



**Romanov News**  
**Новости Романовых**

*By Paul Kulikovsky*

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## Emperor Alexander III commemorative events

*10 March 1845 - 10 March 2015 - 170 years anniversary*

### ***St. Petersburg - Laying flowers at the monument to Emperor Alexander III***

On the birthday of the Emperor, March 10, at the famous monument by Paul Troubetzkoy, that now stands in the courtyard of the Marble Palace, was held a commemorative event. Admirers of Emperor Alexander III in agreement with the administration of the museum laid flowers to the monument, saying kind word to the blessed memory of the "Emperor Peacekeeper" and in conclusion proclaiming "eternal memory" of the Emperor. Among them was Archpriest Gennady Belovolova.



Videos - 1) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP\\_CjtkZKpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP_CjtkZKpo)

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxRy0OCaPZY>

### ***Moscow - Exhibition in Historic Library***

In the lobby of the fourth floor of a Historic Library, Moscow, opened the exhibition "... I will faithfully perform my duty", to the 170th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander III.



In the official pre-revolutionary historiography of Alexander III he was called "peacekeeper". During his reign there were no wars, the revolutionary movement was crushed and lurking, great social upheaval there was not. In Soviet historiography of Alexander III it was a time for fighting revolutionaries and he received the titles of "reactionary" and "uneducated". In modern Russian historiography is attempts to address the personality of Emperor Alexander III through his relationship to his family, art, and science.

The exhibition presents the research of the last 20 years - monographs, journals, books and magazine articles. It reflects with amazing clarity over 120 years of trends and shades the relationship of historians and the public to the era, as well as to the identity of the emperor - from direct apology to the allegations "unbridled, incredibly senseless and brutal".

The exhibition consists of three sections. It opens with a section devoted to Russia's domestic politics, literature, and although not much, but it should be noted that the domestic historiography until recently almost did not pay attention to such an important period 1880 -

1900. Becoming emperor after the murder by revolutionaries of his father Alexander II, Alexander III confidently and firmly led the Russian Empire out of the political crisis. In his thirteen years of rule, he was in the true sense "Autocrat of all Russia." While each of the leading statesmen (Shuvalov, Loris-Melikov, Ignatiev et al.) proposed their recipes for treatment of a radicalism Russian educated society - from the gallows to draft constitutions - and each suffered defeat, the emperor was able to provide the country with peace and prosperity, including the absence of war, for which he was called "peacekeepers".

Of course, the largest section of the exhibition is a presentation of biographical literature and the so-called "literature of fact", many books contain a large number of photographs and illustrations.

A third section of the exhibition is devoted to the topic, which began to be developed in the historiography in recent years: Alexander III and national culture. Historical Museum in Moscow, the Russian Historical Society, etc - All this is connected with the name of the emperor. The focus of the research relationship of Alexander III with Russian writers, his musical and artistic passions.

The exhibition was on from 2 - 26 March.

### ***Samarians presented an exhibition in honor of Emperor Alexander III***

On March 6, 2015 in the building of the railway station Samara opened an exhibition in honor of the 170th birthday of Emperor Alexander III. The exhibition feature exhibits that show the stages of development of the Russian railways.

Emperor Alexander III, the only Russian Emperor, in who time the Russian empire was not at war, and at the same time, steadily increases its political, military and economic credibility in Europe and the Far East. Emperor instituted a national holiday "Railroad Day" and in his reign was built Samara-Ufa and Samara-Zlatoust railways, as well as started the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway.





The objects are from the personal collection of the Samara collector Dmitry Khmelev and include: belt buckles of Railway workers; stocks and bonds of Railways, order on awarding head of the gendarmerie of Samara railways; photos, documents, elements of uniforms, insignia and badges, stamps, postcards, personal belongings of employees from Railways of all periods. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the support and initiative of the deputy chief Alexander Hinstein and Sergei Solozhenkin.

### ***In Chisinau (Moldova) was a meeting about the outstanding Russian monarchs***



In Moldova was on 5 March a meeting of the Historical Club "Russia - Moldova: history, events, people", at the Russian Centre of Science and culture, talking about the "Responsibility for the fate of his subjects: Emperor Peter I and Alexander III".

"In this club, it is not the first time about the House of Romanov, whose members almost all were statesmen, about its activities and thoughts on the strengthening of the country. Among them a prominent role played the ruler Peter, who went down in history as Peter the Great. It is during his reign, Russia has turned into a powerful naval power, expanded its borders, has undergone a tremendous transformation in relation to the requirements of modern times, has acquired high international prestige", - said the club chairman Mikhail Sidorov.



Researcher from House-Museum A.S. Pushkin in Chisinau, Olga Bataeva spoke on the theme "Pushkin and Peter", and curator of education and humanities projector Victor Kostecki told about the image of Peter in works of art. He reminded the audience of the famous monument by Falcone, established in St. Petersburg, and other sculptures in the cities of Russia, and the numerous literary works.

The participants also touched upon the activities of Emperor Alexander III, who is called "Peacemaker" and "people's tsar". "This is an autocrat that did not allow Russia to be drawn into armed conflict, he cared about the country's stability and security of citizens", - said Sidorov.



**5 April 1885 - Emperor Alexander III gives the first Imperial Fabergé Easter Egg to Empress Maria Feodorovna**



130 years ago on 5 April 1885 (OS 24 March) was celebrated Orthodox Easter in Russia.

Emperor Alexander III in Anitchkov Palace gave this morning his wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna according to tradition an Easter egg - but it was not an traditional Easter egg, it was the very first Imperial Fabergé Easter Egg - now called the "Hen Egg", and it created a new Imperial tradition.



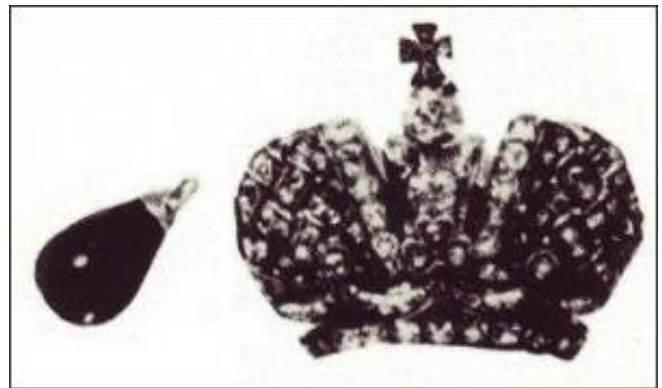
There are other very similar egg souvenirs made as early as in the 1720s. There is one egg from the treasury of Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, a golden egg yolk with enamel, and the egg of Princess Vilhelmine, now stored in the Rosenborg Castle (Copenhagen). It is believed that the last object was seen by Emperor Alexander III upon a visit to the Royal Danish Treasury in Rosenborg or at the Art and Industrial Exhibition in Copenhagen in 1879, and that it later served as a source of inspiration for Fabergé.



The "Danish" Hen egg - This golden egg was made in France around 1720. It was a present from Charlotte d'Orléans to Caroline Matilda of Great Britain. The egg was passed down from Queen Marie Sophie Frederikke (married to King Frederik VI) to Queen Louise.

It can be separated into five parts (ivory egg shell, gold egg shell, hen, crown, and ring) and also had a practical use, as scented water could be kept in the holder.

Known as the "Hen Egg", the first Fabergé egg is crafted from gold. Its opaque white enameled "shell" opens to reveal its first surprise, a matte yellow-gold yolk. This in turn opens to reveal a multicolored gold hen that also opens. The hen contained a minute diamond replica of the imperial crown from which a small ruby pendant was attached a gold chain, but these last elements have been lost.



Empress Maria was so delighted by the gift that Alexander appointed Fabergé a "goldsmith by special appointment to the Imperial Crown" and commissioned another egg the next year. After that, Peter Carl Fabergé was apparently given complete freedom for the design of future imperial Easter eggs, and their designs became more elaborate. According to Fabergé family lore, not even the Tsar knew what form they would take - the only requirement was that each contain a surprise.

Fulfilling the imperial order, Faberge created not a copy, but his own variation of the old sample. Master refused polychrome enamel, diamond nests, carved stones, monograms and mottos.

The order oversaw the Emperor's brother Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich, while the Emperor sent letters with detailed instructions. This is evidenced by a letter of Emperor Alexander III to Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich from 1 February 1885, in which the Emperor asked him to tell the jeweler his advice to "replace the last little surprise in the egg with some

gem ... This can be very nice. Please talks with Faberge, I'll be very grateful". Therefore Alexander III could be called a co-author of a unique jewelry design.



Eggs as symbols of creation and new life have been exchanged for hundreds of years. Easter is the most joyful celebration of the Orthodox faith in Russia... After the devout church services, families gather to exchange gifts of decorated eggs, symbols of renewed life and hope. The Easter of 1885 also marks the twentieth anniversary of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna, and the Emperor needs an exceptional gift for his wife, born Princess Dagmar of Denmark.

The egg, when manufactured, cost 4,151 rubles, 75 kopecks, and was taken to the Empress' residence in the Anitchkov Palace.

In September of 1917, the egg was moved along with others to the Kremlin for safekeeping by the Provisional Government. In the 1920's, the egg was purchased by one Mr. Berry in London, probably from Soviet officials, for an undisclosed sum. On March 15, 1934, the egg was sold at auction by Christie's London for the sum of 85 GBP (\$430). The piece was purchased by Mr. R. Suenson-Taylor. He was made the first Baron Grantchester in 1953, and in June of 1976, the Estate of Lord and Lady Grantchester made the egg available to A La Vieille Russie in New York. In January of 1978, ALVR negotiated a private sale of The First Imperial Egg to the Forbes Collection.

After eighty years of exile this egg has been returned home thanks to Russian businessman Viktor Vekselberg, who purchased it from successors to Malcolm Forbes (1919-1990) and has made it accessible in his Faberge Museum in St. Petersburg.



*The first Imperial Faberge Easter Egg - the "Hen Egg", 1885 - on display in the Faberge Museum in St. Petersburg*

## Pskov regional library invited readers to a lecture on Emperor Alexander III



In the Pskov Regional Center of the Presidential Library on March 31 was held a video lecture from the cycle "Knowledge of Russia", dedicated to the 170th anniversary of the birth of Alexander III.

To the lecture anyone could come. Visitors was able to ask questions to lecturers through video conferencing.

Candidate of Historical Sciences, Senior Lecturer Institute of History of St. Petersburg State University Denis Janchenko was talking about "Romanov among European monarchs in XIX-early. XX century", with director of the State Russian Museum Vladimir Gusev assisting. In addition, during the lectures was shown a film about the Russian Museum.

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## Fake Ancient Egyptian artifact claimed used by Tsar Alexander III

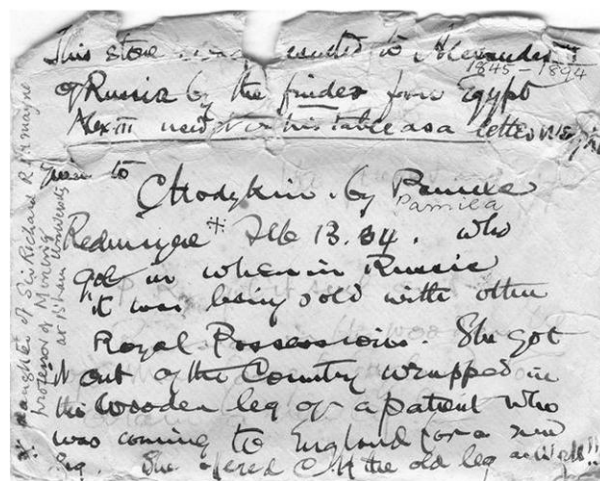
*On 3 March in the English "Kentonline", one could read an article by Matt Leclere, in which is claimed an artifact thought to be from Ancient Egypt was used by a Russian Tsar as his paperweight. This items went under the hammer in Folkestone same week.*

It is said that the unusual item was given to Tsar Alexander III under the guise that it was a genuine ancient Egyptian tablet. Unfortunately, the item turned out to be a 19th century fake. Jonathan Riley from auctioneers Grand Auctions based on the Shearway Business Park said: "A gullible courtier gave him the tablet as a generous gift. "Alexander III was presented with the tablet and used it as his paperweight."

A fascination developed throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries with Ancient Egyptian studies. Fake Egyptian artifact given to Tsar Alexander III which he then used as his paperweight. The tablet made its way to Britain after a sale of the Romanov family's possessions in the early 1900s, Alexander died in 1894.

Even that journey has a bizarre twist. A cover note was also included, explaining how it arrived in the UK via Pamela Redmayne in 1904, the daughter of Sir Richard Redmayne, who was the Professor of Mining at Birmingham University. The note adds how the tablet was smuggled into the UK wrapped in the wooden leg of a patient travelling to England for a new leg.

The item was sold to a buyer in Denmark for £170 - over its upper end guide price of £150.



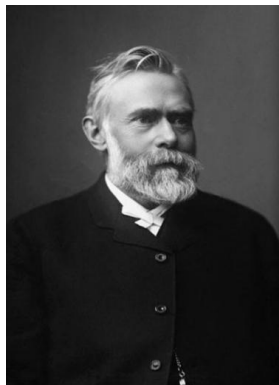
*Note: There is no proof of such an item ever being used by Tsar Alexander III. His interest was more towards Russian made items, so this story is properly made up by the auction house to add interest to the item.*

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## 10th anniversary of the Ludvig Nobel Prize

On 29 March, in the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo, St. Petersburg, was held the ceremony of the awarding the Ludvig Nobel Prize. The annual ceremony was an anniversary, the tenth from the date of its revival and of the start of the Fund named after the famous engineer, inventor and philanthropist.



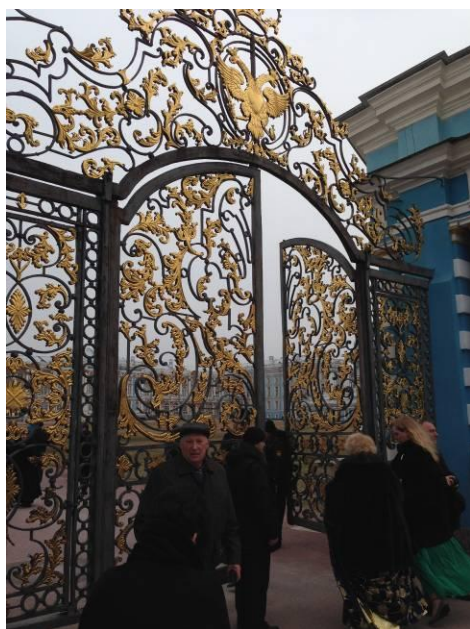
Ludvig Nobel died in 1888 and the leadership of the Nobel brothers' industrial empire passed to his son Emanuel Nobel, who was the true "Oil King" of XX century and the most respected man in the international oil society. On his initiative in 1889 a special prize named after his father Ludvig Nobel was established with the Imperial Russian Technical Society (IRTS) - created by Emperor Alexander II in 1866 - and in 1889, one year after the death of Ludvig Nobel, Emperor Alexander III approved the Prize in honor of the contribution to Russia by Ludvig Nobel.

The Prize was originally given for outstanding achievements in oil industry and metallurgy. This prize was paid by Branobel (Brother Nobel) and was given 3 times to leading Russian scientists and oil specialists, until the Bolshevik revolution. In the advisory council of the Imperial Technical Institute was comprised by iconic people of those years, such as the world famous Dmitri Mendeleev.

After the October Revolution the prize was abolished and was only revived only in 2005, by the Fond Ludvig Nobel.



In 1888, Alfred Nobel - Ludvig's younger brother - was astonished to read his own obituary, titled The merchant of death is dead, in a French newspaper. But it was a mix-up with Alfred's brother Ludvig who had died. However the article disconcerted Alfred Nobel and made him apprehensive about how he would be remembered. This inspired him to change his will. Alfred Nobel's last will specified that his fortune was to be used to create a series of prizes for those who confer the "greatest benefit on mankind" in physics, chemistry, peace, physiology or medicine, and literature. Clearly inspired by his brother Ludvig's prize.



Ludmila and I arrived at the Grand gate of the Catherine Palace and walked across the palace square up to the main entrance, where an orchestra in military uniforms was playing. We were first shown the historic interiors, where the Amber Room of course became the favorite location for the guests to have their photo taken. In the big hall we were met with a salute by the Russian Horn Orchestra.





The last sunstrokes of the day passed in through the big windows and illuminated the golden decor in the magnificent hall. Indeed a splendid location for a celebration.



At our table were we lucky to have excellent company; Prince Dmitry Shakhovskoy and spouse, his son Ivan Shakhovskoy and spouse, Paul Rodzianko, and Nikolai Burov, director of the museum-monument "St. Isaac's Cathedral" and Maria Morozova, press-secretary of the museum-monument "St. Isaac's Cathedral".

Among the other guests were - Princess Vera Obolensky and husband, Director of Tsarskoye Selo Museum Olga Taratinova, Director of Belmond Grand Hotel Europe Sjekke Jansen and spouse, Hotel manager Julia Pashkova, prize winners of past years, including actress Tatiana Doronin, cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, President of the National Medical Chamber Leonid Roshal, the many times world chess champion Anatoly Karpov, Vyacheslav Zaitsev, Vladislav Tretiak, Edvard Radzinsky, Victor Boyarsky, Xavier Emmanuel (France) and Stanislav Govorukhin.

Leading the celebrations in the state rooms of the Catherine Palace were fund managers of Ludvig Nobel - Eugene Lukoshkov, Jaroslav Golko and Anna Yakovleva. The purpose of the award is to mark influential people of our time. Over the past ten years for contribution to medicine, social work and other services has been awarded about forty people.

This year the prize was awarded to President of the Foundation named after Alexander Solzhenitsyn - Natalia Solzhenitsyn, chairman of the association "Franco-Russian Dialogue" Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy, chairman of the Foundation named after Artyom Borovik Henrik Borovik, and Academician Alexander Baranov.

"We are Russians, who have made a great contribution to the cultural, scientific and other areas of life. We do not get a cash prize - we get publicity, medals, Nobel diploma," - says Alexei Leonov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union.

- This award is Russian. All of these people belong to Russia. There is such a thing as "Russian" - a person who works for the good of Russia - said Eugene Lukoshkov, head of Fund Ludvig Nobel.

- Forty percent of the profits Ludvig Nobel gave to charity. This is a great example for all industry leaders - said the co-head of the Fund Anna Yakovleva.

"To overestimate the importance of the award is not possible. Russia needs people who will work for the good of the country and their efforts should be marked, says Natalia Solzhenitsyn, the head of the Solzhenitsyn Fund for assistance to the victims of political repression. Our country needs creators and benefactors. Everyone who receives this award have done good for the country. Today it is needed more than ever - summed up the widow of Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Video - 1) <http://www.otr-online.ru/news/v-peterburge-vruchili-42328.html>

2) <http://lifenews.ru/news/152037>

3) [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/131024](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/131024)



*Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy receiving his prize*



*Paul Rodzianko in conversation with Prince Dmitry Shakhovskoy and spouse Tamara*



A "Russian Nobel - international magazine" have been made for the anniversary, showing over the 180 pages the many activities of the Fund Ludvig Nobel during its ten years 2005-2015, There are also several congratulations from its many friends, and of course lots of photos from the many events of the people participating.

A copy of my article in "Romanov News" (February 2013) about the 400 years Romanov celebrations arranged by the Fund in St. Petersburg is included.

A very interesting section under the title "Could German Prince George of Prussia declare himself the Tsarevich of the Russian throne?" includes a series of interviews with representatives of some of the most prominent aristocratic Russian families; Prince Nikita Lobanov-Rostov, Baron Eduard Pfalz-Fein, Count Pyotr Sheremetev, Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy, Count Sergey Kapnist, Prince Dmitry Mikhailovich Shakhovskoy and Yuri Trubnikov. They discuss the right of the descendants of Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich for leadership in Russian Imperial House questioned for several decades. The interview with Count Pyotr Sheremetev and Prince Nikita Lobanov-Rostovsky can be read in this newsletter in a separate article - see "Conversations about succession".

The section in the magazine is ended with an appeal by Prince Nicholas Romanovich Romanov - "Symbol of betrayal of Russia" - in which he says that according to family status of Russian Empire Princess Maria Vladimirovna could not be head of the Romanov House and her son Prince George of Prussia cannot be heir of the Russian throne, and they do not have right for the titles of Grand Duchess and Grand Duke.

Also a medal have been made, with an image of the new Ludvig Nobel monument in Rybinsk on its front. On the reverse is the signature of the Ludvig Nobel management team.

### ***Lenin needs to be buried before 2017 said Prince Troubetzkoy at press-conference***

The day before Fund Ludvig Nobel had arranged a press-conference in Grand Hotel Europe in which was informed about the Fund, and given the opportunity for journalists to ask questions to the management of the fund and some of its laureates. There were several emotional moments. One was when Doctor Roshal told about a boy saved from Donbass and taken to his hospital in Moscow, but without both of his legs and with damaged eyes making him go blind, and the struggle he have to try to save the boy at his hospital.

Another was Prince Troubetzkoy who announced the need to bury Lenin before 2017. According to the chairman of the





Association "Franco-Russian dialogue," *it must be done for the 100th anniversary of the revolution. - It seems to me that a leader who could say "I do not care about Russia, I care only about a world revolution" must not lie close to such a place as the Kremlin. Moscow is like the church of Russia and Kremlin is its altar. By 2017, we approach a tragic anniversary and before this date we need to decide on his burial*".

