries, can "feel like a guest at a dinner party, rising

from an imperial invitation up the stairs to the Winter Palace, getting acquainted with the rules of etiquette and tuning in to a festive occasion".



The show in Amsterdam is a parade through the halls with set tables china. Sets are including such famous manufactories as Meissen, Sevres, Gardner and Wedgwood. The most luxurious feast suited Catherine the Great during her reign from 1762 to 1796: guests waited for a menu of hundreds of dishes. And the grandest balls was arranged by last Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra from 1894 to 1917.

Video - http://www.rtlxl.nl/#!/rtl-boulevard-9652/87121e8c-bae0-ac21-c15f-70169d8abe00


(Photos copyright Hermitage, St. Petersburg)

A rare view of a rare object

From the collection of State Historical Museum - One of the two pots with a painting of the imperial yacht "Derzhava", Imperial Porcelain Factory. St. Petersburg. about 1881. Height 21.5 cm.



The Derzhava was laid down at the New Admiralty, Saint Petersburg by Alexander II of Russia. The design of Derzhava was based on the British royal yacht HMS Victoria and Albert II. The deck of the Derzhava had two raised penthouses: the Emperor's in the back and the General Admiral's in the fore. The interiors of the imperial suites, furniture and tableware were designed by Ippolit Monighetti. Contract for the figurehead was awarded Mikhail Mikeshin. Originally, Mikeshin proposed installing a female allegory of Russia wielding armor and the orb, the ships' namesake, but in 1867 Alexander dismissed the proposal and instructed Mikeshin to shape the standard double-headed eagle. Mikeshin made it by July 1870, yet his sculpture was radically different from the ordinary omnipresent state eagles.

The Derzhava had a crew of no less than 200 men. In 1888 she employed 238 men: 93 mechanics and stokers, 65 musicians, 15 choir singers, etc. not including the royal retinue of at least fifty. The Derzhava operated as a yacht until 1898. She was then converted into a training ship and re-christened Dvina. The Dvina was decommissioned in 1905.

"House of Anna Vyrubova" invites to an exhibition

The house Tepper de Ferguson ("Tsarskoselskaya cappella") continues to show the photo exhibition "House of Anna Vyrubova. History in Photographs. "

During its long history the mansion with a mezzanine on Central Street hosted many distinguished guests, among whom were Alexander Pushkin and Wilhelm Kiichelbecker. The house changed hands several times and it has been a summer residence, a library, and a district registrar.

In the 1900s years lived here Russian composer and pianist Sergei Taneyev, the father of the Chief of Staff of the Imperial Court of Alexander Taneyev. Later, in this tiny house in Tsarskoye Selo settles granddaughter of the composer - Anna.

The interest in the person of Anna Taneyev (Vyrubova) is due to several reasons. Anna was at the epicenter of events associated with the reign



of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. It was not just a witness and eyewitness, but one of the main participants of the dramatic events of the time.

Attention to this woman caused by the fact that she was prepared for an amazing event full of unexpected twists and destiny. Anna Taneyev had remarkable qualities of the soul, which in her life manifested by specific actions and deeds. And finally, as a historical person, it was not just a maid of honor of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, it was her close friend, dearly loved Empress and the entire royal family, which perceived her as near and dear person.

The house of Anna Vyrubova, wrote Chief of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Alexander Dmitrievich Protopopov, became a kind of "porch of power." It has been visited by Nicholas II and his wife, the Grand Duchesses, Grigory Rasputin, and many other historical figures: the building played a significant role in the history of the last days of the Russian monarchy.



🏶 Romanov <mark>buzz</mark> 🕸

The Central Navy Museum in St. Petersburg will soon return to its historical name - Maritime Museum of Peter the Great. This was announced by the head of the Defense Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation Anton Gubankov - "Defence Minister General of the Army Sergei Shoigu have made a principal decision on the return to the Naval Museum of its historic name. Soon the museum will be referred to as - Maritime Museum of Peter the Great. I am confident that this will open a new page in its biography. Fact, it is the largest maritime military-historical museum in the world, and the return of the name seems fair and the right thing. We need to change a few organizational procedures, in particular, to change the charter. This is a huge amount of work." In 1908, the museum was named after its founder - the Emperor Peter the Great. Its present name it got in 1924. Initially the museum exposition



was located in the building of the Admiralty, and in 1939 it was moved to Vasilevsky Island - in the building of the former Stock Exchange. From 2013 the Museum is housed in the former barracks Krukovs.

In September Gatchina Museum acquired several objects of decorative art and rare books. It's porcelain, a French inkstand, household items, including a lamp owned by Nicholas I, the book "History Knights of Malta" by abbot Heli, and an album with views of Gatchina, published in the second half of the nineteenth century, which will be useful not only to visitors, but the museum restorers.

On September 24, opened at the Gatchina Palace a one object exhibit called "August brothersoldier ..." (parting gift cuirassiers). This is a unique item from the collection of weapons at Gatchina Palace - endowment Cuirassier sword, presented by the officers of the Life Guards Cuirassier Regiment of Her Majesty (Blue cuirassiers) to Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, brother of Emperor Nicholas II, who served in this regiment in 1902-1909 years. the Gatchina sword feature on the blade not only a dedicatory inscription, but also autographs of all officers involved in the present - among them Nicholas Alexandrovich Kulikovsky, who later married the Grand Duke's sister Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.



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At the Tourism Forum in Orel could be seen a stand with a photo exhibition of the museumestate of Sergei Rachmaninoff "Ivanivka". It tells the story of the friendship of the composer Sergei Rachmaninoff and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. There is also a second connection, as in the Orel region, on the estate of the heir to the throne of Mikhail, was born and raised grandmother of famous composer Barbara Rachmaninoff. She met her future husband at the ball in the town hall of the Noble Assembly. A few photos are shown in the beginning of the video. <u>http://tv-</u> <u>gubernia.ru/society/orlovchane_poznakomilis_s_kulturoj_i_tradiciyami_sosednih_oblastej_na_turistiche_skom_forume/</u>

In the Central Library. A. S. Pushkin opened a new photo exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the First World War. Materials for the exhibition provided Chelyabinsk State Museum. About 30 rare professional black and white photos of the early twentieth century with the image of Chelyabinsk and cities in the region (at that time the Orenburg province), as well as urban and rural residents, the Cossacks are presented in the round hall of the library. You will see the old station Chelyabinsk, Resettlement point, Revolution Square, as well as photographs of events at the time in Upper Ufaley, Zlatoust, Miass and other cities. Learn how treated patients, where the townspeople liked to rest, as met Nikolai II, who arrived in Zlatoust in connection with going to the front of reserve regiments, as seen off the Cossacks Miass. Unique photos allow to plunge into the atmosphere of the time. The show includes the work of one of the first Chelyabinsk amateur photographers Constantine Teploukhova. KN Teploukhov was an excise officer, social worker, photographer, memoirist. The theme of his pictures - subject-household family sketches. Throughout his life he kept a diary, which shows little-known life of Chelyabinsk. His memoirs included in the book "Chelyabinsk Chronicles: 1899-1924", published in 2001.

