

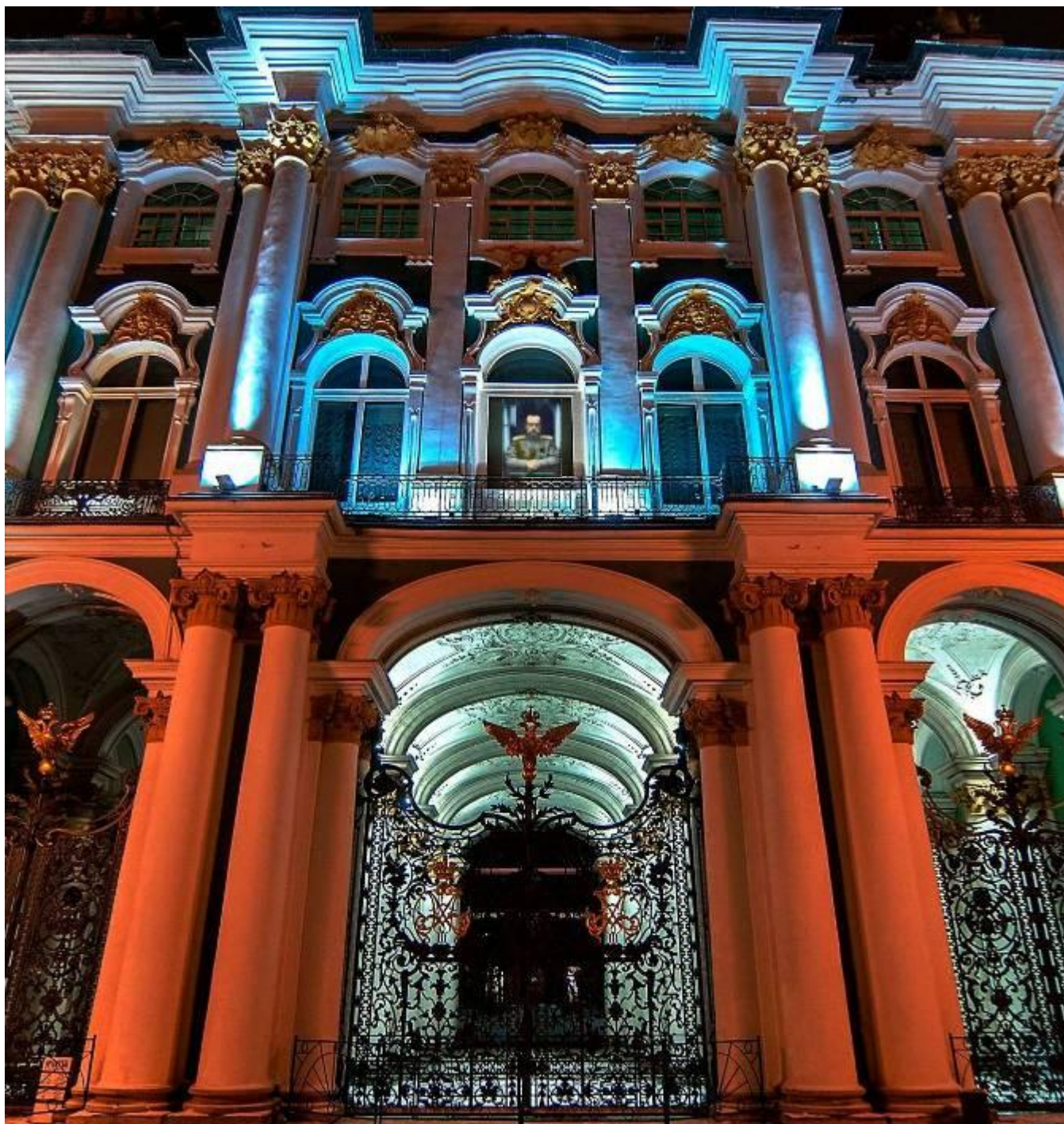


# Romanov News Новости Романовых

*By Paul Kulikovsky*

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**Congratulations to the State Hermitage Museum with its 250th anniversary**





In 1764, Empress Catherine II acquired more than 200 paintings from the Berlin merchant Johann Ernst Gotzkowski, but it is not known when the collection arrived in St. Petersburg. It is obvious that it happened somewhere at the end of the year, so it was decided that the Day of St. Catherine - 7th of December - is the correct date to celebrate the creation of the Hermitage.

In an effort to maintain the prestige of Russia as a great European power and its reputation as an enlightened monarch, Catherine actively shaped the art gallery, however, using the advice of experts like Diderot, M. Grimm, E-M. Falcone, and D. A. Golitsyn.

The collection reflected the artistic tastes of the time of its formation and the masterpieces of the leading masters of the Flemish school, works by Rembrandt and "small" Dutch paintings by Italian artists of XVI-XVII centuries. They hung in the North Hall and galleries of the Small Hermitage, in the foyer of the Hermitage Theatre, in three rooms adjacent to the Raphael gallery and in the halls of the second floor of the Great Hermitage.

With unlimited funds, Catherine through diplomats and special agents bought entire collections and large lots of pictures. Of particular importance for the formation of the Hermitage Art Gallery as a first-class collection of paintings was the acquisition of the Crozat collection (1772) and the Walpole (1779).

According to the list in 1797 in the Hermitage and in the palaces were 3996 paintings. Sculptures, mostly antique, went to Tsarskoye Selo. The empress' genuine passion was architecture and architectural graphics. "I am passionately fond of books about architecture; my whole room is full of them, and that's not enough for me" - she wrote. However, the strongest passion of Catherine was picking carved stones - antique, vintage Western, as well as works by contemporary carvers. In 1790 the Empress wrote M. Grimm - "My museum in the Hermitage consists, not counting paintings and loggias of Raphael, of 38 000 books, four rooms filled with books and prints, 10.000 carved stones, about 10,000 drawings and assembly of natural science, filling two large halls".

*Today - "The Hermitage is a unique institution that combines a beautiful art collection with the memory of Russian national history. This is a museum of culture, a museum of art, a museum of Russian*

*history, and also the museum of Russian architecture. The Hermitage is the world culture encyclopedia written in Russian" - Director Mikhael Piotrovsky, the State Hermitage Museum, 2014.*

The Hermitage Museum had an extensive program for the celebration, including the opening of new permanent and temporary exhibitions, restored rooms and buildings, a solemn birthday ceremony, and presentation of gifts to the museum.

The momentum was building up from the start of 2014, and then escalated from December 1st, with the presentation of the new "triple headed eagle" as a decorative completion of the Telegraph Tower on Winter Palace and each day there were several events, including; opening of the exhibition "Gifts of the East and West Imperial Court for 300 years" in the General Staff; a "3D Ball of History" on Palace Square; laying of flowers on St. Catherine Day at the tomb of Catherine the Great in the Peter and Paul Cathedral; opening of the exhibition "Her Imperial Majesty's Hermitage" in the Nicholas Hall of the Winter Palace; a solemn ceremony to mark the Day of St. George in St. George Hall of the Winter Palace; presentation of the Great Church in the Winter Palace after its restoration; opening of the exhibition "Russian culture in the second half of the XVIII century" in the Winter Palace and the celebration continues into the next year.



### ***The Eagle returned to the Telegraph Tower***

On 6 December on the Telegraph Tower at the Winter Palace was installed a gilded three-headed eagle on its roof top. The sculpture is 2 meters high.



The Telegraph House was built of wood in 1833 by engineer Belyaev for a system of government communications - optical telegraph. In 1837 the tower burned, and was then rebuilt in stone.

It is situated on one of the most prominent places - on the northwest corner of the Winter Palace closest to the Palace Bridge.

At the top of the construction was placed a gilded eagle with a height of more than two and a half meters and weighing over half a ton, seated on a ball - To symbolize the statehood of the Russian Empire.

Traditionally the eagle is depicted with two heads, as the eagles on the towers of the Kremlin. However, for the Winter Palace the eagle was made as a triceps. This is due to the fact that you can see the eagle from two sides - from the Neva and





from the Admiralty and from all directions it should look like a two-headed eagle. The eagle stayed on the Telegraph Tower to the 1930s, when it was taken down by the Bolsheviks.

Video - 1) <http://www.topspb.tv/news/news60129/>  
2) [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/124423](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/124423)



### ***Francis Bacon***

In the afternoon on 6 of December opened the exhibition "Francis Bacon and the art of the past" in the General Staff building, a new part of the Hermitage Museum.

And why is Francis Bacon so interesting? Well one fact is that he is one of the most expensive artists in the world. His triptych painting "Three Sketches from Lucien Freud" made in 1969 sold at Christie's in 2013 for 142.4 million dollars - a record for the artist and for the art market.



Another is that British Francis Bacon (1909-1992) is recognized as one of the greatest masters of the XX century. His works are dedicated numerous exhibitions, and has become an object of study by researchers, art historians, psychologists, and philosophers. Like any major artistic phenomenon, it reflects not only the complex inner world of the artist, but cast the time and the circumstances in which he lived and worked.



And there were a huge interest in this exhibition. At the opening in the General staff there were a large number of photographers, journalist, TV crews and guests. The State Hermitage is not just a museum with old antique objects, it is a modern - some might even say "provoking modern" - museum with a gallery of art covering all times - even the future arts. It is fascinating to see how Director Mikhail

Piotrovsky is expanding the frames of our belief about what a museum is and show us what it could be - a leading world art educational center.

The exhibition presents thirteen paintings of Francis Bacon from the collection of the Centre of Fine Arts Sainsbury, On display are also paintings from the Tate Gallery, London; Art Gallery and Museum in Aberdeen, Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, USA; Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin, as well as from private collections. To complement the exhibition are art works from the collection of the State Hermitage, from Egyptian art and specimens of Greek and Roman sculpture to paintings by Velazquez and Rembrandt, Matisse and Picasso, Michelangelo and Rodin. Francis Bacon, like many other artists, looks back at his predecessors, examines and uses the experience of the great masters of the past and his contemporaries.



Video - <http://www.tv100.ru/news/vystavka-rabot-frensis-a-bekona-v-glavnom-shtabe-103099/>

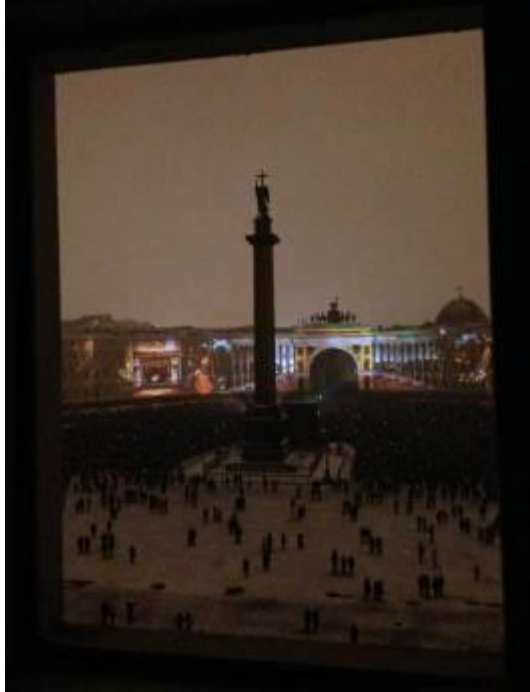
## "Ball of History"



In the evening there was a big 3D-show called "Ball of history" on the Palace Square. To the sounds of classical music by Prokofiev, Schubert, Piazzolla, Shostakovich, Mozart and Tchaikovsky, was on the facade of the General Staff building projected scenes from the history of the museum. The show - 12 minutes of colorful pictures on the walls of the General

staff building - gathered more than 200 thousand people. The many people made the city authorities block off traffic in the nearby streets.

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



Prince George Yourievsky, Ludmila and I, and several other guests saw the opening of the light show on the General Staff Building standing inside the Hermitage on third floor, actually just above the balcony. It had just started to snow and on the Palace Square stood thousands of people, so this seemed like a "grand place" to watch it all. And we could see it all, but not really feel the atmosphere and get the surround sound, so later we went down on the Palace Square to see it all once again.







### ***The III Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum***

On the 7th - St. Catherine's Day - Paul Rodzianko, Ludmila and I, went to the Aleksandrinsky Theatre for the opening ceremony of the III Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum. It gathers the Russian cultural elite for discussion on the protection and promotion of the Russian culture, the support of cultural initiatives on the regional, federal, and international levels, and the development of the international cultural collaboration.

We came a bit early and found a place in the cafe, where we talked with Sergei M. Nekrasov, Director of All Russian Pushkin Museum.

The Chairman of the Federation Council Valentina Matvienko - and as CEO of the organizing committee for the Year of Culture in Russia - made the welcome address and was followed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Olga Golodets, St. Petersburg Governor Georgy Poltavchenko, Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Tolstoy, Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China Cai Wu, the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation



Vladimir Medinsky, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, and the President of the Museum Union of Russia, Director of the State Hermitage Museum Mikhail Piotrovsky.



After the speeches started an entertainment part opened by the violinist and conductor Sergey Stadler, who played the sonata №3 "Ballad" of Eugene Ysaye; modern dance by soloists Alla Bocharov and Maxim Tkachenko of the State Academic Ballet Theatre, a classic part from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" by students of Russian Ballet Academy, the song "Charming St. Petersburg" by a choir of students from the "Chimes" of St. Petersburg children art school named after MI Glinka, led by Vladimir Begletsov. It was very good and particular the Nutcracker part I enjoyed, as it reminded me of the very first ballet I saw in St. Petersburg - it was the Nutcracker in the Mariinsky Theater.

Then followed thematic sections and round tables, which continued from 7nd to 9th December in St Petersburg. All over the city was workshops, presentations, lectures, etc, related to culture.

Video - 1) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1272043/>  
2) [http://mir24.tv/video\\_news/11787182/11779219](http://mir24.tv/video_news/11787182/11779219)

*On 7 December even Google made a note of the Hermitage birthday with a Google doodle - "250th Anniversary of the Hermitage Museum"*





### ***The General Staff building***

On December 7th, in the afternoon we attended the inauguration of the permanent exhibitions in the General Staff. The ceremony was opened by the General Director of the State Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky.



The General Staff Building is one of the most famous architectural monuments in Saint Petersburg. It was designed by architect K. I. Rossi and was built between 1820 and 1830. The project revolved around the architect's idea to unite two separate buildings with a triumphal arch, a monument to Russia's victory in the war of 1812. This majestic arch is a symbol Russia's glory and military triumph; it forms a symmetrical axe with the central part of the Winter Palace.

The appearance of the General Staff Building possesses a certain strictness, the lower level is interpreted as a rustic basement, while the walls of the upper two floors are smooth. Modest cornices and architraves surround the windows of the third floor (the Parade floor). The smooth walls clearly emphasize the raised frieze, and three Corinthian porticos break up the 580m length of the building. The eastern wing of the General Staff Building originally housed the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several other ministries of the Russian Empire. From 1917, different institutions and organizations occupied the building including People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the General Staff was located in the western wing.



In the restored rooms of the East Wing are shown paintings of the XIX -XX century, the paintings of the Impressionists and a collection of Russian and European decorative arts - A pearl string of paintings including several by Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Henri Fantin-Latour, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, Auguste Renoir, Paul Cezanne, Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, and Henri Matisse.



In the restored rooms of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the apartment of Chancellor Nesselrode (Foreign minister of Imperial Russia 1822–56), and Ministry of Finance are a lot of Russian commemorative medals, documents, paintings, bust, furniture, etc.







In the next rooms is another interesting exhibition - the "Gifts of the East and West Imperial Court in 300 years" - showing not only a deep respect for the rulers of foreign states to Russia, but their interest in developing relations. There are presented about 400 works of fine and decorative arts, weapons, books, snuff boxes.







One of the most interesting gifts at the exhibition is the "Stone Cup", which belonged to Peter I and Catherine Alexeevna. During a solemn feast the Danish king, after drinking from it for the health of the Tsar, gave him the cup.

Nicholas II on the occasion of his coronation was given a great wall hanging "Fairy Goddaughter", adapted from the fairy tale "Sleeping Beauty", a gift from the French government. During the reign of Alexander III, there was a close relationship with the royal house of Denmark, as the Empress Maria Feodorovna was Danish Princess Dagmar, and as her dowry in Russia was brought Danish books. It is decorated with semiprecious stones.



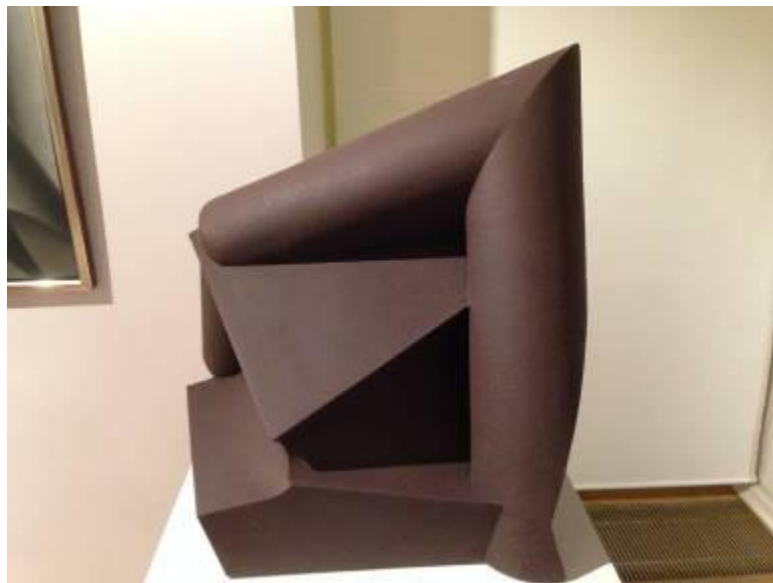
On display is a horsecloths decorated with 16 thousand diamonds - a gift from Turkey to Empress Catherine II, Mughal treasures sent by the rulers of India with a caravan in the XIX century, including vessels, entirely covered with precious stones, 54 gold coins presented to Emperor Alexander III, and much more.

Videos - 1) <http://tass.ru/spb-news/1617738>  
2) <http://5-tv.ru/news/92223/>



### **Gift from USA**

We also saw the exhibition "Gift collection of modern art from the Hermitage Foundation (USA): 1948-2013". This exhibition is based on 70 items brought from USA as a gift to the State Hermitage, among them pieces of applied art, furniture, pottery, jewellery and wall patterns.



*"All this is only for the mice and myself to admire!"*

*"A great wind is blowing, and that gives you either imagination or a headache."*

*"I shall be an autocrat: that's my trade. And the good Lord will forgive me: that's his."*

*"The more a man knows, the more he forgives."*

*"My heart predicted little happiness; ambition alone sustained me."*

Empress Catherine the Great



## Birthday Gala dinner

In the evening were representatives of official delegations, scientific and cultural community, the participants of the St. Petersburg International Forum and special guest of Hermitage invited for a Gala Banquet in the Winter Palace, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the State Hermitage Museum.

We arrived at the Nikolaevsky entrance (at the Atlantes) for a welcome cocktail and went to the Hermitage Theatre for a concert.



Top right - Prince George Yourievsky and Paul Kulikovsky arriving. Left - Princess and Prince Dimitri Romanovich. Above Paul (1st left) and Chauncie Rodzianko (3rd left).





It was a special feeling to walk through the almost empty halls and corridors of the Winter Palace to the Big Field Marshal Hall. Excited we sat down and then a cadet orchestra came marching in beating the drums so the floor was shaking - one suddenly were happy not sitting in first row!



Some of the Hermitage's major patrons then presented their gift - Minister of Culture V. Medinsky presented a painting of Grigory Orlov, on behalf of Prime Minister D. Medvedev. One of the more interesting was from the President of Russian Railways Vladimir Yakunin, who gave the Hermitage an unique historical subject - the personal portfolio of Emperor Alexander I, which used by him on formal occasions during the Congress of Vienna in 1814-1815's. The briefcase made of morocco leather, gilt bronze and using gold and silver threads, was purchased from a private collector, and

now returned to its historic homeland thanks to the charity fund "Transsoyuz", where Yakunin is the board chairman.







The Potanin Foundation presented the documentary "Hermitage Revealed", by British Margie Kinmont, an author of numerous documentaries, including: work on the Mariinsky Theatre, the "Nutcracker" ballet, and Hollywood. The filmmaker received unprecedented access to the storage and restoration workshops of Hermitage. The film tells not only about the unique exhibits, but also the fate of people who have dedicated themselves to the museum. As they said about the documentary - 250 years in the making!

There were only a few steps to the Jordan Gallery - at the famous Jordan Staircase - where the Gala Dinner took place. This is one of the galleries on the first floor of the Winter Palace, a three-nave baroque gallery with massive columns supporting the majestic arches. At the columns are busts and sculptures from the antique age.



At our table we had the pleasure of the company of David Cholmondeley, 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley, the Lord Great Chamberlain of the United Kingdom; Count Peter Schermetev and spouse; the Czech Minister of Culture Daniel Herman and spouse; and the President of the State Historical Museum Alexander Shkurko.



On our way out of the Hermitage we passed the 5th century "River God" that once belonged in the temple of the Parthenon in Athens - A remarkable marble sculpture from the Elgin Marbles collection in the British Museum, for the first time ever on loan to any museum. The figure is believed to be of the River Ilissos, a stream along the banks of which Socrates is believed to have walked and discussed philosophy. Although the statue is headless, the marble figure is of a man heaving himself sideways out of the water, a powerful fluid masterpiece of statuary.

There were plenty of controversy surrounding this exhibit, as not only was it an English loan to Russia in the middle of the present "second cold war", but it received some dissenting voices from Greece, who have long held that it belongs to Greece. It is a subject of a long-standing dispute between the U.K. and Greece, the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum constitute 30 per cent of the extant collection of 5th century classical marble art structures that once belonged in the temple of the Parthenon in Athens. Named after Thomas Bruce, the Earl of Elgin, who acquired the rights in a one-sided colonial transaction with the Ottomans, the marbles were shipped to England in 1812. However, when Greece demanded its repatriation after its independence Britain refused.

It is not only a cultural triumph for the State Hermitage Museum to have the English "crown marble" on loan, it is certainly also a political triumph, showing that the cultural ties - "the cultural bridge" - is still open - Fantastic!