Currently the Mausoleum, a monument to Lenin's tomb on the Red Square near the Kremlin wall in Moscow, is opened for free access five days a week. According to Soviet historiography, the idea was not to bury the body of the first Soviet leader, but to save it in a sarcophagus, which appeared there in 1924.

In April 2012, the Fund "Public Opinion" conducted a survey which showed that 56% of Russians were in favor of burying Lenin's body and only 28% against.

In 2014 the LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said he supported the wish to bury Lenin's body and remove from the Red Square all other graves. And suggested a place: Mytischinskaya Memorial Cemetery, where are buried the representatives of the Russian military and political elite. According to Zhirinovskiy there is place enough in the cemetery for everyone in the next 50 years.

His main reason is that according to the Federal Security Service, it cost tens of millions of rubles a year and to spend so much money on a man who have "brought us misfortune" is wasteful, says Zhirinovskiy.

However, there are those who call for the burial of Lenin's body for humanitarian reasons. In particular, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church who consider it inhuman to make his body an object of tourism.

During Prince Troubetzkoy's "thank you" speech at the prize ceremony he repeated his suggestion and received an applause for it.



### ***The Stroganov Palace***

Ludmila and I, together with Paul Rodzianko found in between the press-conference and the evening reception time to visit the Stroganov Palace.



There we met with Sergei Kuzneztov, Section Head of State Russian Museum, specialist on the Stroganov family. He have just published a new book about the Stroganov Palace (see the book section). His previous book from 2012 was about the Stroganov family - their climb from peasants to one of the richest and most influential families in pre-revolution Russia.

We had a tour of the palace, where Sergei Kuznetsov directed our attention to special details and added less known information he had gain during his many years there in charge of the palace restoration.

There are many histories and objects related to the Romanovs there, many have been lost after the 1917-revolution, but there is still a fireplace donated by Emperor Alexander II to Count Stroganov in connection with his aide to Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (Nixa) and some paintings on the wall - one small were showing Emperor Nicholas I in a sledge and two other Emperor Alexander II on horseback.



### ***Fund Ludvig Nobel reception***

In the evening was held a welcome reception for the laureates and guests of Fund Ludvig Nobel at the Belmond Grand Europe Hotel. Eugene Lukoshkov and Anna Yakovleva said welcome on behalf of the Fund, while Director of Belmond Grand Hotel Europe Sjefke Jansen, assisted by Hotel manager Julia Pashkova, said welcome on behalf of the hotel.



### ***Ludvig Nobel's grave in St. Petersburg***

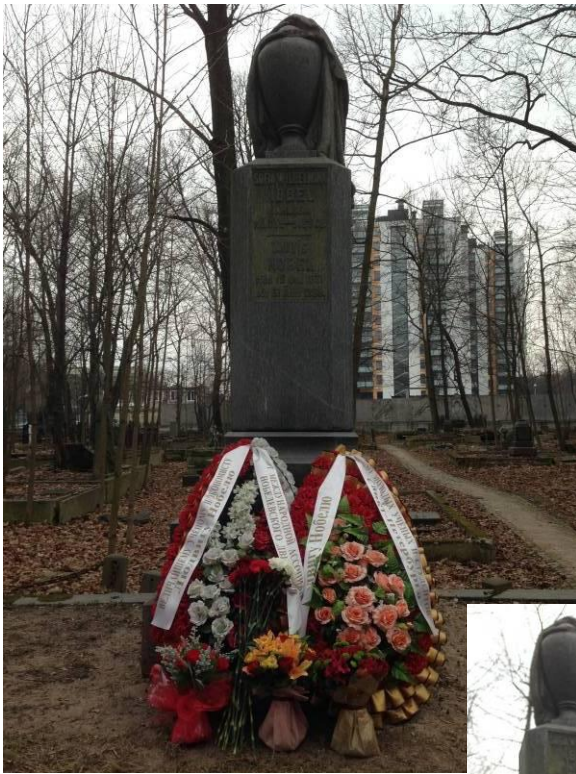
Next morning we went to the Smolensk Lutheran Cemetery - the oldest (started 1747) of the non-Orthodox cemeteries in St. Petersburg - together with other guests of Fund Ludvig Nobel.

On Ludvig Immanuel Nobel's grave stands a tall monument, on which is the inscription - "Sofia Wilhelmina Nobel f. Ahlsell, F. 31/10 1832 - D. 18/5 1868 - Ludvig Nobel, Fødd 15 Juli 1831, Død 31 Mars 1888." - Interesting it is written in Swedish.

In English its - " Sofia Wilhelmina Nobel born Ahlsell, Born 31/10 1832 - Died 18/5 1868 - Ludvig Nobel, born 15 July (New style 27 July), Died 31 March (New style 12 April) 1888".

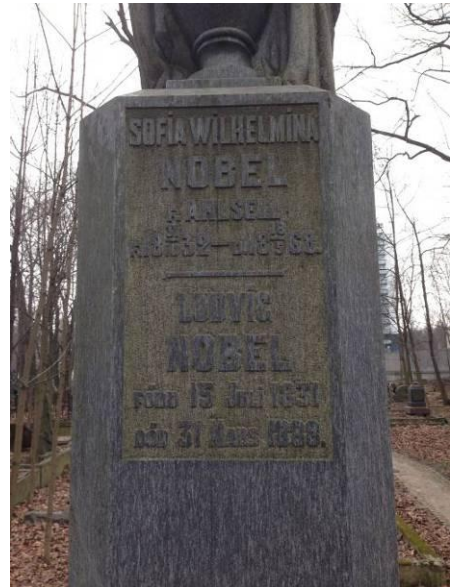
Jaroslav Golko, Leonid Roshal, Alexei Leonov, and Albert Likhanov laid flowers at the monument on Ludvig Nobel's grave and then was kept a moment of silence.





### **Agathon Faberge**

We also found the grave of Agathon Faberge, Carl Faberge's younger brother. His inscription is in German - "Hire ruhet in Gott, Agathon Faberge, Geb: 30 October 1862, Gest: 29 Maerz 1895". On the side of the stone are inscriptions of members of his family.





## **Vladimir Y. Matveev died 4 March 2015**



We also took the opportunity to visit the grave of the recently reposed Vladimir Y. Matveev, who gave 45 years of his life to the Hermitage Museum.

In 1990 he was appointed deputy director of the museum for storage, since 1995 - Deputy director for Exhibitions and Development.

Vladimir Yurivich was a recognized experts in the era of Peter the Great, and consummate connoisseur of scientific instruments. He made a great contribution to the renewal of the spirit and style of work in the Hermitage in many

areas. His initiatives underlie many new phenomena in the life of the museum - in its extensive exhibition activities, the creation of new types of exhibitions and new methods of organization.

Thanks to his exceptional performance, energy, deep knowledge in the field of museology, the State Hermitage in recent years was organized to show abroad, as well as received within its walls many prestigious foreign exhibitions. Vladimir's special merit is the preparation and opening of Hermitage's exhibition center in Kazan and Vyborg and the Exhibition center Hermitage Amsterdam.

Vladimir in Hermitage served with his whole being, not sparing himself. He was always full of new ideas and plans.

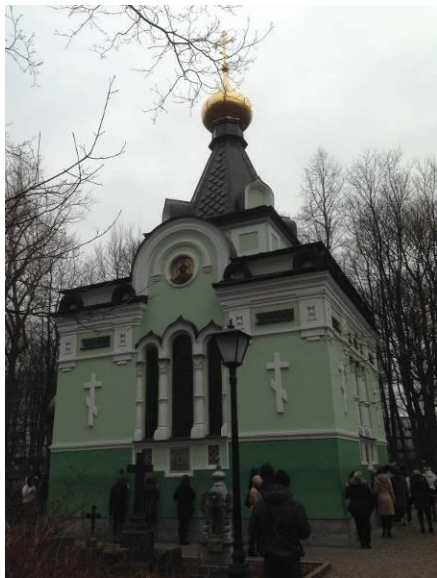


### **Saint Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg**

We could of course not leave the Smolensky Cemetery without going to the chapel of Saint Xenia. She is a patron saint of St. Petersburg, who according to tradition, gave all her possessions to the poor after her husband died and became a "fool-for-Christ", who for 45 years wandered around the streets of St. Petersburg, usually wearing her late husband's military uniform.

St. Xenia's grave is also in the Smolensky Cemetery and has been marked by an ornate chapel since 1902. She was canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church on February 6, 1988. Her feast day is 6 February.





Inside the chapel is a marble iconostasis with mosaic image of the crucified Christ, a sarcophagus with her relics and a miraculous icon of Saint Xenia.

### ***Memorial plaque for Nobel dynasty in St. Petersburg***

On Lesnoy Prospekt, was on 31 March at noon solemnly opened a memorial plaque dedicated to the eighty-years of the Nobel dynasty's activities in St. Petersburg. The memorial designed and created by the President of the Russian Academy of Arts Zurab Tsereteli.

The event was attended by members of the Russian Academy of Arts, Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as Deputy Consul General of Sweden Mr Bjorn Kovalkov-Halvarsson.

Three generations of the dynasty, including the famous Alfred Nobel, worked in St. Petersburg from 1837 to 1918. They made a significant contribution to the development of Russian industry. In 2011, the administration of St. Petersburg in honor of Nobel named a nameless passage in the Vyborg district. It passes near the house on Forest Avenue 20/8 - Front facade of the famous "town Nobel."



The memorial plaque is divided into two parts: one is carved dedication Nobel dynasty, inextricably linked with St. Petersburg, on the other - a brief history of the family of inventors and entrepreneurs.

Video - <http://topspb.tv/news/news69595/>



## Opening of the exhibition "Alexander, Napoleon and Josephine. a story about friendship, war and art "

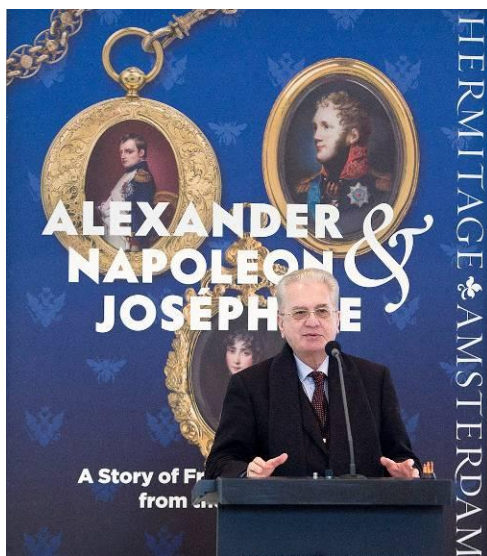
29 March. Hermitage Museum



On March 28, 2015 at the Exhibition Center Hermitage Amsterdam, The Netherlands, was presented the exhibition "Alexander, Napoleon and Josephine. A story about friendship, war and art" from the Hermitage collection.



The opening ceremony was attended by: M.B. Piotrowski, Director General of the State Hermitage; G.V. Vilinbakhov, Deputy Director General for Research; Katelyayn Broerse, director of the Exhibition Center Hermitage Amsterdam, Grand Duke Dimitri Romanov, the head of the Romanov dynasty, and his wife; and Count Alexander Column-Walewski, a descendant of Napoleon and the Countess Walewska.



More than two hundred exhibits from the museum's collection, including paintings, decorative arts, weapons and personal belongings, tell the audience the story of two great rulers.



Friendship, war, love and politics - the central theme of the exhibition. The art collection of the Empress Josephine, which includes works by Italian and Dutch masters such as Potter, van der Werf, Luini and Canova, the exhibition occupies a large place. Fate decreed so that a large part of the collection of Josephine was in the Hermitage. Some of the masterpieces from its collection for the first time will show the Dutch public.



The first part of the exhibition takes the viewer to the Malmaison. Napoleon and Josephine rarely seen since the emperor leads many wars throughout the European continent. The Empress remained alone at Malmaison - house, where there is the spirit of love Napoleon and Josephine. In 1807, Emperor of France concludes with the Russian emperor Peace of Tilsit, which aims to change the political landscape in Europe and Asia. The resulting friendship between Napoleon and Alexander seems sincere and eternal.



But the treaty provides for "peace and friendship for all time" was not carried out, in 1812, Napoleon invades Russia, going to war with his "friend and brother."

In a few moments in world history, which would have influenced its course, as the defeat and retreat of the French army from Moscow in winter 1812. The apogee of the disaster was the retreat of the French army crossing of the Berezina, after which the Grand Army of virtually ceased to exist. The exhibition presents four monumental canvases Peter Hess, illustrating various episodes of the War of 1812.





Russian Emperor and his army also suffered huge losses, but Alexander I shall come to Paris winner. The defeat of Napoleon certainly the French emperor sent into exile. Russian monarchs met in Paris with the Empress Josephine in her palace Malmaison. Winner surrounds Josephine signs of attention and favors. In response to the Russian Emperor, Josephine gives a truly royal gift - a cameo Gonzaga III century BC, which was a gift from her husband.



Alexander I could pick up a collection of Malmaison as a trophy, however, he became one of the main buyers of this collection. During the life of Josephine's collection includes more than 400 paintings, including works by Potter, Metsu, Van der Werf, Rembrandt, Claude Lorrain, Luini, Skidone, David Teniers the Younger, ter Borch, Canova. Many of the works bought the Empress, many gave her husband, who received masterpieces as war booty. 940,000 French francs - a truly astronomical sum in those days - to pay the heirs of Alexander I Josephine in 1815 for the acquisition of his paintings and sculptures. Children Josephine - Hortense and Eugene - lifelong unwelcome Russian monarch. Several decades later, the grandson of Josephine's son Eugene - Maximilian - married Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna, the niece of Alexander I, the eldest daughter of Emperor Nicholas I, thus linking the Romanov Beauharnais and blood ties.

Exhibition curator:  
G.V. Vilinbakhov, Deputy  
Director of the State  
Hermitage for Research.

The exhibition is  
accompanied by a fully  
illustrated catalog with  
introductory remarks by  
M.B. Piotrowski, General  
Director of the State  
Hermitage (Publisher  
Exhibition Center  
Hermitage Amsterdam,  
2015).

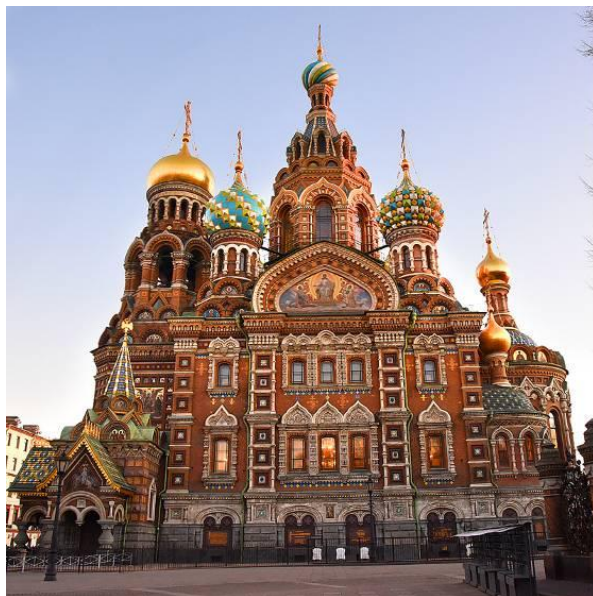




## In memory of Emperor Alexander II

14 March. Living Water

On Saturday, the 3rd Week of Lent, March 14, Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofy led the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ ("Savior on the Blood"). His Eminence was joined by the diocesan administration secretary Archpriest Serge Kuksevich, chairman of the financial and economic department of the diocese Archpriest Sergei Sudakov, monk of the Alexander Nevsky Monastery Archimandrite Seraphim (Shkred), Archpriest Gennady Belovolov and Alexis Dorofeev. According to tradition, at the Divine Liturgy prayed Cossacks "Neva Sich" and escort the holy Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II with their banner - standard with the image of Emperor Nicholas II and Tsarevich Alexis.



After the service, was held a memorial service for Emperor Alexander II, that was murdered on the day in 1881.

Then the head of the Archdiocese of St. Petersburg addressed the audience with a pastoral word. In the end of the sermon, the ruling bishop recalled the life and work of Emperor Alexander II:

*"Today, we offered up a special prayer for Emperor Alexander II, who died on this day at the hands of terrorists. We know that the XIX century - a special age when was shaken the foundations of our Fatherland, by terror which wanted to destroy the monarchy. In the XIX century it was not possible, but in the twentieth century it did happen, powerful Russian Empire collapsed under the impact of these forces. Therefore, today we prayed for Emperor Alexander II, who made history as the Tsar Liberator.*

*In his time was a lot of reforms, some were brought to an end, some were just the beginning. Like any man, he was a sinner, and so today we*



*pray that the Lord will forgive him his sins. May God rest him in the abode of the righteous in all the works which he did for the Russian state.*

*Romanovs have done a lot for Russia, we are grateful to them for all that they have done in this life. The kingdom of heaven to all of them! "*



The Cathedral of the Resurrection was erected in 1907 on the project of Alfred Parland and Archimandrite Ignatius (Malyshev) in the place where was mortally wounded Emperor Alexander II. By the people it is more popularly known as "the Savior on Spilled Blood." In 1930, it was closed. In the postwar years, there were workshops, warehouses, vegetable store. After years of restoration work in 1997, the church was opened as a museum-monument. May 23, 2004 was held the first Divine Liturgy, and from September 19, 2010, regular worship.

Video -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D45No1tu9sw>





## Head of the Russian State Archive suggests to exhume remains of the Tsar family to examine them again

18 March. Interfax

"All doubts about authenticity of Emperor Nicholas II's family relics should be eliminated", director of the Russian State Archive Sergey Mironenko believes.

"We have to listen to church officials and exhume the relics buried in St. Peter and Paul Cathedral and to do it in presence of church representatives and then it should be sealed up by church seals, and the Church should say whom of experts it confides in," Mironenko said on air in "The Eternity and Time" program on the SPAS TV channel.

As to disclosed relics of Nicholas II's children Alexei and Maria, the archive director says he "is categorically against burying the relics without participation of the Russian Orthodox Church."



He also promised to publish in the Internet all the materials referring to the case on disclosure of tsar relics. "The Russian State Archive has its own website and there we will post all the documents discovered during the research," Mironenko said.

Head of the Synodal Department for Church and Society Relations Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin on air in the program said that the relics of the tsar family in St. Peter and Paul Cathedral are covered with plates, which can be easily removed, though "it is always bad to disturb the remains." According to him, their burial was forced. "I remember rather tough pressure from Mr. Nemtsov and his office, but we won't say any bad things about recently killed person," the priest said.

The House of Romanov admits the possibility of exhuming tsar family remains in order to stop discussions about their authenticity.

"If the state considers it necessary, the Russian Imperial House won't stand against further research on the question," the House advocate German Lukianov told Interfax.

A grave with nine bodies was found on Staraya Koptiyakovskaya Road near Yekaterinburg in July 1991. The remains were identified as those of Emperor Nicholas II, his 46-year-old wife Alexandra Feodorovna, their daughters Olga, 22, Tatyana, 21, and Anastasia, 17, and their servants Evgeny Botkin, 53, Anna Demidova, 40, Aloizy Trupp, 62, and Ivan Kharitonov, 48.

The remains of two more people were discovered during archaeological excavation works south of the first grave on July 26, 2007. The remains have still not been buried, but numerous expert analyses indicate that the remains were most likely those of Tsarevich Alexei and his sister Maria.

The Investigative Committee said in January 2011 that it had completed an investigation into the death of Nicholas II, his family members and entourage and closed the criminal case.

The Russian Orthodox Church has still not recognized the remains interred in Peter and Paul Cathedral as those of Nicholas II and his family members and entourage, claiming that it was not convinced by the proof of their authenticity that was presented.

## Responses to the suggestions

In the Orthodox TV channel SPAS participated Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin; Hieromonk Nikon (Belavenets); Vadim Viner, president of the center, "The Fate of the Dynasty"; and Director of the Russian State Archive Sergey Mironenko, in the discussion "The question of the Tsar's remains."



See the whole program here -

Video - [http://tvrain.ru/articles/zachem\\_rpts\\_hochet\\_novoj\\_ekspertizy\\_ostankov\\_tsarskoj\\_semi-384162/](http://tvrain.ru/articles/zachem_rpts_hochet_novoj_ekspertizy_ostankov_tsarskoj_semi-384162/)

The suggestion about a possible second investigation got a lot of media attention in Russia and abroad - even in the UK the DailyMail wrote about it, however as usual with factual errors.

What I see as important, is that now church representatives are involved in a public discussion about the remains buried in 1998 in St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg. There have for a long time been no willingness to even discuss this question, so this might be a small step in the right direction and I hope just the first of many steps.

I completely agree with Sergey Mironenko that we need to have the church's uncertainty cleared away and if it takes another round of investigations then I am willing to accept it.

Not that I for a second doubts the remains buried in Chapel of St. Catherine are those of Emperor Nicholas II, his family and most loyal servants, but we also need to put the Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria to rest. They cannot stay forever in a safe in the Russian State Archives. To do this we need the church and to get them onboard we have to accept that their doubts about the authenticity of Emperor Nicholas II and family's remains should be eliminated.

A second issue is that now we are also talking about them being Holy Royal Martyrs, and as such is a normal burial not correct. The remains are relics and needs to be handle in a special way.

Senior investigator forensic criminology, Main Directorate of the Investigative Committee of Russia, Vladimir Solovyov, concluded that the remains are those of the Tsar, his family and their servants. The conclusion of the investigation was supported by the then leadership of the country, that's why they were buried in the Peter and Paul Fortress, the necropolis of the Russian Tsars.