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jw5kKjlEr6k



On September 10, the community in the name of St. Tsar Nicholas II in Sevastopol, was a significant event - on the territory of the Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs to be built in the neighborhood Red Hill has been transferred from the Krasnodar a gift of a bust of Tsar Martyr Nicholas. Archpriest Alexei Petrenko, rector Reigning Mother of God (Red Hill), and all members of the community who came to the church for the evening service, were happy to have met such a precious gift.



On September 18 in Orel Local History Museum opened an exhibition of People's Artist of Russia Dmitry Belyukin called "For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland". The exhibition features copies of postcards and posters of the time of the First World War, photos of participants in the events, issues of military chronicles and other historical materials.



In Samara is found fragments of a wooden fortress from

XVIII century, believed it was created by Peter the Great. The digging was done in the historic center of the city for more than two years.

According to written sources, the construction was used for defensive purposes, and in particular to scare the nomads. Construction of the fortress were located on an area of about three hectares. Scientists believed that all this was burned or demolished. But then was discovered at a depth of 4 meters timbers and fragments of crockery and household items. Sergei Zubov, Head of the Research Laboratory of SSU: "The most ancient building we now have, to date, is XIX century. And here in front of us, before our eves, the architectural structure is actually from the very beginning of the reign of Peter I". The idea of scientists is that this site could be set up as a museum complex - by recreate the fortress and a monument to Peter I.

Video - http://www.otr-online.ru/news/news 33852.html



In the Field Marshal's Hall of the Winter Palace was on September 2nd celebrated the Day of Russian Guards and the 150th anniversary of the Western Military District. The honor guard carried the national flag of Russia, banners and standards of the Russian Imperial Guard, while an orchestra played marches of the Life Guards regiment, "Farewell of Slav" and the old Jaeger march.

This holiday was established in 2000 by the decree of Russian President Vladimir Putin in connection with the 300th anniversary of the Russian Guard. The Imperial Guard was



established in the beginning of the reign of Peter the Great as the Preobrazhensky and the Semenov regiment.

Video - http://topspb.tv/news/news52383/



Princess Olga Andreevna Romanov will be patron of the 2nd Russian Charity Ball in London. The portal "Ruconnect.co.uk" writes that Princess Olga Romanov, a descendant of the Romanov family, has the high honor to take the event under her wings. The Ball will open with sixty pairs of

debutants from many different countries - Russia, the United Kingdom, United States, Georgia and Malta - it makes Russian Ball in London a truly cultural and international event.

"Our mission - to provide an opportunity for representatives of different cultures to engage in dialogue and to strengthen cultural ties and unite people around a common love of art" - says Elizabeth Smagin, founder of Vebamos. Vebamos Event Management Russian Balls Worldwide is an organizer of Russian balls all over the world - in Vienna, Rome, Moscow, Montreux and Almaty. The first Russian Ball in London had a triumphant run at the Royal Albert Hall on 2nd of December 2013. The second Ball will be at the Old Billingsgate Hall, on 2nd of November, 2014.

More information about the event can be found on the website: www.russianball.co.uk

September 18 at the Manuscript Department of the National Library opened the exhibition "World in Flames: people and events of the First World War in the collections of the Manuscript Division of the NLR." The exhibition features 100 original documents, which reflect the events of WWI. Among the exhibits - field books, letters, diaries, maps, articles, autographs of famous politicians and cultural figures. There are autographs and letters of Emperor Nicholas II and his cousin Grand Duke Konstantin Romanov, Rasputin and of the main enemy Kaiser Wilhelm. There are simple-minded soldier's letters from the front, among them "the latest news" from one of the thousands of forgotten heroes of the war St. George Knight Fedor Chachua, and next a letter about his death. They wrote in the trenches, addressing the soldiers and officers



of the German army. Calls were recorded on the plywood, fabric, wrapping paper. At the beginning of the war, they were full of hatred for the enemy, and in 1917 a sincere desire to stop the bloody

confrontation nobody wanted. The exhibition also presents the most valuable documents of the time - the handwritten journals of Russian prisoners. The exhibition is a kind of documentary chronicle of the First World War, but it also convey the atmosphere of the time. The exposition will last until October 18.



The historical-documentary exhibition "The Empire's Last War" opened September 19, 2014 in the South-west tower of the Vologda Kremlin. Its dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The exhibition is arranged in five sections; The first section is devoted to the beginning of the war, second to the local participants in the First World War, the third is about the charitable help by businesses, organizations and individuals; the fourth tells about the "fatigue" of the war, and the final section of the exhibition is devoted to the end of the war in the context of the new geopolitical events. Exhibition will be on display until November 10, 2014.





In Arkhangelsk, began the restoration of the carriage, which

belonged to John the Sixth - the Russian Emperor of the Brunswick branch of the Romanov dynasty. The coach "Berlin" is an example of a carriage the first third of the XVIII century, widespread in Europe at that time. In October 1744 this carriage delivered the deposed in a palace coup John and his family in the village Holmogory. Then the coach was at the disposal of the bishop's house. In the middle of the XIX century it was moved to Arkhangelsk. First time the coach was presented on public display was in 1909 - during the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava. After the restoration the imperial coach will be returned to the Archangel museum. Video - http://www.newstube.ru/media/v-arhangel-ske-restavriruyut-karetu-ioanna-vi The Foundation Vladimir the Brave held in the State Duma a small presentation and exhibition to "the blessed memory of the Russian and Serbian heroes of the Great War." The Foundation told about the completed project - a five-meter carved white stone Worship Cross in Topola, Serbia - for the

Russian heroes who died for the liberation of Serbia. Presented was also a new project - "St George's Cross" a memorial in honor of the centennial decision by the Supreme Command of the Russian army of Emperor Nicholas II. September 5, 2015 marks one hundred years since the adoption of the Supreme Command of the Emperor Nicholas II. It should be emphasized that the Emperor took the responsibility in-Chief, who is perceived as the highest responsibility to Russia, in bad times, when the Russian army at the front suffered defeat after defeat. From that day began a new stage in Russia's war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, which was marked by the stabilization of the front, the greatest victory of the Russian army in the war, and the restoration of unprecedented military buildup.