The Big Field Marshal Hall was also the setting for another remarkable event the next day.

***President Putin gave the Hermitage two Faberge clocks for its 250 years anniversary.***

Monday evening, 8 December, was a ceremonial meeting with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. In the ceremony participated Prince Dimitri Romanovich Romanov, Princess Dorrit Romanov, Prince George Yourievsky and Paul Kulikovsky, together with the Chairman of the Federation Council Valentina Matvienko, several minister of the Russian Government, directors of the main Russian museums, main sponsors of the State Hermitage Museum, and members of the Presidential Council for Science and Education (They had a meeting just before with the President).





President of Russia Vladimir Putin:

*"Good evening, friends,*

*It is no exaggeration to say that yesterday, December 7, saw a very significant, historic event: the State Hermitage marked its 250th anniversary. I want to congratulate all the experts, art history and culture connoisseurs with all my heart, and offer special congratulations to the museum staff.*

*It is natural that I should say these special words to these special people because throughout all times, the keepers of this incredible treasure – which is a source of pride not just for our nation and our culture but for global culture – this treasure was kept, studied, passed on from hand to hand, preserved in the hardest, most difficult times in our history by the people who worked here. There have been entire dynasties working here, entire generations.*

*It is hard to imagine that 250 years ago, the museum's collection began with 225 paintings bought from abroad by Catherine the Great, and now it houses over 3 million works. The Hermitage is certainly an attraction for millions of people from our nation and around the world.*

*People come here, they travel and fly here, not only to look at the masterpieces of global art, but also to learn about the history of the creation of these masterpieces, to learn more about their authors, their lives and the traditions of their work. In this regard, we can say that the Hermitage is an invaluable and genuinely limitless source of knowledge.*

*The Hermitage organises dozens of various programs that can be considered benchmarks for modern museology. I will particularly note the museum's outstanding website: it is simply a wonderful initiative that allows millions of people from around the world to experience the masterpieces of global art without leaving their homes.*

*Earlier, Mr Piotrovsky [director of the State Hermitage] and I were talking about creating a network of branch museums, as I called it, but Mr Piotrovsky called it by a different term: satellites. In essence, these are small branches of the Hermitage in other Russian cities: Yekaterinburg, Omsk and Vladivostok.*

*Plans are in place, and one way or another, the plans are moving forward. I am certain – absolutely certain – that these museums will be unique, not just as regional centers but as national attractions. The Hermitage has created a restoration centre; I just saw the photographs, and it is simply an outstanding centre. An Armory Museum is being created in the Exchange building. So overall, the Hermitage is developing.*

*I want to once again congratulate the Hermitage and all art lovers on this anniversary. I wish you all the best, and for all your plans to be realized. Naturally, as is customary in these situations, my colleagues and I did not arrive empty-handed. I would like to present a gift to the Hermitage: a clock created by Carl Faberge, and a clock-egg, another of Carl Faberge's works.*

*The first is a clock created for the 25th anniversary of the marriage between Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna. The second is called the Rothschild-Faberge-Clock-Egg. I hope they will find a place in the Hermitage's displays.*

*Thank you very much."*



Video - <http://eng.kremlin.ru/news/23361>



While President Putin was making his way around the tables, talking with the guests, I hurried to make a few photos of the gifts.

When the president came to "our table" he first greeted Prince Dimitri Romanovich, then Princess Dorrit, me, and Prince George Yourievsky, and then stood for a brief moment for a short conversation with us.



## ***The two Fabergé clocks***

*By Nick Nicholson*

The Russian President Putin ended his speech to great applause, the Petersburg native smiled and said: "As is customary in these situations, my colleagues and I did not arrive empty-handed..." and it was that moment, particularly for admirers of Fabergé, which may have proved the highlight of all the events. President Putin presented two extraordinary Fabergé clocks to the museum as a personal gift; the first commissioned in 1891 during the reign of Emperor Alexander III by members of the Imperial family to celebrate the Emperor and Empress' 25th wedding anniversary on the 9 November 1891 (Old style 28 October) and the second created in 1902 was one of the exceptionally rare Easter Eggs made not for the Emperor, but for a private citizen.

Both of these clocks were international sensations when they appeared at auction for the first time during the last 20 years, and each set world auction records at the time of their sale. Both entered into the collection of Russian magnate Alexander Ivanov, and had been on display at his Fabergé Museum in Baden, Germany. How the two pieces were acquired privately by the President for presentation to



the museum is unknown and beyond the scope of this piece, but the fact remains that two of the most important clocks created by the House of Fabergé will now be on permanent view at the Hermitage.



“The Alexander III 25th Anniversary Clock” was ordered by H.I.H. Grand Duke Georgi Mikhailovich from the house of Fabergé on behalf of 32 members of the Russian Imperial Family. The group, which comprised the uncles and aunts of the Sovereign together with their spouses and children, ordered an allegorical clock as a sign of their affection and respect. The undulating baroque architectural form of the clock is similar to cartel clocks of the Louis XIV period after which it was modeled, but the face of the clock writhes with 25 individual putti each representing a year of the couple’s marriage, and an enormous Romanov family griffin supporting the two heraldic shields of the Emperor and Empress, signifying the union of the Houses of Russia and Denmark. The putti are individually modeled, each with its own attribute. Some hold flowers, others blow trumpets one even reads sheet music, on which the first bars of “God Save the Tsar” are engraved where only the putto may see them. The verso of the clock is engraved with the names of each of the donors, and at the top, in an elaborately cast and chased wreath, a large diamond-set “chiffre” or monogram of the Emperor and the Empress was mounted (it was subsequently removed after the Revolution, it was either broken up, or its whereabouts are unknown), while a crowned

double-headed eagle soars above the entire composition.

The clock was initially delivered in “oxidized” silver (meaning patinated to a black matte finish), but we know from archival photographs that by 1902, extensive polishing had returned the clock to a fairly bright silver. The piece was first exhibited at the famous von Derviz exhibition sponsored by Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, and after the exhibition, the piece was returned to the Antichkov Palace, where it remained in the Benois-designed “Blue Salon” until the revolution.



*The above photo from the Anichkov Palace, shows how it originally looked. One can clearly see the now missing intertwined monogram of "A" and "M" - Alexander and Maria - set in diamonds, just below the double headed eagle.*

The clock was left behind by the Dowager Empress when she escaped Russia through Kiev and the Crimea during the revolution. It was sold by the Soviet authorities later. The clock was rediscovered in an American collection, and was exhibited for the second time in the 1993-1994 exhibition Fabergé: Imperial Jeweler at the Hermitage, in Paris, and then in London. Extensive research and documentation accompanied the clock, provided by the noted expert Archduke Dr. Geza von Habsburg, Dr. Marina Lopato, and the Russian Fabergé expert, Valentin Skurlov.

When the owner decided to sell the clock in 1996, Christie's New York was chosen, where I was then a specialist in the Russian Works of Art department. The piece generated extraordinary excitement for many reasons. It was among the very first times that access to Russian sources for research were available, and thanks to the work of von Habsburg, Lopato, Skurlov, Christie's International Russian department head Anthony Phillips, and London department specialist Alexis de Tiesenhausen, a new level of scholarship for a Faberge object was available to potential buyers. 1994 was the first time that an Faberge object at auction was published with an original bill (The Winter Egg) but the clock was the first time original internal documentation from both Fabergé and the Imperial Archives were used as resources.

Russian buyers were also beginning to participate in the auction market, and so the catalogue was published both in English and in Russian – a first for an auction house. The Russian ruble appeared on the conversion board at Christie's for the very first time – but only after an announcement from the podium that the board would be using the “official” rate of conversion, rather than the actual “market” rate. The price realized was \$1,652,500, setting a triple record; for silver (the Hanover Chandelier from the collection of Hubert de Givenchy having set the previous silver record of just over 1m at Christie's Monaco on 4 December 1993, lot 95.), clocks, and Fabergé (other than an Imperial Egg).



The Rothschild Egg of 1902 belongs to the exceedingly rare group of only 13 Fabergé “Easter Eggs” made for private clients rather than for the Imperial Family. Eggs of this type were made for the industrialist Kelch and Nobel families, the members of the aristocratic Yusupov and Marlborough families, and for the famed collector Charlotte Béatrice Ephrussi (née de Rothschild). The Rothschild Egg, however, shares an important form with two other Faberge pieces – the Cockerel Egg, made for Empress Maria Feodorovna in 1900, and the Chanticleer Egg, made for Varvara Kelch in 1904, in that it features both a clock and an automaton, a rare combination in Faberge works.

While the Cockerel Egg is enameled a deep violet-blue, and Chanticleer Egg a clear cobalt blue, the Rothschild egg is in Faberge's signature “salmon pink” enamel, a highly prized tour de force of execution using thin layers of alternating pinks, straw yellow and translucent milk white enamels to create a nacreous and opalescent surface for which the house was justly famous.

The clock was created for Madame Charlotte Beatrice Ephrussi, a member of the illustrious Paris and Vienna-based family of collectors of art in 1902. In 1905, the clock was given by Mme. Ephrussi to her

sister-in-law Baroness Germaine (Halphen) de Rothschild (wife of Madame Ephrussi's brother Baron Edouard de Rothschild) on her engagement. The clock passed through direct descent in the family after Baroness Germaine's death in 1958, and until it came to the market in 2007 it had not been exhibited publically. The cataloguing of the egg once again produced a flurry of new scholarship, and thanks to the work of Kieran McCarthy of London's Wartski and Valentin Skurlov, it was determined that a famous photograph of the Faberge workshops in St. Petersburg, which had once been thought to be an image of workmasters laboring over the Cockerel egg of 1900, actually depicted the Rothschild Egg. After heated bidding, the Rothschild Egg sold for \$18,499,830 - the highest price ever paid for a non-Imperial Egg.



These two pieces represent two ends of the spectrum of design of the House of Fabergé. The monumental silver clock, Alexandrine and pompous, relates more strongly to trophies and other massive works in silver that had been the hallmarks of the house's production for the Imperial Family leading up to the production of the Imperial Eggs, which had begun only six years earlier. The Rothschild Clock is an important example of how the designs of the work created for the Imperial Family trickled down and influenced international collectors in the period. They each represent types of Fabergé's work that, until now, were not adequately represented in the collections of the Hermitage, which had no major Imperial silver commissions by Faberge, and none of the Imperial Eggs.

These two clocks, one might say, have come to the Hermitage just in time.



### ***A little "side" story***

Both gifts was purchased from the private collection of Alexander Ivanov and a few days later emerged the story, that the English police, tax and custom departments had raided his museum in Baden-Baden, Germany in search for the Rothschild egg.



They claim that the museum has failed to pay nearly £70,000 in Value Added Tax (VAT) on artifacts purchased over the past 15 years at major auction houses in London. The owner of the museum, Alexander Ivanov, has responded by accusing British officials of staging the intervention to stop President Putin from presenting the £9 million Fabergé egg - which Ivanov had bought at Christie's in 2007 - to the State Hermitage Museum, as part of the museum's 250th anniversary celebrations. The Moscow-based art collector told that there was a "certain connection" between the raid and the gift.

According to reports, on December 1st, around 40 British law-enforcement officers entered the Faberge Museum in Baden-Baden, as well as the private home and vehicle of the Fabergé Museum's director, Sergei Avtonoshkin. The raids were carried out with support from Germany's Financial Investigation

and Customs Department. The museum denies the charges and declared nothing incriminating was found during the operation.

A representative from the HM Revenues and Customs Law Enforcement department declined to comment on the allegations, raid, or current state of the investigation when contacted citing the ongoing case.

The charges originated in February 2012, when Avtonoshkin missed a flight to Moscow departing from London, where he had purchased a series of items at Christie's and Bonhams, that were meant to be displayed at the Moscow branch of the Fabergé Museum. When he tried to buy a ticket for another flight, Heathrow's custom agents stopped him for questioning. Agents seized nearly 60 items and grew suspicious that the museum might have other items that had violated VAT regulation.

"This case dates to early 2012 and began with a misunderstanding at Heathrow Airport when I was leaving the UK to Moscow with some recently purchased art items," Avtonoshkin told. "A year ago we successfully refuted the allegations against the museum, and so this current raid comes as a huge surprise. No crime was committed, and amid the current anti-Russia hysteria in the UK now, I have the impression that officials want to use this case to make a political statement."

### ***The St. George ceremony***

December 9, 2014 in St. George (Large Throne) Hall of the Winter Palace held a traditional ceremony in honor of St. George and the 250th anniversary of the Hermitage. The ceremony was opened by General Director of the State Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky.



In the room were solemnly made the banner of the Life Guards Grenadier Regiment (1856), the banner Fanagoriyskaya Grenadier Regiment (1809), the standard of the Life Guards Lancer Regiment (1813) and the standard of the Life Guards Horse Guards (1813).

In honor of the anniversary of the Hermitage was presented a vase from 1830 with a picture of the opening ceremony of the Alexander Column on Palace Square.

The ceremony was attended by the Admiralty Orchestra of the Leningrad Naval Base. It played the Hymn to the Great City, "Transfiguration" and marches.





### ***"Her Imperial Majesty's Hermitage"***



One of the major celebration exhibition in Hermitage is "Her Imperial Majesty's Hermitage", which opened in the Nicholas Hall. It tells the story of how the Hermitage collection was formed and shows the Hermitage Museum in the time of Empress Catherine the Great according to the first description of the museum of 1794

in "A guide to Saint Petersburg" by Johann Gottlieb Georgi.



"We tried to hang things the way it was done in the 18th century. When the painting covered without exception all the wall space of Hermitage, sometimes they hung in 5-6 rows"- said curator Michael Dedinkin.

The exhibition features several thousand paintings, prints and sculptures. Some temporarily discharged from other museums in Russia.

Video - <http://topspb.tv/news/news60253/>





### ***"Russian culture second half of the XVIII century"***

December 9, 2014, the day of St. George, in the Winter Palace opened an updated permanent exhibition "Russian culture in the second half of the XVIII century" dedicated to artistic, scientific, social and political life of the Russian Empire of the period and its place in the European space.

In seven restored rooms are exposed about 400 exhibits from the State Hermitage Museum, with the best achievements of the "golden age" of Russian statehood and aristocratic culture - that is rightly called the reign of Empress Catherine II (1762-1796). Gloss of the Imperial Court and the capital of St. Petersburg, the flowering of culture and art in the Russian estates, military glory of Russia second half of the XVIII century are on display unique monuments of art and science. Many of them were part of Catherine's Hermitage, belonged to the Empress or included in the decoration of the rooms of the Winter Palace, and sometimes a diplomatic gifts.

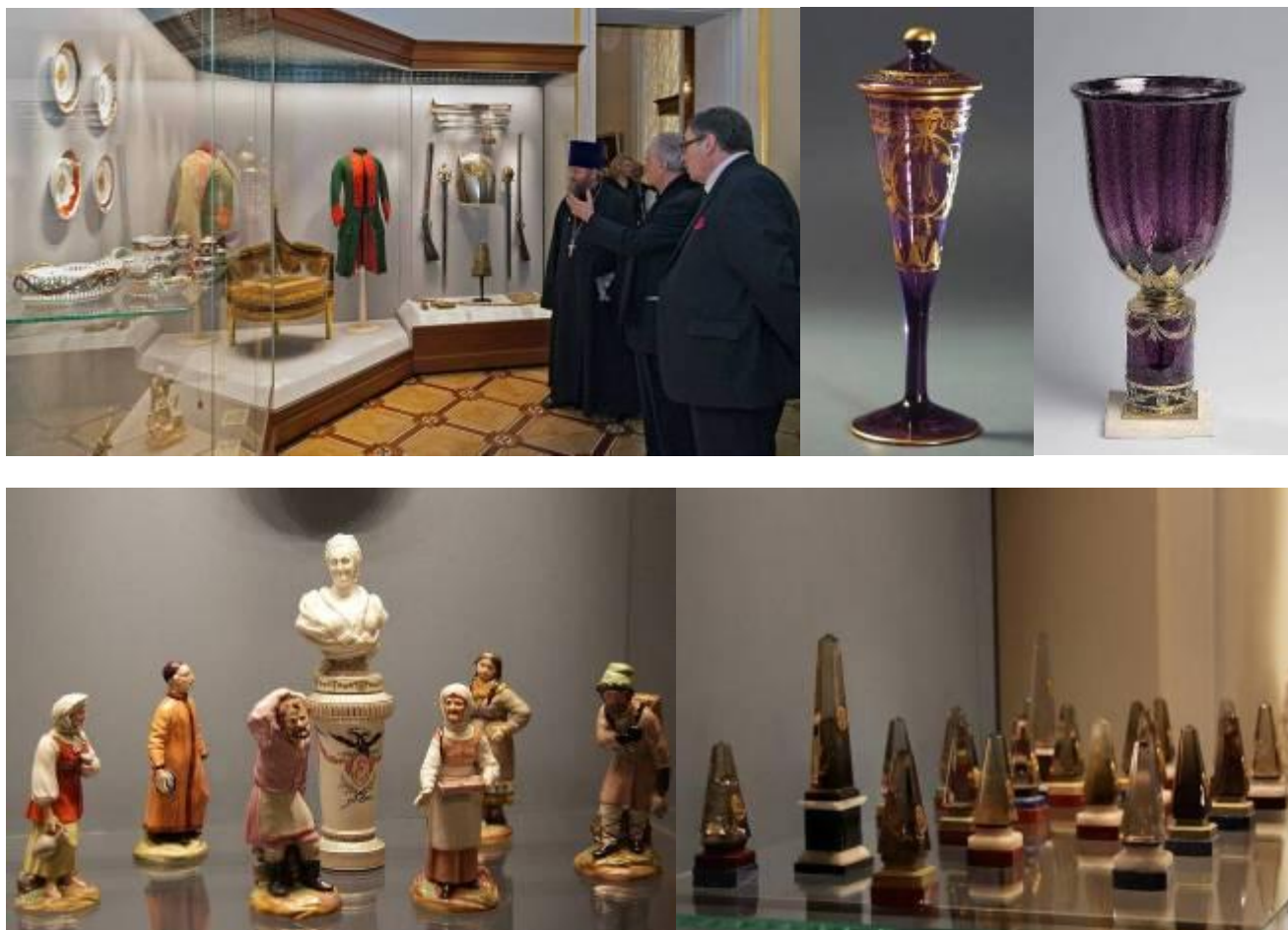


Images of Empress Catherine II, one of the most outstanding personalities in the history of Russia and its closest associates and minions brilliant political and military figures - G.A. Potemkin, A.A. Bezborodko, A.I. Bibikova, A.V. Suvorov, and many others, are well represented in the halls exhibited portraits. These famous names are inscribed in golden letters in the annals of the Fatherland. In



addition, the newly created materials exposure allow the family to talk about the Empress, her children, grandchildren, their hobbies and their role in the socio-cultural life of those years.

Suit the era of Catherine the Great presented several original samples, placed in a large display. Special pomp and heraldic consistency of the details released Uniform Dress Empress. A large part of the exhibition halls are works of arts and crafts that existed at the imperial court Peter III, Catherine II and Paul I. Among them stand out porcelain and glass of Russian production, characterized by a variety of shapes, colors, rich ornamental solutions based on the ancient heritage. Fascination with classical monuments found vivid expression in the decoration gala dinner sets Imperial Porcelain Factory in St. Petersburg. These include the famous Yahtinsky, Arabesque, Kabinetnsky sets. The exhibition also shows the figures from the first sculptural series "Peoples of Russia", modeled on the French master Jean-D. Rachette.



### ***Hermitage presented the Great Church of the Winter Palace after restoration***

In the Winter Palace was completed restoration of the Great Church and the presentations took place in the framework of the 250th anniversary celebration of the Hermitage.

Restoration work on the interiors and objects of arts and crafts took about a year. Specialists repaired the walls, windows and doors, parquet floor changed, restored stucco elements on the walls and ceiling, gilded sculptures made of papier-mache, and recreated the ceiling paintings and iconostasis. In addition to the restoration of the historic interior, in the Great Church of the Winter Palace was carried out works on utilities. The total area of restored area is 525 square meters.

The large church was founded in 1753-1762 simultaneously with the construction of the Winter Palace on the draft of Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli. The Palace Cathedral was in the style of the magnificent Elizabethan Baroque. It suffered during a fire in the Winter Palace in 1837 and was rebuilt in 1838-1839 by the architect Vasily Stasov.



For many years the church was the home church of the imperial family. From 1917 the cathedral was used as museum premises, and many elements of the decoration of the cathedral were lost. In 1938-1939 reminiscent of the past were removed to the maximum. It was decided to dismantle all the design elements of the church, including the iconostasis. From it survived by only eight single pieces and 11 fragments of carved frames, which are stored in the collections of the Hermitage. Among them the two sculptures made of papier-mâché - "Our Lady" and "John the Revelator."

The main source for the restoration was the collection of photographs, made in 1938-1939, just before and during the disassembly of the iconostasis. An important task of specialists, along with the return of the interior of the Great Church of its original form, was the best possible inclusion of the surviving original parts of the iconostasis.



*Deputy Director George Vilinbakhov cut the red ribbon and opens the doors to the Great Church in the Winter Palace. Among the first to see it were Prince Dimitri and Dorrit Romanov.*





"In those places where there are no icons, will remain empty, we want the real, there will be no copies"  
 - said Piotrovski - and the church itself will be a memorial to the family of the Romanov dynasty".









### ***After 96 years was again service in the Great Church in the Winter Palace***

On 25 December was celebrated for the first time in 96 years the Divine Liturgy in, the recently re-opened after restoration, Cathedral of Our Savior Holy Face in the Hermitage. The last Divine Liturgy there was made in April 1918. Before the start Archpriest Vladimir Sorokin consecrated the church.



For services are introduced restrictions - "According to the rules of fire safety is an open flame prohibited, so candles in the church cannot be. Well, so - then without candles, but with a fire in the heart" - said Father Vladimir.

According to director Michael Piotrovsky, "The church cannot be part of parish as it never was such - it was always a church for the court."