The Russian Orthodox Church retained a special position and asked 10 questions that the Church does not believe is satisfactory answered. In 1998, all the questions could not be answered, in particular,



could not say where was the remains of Alexei and Maria. Later was given all the answers to Patriarch Alexy II.

Ivan Artsishevsky - "Genetics, scientists, family - all have been assured that the remains are of the imperial family. Hierarchs of the Orthodox Church people are smart. They cannot believe in genetics. But for some reason need this political intrigue. Come on, if you want to exhume the remains and finally resolve this shameful situation. Let it be recognized that it is the remains of the family "

"The Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna fully supports the position of the Russian Orthodox Church on the issue of "Yekaterinburg remains"" - commented on the situation "the head of the office of the Imperial House Alexander Zakatov. - "And I believe that all actions regarding alleged remains of the royal family should be consistent with the hierarchy. Imperial house seem sensible questions raised about the need for a secondary examination - with the blessing of the Church and with the participation of those professionals who are trusted by the Church. In this approach, possible re-exhumed, and the study of the remains, which are kept in the State archive."

According to Alexander Zakatova - "we must be very careful, very delicate, to spare the feelings and respect the sense of measures to prevent any violations of procedures and dubious statements, which, unfortunately, in the previous examination took place."



The director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation Sergey Mironenko said he was confident of the authenticity of the remains of the imperial family, who are buried in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg, as well as the authenticity of the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria.

"Investigative Committee and all of us who participated in the identification of the authenticity of the remains of the Tsar has no doubt."

According to him, a burial of the remains of

Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria "without the participation of the Russian Orthodox Church cannot be done. It is necessary to negotiate with the church".

On the question of the need to exhume remains of the royal family to new research, he replied: "In this case, I would have waited for the initiative of the Russian Orthodox Church, which officially questioned the results of the investigation. It is not for me to decide. It's up to the Moscow Patriarchate, His Holiness Patriarch - if there is enough available materials for convincing him."

Senior investigator criminologist Vladimir Soloviev, who for two decades was investigating the murder case of the royal family, said "that 100% sure that in the State archive are stored genuine remains of the two children of Emperor Nicholas II. Genetically they are identical with the family, who is buried in the Peter and Paul Fortress". But the royal family are now canonized saints, I would not want to just decide on their burial - then again there are those who will doubt it. The question of the disposal of Alexei and Maria should be addressed only with the participation of the church, so that there will be no doubt "- said Vladimir Solovyov.

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## Conversations about succession

*"Russian idea" continues a series of interviews with Russian aristocrats, among them - Prince Nikita Lobanov, Baron Eduard Pfalz-Fein, Count Pyotr Sheremetev, Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy, Count Sergey Kapnist, Prince Dmitry Mikhailovich Shakhovskoy and Yuri Trubnikov.*

From "Russian Idea" 15/02/2015. Author: Oksana Karnovich

**O.K. : Peter, as a representative of the ancient aristocratic family, what can you say about the succession in the House of Romanov?**

Count Peter Sheremetev: First, I want to say this: I have all the right to speak and to defend something that I believe, because even though I am Sheremetev, my family is one of the closest to the Romanov family. It is very important to know, because I'm not a stranger. I'm the one who can explain the facts today about the Romanov family.

Romanovs today, there are very few. My second cousin Nikolai Romanovich Romanov [1] was rightly considered the head of the Romanov family, and now his brother Dmitry Romanovich, but not Vladimir Kirillovich and his descendants, who were not dynasts for four generations. And I'll explain why. All the laws of the Romanov family, established by the Romanovs, were very clearly spelled out. The law of succession to the throne in 1797, approved by the Emperor Paul I, talking about marriage only with members of other royal families. In addition, to be a descendant of a Grand Duke and who can lay claim to the throne, it is necessary to observe a few rules based on simple ethics, of which there are two: First, do not marry a divorced lady, even if she were a princess; Second, do not let your children to be non Orthodox. If these rules are not observed, all rights to the throne disappear - offspring becomes out of line. It should be recalled that the person is considered to be the anointed of God. That is why the Russian monarch and his wife must be Orthodox.



"First of all, it should be noted that the Russian legislation on the royal family in general and about the succession in particular, was one of the most stringent in the world, because it quite clearly defines the issue of marriages of members of the Imperial House, if they wanted to, they and their descendants may have the right to inherit the throne. The rule was that the marriage of such a person could be entered into only with a representative of the ruling or sovereign house, ie houses that are not in power, but retains certain attributes of the former "sovereignty". In this case, the sovereign status of one kind or another is always necessarily legally signed it, ie, the law of the country, which consists of the once independent state, makes clear how much and what kind of "sovereign rights" was for his former "sovereign"." [2]

Kirill, even though he was a Grand Duke, had lost the right to the throne, as well as other Grand Dukes, because they married divorced ladies or wives did not agree to baptize of children in Orthodoxy. They all have lost right to dynastic succession, because of morganatic marriages. Kirill and his descendants have violated the rules of the family. Nicholas II demanded the renouncement of Kirill rights and Kirill signed statement that renounces the throne for himself and his posterity, as he broke the law of succession.

"October 8, 1905, the Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich married his cousin - Victoria Melita, daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh, the divorced wife of Duke Ernst of Hesse-Darmstadt, who refused to accept



Orthodoxy in marriage (art. 185), the marriage was not approved by the Emperor (Art. 183). Nicholas II deprived all rights of Kirill of the imperial family, including the right to inherit the throne. In Garf stored archival documents of two secret meetings 1906-1907gg. (SARF. F. 601. Op. 1. D. L. 2141. 8-15 on .; D. 2139. L. 119-127 vol.), on the basis of Nicholas II, which raised the question of deprivation of rights of succession of all offspring of Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich "due to an invalid marriage, violating the family, church and civil laws of the Empire". Archival materials discussion of this issue in the Council of State indicate that Nicholas II strongly insisted on depriving his cousin the rights of succession, but the members of the State Council proposed not to declare that decision publicly, because his turn to the throne, "for human reasoning, never will come to him". [3]  
(After the adoption of Orthodoxy in 1907 Victoria Melita was given the title of Grand Duchess Victoria Feodorovna, and Kirill was restored as a member of the imperial house - DC).

But for me the worst thing is that Vladimir's father, Kirill, came to the Duma with a red bow. Giving oath to the Provisional Government, he betrayed his country and his emperor, who was his relative. He sold his sovereign with this revolutionary symbol, disgracing the name of the Romanovs.

The Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich proclaimed himself for the Duma - the French ambassador to Russia Maurice Palaeologus wrote in his diary - "He did more. Forgetting the oath of allegiance and the title of adjutant, which he received from the Emperor, he went today (March 14) at four o'clock to bow before the power of the people. Saw him in his uniform of Captain 1st Rank at the Tauride Palace with his naval crew Guards, of which he is the chief, and presented them at the disposal of the rebel government". [4]

Once Nicholas II was shot, Kirill, who long ago already was in Europe, renounced his promises and declared himself in 1922 guardian of Russian throne, regardless of the opinions of other Grand Dukes and Empress Maria Feodorovna. Son of Grand Duke Kirill, Vladimir K. also played a shameful role, calling Russians to fight on the side of Germany against Russia in 1941. His marriage is also a morganatic. For some reason he secretly married in Lausanne on the eve of the Dormition Fast Princess Leonida Bagration-Mukhrani, divorced after a marriage with a Jew in America, and for some reason in the Greek Orthodox Church, although in the neighboring town of Vevey is a Russian Orthodox Church. Probably for the reason, that the ROCA rightly refused to marry them.

"In 1934, in Nice, Leonida entered the first marriage to an American Jew Sumner Moore Kirby. In the first marriage of Kirby he was married to the niece of the banker Jacob Schiff, director of the bank "Kuhn, Leib & Co.", who transferred money to the Revolution 1905-1917 in Russia. In 1937, the marriage broke up between Leonida and Kirby, but they had another daughter Helena, who lives in the United States. Kirby, who was in Germany, was arrested and imprisoned in the camp as a Jew, because of a denunciation made by Irakli, the brother of Leonida. " [5]

"Irakli Bagration-Mukhransky brother of Leonida in 1942 came to Germany with Alfred Rosenberg, who led the supreme governing body of the conquered territories of the USSR from 07.17.1941. Irakli served as "advisor on Georgian affairs" and formed "the Georgian brigade". In 1943 Georgian independence supporters, believing the promises of Hitler to create an independent Georgia under the auspices of the Gestapo, Heraclius was chosen as "the king of "Georgia". [6]

(In 1946, the Infante Ferdinand, Prince of Bavaria, a member of the Spanish Royal House has requested to Vladimir Kirillovich indicate whether "Bagration-Mukhrani" was a sovereign house, in connection with the marriage Irakli Mukhranskii to his daughter, the Spanish Infanta Dona Maria de las Mercedes de Bayern de Bourbon, niece of King Alfonso XIII, one of the richest heiresses in Spain - DC .).

"Vladimir K. published a very strange - document like - manifesto that laid the foundation for numerous violations of Russian laws of succession, admitted by him and his "successor" in the future. The manifesto stated that it "considers it useful and fair (note - not legitimate, but useful and fair) to recognize the royal dignity of Bagration of Mukhrani, as well as their right to be called by Georgian princes and titled Royal Highnesses". And this despite the fact that the descendants of these "His Serene Highness Prince Georgian" were alive at the time and still alive now. In other words, the

morganatic marriage was a morganatic marriage, and "nevladetelny" born Prince Bagration-Mukhrani did not come from a "sovereign", except for the fact that apart from the Vladimir Kirillovich in morganatic marriage, to his fault entered the Spanish Infanta Mercedes. It is regrettable that the Spanish Royal House so trustingly treated Vladimir Kirillovich and did not tested this question themselves, the more that to do it was not difficult - it was enough to recall the mentioned example of renunciation in 1911 of the rights to the throne of Princess Tatiana K.

However, the question arises: can it be that "the head of the Imperial House" had the right to change the laws? - No, he had not. Thus, the marriage Vladimir Kirillovich with Leonida Bagration-Kirby-Mukhrani - whose father, George Alexandrovich was second cousin to mentioned husband of Princess Tatiana Constantinovna, Constantine Bagration of Mukhrani and dear great-grandfather who is Ivane Bagration of Mukhrani, who signed the Treaty of Georgievsk, - is a morganatic and therefore under the laws of the Russian Empire neither the morganatic wife Leonida, nor her daughter, Maria Vladimirovna, nor, especially, the grandson George does not have any rights to the succession (Art. 188 of the Laws). " [7]

Furthermore, the family who is disgraced and discredited by several previous generations in a row, all of a sudden becomes a dynastic line to the throne. All this goes on from generation to generation. How is it for the fifth time Romanov can break the rules? After all, Maria, daughter of Vladimir Kirillovich, married a Prussian Hohenzollern Prince Franz. I'm friends with him. He is my friend, but he never showed up. The family was happy that she married a prince. And George was born. Here Vladimir K. and Leonid divorced Maria and Franz and sent him to America, where he got lost.

***O.K.: Vladimir K. gave to the husband of Maria Vladimirovna, Prussian Prince Franz-Wilhelm Hohenzollern the title "Grand Duke" Mikhail Pavlovich, but after the divorce in 1985, he returned to Lutheranism.***

Prince Nikita Lobanov-Rostov.: For what purpose was granted the title?

Count P. S.: "To assign the "crown princess" title to Maria Vladimirovna to Russian throne, and her son from France the title crown prince. I always say - as a German prince, whose ancestors have ruined the empire he can declare himself emperor in Russia? I like Sheremetev, being a relative of the Romanovs, I cannot let this happen. I do not accept it. How could she get the blessing of Patriarch Alexy II, penetrate all circles of Russia to get her family recognized as the only descendants of the royal family?! I must say that I do not understand the Russian government that lends itself to the mystification, to such shameful provocation."

Prince N L-R.: It just all cheats! What you are saying now, you need to publish, print! This position is supported by our friend, Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy, who lives in France.

Count P. S.: In addition, She appears where it can, distributes titles, awards the Order of St. Andrew and St. Anne. Her father, and that very few people know, generally sold these orders when he lived in Madrid. Franco then forbade him even to be in Spain, and sent him to France.

Prince N L-R.: Do you know how this scandal happened? Vladimir K., in general, was a fraud. General Franco helped famous people, and the Department of Commerce granted him a license to import two engines to Spain to sell them at a speculative prices and make money on it. The Prince also added two zeros to the license. And he was caught. Instead of two it turned out to be two hundred!!! It was a grand public scandal, as representatives of the German company that produced these motors had refused to sell them in Spain. Heraclius, brother Leonid was an accomplice of Vladimir Kirillovich in this case, and





he was arrested on return of bribes to officials, but was soon released. Apparently, at the request of his wife's relatives. After her death, he has been denied to have any relationship with the house of Bourbon. And Vladimir Kirillovich after the trial of this case was by General Franco expelled from Spain.

Count P. S.: So much for the "Grand Duke"! Scammers! This is a very unprincipled family. I assure you, these people proved to be the real crooks. She kept trying to go to the Russian Embassy in Paris, and Ambassador Alexander Orlov was forced to invite her.

O. K. : But where do they get the money?

Prince N L-R. : Ever since the Revolution, the Rothschild family made a bid for Kirill Vladimirovich. So you can call it a project that has long been realized, and I think to this day, because she is too active. So, she knows that there is force behind her.

Count P.S.: So many people helped them. They lived at the mercy of the vast number of wealthy people, often waiting for a title or award, or simply lovers of flattery. And it is clear that it is either naive or dishonest people.

O. K.: But why representatives of the aristocratic emigration did not resist this and remain silent?

Prince N L-R.: Many people, knowing all this, continue to communicate with them in tact. After all, who lived in Paris at our age know all this. In fact, many are silent, only to not defile the very name of the Romanovs, or despised them so much, that did not consider it necessary to talk about it.

Count P.S.: Unfortunately, our "rusopyaty" lived in such terrible times in their lives, they are tired of all this. How many squabbles were during emigration. My father lived in appalling conditions after the revolution in Vozdvizhenka № 8. Arrested was our whole family, ten, eight children, my grandfather and my grandmother. Once, in 1917, they had dinner in their dining room, and then broke the Bolsheviks and arrested them. They were detained for seven years. My father was only 10 years old. Miraculously, they were released in 1924.

Prince N L-R. : It's during the NEP (New Economic Policy).

Count P.S.: They were released. They lived in appalling conditions, twelve people in two rooms. When my grandfather died, and his grandmother was widowed, she decided to leave Russia, concluding a marriage with the Swedish ambassador, who had brought her with six of the eight children abroad by train. They left after seven years of a terrible life. Each of our families can talk like that. So it was with everyone. This is not a single story of the events of that time. They separated in Stockholm. At age 18, my father came to Paris. In France, he quickly finished his bachelor's degree and enrolled in school at the University of Agricultural Sciences. Received a diploma and, horrified by all the endless squabbles between emigrants in Paris, which was then about 300,000, decided to leave France and settle in Morocco, Africa. Brought back his wife, my mother, and died a few years ago in the same place after a very free and joyful life. We were really happy and free children.

Recently I was in the ambassador's residence in Paris for an evening dedicated to World War I, where Maria Vladimirovna was also invited. I decided not to talk to her, generally ignored her. Then she sees me, but passed by without even looking at her. Suddenly I heard a noise: its Maria running behind me, grabs my jacket and shouting: "How dare you not say hello to me?" I answer her: "Madame, I do not know you." And left. She was stunned, catching up with me, grabs the collar and said, "You - boorish!" Then I dropped her hand from my shoulder and, without saying anything, walked away. I know that she started to chase me in different reports on her "imperial" secretariat that there are some unworthy people ... I am sure it applies to me.

Prince N L-P.: Peter, so her son, absolutely have no right to call himself a "Grand Duke"? Despite the fact that her son legally changed his last name from Hohenzollern to Romanov?

"Clause 3) of the Act of July 21, 1976, Vladimir K. before the marriage of his daughter Maria Vladimirovna said that his future grandchildren will be using as the name Romanov and the title Grand Duke or Grand Duchess, followed by addition of the names and titles of Prince or Princess of Prussia. However, at the birth of George Mikhailovich Romanov received the name and title of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke - and the title Prince of Prussia was no longer mentioned. Since 1992, supporters of Maria Vladimirovna has titled him as "His Imperial Highness Tsarevich and Grand Duke". They also suggest that Georgy will be the ancestor of the new Russian dynasty - the Romanovs, the Hohenzollerns." [8]

Count P.S.: He have no rights. I saw her recently at a ball in Monaco. She came to the wedding of Prince Albert with the imperial crown on her head, pretending to be the crown princess of the Russian Empire, and requiring that she was treated accordingly. He was in shock. He was ashamed of it ... And she imposes everywhere her son as the future emperor of Russia. God forbid, it will not work. Even if Maria Vladimirovna continue the dynasty, she has no right to appear as such in a secular evening, especially in other European royal house, as the crown princess of the Russian Empire. So she has adapted herself a crown to appear everywhere in it. It is not permissible and very silly. Nobody doing it like this.

***O.K.: Peter, do you think, is it possible to restore the monarchy in Russia?***

Count P.S.: In connection with our conversation and affected topic I want to say, I, Count Pyotr Sheremetev, insist that it is necessary to give the right of the Russian people democratically, through a referendum, to express their desire - whether to return the monarchy, or not. This is one of the important conditions. Despite the fact that I am one of those rare people who are close to the Romanov family at the end of the XIV century (we have common roots in Boyar Koshka, associate of Dmitry Donskoy, our common ancestor), considered it inappropriate to return the Romanovs to the throne. Who brought the throne of our first Tsar? In 1613-ies my ancestor boyar Fyodor Ivanovich Sheremetev and his brother in law, the future Filaret, Patriarch of All Russia, who have decided to put on the Russian throne, his nephew and son to a "troubled times" to replace the heir of Boris Godunov. It was a clever and useful! Everyone knows that in the Ipatiev Monastery in Kostroma was elected to the throne first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty - Mikhail Romanov. I wanted to tell you that my ancestors created Romanov family, we are the ones who belong to this family, which throughout the ages have shown that we are committed to our state.

But our family was too vulnerable and weak in the 1910s and could not keep our homeland from a coup in 1917. Despite my loyalty oath and all our martyrs and relatives only after the referendum on the whole of Russia (of course positive) can be collected Zemsky Sobor, as in 1613, and to decide whom to elect as a Tsar. And, no doubt, it should not be a traitor, like Kirill Vladimirovich, but a worthy man, without blood on his hands. Fantasy nominees are unacceptable.

Maria Vladimirovna has no right to nominate herself to the Russian throne. And even more - her son Georg of Hohenzollern. Baron Pfalz-Fein is absolutely right. We must stop this lie and all claims of Maria Vladimirovna!

[1] Nikolai Romanovich Romanov (26 September 1922, Antibes - 15 September, 2014, Tuscany) - grandson of the male line of the Russian Emperor Nicholas I (branch "Nikolaevich" Romanov dynasty).

[2] G. Alekseev, M. Kiselev Position the All-Russian Center Monarchic. Who will take the Dowager Russian Imperial throne? The main thing that it would not be an impostor!

[3] SI Zhilenkov Heir to the Third Reich Maria Hohenzollern

[4] P. Sedov Matilda Kshesinskaya. AST. MS 180.

[5] SI Zhilenkov Heir to the Third Reich Maria Hohenzollern /

[6] Ibid

[7] G. Alekseev, M. Kiselev Position the All-Russian Center Monarchic. Who will take the Dowager Russian Imperial throne? The main thing that it would not be an impostor!

[8] [https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanov,\\_Georgiy\\_Mihaylovich](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanov,_Georgiy_Mihaylovich)

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# AS 38

## РОССИЙСКИЙ АНТИКВАРНЫЙ САЛОН 28 МАРТА — 5 АПРЕЛЯ

### 38th Russian Antique Salon in Moscow

From March 28 to April 5 in the Central House of Artists in Moscow will take place XXXVIII Russian Antique Salon. Leading galleries will present to the lovers of art works worthy to decorate the most authoritative collection. Old Master Paintings and works of jewelry, icons and monuments to Soviet porcelain, paintings of Russian realist school and Oriental bronze - all find a place in this exhibition. Latitude offers and high quality of products provide a continuing interest in the Salon by connoisseurs and collectors. Special exposition XXXVIII Antique Salon - "Luxury. Suppliers Court of His Imperial Majesty. "



### *Special exposition XXXVIII antique salon - "luxury. suppliers court of his imperial majesty"*

Sazikov, Ovchinnikov, Khlebnikov, Faberge, Chopin, Werfel, Moran, Berto, Sokolov - it is with these names connected with the history of creation of luxury goods in Russia, it is their products compete with the best arts and crafts in Western Europe and the East, creating a recognizable and unique image of the "Russian-ness."

The honorary title of the Supplier entered the history of Russia as an indisputable sign of the quality of products and confirmation of the integrity of its products. Stricter conditions for obtaining the title did not allow oversights and made it a subject



of special pride for those who have been awarded it. Many wishes for years trying to prove the benefits of their products and to get permission to call themselves by the Supplier, often it takes many years and a lot of effort.