Foundation of Vladimir the Brave sees its duty to adequately celebrate this anniversary, and initiates setting a memorial - carved out of white stone, it is a St George Cross, put on a cubic base (in Orthodox iconography -See), height - 3 m 25 cm. At the center of St. George's Cross is located a medallion with a relief profile of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, copied from the image on gold rubles. The special value of the image is that it bears the personal blessing of the Emperor, but also



reminds the present generation of the economic and political power of the pre-revolutionary Russia. The memorial is planned to be delivered in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Mogilev, Livadia, Belgrade and Paris.

In Ostrogozhsk Museum opened the exhibition "Doll fantasy." It presents 60 works of masters from Ostrogozhsk, Voronezh, Stary Oskol and Kaliningrad. Many visitors to the exhibition paid attention to the dolls of Oldenburg family - Princess Eugenie Maksimilianovna and Prince Alexander Petrovich, and the figures made by Natalia Skripnikov - "Grand Duchess Olga" and "Prince Peter Alexandrovich of Oldenburg."



In Tsarskoye Selo has been restored the church of St. Sergius of Radonezh. In this regimental church knelt on his knees many representatives of the Romanov dynasty, and soldiers from the second Life Guards Infantry Regiment. Before the 1917 revolution in the church were several icons donated by Empress Maria Alexandrovna and Grand Duchess Catherine Mikhailovna, uniforms of Alexander II and Alexander III and other gifts of the imperial family. Restoration of the church was part of an



extensive public program celebrating the 700th anniversary of St. Sergius of Radonezh, after whom the church was consecrated.

"The fact is that until 1917 in the territory of the Tsarskoye Selo was about 25 churches, but restored are only about ten - said the director of the cultural center Sofia Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo Dmitry Bohonsky. "The key point - this is not just another revival of a church, but the revival of the Russian land, the key to the revival of the nation", - said the priest of St. Sophia Church in Tsarskoye Selo Cyril Melkonian.

In 1903 the church building was a continuation of the former warehouse of the Second Infantry Regiment of the Tsarskoye Selo. Patronized by Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. "And the painting and decoration of the church is consistent with the emerging style of Art Nouveau, so painting a little unusual, here mixing of the two schools," - says the head of the restoration work Sergey Kripak. In Soviet times, the building lost its belfry, domes, original painting, the entire interior was broken into small spaces. Painting is restored on the basis of photographs and a few surviving fragments of the altar of the mounted oak iconostasis.

The Pomeranian Philharmonic and Arkhangelsk Regional Museum have joined in a new project under the title "The Philharmonic Salon".

The first program of the musical salon "North Star" was held on September 28. The name of the concert gave a popular song by Mikhail Glinka. The viewer will be plunge into a musical atmosphere of the royal family, recreated in words, music and art masterpieces. The Pomeranian Philharmonic dedicated this program to the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. The "North Star" will include works by Glinka. Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Liszt, and Chopin. Loved for music the crowned family also had at home. For example, Emperor Nicholas II loved ensemble music on the piano. Empress Alexandra Feodorovna had a deep contralto and took vocal lessons, the Tsarevich Alexei had an excellent ear for music and played the balalaika.



A monument to Tsarevich Nicholas, who was the last Russian emperor, could appear in 2015 in Chita, told the Deputy Director of JSC "RUS " Alexander Barinov. "The visit of Tsarevich Nicholas during his tour in 1891 had serious consequences for the development of the Baikal region. We want to perpetuate the memory of this event and set in the neighborhood a Tsar's monument to this statesman". According to the deputy director the money for the installation of the monument will be collected nationally. In 2011, Alexander Barinov proposed to restore Chita triumphal arch, which was erected in 1891 to commemorate the visit of the Tsarevich. The first stone was laid in 2011, to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the visit in Transbaikalia of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich.

President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic and Patriarch Irinej unveiled a monument to the Russian and Serbian soldiers - defenders of Belgrade who died during the First World War at the turn of Kalemegdanskoy fortress. The monument by Russian sculptor is in the shape of a cross with a sculpture of St. George, height of 2.7 meters and is made of granite and bronze. It was transferred to Serbia by the Public Foundation "Center of National Glory". "Russian assistance to Serbia in the First World War was huge and generous, and we will never forget her,"



- said after the wreath-laying ceremony the mayor of the Serbian capital, adding that soon in Belgrade is also coming a monument to the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II.

The timeless story of Anastasia returns once again to our mind as the drama unfolds on Valley Performing Arts' stage on Swanson Ave., in Wasilla. Anastasia serves as a spectacular opener to VPA's 39th season. Under the sure hand of veteran VPA Director, Grant Olson, the entire play seamlessly captivates the audience and draws them back into the mid-1900s, about 10 years after the Bolsheviks murdered the Romanov family.

The play follows the actions of a trio composed of a banker, prince, and artist, who are trying to cash in on the fortune that Czar Nicholas II left upon his death. The method adopted by the trio in order to secure the money is to produce an heir to that fortune, namely Princess Anastasia. The leader of the trio is Prince Bounine, an exiled Russian prince turned taxi driver who is desperately looking for a way to gain the fortune through fair or foul means. During the hunt for Anastasia, their money sources threaten to dry up, so the trio is forced to select an unlikely candidate to present as Anastasia, whom they know is not the real princess. In order for them to gain access to the fortune and for the con to be successful, the grandmother of



Princess Anastasia must endorse the purported princess. However, as the story moves forward, the trio begins to wonder if they actually have found the real princess after all.

Director Olson's entire cast does a superb job. The four primary actors are veterans and effectively embody their roles without missing a beat. Stephen O'Brien plays Chernov the banker, Ted Carney plays Bounine the prince, Thomas Jacobs plays Petrovin the artist, and Birgit Hietala plays Anna, aka Anastasia. All four of them spend a large amount of time on stage and have many lines, which are produced nearly flawlessly with the accompanying actions.

The play keeps the audience's attention the entire time. There are only three different scenes, which are broken up with intermissions, so the audience does not lose any of play's moods while sitting in the dark waiting for people to more or less clumsily run around and shuffle stage props. The costumes and set are historically accurate, which also enhances the play. The accompanying music and lights are flawless, supporting the mood of the play and helping to bring the audience back to 1926.