The Director noted that the consecration of the church and the first service was held on December 25 is not accidental: "On this day, in the Winter Palace has always been a prayer service and was a palace parade. The Great Church of the Winter Palace will be a memorial to the Romanov family, and now there are some personal belongings. This is the most important place to be with a light





feeling in the soul, to remember these people, their victory, joy and tragedy. There are also things associated with the tragic events: Zubovskaya snuffbox (according to legend, with it was dealt a mortal blow to Emperor Paul I.), there will be an uniform of Alexander II, and a shirt of Nicholas II".



*Did you notice in the photo, to the left is standing one of the new gift to hermitage - the Faberge "wedding clock" is on display.*

On the same day in St. George Hall was hosted a ceremony dedicated to the anniversary of the expulsion of the enemy from Russia in 1812. In the hall were banners and standards of regiments from the Patriotic War of 1812. Michael Piotrowski reminded of the meaning of the event: "This is the end of our most "clean" war. On that day, Napoleon's army was driven out of Russia." Mikhail Borisovich said that the Hermitage is the only place where there is genuine banners of the Patriotic War of 1812. He told that the museum recently received from the Life Guards Cossack regiment in Paris - the standard of the 7th Dragoon Regiment Kinburn and the 7th Hussars Regiment Belarusian.

### ***Hermitage got an equestrian porcelain figure of Emperor Nicholas I***

The Hermitage collection on 23 December increased its collection with new works of art. One were a majestic equestrian figure of Nicholas I, made of porcelain by sculptor Anatoly Danilov. In the Winter Palace was opened an exhibition "Inspired by the Hermitage", which presents the author's porcelain objects created by artists of the Imperial Porcelain Factory, based on famous exhibits of the Hermitage. On this solemn day of the opening, on the eve of New Year and Christmas holidays the Imperial Porcelain Factory donated to the Hermitage several works from the exhibition.





### ***Future***

And the expansion of the Hermitage does not stop here. Hermitage-satellites already exist in the cities of Kazan and Vyborg, as well as Amsterdam and Venice, and the museum maintains partners in the US, Canada and Israel, but new satellites are on their way. The Hermitage Museum is set to open museums in the cities of Omsk, Ekaterinburg and Vladivostok, as well as in Barcelona, Spain. The Omsk Hermitage is already working on preparing the exhibition in their city. Yekaterinburg is also preparing to open a branch. The city, once known as Sverdlovsk, is "a holy place for us, as it was there, during World War Two, that part of the Hermitage's collection was held" - Piotrovsky noted. The Ipatiev House, which housed the collection during the war, is where the exhibition will take place. Piotrovsky noted that the creation of a "Hermitage-Moscow" branch is also possible in the future, although there are no such plans in the short term. About one in Paris he said that it would not be a good idea, since the Paris art scene is already crowded and the Hermitage would have "no breathing room".

### ***Old and new pictures***

On the 250 years anniversary of Hermitage - talk a walk through the halls of the Hermitage in old and new pictures.

Currently, the museum's collection consists of more than 3.000.000 exhibits. If you want to watch each exhibit one minute, it would take you 8 years to explore the entire collection, and you will have to walk 20 kilometers.

Part 1 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3377>

Part 2 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3376>

Part 3 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3375>

Part 4 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3374>

Part 5 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3373>

Part 6 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3372>

Part 7 - <http://metod-sunduchok.ucoz.ru/load/43-1-0-3371>



## The Faberge Museum in Shuvalov Palace

Ludmila and I's visit to St. Petersburg actually started early on 6 December in the Shuvalov Palace, where now is the magnificent Faberge Museum. 4000 pieces of fine art, and 1500 of them are by the House of Faberge - stunning beautiful works of arts, even if many of them actually are ordinary households objects.



Together with Chauncie and Paul Rodzianki, Ludmila and I were greeted welcome by Deputy Director Mikhail Ovchinnikov and then we went on a tour of the museum.





Going up the grand stairs one immediately steps into the room with the "Holy Grails" - the Blue room with the Imperial Easter Eggs, and many other eggs....





What can one say after seeing this incredible collection in this beautifully restored palace - just stunning! So much beauty in one place.

And one wonders, if all of this would ever had happen, had Emperor Alexander III not ordered the first Imperial Easter Egg at Faberge and then another one and another one....? Eggs are truly that start of life, also in art!



## A Gala evening in memory of the First World War

On 9th of December, in the Tsar Tower of the Kazan railway station opened an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The exhibition "For Faith, Tsar and Fatherland" was opened in the art gallery of painter Dmitry Anatolyevich Belyukin, however the organizer was the historian and collector Vladimir Maximov.

There are 162 exhibits. Among them are unique watercolor postcards of 1914-1917, including some made by Viktor Vasnetsov and Mikhail Nesterov. It also features rare photographs and posters, divided by topic, of which the most interesting are "The royal family in the service of the Fatherland", and "Angels of Mercy". In addition, are an exhibition of photographers Eugene Kuleshov and Andrei Lobanov, with depicting reconstruction battles of World War I by military-historical clubs of Russia.



Before the opening was consecration of a new icon of the Kazan Mother of God, a work of renown Alexander Ivanovich Chashkin, which was then given to Dmitry Belyukin.



Then started a concert with the Russian Railways orchestra, followed by several other artists entertaining with songs, music, dance and historical uniforms and dresses - among them "Farewell Slav" performed the Orchestra of Russian Railways, songs performed by Serb singer Irina Leonova, military and civilian ballads performed by Sergei Glukhareva, Alexander Smirnov and Dmitry Swedes, ancient Cossack songs from the ensemble "Smoking", and poetry of the First World read by Soviet and Russian film and theater actor Alexander Pavlov.

Among those attending the opening was Vladimir Yakunin, Galina Ananina, Ljubov Akelina, and Alexander Scheffer.



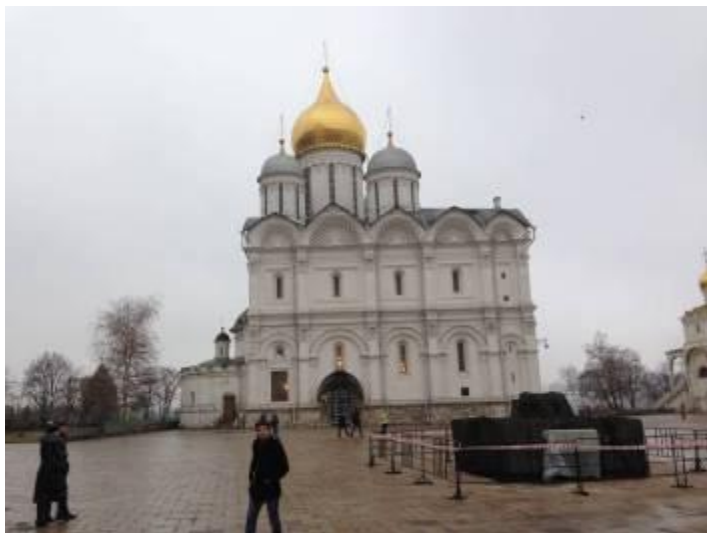


After seeing the exhibition, one could also enjoy the paintings by Dmitry Belyukin in the gallery.





## In memory of the Ascension Cathedral



*Archangelsky Cathedral in Kremlin - seen from the Cathedral Square and from the river side, where is the entrance to the newly restored annex.*

In the morning, 17 December, Ludmila and I attended the Divine liturgy in Archangelsky Cathedral in Kremlin, led by Metropolitan Arseny of Istra, the first Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in Moscow. It was also a special commemoration service in remembrance of the destruction of the ancient shrines, the Chudov and the Ascension Cathedral and Convent 85 years ago.



*The Ascension Cathedral*

After the liturgy we attended a memorial service in the basement of the cathedral, where is kept the tombs and remains of the grand duchess', tsarinas and other family members of the Rurik and Romanov dynasties before Emperor Peter the Great. These are the remains that used to be in Ascension Cathedral - the largest female Royal necropolis in Kremlin - until it was destroyed in 1929.



Metropolitan Arseny also made lity in the chapel of St. Martyr Varus, on the east side of the Archangelsk Cathedral, where is the shrine with the relics of St. Euphrosyne (Grand Duchess Eudoxia of Moscow).

We also had the opportunity to see the new exhibition - which officially opened on 19 December - in the annex of Archangelsk Cathedral.



In one small room on three of the walls there are objects that was saved from the destruction in 1929 of the Ascension Cathedral and Convent. According to Deputy General Director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums Andrei Batalov, the restoration of the shrines, church decorations and other artifacts took five years. Most of these objects are exhibited in public for the first time, and among them there are a few sensations.

Thematically, the whole exposition is divided into three parts. The first is devoted to the sacred space of three churches at the Ascension Monastery: the main cathedral, the church of St. Michael Malein (XVII



c.) And St. Catherine (beg. of XIX century). It is the majestic Altar cross with 14 round scapular ancient reliquary of the cathedral altar, made in 1816 by Osip Ivanov Smirnov. "A lot of times it was used in religious processions", - says the curator of the exhibition Researcher Moscow Kremlin Museums Tatiana Atamuratova. - "In general, this shrine was made in gratitude to the Lord for the expulsion of the French from Moscow and for the victory in the Patriotic War. The monastery then, like the rest of the Kremlin, was devastated and desecrated, but then actively and quickly recreate, which attracted the best artists of the time. Altar cross was restored in our day, just before the opening of the exhibition - it had to assembled from pieces."



Another unique premiere are the eight icons from the Feasts from the iconostasis in the Ascension Cathedral, dated 1679 year. "We rarely so close show visitors the excellent work of imperial masters of the Armory" - continues Atamuratova. - "After closing of the monastery the iconostasis was moved to the Kremlin Church of the Twelve Apostles. But it is less than the size of the Cathedral of the Ascension, so two quartets of the icons were sent to the vaults." Here you can see the church icon of 1686 from Catherine's Church and a golden crown icon from the monastery cathedral, made around the same time, as well as a few carefully restored the sacred vessels."

The most important part of the exhibition are the contributions of representatives of the noble families of the Russian aristocracy. Having official status as the necropolis of Empress', the monastery enjoyed special protection of the empress' and princesses, duchesses and noblewomen hereditary. The mother of Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich Romanov, Martha gave in the 1630s an embroidered veil with "Our Lady of St. Theodore". Mikhail Feodorovich donated a cover with a picture of the cross of Calvary, his son Alexis a golden chalice. And a hanging veil "Hodegetria" of pearls embroidered velvet and taffeta, was presented in 1630 by Princess Domniki Mstislavl. Her husband Feodor Mstislavsky was a famous statesman and military leader, who in the Time of Troubles was offered several times to ascend the throne" - adds Tatiana Atamuratova. - "After his death Domnika M. entered the Ascension Monastery.



But despite the importance of these sacred artifacts, they are not the "star" in the exhibition. The central place is occupied by a modest leather belt, which through the window glass you can barely make out embossed the icon of the Ascension. This is the monastic belt of the founder of the monastery. The story of its finding a truly wonderful. "When in 1929 the government made the final decision to blow up the monastery, museum workers under the supervision of the head of department of the Kremlin monuments Nicholas Pomerantsev transferred the sarcophagi with remains into the basement of the

Archangel Cathedral. It happened quite casually, using just one horse-drawn cart. And in 2008, when we restored the Archangel Cathedral chapel of the holy Martyr Varus was move the relics of St. Euphrosyne and then was found this belt."



*A video about the exhibition in Kremlin dedicated to the Monastery of the Ascension*

In 1929, a government commission decided to demolish the Ascension, and next to it the Chudov monastery and Small Nicholas Palace for the construction in their place of a Military School. Intervention of museum specialists, historians, public figures did not save the building from destruction, but the legacy of the monastery - icons, liturgical objects, precious contributions, as well as the tomb of the grand duchess' and tsarinas - were rescued and preserved in the Moscow Kremlin Museums. Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yavgp7LYJKw>

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### **Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna Romanov got an order from the Patriarch**

On 17 December, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna visited the memorial complex Victory Park on Poklonnaya Hill - went to the church of St. George, where was served litany for "leader and warrior for the Faith, Tsar and Fatherland" during the First World War 1914-1918. Then laid a wreath at the memorial of the First World War 1914-1918 and the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

Went to the monument to Emperor Alexander I in Alexander Garden next to the Kremlin walls, and then visited the First World War exhibition in the State Historical Museum.

December 18 was in the Russian State Library was held a ceremony of "Romanov Prize".

In the afternoon, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna visited the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre, toured its halls and rooms after the grand restoration of 2005-2011 and attended a performance of the ballet P.I. Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker".







On 19 December, the feast day of St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra, miracle worker, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill performed the rite of the Great Blessing of the revived military church of the Annunciation at the former barracks of the battalion in Sokolniki in Moscow and the Divine Liturgy in the newly consecrated church.

After the augmented litany Primate of the Russian Church prayed for peace in the Ukraine. Upon completion of the Liturgy, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill made glorification of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. As a gift to the newly consecrated church His Holiness conveyed the image of St. George.



Then followed a ceremony of presenting church awards. For the works for the good of the Church and in connection with the 60th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna she was awarded the Order of St. Sergius of Radonezh I degree; as acknowledgement of the assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church and in connection with the 60th anniversary of the birth of S.E. Naryshkin was awarded the Order of St. Sergius of Radonezh II degree; and for help in the revival of the church of the Annunciation in Sokolniki in Moscow V.A. Shamans and N.A. Mishin were awarded the Order of St. Sergius III degree.

## Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaivich will be reburied in Moscow



The remains of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaivich (Jr.) and his wife Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna will be moved from France to Russia and buried in the Chapel in honor of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in the Brethren military cemetery in Moscow in 2015.



December 1st it was announced that an Interagency Working Group to deal with this question was established by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

On 24 December the Interagency Working Group met in the State Duma for their first meeting. Its head Sergei Naryshkin reminded - "it is about the transfer of the remain to the Chapel in honor of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in the Brethren military cemetery in Moscow. "Relatives of the Grand Duke Nicholas kept the memory that his last will was - someday to be buried in his native land, next to his soldiers," - said the speaker of the State Duma. "Almost half of the year there was a discussion of all aspects - legal and financial, looking for a place. In October, I reported to the President, on his behalf, the Government established an inter-ministerial group" - continued Naryshkin. According to him, the main goal - "to restore one of the long-forgotten names of our history."

The Head of Analytical Department of the State Duma, the executive secretary of the Russian Historical Society Andrei Petrov told that to deal with this topic the Speaker was prompted by an appeal from Prince Nicholas and Prince Dmitry Romanovich, direct descendants of Emperor Nicholas I, cousins, great-grandsons of the Grand Duke. (Prince Nikolai Romanovich recently died.) The brothers wrote to Mr. Naryshkin, because he led the organizing committee for the 100th anniversary of the First World War. "They are the next of kin of Nicholas, and to the French authorities in issuing permits for the reburial, their opinion was decisive," - said Mr. Petrov.

Russian Ambassador to France Alexander Orlov assured: all organizational matters "are generally solved." According to the diplomat, the day before he learned that "there was a conversation between Vladimir Putin and French President Francois Hollande, in which the French returned to the question of holding the ceremony in Paris and gave consent to an ecumenical ceremony in the church of St. Louis." (Ecumenical ceremony held if worship are attended by representatives of various Christian denominations.) the French reiterated that military honors to Nikolai Nikolaevich in France cannot be rendered as "they already were given during his first burial in Cannes January 8, 1929," said Mr. Orlov. "But to give him military honors again in Russia, nothing prevents, and it will be done."





The question of the presence at the ceremony of French officials will be solved after the determination date of the event. This seems to happen in 2015.

Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of Moscow Alexander Kibovsky said that Fraternal military cemetery in Sokol is well known and frequently visited by members of the public organizations dealing with the history of the First World War and the White movement. "Chapel is in good condition, there may be a burial", - assured the metropolitan Minister, but "need to be worked out some of the details. For example, to decide whether there should be made a replica of the sarcophagus that is in Cannes."

Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk warned "about the difficulties that may arise." The fact that the crypt of the church of the Archangel Michael in Cannes "is the subject of litigation between the three ecclesiastical jurisdiction." "One of them - emigre Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, which in 2007 became a self-governing part of the

Russian Orthodox Church. "The abbot of the temple was Archbishop Barnabas, then he was stripped of his rank, and the new priest was unable to begin his duties because of his parishioners do not recognize," - told the Metropolitan. As a result, the temple is closed, the service it does not occur. "I have the same kind of reporting that all legal issues have been resolved," - answered Ambassador Orlov, to State Duma Speaker, and after him Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Meshkov assured that with the French authorities - it is a yes.

The meeting was also attended by Adviser to the President Vladimir Tolstoy, Special Representative of the President for International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoi, Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, and Deputy Defense Minister Nikolai Pankov.

The funding of the reburial will be carried out in part by the budget and partly at the expense of sponsors.

The ceremony for the reburial is already being prepared by the State King of Arms George Vilinbakhov.



In the meantime, the remains of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are in the church of the Archangel Michael in Cannes (on 40 Boulevard Alexandre III) - Opened in 1894. Was built on the initiative of Empress Maria Alexandrovna, wife of Emperor Alexander II, who often came to spend the winter on the Riviera. Designed by French architect Louis Nouveau.

Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaivich (the younger), born 18 (6) November 1856, St. Petersburg - died January 5, 1929, in Antibes, France. Supreme Commander of all land and naval forces of the Russian Empire at the beginning of the First World War (1914-1915) and from 23 August 1915 to March 1917 - the governor of the Emperor in the Caucasus, and Commander of the Caucasian Army.

His spouse, Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna, born in Cetinje 1866, died in Cap d'Antibes 1935). Daughter of King Nicholas I of Montenegro.

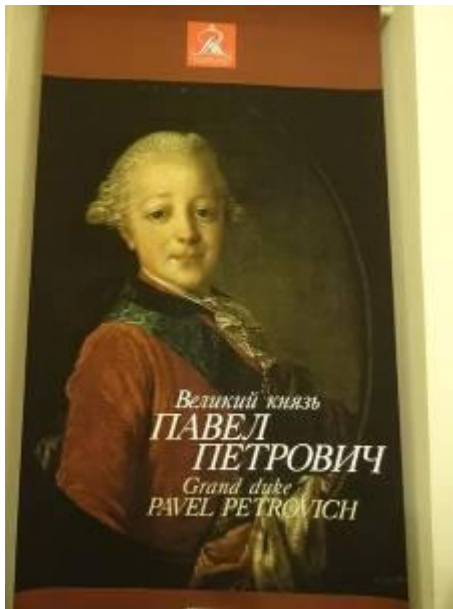
In the Church of Archangel Michael in Cannes is also buried his brother Grand Duke Peter Nikolaevich and his wife - Grand Duchess Militsa Nikolaevna (Twin sister of Anastasia Nikolaevna). Now they will be left behind....



*Above photos from the funeral of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaivich. Below the tombs in crypt of the church of Archangel Mikhail in Cannes.*







## Grand Duke Paul Petrovich exhibition

On 24 December Mikhailovsky Castle opened the exhibition "The Grand Duke Paul Petrovich", dedicated to his child and youth years.

The exhibits associated with the life of the Grand Duke is collected in a special exhibition, which is conceived as part of a large-scale project "The Saga of the Romanovs", developed by the Russian Museum. The exhibition presents paintings - portraits of Paul Petrovich and his family members, genre paintings and some with allegorical narrative content, telling about the events in the life of the Grand Duke, and graphic works, miniatures, decorative and applied art and elements of everyday life of the period, from the Russian Museum and other collections. These materials provides a multifaceted view on the Grand Duke and give the viewer the opportunity to review many preconceived evaluation still prevalent in the identity of the Grand Duke.

Video - <http://www.newstube.ru/media/v-mihajlovskom-zamke-otkrylas-vystavka-velikij-knyaz-pavel-petrovich>







## Exhibition "Map of Russia. Milestones" opened in the Assumption Belfry in Kremlin



Unique documents and works of art tell the story of the formation of the territory of the Russian state from the Moscow principality to the Russian Empire. In the center of the exhibition - an embroidered map of the Russian Empire, made by pupils of the Moscow Institute of the Order of St. Catherine in 1872, who gave this hand-made masterpiece as a gift to Emperor Alexander II.



It's no secret that important geopolitical events, and especially the expansion of the boundaries, immediately were reflected in art. So, after 1553 when the Khanate of Kazan became part of the Moscow state, Tsar Ivan the Terrible ordered to produce the royal crown of gold, adorned with precious stones and the finest niello pattern.



The first commemorative medals in Russia appeared only in modern times. There are on display a large collection of medals, made in connection with the victory of Russia in the Great Northern War.

The title of the emperor, which included all subordinate land, is an important indication of the expansion of frontiers. If on a stone slab in 1491 in the title of Prince Ivan III lists all 9 subservient land, the full title of Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich over 30 geographical names, and in the title of Emperor Nicholas II - more than 50.

Russian coat of arms also changed its complement emblems with attached kingdoms and principalities. The earliest maps presented at the exhibition, dated XVI-XVII centuries. In the XVIII century cartography intertwined with art, and now we can see a huge number of works of art with the image of maps of cities and provinces. For example, a gold snuffbox with a portrait of Catherine II, holding in her hand a map.

Also on display are two unique eggs of Faberge. On one of them, manufactured in 1900 by Michael Perkhin, is a map of the Trans-Siberian Railway. And inside the another egg Henry Wigstrom has put a spinning globe with two silhouettes of Russia - within the boundaries of 1613 and 1913.



Video - <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/58075#sl>

### **In Voronezh a plaque with a image of Emperor Nicholas II was unveiled**

Exactly one hundred years after the visit of Emperor Nicholas II in the hospital of the Ladies Committee of the Red Cross building was unveiled a plaque in memory of this event. 6 (19) December 1914 this hospital was visited by the Emperor and his wife Alexandra, daughters Olga and Tatiana.

December 19, 2014 in Voronezh was unveiled a plaque in honor of the centennial of Nicholas II's visit to the city. Board appeared on the building of College of Music (street Nikitinskaya, 26). The board was made of bronze at the Anisimov bell factory.

Attending the opening was the chairman of the Presidium of the Russian monarchist movement Sergey Chesnokov, People's Artist of Russia Alexander Tarasenko, Yuri Lukin, historian and ethnographer Nikolai Komolov and the head of department of culture of the city administration of Voronezh Ivan Chukhnov.