Although the title began to be used in the beginning of the XIX century, "de jure", the title of the Supplier of the Imperial Court and Grand Duke's palace was established in 1856 under Emperor Alexander II. Then was set rules and a certain kind of a sign. And since 1862 for manufacturers, artisans and artists, supplies its products to the Court for 8-10 years at the best prices and had no complaints on the quality was given permission to call himself a purveyor to the court. This possibility will certainly enjoy placing the appropriate symbols on signs of its stores, products, business cards and letterhead.

At the beginning of the XX century the procedure for granting the title was already established. It was assigned twice a year by the Office of the Ministry of the Imperial Court at Easter and Christmas. For the honorary title had to submit an application and fulfill the following conditions. Supplier had for 8-10 years to faithfully make a good delivery of goods to the Court. The goods were to be its own production, supplied by "relatively low prices" and have no complaints about the quality. During this time, the supplier had to constantly prove the quality of its products, participating in trade shows, and be marked on them. Rank could be awarded only for the time of delivery. Is was assigned only to the owner of the enterprise and was not hereditary. If the company was sold or the owner died, the title was lost.



### ***Another special exhibition is "Outstanding icons"***

It will show outstanding works of the best Russian icons and masters companies - suppliers of the Imperial Household. Among them the Icon "St. Seraphim of Sarov," made by the famous masters, with the title of "court painter", Vasily Gurianov at the beginning of the XX century.

Salary of the icon "Our Lady of Iver" made by silversmith company Ivan Khlebnikov, supplier of the Imperial Court since 1879. Magnificent picturesque enamel decorated silver frame icon "Lord Almighty" by Moscow masters with the initials EW, whose name has not yet been deciphered by researchers, but the quality of work not inferior to the works of the best factories. Polychrome enamel decorated on the oklad of the icon "Lord Almighty," is by the masters of the factory Antipas Kuz'micheva.





## ***Two Faberge cups stolen at the Antique salon in Moscow***

30 March. NTV.

Detectives investigate the circumstances of the theft in the Central House of Artists, where on the first day of the exhibition of antiques, in the carefully guarded hall, unknown stole two exclusive cups, designed by Carl Faberge.

The stolen cups, says officials of the exhibition are unique, they have no analogues in the world. The main value is that they were created by the hands of Faberge. He at the beginning of the last century, personally covered them with special enamel and decorated them with precious stones. To have in them in a collection is a dream of many fans of luxury.



There is so much beauty of antiques represented in the exhibition, but most likely, the person who stole the cups, knew exactly what he wanted. Security Service are confident that the work is professional. The cups were lost on the first day of the exhibition - in the evening, at the end of the working day. The empty shelf was noticed by an administrator. Owner of the unique Faberge immediately told about the incident. It is known that the cups belong to a merchant from St. Petersburg. Experts say that the cups to sell unnoticed is almost impossible. In the art world such luxury items everyone knows.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1385757/>

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## **In a Trans-Baikal village was commemorated the visit of then Tsarevich Nicholas**

In the village Mirsanovo, in Shilkinsky District, Trans-Baikal Territory, is still preserved the wooden house, in which 15 June 1891 stayed the future emperor of Russia Nicholas II, who was returning to the capital after a trip around the world. On the eve was unveiled a memorial plaque in memory of what happened almost 124 years ago. Apparently, it was the most significant event in the history of the village.



Rector of St. Peter and Paul in Shilka, head of the Missionary Diocese of Nerchinsk Archpriest Alexander

Tylkevich, rector of the Church of the Resurrection in Nerchinsk Priest Vladislav Petrov with the blessing of Bishop Demetrius Krasnokamensk and Nerchinsk, led the procession through the streets of the village and performed the rite of consecration of the memorial.

- Despite the fact that during the Soviet period of the event it was forbidden to speak, the locals always remember about the visit of the heir to the Russian Empire, and now have decided to revive the memory of the visit of the Tsarevich in Mirsanovo - told the press service of the Diocese of Krasnokamensk and Nerchinsk.



The administration of the village organized a theatrical performance about the visit of the Tsarevich Nicholas in Mirsanovo. In the streets of the village drove a coach, and the role of the Tsarevich and his retinue was performed by local residents. The commemorative event were attended by the Trans-Baikal Cossack Cossack Army Society.





## Cossacks presented Sochi school a relic

Today in the 10th school was held a ceremony of giving an icon of St. Nicholas the Martyr by the Black Sea Cossack troops district.



This icon of Emperor Nicholas II and his heir, dressed in Circassian uniform, was brought from Mount Athos by the Cossacks in the last year. All this time the shrine was in the army of the Black Sea Cossack District. Today the relic was handed to those who carefully studies the history and culture of the Cossacks - 10 students of the school. They know firsthand about the era of Emperor Nicholas II and all the hardships that have suffered the Romanov family.

Vladimir Davydov, director of the school № 10: "A person who has done a lot, as a leader, he took on more responsibility in the First World War, he took command himself, knew the aspirations of every Russian soldier. Few people know about it. This iconic, we believe is of a man who loved his family and Russia and it will now patronize our school, for us this is very important".

The ceremony of handing over the icons to the school went by the canons of Cossack culture - with songs and dances. And how well students know the story - the guys showed during the annual festival. And showed not bad results. Pupils have an excellent command of information on the merits of the Cossacks, their way of life, rites and rituals of dress. For which he received diplomas. And the best Cossack class was found to be "2D".

Sergey Savutin, chieftain of the Black Sea Cossack District, Cossack colonel: "I am proud and happy for Sochi school and I want to say a big thank to the Sochi mayor, and as you know that Anatoly Pakhomov, Cossack colonel, hero of the Kuban, which honors all the Cossack tradition, and orthodoxy. And I am pleased that Sochi is the initiator of such events".



## Imperial Russian Easter eggs in the Alps

A new museum will open in Alps - The Liechtenstein Treasure Chamber will focus primarily on exhibits belonging to the Princes of Liechtenstein and other private collectors.



Thanks to the generosity of the Princely Family, visitors will have the chance to admire a number of items from the Princely Collections. With over 800 years of tradition, the Princely Family of Liechtenstein is not only one of the oldest ruling families in the world but also the owner of one of the world's oldest and continually expanding collections dating back more than 400 years. Its paintings by the Old Masters and array of arms are world-famous. The exhibition will display a selection of valuable materials, paintings, weapons,

hunting knives and gifts presented by kings and emperors, such as Frederick the Great and Emperor Joseph II, to the Princes of Liechtenstein.

The museum will also showcase exhibits belonging to the Liechtenstein collector Adolf Peter Goop (1921-2011), who donated his significant collection to the Principality on 9 June 2010. Highlights include his famous collection of Easter eggs - the most diverse of its kind in the world - and in particular a selection of Russian Easter eggs from tsarist times unparalleled outside Russia. As well as the famous Apple Blossom Egg (1901) by Karl Faberge, the museum also features bejeweled golden Easter eggs



created by other famous goldsmiths such as Pavel Akimovitch Ovtchinnikov and Alexander Edvard Tillander, gold and silver Easter eggs with intricate enamel decoration, and eye-catching porcelain and glass Easter eggs from the Imperial Manufactories. Among the latter are a number of "Tsar and Tsarina Eggs", which were commissioned each Easter by the ruling couple to present as gifts to important people.



In the new museum the Liechtenstein Treasure Chamber, in addition to the famous Apple Blossom Egg, are several less known Faberge eggs.

"Apple Blossom Egg" by Fabergé. Gold, diamonds, nephrite, enamel. St Petersburg, 1901. Craftsman: Michael Evlampievich Perchin.



Left - Easter egg by Fabergé. Agate, gold. St. Petersburg, before 1896. Craftsman: Erik August Kollin.

Below - Small Easter eggs by Fabergé. Gold, diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, rubies, quartz, enamel. St. Petersburg, before 1896-1917. Different craftsmen.



### Three silver dollar coins dedicated to Faberge eggs

Amazingly beautiful series called "Imperial Fabergé Eggs" became richer by three oval commemorative coins.



#### Coin 1. "Third Imperial Egg"

The third is devoted to the imperial egg jewelry, manufactured in 1887 by order of Alexander III. Emperor presented this Easter masterpiece to his wife. Considered lost. Inside the golden egg, which is located on the elegant stand, put a gold watch company «Vacheron Constantin».

The obverse: stylized pop-over Easter egg engraved portrait of Elizabeth II, decorated with ornate frame. Under the cut image is a sign of the Polish Mint and coined the name of the monarch - «ELIZABETH II». Along the raised bead is written: «NIUE ISLAND», «1 DOLLAR», «2015», «Ag 999».

Reverse: The name of the series - «Imperial Faberge Eggs», and the image itself is a masterpiece of jewelry.

#### 2. Coin "Caucasian egg"

Made in 1893 for Alexander III as a gift to his wife. Today exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum (New York). Has four oval windows, which are located in miniature landscapes Caucasian Abastumansky Palace. Inserted at the top of a tiny portrait of Duke George Alexandrovich.



Avers: Avers is similar to the previous coin.  
Reverse: The name of the series and the image eggs surrounded straightforward dot pattern and ribbon.

### 3. Coin "Trans-Siberian Railway"

Produced in 1900 for Nicholas II in honor of the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Gave them to his wife. Is now in a museum in Moscow Armory. Comprises a mechanical surprise - a miniature train length 398 mm made of gold and platinum encrusted with diamonds and rubies, which can set in motion a small golden key.

Obverse: all the same.

Reverse: egg, train and name of the series against the backdrop of a map depicting the highway. Written at the top - «TRANSSIBERIAN».



Technical parameters and the circulation of commemorative coins is the same:

Denomination: \$ 1. Weight (ch.v.): 16.81 gr.  
Quality: proof. Shape: oval. Dimensions: 29,2 x 39,00 mm. Metal: Sterling Silver (999).  
Volume of the issue of each coin: 1999 units.  
The estimated cost of a coin of a \$ 1 - 85 euros.

### Stone Island Palace will open in September after restoration

One of the most beautiful buildings in St. Petersburg - Stone Island Palace on the waterfront Malaya Neva - will in September be opened after restoration. Reconstruction of architectural monument has been going on for five years. Originally it was planned that the mansion should house the governor's residence. However, the city authorities have changed decision - in the new academic year will begin Children's Academy of talents.

Constructed on order by Catherine the Great it was intended as a residence for her son Grand Duke Paul Petrovich on the eastern tip of the island of Stone. The design was by Kvarengi, and it was probably his first draft of a palace in St. Petersburg. As in any imperial residence it has its secrets. One of them is the location of the office of Emperor Alexander, in which he received in 1812 Mikhail Kutuzov



before his appointment as chief of the Russian army. Historians believe that this study existed, but in the modern layout of the palace its place is not indicated.

One of the main problems of the building is the instability of the foundation. The palace was built on the site of an old wooden manor owned by Chancellor Bestuzhev-Rumin, and this part of the island is repeatedly flooded.

"So the wings that flank the main part of the house Stone Island Palace, do not stand on the same foundation. The foundations are not tied. And when the builders and restorers came here in the first place, was carried out serious examination, which showed that the foundations are in poor condition" - said Head of the Petrograd and Vasileostrovsky KGIOP Galina Medvedchikova.



The most labor-intensive work was to strengthen the foundation of the buildings and installation of new utilities. The front suite of rooms and halls have partially preserved its historic finish. A lot of effort went into the fight with the updates of the Soviet period.

"After a 6-7 restorations carried out, there is a huge amount of foreign materials, restorative materials that are degraded, lost its plasticity", - says the artist, restorer Irina Denisova.

Oval room, music room and anteroom are waiting for the installation of parquet, which is preserved, and the return of the sculptures after restoration.

The Education Committee announced the opening of a new Academy talent school to garner nationwide experience in working with children who have an outstanding ability. Thus, Stone Island should be a hallmark of the education system of the northern capital. Another important advantage of the project - the possibility of visiting the open manor park.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/130448](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/130448)

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## The exhibition "Imperial Family" held in Mogilev

20 March. Mycity.by



The exhibition "Imperial Family", which is held in the exhibition hall in the Boldin regional center will help visitors to make their own ideas, devoid of ideological extremes, of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family. This opinion was expressed on March 18 by Dean of the Faculty of Slavic Studies, Ph.D., Associate Professor Sergey Somov at the opening ceremony of the exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the family of Royal Passion in Mogilev.

On display are available a wide range of copies of documents, eyewitness accounts, diaries and photos from private albums of the Romanovs, located in



Moscow, St. Petersburg, Zlatoust and Mogilev. The exhibition is organized by Mogilev diocese and is traversed by the blessing of the bishop of Mogilev and Mstislav Reverend Bishop Sophronius. It is dedicated not only to historical events, but to the personalities and private life of the emperor and his family, revealing the identity of the man and the people closest to him.



"The royal family has become a special symbol of the twentieth century, because it not just suffered during the revolutionary storm, but was brutally murdered - said Sergey Somov. - As we know, in the Soviet era was poured a lot of dirt on these names because it was necessary to ideologically justify the terrible blood that was shed in the early twentieth century period of turmoil and civil war. And the fact that today the royal family is revered as a saint, contains not only the religious component, it is connected with the fact that in the face of the royal martyrs now we have a sample of family relationships that are built on the basis of deep faith and love, the highest spiritual level."





According to Sergey Somov, the exhibition "Imperial Family" shows the desire to preserve the historical heritage, as well as the memory of the people and events of those years, which is based on the national honor and dignity, identity and future well-being of the people.

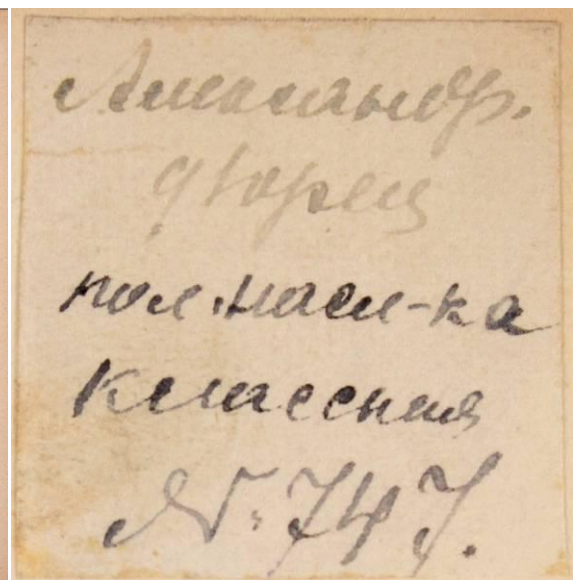
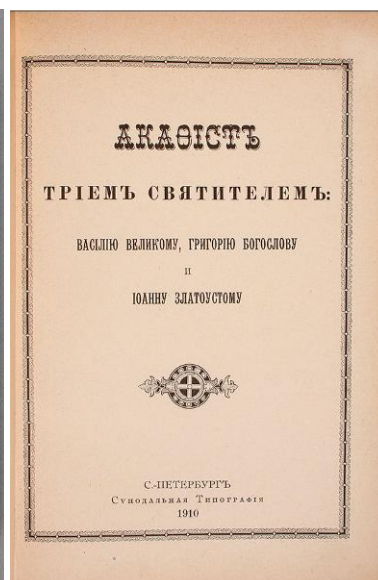
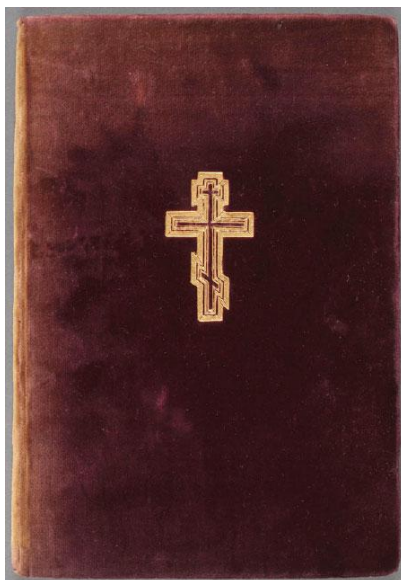
## A lot is happening in Tsarskoye Selo Museum

### ***Managed to buy Tsarevich Alexei's prayer book***

On 25 March it was announced that Tsarskoye Selo Museum had managed to buy a real unique rarity - the prayer book Emperor Nicholas II's son, Tsarevich Alexei - at an (Jackson's) auction in the United States.

Modern means of communication allowed Tsarskoye Selo to bid online, but sending a rarity demanded effort. The cost of administration was almost the same as the prayer book itself.

How is it that this book was in the American town of Cedar Falls, Iowa, today, nobody knows. The fact that it was there to be sold at auction, Tsarskoye Selo learned thanks to friends, almost by accident. And three and a half thousand dollars decided the case in favor of the St. Petersburg museum.

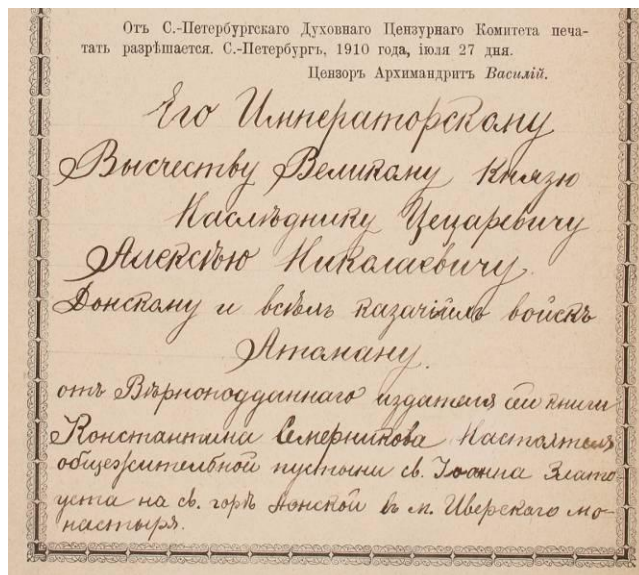




In the book is preserved the label from Alexander Palace, indicating that the prayer was in the classroom of the heir: "Alexander / Palace / Floor / Classroom / № 747".

Deputy Director for Science State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" Iraida Bott noted that in general, "memorial things of Tsarevich Alexei remained extremely small, so it is a prayer book of great historical value."

Inscription: "His Imperial Majesty, Alexei, and all Ataman Don Cossack troops." Ataman at that time six years old. Thanks to the labeling we understand that this prayer was still in the Alexander Palace in 1928, but ten years later, when there was a new inventory it was gone.



Iraida Bott, deputy director for research and educational work Tsarskoe Selo: "We lost a lot because children's half of the Alexander Palace in 1931 was finally closed. And what was sold, seized before it, thank God, still turns out to have survived."

- Thanks to the excellent state of preservation and artistic execution, the hardback book will decorate the exposure of the Alexander Palace and in the future may participate in exhibitions, thematically related to the family of Nicholas II, - told the museum.

The binding of the prayer book is covered with purple velvet, and on top is a relief image of a cross, and the flyleaf of the book is decorated with an inscription by the abbot of a monastery of Mount Athos.

Tsarevich Alexei was, according to eyewitnesses, a very pious child. In his room, and is a Kyoto with icons and a lot of books, primarily religious. And in the photo he is shown next to the confessor of the family, Archpriest Alexander Vassiliev.

In the scientific library of Tsarskoye Selo today you can find the magazine "Past Days" from 1928. Here, among other things, there is a photo of the heir's classroom, where one of the shelves, apparently, was the same prayer book.

To restore these interiors will never be possible. In the museum now is just a few children books, so it is clear that every such discovery - its weight in gold. Especially one of the prayer books of the Tsarevich.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1381941/>

### ***The World War One: The Russian Army in France***

- a photo exhibition opened at the Martial Chamber of Tsarskoye Selo on March 16 and will run till April 5, 2015.

Organized by Tsarskoye Selo and the French Institute in Russia, the exhibition Echoes the Centenary of the Beginning of the First World War in 2014. It displays over twenty photographs, provided by the Institute and The Communication and Audiovisual Production Company for the Department of Defense (établissement de Communication et de Production de la Défense audiovisuelle, ECPAD).



The photographs are focused on three themes: "The arrival in Marseilles", "Exercises in military camps" and "Life in the trenches and on the frontline".

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr Michel Grange, deputy Director of the French Institute in Russia and Director of St Petersburg ITS office.

The archive treasures of the French Ministry of Defense are complemented by a 18+ video game named "Unknown Soldier - memory of the Great War". The game is dedicated to the First World War and will also be available to the public in Russian and French at the library of the French Institute in St Petersburg. It is developed by the French software company Ubisoft and structured around four different characters fighting on the frontline during the First World War. They must pass through many trials together to win.

### ***Donation of WWI artifacts***

Mr Vladimir Churov, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, donated more World War One artifacts to Tsarskoye Selo, following his earlier donation in 2014. The artifacts will join the World War One display at the Martial Chamber of Tsarskoye Selo.



They include badges of aviation observer and machine gunner (see left, click to enlarge), fragments of a soldier's St George cross found at excavations in Kaliningrad region, a 7 September 1914 issue of the New Illustration magazine and a month's list of soldiers killed, injured and missed in action in 1915.

### ***More photographs to Tsarskoye Selo's collection***

Jens and Franziska Harmsen have donated to the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Preserve a number of photographs taken by their fathers during the occupation of Leningrad suburbs by the German Army.

In October 2013 Mr and Mrs Harmsen donated to the museum four other objects taken by their fathers as souvenirs at the palaces of Tsarskoye Selo: an icon of Countess Anastasia Hendrikova (Tsarina Alexandra's lady in waiting), two vases and a book of the early Twentieth century.