September 26 in Riga was hosted a big charity "Martha Ball" in the Grand Palace Hotel. Thanks to the funds collected during the event, children from low-income families will be able to participate free throughout the year in sports. Patroness of the ball was the opera singer Inessa Galante.

The ball was a part of a unique project "Latvia - the birthplace of Empress Catherine I". The main objective of the project is to hold annual cultural events in Latvia, for the popularization of Latvia - a country with a great history and attractive to tourists.

Three hundred and thirty years ago, April 15, 1684, was born Catherine I, and 290 years ago, May 18, 1724 in Moscow was crowned Catherine, who, after the emperor's death January 25, 1725 became the first Russian autocratic empress.



On the origin of Catherine's many legends and rumors. About one fact there is no doubt: Martha Samuilovna Skavronskaya, lost his parents early, lived for some time in a shelter for orphans in Riga, and aged 12 years was given to the house of Pastor Gluck Aluksne. The man who first translated the Bible into the Latvian language! Despite a very modest position in the house and the fact that the girl is not even taught basic literacy, Martha grew a very intelligent girl. And fate, of course, it was very favorable: it is, as they say, without a clan or tribe, became the first autocratic empress in the Romanov dynasty. As in the famous fairy tale of Cinderella, Marta or Catherine was able to transform herself from a poor orphan girl to the first empress of a vast empire. Catherine had known poverty and orphan

childhood, so the Empress her whole life was trying to help disadvantaged people, and especially children's shelters.

In Novgorod's "Urban Development" has the monument of Peter the Great had its sword returned. Recall that in early July, vandals damaged the monument on the banks of the River Gzen. Restoring it turned out to be difficult, and costly. It took not only the means and good professionals, but also consent of the author of the monument - Moscow sculptor Psheratsky. And in order to prevent vandals to break it off again, the sword it now attached additionally to the clothing. Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB8OSZqKUF4

Hillwood Museum opens 1st of October a new gallery on the second floor of the Mansion,

dedicated to sacred Russian Orthodox ecclesiastical objects: icons created for the veneration of saints, elaborate chalices used for communion, and vestments, chalice covers, altar cloths, and other religious textiles. The Soviet Union was committed to the destruction of religion, destroying churches, mosques and temples. During her stay in Moscow, Marjorie Merriweather Post encountered religious objects for sale in commission shops and lamented that an important part of Russian life was disappearing. Marjorie began a collection of Russian religious pieces, eventually accumulating more than two hundred such objects. The most magnificent piece from her collection - a gold chalice that Catherine the Great commissioned in 1791 as part of a communion set - stands in



splendor in the center of the room. Also on display, vestments worn by Russian Orthodox clergy are magnificently embellished to emphasize the glory of the kingdom of God. Icons, made for both public and private use, can also be viewed in this tranquil space.



In the Novocherkassk Cossack Circle, the Ataman of the Union of Cossack troops of Russia and abroad Victor Ratiev announced its intention to offer Russian President to revive the institution of the monarchy. Ascend the throne the Cossacks are going to offer the current Russian President Vladimir Putin. The circle was attended by 200 to 380 delegates - the Cossacks of Rostov and Volgograd regions, as well as of the Stavropol Territory. "No need to discuss if Russia needs the monarchy", and Victor Ratiev immediately switched to the candidates. According to him - "representatives of the Romanov family are not appropriate, their representative abdicated, and while worthy candidates among the heirs is not visible. Therefore, the most suitable candidate - incumbent President Vladimir

Putin." Ataman Viktor Ratiev also said that the presidential administration in November will be sent a delegation, formally inviting Putin to ascend the throne.

From 18 to 20 September in Perm and Tcherdyn, was a series of events in the framework of the program "The Romanov Dynasty: Permian." The organizers of the Days are Remembrance of Mikhail Romanov, Solikamskaya and Chusovskaya Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, Perm Historical and Cultural Foundation "Discovering" the administration Cherdynsky district and Nyrobsky urban settlement, Cherdynsky Museum, Museum of the History of faith and Tcherdyn fund "Royal Route". The purpose of the activities is to revive the tradition of remembrance of Michael Nikiticha Romanov in the Perm region, which have existed since 1613, but was banned in 1928.

During the Days of Remembrance was a round table on "The Romanovs. From first to last", memorial service, a visit to "Museum of the History of the Orthodox faith" in Cherdynsky museum of local lore and to the "Center of the memory of Mikhail Nikiticha Romanov" in the village Nyrob.

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In the Palace of Rumyantsev-Paskevich, in Gomel, Belarus, was shown chocolate creations by confectioner Ukrainian Nikolai Popov. The exhibition called "Chocolate Museum" was located in the basement, where a 20 degrees Celcius can be kept at all time. Among the creations was the big and small Imperial crown of the Russian Empire, and Faberge looking eggs.



Minsk hosts exhibition of wax figures, in which are the family of Emperor Nicholas II. Until 14 December, the branch of the National History Museum of the Republic of Belarus "house-museum of I Party Congress" is showing an exhibition called "waxworks". See the figures in the video -<u>http://nn.by/?c=ar&i=136258&lang=ru</u>



In Borovichi there was a presentation of a book by French emigrants about Grigory Rasputin. Yuri Verbitsky and his wife Olga Sidelnikova-Verbitskaya presented of a unique publication diaries of Grigory Rasputin. It is a picture book, printed on glossy paper in 2000 copies, and it includes the diary "My thoughts and reflections" (1915), which Rasputin made based on his pilgrimage to the holy places; the biographical sketch "The Life of an experienced Wanderer" (1907), and the memoirs of contemporaries and the royal family about Rasputin. The book will not be in the scientific circulation of historical materials. The publication is timed to the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. By the way, the book "The Life of an experienced Wanderer. My thoughts and reflections" is available as an audiobook (99 MB and in Russian). It can be downloaded here - http://rutracker.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=3317691



Helen Rappaport's "Four Sisters: The Lost Lives of the Romanov Grand Duchesses"

became the winner of the sixth annual Spear's Book Awards - Congratulations.



September 24 in the museum-panorama "Battle of Borodino" was a

presentation of the book "Russian military uniforms. Army of Alexander I: the cavalry." The book launch was attended by the Minister of the Moscow Government, Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the City of Moscow Alexander V. Kibovsky - one of the authors of the book.