The speakers talked about the importance of the figure of the emperor to unite the patriotic-minded Russians, about the reward of historical justice and the need to debunking myths prevailing during the Soviet era.



Consecrating of the board and a prayer made Father Sergius (Zarutsky), rector of the church of the Archangel Michael. He spoke about the miracle of coincidence arrival future saint - Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich in Voronezh on the day of St. Nicholas (Nicholas winter day). Father Sergius specially



brought St. Nicholas holy water for the consecration of a commemorative plaque and attended its opening.



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### Faberge item found listed as a flower pot

18 December. NTV

In a former state residence of Ukraine, located in the Republic of Crimea, was found a real treasure, among which was a valuable silver ladle made by Carl Faberge.



The official representative of the FSO, doctor of historical sciences Sergey Deviatov, told that the Federal Security Service a few weeks ago conducted an inventory in the former Ukrainian State House, now transferred to the service and found a real treasure. On the shelves and simply on the ground were found dozens of antiques. Of the greatest value is a silver bucket by Carl Faberge made in the last decade of the XIX century.

- This thing is clearly on the level of a palace item, but it was in the inventory listed as a planter for flowers, - he said. According to him, among the finds there is a marble statue of a girl with a book in her

hand, which "was born" in the XVIII century in Rome. And found a set of silver cutlery, vases and other rare objects.

- The biggest problem is that we do not understand why all these riches were in the Crimean residence.

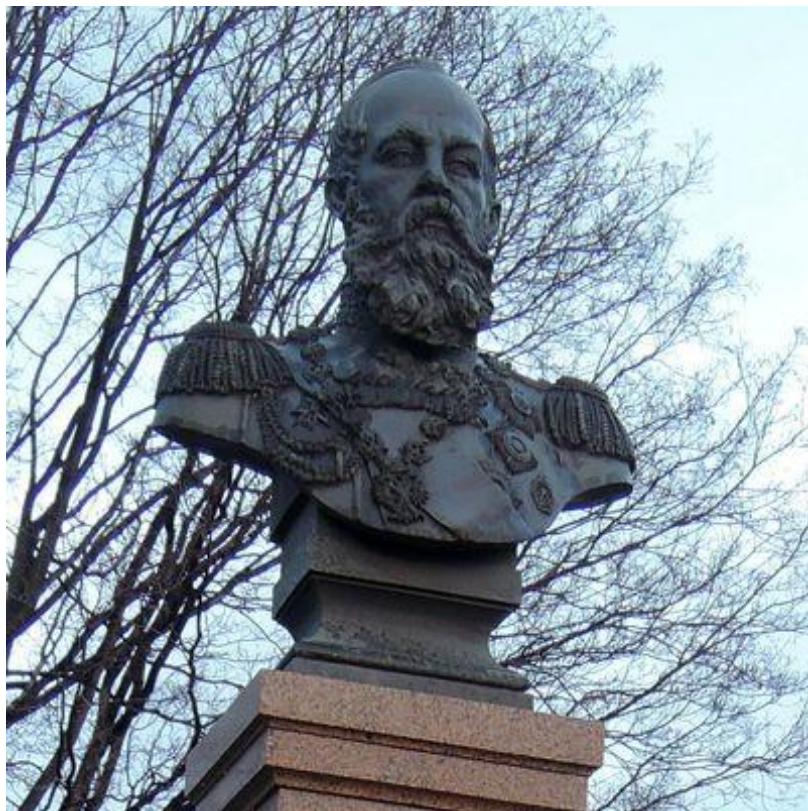
These vintage items, 50 items, FSO plans to transfer to the Museum of Livadia Palace in Crimea.

- Remains to be seen what is the origin of these unique antiques, whether they belong to the Romanov era, it is necessary to determine their historic value - says Larissa Dekusheva, Director Livadia Palace. - Only then will these items replenish the exposition.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1276024/>

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## In the Artillery Museum was commemorated Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich



December 18 marked the 105th anniversary of the death of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich - Chief feldtseyhmeystera (chief of artillery troops) of Russia. Two years ago, in the heart of St. Petersburg, on the territory of the Artillery Museum, was the opening and consecration of the monument.

On the day of the 105th anniversary of the death of an outstanding statesman, was celebrated a solemn memorial service at the monument to the Grand Duke. At the commemorative event attended Director of the Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Colonel Valery Krylov , a senior fellow at the Military Historical Museum of Artillery Tatiana Ilina, Alexander Kaygorodtsev and Oleg Leonidovich Vysotsky , who worked on the project of creating the monument, as well as parishioners of Leushinsky monastery.





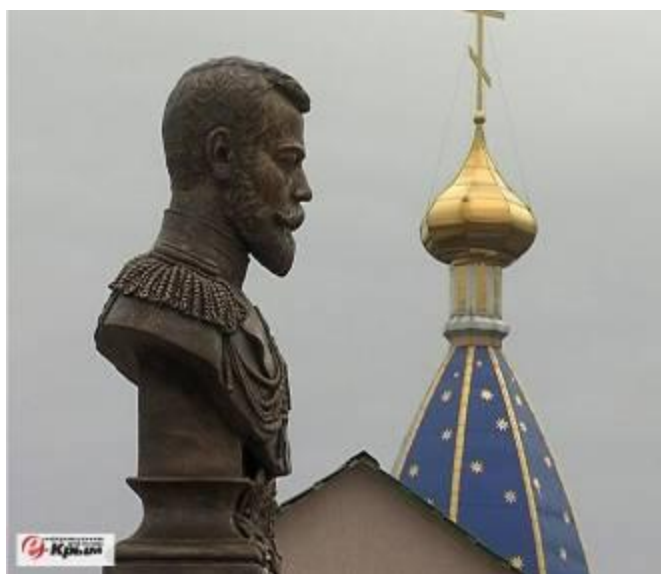
## In Sevastopol was installed a bust of Emperor Nicholas II

In Sevastopol, at the Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs under construction in Red Hill was on 18 December installed and consecrated a bust of Russian Emperor Nicholas II.



The monument was created by sculptor Alexander Appolonov. The bust of Emperor Nicholas II was donated by entrepreneurs in the Krasnodar region to the Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs under construction in Sevastopol. The church was founded December 6, 2007 by Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimea Lazar. According to the representative of the patrons, the image of Nicholas II - a personification of a happy family, to which it is now necessary to concentrate the attention of young people.

"If you take the collective image of Nicholas II, apart from a peacemaker, he was a great family man. And the family - the bulwark of what we stand for. His works can only analyze the historian, but if he were canonized - so he deserved it" - said the Chairman of the Board of Deputies of the Taman rural settlement of the Krasnodar Region Mikhail Baslovyak. Dean of the Sevastopol district Sergei Halyuta made the rite of consecration of the bust of Nicholas II.



## Emperor Nicholas II in a monument in Moscow

December 16, Russian Defense Minister, President of the Russian Geographical Society Sergei Shoigu opened a sculpture dedicated to the heroes of World War I and World War II. The opening ceremony was held near the building complex of the Defense Ministry on Frunze Embankment.



*"Today we are opening at the same time two of the monument - a monument to the soldiers-heroes who protect our country a hundred years ago, during World War I and World War II. I am grateful to sculptor and artist from studios Grekov, the people who came up with the soul to fulfill this important order for the armed forces, the army and the country as a whole. Of course, they did everything to perpetuate the memory of our fathers and grandfathers, the memory of all those who laid their lives for the freedom and independence of our country."*



*I am sure that these wonderful structures encourage a new generation to the accomplishment of new feats in the name and for the good of our country. And, of course, will be a constant reminder of what made the previous generation, those feats they have committed for the benefit of our country" - said the Minister of Defense.*

The sculptures, as there actually are two, are standing on each side of the main entrance to the National Control Centre defense of the Russian Federation. It is created by sculptors of the Military Artists Studio named after M.B. Grekov, under the leadership of the People's Artist of Russia Mikhail Pereyaslavets. The size of each of the compositions is about 11 meters in length, about 9 meters in height.



The composition dedicated to the First World War, represents the major offensive of the Russian army - the Brusilovsky breakthrough, the Przemyśl fortress siege and the storming of Erzurum. The second monument recalls the battle of Moscow in 1941, the planting of the Victory Banner over the Reichstag and the grand Victory Parade June 24, 1945.

The group of soldiers in the First World War composition looks like it is led by Emperor Nicholas II on horseback, and the group of soldiers of the Great Patriotic War is led by Marshal Georgy Zhukov, which have already led to many speculation. Maybe it is not Emperor Nicholas II, but just an officer? But it clearly looks like him! If they wanted to erect a sculpture of the Supreme Commander during the wars, then instead of Zhukov should be Stalin. And if to show the distinguished generals, then the Emperor should be replaced by one of several generals. For example, the commander of the Southwestern Front, Nikolai Ivanov, who crushed Austria-Hungary in Galicia in 1914, his successor Alexei Brusilov, who did the same thing two years later, or Nikolai Yudenich who crushed the Turks in the Caucasus. But maybe it is just because they did not want to put Stalin there, and if so I agree, this is a much better solution.



On the day of opening of the monument was also prepared a first-day release of envelopes with the new monuments. The first copies were solemnly handed Sergei Shoigu. Envelopes are printed in a million copies and are available in all post offices in Russia.



Videos - 1) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/274008>

2) [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/125525](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/125525)

3) [http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane\\_i\\_mire/content/201412161404-8wg8.htm](http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201412161404-8wg8.htm)

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## Moscow hosts Grand Duchess Elisabeth Bazaar

On 13 December, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, wife of the Governor-General of Moscow, with the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, held XVII Elisabeth Sergius readings and opened an Elisabeth Christmas Charity Bazaar.

In 2015, according to the chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Society Sergei Stepashin, at the very spot where was killed Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, will be a memorial cross - which originally put his wife Elizabeth Feodorovna.

Plenary Session of XVII Elisabeth Sergius readings was dedicated to the memory of Doctor of Philosophy, Professor I. Kuchmaeva, who gave 20 years of study of the life of Elizabeth Feodorovna, and to new discoveries of her life, the great Moscow tradition of philanthropy and its modern trends. For example, in the Crimea, in Livadia, the charity bazaar of the Romanovs "white flower" is revived. Princely couple began to held Christmas in 1895.

The readings was attended by representatives of sister parishes, who decided to devote their life to the ideals of holiness.



And on the streets of Moscow in Kitai-gorod was the first Elisabeth bazaar. And nothing on the market was Chinese - all Russian wooden Terem, Christmas cards, blue Gzhel, honey from the Urals, crafts from workshops in Elizabethan monasteries from Minsk, Yaroslavl, and Perm. There was recreated the atmosphere of the upcoming holiday with nativity scenes and elegant tree.

The funds collected will go to help Klin boarding house for children with disabilities and the elderly, which are providing a life for some 400 people. At the boarding house is a chapel, where the roof is about to fall off ...



Bazaar and readings was organized at the initiative of "Elisabeth Sergius educational society".



### **"Catherine II. The path to the throne. At the root of the Russian Enlightenment"**

The exhibition was prepared for the 250th anniversary of the accession of Catherine II to the throne. It first opened in 2012 in Moscow in the Russian Historical Museum and made a lasting impression on guests, and now on 12 December opened it in the Belgorod Art Museum.

The project "Heritage Museums of Russia - Belgorod!" brought to Belgorod 156 authentic artifacts and 40 copies, which tells about the main events in the life of the legendary empress.

"This exhibition has already been in Kostroma, Irkutsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Vladimir and Kirov. And I'm glad to joined to this list Belgorod, - said the deputy director of cultural and educational work of the State Historical Museum Irina Alexeeva. - This exhibition is different from what we brought in other Russian cities. There are five new portraits and two of them, in my opinion, unique - portraits of Catherine Petrovna and Catherine I the middle of the XVIII century, and another portrait of the late XVIII - early XIX century."

Among the exhibits are rare charters, architectural drawings, weapons, items of daily use and unique coins, there are a few rare items, the value of which is difficult to assess. This is service August II, charters Catherine II and St. Andrew porcelain set.

Dining items "St. Andrew's Service" have a special, central place in the exhibition. This exquisite sample gala dinner services from the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory, made in the middle of the XVIII century, was the first porcelain set in Russia. It included more than 400 items and meet all the requirements of the European court etiquette.





The basis of the exhibition is the first 18 years of the life of Catherine II in Russia. This period the Empress considered the most difficult in her life. The most important thing here - to show how she overcome difficulties, from a 14-year-old young girl to grow into a major statesman.

The exhibition will be open until April 5, 2015.

Video - [http://tv-gubernia.ru/culture/v\\_belgorodskom\\_muzee\\_otkrylas\\_stolichnaya\\_vystavka\\_posvyawennaya\\_imperatri\\_ce\\_ekaterine\\_ii/](http://tv-gubernia.ru/culture/v_belgorodskom_muzee_otkrylas_stolichnaya_vystavka_posvyawennaya_imperatri_ce_ekaterine_ii/)



## 290 years anniversary of St. Petersburg Mint

Located in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg, the Mint on Dec. 12 marked its 290th anniversary. Coinage in the city began in 1724, the first time here in a limited number were produced only gold coins, and from 1765 also silver.

Peter I, who issued a decree on the organization of the St. Petersburg Mint, told it to buy the latest equipment. Machines were purchased in Nuremberg, where at that time was housed the European center for production of coin presses. In the XVIII century Russia exported precious metals, but technology for its production from ore deposits in Siberia and the Urals, the country did not possess. To solve the problem at the St. Petersburg Mint was established laboratory separation of precious metals. By the end of the XVIII century in the laboratory was developed the technology to develop precious metals from ore, which allowed to make its own metal for coinage.

During the reign of Catherine II for the Petersburg Mint was acquired a screw press for stamping coins from Matthew Bolton. It was the first coin press, powered by a steam engine. It was designed by one of the leading figures of the English Industrial Revolution Matthew Boulton (1728-1809), who was able to combine coin mill of Swiss medalist Draw with a steam engine by James Watt. Speed coinage reached 60-120 pieces per minute.

According to the Central Bank, the production of coins except the 5 and 10 rubles was unprofitable. In 2009, the manufacturing cost of 1 kopeck was 47 kopecks, and of 5 kopecks was 69 kopecks. The current building of the Petersburg Mint was constructed in 1805-1807 by architect A. Port and equipped with the latest steam machines, making the Mint St. Petersburg one of the most modern in the world.

In 1876 at the St. Petersburg Mint started production of all types of metal state signs: coins, medals, decorations.



In its 300 years history the Mint St. Petersburg was interrupted only twice. In the beginning of the Revolution, the Provisional Government decided to evacuate the plant - the equipment and all auxiliary tools and materials were transported to Ekaterinburg and other Russian cities. Reactivation of the plant was due to the preparation of the Soviet Russia in the first monetary reform of 1922-1924. Also in the 20s of the last century courtyard, renamed Leningrad and develop new types of products: Orders of precious metals, signs, gold bars and discs for dental prosthetics. August 21, 1941 Leningrad Mint was evacuated to Krasnokamsk. In spring 1943, the mint resumed its activities in Leningrad, while the blockade was still in force. Here, the government decided to start chasing medals "For the Defense of Leningrad", and since 1944 - a bargaining chip.

After the war, Leningrad Mint produced a significant portion of products dedicated to the XXII Summer Olympic Games in 1980 in Moscow and the XXII Olympic Winter Games of 2014 in Sochi.

In 2004, the company opened a jewelry production, which make jewelry of different difficulty levels ranging from simple to complex rings and brooches.

Videos - 1) <http://5-tv.ru/news/92515/>

2) [http://mir24.tv/video\\_news/11773362/11773325](http://mir24.tv/video_news/11773362/11773325)

3) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1273167/>

### Memorial plaque to commemorate the visit of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna



In honor of the centenary of the visit of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna in Kursk on 12 December appeared a commemorative plaque. Last week, it was installed on the old building of Kursk State Medical College, on Sadovaya Street.



"December 5, 1914 the hospital was visited by Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and Grand Duchesses Olga and Tatiana" - a reminder now greets the visitors to the Eye Hospital. The place was chosen not by chance, during the First World War, these walls housed surgical hospital for wounded soldiers. 100 years ago there came wife of Nicholas II and his daughters.

"At 9 o'clock they arrived in Kursk. Drove to the cathedral and three hospitals. Visited many wounded"- such described in her diary Grand Duchess Tatiana Nikolaevna the day. Trips to the infirmaries were not idle interest. "This morning we were present at our first major amputation ... I had to dress wounded with terrible wounds ..." - Empress wrote a few days before her arrival in Kursk.





## Hunting at the royal court" in Vladimir

11 December 2014 to 17 February 2015

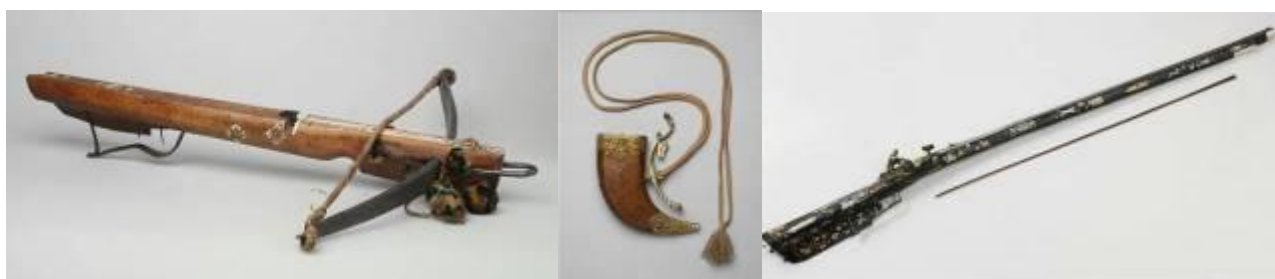
State Historical and Cultural Museum-Preserve "The Moscow Kremlin" will present the exhibition "Hunting at the royal court," at the State Vladimir-Suzdal Museum-Reserve on December 11, 2014 to February 17, 2015. This project continues the tradition of displaying exhibits of Moscow Kremlin Museums in Russian cities.



The exhibition "Hunting at the royal court" from the collection of the Moscow Kremlin is devoted to the main amusement of Russian tsars and emperors. Hunting was not only fun, but also an important part of the palace ceremony designed to demonstrate nationals and foreign guests brilliance and majesty, authority and power of the rulers. Hunting and political importance was attached, as it played an important role in the diplomatic etiquette.

Unique exhibits tell about the different types of hunting, tastes and personal preferences of the Russian tsars and emperors XVII-XVIII centuries. Treasures of the royal armory and Stables office, road equipment, the best examples of hunting weapons belonging to the Russian rulers, accompanied by a portrait gallery of tsar's hunters.

The exhibition is divided into several thematic groups. First section is about the Armoury and Stables Treasury of Russian rulers. In the Moscow Kremlin for centuries not only maintained, but also was produced ceremonial armor, ceremonial weapons and precious horse harness.



In the "Tsar's departure" are demonstrates rare exhibits - sled coat with the national emblem, horse blankets, items of road equipment. Other parts of the exhibition reflect the hunting passions of the first tsars of the Romanov dynasty. Visitors will see steel grooved golden spears, which was used on bear hunting and amulets - made of a bear claw. Particularly interesting are the sounds of the horn and shell

hunting signals - the tulumbas, with their help, was given the signal to start the hunt. In the hunt for wild animals used musket and carbines, powder flasks and bandoliers. Famous musket, made the Kremlin weapon masters, - the pride of the museum's collection.



Visitors to the exhibition will learn how to hunt in the XVIII century turned into a fascinating holiday gallant, who were lovers of Emperor Peter II, Empress Anna Ivanovna, Elizabeth and Catherine II. The exhibition includes items from the wardrobe of Peter II, a rare weapon from the collection of Peter III - including air rifle with pump, crossbow, bear trap, and others. The exhibition presents weapons belonging to the Russian rulers - the best of Russian and Western weapons makers.



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## Yusupov Palace opened the restored house church

9 December

In the Yusupov Palace on the Moika, 94, for the first time after nearly a decade of restoration has opened a unique interior - the home church of the Yusupovs. After the consecration of the church on December 21st it will begin to act and take in the parishioners.

Room of the church on the third floor of the palace was arranged and decorated by the famous St. Petersburg architect Vasily Quesnel in the then fashionable Byzantine style, and consecrated in 1881 in honor of the feast of the Holy Virgin. The church is associated with the most significant events in the life of the Yusupovs: here the most illustrious names married and was baptized.

In the 30-ies of XX century, the church was completely devastated, and in its place for a long time was housed a lecture hall.



The interior of the church is restored over almost a decade according to design by the architect Quesnel. Construction and upgrading of facilities will continue - the walls and ceiling murals are waiting. All that is inside - some icons, iconostasis, church utensils - is not antiques. The church is supported by donations from individuals and companies, some icons were presented as a gift. In addition to direct church premises, one of the new rooms of the palace is dedicated to the exhibition "The revival of the church," where you can see how was the restoration of the premises. Also, here are some original exhibits of church plate and vestments of the clergy of the last century.





The church in the Yusupov Palace is ascribed to the Church of the Intercession in Izmailovo. December 21, it will be consecrated and will begin a permanent service, which offers free use by the faithful. From 11 December the house church will be available for visiting tour groups, and in 2015 the church will open its doors for the celebrations of the sacraments and services.

Videos - 1) [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/125222](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/125222)

2) <http://www.tv100.ru/news/v-yusupovskom-dvorce-segodnya-otkryli-domovuyu-cerkov-103157/>

## A new painting of Tsarevich Alexei

Frida Fine Arts Gallery, in the client's office of Sberbank Private Banking, is having an exposition of paintings by artist Gene Chef, with works which he refers to as post-historicism. This means that by using historical events and figures, the artist gives them a new meaning by an unexpected confrontation and absurd situations that cause a new interpretation of historical facts and events and creates a new meaning. At the same time, he uses the technique of the old masters, which he studied at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts.

One of the paintings is called "The Tsarevich Alexei" - It shows Alexei standing at a skeleton of a dinosaurs in a forgotten bay. Here is reminiscent of the last days of the Russian monarchy, which ended in tragedy and death of the Royal Family and the Tsarevich Alexei. This work was made in connection with an installation on the subject of the murder of the Royal Family, created by Gene Chef for the last Venice Biennale.