Hans Harmsen, Jen's father, was stationed in the town of Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo) during September to December 1942. He took photographs with a miniature camera Minox, which was often used in military intelligence. His shots captured Narva, Krasnoye Selo and several familiar views of Tsarskoye Selo.

Franziska's father served in military logistics. During World War Two his unit was stationed near Pavlovsk, south of Leningrad. The Harmsen family archive includes his drawings and watercolours depicting the Pavlovsk Palace and its picturesque vicinity.

### ***Puppet theater of Tsarevich Alexei is transferred to Tsarskoye Selo***

The rare exhibit - home puppet theater of Tsarevich Alexei, son of Emperor Nicholas II - was given to the Museum "Tsarskoye Selo".

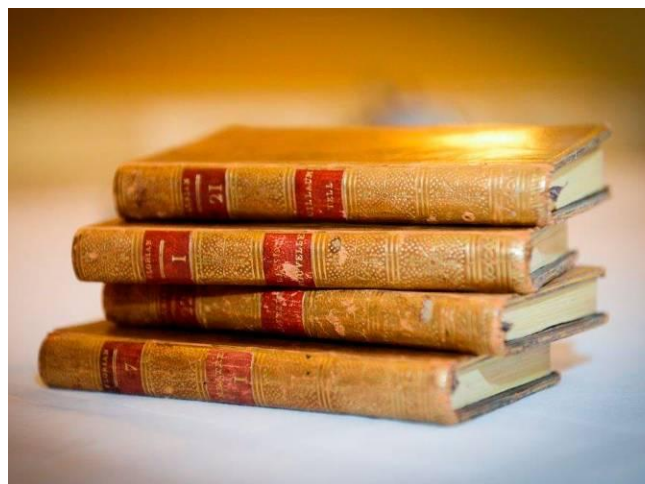
For a long time it was considered lost, but the rarity was discovered by accident - in the museum Puppet Theatre Obraztsov. During the restoration was found an inventory inscription: "Alexander Palace, Tsarevich, playing number 333". Searching the archives, it turned out the toy was made in the style of French folk theater and received by the Foundation Theater Obraztsova in 1945 from the Museum of Toys in Sergiev Posad. There they probably came after the revolution. Dolls are very similar to members of the royal family and their approximate. Corporal and the Bride - looks like Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna, Harlequin is Grigory Rasputin. Now they are all back home - in Tsarskoye Selo, and the Museum of Theatre Obraztsov has exact copies on which the master worked for several years. Copied everything - down to the buttons.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/130644](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/130644)



### ***Books of Empress Catherine II was returned to Tsarskoye Selo***

The collection of the Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" has been replenished with unique pieces - books by French writer Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian, a popular author of the XVIII century. Helping with the transfer was the company "Knauf Petrobord".



Museum experts believe that books dating from 1786 and 1791, belonged to Catherine II and was kept in her library in the Winter Palace, evidenced by the notes on the flyleaf of the books by librarian. The other two volumes were published after the death of the Empress - in 1801 and 1803 respectively, but binding of all four books are the same, apparently, by a decree of Alexander I. In 1826, Nicholas I ordered to carry most of the books belonging to his ancestors, from the Winter Palace to Tsarskoye Alexander village, where four halls library was created, numbering about 24 thousand volumes. Judging by the presence of inventory numbers, the books of Florian was also stored in this library.

- During the Great Patriotic War, the library was sent to Germany. Part of it was discovered in Austria in 1946 and returned to its homeland. It is about seven thousand units, ie only about a third of the entire library collection. Of course, for us these books - despite the fact that it is odd volumes - are of great value, because the books belonged personally to Ekaterina II, and there has remained very little - said the keeper of the rare book GMZ "Tsarskoe Selo" Irina Zaitseva.

Transferred of the museum books were done by Pastor Hans Turn, who decided to return to the museum the library rarity. Mediates the German side made Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation in Nuremberg Mr. Nikolaus Knauf.

- On Victory Day we plan to open in the pavilion "Upper Bath" an exhibition of returned items. The process, which began in the 60s of XX century, in recent years is particularly active. At the moment, the museum have received back more than a hundred items, each of which - is a story. Intertwining fates of people and museum - the exhibits will be devoted to this exhibition - says the Deputy Director for Science Iraida Bott.

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### **The exhibition "Alexander II and Tsarskoye Selo" in Great Novgorod**

The exhibition will run from 14 March to 7 June 2015

In the year of the 150th anniversary of the Novgorod Museum Reserve, opened the exhibition "Alexander II and Tsarskoye Selo. It displays about 160 exhibits from the artistic and architectural Palace and Park Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo": costumes, weapons, everyday items, and belongings to Emperor Alexander II and his family.

The name of Alexander II in Novgorod is involved in creating one of the first provincial museums in Russia. The emperor, who in 1862 in Novgorod participated in the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of Russian statehood, according to some reports, expressed his wish to establish a museum there. Three years later, in 1865, the museum was created. So Emperor Alexander II can rightly be considered its founder. In the Imperial Hall of the Nobility Association in honor of the 1000th anniversary of the Russian state was given a reception, which was attended by Alexander the II.



History of Russia in the second half of the nineteenth century. often referred to as "the era of Alexander II". This is not only a coincidence chronological framework of the period from the reign of Alexander II. Tsar-Liberator, the Tsar-reformer - so-called Alexander II during his lifetime. To him fell the most important decision of government tasks to determine the direction of further development of Russia.

Alexander II over a quarter century, from 1855 to 1881, was on the Russian throne. When recreating chronicles of the life of Alexander II, Tsarskoye Selo occupies a big



place: at all stages of life, many events both personal and public character occurs in Tsarskoye Selo, or were associated with it. Tsarskoye Selo at the time of accession to the throne of Alexander II was "the property of the Crown", ie belonged to the reigning emperor, and served as the official summer residence of the Russian monarch. Here's to the beginning of the reign of Alexander II was already a grand architectural and park ensemble, in which were the dominant Catherine Palace (architect Rastrelli, 1752 - 1756) and Alexander Palace (architect J.. Kvarengi, 1792 - 1796).



During the time of Emperor Alexander II the appearance of Tsarskoye Selo did not undergo any dramatic changes, as in the previous century, but, nevertheless, some new palace interiors, purchased items, add to the collection of paintings, graphics, weapons and grew the Imperial Library. And all this was as a mark of personal taste and preferences of the Emperor. Throughout his life, Alexander II preferred to spend part of the year in Tsarskoye Selo, where he was constantly staying in the same quarters in Zubov Wing, consisting of a number of relatively small rooms, simply decorated and furnished, with the exception of which was the Asian room. It was luxuriously furnished, and its main decoration is a collection of weapons, which began to collect his father Emperor Nikolai Pavlovich.



In Tsarskoye Selo, during the reign of Alexander II he had to carry almost the same way of life, as well as in St. Petersburg: receive reports from Ministers and convene meetings. In his office at the Zubov Wing of Catherine's Palace, he discussed the reforms, made decisions and sign the most important state documents. In

1857, here in the Cabinet of the Emperor, were meetings behind the scenes of the Review Committee on the peasant question, which resulted in the order to establish provincial noble committees in Vilna, Grodno and Kovno province for the drafting of the device and improving the life of serfs, signed by Alexander II November 20, 1857 in Tsarskoye Selo. The importance of this document is that it was the one who initiated the cause of the emancipation of the serfs.





In the Tsar's residence in April 1868 was celebrated the 50th anniversary of the patronage of Alexander II of the Life Guards Hussars. Love for the army and all military Alexander II inherited from his father, Emperor Nicholas I. Alexander never missed a regimental holiday, attended the exercise, reviews and parades. He was the chief of many of the Guards regiments, but the patronage of the Life Hussars had a special significance for him. Chief of the regiment Alexander was appointed by Emperor Alexander I April 27, 1818, when he was 10 days old. 50th anniversary of Emperor coincided with the 50th anniversary of his patronage over the Life Hussars. Its anniversary Alexander II celebrated in close family circle, and the 50th anniversary of his patronage of the Life Guards Hussars was observed two days of celebrations in Tsarskoye Selo, in place of the primary location of the Life Hussars.



Until his last days Alexander II spent a part of his time in Tsarskoye Selo. There was held his second marriage. In Tsarskoye Selo, July 6, 1880 was the wedding of Emperor Alexander II and Princess Catherine Dolgorukov (1849 - 1920) before the marching altar, set in one of the rooms of the Catherine Palace. However, happiness with his young wife was short.



March 1, 1881, Alexander II was mortally wounded by a bomb thrown by a terrorist on the embankment of the Catherine Canal in St. Petersburg, and he died shortly thereafter. After the death of Alexander II ascended to the throne by his son, Grand Duke Alexander, who became Emperor Alexander III. Change emperors marked a change of times in the history of Russia, and in the history of the imperial residence Tsarskoye Selo. In the reign of Alexander III was only a little court in Tsarskoye Selo, as the Emperor preferred Gatchina as his country residence.

Video 1) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbhrV5YSt6c>  
 2) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M9KeMtYOpE&t=30>



## Exhibition "The era of great upheaval. 1789-1815"

12 March to 28 June in Museum-panorama "The Battle of Borodino"



The exhibition is dedicated to the completion of the cycle of anniversaries related to the events of the French Revolution (1789-1799) and the Napoleonic Wars in Europe (1805-1815). The main content of the 25-year "era of great upheaval" was the transition from the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, to terror, the strength of the revolutionary ideas to the force of arms, from republic to empire. Napoleon Bonaparte, who spoke on the scene as a direct heir to the "revolutionary war", sought to establish a "French continental Europe." Russia made a decisive contribution to the liberation of Europe (1805-1807) in the anti-Napoleonic coalition, the victory in the Patriotic War of 1812, and the foreign campaigns of 1813-1814). Emperor Alexander I was the mastermind behind the idea of the post-war Congress of Vienna, which can be considered as the prototype of the League of Nations and then the United Nations and the European Union.

More than 600 exhibits presented at the exhibition reflect the events of two centuries ago, recalling the lessons of the past, which have not lost their relevance today. For the first time there will be presented virtually unknown to the general public collection of manuscripts, printed and graphic sources stored in the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI), as well as items of fine art from the collections of the Museum and RGASPI Panorama "Borodino", and items from private collections of A.V. Rudentsova and L.B. Belikov. The exhibition "The era of great upheaval. 1789-1815" is included in the plan of priority projects of the Russian Historical Society.

The exhibition is open until 28 June 2015.

Video -

[http://www.vesti.ru/videos/show/vid/638671/cid/460/#/video/http%3A%2F%2Fplayer.rutv.ru%2Fiframe%2Fvideo%2Fid%2F1187601%2Fstart\\_zoom%2Ftrue%2FshowZoomBtn%2Ffalse%2Fsid%2Fvesti%2FisPlay%2Ftrue%2F%3Facc\\_video\\_id%3D638671](http://www.vesti.ru/videos/show/vid/638671/cid/460/#/video/http%3A%2F%2Fplayer.rutv.ru%2Fiframe%2Fvideo%2Fid%2F1187601%2Fstart_zoom%2Ftrue%2FshowZoomBtn%2Ffalse%2Fsid%2Fvesti%2FisPlay%2Ftrue%2F%3Facc_video_id%3D638671)

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## Restoration of the Imperial Travel Palace in Tver near completion

Tver Imperial Travel Palace is being returned its old beauty and grandeur. Built in the XVIII century on design by Matvey Kazakov, the palace was intended for the rest of the imperial family on the way from St. Petersburg to Moscow (or vice versa). The building was reconstructed several times, and even after centuries have survived its architecture and unique decoration of interiors. Comprehensive restoration of the palace began in 2012, and now the work is almost completed.

The first large-scale restoration of the Imperial Palace Trip was entrusted to a young architect Carlo Rossi. In 1809 he designed an open wooden gallery replacing the stone corridors, and restored the grand staircase. Later the appearance of the palace was still changing - but modern restorers tend to recreate the same style as made Rossi.

In the Front Hall are preserved four out of six columns. Two was damaged during the war and were recreated in plaster. Therefore it was decided to replace them. Architectural details in granite was brought from the northern capital, and the floor from abroad. Unique fragments of tiles was found when

replacing the main staircase. The manufacturer of the original was found in Germany. So palette of floor pattern is transferred precisely.

"In Germany are saved the old factory, the only one in Europe, where there are samples that were used in tsarist times. There's even saved batch numbers,"- said the deputy director general of the contractor firm Lyudmila Golubeva.

Above the main hall architects had much work. During the Great Patriotic War here was a hit by a shell. The interior was reconstructed from the descriptions. Marble walls, sculptures - all on old technology, made of plaster.

To recreate the vintage interior the Imperial Palace have employed the same experts who restored historic halls decoration of the

Mikhailovsky Castle, the Alexander Palace and the Constantine Palace in St. Petersburg.



Work is almost complete. Still at least a month specialists needs to spend on finishing, then they will begin to bring in home furniture. Part of chandeliers and lamps, by the way, bought at Tver glass factory.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/129923](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/129923)

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## The Imperial Historical Society will become "digital"

Presidential Library, St. Petersburg has formed a complete digital collection of publications of the Imperial Russian Historical Society (now - Russian Historical Society), which were produced from 1867 till 1916. The unique materials will become available in 2016 when is celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of Imperial Russian Historical Society.



The more than 1000 publications issued under the auspices of the Imperial Russian Historical Society, tells about the diplomatic correspondence of Russian autocrats, a large section devoted to Empress Catherine the Great and her foreign policy. The collection includes materials on relations between Russia and France in the era of Napoleon Bonaparte, and about outstanding social, political, religious leaders, scientists XIX-XX centuries.

Formation of the complete collection was done on the decision of the St. Petersburg branch, which in 2014 decided to transfer the material to electronic form. In parallel was organized a photographic survey of the



interior of the mansion of the chairman of the society in the years 1909-1917 Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich. With the support of the Director of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts Irina Popova, the Fund First National Electronic Library of the country were supplemented with rare photographs and modern pictures taken in the building at the Palace Embankment, 18. Petersburg branch of the society aims to further disclose white spots in the history by practical and useful tools for people working in collaboration with museums, libraries and archives.

Russian Historical Society was founded in St. Petersburg in March 1866. Its charter was approved by Emperor Alexander II. After the revolution until 2013, its activities were suspended. It was renewed for the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty at a ceremonial meeting in the Kremlin Patriarch's Palace. new co-sponsors, including the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, the fund "Russian World" and other organizations. The first major event was the presentation of the facsimile edition of the manuscript of the XVII century about the election of Mikhail Feodorovich as the first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty.

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### **The exhibition "White Gold of Russia" in Ulyanovsk Regional Art Museum**

On March 17 opened the exhibition "The White Gold of Russia", dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the Ulyanovsk Regional Art Museum. The exhibition features more than 40 objects created on the first Russian porcelain manufactory - Imperial Porcelain Factory.

Imperial Porcelain Factory was founded in 1744 in St. Petersburg by decree of Empress Elizabeth. This is where the talented Russian scientist D.I. Vinogradov (1720-1758) discovered the secret of making "white gold". He was the first in the history of ceramics with a scientific description of porcelain production. Products by Dmitry Vinogradov in quality was not inferior to the Saxon, and the composition of mass produced from domestic raw materials, was approaching the Chinese.

Imperial Porcelain Factory - is one of the few plants that managed to survive the upheavals of revolutions and wars, the whole historical epoch and this for almost three centuries constantly maintain a high artistic level of its products. Products of the factory has won high awards at international exhibitions in London, Paris, New York, Brussels, and Vienna.

Visiting the exhibition, you will be able to lift the veil of mystery enveloping the history of the formula "Russian porcelain." The most active and inquisitive visitors can take part in the game "The Mystery of white gold"!



## Finally opened the monument to the first Russian battleship "Poltava"



After have been postponed several times, from July 2014 to 23 February, it finally happened on Friday, 6 March in St. Petersburg. On the Neva River embankment of the Resurrection, at the corner of the prospect Chernyshevsky, was opened the monument dedicated to the first Russian 54-gun sailing battleship "Poltava".

The ceremony was attended by Governor Georgy Poltavchenko, Chairman of OAO "Gazprom" Alexey Miller and Deputy Chief of the Navy Alexander Fedotenkov.

Georgy Poltavchenko said the battleship "Poltava" is a symbol of Russian naval glory. Its construction at Admiralty Shipyards was the beginning of the creation of a strong line of the Russian fleet. Peter personally designed this ship, and took an active part in its construction. "The ship was named in honor of the victory of Russian troops in the Battle of Poltava, which began the path of Russia as a great power. Power that goes its own way of progress and creation," - said Georgy Poltavchenko.



The Governor thanked the creators of the monument - sculptor and architect Alexander Taratynova and Valery Lukin. Special thanks Georgy Poltavchenko expressed to the company "Gazprom" Alexei Miller and him personally. As stressed by Georgy Poltavchenko, the company "Gazprom" - an old and reliable partner of St. Petersburg, not only in economics but also in the development of mass sports in



the beautification of the city. Thanks to the investment program of "Gazprom" on the improvement and revitalization of the historic appearance of St. Petersburg has been repaired many streets and quays. Now actively under construction Lakhta Center. "Gazprom" support another project related to "Poltava". On the territory of the Yacht Club is the ship being recreated in full size. It will be the basis of a new museum complex, which will create a cultural and educational center.



"I am confident that our cooperation will continue. We have one goal - the welfare of our people, the development of our beautiful city and our great country, " - said Georgy Poltavchenko.

Videos - 1) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1354762/>

2) <http://topspb.tv/news/news67443/>

3) <http://www.tv100.ru/news/v-peterburge-otkryli-pamyatnik-pervomu-russkomu-parusnomu-linkoru-106137/>

## ΙΩΝ ΒΟΡΡΕΣ - IAN VORRES : 1924 - 2015

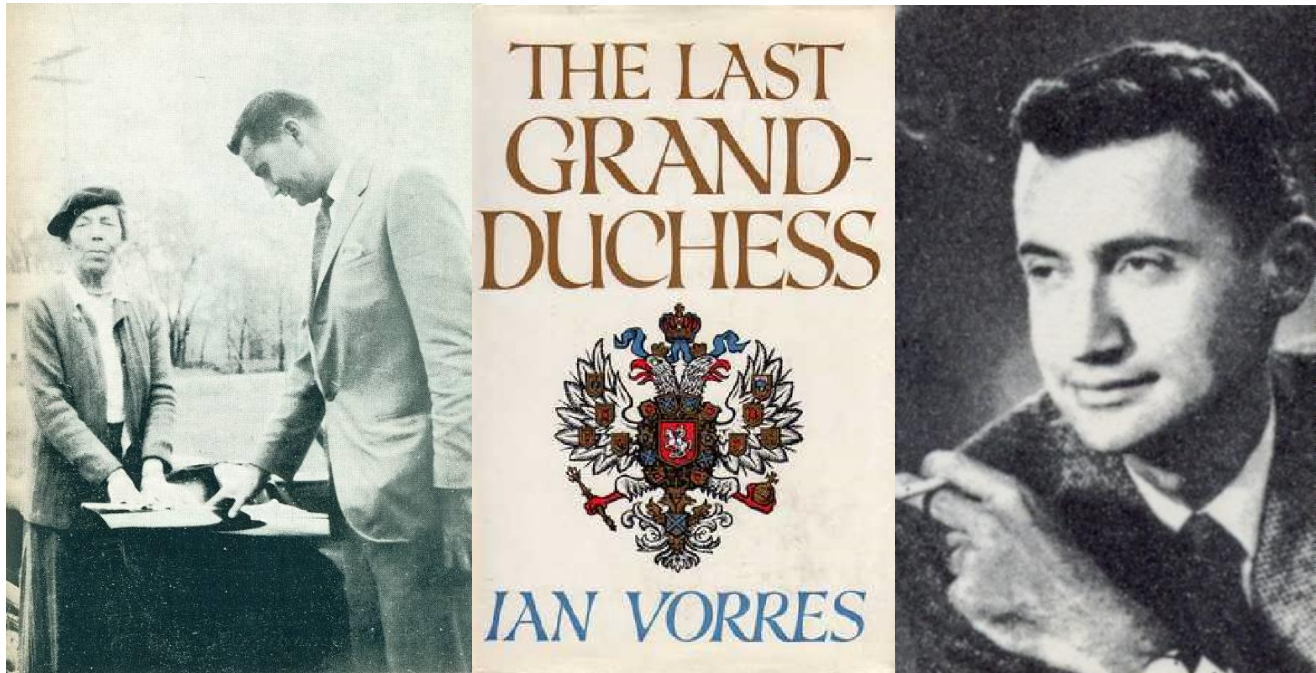
The author of "The Last Grand Duchess" - Ian Vorres passed away on Friday, February 27, 2015

Vorres was born in Athens in 1924. During the German occupation he first served with a group of American officers, members of the OSS (Organization Strategic Services), in the mountains of Evia (A mountainous island north of Athens), but had to fled to Canada at the war's end. He received his diploma in Economics and Political Science from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, as well as higher diploma in Philosophy and Psychology from the University of Toronto. He also studied at the Ontario College of Education.

He took Canadian citizenship and taught for a while, then swapped his chalk board for a typewriter and became the art critic for the



Hamilton Spectator and contributor to The Globe and Mail and Saturday Night, among other publications. In his spare time he was projecting lectures and articles on Greek culture.



In 1955 he organized the first post-war exhibition on Byzantine icons in Toronto, Canada. Knowing about Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's collection of Orthodox icons, he approached her and asked if she would lent out to the exhibition some of hers. She lent him some of her most precious icons for "The Byzantine Art Exhibition" in Toronto, and he was then anxious if she would come to its opening. She had promised she would.