"This is the fifth book in the series. In this volume, we have summarized from the vault of information gathered in museums, archives, libraries on the history of Russian military uniforms. Bottom line, this work has been combined by a huge number of professionals over the past two decades. Today in the form of these five books we have for the first time fully realized a series of fundamental review of Russian military uniforms from the time of Peter I until the end of the reign of Alexander I", - said Alexander V. Kibovsky.

The series of "Russian military uniforms" includes five volumes: "Russian military uniforms. From Peter I to Peter III", "Russian military uniforms. Period Catherine II", "Russian military uniforms. Army Paul I. 1796-1801 period", "Russian military uniforms. Army of Alexander I: infantry, artillery, engineers" and the recently released "Russian military uniforms. Army of Alexander I: the cavalry."

The Cavalry, not only played a significant role in the wars against Napoleon, but also represents the most colorful military unit era of Alexander I. The book contains the most complete description of the cavalry uniforms and includes a large number of images with Russian cavalry, cavalry officers portraits and photographs of real samples of uniforms and equipment.



"Alexandra - die letzte Zarin" (Alexandra - The Last Empress)



She was one of the most powerful women in the world: Alexandra Feodorovna, the last Tsarina. At the age of 12 years met the native Princess Alix of Hesse the Russian heir Nicholas. Despite great resistance, the couple married ten years later, and Alix was at 23 years old the Tsarina of Russia. Despised and slandered by the emperor's relatives as well as from political opponents, the shy young woman became an assertive ruler who fought for her new home. But the impending disaster they could not prevent ... Gunna Wendt portrays the glamorous and dramatic life of Alexandra Feodorovna. It tells of the strong woman on the side of the last Tsar, the struggle of a loving mother to her son's life, from the fateful friendship with the controversial itinerant preacher and faith healer Rasputin and of her tragic end during the October Revolution.

Gunna Wendt, born 1953 in Jeinsen, studied sociology and psychology in Hanover and is a freelance writer and curator in Munich since 1981. Apart from her work in theater and radio, she published short stories, essays and biographies, among other things, to Liesl Karlstadt, Helmut Qualtinger, Maria Callas, Clara Rilke-Westhoff, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Franziska Reventlow and Lena Christ. Recently published their books on the Bernadotte dynasty and Romanoff and Furtwängler women.

Publisher: Insel Verlag/Island Press, Language: German, paperback, size 19 x 11.8 x 2.2 cm, 220 pages. ISBN-10: 3458360204 / ISBN-13: 978-3458360209

Nicholas I - My autocratic ministry. Diaries, letters, and documents. Evidence of contemporaries



Russian Emperor Nicholas I (1796-1855) is one of the key figures in the country's history. The Tsar made for the greatness and power of the Russian Empire did no less than his great predecessors - Peter I and Catherine II. He became the epitome of the ruler of a new type and new - in all senses of the iron - XIX century. For the modern reader the whole drama unfold. Surprisingly consistent is the sovereign's development to an extraordinary ruler, from still not entirely confident, but forced to make crucial decisions as a young man when he by chance received the reins of the monarch's reign - to a mature statesman, confident and with an iron hand holding the reins of the vast country. The publication continues a series of gift books about great rulers of all countries and historical periods.

Publisher: Eksmo, Moscow. Hardcover, size 170 x 260 mm, 528 pages. Isbn 978-5-699-76513-3

Petrovsky Palace



The first edition of the Petrovsky Palace and the adjoining park - from creation to the present day.

The fate of emperors, lush coronation, glorious pages in the history of Soviet aviation - history Petrovsky Castle inseparable from the history of our country. The reader will also learn about the role of the Travel Palace in the life of a modern capital.

The book is richly illustrated with photographs, drawings and old prints.

Publisher: Lingua-F, Moscow. Hardcover, size 170 x 215 mm, 64 pages. Isbn 978-5-91477-024-9





Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, Stansted Mountfitchet, United Kingdom, on September 9;



An interesting Spirit Bottle, late 17th century,probably Dutch or Bohemian, of rectangular section, the soda metal cut with the Imperial Russian double-headed eagle arms enclosing a monogram, the sides with scrolling foliage, 21.5cm. The wheel-engraved arms are those of the Romanovs but the central monogram is difficult to interpret; it may be a mirrored P. If so, it could stand for Peter (the Great) who visited Europe between 1697 and 1699 on a 'Grand Embassy' to encourage links and learn more of the advanced Western technology. His most successful trip was to the Netherlands.

This lot is believed to have come from the family of Countess Anastasia Mikhailovna de Torby (known as Zia) who was the elder daughter of Grand Duke Michael Mikhailovich of Russia.

She married Sir Harold Wernher and this item was given to Mr J W Sanders, the Clerk of Works, at Luton Hoo.

Estimated Price: £300 - £500

Mr Schooling added: "A glass spirit bottle with an engraving of the Romanov coat of arms saw two American buyers, live online, battling to place the winning bid. "The bottle had a guide price of \pounds 500, and when bids in the room reached that price we then sat back and watched the price soar as two bidders took it up to \pounds 6,200.

Neal Auction Company, New Orleans, LA, USA, on September 13;

German School, c. 1900, "Czar Nicholas II, Wearing the Uniform of the Prussian Imperial Guard", oil on canvas, unsigned, 87 3/4 in. x 45 3/4 in., framed. Estimated Price: \$1,200 - \$1,800



Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Towson, MD, USA, on September 14;

A Kuznetsov porcelain beaker, circa 1914; rare porcelain commemorative celebrating Tsarevich Alexei as Ataman of Cossacks, with sepia transfer portrait and cyrillic writing with stylized geometric pattern border and vignette of Romanov double eagle, green stamp mark. Estimated Price: \$1,000 -

\$1,500



International Autograph Auctions, Nottingham, United Kingdom, on September 21;

In this auction was more than 40 letters from members of the Imperial Family and several other printed material related to them. Starting with Empress Elizabeth I, there was some from all periods and branches of the dynasty and even some from exile - Catherine the Great, Paul I, , Alexander I, Elena Pavlovna, Anna Pavlovna, Catherine Pavlovna, Marie Pavlovna, Nicholas I, Alexander II, Konstantin Nikoleievich, Mikhail Nikoleievich, Marie Alexandrovna, Nicholas Alexandrovich (Nixa), Nicholas Nikolaievich the Elder and Junior, Militza (wife of PN), Anastasia (wife of NN Jr.), Vladimir Alexandrovich, Elena Vladimirovna, Alexandra Feodorovna, Alexis Alexandrovich, Tatiana Konstantinova, Marie Feodorovna, Alexander IIII, Olga Alexandrovna, and Nicholas II. Below a few selected ones.