The exhibition is available from 10 December 2014 to 28 February 2015

Venue: Head of Lifestyle and events, Sberbank Private Banking, 4 Romanov Pereulok, Moscow, Russia 125009.



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## The image of Emperor Alexander I in the works of his contemporaries

December 10 in Moscow at the Foundation "Russian Cultural Heritage" opened the exhibition "He gets all the people hearts ..." dedicated to the image of Emperor Alexander I in the works of his contemporaries.

The exhibition has collected over 150 works from private collections in Moscow and St. Petersburg, including portraits, engravings, miniatures, medals, sculptures and other works of art. Among the exhibited authors such famous artists as G. Kyugelhen, I.B. Lampi the Elder, A.- K. Ritt, A.F. Lagrenet, J. Doe, F. de Mays, I.A. Shilov and others. It is also worth noting that many of the items are on display for the first time and have never been published in catalogs and other publications.



There is no doubt that Alexander I is one of the most significant figures of the early XIX century. In the visual arts of the Russian Emperor often presented as the winner, the captain, "the Liberator", etc. However, it is no less interesting his image in earlier years - as the son, the Grand Duke, as a spouse. The exhibition are arranged in chronological order, and many of them depict the emperor in the



pre-war period of his life: a no less interesting and important time, but remains in the shadow of the great victories.

The exhibition is organized on a commercial basis with the assistance of "Russian cultural heritage", whose goal is to promote and preserve Russian culture.

Exposition "He gets all the people hearts ..." will run until March 31, 2015.



## A monument to General Mikhail Skobelev in Moscow

9 December, on Heroes' Day, in front of the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, was unveiled a monument to an outstanding Russian military commander of the 19th century General Mikhail Skobelev. On a granite pedestal in the rear hooves prancing horse, in the saddle is a folk hero holding a naked sword.



Head of the Presidential Administration of Russia Sergei Ivanov said at the opening - *"One of the brightest symbols of the return of historical memory of the people was the erection of the monument to the outstanding commander, St. George Knight, General of Infantry Mikhail Dmitrievich Skobelev. His contemporaries said of him: a hero Suvorov equal. This comparison with the great Russian commander, General rightfully earned in the Central Asian expeditions in the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878, during the liberation of Bulgaria. This is a page of the great Russian military glory. A representative of a famous military dynasty, he was a man of duty and a true patriot of Russia, his example have inspired many. The precepts of the brave commander was destined to stand the test of time. They are still the basis of the professional code of Defenders of the Fatherland, a guarantee of continuity of generations of our army and navy, the necessary condition of formation of a modern, combat-capable armed forces. So it was and will be."*

Sergei Ivanov called it symbolic that a new monument to the General opened next to the Academy of the General Staff, which is considered to forge high-ranking officers of Russia.



Chairman of the Russian military-historical society, Minister of Culture of Russia Vladimir Medinsky said - *"that the monument is similar to the one that was installed on the people's money in 1912 on Tverskaya Square (on the site where now is the monument to Yuri Dolgoruky). The old monument was dedicated to the famous battle in the Green Mountains of Plevna 27 August 1877. In 1918, the monument was demolished in accordance with the decree of Lenin's "On the removal of monuments to tsars and their servants. Skobelev really was a servant - A servant of the tsar, a servant of the Fatherland, a servant of the people. His appearance at the front caused the enemies awe and horror. Staff officers criticized him, saying that it is not necessary to show senseless courage by leading units into battle. The soldiers adored him for he cared about their uniforms and weapons. Today on Heroes' Day, we must recognize that if there was in the history of the Russian army an absolute pure 100 percent Russian hero archetype, this archetype is General Skobelev."*



After the head of the Scientific Council of the Russian military-historical society, chairman of the Russian Central Election Commission Vladimir Churov, gave the floor to the President of the International Committee of the Skobelev, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, cosmonaut Alexei Leonov. - It took almost 97 years to get you back to Moscow, Mikhail, to the academy, you graduated. Victory is not just given: the handbook of Skobelev was Alexander Suvorov's "The Science of Winning".

The return of the monument was not easy. In 2007 the mayor of the capital held a competition to design the monument to General Skobelev, to which was presented 17 options. It was won by sculptor Alexander Rukavishnikov. But the creation of the monument has been delayed due to lack of funds. Then for a long time could not find a place. And the eight-meter monument returned to the streets of Moscow only due to the Russian military-historical society.

Videos - 1) <http://www.kp.ru/daily/26317/3196493/>

2) [http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane\\_i\\_mire/content/201412091721-eank.htm](http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201412091721-eank.htm)

## **Metropolitan Hilarion believes Emperor Nicholas II made a mistake when he joined World War I**

9 December. Interfax.



Head of the Synodal Department for External Church Relations (DECR) Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk sees the reason of Bolshevism and mass repressions in Emperor Nicholas II's decision to join World War I.

"The war had long term consequences for the majority of countries involved in it. If Russia had not joined the war, there would have been no Bolshevism, starvation, dispossession of kulaks and Cossacks, mass repressions," said Metropolitan Hilarion at the opening ceremony of the requiem concert dedicated to the 100th anniversary of World War I commence in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire.

He notes that scientists still argue who won and who lost that war. "From the formal point of view, Germany with its allies lost the war, but can we say that Russia won the war? The military actions seemed successful for it in the beginning, in 1914, but following three years of the war so much weakened the country's forces and resources, that the empire failed, and Bolsheviks with Germany's help managed to capture power almost without fighting, with bare hands," the hierarch said.

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### On the 250th anniversary of the State Hermitage Museum. Exhibition "Books from the library of the Hermitage in funds NLR"



December 8 in the National Library in the hall of Korfa was opened the exhibition "Books from the library of the Hermitage in funds NLR", dedicated to the 250th anniversary of the State Hermitage.

By decree of Emperor Nicholas I in the middle of the XIX century, several thousand books and valuable manuscripts of the Imperial Hermitage Library was moved into storage in the Imperial Public Library.

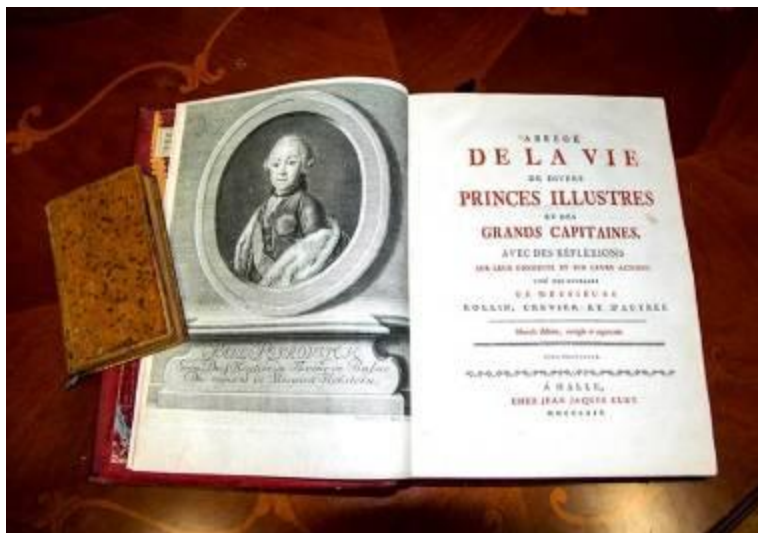
For the first time at an exhibition in the National Library of Russia,

visitors can see about 100 of the most interesting manuscripts and books, most of which are of historical value and are unique pieces of art binding.

Among the exhibits - a book with letters of Empress Catherine II, edition autographed by her mother, as well as books that once belonged to Catherine II's favorite Alexander Lansky with the bookplate of owner.

Among the books that belonged to monarchs, are books from libraries of Peter III, Alexander I and Nicholas I, gift editions with personal dedications from authors. Attract the attention of visitors should the album "Body of Laws of the Russian Empire", with its color images of coats of arms of the Russian provinces from the Library of Alexandra Feodorovna, wife of Nicholas I.

There are exhibited publications from the libraries of Diderot and Voltaire. Among the books of Voltaire can be seen instances with letters of the beloved French thinker, and famous female physicist Marquise du Chatelet. There is also a version with the letters of the philosopher himself, containing the famous aphorism "If God did not exist, it should have been invented."



Department of manuscripts shows copies and facsimiles of rare documents - "Izbornik" from year 1076, "Titulyarnika" from Alexei Mikhailovich, manuscripts, which were used to train the heirs to the throne,



the smallest of the known manuscripts - "Book of Hours" XIV century. (France), "Grandes Chroniques de France" and "marine navigation atlas Battista Agnese."

There are a selection of books on various subjects ranging from astronomy to winemaking, from books on medicine to engineering manuals.

The manuscripts for the exhibition are provided by "Printing", "Rossika" Russian book fund, Department of Rare Books, Manuscripts Division, and Library of Voltaire.

The exhibition will continue until January 20, 2015

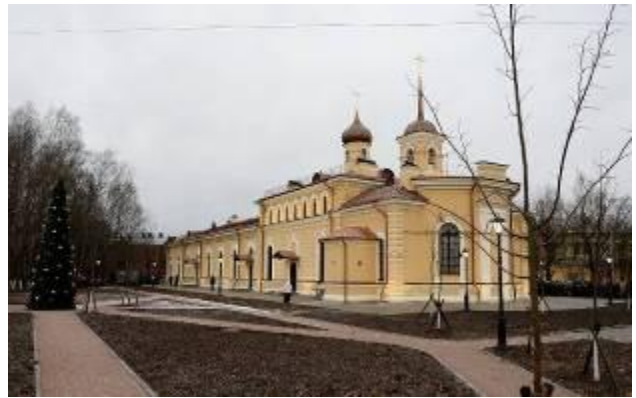
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## **The Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh restored in Tsarskoye Selo**

8 December. Press Service of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

On December 8, President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin visited the restored church of St. Sergius of Radonezh in Tsarskoye Selo, for the great blessing of which made this day Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill.

Head of state and the Russian Orthodox Church, was accompanied by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who heads the board of trustees for the rebuilding of the church, St. Petersburg Governor G.S. Poltavchenko, Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofy and rector Archpriest Gennady Zverev who gave a tour of the church museum.



Distinguished guests visited the exhibition "Guards arrow in the service of the Fatherland", which includes weapons, documents, military uniforms of the XIX century and the First World War, and also visited the church, where the President of Russia put candles.

The Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh in Tsarskoye Selo was built in 1904 for the soldiers of the Life Guards of the 2nd infantry battalion of the Tsarskoye Selo (in 1910 made a regiment). Chief of the military unit was the son of Emperor Alexander II, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich (1857-1905). The consecration of the church took place 110 years ago in the presence of Emperor Nicholas II and Grand Dukes Vladimir Alexandrovich and Sergei Alexandrovich.



In 1921 the church was closed, its decoration completely destroyed, and the bell tower was demolished. In 1990-2000-ies in the church building was located a Driving School and cafes.

In 2012 the church was officially returned to the Russian Orthodox Church. Work on the design and restoration of the church was done by "Baltstroy" under the supervision and with the assistance of the Board of Trustees. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the church was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.V. Lavrov.

The walls of the church were covered with frescoes in old style with modern elements. In the same building as the church, where previously was placed the Regiment training room and storeroom, has been created a museum of the 2nd Infantry Regiment of His Majesty the Tsarskoye Selo.





## St. Catherine Cathedral in Ekaterinodar celebrated 100 years anniversary

On St. Catherine Day, 7 December was celebrated the 100 years anniversary of one of the largest churches in Russia - St. Catherine Cathedral in Ekaterinodar.



The idea of building the cathedral is connected with the simultaneously tragic and miraculous event. In September 1888 Emperor Alexander III and his family visited Ekaterinodar. The Romanovs had been in the city for three days, and then went on a trip to the south of Russia. And in October to residents of the capital of the Kuban came news that the tsar's train had derailed near the station Borki. In the disaster more than 20 people were killed. August family was not affected. In honor of its miraculous rescue, in Ekaterinodar it was decided to build a church.

"The decision to build the Cathedral of St. Catherine was taken a year after the train wreck of the royal family. Initially, the main church of Ekaterinodar was going to be build in the west of the city, between the present streets of Kirov and Frunze, but residents of homes in the selected area for the construction did not want to leave their homes, and in Ekaterinodar was already started raising funds for the construction of a cathedral. Seven years later, was gathered 50 thousand Rubles - an enormous sum in those days. In 1896, came the decision of city council to build a new cathedral instead of a dilapidated church. Work started on the drawings. Following their approval, was laid the foundation stone. It was April 23, 1900. Due to lack of funds the construction of the cathedral periodically stopped. The work was complete only in 1914.

In the same year there was all over Ekaterinodar chimes. It summoned the congregation to the very first service in the new cathedral. Consecration of the seven altar of the church took place in March. Thrones were named after heavenly patrons, members of the royal family - Maria, Nicholas, George, Michael, Xenia and Olga. main one named after St. Catherine.

See the 10 min long video -

<http://kuban24.tv/item/spetsreportaj-100-let-svyato-ekaterininskomu-kafedralnomu-soboru>

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## Anthem "God Save the Tsar!" dedicated a special site

Known before the 1917 revolution as the anthem of Prince Alexei Lvov "God Save the Tsar!" can now be studied in detail in a special site.

Media resource dedicated to the national anthem of Imperial Russia, was presented on December 7-9, the Russian Institute of Art History.

- The fact that the Russian Institute of History of Art came to the study of this subject at a serious level, allowed it to present it in an interactive version to the whole society. We are very pleased to support such projects, - said at the presentation the deputy Minister of Culture of Russia Grigory Ivliev . Representation of the resource, which brings together information part, audio and video, was held in the St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum.

It is noted that the idea of creating a website about the hymn appeared two years ago, its concept was developed on the basis of archival materials from the Cabinet of manuscripts of the Russian Institute of Art History.



The site anthem "God Save the Tsar!" is presented by the choir and orchestra of the Mikhailovsky Theatre under the direction of Michael Tatarnikova, soloist - Dmitry Golovin.  
 "God Save the Tsar!" - The national anthem of the Russian Empire with 1833 to 1917, replaced the previous anthem "Prayer Russian".

See a video about it here - <http://hymn.artcenter.ru/video>

And check the site here - <http://hymn.artcenter.ru/>

## The lower cottage of Emperor Nicholas II is to be partial restored



On 6 December it was announced that the Ministry of Culture has considered several options for the restoration of the Lower Cottage of Emperor Nicholas II in Peterhof. Museum "Peterhof" presented concepts of three options: recreation of the cottage modeled on the postwar restoration, preservation of the ruins, in a state which is now a monument and a partial reconstruction of the ensemble. The department decided to choose the last option. The approved project will later be presented for public discussion in St. Petersburg.  
 For the restoration will be allocated 730 million rubles. The museum expects that 70% of the funding will come from the federal budget.

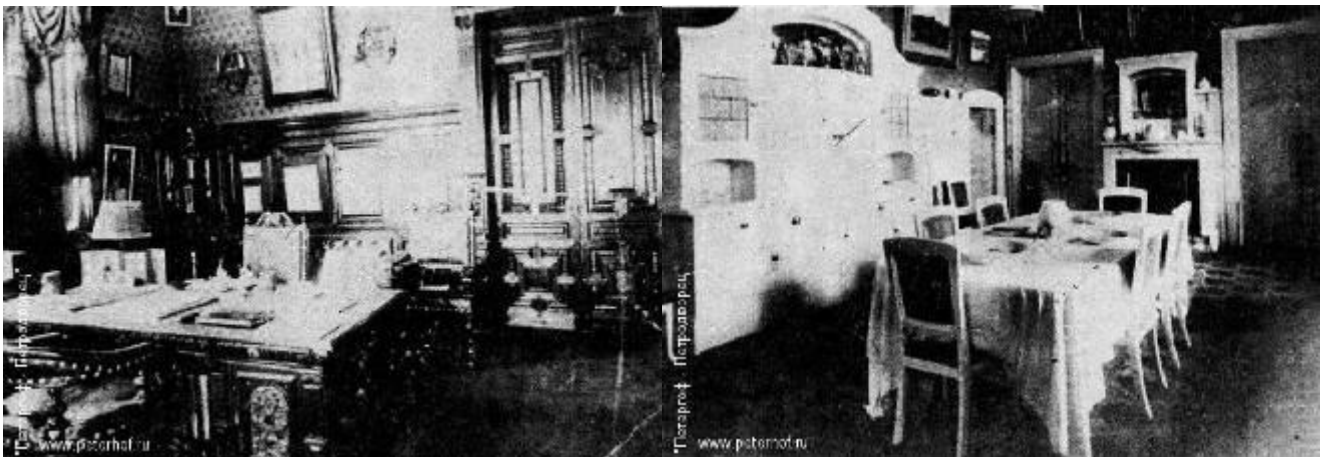




As the director of "Peterhof" Elena Kalnitskaya tells the project of partial reconstruction of Lower Cottage will allow visitors to imagine how this palace was at the beginning of the XX century. In the renovated building is supposed to be made a cultural center, where, besides museum exhibitions, will house a concert hall and a lecture hall.

It is assumed that the design work on the Lower Cottage is completed in 2015, and the construction will start already in 2016. Full completion of works is to be in 2025.

"Peterhof" believe that the emergence of such a cultural center will boost the attendance of the park "Alexandria", where it is located. Now it is 6% of the number of tourists who goes to the Lower Park of Peterhof, which is about 30 thousand per day.



*Interior views of the Lower Cottage*

Note - the lower cottage was built in Alexandria in the mid-1880s by the architect Antonio Tomishko. It was intended for the heir to the throne, the future Nicholas II. The Cottage has been made in the style of an Italian villa, it is decorated with a tall tower with an observation deck. Ten years later, the same architect has increased and rebuilt the house, turning the cottage into a summer palace of the emperor. In Soviet times, first the cottage was turned into a museum, then to a rest home of the NKVD. Damaged in the war years led the palace to be blown up in 1960 and only a part of the fundament has survived.

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### **Third version of "Peter I interrogates Tsarevich Alexei Petrovich at Peterhof" could be seen in Kiev**

Early in December Andreevsky gallery was opened, with an exhibition of paintings on museum level. Among the exhibited masterpieces is the painting by Nikolai Ge "Peter I interrogates Tsarevich Alexei Petrovich at Peterhof", which exist in three versions: one is kept in Moscow - in the Tretyakov Gallery, the second - in the Russian Museum, and the third - in a private collection in Kiev.



The painting was created for the Moscow exhibition dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Peter I. It is said that when the artist was finishing the painting in the studio came Tretyakov and said he is buying the painting. But at the show came Tsar Alexander II and he also liked it and asked to leave it behind. No one did not dare to explain to the emperor, that the work was already sold. Imagined a way out could be to give the tsar the one from the exhibition, and for Tretyakov make another. But, according to the artist, this Tretyakov did not accept. As a result, a new version was made for the tsar, and Tretyakov took the masterpiece immediately after the show.

The mastermind behind the organization of the exhibition is the famous Kiev collector and gallery owner Alexander Bray - Despite the difficult times, people today need positive emotions, - says Alexander Bray. - That's why we have organized the exhibition. I think that everyone now has to continue to do their job professionally. Only in this case, the country can develop.

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### **"Emperor Alexander I's reign ended in Taganrog"**

December 2 in the Rostov Regional Museum opened the exhibition "Emperor Alexander I's reign ended in Taganrog", prepared by the city of Rostov and Taganrog State literary historical - Architectural Museum.

The exhibition introduce the brilliant Alexander era, which ended in the autumn of 1825 in Taganrog, with the death of the emperor. Alexander I in the first years of the reign of paid great attention to the development of Taganrog as the largest shopping and administrative center of the south of Russia. There were issued dozens of decrees on the development of the city and in 1802 was





created Taganrog city government. The emperor twice visited Taganrog. The last time he came to the town was September 1, 1825, and he lived there for a long time, making it his residence. After the death of the emperor, his widow - Empress Elizabeth A., lived in Taganrog five months and established a royal residence in the first memorial museum in Russia "Highest Alexander Palace Taganrog." The museum lasted 100 years and ceased to exist in 1920, some of the items was transferred to the museum in Taganrog.

The exhibition features about 120 items, including memorial furniture from the Palace of Alexander I in Taganrog, unique autographs by Emperor Alexander I, items of decorative - applied art and rare book editions of the early 19th century. A special place has materials about the main event of the Alexandrian epoch - the victory over Napoleon.

Maps, rare prints, drawings and lithographs, as well as the decrees of the emperor on the development of Taganrog, will give an idea of the city, which in September 1825 was to become the residence of Alexander I. Undoubted interest are photos and documents about the memorial museum of Alexander I in Taganrog, including "The Book of records of visitors to the Supreme Palace of Alexander I".

Next year marks 190 years since the death of the Emperor Alexander I, on the eve of this date Rostov will again remember about one of the most significant chapters in the history of the country and the region, having become acquainted with unique objects - witnesses of a bygone era.

Video - <http://dontr.ru/vesti/kultura/vy-stavka-posvyashhennaya-aleksandru-i-otkry-las-v-rostovskom-oblastnom-muzee-kraevedeniya/>

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### **A new grave stone for the mother of the jeweler Fabergé.**

The grave site of Charlotte Fabergé has been found at the Dresden Trinitatisfriedhof and a new grave stone has been installed on 29 November.

Charlotte Fabergé (born 1824 in St. Petersburg) was, according to the death certificate Lutheran faith. In the twenties of the last century, her tomb was forgotten and left without any markings. She is the mother of the famous Russian goldsmith and court jeweler Carl Fabergé (1846-1920) and died in 1903 in Dresden.

Three years ago, the German-Russian Cultural Institute in the framework of the project "Russian traces in Dresden" researched the story of Charlotte Fabergé. Her husband Gustave Faberge, of Huguenot descent, lived in Estonia, moved to St. Petersburg and in 1860 to Dresden. In 1861 their son Carl Fabergé received Confirmation at the Dresden Court Chapel. In 1870, the family returned to St. Petersburg. When Charlotte Faberge returned to Dresden is not known.