Ian Vorres tells - "It proved a brilliant occasion, the jet-set society of Toronto, richly gowned and bejeweled, turning up in strength. Into that hall, crowded with men in uniforms and women in the latest "creations", came the little Grand Duchess wearing an old grey cotton dress and worn down brogues. Anyone else would have cut a grotesque poise. Not so Olga. her poise was the true Romanov poise. The simplicity of her manner enchanted everybody. As she walked down the hall everybody's eyes followed her in admiration. She looked what she was born. And more than that. There was something in the carriage of her head that spoke of an undefeatable will."

They established a friendship, that later allowed Ian Vorres to interview her about her life. Four years after her death, in 1964, was published his highly successful book "The Last Grand Duchess", a biography of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, the youngest child of Emperor Alexander III and sister of the last Emperor of Russia Nicholas II. It is now a "classic" among Romanov books.

Art was his love. In the mid-1960s, he returned to Greece to take over the family's import-export business and, a few years later, opened his museum, whose gallery space and collection would expand over the decades.

In 1967 he was appointed ambassador to the extent as director of the Greek Pavilion at the International Exhibition in Montreal. In 1983 he decided to buy land in Peania, an eastern suburb of Athens, Greece, and to build his museum there. Between 1991-1998 he served as mayor of the region. In 2009 he received the highest honorary medal «Order of Canada» from the General Governor of Canada.



In his declining years, Vorres was not a happy man, in spite of his ample accomplishments. He was considering selling some of the art to keep the doors open. He has bequeathed the museum to the Greek state but feared the gutted cultural budgets will ensure the museum will close after his death.

"My message is, for heaven's sake, save something of Greece," he says. "We have money for guns and tanks and warplanes, but not for art."

*Ian Vorres - RIP +++*

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## **Exhibition "Peterhof - the sea capital of the emperors"**

On April 11, 2015 the World Ocean Museum in Kaliningrad invites to the exhibition "Peterhof - the sea capital of the emperors."



More than 100 items, which for the first time leaves the walls of the State Museum "Peterhof", will tell the amazing story of the naval victories of the Russian Empire, the role of the sea and the Navy in various spheres of life of the imperial residence - from the official ideology to private life and upbringing of children. The exhibition will be a unique chronicle of the maritime history of the country. It is targeted at the widest audience for visitors interested in national history and peculiarities of Russian naval glory.

Peterhof, located on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, was always perceived as a seaside residence of Russian emperors. Here was taken serious political decisions related to the development of the Russian Navy and the approval of Russia as a naval power. Representatives of the Romanov dynasty specially came here for a summer vacation "at sea".

Guests can explore objects from the Petrine era: it is a silver model of the boat of Peter I, Peter the Great's skipper dress (copy), models of sculptures, marine equipment from the palace "Mon Plaisir" (telescope, compass), the picturesque "Marina" end of the XVII century, embodying the first Russian art collection - a collection of Peter the Great.

The era of Catherine the Great - A key exhibit of this period - uniform dress of Catherine II, modeled on the naval uniform, which will be presented on the background of the panorama of Cheshmenny Hall of the Grand Peterhof Palace. Also in this part of the exhibition - a formal portrait of the Empress, a clock with a bust of Catherine II as Minerva, and marine accessories that time.

In addition, the exhibition will "go" in the sea of the Emperor's study of the late XIX century - Books, writing set, nautical instruments and paintings by Aivazovsky (favorite artist of Emperor Nicholas I).

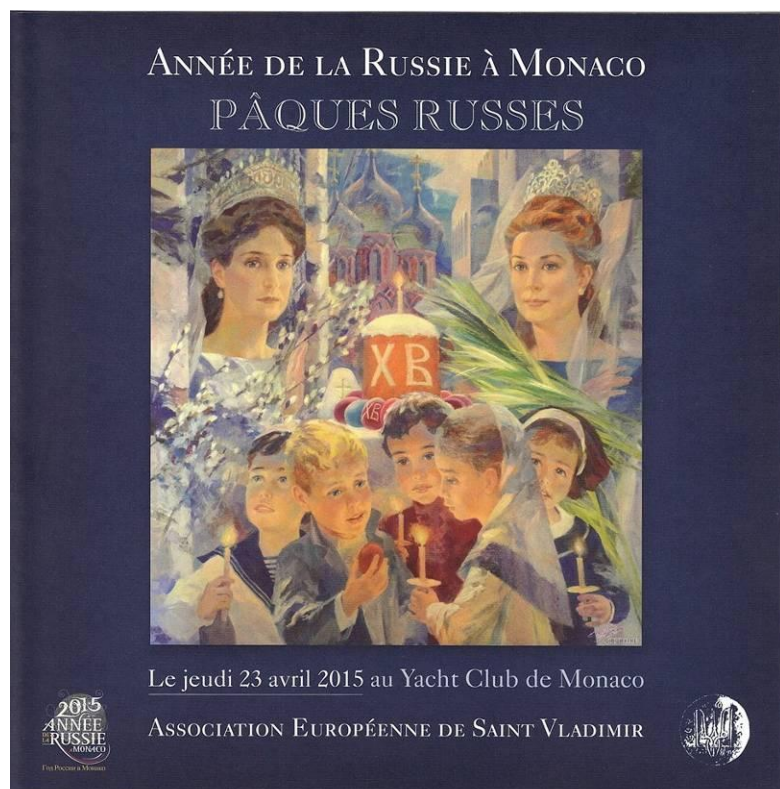


Presented at the exhibition are also items related to the history of the imperial yacht: family swimming and official receptions, diplomatic arrives by sea of heads of state have been an integral part of the lives of Peterhof second half of XIX - early XX century. Key items - models imperial yacht "Alexandria" and "Polar Star", porcelain services for yachts "Alexandria" and "Power". Genuine dress of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, a baby sailor dress, marine theme toys, and books give a complete picture of the lifestyle in the northern seaside residence.



It should be noted that the exhibition is accompanied by a set of multimedia programs. Programs are designed to give the visitor in Kaliningrad a broader view on the existence of Peterhof as maritime and imperial residence and the life of a modern Museum. In particular, it will be submitted to the multimedia information and entertainment system "Grand Peterhof Palace." It's fascinating and understandable form introduces the major milestones of 300-year history of the Grand Peterhof Palace.

The exhibition is a wonderful gift to Kaliningrad in the year of the 25th anniversary of the Museum of the World Ocean and help with new vigor to feel part of the vast country and its rich cultural heritage.



### Russian Easter in Monaco

On 23 April in the Yacht Club in Monaco will be held a gala dinner under the headline "Russian Easter". In addition will be an exhibition of Russian icons, singing, and dancing.

The dinner is to benefit the restoration of the orthodox church in Menton and the Children Hospital Sainte Marie-Madelaine in St. Petersburg.

Among the guest are expected Secrétaire d'Etat Jacques Boisson, His Excellence Mr. Alexander Orlov, Ambassador of Russia in France and Monaco, Prince Dimitri R. Romanov and Princess Dorrit Romanov, Prince George Yurievsky and Princess Elikonida Yurievsky, Prince de Bourbon des Deux-Siciles, Duc de Castro, and Prince Mourousy.

The painting on the invitation is by the Russian painter Gueorgui Chichkine.



## Exhibition "White Angel" in the State Central Museum of contemporary history of Russia

The exhibition "White Angel", dedicated to the history of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy and the life of its founder Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna opened on 5 March at the State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia.

The exhibition is held in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duchess.

In creating the exhibition participated the Moscow Kremlin Museums, State Historical Museum, the Tretyakov Gallery and the archive GMA Shchusev.

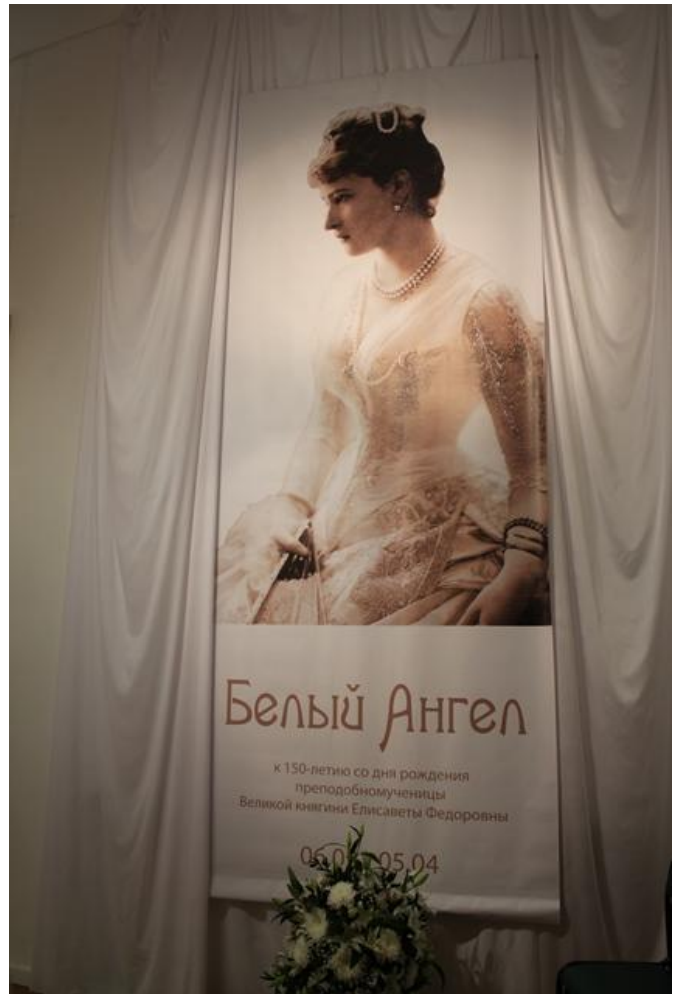
"The exhibition features unique and rare exhibits, original photos, documents and personal belongings of Elisabeth Feodorovna, including objects from the tomb of her husband Sergei Alexandrovich. The organizers hope that visitors will be able not only to learn about the fate of the Grand Duchess, but also plunge in the atmosphere of the era"- it said in a statement.



The museum curator of Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy Natalia Matyushina says: "Exhibits from the Museum of Martha and Mary Convent are: a cross of the great mother, a glove, which she dropped at the time of arrest, her rosary and booklets that Elisabeth Feodorovna granted to all those who gave their belongings in the Kremlin warehouses." Shown is the Gospel belonging to Sergei Alexandrovich from the vaults of the Kremlin. It has already been exhibited abroad, but for the first time in Russia.

"The Gospel was given to Sergei Alexandrovich and Elisabeth Feodorovna. After their death Gospel was kept in a shrine set in the basement of the Chudov Monastery", - says Natalya Matyushina.

Not long ago, this exhibition was unimaginable in the former Museum of the Revolution. Elisabeth Feodorovna with other Romanovs were shot in 1918 and only in 1992, canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church. "The twentieth century is probably the most dramatic century in the history of the Russian state. On the one hand, this is a big test and the tragedy of Russia. On the other hand, The



twentieth century was demonstrated to what height should rise the power of the human spirit, " - said General Director of the State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia Irina Velikanova.

"I am grateful to Martha and Mary Convent of the idea of creating this exhibition, - said during the opening ceremony Irina Y. Velikanova - I think it's time to go back to basics, to remember those people who are examples of service to Russia, service to others. An example of this was Elizabeth Feodorovna. I would like to, we reminisced about her today and thought about himself, about his place in life, and that we leave behind. I am sure that this exhibition will help many people, not only to find their way, but the way to God, and if this is so, then we have coped with its mission."



Bishop Panteleimon Nut-Zuevsky: "The image of the Martyr Elizabeth will help overcome the challenges of our time, in which are a lot of temptations. Elizabeth Feodorovna in the early 20th century, faced with terrorism, to which her husband fell victim, she joined Russia and Europe, went to the Orthodox Church, to give an example reasonable choice of faith. She showed how to overcome opposition in society, and showed the greatest example of love. She was a woman, which brings together the best forces of society at that time, helping those who suffer. Another such saint in Russia, I do not know. It surpasses all our ideas of holiness, combining different qualities and talents, multiply them and revealing the perfect image of love. The Grand Duchess has always believed that the Holy Russia can not die, that the Lord will not allow it. We see that now there is a struggle for the elimination of all that is holy and good in our country from all sides. We believe that her prayers help us to overcome the difficulties that we now face. To overestimate the importance of her feat is impossible. Therefore, this exhibition - just the beginning of a detailed story about the life of the saint and her feat. We must continue to work in this direction so St Elizabeth become closer to our contemporaries. Undoubtedly, this exhibition will be a joy, a holiday for all of us during Lent. The victims, the Grand Duchess and the Grand Duke, did not remain fruitless. They set an example of how to overcome difficulties, how to live in times of tragedy, suffering a civil war. This exhibition, it seems to me - a significant event for our city and our country."





Before entering the hall dedicated to Martyr Elisabeth, the visitors of the exhibition will see artifacts associated with the era of revolution - Red flags, tunic, black tarpaulin boots and guns - all vividly recalls a terrible time in which, despite all the difficulties, Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna kept her faith.



The opening day of the exhibition was attended by many guests, among whom it was hard not to notice the People's Artist of Russia and charity worker Ilze Liepa: "I warmly, took to heart the whole way of life and way of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna - says Ilse Marisovna - came, just to breathe the air of Elisabeth Feodorovna. Such exhibitions must be, because any mention of this amazing woman warms the heart, gives an amazing vector for admiration and imitation. It is necessary to think about how we live."

How do we live? Makes mistakes, fall, get up again and are looking for support. This support has become for many the holy Martyr, frail woman with slightly bowed head, expressive eyes which words are spoken about the depth of her personality and unwavering faith in them peace, love and forgiveness.

The exhibition also presents a Faberge frame with a photo of the children of Emperor Alexander II, including a small Grand Duke Serge, the future governor-general of Moscow, letters written by Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna to her husband, a book from the library of the Grand Duke and other things related to the life and martyrdom death of Sergei Alexandrovich.

In a separate window an icon of St. Sergius and the book "Blessed Heaven" that Elizabeth Feodorovna gave Sergei Yesenin as a young man, when he read his first poems in the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy.



Abbess Martha and Mary Convent Abbess Elisabeth (Pozdnyakov): "For our Abode is it the first experience of such a large-scale exhibition. If numerous museums and private collectors have not come to our aid, would not have responded to our call, the show would not take place. The image of the Grand Duchess is multifaceted. In our monastery, in the church, she draws faithful. Those people who come to get some help, it attracts by her mercy. And here, in the framework of the exhibition - it is quite a different thing, it attracts other people who maybe never go to church, and that may not be in need of assistance. But for them it becomes close and leads to Christ. I remembered the words of the Apostle Paul, who said that he was all things to all. To the Gentiles, he was a pagan. For the Greeks, he was like a Hellene. I think that today these words apply to Saint Elisabeth Feodorovna. I hope this exhibition will be able to visit a lot of people, and maybe for some it will be a turning point in their lives."

The exhibition will run until April 5, 2015 at the address: Moscow, Tverskaya 21.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/129631](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/129631)

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### **"The way to Holiness" in Vienna**

On 2 March, in the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Vienna opened the exhibition "The way to Holiness", dedicated to the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The exhibition is based on the documentary photo materials, commissioned by the Foundation for Assistance "Rossotrudnichestva" and the "Elizabeth-Sergius Educational Society."

The exhibition presents the audience the vivid and tragic life of the Grand Duchess, bringing together the best features of Western European and Russian culture, helping the development in Russian of traditions of charity and philanthropy, and who devoted her life to caring for others.

On the eve of International Women's Day, the theme of the exhibition - serving the ideals of femininity, kindness and humanity - was particularly warmly received by the audience.







The opening was attended by representatives of the Austrian public: heads of charities, well-known experts in the field of Russian history and culture, musicians, writers, and those Russian compatriots who live in Austria.

The exhibition was open until March 12.

### The history of samovars in Archangelsk Museum



About one of the symbols of Russian everyday culture - samovars - tells the exhibition "Tea in the estate", which takes place in the museum-estate "Arkhangelsk".

It presents samovars XVIII - XX centuries from the collection of Andrei Lobanov. This collection is the most famous in Russia and the only from private collections, which was exhibited at the Hermitage and in many foreign museums. The current exhibition presents the history of the samovar.

The presented collection is unique not only in the number of exhibits, but their diversity. Samovars in the form of vases, goblets, cylinder and even yurts. There are road samovars with removable legs.

A special place among them is the samovar "barrel", which is claimed to have traveled with Denis Davydov when he visited Paris. One with flowers and dragons, the future Emperor Nicholas II had intended to donate to the Japanese Emperor. The oldest samovar exhibition is dated to 1789.

To see the imagination and talent of Russian artists from Tula, St. Petersburg and Moscow, visitors will be able to end of the year.

Open until December 2015.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/129406](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/129406)



## Emperor Alexander I predicted the end of the Spanish authorities in America in the XIX century

04.03. RIA.

Russian Emperor Alexander I actually predicted in its instructions to the then ambassador Count Pahlen to the US the end of the rule of Spain in America in the XIX century, told the director of the historical and documentary Department of the MFA of Russia, Alexander Kuznetsov, located in Mexico on an official visit.

According to him, these instructions have been preserved in the archives of the Russian Foreign Ministry and is planned to be presented at the end of year exhibition in Mexico in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Mexico.

"The document is dated January 1810, ie before the start of the war of liberation against the Spaniards (September of the same year), even before the famous cry of Dolores, 10 years before the independence of Mexico and other Latin American countries," - said Kuznetsov.



He noted that in the instructions Alexander I wrote that, in his opinion, the situation is such that the Spanish colonies in America would not long endure the situation of anarchy and it is possible that one or more of Latin America proclaim its independence.

"Alexander I with amazing insight suggested that the Spanish colonies in America declared its independence, and in this regard, instructed Pahlen closely monitor the development of the situation and as often as possible to report to him personally about the mood in Latin America," - said the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russia.

Kuznetsov said that the document aroused great interest among Mexican colleagues that it exists to this day do not know. In turn, the Mexican archivists also surprised his Russian counterpart, showing

an exhibition at the National Archives documents related to Russia.

"For me, the most interesting was the list of words that were given to the Mexicans on behalf of Catherine II, was interested in how these words are in the local Indian dialect. I of this document also never heard" - confessed Kuznetsov.

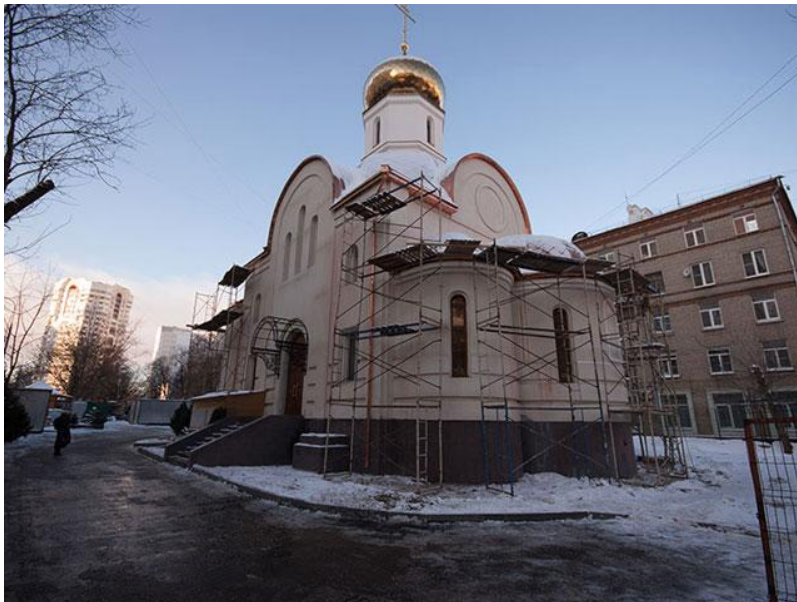
He added that the letter from the Empress will also be part of the exhibition being planned in Moscow.



## The first church in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs in Moscow is completed



The construction of the first church in Moscow in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs - the family of Emperor Nicholas II is now completed, told Vladimir Resin, State Duma deputy, and adviser to the Mayor of Moscow and Patriarch Kirill on the construction on 3 March.



"The fate of this church has not been easy. The church is named in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs, and surprisingly it was the same story almost as a martyr. But as any construction of a church - this story has a happy ending. And so it happened" - told Resin. "As a result, now the church is completed, and at Christmas there was the first service.



According to him, in the beginning of the construction were protests from residents, the building itself went quite slow and took three years, although it is a small church building. As for the protests, a compromise was reached: the design height of the church has been reduced by three meters, almost the whole residential floor. Now the height of the church is 23 meters. And when in the church regular services began, many of the locals became parishioners and the protests stopped"- said Resin.

Now in the church is set a temporary iconostasis. In the spring, will be made the final finishing of facades and landscaping, and Tutaev plant is expected to deliver a bell.



For the reburial of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich Jr. is prepared the chapel at the military cemetery in Moscow. Head of the Department of Culture of Moscow, Alexander Kibovsky reported that they have almost finalized the chapel in honor of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in the territory of the Fraternal Military Cemetery in Moscow to the reburial of Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich Romanov (the younger). As stated A. Kibovsky on Wednesday at a meeting of the working group the State Duma, the chapel is connected to the heat and power supply, and it is equipped with an alarm system. "Thus, the chapel is ready for the ceremony," - he said. In turn, the State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin said that the reburial of the remains of the Grand Duke "will be a special event for Russia and for the Russian world." "For four months has been carried out a large work both in Russia and France, held a series of international negotiations with the French authorities at both the municipal and governmental levels," - he said.