Сегептитений Бронб Прінца, для станои вальтенных Сынопь сблаге споето отелева ЛНАБЕЗНЫМ ПЛЕМЯННИИВ Сениев миностив и понфиленитев Простонитав Етто сте насаетия даменя, и осещаеного За-Kommo à bo ticent mont, mo to baunero тошершее танонана, оталив и Эталината изб אווווואס, אוא דווסדס זרווס נמאום בובניהו ארגים אסדףסווסונוויי Коволетисного высотестица насатися мотьо, инте Бъдын отытонь ологив п'валь Усебли доно, и Peconances, in mant Astress Caus TIOLOSS TIOCTIC Come Koforennioe Chicorecutio Licinumus moto, comu шестипотать ванително испала, отоло, Утанов, בהוציה אידווים שיוצ לנוועוסתמווה, אוני פר דולע דוראוומעל вы сами больше, нестели ито Удостопитевени. כוצותר כדוסשאמותה ושודמוותר, זרתה בול פולמ אומא וול Мон о вашене Ковантноме высочести Швенной Ковони, то споей немицеливеностия, вто Сентименты, нанб всеца Единстатенно вб-אדורוגום, וומווני לנו אוו לנואו, דופגדוסודוודווצואמ, אם נוגד ועודבות Came Graromorerie, mant i white и стё мое понфидентное из яснотное и Спотов Без'ститени на и Палитение о вашено то-Jurt втов васе на и сяще и сяще Простолтвить стиянномь Благосостояния Уседетникя, онымо отой испвенности, спанатов на и всетия לאו אוועדילל דויאואויאוס לאואל היאל אור איז אי אי איידי איידי THEFELS. сотпиваленно с'вали извяснилась, напо стире-Camero Kolosenmaro Encorecinad сталителной ваше Энтегесь наторално на Очасть и я поблиднемя споистея обязаннов и либан 11 mons cros Trushands. น mano à cuperme 1 proceeling שיחו למנל אור אסעוד, זהים בידול אודאוסחוספודט времяни слыша, понлов образомв ваше Кого-Aurcusom ленное Сысотестито ссе вашя доптевенность Ha manust אנגני דוסאספרטאע, וופע, וומוול נושי Стестью, во преня вашего на венхоттате обнания לכמאוודה הברובילשורי לאגא 6 באא 1745 די Ero Kolorennores Corrections i abdern Kont triings III Egimori yo

Elizabeth I, (1709-1762) Empress of Russia 1741-62. A fine L.S., Elizabeth, with a holograph subscription, in Cyrillic, four pages, folio, Saint Petersburg, 6th July 1745, to Adolf Frederick, King of Sweden, in Cyrillic. The Empress informs the King that she has always been concerned over his wellbeing and is focused on his constant welfare, continuing 'Thus, I do not want to conceal from you recently that I have been hearing that Your Royal Highness has put all your trust in people who, as it is known, during your selection at Reichstag, taking care of the Prince of Birkenfeld, wanted, by all means available, to destroy my efforts, therefore to prevent your

rise, and now they take your side trying by different suggestions to alienate Your Royal Highness from me'. The Empress further states 'From this experience of their benevolence, all their servility should be

fairly considered as nothing but hidden ruses as, according to the confirming notice that I received, they only aim at encouraging coldness between the King and Your Royal Highness and loss of your initial trust to me. By their pretended intrigues they want to restore Sovereignty in Sweden and seek to show you easy ways to do this, encouraged by your trust to them, to set the Swedish people, anxious about their liberty and the present form of Government, against you, and thus accomplishing their malicious intents to achieve your irretrievable censure', expressing her concerns and deepest regret, 'because, besides the extremes to which Your Royal Highness will be driven to by your wish for autocracy infringing rights of the whole people which you vowed to observe by all means, I want to avoid the least of opinion, which will easily occur to everyone and will be essentially far from my intentions, as if I have somehow participated in this, wherefore as I have always thought and still have reason to think that all your actions should primarily aim at the support, in any possible way for you, of His Majesty the King's benevolence and love of those subjects whom you will rule in due course keeping their liberty, their general involvement and showing mercy and trust to the sons acting assiduously for the benefit of their fatherland'. The Empress concludes by writing 'As far as I am concerned and regarding my previous declaration, it is not worth mentioning, because this is a voluntary matter, and there is enough of evidence of my zeal towards you which Your Royal Highness can clearly see in every case that my friendship to the Swedish crown is sincerely preferable to any others whatever they are, and this my trustful explanation and advice should even more verify my sincerity to you which I have always showed to Your Royal Highness'. (Only first and last page shown). Estimated Price: £2,000 - £3,000

Paul I, (1754-1801) Emperor of Russia 1796-1801. The only son of Peter III and Catherine the Great. Assassinated. A.L.S., Paul, one page, St. Petersburg, 13th January 1781, to a gentleman, in French. The Tsarevich states that he was touched by the contents of his correspondent's letter and their New Year greetings, remarking 'I beg you to believe that, in all occasions, you will find in me the same favourable sentiments towards yourself. Your own qualities, and the services of Madame, your mother, whom I shall see again and recognise, are a firm guarantee of that'. In concluding he asks for New Year's compliments to be conveyed to his correspondent's mother. Estimated Price: £1,000 - £1,200

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Elena Pavlovna, (1807-1873) Princess Charlotte of Wurttemberg. Russian Grand Duchess, wife of Grand Duke Michael Pavlovich of Russia. A.L.S., Helene, two pages, to Count Orloff, on printed stationery featuring a gold and white embossed monogram E surmounted by the Imperial crown, in French. The Grand Duchess states that she is impatient to see her correspondent and thank him, asking him to come to her home that evening if the Empress does not prevent him. With integral address leaf (neatly detached). Estimated Price: £200 - £300



Alexander II (1818-1881) Emperor of Russia 1855-81. A printed ticket issued by the Great Western Railway, printed on a blue card with black and red text, numbered 95 and admitting the bearer to the Arrival Platform of Paddington Station on 15th May 1874, for the arrival of Tsar Alexander II, and bearing the printed text at the base 'The Special Train conveying His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia will arrive at Paddington about 11.30 a.m.'