After more than 80 years, a new grave stone was placed at the original location. This project was realized in close cooperation with the administration of Elias, Trinitatis- and locust cemetery and the Dresden Culture and Heritage Office. Attending the ceremony was Ms. Tatiana Fabergé (great-granddaughter of Carl Faberge), chairman of the Carl Faberge Memorial Foundation (Switzerland / France); Dr. Valentin Skurlov, a leading expert Fabergé (St. Petersburg), expert of the Russian Ministry of Culture (Moscow) and Christie's Auction House (London); Vladimir Cochin, Managing Director of the Foundation "Russky Mir" (Moscow); Vladimir Litarenko, expert of the Foundation "Russkiy Mir"

(Moscow); and Representatives of the Embassy and the Consulate General Leipzig of the Russian Federation.



### **Pistrucci's Waterloo medal**

Almost 200 years in the making – Pistrucci's Waterloo Medal is finally presented to the Allied powers who defeated Napoleon in 1815.

On it can be seen the conjoined busts of King George IV of England, Emperor Francis I of Austria, Emperor Alexander I of Russia, and King Friederich Wilhelm III of Prussia.



Britain has belatedly honoured the nations which defeated Napoleon at Waterloo with a huge commemorative silver medal, nearly 200 years after the awards were first commissioned. Ambassadors from Austria, Russia and Germany were given the medal at a ceremony at Apsley House, Wellington's London home at Hyde Park Corner. The Queen will receive one later.

The five-and-a-half inch diameter (139mm) awards were ordered by the Duke of Wellington's brother days after the 1815 battle, to be presented to the sovereigns of the four victorious allied nations.



Benedetto Pistrucci, a renowned engraver of the time, produced the design but its size and intricacy meant it took 30 years to create the dies, by which time all the proposed recipients were dead. The medal has now been struck in pure silver and at full size, in preparation for the 200th anniversary of the battle.

Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, chairman of the Waterloo 200 committee overseeing the anniversary events, said the medal weighing four-and-a-half pounds (2kg) was a "thumping great thing". He said: "It's an extraordinary story. Pistrucci was commissioned to design a Waterloo medal that never got struck. Here we are 200 years later and the thing has been made in the way it was originally envisaged and full size."

Worcestershire Medal Service, medallist to the Queen, made the medals on behalf of the London Mint Office. In all up to 2015 of the full size medals are being minted for the bicentenary and will be on sale at £3,900 each.

James Deeny, managing director of The London Mint Office, said: "Telling history through coins and commemorative medals is at the heart of what we do. I can't imagine a better example of this than bringing to life Pistrucci's beautiful and amazingly detailed Waterloo Medal as originally intended by the master engraver."

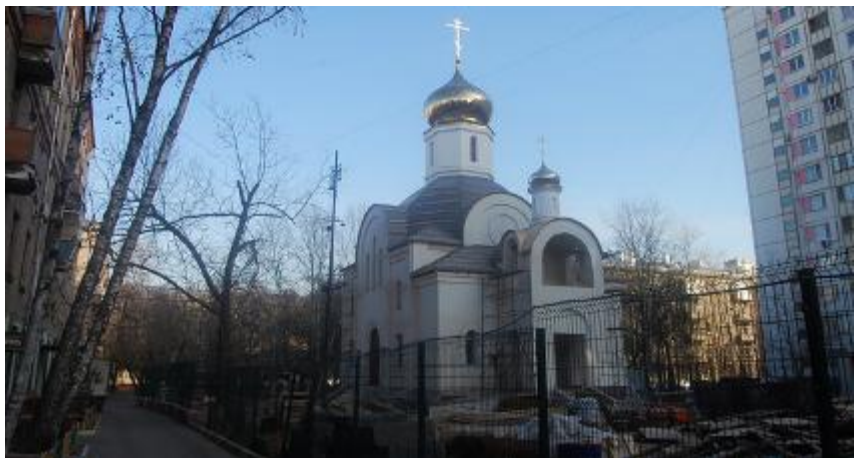
Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MouNi1XW4IA>

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## *Romanov buzz*



In the north of Moscow will open a church in honor of the Royal Martyrs. Adviser to the Mayor of Moscow and the Patriarch, Vladimir Resin on Saturday 13 December visited the church in honor of the Royal Martyrs, which is being built in the north of Moscow. "At Christmas in the church will be held its first service, so we must work hard. Temporary heating is already connected, but we need to finish the job of all engineering systems and complete roofing. This will allow to hold the first Christmas worship. This is the primary task now" says Vladimir Resin. Now is also being worked on the external and internal decoration. This is the first church built on the program "200 churches", but is the only one in the capital, dedicated to the royal family. The church on 6 Novopodmoskovny lane will accommodate 200 worshipers. Video - <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/57401>



Exhibition devoted to Alexander I, opened in Rostov Regional Museum Residents and guests of Rostov has a rare opportunity to see the personal belongings of Alexander I. The exhibition, dedicated to one of the most famous representatives of the Romanov dynasty, was opened in the regional museum of local lore. Exhibits brought from Taganrog, where was the residence of Emperor Alexander. Personal belongings of the Tsar are for example, dishes, and unique, never before published autographs. Total - 160 objects that tell about the fate of the Russian Emperor.

"This exhibition presents the originals - for two months we are permitted to retrieve them from the funds and show them. Therefore in Rostov you are able to see authentic things, witnesses of the stay of Alexander I in Taganrog" - said a senior fellow at the Taganrog Literary and Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve Alla Tsymbal.



From 13 to 19 December in Nizhny Novgorod, in jewellery salon "Byzantium", you can see the unique women's jewellery made by "Smolensk Diamonds" from the drawings of Carl Faberge. These sketches were found in the vaults of the Hermitage and have been used to create the new jewellery. Watch the video - <http://stnmedia.ru/?id=17050>



On German TV, Saturday, January 10, 2015, at 18:30 clock will be shown the documentary "The empresses from Hesse". There were four Hessian princess who married into the Russian ruling dynasty. Their fates were dramatic, especially the last Tsarina, born Alix Princess of Hesse and by Rhine, later Tsarina Alexandra. Before the First World War, the Tsar's family spent another happy holiday with the Hessian relationship in Friedberg, hoping for health for her youngest, who was a hemophiliac. No one thought of the collapse of Europe and its empires. The move from the tranquil Darmstadt to the pre-revolutionary St. Petersburg ended in 1918 with the fatal shooting of the royal family. Alexandra with all her children died. Misty Marie was more lucky, Tsarina from 1855 to 1880, a woman of extraordinary beauty and elegance and with ongoing ties to the Hessian home. During the summer she and Tsar Alexander II prefer to spend time in Heiligenberg and in Jugenheim on the mountain road.



Museum of the Romanov family in Tobolsk is scheduled to open August 6, 2017, on the centenary of the arrival of the royal family into exile. The museum is located in the house of the governor-general, which over the years was visited by royal personages and in eight months Emperor Nicholas II and his wife and children spent in exile. So far, things that belonged to them, are shown in the Palace of the governor, in the future they will be moved to the new museum exhibition. "Tobolsk, which is famous as the city where stayed this family has a historic right to this museum. Today, we are working with federal ownership of the house or to transfer it to the regional, or municipal. It was decided to allocate funds to ensure that already now we begin to develop a concept" - said the governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir Yakushev. "It will be a broad representation of all the Romanovs influence on the development of Siberia, the theme of emigration, the theme of the visits of royal personages. The second floor will be dedicated to connection with the family," - said Deputy Director Vladislav Dronov.



In the Tyumen State University, in the museum-laboratory Public Education Department of History, Economics and Management was made an exhibition of "the Romanov royal family in Tobolsk." It is dedicated to the celebration of the 120th anniversary of the enthronement of Emperor Nicholas II. The first students who went on the tour was 10 and 11 grade of the school №12. "We know that over time relations to the royal family is changing dramatically - says the guide, a student of history, economics and management Evgenia Dmitrieva. - This can be seen even on the





composition of the menu. Here is a copy of a menu in 1917. To the table served meat products, milk and fruit. In 1918 meat menu is almost impossible, there is only potatoes." In August 1917, Nicholas II and his family were sent to the first Siberian capital. The decision was taken by the Provisional Government of the tense situation related to the activation of the Bolshevik movement in St. Petersburg. This departure was supposed to "defuse" the situation in the capital and at the same time protect the royal dynasty. The family of the last Russian emperor arrived in Tobolsk on August 6 on steamer "Rus" and was housed in the Governor's house, located in the downtown area.

In the exhibition are genealogical tree of the Romanov family, photos, and documents. In the pictures of the Emperor's daughter, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia they can be seen while reading books, walking in the garden. Also there is a portrait of a little Alexis. At another black-and-white shot Nicholas II deals with firewood. Keep a copy of the accounts, which are also represented in the exhibition, shows that the costs of the family is carefully recorded. Often, money is spent, for example, in the book - it's "Bible" or "New Testament."

Today Tobolsk cherishes the glory of the city, which did not kill the tsar, but was the last few months of rest of the royal family. The letters and diaries of Nicholas II spoke warmly of Tobolsk.

"Today's tour - is only the beginning of the project. The exhibition tells about the life of the Emperor in Tobolsk. The plans are to enhance the tour. For example, to see how changed the attitude to the family and to the person of the tsar, from the moment of accession, coronation and to the tragic day. This is what we expect to do on the basis of publications that came out in the newspapers Tobolsk Province"- says the head of the museum-laboratory Oksana Gaucho.



December 10 at the Art Gallery of the Institute of Theology of Saints Cyril and Methodius, in Belarusian State University was opened the photo exhibition "Give Love". The exhibition is organized with the blessing of the bishop Mstislav Sophronia of Mogilev and is timed to coincide with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty and the 100th anniversary of the start of First World War. On display are some photos from the personal albums of the Romanov dynasty, from the Imperial Feodorovsky Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo in St. Petersburg, some from Mogilev city's museum, as well as from the collection of Muscovite Gennady Malofeeva, and the album "Imperial Family."

Several photos are devoted to the First World War, in particular, the royal family stays at the HQ in Mogilev. During the presentation of the exhibition was held a lecture by Sergey Somov, the Dean of the Faculty of Slavic Studies of the Mogilev State University named after A. Kuleshov. The lecture was attended by students of the theology faculty and staff of GUO "social education centers, "Partyzanski district of Minsk", who are familiar with the current problems of the family. In his lecture, Sergey Somov on the example of the Holy Family of Nicholas II showed an example of family life, which should be pursued, reading diaries of spouses, presented at the exhibition.



By the 237th anniversary of Alexander I, celebrated on December 23, 2014, the Presidential Library named after Boris Yeltsin presents on its website rare materials about the life and work of the emperor. About childhood and adolescence details are written in the book of Nicholas Duchinskogo "Blessed King. Emperor Alexander I" and in letters of Empress Catherine II to her friends, who lived mostly abroad. The portal Presidential Library presents the letters of Catherine the Great to Baron Grimm in French. Alexander I in connection with the strained relationship of father and grandmother had to work very hard. About it wrote G.N. Alekseyev in his book "Alexander I". Morning 12 (24) March 1801 was delivered to the population of St. Petersburg the manifesto on the accession of Emperor Alexander I. The peoples reaction is described in the book of Nicholas Duchinskogo "Emperor Alexander I-st: his life and reign". At the opening of the State Council in 1810 the emperor delivered his landmark speech: "... everything will be done by me to establish order and

protect the empire by good laws" - we read in the book of Nicholas Duchinskogo - "Manifesto of Emperor Alexander I on the formation of the State Council: January 1, 1810" with the handwritten signature of the sovereign is available on the portal of the Presidential Library. Descriptions of the military exploits of Alexander I can be found in the 1827 rarity "Selected features memorable sayings and anecdotes august Emperor Alexander I, the peacemaker of Europe".



December 10, 2014 was in the building of the Public Chamber of Russia, with the support of "Russian public organization of persons with disabilities" and "Party of Revival of Russia", held - as they say themselves - "a significant event for our country" - the official opening of the Charitable Foundation "Romanovsky", "named in memory of the life and traditions of the heroism of charity of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family". Before the event the new foundation "expressed a desire to be honored by the presence as special guests of the Fund: The Grand Duke Romanov - Hohenzollern Georgy (Madrid ); Dmitry Romanovich Romanov (Copenhagen); Representatives of the Russian Monarchist Union; Representatives of the Russian State Duma, the Presidential Administration, the Moscow City Duma Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs; Representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate; Russian businessmen headed by Andrei Kovalev; Famous sculptor Shcherbakov, painter Nesterenko, and public and government officials." - I do not think any of these showed up. The program of events was announced as - "the introduction of new, socially significant projects of the Foundation "Romanovsky", a charity auction, an exhibition of icons, objects and attributes of crowned Romanov family, costume show of historical club, performance of pupils from Orthodox school "Retro", and a concert of Michael Zhumchuzhnogo." Fund "Romanovsky" intends to do everything possible to revive and continue the best traditions of Russian charity. Special focus of the Fund will be to support educational programs and projects of health care, assistance to orphans, the disabled and other disadvantaged people. It is symbolic that the opening ceremony of the Fund "Romanovsky" will be held in the building of the Public Chamber of Russia. This fact the organizers wanted to emphasize that entirely open for cooperation and willing to help in the implementation of social projects all who care about education and health in Russia.



Representatives of the public movement "Arhnadzor" asked the mayor of Moscow, Sergei Sobyenin in a request to take personal control over the preservation of the so-called "House of Anna Mons." According to them, this example of a construction from the era of Peter I can be destroyed. As stated in an open letter addressed to the head of the city, the building is an object of cultural heritage of federal importance, and according to recent research, it is associated with the names of the Dutch doctors, father and son Vandergulstov, court doctors for Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich and Peter the Great. But now the house "is not restored, unused, dilapidated and destroyed." The organization ask Sobyenin to take the object under his personal control, giving appropriate instructions to the executive power of the city, in particular, prescribe the Cultural Heritage Department of the city of Moscow to undertake the necessary emergency response and restoration work. The building, located at Starokirochny lane, 6, was leased by the Russian Corporation Rocket and Space Instrumentation and Information Systems in June 2010. The user signed a security obligation for which it is requested to conduct a full range of repair and restoration work. However, over the past four and a half years no repairs were made. For nearly 30 years, a unique historical and cultural monument is actually not accessible for cultural and tourist traffic, neither Muscovites, or visitors to the city cannot even see it.







Other historic buildings in Moscow are in risk of collaps. One is the urban estate of Count Orlov of the XVIII century, a building of great historical value. Work to save it began two years ago, but now work has stopped due to a conflict between owner and the contractor. A dispute arose after the first year of operation, when the customer decided that the price of repairs was greatly overstated. Now the exposed brick walls during winter can cause rupture of masonry due to the freezing of moisture.



In Zlatoust, Chelyabinsk region, on 20 December, in one of the souvenir factories was stolen a collection of unique prints and weapons worth about 5 million rubles. According to a representative of the art workshop, the thieves stole large an engraving of gold and silver with a map of the Battle of Borodino and the family tree of the Romanov family, a half-meter sword with precious stones on the scabbard, and a few dishes from the collections of "The Romanov Dynasty" and "200 years of the Battle of Borodino". The company added that, together with engravings was lost a large number of minor works.





Next year, in the territory of ENEA (Exhibition centre of Achievements of the National Economy) in Moscow is to open a exhibition dedicated to the history of Russian tsars. In the 57th pavilion will be an enhanced version of the two exhibitions "The Romanovs" and "Rurikvich", which was in the "Manezh" last year and this year. The new parts will be the period after 1917, and the Great Patriotic War. - "The exhibition will open September 1st next year, but the exact date may change slightly" - told Alexander Myasnikov, who oversees the creation of the museum - "The exposition will be expanded. All that we were not able to show earlier will appear here. November 4th, we will traditionally spend the third exhibition in the "Manezh", next year dedicated to the twentieth century. After the end of it, it will move to ENEA".



A wedding ceremony in Livadia Palace? "Livadia Palace Museum and the registry office in Yalta invites you to solemnly register your marriage in one of the oldest and most beautiful places in the Russian Crimea, Russian palace of Tsar Nicholas II - Livadia" - reads an ad posted on the official website at the residence of the royal Romanov family. You will be accompanied by actors dressed as ladies and gentlemen, escorting of all the guests to the Ceremonial Hall of the Palace. The future newlyweds are led to the Tsar's office, where will be the last preparations before the formal registration and a professional photo shoot. The ceremony lasts about an hour. This service will be available to all citizens of the Russian Federation, but only next year and only on Saturdays. First ceremony is scheduled for January 31, 2015. Cost for the fun is 100 thousand rubles.



Ministry of Culture of Crimea in a comments said: - According to the laws of the Russian Federation similar ceremony in historic buildings are not banned in Moscow, however, at the moment about weddings in the Livadia Palace is being only negotiate with Moscow representatives. This is not a government agency. Document to authorizing ceremonies there has not been signed. Not from the Livadia Palace Museum, or from the registry office of the Yalta, let alone the ministry. In addition, the Livadia Palace is not involved in the organization of weddings, but only provides premises and territories for rent. Therefore, they need to make an application to host the ceremony at the residence of Nicholas II, so it is all premature.



On 17 December was inauguration a monument to Emperor Peter I and the Control Center of the High Command of the Russian Navy in the Admiralty. The event was attended by Chief of the IMF Admiral Viktor Chirkov, vice-governor of Saint Petersburg Alexander Govorunov, veterans of the Navy, and representatives of maritime industries. Sanctification of the monument made rector of the Kronstadt Naval Cathedral St. Nicholas, head of the Synodal Department of the Navy and the chairman of the diocesan Department for Relations with the Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies, Archimandrite Alexis (Ganzhin). In his opening speech, he said that Russia has a glorious naval history, which began with the time of Peter. Peter the Great - the only one in the history of the world renowned naval commander, who personally created from scratch a navy and all of its structure, and then at the head of a young fleet won a glorious victory. There are no photos (yet) of the new monument. It is assumed due to the inauguration of the Control Center was photos not allowed.



22 December in Tallinn opened an exhibition in the House Estonian dolls with of copies of dolls from the collection owned by the royal family and original antique dolls from that time. Part of the exhibition after the show will be donated to Tsarskoye Selo. The royal collection numbered more than



three thousand dolls, but only a few copies survived and they are now in Sergiev Posad, the fate of the rest is still a mystery.

"We do not have the dolls, which were touched by the daughter of Nicholas II, but there are dolls of those years and those manufacturers" - said the owner Svetlana Pchelnikova.

The exhibition in the house of dolls will be open until March.



Restoration of the Chinese Palace, at Oranienbaum, begun in 2009 and continues in full swing. With the support of sponsors from Germany and with today's pace of work it is scheduled to open in 2018. Major restoration work are carried out in the lobby of the Chinese Palace. According to Elena Kalnitskaya, General Director of the State Museum "Peterhof", initially for completion after the repairs was scheduled 2013, but then it was postponed for 2015, and now it have moved to a period in the 2017-2018. "Everything is done adequately, accurately and quickly. There were of course interruptions, because we are lagging behind because of funding, but now all the issues have been resolved" - she said. Not so long ago to continue the restoration of the Chinese Palace the Directorate of GMZ attracted a sponsor from Germany - the company Wintershall Holding. Contract with German partners was signed in late November. "Our priorities is the preparation for the exhibition dedicated to the anniversary of the Grand Palace. Just yesterday "State Museum Reserve Peterhof" received the first part of the German money, because in addition to Gazprom, this project is now sponsored by the German partners. They have in spite of all the difficulties of the international situation signed a contract with us and yesterday came the first money. We are glad and grateful for this."



Currently are restored 6 out of 17 halls of the palace, including the world's only Steklyarusny office. A new contract with the German sponsors involves the restoration of the Great Hall and the Palace Galleries, as well as work in three rooms - Boudoir, the office of Paul I and damask bedchamber.



Emperor Peter the Great's house in the summer garden is now closed for restoration. The two-storey Summer Palace - a modest structure, consisting of only fourteen rooms and two kitchens - was designed by the Italian architect Domenico Trezzini in 1714. "Waterproofing, full restoration of utilities, strengthening of the limestone foundation - perhaps the first thing will be to engage professionals. And only then pay attention to the interiors. And, we will not only restore what has decayed, but also what is only in fair condition. The fact is that the work of predecessors - restorers in 60s - are found a lot of historical inaccuracies. Thus, the pattern on the fabric on the bed of Peter does not match the upholstery on the walls, and in the ceilings were made mistakes. The whole frame is made in the 70s of XX century and it does not quite match the historical profiles that were used in the XVIII century. Well, there is an empty space around, so we expect to replace the very frame and add some geometric figures that adorn this" - explains Nikolai Ivanov, the chief architect of the restoration project of the Summer Palace of Peter I. The only room which is preserved almost completely with historic decor is the kitchen. For three centuries survived tile, furnace, oak cutting table, and even a sink. For visitors the summer residence of the Emperor is expected to be opened in 2017.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/125623](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/125623)



In the mayor's office in Penza it has been decided to erect a monument to Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich, who signed a decree on the establishment of the walled city of Penza. During a press conference the head of administration of Penza Yuri Kryvau said that there will be recreated a square at the bishop's house, where then will be establish a monument of the father of Peter I - Russian Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich Romanov, in which time was founded Penza,



The project "Peter I in Russian history" in the Museum of Fine Arts in Tyumen, have launched a time machine to the destination - "ballroom style of the XVIII century!" Until 16 February 2015 by buying "a ticket to the past", to the event "New Year's Assembly", you will learn about the balls, learn to understand the "language of the fan", take part in master classes of historical dance studio «Merletto». In addition, you will see the unique items from the collections of the museum complex, which is demonstrated for the first time after the restoration work. This is a handmade embroidered picture "Peter I in the storm on Lake Ladoga", made by an unknown master in the XIX century. The plot and the composition represented goes back to the famous painting by Karl Shcheybina "Peter I during a storm on Lake Ladoga rescues drowning." Also on display are paintings, graphic works with the image of Peter the Great, navigational instruments XVIII-XIX centuries, Weapons and rare books of the XVIII century. et al.