A monument to Emperor Alexander II will be unveiled on 25 April in Shakhty, Rostov Region. The is established with the participation of Shahtinsky Ya. P. Baklanova Cossack Cadet Corps to commemorate the fact that until 1921 the city was then named Alexandrovsk-Grushevskii in memory of the Tsar-Liberator.



A monument to Emperor Alexander II may appear in Yaroslavl on the 150-year anniversary of the bailiff service. The idea of installing a bust of the emperor, during whose reign was created the Bailiffs Service, was discussed today by the head of the regional department Alexander Yudin with members of the Public Council and the chairman of the Public Chamber of the Yaroslavl region, Alexander Gribov.

While is developed only a sketch of the monument. Where it will be installed and how the project will be realized is not decided yet. "With the help of the public council we are preparing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the bailiff service, is preparing a book about becoming a bailiff at the Yaroslavl land in the pre-revolutionary era, the post-revolutionary and modern service of court Bailiffs", - said Alexander Yudin - Head of UFSSP in Yaroslavl region.



The private company Coin Invest Trust has for the Cook Islands made egg-shaped coins dedicated to "Faberge Egg". Since 2010 has been released 11 unique versions, reminiscent of the unsurpassed talent of the greatest jeweler Peter Carl Faberge. Recently was released another coin from the series «Imperial Eggs» - Obverse: Portrait of Elizabeth II, framed descriptions, «ELIZABETH II», «COOK ISLANDS», «5 DOLLARS», as usual, the designer's initials stamped under the image of Her Majesty - «IRB» and at the bottom the year of production - "2015". Reverse: on a green background lines intersect in a point of contact in which is inserted Bohemian crystal. Specification circulation coins: Denomination: \$ 5. Metal: Sterling Silver (999). Dimensions: 30 x 43 mm. Quality: proof. Weight: 20 gr. Volume of issue: 2500 units. Price 80 euros.







London department store Harrods in Knightsbridge had as an Easter event made an interactive window display in collaboration with jeweller Fabergé. The window display was brought to life by the brand's 'Interactive Desk', which allows customers to change the colour and patterns projected onto a moving 3D egg. The experiential display was complemented by four other window displays on Brompton Road. The brands have worked with agency Projection Artworks to create the activation. Inside the store, a Fabergé Egg Bar was selling some of the jeweller's most famous designs. The Easter experience was available from 2 March until 28 March.



Fashion show to commemorate Fabergé in Moscow - From 15 to 18 April in Moscow, the jewelry house "Estet", for the ninth time will host an international fashion week. One of the days is devoted to "Russian tradition." On that day will be shown some of the most striking pieces from the collections of last season, which were thematically designated as "Tsarist Russia." There will also be a special show dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the first Fabergé Easter eggs and assigning the company "Fabergé" the title of the Supplier of His Imperial Majesty.



The permanent exhibition "History of Russia" is now planned to open on March 8, 2016, in one of the pavilions of ENEA (ВДНХ). It became known from published data on the portal of public procurement in Russia. In the documentation it is said that in the pavilion №57 will be placed the exhibitions "Romanovs", "Rurik", "XX century - Part 1" and "XX century - Part 2". 10 million rubles are allocated to develop a corporate style, light and color palette and design exposition in accordance with these themes, as well as determine the location of the museum showcases and distribute functional areas. In addition, the exhibition area will be created recreation area on two floors, cafe, auditorium and conference room.



This year in the village of Pokrovsky, near Tobolsk, will open its doors the "Museum of the Romanov family". This was during said a study tour of the Regional Duma Committee on Social Policy, by the head of the district administration Evgeny Yarkovsky Shchukin. This museum is located on the outskirts of the village in a spacious two-story wooden house, covered with fresh planks. It is close to the famous "Museum of Rasputin". According to the head of the district administration, preparation of the first exhibition of the new museum has already begun. The cultural object will become a branch of the Moscow Historical Museum "Our time", the exhibition which reveals the theme of theology and the history of imperial power in Russia. The Pokrovsky branch will feature exhibits from Moscow and St. Petersburg.



Video "Ganina Yama" - A speedy tour of the monastery in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs - Tsar Martyr Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna, Tsarevich Alexis, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia.

Ganina Yama is an abandoned iron ore mine a few kilometers from Yekaterinburg (Sverdlovsk region), where was taken the remains of the Tsar and his family, in the night of 16 to 17 July 1918 to be hidden. In 1991, Archbishop Melchizedek blessed a worship cross set in Ganina Yama. In October 2000 Reverend Vincent, Archbishop of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye put the first stone in the foundation of the Church in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs. In 2003, the Archbishop of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Vincent consecrated the last of the seventh churches in the name of Job the suffering, located just behind the "open pit mines" around which every evening brethren of the monastery makes penitential religious procession.

Video - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sc2rNuFt\\_Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sc2rNuFt_Y)



March 27 opened "Gold", a major exhibition of royal treasures, in Edinburgh celebrating objects from the Early Bronze Age to the 20th century.

The display at the Queen's Gallery at the Palace of Holyrood house features more than 60 items from the Royal Collection, with many going on show in Scotland for the first time. One of them is a Cup, 1874, by Faberge.

Workmaster: Erik August Kollin . Gold shows at the Queen's Gallery, Edinburgh, from 27 March-26 July.



The Solovetsky State Museum-Reserve have finalized the creation of a virtual museum "Virtual sacristy Solovetsky monastery." To see the treasures of the famous northern monastery is now possible online, you just follow the link <http://riznica-solovky.ru>.



Not a Faberge Imperial Easter Egg - but a masterpiece for sure. Hermitage's "nécessaire egg" is a "vanity" case in the shape of an egg, with a clock and a travel set hidden inside. French, about 1757.

Video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn\\_Bb\\_4hQ2g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn_Bb_4hQ2g)



A walking cane with a very decorative knob and with a portrait of Empress Catherine II from Hermitage.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ-Re3tbeCI>



Anton Bakov, Ural politician, known for his monarchist ideas, has inspired an "imperial" Internet project. The project was launched at [www.imperator.net](http://www.imperator.net) and aims to popularize the idea of monarchy, Christian values, and to inform about the activities of the imperial throne. Anton Bakov told the organizer of the project is a graduate of the Ural Academy of State Service, Alexander Ustinov, who came to him with this idea. "The project is filled by the guys themselves, I gave them only two pieces of news. With Ustinov I meet once or twice a month, " - said Bakov.

Alexander Ustinov said that now the portal is visited by about 700 unique users. "I must admit that this is still a little bit. The content of our portal is for Russian readers, as well as the countries of Eastern Europe", - said Ustinov.





On 1 April "Russian Post" will release an envelope with the first Russian battleship "The Providence of God". Voronezh branch of "Russian Post" will issue it devoted to the launch of the first Russian Navy ship " The Providence of God". This initiative was made by director of the branch Yuri Beshmelnitsyn, he is also the author of the photographic material.

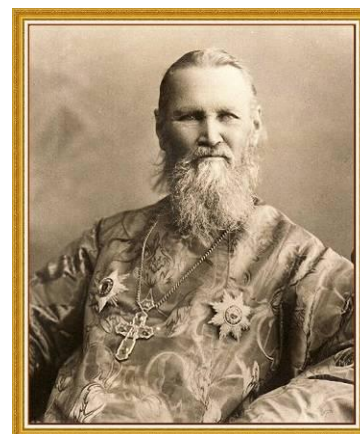
27 April marks 315 years from the day when the legendary ship in Voronezh shipyard was launched. Emperor Peter I was personally involved in the shipbuilding operations in 1698-1700. " The Providence of God" was part of the Azov Fleet until April 1712, and then was sold to Turks. In July last year, on the Day of the Navy in Voronezh, was inaugurated the ship-museum " The Providence of God ". The ship is moored at the Admiralty Square. This is a copy of the historical Russian battleship era of Peter I, created after historical documents.



The first monument to righteous John of Kronstadt in Moscow are planned to be install in the area of Zhulebino. Now there is only monuments in the holy sites in Kronstadt and Irkutsk.

According to the adviser of Patriarch Kirill on the "Program 200" and the Russian State Duma deputy Vladimir Resin, a bronze monument will be opened on the feast day of St. 1 (14) in June.

- Here is a great friendly parish, which step by step builds his shrine. In 2006 was built a small wooden church, now is being built a brick church by a thousand parishioners and clergy and at the same time will be built a monument. This is not just for the church, but a new attraction for all in Moscow - said Vladimir Resin. At the moment, the walls of the main church, which will be one of the largest built by the "200 Program", is already built, and there is installed the dome with a cross. Finally, it is planned to be ready in 2016.



A video presentation about the visits in by members of the Romanov dynasty made by Bryansk Library.

Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Hss9t6E-Q0>



Stunning creations made by UK's top cake artists and shown at the Cake International exhibition in London. Bakers used a range of decorating techniques and detailed sugar work to make the stunning cakes. Every part of the ornate bakes is edible from the hand moulded sugar beads to sugar-work figurines. Each cake egg measures 30cm high, each of the intricate treats is entirely edible and the incredibly detailed works of art were inspired by Faberge's famous jewelled eggs.





March 5 - Day of Remembrance of Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich (1891-1942) - the grandson of Alexander II, a cousin of Emperor Nicholas II. By this date, the State Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" prepared and published "Family Album Grand Duke" - the life story of Dmitri Pavlovich in photographs from his personal archive. It is known that Dmitry Pavlovich participated in the murder of Rasputin in December 1916 and was sent as a punishment for the continuation of military service in the Persian front, where he caught the revolutionary events of 1917. This saved the life of the Grand Duke. Subsequently, Dmitri Pavlovich lived in London, Paris and Davos, where he died in 1942.

Archival materials was donated to the museum in 2013 by Michael Romanov Ilyinsky, who lives in Cincinnati (USA), grandson of Dmitri Pavlovich.

The publication presents unique photos taken in the last years of his life, as well as many other images from the emigration period the Grand Duke.

The publication includes more than 40 pictures, which are accompanied by extended abstracts prepared by scientists of the museum. Introductory article written by Michael Romanov Ilyinsky.

Edition was published with the support of Friends of the Museum-Reserve Paul Gromov, Svetlana Sergeeva and Lana Gorbunova.

In the near future album will be available for sale.



## Russian nobility coats of arms: a bibliographical guide



The handbook contains bibliographic records of more than 7,800 coats of arms of the nobility of the Russian Empire. This is the first directory of this kind, in domestic science, which covers the approved and unapproved emblems of the elite (Russian, Polish, Caucasian, Ukrainian, Baltic). The research takes into account not only the publication of heraldic, but also exlibris, art history, genealogy and other publications from the XVIII century to the present.

*Publisher: Old Basman, Moscow. Hardcover, size 145 x 215 mm, 768 pages.  
Isbn 978-5-906470-17-1*



## Stroganov Palace: architectural history



The book, written by the many years Stroganov Palace custodian and researcher Sergei Kuznetsov, is dedicated to the extraordinary sesquicentennial history of one of the most famous and at the same time still mysterious buildings, without which it is impossible now to imagine Nevsky Prospekt in St. Petersburg. Its construction, which was attended by such famous artists as Francesco Rastrelli, Andrey Voronikhin and Carl Rossi, conceived by the author as a continuous and interpenetrating process of creating one of the centers of ancient culture permeated Petropolis, where divided into Baroque, Classicism and historicism is very conditional.

*Publisher: Kolo, St. Petersburg. Hardcover, size 170 x 240 mm, 320 pages. ISBN 978-5-4462-0015-3*

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## Anna Vyubova - Recollections



Anna Vyubova (1884-1964) - the daughter of the Chief Commander of His Imperial Majesty's Office A.S. Taneeva, maid of honor and best friend of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

The book includes memories Vyubova "Pages of my life," the letters to her from the royal family, as well as excerpts from the so-called "Diary Vyubova."

First memories of honor Anna Vyubova "Pages of My Life" came out in the magazine "Russian Chronicle" (Paris, 1922).

Five years later (at the tenth anniversary of the revolution) Soviet magazine "Past Days" began publishing "Diary Vyubova" - the work is in a very vulgar form and heinous indeed.

The Maid of honor herself has repeatedly stated spuriousness of these notes.

*Publisher: Zakharov, Moscow. Hardcover, size 130 x 200 mm, 432 pages. ISBN 978-5-8159-1243-4*

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## Memoirs of Nicky and Alix



In history there are few couples whose views might reflect the spirit of the times. This rare category of people could be considered the great Romanov spouses, who have undergone many hardships and burdens, but swept their deep sense of each other until the end of life. As witnesses to incredible events, Nicholas II and Alexandra captured the thoughts and feelings that have become an interesting source of knowledge about the epochal events of the XIX-XX centuries. This publication - a unique collection of letters and diary entries, gives readers a rare opportunity to see the same events from two different sides. Leafing through the pages of this book, you will be astonished to discover the verge of "male" and "female" perception of life, not in the least surprised by their unexpected similarities and discrepancies paradoxical.

*Publisher: AST, Moscow. Hardcover, size 145 x 215 mm, 320 pages. ISBN 978-5-17-086246-7*

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**Under the hammer...**  
**Romanov related items in Auctions**



**Koller Auctions. Zurich, Switzerland, on March 23;**

Porcelain bust of Emperor Alexander I of Russia. Staffordshire, about 1900. Colored, on the back "Alexander" imprinted. H 26 cm. Provenance: From the collection of the Marquis and Marquise de Amodio y Moya.  
 Estimated Price: CHF300 - CHF500



**Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 23 March;**



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. Winter landscape with tit birds and a blackbird on Hvidøre balcony. Signed Olga. Watercolour on paper. Sheet size 17 x 20 cm.  
 Price est.: kr 4,000-6,000/ € 535-805

**Hampstead Auctions Ltd. Hampstead, United Kingdom, on 24 March;**

A graduated pair of Russian late 18th/ early 19th. century decanters, each gilt and wheel engraved with the crowned cipher of Empress Ekaterina Petrovna, one stopper replaced.  
 Heights 25 and 22.5cm.  
 Estimated Price: £200 - £400





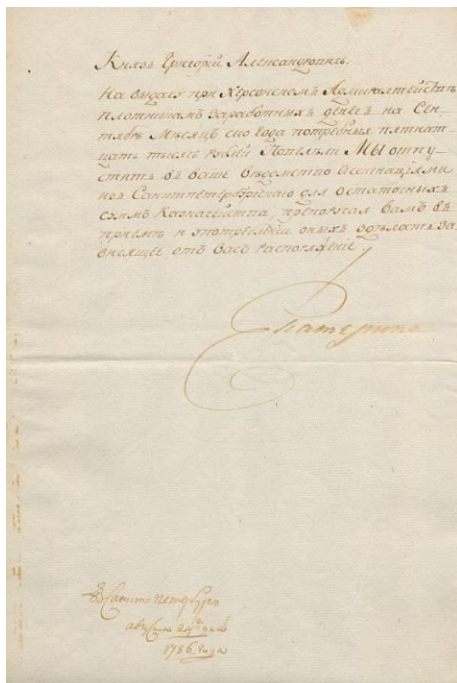
**IAA Spain S.L., Malaga, Spain, on 28 March 28;**

Photos of the Imperial family. An excellent collection of twenty four vintage unsigned sepia cabinet photographs depicting various members of the Imperial Russian family and foreign royalty, the subjects include Emperor Alexander III (1845-1894), his wife Maria Feodorovna (1847-1928; the image depicting her with her young son, the future Tsar Nicholas II), Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1890-1958), Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich (1850-1908), Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich (1831-1891), Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich (1847-1909; 2, one image ), Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich (1857-1905), Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich (1860-1919), Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich (1827-1892), showing him with his young child, and a third photograph of his three young children together, Duchess Anastasia Mikhailovna (1860-1922), Grand Duchess Olga Constantinovna (1851-1926, later Queen Olga of the Hellenes), Maria Christina of Austria (1858-1929, Queen of Spain; 2, one of the images depicting her in 1879 and the other, in 1887, with her young son, the future King Alfonso XIII of Spain) etc.

Many of the images are by Bergamasco of St. Petersburg and other photographers include Adele of Vienna, Gunther of Brussels, Fernando Debas of Madrid etc. Most of the photographs are identified in the neat hand of a collector to the versos and all are loosely inserted into a contemporary brown morocco bound album, the cover of which features a vacant escutcheon shaped brass plaque and with a brass clasp. With decorative borders and all edges gilt. Estimated Price: €5,200 - €7,800



Letter Catherine II: (1729-1796) Empress of Russia 1762-96, known as Catherine the Great. A fine L.S., Ekaterina, one page. 9th February 1786, to Prince Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin, in Cyrillic. The Empress informs Potemkin that the salaries of the Kherson Admiralty carpenters for September should be allocated from the Saint Petersburg Exchequer for residual sums in 'fifteen thousand rubles

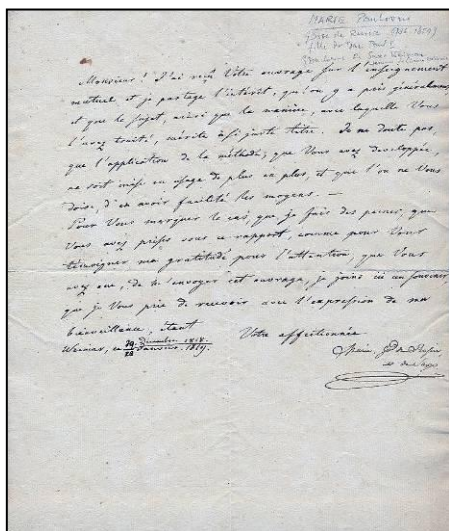
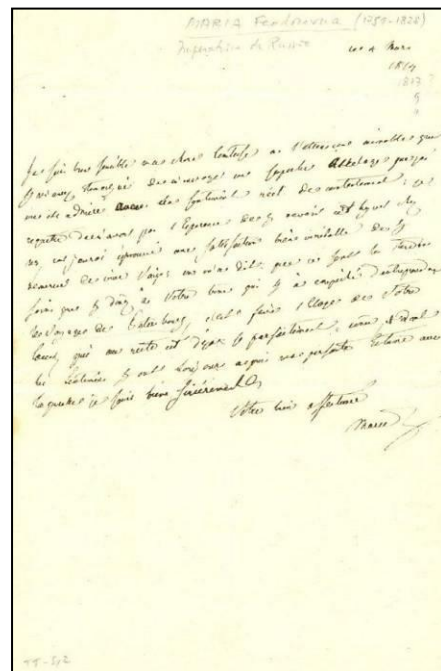


in paper money' and requests that Potemkin make the necessary arrangements for the payment. With blank integral leaf. A letter of excellent association.

Estimated Price: €2,600 - €3,900

Letter Maria Feodorovna: (1759-1828) Empress Consort of Russia, the second wife of Tsar Paul I and mother of Tsar Alexander I and Tsar Nicholas I. A.L.S., Maria, one page, 8vo, n.p., 4th March 1817, to [Countess Orloff Tschesmenski], in French. The Empress thanks her correspondent for having sent her a fabulous attelage which she has seen and admired, further adding

that she is sad at not having the possibility of seeing her correspondent at home during the winter as she would have liked to have thanked her personally. With blank integral leaf. VG  
Estimated Price: €390 - €520



Letter Maria Pavlovna, (1786-1859) Grand Duchess of Russia and Grand Duchess of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. Daughter of Emperor Paul I. A.L.S., Marie, Gd. De Russie et de Saxe, one page, 4to. Weimar, 29th December 1818, to a gentleman, in French. The Grand Duchess states that she has received her correspondent's written report, in which she shares an interest, and remarks that the method he has developed 'will be put into practice more and more in the future'. In concluding the Grand Duchess encloses a souvenir (no longer present) as a token of her gratitude for the efforts he has made in making the report and sending it to her.  
Estimated Price: €260 - €390

Letter Alexander I (1777-1825) Emperor of Russia 1801-25. L.S., Alexander, (a fine example in Cyrillic, incorporating a large flourish), two pages, folio. Saint Petersburg, 30th January 1819, to

His Majesty the King of Naples, in Cyrillic. The manuscript letter announces 'Our most dear Duke, brother and friend, deign to recall Our Privy Councillor and Knight of different Orders, Count Dmitry Mocenich, obligingly devoted to Us, who is at the Court of Your Majesty as an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary' and continues 'We inform Your Majesty about this and ask in a friendly manner to dismiss Our Envoy from you and accept the assurances in Our sincere friendship and highest devotion'. Countersigned at the foot by Karl Nesselrode (1780-1862) Russian Count and Diplomat. With blank integral leaf. Accompanied by the original envelope wrapper bearing a large blind embossed paper seal to the verso.

Notes: Ferdinand I (1751-1825) King of the Two Sicilies 1816-25, previously King Ferdinand IV of the Kingdom of Naples 1759-99, 1799-1806 & 1815-16 and King Ferdinand III of the Kingdom of Sicily 1759-1816.