Notes: Alexander II initially travelled to England on his yacht, Derzhava,

accompanied by an entourage of more than evich Alexander.

a dozen aides and officials, including his eldest son, Tsarevich Alexander. Estimated Price: \$80 - \$100

Nicholas Alexandrovich, (1843-1865) Tsesarevich of Russia, son of Tsar Alexander II. Extremely rare A.L.S., Nicolas, one page, (Nice?), 12th April 1865, to a lady, in French, on stationery featuring an embossed crown. The Tsesarevich presents his correspondent with some roses, which he places at her feet, 'and impatiently wait for the time I will hold your hand', concluding that he belongs 'To you, the only one, for life'. In a postscript he enquires about Nadezda Petrovna and asks if she has forgiven him for a musical bouquet.

Autograph letters of Alexandrovich are rare and desirable as a result of his tragic, untimely death at the age of 21. The letter bears the pencil date of Nice, 12th April 1865, in the hand of a recognised expert in autograph letters. If correct, the present letter would have been written less than two weeks before the Tsesarevich succumbed to cerebrospinal meningitis and passed away in the South of France, where he had been sent in the hope that his health would improve.

Notes: A romantically penned letter, it is an equally romantic notion to consider that the letter and roses may have been presented to his fiancée, Princess Dagmar of Denmark (1847-1928). It is believed that on his deathbed, Nicholas expressed the wish that the Princess become the bride of his younger brother and successor as Tsesarevich, Alexander. In 1866 they were married, later becoming

NICOLAS Alar. perfortanced la manier lotis menagere Jan Lotes, at chens No amoment & tous lenes main I how deale pour la vie Violas .

Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia from 1881-94. Estimated Price: £400 - £600

Michael Nikolaeievich, (1832-1909) Grand Duke of Russia, son of Tsar Nicholas I. A.L.S., Mikhail, four pages, Tiflis, 14th April 1867, to a friend, in Cyrillic. Nikolayevich announces 'I congratulate you, the proud father, and my dear friend, from the bottom of my heart with your firstborn and my dear godson Alexei!' and continues to add that he hopes 'Your dear wife will recover by the time these lines reach Brussels and that everything will be well. My wife is interested in the details of Catherine's delivery, whether she suffered for a long time....' The Grand Duke also writes about his own son, who has just reached the age of 8 years, 'He confessed for the first time and did it quite consciously. Yesterday we received the Sacraments with the whole family' as well as referring to other matters, 'Our general attention is drawn to the politics: how will Luxembourg and the Eastern problem be resolved?!! Heavy



clouds have impended and the world seems to be quite doubtful!', and also mentioning Prince Albert of Saxe-Altenburg, 'He is a modest and kind person who behaves well and has got a footing in society'. Estimated Price: £300 - £400

Alexander III. (1845-1894) Emperor of Russia 1881-94. Father of Tsar Nicholas II. A good, lengthy A.L.S., with his initial A, eight pages, Saint Petersburg, 24th March 1867, to Nikolay Alekseyevich, in Cyrillic, on his personal printed stationery featuring the cipher of Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich. The Grand Duke thanks his correspondent for their letter and the issue of Kolokol and continues 'I think that you are partially fair writing that I am considered to be a child yet. But unfortunately this is not all. Those things that you write about the deceased brother are unfortunately fair, I have already heard them. As far as you are concerned, very well have I noticed repugnance of many people to you, but if one pays attention to this silly social fads then no peace shall he have.....This most foolish story with papers that you

have sent to our historical society only proves enormous foolishness

of sulky and presumptuous Count Orlov-Davydov' and further adds 'Prince Vyazemsky greeted me with a very well written welcoming speech. I hope that the Count shall renounce this foolish proceeding. I wish I met more such people like you and one of my other friends Voronstov-Dashkov: with you and with him I can live and do something for our motherland, and with such brutes as Shuvalov one can come to a bad end. I recommend you Voronstov, he is a man in a thousand and one who you can count on as you would on yourself. He is a modest person and a man of great tact who will make no bones about telling the truth to one's face'. Alexander also writes of his family and their travel plans, hoping to visit Copenhagen, London and possibly Paris, 'From Denmark I hope to go to England to visit my wife's poor sister who is still sick....The Queen of Denmark is still in London at her daughter's and the King has already returned to Denmark. In the end of April we expect the King of Greece who will stay here for some time and then go with us to Copenhagen.'



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Estimated Price: £1.000 - £1.500

Vladimir Alexandrovich, (1847-1909) Grand Duke of Russia, son of Tsar Alexander II. Brother of Tsar Alexander III. A.L.S., Vladimir, one page, Moscow, 6th May 1883, to Prince Nikolay Aleksevevich Orlov, on the attractive printed stationery of the Kremlin, in Cyrillic. The Grand Duke informs his correspondent that he will be examining the Alexander Barracks at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning, which should take him about an hour and a half, therefore asking Orlov 'to send me your cordon bleu par excellence' at a guarter to 11 o'clock. Notes: Nikolay Alekseyevich Orlov (1827-1885) Russian Diplomat, Ambassador of Russia to Belgium 1859-69 and to the Austro-Hungarian Empire 1869-70. Estimated Price: £300 - £400

Nicholas Nikolaevich, (1856-1929) Russian Grand Duke and General in World War I. Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies 1914-15. A.L.S., Nikolai, in Cyrillic, seven pages, Saint Petersburg, 30th January 1899, to Princess Maria Bariatinsky, in Cyrillic, on the attractive printed stationery of the Grand Duke featuring his embossed name surmounted by an Imperial crown. Nikolaevich thanks his correspondent for a photograph and apologises for not having sent a letter with his own photograph, and further apologises for writing in Cyrillic and not French, which he cannot manage

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without outside help. Estimated Price: £300 - £400

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Anastasia, (1868-1935) Princess of Montenegro and Grand Duchess of Russia, wife of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich of Russia, Sister of Princess Milica, Grand Duchess Militza of Russia, A.L.S., eight pages, Nice, 3rd February 1894, to a Countess, on her attractive monogrammed stationery, in French. The Grand Duchess warmly thanks her correspondent for her letter, adding that she had also received news from Grand Duke Alexis that the Countess had made a toast to her health at the Vladimir Palace, and continues to report on the weather in the South of France and Monte Carlo ('which is a little paradise, although the bad luck pursues me in gambling') which is gradually helping her health, and also commenting on the poor health of Tsar Alexander III, about which they had all been very concerned. Estimated Price: £300 - £400

Marie Pavlovna, (1854-1920) Duchess Marie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Grand Duchess of Russia, a prominent hostess known as the grandest of the grand duchesses, who maintained an open rivalry with Empress Maria Feodorovna. A.L.S., Marie, four pages, St. Petersburg, 14/27th April 1911, to [Edouard] Detaille, in French, on her personal monogrammed mourning stationery. The Grand Duchess thanks her correspondent for his letter and 'the happy arrival of your delightful painting', apologising for the delay in doing so, and continuing to remark 'I am however so proud and happy of possessing this beautiful painting', adding that it is greatly admired and praising the detail given to the regiment and uniforms.