Members of the Club of Friends of the Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" Sybil and Berndt Kreft from Dresden donated to the museum a collection of photo greeting cards of XIX - early XX century. They were collected by the grandmother of Mrs. Kreft, Helen Emily Kramer, nee Wirth. In this collection of 141 photo greeting cards, including images of the family of Emperor Nicholas II, representatives of the Prussian and Danish royal families, and politicians of Europe, many of them are unique and almost never occur in Russia. On these cards are depict Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Anastasia, the Tsesarevich Alexei, Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna, German airship designer Graf Zeppelin, President Roosevelt and other historical personalities.

Helen Emily Kramer was born in 1893 in Moscow, where at that time lived and worked her parents. In Germany, the family returned in 1906 or 1907. The postcards Helen Amelia began as young to collect in Moscow and continued this hobby at home. - Of course, for us, the most valuable images of representatives of the Romanov dynasty and crowned European relatives. It is an extensive collection for our museum, but incomplete. Until recently, it was about two hundred cards that were part of several series, which represented the family of Nicholas II, the Prussian Imperial House, Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna after her marriage, and others. Now we have a big part of the series of photo greeting cards. We hope that someday we will be able to recreate them in their entirety, - says custodian of the "Fotonegateka Cards" Victoria Plaude.







*"Pilgrimage of Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna the holy places"* - was presented on December 16, 2014 in the Central Museum of Ancient Culture and Art named after Andrei Rublev. This album is the result of years of joint activity of the Nizhny Novgorod Pechersky Ascension Monastery and charity fund "Revival of Cultural Heritage" under the auspices of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. The album tells the story of pilgrimages made by Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna to the holy places. The album has a lot of photos, pictures, postcards, prints, lithographs, original documents. For the first time in the pages of the album "Pilgrimage of Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna the holy places" are included 35 pilgrimages that are based on periodicals, books, albums, memories, as well as archival documents and letters. The presentation was made by the authors of the album, the members of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Archimandrite Tikhon (Zatekin), A.N. Panin, and D.Y. Matveenko.



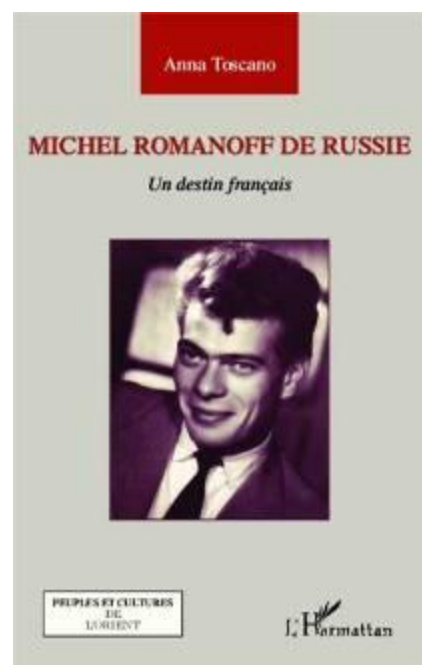
*Michel Romanoff of Russia - A French destiny* - Prince Michel Romanoff's biography is out in French. The book is called "Michel Romanoff de Russie - Un destin français" (Michel Romanoff of Russia - A French destiny), is on 320 pages written by Anna Toscano and published by Editions L'Harmattan. A book signing was held on 8 rue Chartran on Thursday, December 18th.

Michel Romanoff is Emperor Nicolas II's nephew; a great-grandson of Alexander II on his mother's side, and a great-grandson of Alexander III on mother father's side. His paradoxical story takes us from his childhood with his imperial colors to voluntary commitment in a red battalion. Very young, he began a film career as a first assistant alongside the greatest directors of the moment, Henri-Georges Clouzot and Julien Duvivier. But French film was a bit to the left, so the presence of this descendant of tsars, was not easy.

That's assistant profession got him the most romantic adventures, wildest, and most gigantic too, like on the set of *The Bounty* (Lewis Milestone) to Tahiti, or the *Travel of Marco Polo* (Christian-Jaque) to India and the borders of Kashmir.

Michel Romanoff carries with him a dramatic Russia, from both his parents and that of "niania" - his Belarusian nanny. Emotionally tinged, stories of travel to the land of his ancestors have unexpected flavor. Russia so far and so close to his heart, the aura reacted to his last breath.

Anna Toscano left Italy for France in 1980 and teaches Italian in high school La Bruyère at Versailles. Initiated by RTL-TV Paris, she realizes cultural magazines. It was in 2004 that she met Prince Michael Romanoff of Russia, while making a documentary about the actress Annabella, broadcasted on Ciné Cinéma.



## **The book about the election to the throne of the Great Russian ruler Tsar and Grand Duke Mikhail Feodorovich, All Great Russia autocrat**



The publication is an outstanding monument of Russian literary culture of the XVII century - it is a book about the election to the throne of the Great Russian ruler of the kingdom Tsar and Grand Duke Mikhail Feodorovich, All Great Russia autocrat - reflecting the main events in the wedding to the throne in 1613, of the first tsar of the House of Romanov. Readers are shown beautifully reproduced illuminated manuscripts, made in 1673 in the court art workshops commissioned by Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich. The publication is an almost complete reproduction of this unique monument, both the content and decorations. The publication is provided with comments that explains the historical context and details of architectural staffage.

*Publisher: The Moscow Kremlin, Moscow. Hardcover, size 218h281 mm, 308 pages. Isbn 978-5-88678-277-6*

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## **Domestic policy of Anna Ivanovna (1730-1740)**



This monograph explores the process of formation of domestic policy during the reign of Anna Ivanovna (1730-1740) and analyze the major domestic activities in Anna's reign. In the spotlight - the logic of formation of domestic policy, the problem of its relationships and continuity with the internal policies of the previous epoch, its dynamics, as well as the factors influencing the development and implementation of its main areas of practice.

*Publisher: Political Encyclopedia, Moscow. Hardcover, size 145 x 215 mm, 1063 pages. Isbn 978-5-8243-1927-9*

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## **Palace intrigues and political adventures.**

### **Notes of Mary Kleinmichel. Russian aristocracy during the last Romanovs**



Memoirs of the Countess Maria Eduardovna Kleinmichel, a known representative of "high society", the mistress of a political salon in St. Petersburg, where on the eve of World War I were going politicians, diplomats, dignitaries and members of the royal family. In it you can discover unknown pages of the life of the Russian aristocracy during the last Romanovs. Despite excerpts from her are repeatedly cited by historians and publicists, the memoirs of M.E. Kleinmichel in Russia has never been published in full.

*Publisher: AST, Moscow. Pages: 446. ISBN: 978-5-17-080628-7. Rubles 329,00.*

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## The Romanovs. Forbidden Love in the memoirs of the maids of honor

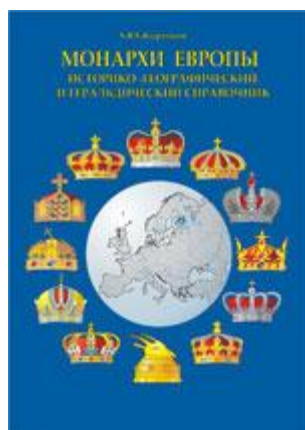


Memoirs of Baroness Meyendorff, the maid of honor of Empress Maria Alexandrovna and relative of Stolypin - a real chronicle of everyday life of high society of the Empire. Fascinating, but truly tragic story begins in the XIX century and ends in the middle of the twentieth century. Baroness social circle was all the high society of the Russian Empire - she danced at balls with the Emperor Alexander II; was friend of Alexander III; attended the last speech in the Duma of Nicholas II. She talks about what was going on behind the walls of the palaces, a frequent guest of which she was. The Baroness sheds light on many unknown details of the private life of the Romanov dynasty, including the relationship of members of the House with persons non-royal blood, which was strictly forbidden and severely punished by the law of the Empire.

*Publisher: AST, Moscow. Pages 286. ISBN: 978-5-17-087497-2. Rubles 329,00.*

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## Monarchies of Europe. History and geography and heraldic reference.



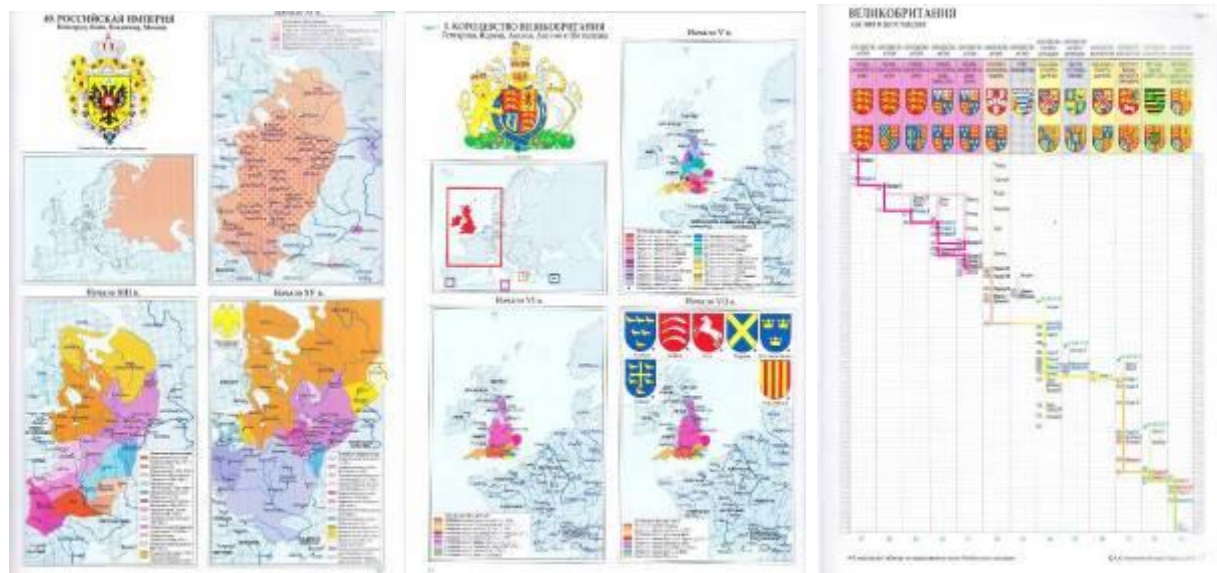
This handbook by Alexei Y. Zhuravkov is a unique publication, which summarized in a single system historical and geographical, genealogical and heraldic data from almost all European dynasties from their inception to the present day.

It provides information on the 7500 European monarchs, presented in an accessible graphical format with chronological tables reflecting periods of government, change of dynasties, changes in the coats of arms of the sovereign, as well as a series of historical maps that indicate the dynamics of the state.

The book is published with the support of the Russian Nobility Association and is dedicated the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty.

Preface by George V. Vilinbakhov.

*Publisher: NSTU, Novosibirsk. Hardcover, size a4-format, 300 pages. Isbn 978-5-7782-2334-9*



Under the hammer...

**Romanov related items in Auctions**



**Russian Enamel Auction House, Moscow, Russia, on 29 November;**



"Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich." End of the XVII century. 26.8 x 18.5 cm (sheet), 16.3 x 11.2 cm (reprint). Below the image: «Alexio Mihalouich Gran Duca di Moscouia». Engraving from the book "Ritratti et elogii di capitani illustri". Estimate 15 000 - 20 000 rubles.

"Portrait of Alexander II". 1887. Oil on canvas, 56.5 x 45 cm (oval). Bottom right "illegible signature/ Dresden / 26.9.87". Estimate 700 000 - 1 000 000 rubles.



Project vase (De Shu de table) by Faberge company. Unknown artist. Beginning of the twentieth century. Watercolor on paper. 66h x 48,5. Estimate 100 000 - 150 000 rubles.



Bonbonniere, Saint-Petersburg, Faberge, master Michael Perkhin "MP", 1880-1890. Silver; guilloche enamel, pearls, diamond-cut old, gilding. Hallmarks: 88, firm "Faberge", master "MP".

Bonbonnière has a heart shape with slightly convex lid and the body of gilded silver inside. Enamel surface has a depth and volume. It seems that the rays on the cover come from the commitment in its middle, a small diamond. Enamel ground to a mirror shine and silky to touch. Edge of the cover is decorated with a belt of fine white pearls.

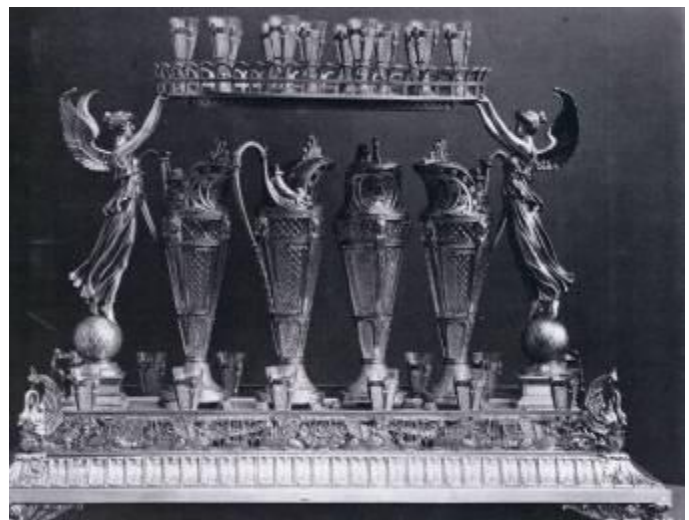
Weight 39.2 g. Size 4,5h x 4,3 x 2.

Estimate 425 000 - 550 000 rubles.



Set of six glasses. Moscow, Firm K. Bolin, 1899-1908. Silver, crystal; gilding, cutting, grinding. Hallmarks: 88 samples, Moscow Assay district manager Ivan Lebedkina - "IL"; firm «BOLIN»; serial numbers scratched - 1,2,4,7,19,21.

Rim glasses are typical examples of products Faberge by Charles Edward Bolin. They are tight-fitting surface of conical glasses made of lead glass (crystal), decorated with small "stone". Frames with elements of the Empire decor strictly solved and refined. Rim of the glass body is a four herms with a woman's head in Egyptian style with characteristic lobular headdress. Similar glasses we can see in an old photo found in the archive of the family Bolin in



Stockholm. Wine glasses (24 pieces) were part of a luxury device and faceted leaded glass and silver, which consists of a plateau and two decanters. This once again confirms the authenticity of the items. Frames have scratched the bottom of the serial numbers: 1,2,4,7,19,21. Wineglass of this device is quite possible, and were part of the service, imprinted on the old photos. Height 9.5 cm. The diameter of the top 3.5 cm. Similar glasses published in the catalog "Jewelry & silver. "VA Bolin" - 200 years. Estimate 950 000 - 1 250 000 rubles.



Ladle in the Russian style with the image of a griffin  
Russia, Moscow, firm Faberge, 1908-1917. Silver; applying niello, stamp, gilding. Hallmarks: 84 samples, Moscow Assay Administration; firm "Faberge", scratched inventory number 32014. Griffin - in Slavic mythology - the winged monster-bird with a lion's body and an eagle's head. Weight 715 g. Size 29,5h x 17 x 7,2. Estimate 750 000 - 1 200 000 rubles.



### ***Sotherby's, Geneva, Switzerland, on 9 December;***

Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (the Elder's) emerald earrings sold for \$1,055,000 at Sotherby's auction 9 December in Geneva.



The two drop-shaped emeralds suspended from two round pyramid-shaped cabochon emeralds, within diamond-set frames of later addition set with round, old mine and single-cut diamonds, weighing approximately 17.50 carats.

Few jewels in the world can claim such fame for their splendour as those belonging to the Russian Imperial family. Their fabulous and historic stones and masterful execution were unrivalled in all the courts of Europe.

Maria Pavlovna was famous for her jewelry collection. Her emerald parure - a wedding gift from the Tsar - had no rival in any court in Europe, with the central emerald in the necklace weighing over 100 carats. Her collection was rich not only in historic pieces but also in stunning jewels created for her after she met Pierre Cartier in 1900. Their shared knowledge of gemstones and great sense of style saw the birth of many amazing pieces.

In 1902 the Grand Duchess's daughter married Prince Nicolas of Greece and Denmark. To mark the occasion, the Vladimirs showered Elena with jewels, including some pieces from Maria Pavlovna's personal collection and others created especially, such as the diamond kokoshnik commissioned from Cartier by Grand Duchess Vladimir.

Having a predilection for emeralds, she chose the best stones from her vast collection to give to her daughter. She gave her a brooch set with a round cabochon emerald in a diamond cluster and a magnificent pair of ear pendants with round cabochon emeralds and drops.



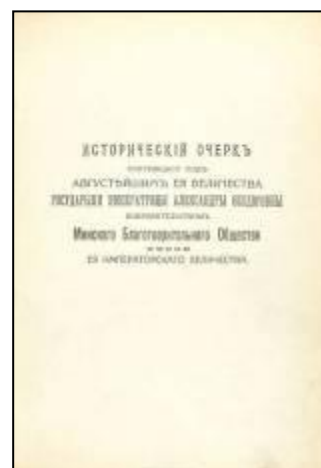
Stopford, once back in St Petersburg, followed all the directions given to him by the Grand Duchess. In the dead of the night, dressed as a workman and with the help of a loyal servant of the Vladimirs, he entered the kitchen through a small side entrance. There he found the secret passage that led him through a hidden door to the place where the safe was concealed. He carefully wrapped the jewels in newspaper and put them in two old gladstone bags. After that, we assume he took them to the securist place he could: the British Embassy. Next came the toughest part of the plot - smuggling the jewels out of Russia.

Maria Pavlovna never had the chance to see her jewels again: she died on 6 September 1920 in her favourite spa town of Contrexeville in France, in the comforting presence of her family. In her will, she divided her jewels between her four children by colour. Elena received the diamonds and the pearls; she sold the superb interlaced diamond circles and pear-shaped pearl kokoshnik to Queen Mary of England. It is still worn today by Queen Elizabeth II. At the end of the 1920s, Elena would have the emeralds received from her mother remounted in their current setting (see lot xx). She also added an emerald and diamond pendant to her cluster brooch. Elena later divided her jewels between her three daughters. Princess Olga received the emerald and diamond pendant earrings offered in this sale. Their elegant design and the magnificent quality of the stones are befitting of their legendary and illustrious past.

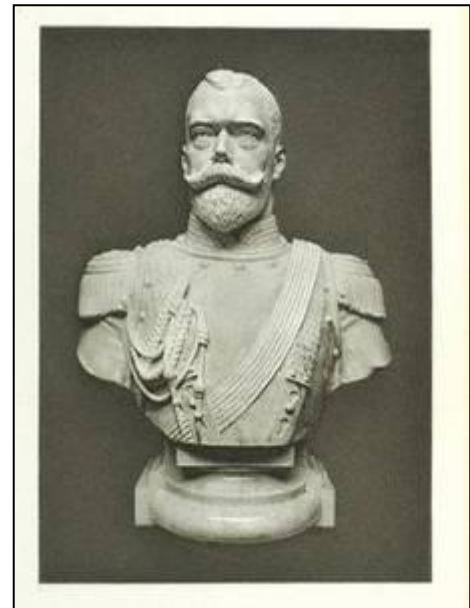
Полное собраніе рѣчей  
Императора Николая II.  
1894—1906.  
Остатокъ жъ официального издания  
„Вѣстника Императора“.  
СПЕТЕРБУРГЪ.  
Дружескому обществу „Прогрессъ“.  
1906.

Estimate: 280 - 300 Euro

Estimate: 800 - 900 Euro



"Court Life 1613-1913". Coronation, fireworks, palaces. Exhibition of prints and drawings. SPb, Russian Amateurs Fine publications, 1913. 103 pp., 12 l. 23.5 x 16.5 cm. Illustrated cover made in the traditional government stamp colors of Imperial Russia (yellow and black) and decorated with silhouettes of two-headed eagles, crowned. As the frontispiece of a photograph of the bust of Emperor Nicholas II by B.M. Kustodiev. Dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. The publication presents 218 exhibits: this shows palaces and chambers, fireworks and illuminations, and the solemn coronation, weddings, performances, and hunting trips, dinners, balls, masquerades, carousel, a few curious interior'ov monarchs; they are arranged in chronological order - from the reign of Mikhail Feodorovich. Introduction to the catalog was written by well-known Russian antiquarian and bibliophile NV Solovyov, a connoisseur of antique prints and lithographs. The publication contains 13 illustrations on separate sheets and 5 in the text, 3 decorative vignettes taken from a book of the XVIII century. Estimate: 800 - 820 Euro.



A selection of photos and open letters related to the Imperial family and representatives of noble families.

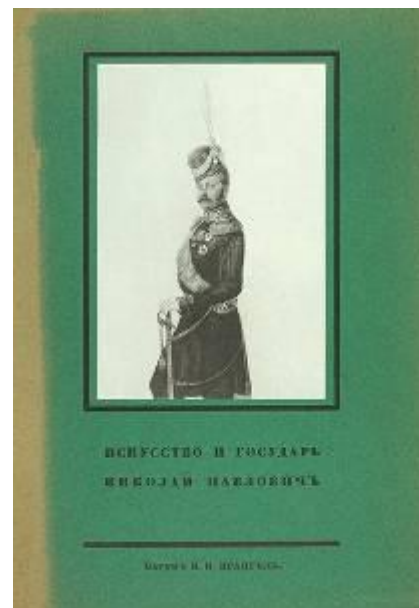
1. Photo of Emperor Alexander III and his august children in the Livadia Palace. Dat. 1892. Size 26.5 x 20.5 photographs.
2. Photo of Emperor Nicholas II, Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchesses. 17.5 x 12 cm.
3. Three photos. Grand Duke Nicholas hunting in Pershin. Photo of Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich with the military in Tsarskoye Selo. Dat. 1902. 18 x 13 cm; 22.5 x 16.5 cm.
4. Photo of one of the rooms of the Livadia Palace / ph. von Hahn and co. Dates. 1909. 21.5 x 15.5 cm.
5. Eight open letters with photographic portraits Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich. 1906-1908.
6. Photo on the mat. Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich with his daughter Elena/ ph. Levitsky and son. 1880. 13.5 x 10 cm; 16.5 x 11 cm.
7. Photo. Livadia Palace and its inhabitants. Dat. 1886. 26.5 x 20 cm.
8. Photo. A walk in a carriage. Countess Shuvalov and Katarina Bronitskaya. Dat. Alupka, 1887. 24.5 x 18 cm; 29.5 x 22 cm.
9. Photo. Military parade on Red Square/Moscow. 1890. 17 x 12 cm; 24.5 x 16.5 cm.
10. Photo - Military parade in Denmark. Ph. J. Danielsen. 1890. 22 x 14 cm; 29 x 19.5 cm.
11. Photo. Highborn lady in the garden Livadia Palace. Ph. von Hahn and co. Date 1909. 21 x 16 cm.
12. Photo. Emperor Nicholas II and Supreme Commander Grand Duke Nicholas/Ph. von Hahn and co. 1900s. 21 x 15 cm.
13. Photo. Empress Maria Feodorovna on horseback. Date Livadia, 1886. 18.5 x 14.5 cm.
14. Photo. Maria S. Izvolskaya (nee. Princess Galitzine) with children. Ph. KE Gan in Tsarskoye Selo. 1890. 21 x 14 cm.
15. Photo. Emperor Alexander III and Grand Duke Nicholas. 1890. 24 x 18.5 cm.



16. Photo. Picnic Highest individuals in Alupka Park. Dat.1885. 27 x 19.5 cm; 29 x 22 cm.  
 17. Photo. Actress Maria Gavrilovna Savina in home interior/ph. I. Otsup. 1900s. 29 x 23 cm.  
 18. Photo. Queen of Denmark Louise of Hesse-Kassel and her daughter Empress Maria Feodorovna, Emperor Alexander III and Tsesarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich surrounded by Highest persons / ph. J. Danielsen. 1890. 28.5 x 22.5 cm; 40 x 32 cm.  
 19. Photo. Nicholas II takes a wine bowl / ph. von Hahn and co. 1900s. 20.5 x 15.5 cm.  
 20. Photo. View of the sea during a storm / ph. von Hahn and co. Dated Yalta, 1909. 22.5 x 16 cm.  
 21. Photo.. Military in Tsarskoye Selo / Gan and co. 1900s. 22.5 x 17 cm. 25.5 x 19 cm.  
 Estimate: 7000 - 8000 Euro.



"Art and the Emperor Nikolai Pavlovich". V.V. Wrangell. With a list of paintings sold from the Hermitage in 1854, the Registry of paintings and other items brought from Warsaw and destroyed in 1834, and so forth. Sirius, 1915. 116 p., 11 l. 27 x 18.5 cm. Estimate: 900 - 1000 Euro



Popular print. Arrival of Emperor Nicholas I in Voronezh to worship the relics of St. Mitrophan. 1832. Lithography, painting, gouache. 40.5 x 35 cm. Estimate: 20,000 - 22,000 rubles.

**Lauritz, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 16 December;**

Akvarel by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Romanova (1882-1960). A part of Amalienborg Palace seen towards Frederiks Cathedral. Signed "O. Koulikovsky". Size 21 x 18,5 cm. Framed behind glass.





**Ader Nordmann, Paris, France, on 19 December;**

Portrait of Princess Irina Alexandrovna, 1914. Signed. Frame silver and enamel. Punches 88, St. Petersburg and "ИБ" Goldsmith (Ivan Britsyne). Diam.: 17.7 cm; Gross Weight: 444.15 g. In its original case. Estimate: 800-1 000 €



Portrait of Princess Irina Alexandrovna. Marked on the back: 1910 March, St Petersburg. Princess Irina Alexandrovna then 14 years. Oval frame in silver and vermeil topped with a binding two garlands node. Marked J. Labouriau. Paris. French stamp. 6.2 x 4.7 cm; Gross Weight: 43.83 g Estimate: 200-400 €



Portrait of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (1875 - 1960). Wood frame bound with silver metal decorated with a knot at the top. Marked G. Keller, Paris. 10 x 8.5 cm Estimate: 200-400 €



Two postcard size photographs of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna. Estimate: 200-250 €



Group photo from HMS Lord Nelson. April 1919. The ship's staff poses with the Russian refugees it carries. The Grand Duchess Xenia in 2nd row, 4th from left, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna 6th from left. Signature of all officers on the back. Estimate: 200-250 €





Swaine. London & Southsea. Grand Duchess Xenia and her children. London 1923. 13.3 x 8.3 cm. Seated from left to right: Irina Yusupov, Fabritsevna Elizabeth (wife of Prince Andrew Alexandrovich, called Elsa), the Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna Maria Galitzina (?). Standing behind the ladies from left to right, Prince Mikhail Andreievich, Alexander Nikolaievich Volkov, son of Admiral Nikolai Alexandrovich Volkov and Georges zu Meklenburg-Strelitz (nephew of Maria Golitsyn). Lying on the carpet Count Vladimir Petrovich Kleinmichel (1901-1982). 9.2 x 9.2 cm. Estimate: 200 - 300 €

Seven small silver prints from the period. Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich at lakeside of Yelagin, with Grand Duchess Xenia. The Grand Duke is field dress with knots of imperial suite, annotated on the back "Yelagin September 1915". Grand Duchess Xenia, noted on the back



"Tsarskoe Selo, in July 1915". Felix Yusupov and Irina, annotated "Moscow, April 1915". Irina, noted on the back "Moscow 1915", but obviously taken at the same time as the first and a third representing the couple on a beach and noted on the back "Crimea in August 1915". Dimensions: 60 x 56 x 60 mm and 56 mm

Estimate: 100-120 €



Tea in the garden. Ai Todor 1911. From left to right: Sofia Dmitrievna Evreïnova - VA Chatelain - Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich - Grand Duchess Xenia - Prince Dimitri Alexandrovich - Maria Vladimirovna Chatelain - Countess Ekaterina Leonidovna Kamarovskaïa - Prince Rostislav Alexandrovich. All identified on the back. 14 x 8 5 cm. Estimate: 200-250 €





Silver print. Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna and her daughter Irina, 1914. Impressed stamp. 11.4 x 12.2 cm.

Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich and his daughter Irina. The Grand Duke is in the uniform of Vice Admiral, General aide. Dry stamp. 8.7 x 13.7 cm. Photos taken at the wedding of Felix Yusupov with Irina in February, 1914. Boissonnas and Eggler. Estimate: 300-400 €



Silver print, in a circular medallion. Irina Alexandrovna and her brother Vasili Alexandrovich, 1907. Impressed stamp. Diam. 8.6 cm. Estimate: 350-450 €

Silver print. Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich and his wife Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, circa 1910. Impressed stamp and stamp on the reverse. Boissonnas and Eggler. 8.2 x 7.9 cm. Estimate: 400-500 €





Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich. January 1886. The Grand Duke is uniformed as a young naval officer. Annotated on the back: "To Volodya Chatelain" in purple ink, "January 1886" in black ink, "V Kn" (short for Grand Duke in Russian) in pencil. Dry stamp on the media. 16.3 x 11.4. Bergamasco. St. Petersburg. Estimate: 200-250 €

Photo card. Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich and his wife. 1916. The Grand Duke then manage the Imperial Aviation in Kiev, where his wife joined him. Marked "Kyiv - 1916". Card addressed to Maria Vladimirovna [Chatelain], signed Xenia. January 9, 1917. 13.4 x 8.6 cm  
Estimate: 100-120 €



Silver print glued on cardboard. Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich. . 1914-1917 The Grand Duke is field dress with knots of imperial suite persimmon. On the back text in Russian: from the Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, and in French: Briançon received in 1935. 13.8 x 8, 8 cm  
Estimate: 150 - 200 €



Yalta. Officers of the regiment of dragoons of Crimea. 1909. Laying the foundation stone of the barracks of the regiment in Oreanda. Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich in white jacket, standing with hands on the back of the chair of his wife Grand Duchess Xenia. Stamp on the front. 22 x 28 cm  
Estimate: 300-350 €



Ai Todor. 1911. Captain V.A. Chatelain and captain of frigate N.F. Vogel, aides of Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich (both from the crew of the Guard) with Grand Duchess Xenia. Annotations on the reverse. 8.5 x 14 cm. Silver print. Estimate: 200 - 300 €



Check for 10,000 rubles dated October 15, 1917. In the Volga-Kama Commercial Bank (one of the largest banks of Russia). Made after the abdication of Nicholas II from the throne and the Grand Duke had indicated his name as a citizen Romanov.  
Estimation: 200 - 300 €

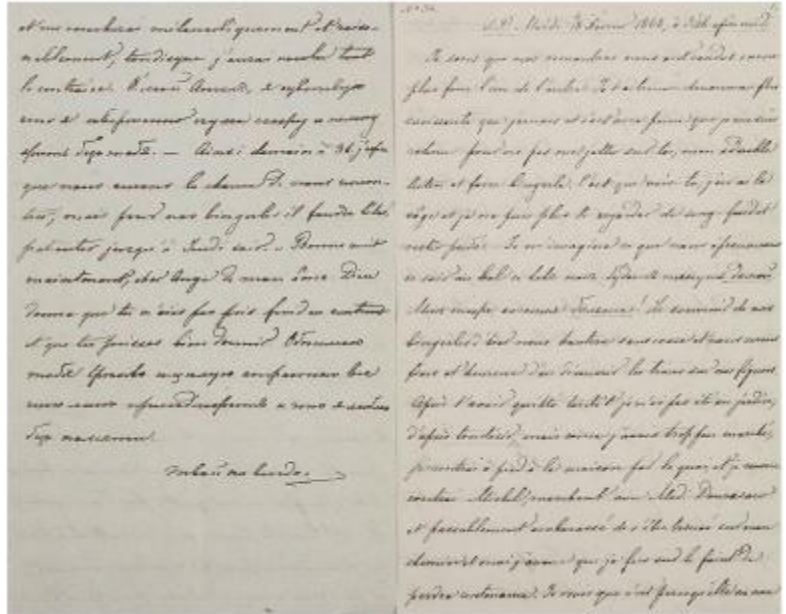
Petrograd, 1914. Prince Felix Yusupov and his wife Princess Irina Alexandrovna. Signed and dated 1918. On the back a little poem by Princess Irina Yusupova (7 verses) with autograph signature. An autograph letter of the Yusupov addressed to Princess Maria Vladimirovna (née Erchoff) is attached. January 4, 1917.  
Estimate: 400-600 €





Emperor Alexander II (1818-1881). A very long autograph letter to Ekaterina (Katia) Dolgoruky, Saint Pétersbourg. Monday 5 February 1868, at 9 1/2 h morning. 8 pages 8vo.  
Estimate: 3000 - € 3200

Emperor Alexander II (1818-1881) Long autograph letter to Ekaterina (Katia) Dolgoruky, Saint Pétersbourg. Tuesday 6 February 1868, 3 1/2 afternoon. 6 pages 8vo.  
Estimate: 3000 - € 3200



Katia Dolgoruky (1847-1922). Autograph letter to Emperor Alexander II, S[t]. P[étersbourg]. Saturday 6 November 1871 at 11 am. 1/2 am. [No. 296.] 4 pages 8vo.



Autograph letter of Grand Duchess Maria Georgievna -Daughter of King George of Greece and Grand Duchess Olga Konstantinovna, widow of Grand Duke Georgy Mikhailovich, murdered by the Bolsheviks. This letter empowers Vladimir Andreyevich Chatelain the management of property belonging to the deceased Grand Duke. London December 16, 1919. The signing of the Grand Duchess is legalized by the Consul General of Russia in London.  
Estimate: 200-400 €



Set of autograph letters by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna sent to Ferdinand Thormeyer. 30s, 5 letters signed (one which lacks the first leaf) and 3 unsigned cards numbered from 1 to 3. The postcards reproduce watercolors of the Grand Duchess. Provenance: Ferdinand Thormeyer correspondence (1858-1944) dedicated to "Siocha". Tutor to the Imperial Court of Russia, he taught for sixteen years French to the children of Tsar Alexander III. Even after the Revolution, he maintained a special relationship with them and especially with Grand Duchess Olga, with whom he corresponded regularly until his death. Estimate: 500-600 €

Token for the twentieth anniversary of the reign of Emperor Nicholas II. (Werlich-Andolenko # 633) silver and vermeil. Imperial Eagle on the lid, inside gold rimmed medallion with portrait of sovereigns over their monograms and "1894-1914". Pin mounting. Punches 84, St. Petersburg after 1908. High. 5.1 cm; Gross Weight: 24.69 g. Offered by the imperial family to selected individuals. Estimate: 800-900 €



Square of printed cotton on the occasion of the tercentenary of the Romanov dynasty in 1913. Square white with pink trim and a printed pattern representing places and events of the time of Mikhail Feodorovich, portraits of all the tsars and emperors of the Romanov dynasty. A color portrait of Emperor Nicolas II and Tsarevich Alexis, the coat of arms of the Romanovs, the motto "God! Protects the Tsar" 1613-1913 and double-headed eagle. 70 x 67 cm. Estimate: 300-400 €





Emblem given by Emperor Nicolas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna to the wife of the Ambassador of France in Russia, Maurice Bompard, Ambassador in 1903-1908. This gift is not a diplomatic gift to the wife of the ambassador, but a personal gift to Madame Bompard, in gratitude for her generous involvement in the Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905, at a time when her husband was stationed. Gabrielle Bompard, born Barbara of Blignères (1868-1948), was famous by actions that hit the heart of Russians - she not only collected several hundred thousand francs from Parisian high society for the benefit of Russian soldiers, widows and orphans of fallen men, but also opened the Embassy deposit and a workshop where women of the French colony sewed clothes for the wounded from the front of the Far East. It also extended its generosity to areas that had suffered from poor harvests. This emblem is mentioned in the memoirs of Maurice Bompard "My embassy in Russia. 1903-1908" as a gift from the Emperor to his wife "in recognition of her devotion to the wounded."

The jewelry offered by the imperial couple consists of the figure of Emperor Nicolas II, N II interlaced with the "A" for "Alexandra" under imperial crown. For a nice touch of the imperial couple, the initials are in Latin letters. The crown and the figure is set with brilliant, and the ribbon with small sapphires. A diamond half a carat is added below the pendant. The assembly is mounted on a brooch pin of pink gold. This jewel is not punch, which is normal for an imperial command, but is likely to run through the house Hahn (Carl August), a leading supplier of Cabinet Imperial decorations and jewelry set with diamonds. Dimensions: 2.95 x 3.75 cm; Gross Weight: 6.90 g Estimate: 70 000 - 90 000 €



Russian imperial crown on pin. 14K gold stamped and enameled crown mounted on a twisted pin jewelry. Set: 5.1 cm; Gross Weight: 2.70 g. Estimate: 500-550 €



Watch Paul Buhre, 14 K gold with diamond eagle. Gift from the Emperor's Cabinet. Engraving inside the cover: "Высочайше пожалованы старшему лейтенанту Северинъ 10 Апреля 1911 г." (Awarded to lieutenant Severin April 10, 1911). Watch Number: 142968. Glass broken, hand absent minutes. Blocked mechanism. Diam.: 3.2 cm; Gross Weight: 31 g. Estimate: 4 500 - 5 500 €

Photo - The emperor attends the parade of the regiment of Grenadiers of the Guard at Tsarskoe Selo, 1913. The emperor in uniform of the regiment carries the needles made to the unit on April 13, 1913. Handwritten annotation and photographer on the back of the stamp. 17,8 x 23.8 cm. Ph. Bulla. Estimate: 350-450 €



The emperor visiting an Academy (?). 1913. Nicolas II in uniform of 4th Riflemen, sits surrounded by officials. Photographer CC Bulla. 23.2 x 30.3 cm. Estimate: 200-250 €.







Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra leaves the German church on Nevsky Prospek in August 1901 after services for the death of Empress Victoria of Germany. Emperor Nicholas II in German uniform is greeting German officers. Handwritten annotation on the back. Photographer Bulla. 16 x 22.6 cm. Estimate: 180-200 €.



Day of 13th Leib-grenadiers of Erivan of his majesty. Peterhof. 1913. Emperor Nicolas II with his two eldest daughters pose in the middle of the officer corps in great summer outfit with gorget, decorations and badges. Estimate: 300-400 €.



The emperor and King Carol of Roumania at Krasnoie Selo. Coming out of the tent can be seen Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich. Circa 1900. 11.2 x 16.2 cm.  
Estimate: 200-250 €

The imperial family in the celebration of the tercentenary arrives in Kostroma. The Emperor in arm with the Empress, followed by their daughters. 23.8 x 17.8 cm.  
Estimate: 400-500 €



The emperor in the middle of the troops at the front. Early 1917. Gelatin silver print. Dated March 10, 1917 - five days before his abdication!  
15.3 x 20.4 cm silver print. Bulla. Estimate: 300-400 €







Empress Alexandra and Grand duchess Olga Alexandrovna in a carriage at a military parade. Behind Grand Duke Nicolas Nikolaevich and Grand Duke Nikolai Michaelovich and (possibly) Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich. Circa 1900.

Estimate: 350-450 €

Kremenchug, 1904. The Emperor greets officers leaving for Manchuria.  
15.8 x 23.7 cm.  
Estimate: 150 - 200 €



The Dowager Empress Marie and Empress Alexandra at maneuvers in Krasnoye Selo. Circa 1900. 16.5 x 21.6 cm  
Estimate: 450-600 €



At the end of maneuvers. 1900. The Emperor talks with the commanding general. Behind them can be seen Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich. Bulla.  
Estimate: 500-700 €

The Emperor walks beside Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna, possibly shortly after the death of the Grand Duke Vladimir. 1909  
Estimate: 150 - 200 €



The Emperor and Empress during their trip in Bessarabia. 1914.  
Bulla.  
Estimate: 150 - 200 €



**Ahlers & Ogletree Inc, Atlanta, GA, USA, on January 3, 2015**

Cufflinks by Michael Evlampievitch Perchin (Faberge workmaster from 1860-1903). A pair of very fine Russian 14k rose gold, guilloche enamel, ruby and diamond men's cufflinks, circa 1895. Each exquisite cufflink of almond form with blue guilloche enamel behind jeweled crown with cross at top accented with two round ruby cabochons and two accent diamonds. Marked on back with Perchin maker's mark in Cyrillic MP and 56 zolotnik gold standard or assay mark. Cufflinks with ribbed torpedo bar closure with four diamond accents in wrapped cube form at center. Total weight approximately 20.6 grams.



Note: Michael Perchin is one of Faberge's most famous and skilled workmasters. Perchin was a senior workmaster for Faberge and worked for them under exclusive contract, therefore, the cufflinks featured in this lot can be represented as Faberge. The cufflinks in this lot are likely British Royal cufflinks due to their handling and form. The almond shape also forms a Russian Cyrillic letter "E" shape that could refer to Ermitage [Hermitage]. The "E" form most likely pertains to the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII and his wife, Queen Alexandra who famously collected a number of fine Faberge items including many cufflinks, now currently housed in Royal Collection Trust in London, England. It has

been noted that Edward VII gifted cufflinks with his monogram "E" as royal favors, many of these were highly accessible to him as London had a Faberge store during the early 20th century.

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

**Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 5 January;**

Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, painting "Landscape with fir trees". Signed "Olga". Oil on canvas laid on cardboard. 40 x 50 cm.

Estimate Dkr 10,000-15,000 / € 1,350-2,000



## Did you know....



... That in the city of Yoshkar-Ola, in the capital of the Russian Republic of Mari El, is a monument to Empress Elizabeth?

The sculpture is quite original, and does not correspond to the classic image of the Empress. Elizabeth I Petrovna was the youngest daughter of Peter the Great. She was destined to live in a complex era of palace revolutions, when the right to power was played like in a complex game of chess. Ascended the throne, Elizabeth proclaimed that she will continue the policy of her great father. The Empress' favorite youth activities was horse hunting, balls, masquerades and other secular amusements. The pretty girl attracted attention because of her mental alertness, resourcefulness and cheerful disposition. This is how we see her at the Yoshkar-Ola monument.



Young Elizabeth rushes on a young horse. Future Empress easily and gracefully sits on a galloping horse. As befits the ladies of the time, she was sitting on a horse sideways. No horse bridles, no special side saddle. Long elegant dress of princess seems as if it is flowing in the wind. Elizabeth on her head - a small tiara, which reminds her of the coming reign. Slim, beautiful girl with chiseled neck gracefully hold out her hand in an imperious gesture. From afar, the daughter of Peter I recalls a young circus artist who performs a complex number on horseback. In fact, Elizabeth was a skilful rider and enjoyed to spend time on a horse.

The monument was opened on 30 November 2011 at the picturesque waterfront in the city. It is located next to the National Presidential boarding school for gifted children. This suggests also why Elizabeth is depicted very young. The sculpture is made of bronze by People's Artist of Russia Andrey Kovalchuk.



During the reign of Empress Elizabeth was done much for the development of teaching and education in the Mari El territory.

They say that if you touch the horseshoes of the horse carrying the Empress, you will have success. As it is easy to believe, because a horseshoe - an ancient symbol of happiness and good luck.



Elizabeth, the second-oldest surviving daughter of Peter the Great and Catherine I, was born at Kolomenskoye, near Moscow, on 29 December 1709 (O.S. 18 December). Her parents had secretly married in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in St. Petersburg in November 1707, but the marriage was only made public in February 1712 and later political opponents of Elizabeth would use her "illegitimacy" to challenge her right to the throne. However on 6 December 1741 (O.S. 25 November) she was proclaimed Her Imperial Majesty Elizabeth I, The Empress and Autocrat of All Russias.

She led the country into two major European conflicts of her time: the War of the Austrian Succession (1740–48) and the Seven Years' War (1756–63). Her domestic policies allowed the nobles to gain dominance in local government while shortening their terms of service to the state. She encouraged Mikhail Lomonosov's establishment of the University of Moscow and Ivan Shuvalov's foundation of the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg. She also spent large sums of money on the grandiose baroque projects of her favourite architect, Bartolomeo Rastrelli, particularly in Peterhof and Tsarskoye Selo. The Winter Palace and the Smolny Cathedral in Saint Petersburg are among the chief monuments of her reign. She remains one of the most popular Russian monarchs due to her strong opposition to Prussian policies and her decision not to execute a single person during her reign.