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Notes: Edouard Detaille (1848-1912) French Painter and Military Artist, noted for his precision and realistic detail.

Estimated Price: £250 - £350

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Olga Alexandrovna, (1882-1960) Grand Duchess of Russia, sister of Tsar Nicholas II. A.L.S., Olga, one page, 19th November & 2nd December 1927, to Nikolasha and Nadya Orloff, in Cyrillic. The Grand Duchess states that her mother is very touched and sends thanks for her correspondent's letters, further adding that they are living safely through fatiguing days, and commenting 'The house is full of flowers - and we are overloaded with work and answers which we are busy with and will be busy for a long time.' The Grand Duchess also asks to be sent some photographs of her correspondent's children, remarking 'Tikhon and Irina are almost of the same age and they got acquainted in Crimea'. Accompanied by the original envelope hand addressed by the Grand Duchess to Princess Orloff in France. Estimated Price: £600 - £800

Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 22;

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. Red chrysanthemums in a vase. Signed and dated Olga 1938. Oil on canvas laid on board. 46 x 55 cm. Price est.: Dkr 15,000-20,000 / € 2,000-2,700



Auction house Empire, Moscow, on September 27;

Gold coin, 1712 without designation of nominal value. Portrait with a big head of Emperor Peter the Great. Gold, 3.45 g. Estimate 6 500 000 rubles / \$ 175.000







Badge of St. Petersburg ladies' committee of the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna of the Russian Red Cross in favor of Marie's hospital shelter.

On the reverse side of the medal engraved: "1906 Alexander Konstantinovich Prokopchenko." Unknown workshop, St. Petersburg, 1906 Gold, enamel. Size 51h x 23 mm. Weight 8.80 g. Hallmarks on the ear: Assay "56", and the initials of the assay inspector Ya Lyapunov, master illegible. This type of badge, made in gold, is encountered rarely. Estimate rub 90000-100000 / \$ 2500-2700

Badge "In memory of the visit to Tula of Their Imperial Majesty Alexander III and Maria Feodorovna. May 9, 1887". Unknown workshop, Russia 1887 Silver, gilt and enamel. Weight 7.20 g. Size 23h x 29 mm. Estimate 60000-70000 Rub / 1600-1900 \$





Badge of the Society for provision for the poor and sick children, "In memory of the 20th anniversary of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. 1894-1914". Unknown workshop, St. Petersburg, 1914-1917's. Bronze, silver, gilding. Weight 26,33 gr. Size 53h x 32mm. Estimate 5500-6500 rubles / 150-180 \$

Badge from Kherson district "In memory of the XXV-th anniversary. 1890-1915". On the back side engraved: "National Teacher Dmitriyu Nikolayevich Grushevskyi". By Firm Faberge, St. Peterburg, 1915 Gold, silver, diamonds, enamel. Weight 6.85 g. Diameter 25 mm. Hallmarks on the ear:



Assay "56", master named "CF". In the original case, which on the top of the cover has applied the state eagle and the inscription "K. Faberge court jeweler, St. Petersburg Moscow. Kiev. Odessa. London" with gold letters. Estimate 180000-200000 rubles / \$ 4800-5400



Badge of the Committee of the Red Cross, Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Milica Nikolaevna. "To help the victims of the war of 1914-1915." Workshop D. Kuchkina, Moscow, 1915, Bronze, silver. Weight 3.90 g. Size 30x24 mm. Estimate 2800-3200 rubles / 80-90 \$

Arman Antiques & Co., Yerevan, Armenia, on October 10;



Imperial Russian portrait on ivory of Empress Catherine The Great. Gilt bronze frame, 12.5 cm. Estimated Price: \$1,500 - \$2,500



Russian Enamel Auction House, Moscow, on October 11;

A plate with the image of Emperor Nicholas I.

Russia, mid-second half of XIX century. Porcelain; Covered, painted grisaille, gilding.

Without brand. Poorly legible signature red "Kashentsov"(?). Diameter 21.5 cm.



Did you know....



... That in Kars, now-a-days in Turkey, is located a hunting lodge built for Emperor Nicholas II. Today called the Catherina Hunting Lodge, it is a hidden treasure in the middle of a pine forest in Sarıkamış, Kars. The Katerina Av Köşkü (Catherine's Hunting Lodge), is a half-hour walk out into the pastoral outskirts across the road from what look like fortified buildings but are actually the ruins of an old brick factory. The low-slung lodge is best viewed from afar when it makes a fetching picture against a backdrop of fir trees. Close up, all is dereliction, the interior decoration long since stripped out and the walls papered with graffiti. Regardless, this is a popular picnic site with cows

ambling past the front door. The lodge was made in the Baltic style. It was built without a single nail.



Little is known about the building although it's assumed to have been built between 1900 and 1902 during a 40-year period of on/off Russian occupation of this part of Turkey.

In the 19th century the region around Sarıkamış became a conflict zone between the Ottoman and Russian empires. Battles took place at nearby Zivin in 1829, 1855 and 1877. After the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, Sarıkamış became part of the Russian empire and lower Sarıkamış was developed into a small, modern town. Being close to the Ottoman border, it was also a military station with barracks for two regiments. It had a railway station that was the railhead for the line running from Kars and Alexandropol. An important battle



took place between the armies of the Ottoman and Russian empires in and around the city in late December 1914-January 1915 as part of the Caucasus Campaign of World War I.

Today Sarikamish is better known in Turkey as a ski resort. The total length of its tracks is 16 kilometers. The area is becoming increasingly popular among Russians. Thus, among the latest initiatives to be undertaken by the Turkish authorities to attract more attention to the region by the tourists from Russia, is to start the restoration of the hunting residence of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II. To restore the house is assessed by the tourism authorities of Turkey to take about two years. According to the mayor, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism will restore the hunting lodge and build a hundred bed capacity hotel matching the architecture lodge. The lodge has 24 rooms, and after the construction of the hotel with hundred additional rooms, the region will be able offer its services to the visitors with 124 rooms that combine history and nature.

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJcG5TkHk6E