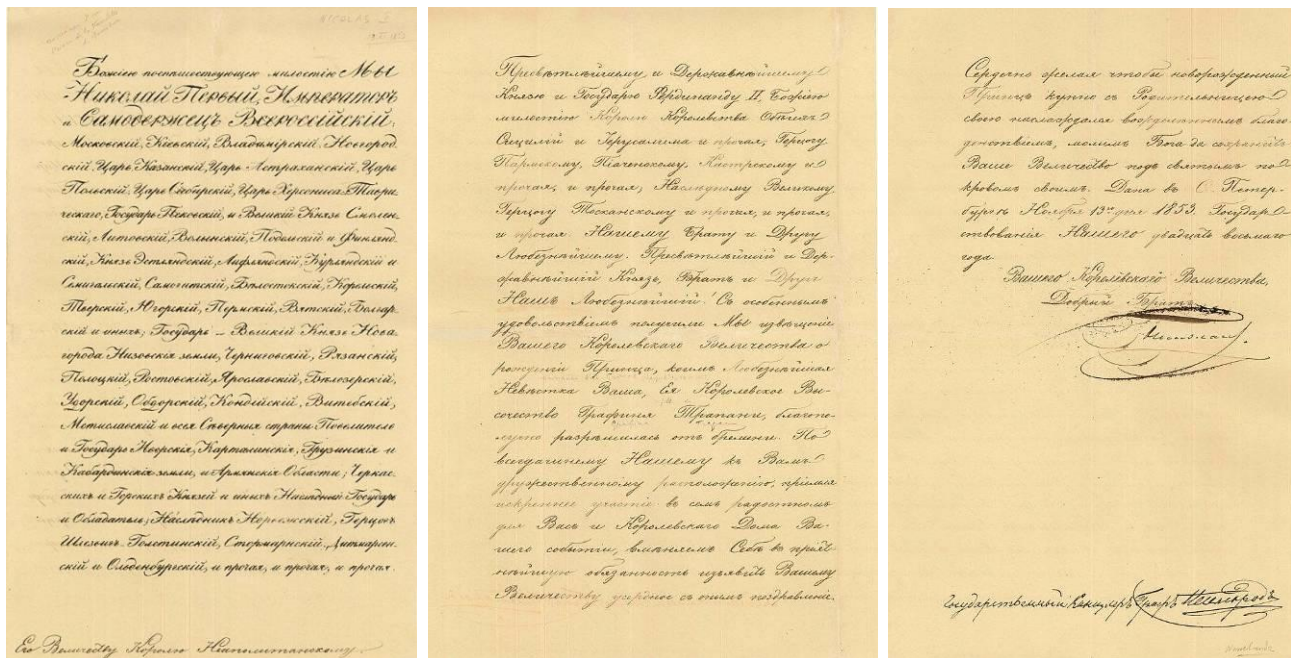
Estimated Price: €1,950 - €2,600





Napoleon's crossing of the Berezina. In the 1813 Campaign Wittgenstein assumed overall command of the Russian Army on the death of Kutuzov.

Estimated Price: €1,950 - €2,600



Letter Nicholas I: (1796-1855) Emperor of Russia 1825-55. L.S., Nicholas, in Cyrillic, three pages, folio, Saint Petersburg, 13th November 1853, to Ferdinand II, King of the Two Sicilies, in Cyrillic. The Tsar sends his congratulations to Ferdinand II and to all of the Royal family on the occasion of the birth of a Prince, and to the mother Countess Trapani. Countersigned by Count Nesselrode. Accompanied by the original envelope (seal neatly detached although present). Some light age wear and very neat splitting to the folds (most professionally repaired) only very slightly affecting the text and signature. Some very minor ink splattering to the Tsar's signature, evidently caused by the nib. G  
Notes: Ferdinand II (1810-1859) King of the Two Sicilies 1830-59.

Archduchess Maria Isabella of Austria (1834-1901) Princess of Tuscany and of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Countess of Trapani. Married to her uncle Prince Francis (1827-1892) Count of Trapani, the last son of King Ferdinand I and brother of King Ferdinand II.

Prince Leopoldo of Bourbon-Two Sicilies (1853-1870)

Karl Nesselrode (1780-1862) Russian Count, Chancellor 1845-56 and Foreign Affairs Minister 1816-56.

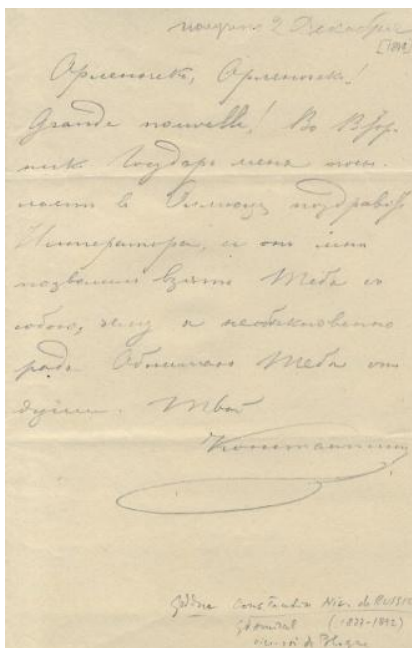
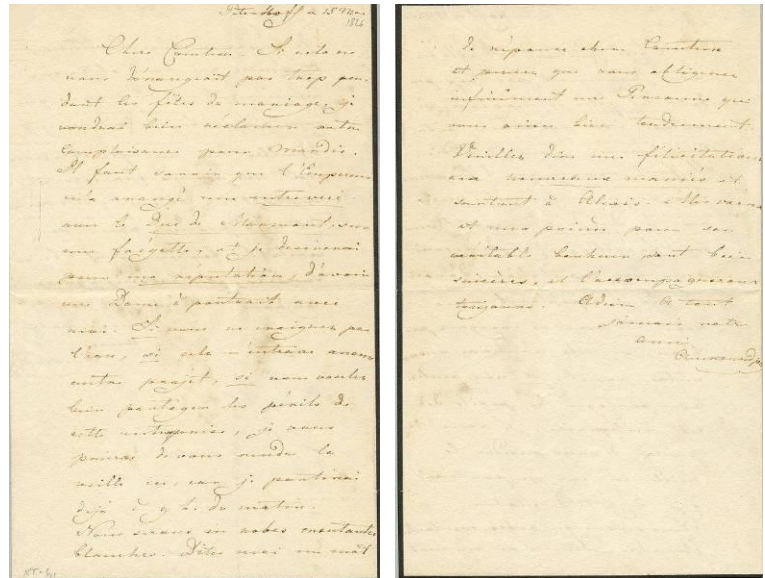
Estimated Price: €780 - €1,150

Letter Alexandra Feodorovna, (1798-1860) Princess Charlotte of Prussia. Empress Consort of Russia 1825-55, wife of Emperor Nicholas I. A.L.S., Alexandra, in Cyrillic, two pages, 8vo. Peterhof, 15th May [1826] to Countess Orloff, in French. The Empress kindly requests her correspondent's help for an important meeting and states 'If it doesn't disturb you too much, during the wedding festivities I would like to ask for your assistance on Tuesday. You have to know that the Emperor has set up a meeting between the Duc de Marmont and myself on a frigate, and for my reputation's good name I would like to have a lady presence close to me. If you don't fear water and accept sharing the danger of this venture...'. Further sending her best wishes to the new married couple, and especially to Alexis. With blank integral leaf. A few very small stains, otherwise VG  
Notes: Alexandra refers to her husband Nicholas I as the Emperor, a few months before his brother the Tsar Alexander I died and Nicholas became Tsar.



Auguste Frédéric de Marmont (1774-1852)  
French General and Nobleman. Later  
Marshal of France and Duc de Raguse.  
Known for deserting Napoleon in 1814. In  
February 1826 Marmont was appointed  
French Ambassador to Russia under  
Nicholas I. He arrived at Saint Petersburg  
on May 13th (two days before the present  
letter was written) and remained in Russia  
until September to attend the coronation of  
Nicholas in Moscow, where Marmont was  
honoured with the Saint Andrew award,  
Russia's most prestigious.

Estimated Price: €325 - €450



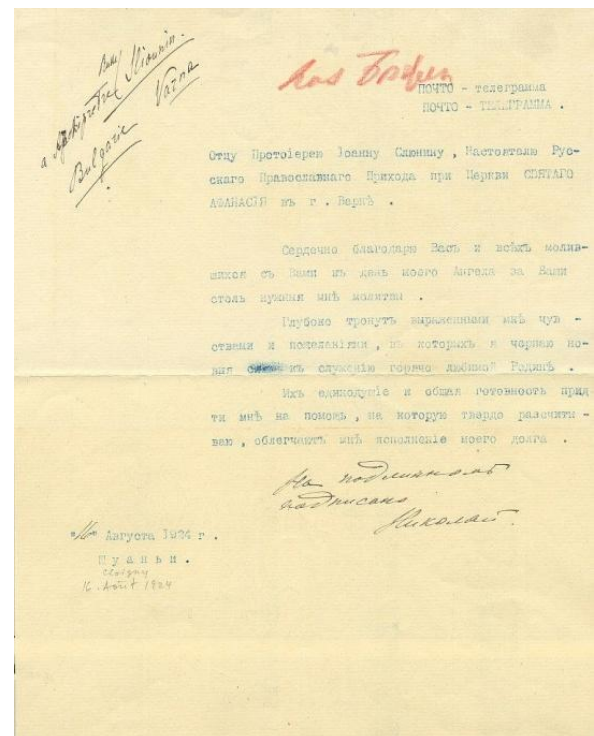
Konstantin Nikolaievich, (1827-1892) Grand Duke of Russia, son of  
Tsar Nicholas I and brother of Tsar Alexander II. A.L.S., Konstantin,  
one page, 8vo, annotated in pencil in another hand at the head  
Received on 2nd December [1848].

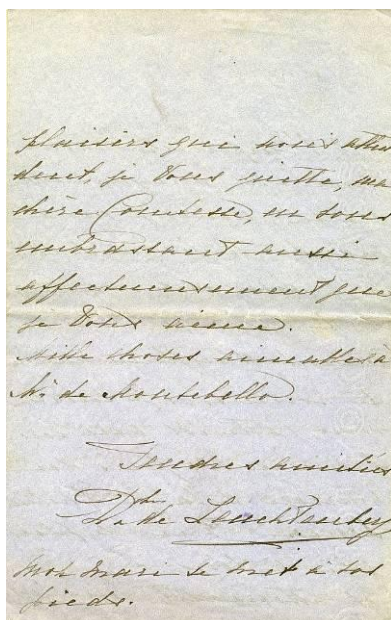
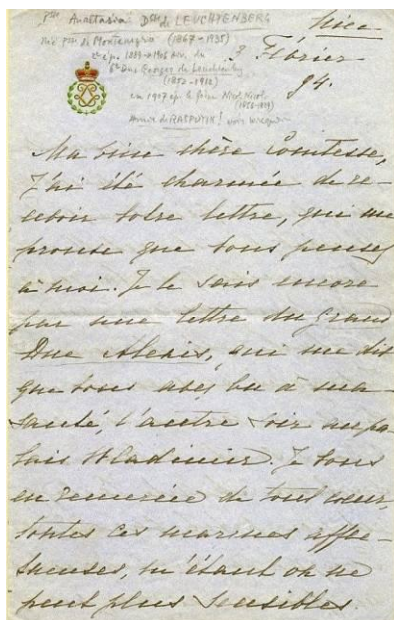
To 'My dear Eaglet!', in Cyrillic. Writing in bold pencil, the Grand Duke  
proclaims 'Grand nouvelle!' and continues 'On Tuesday the Sovereign  
is sending me to Olomouc to congratulate the Emperor and he has  
allowed me to take you with me, which makes me unspeakably glad'.  
Estimated Price: €325 - €450

Nicholas Nikolaievich, (1856-1929) Grand Duke of  
Russia. Grandson of Tsar Nicholas I. Commander in  
Chief of the Russian Armies. T.L.S., Nikolas, in Cyrillic,  
one page, 4to. Chateau Choigny, 16th August 1924, to  
Archpriest Ioan Sliunin, in Cyrillic. The letter being the  
text of a telegram, Nicholas adding to the end 'Signed  
on the original'. The Grand Duke states 'I am very  
thankful for the priest's prayers on my Saint's day. I am  
deeply touched by all the wishes which give me  
strength to remain on the service to my beloved  
homeland.', further hoping he will be able to count on  
their readiness to help him, which will ease his  
compliance of duty.

Notes: Archpriest Ioan Sliunin, Father Superior of the  
Orthodox Parish of the Saint Athanasius Church in  
Varna, Bulgaria.

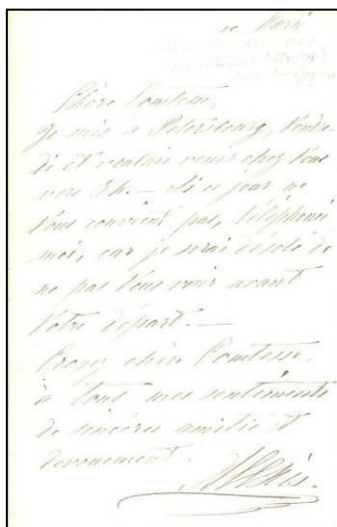
Estimated Price: €260 - €390





Letter Anastasia Romanova, (1868-1935) Princess of Montenegro and Grand Duchess of Russia, wife of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich of Russia. Sister of Princess Milica, Grand Duchess Militza Nikolaevna of Russia, and known as the Montenegrin Princesses during the last days of Imperial Russia, they may have contributed to its downfall by the introduction of Grigori Rasputin to the Empress Alexandra. A.L.S., Duchesse de Leuchtenberg, eight pages, 8vo. Nice, 3rd February 1894, to a Countess, on her attractive monogrammed stationery, in French. The Grand Duchess warmly thanks her correspondent for their letter, adding that she had also received news from

Grand Duke Alexis that the Countess had made a toast to her health at the Vladimir Palace, and continues to report on the weather in the South of France and Monte Carlo ('which is a little paradise, although the bad luck pursues me in gambling') which is gradually helping her health, and also commenting on the poor health of Tsar Alexander III, about which they had all been very concerned. Estimated Price: €260 - €390



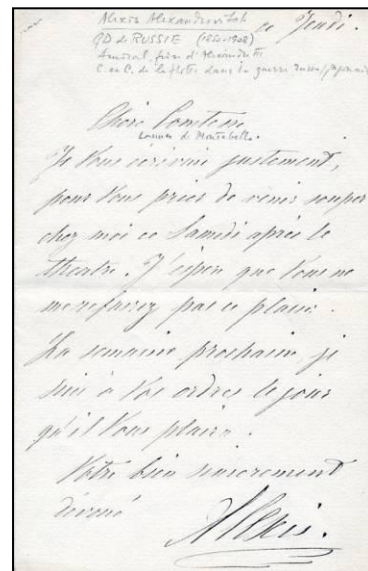
Letter Alexei Alexandrovich, (1850-1908) Russian Grand Duke, son of Tsar Alexander II. A.L.S., Alexis, one page, 8vo. St. Petersburg, n.d. ('Tuesday'), to a Countess, in French. Alexei states 'I will be in St. Petersburg on Friday, and wanted to visit you towards 3h. If this day is not convenient for you, make a telephone call to me because I would be sorry not meeting you before your departure'. With blank integral leaf. Estimated Price: €390 - €520

Letter Alexei Alexandrovich: (1850-1908) Grand Duke of Russia, son of Tsar Alexander II. A.L.S., Alexis, one page, 8vo. No place, no date ('Thursday'), to a Countess (apparently Josephine-Louise, daughter of Jean Lannes, 1st Duc de

Montebello), in French. Alexandrovich politely invites his correspondent to dinner the following Saturday, after a visit to the theatre, hoping that she 'will not deny to me such pleasure'. With blank integral leaf.

Notes: Josephine-Louise, Countess of Montebello (1806-1889) Daughter and youngest child of Jean Lannes, 1st Duc de Montebello (1769-1809) Marshal of the Empire and one of Napoleon's most daring and talented generals.

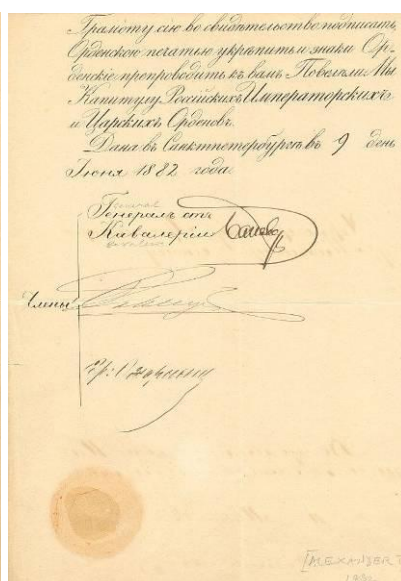
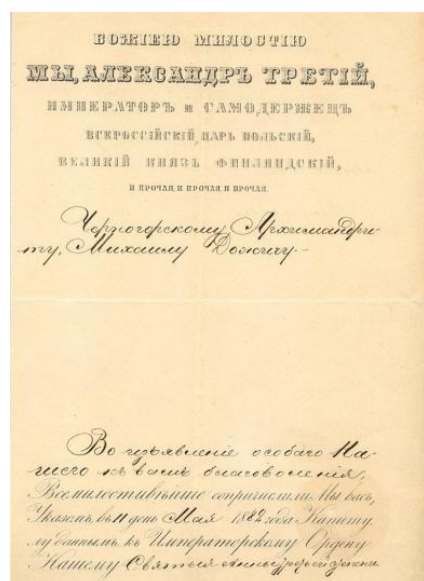
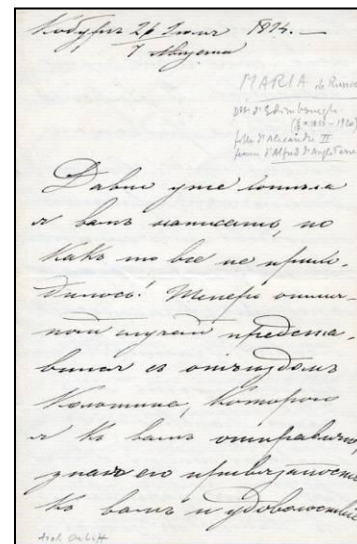
Estimated Price: €325 - €450





Letter Maria Alexandrovna, (1853-1920) Grand Duchess of Russia, daughter of Tsar Alexander II. Wife of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, and mother of Queen Marie of Romania. A.L.S., Maria, four pages, 8vo. Coburg, 7th August 1874, to Prince Orloff, in Cyrillic. Alexandrovna states that she has been intending to write to her correspondent for some time and continues to refer to the departure of Mr. Kolitin who will deliver the letter, remarking 'I am sure you will welcome him with joy. He is such a nice and loyal man, I like him' and further writing 'I am sure that if we were meeting, you would find many occasions to tease me. I would listen with pleasure to your importunate comments as in the past when I was a young innocent girl. Last winter you were teasing me, although I was already a married woman. Do you remember? But I generously forgive you for the past' before also commenting 'I received good news from the Tsar and the Empress. I spent a very good time with them a few weeks ago'.

Estimated Price: €325 - €450



Award document, Alexander III, (1845-1894) Emperor of Russia 1881-94. Father of Tsar Nicholas II. D.S., two pages, 4to, Saint Petersburg, 9th June 1882, in Cyrillic.

The partially printed document being a merit award given by the Tsar Alexander III, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias to the Montenegrin Archimandrite Mihailo Doži? on the 11th May 1882. Reading that Mihailo Doži?, has received the 3rd class order of the Imperial Order of Sainte Anne. The sealing and signing of this deed, and the delivery of the order is entrusted to the Chapter of the Russian Imperial Order. With

signatures of the three representatives.

Estimated Price: €100 - €130

Letter Olga Alexandrovna, (1882-1960) Grand Duchess of Russia, sister of Tsar Nicholas II. A.L.S., Olga, one page, 8vo, place illegible. 19th November & 2nd December 1927, to Nikolasha and Nadya Orloff, in Cyrillic. The Grand Duchess states that her mother is very touched and sends thanks for her correspondent's letters, further adding that they are living safely through fatiguing days, and commenting 'The house is full of flowers - and we are overloaded with work and answers which we are busy with and will be busy for a long time.' The Grand Duchess also asks to be sent some photographs of her correspondent's children, remarking 'Tikhon and Irina are almost of the same age and they got acquainted in Crimea'. Accompanied by the original envelope hand addressed by the Grand Duchess to Princess Orloff in France.

Estimated Price: €520 - €780

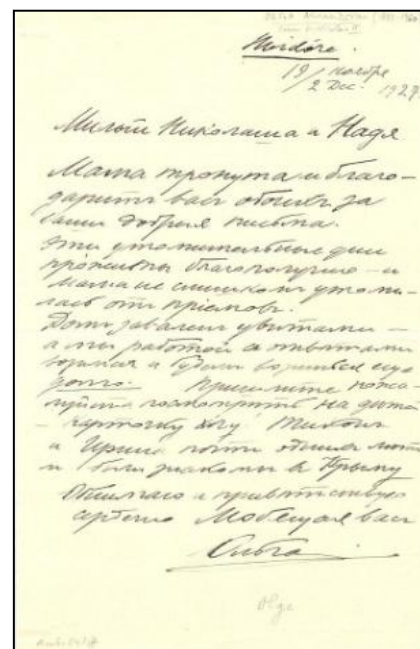




Photo of Alexandra Feodorovna, (1872-1918) Empress Consort of Russia, wife of Tsar Nicholas II. The last Tsarina of Russia, known for her notorious friendship with the Russian mystic Rasputin. A very fine signed sepia 10 x 13 photograph, the image showing the Empress seated in an elegant three quarter length pose in semi profile. Photograph by Boissonnas and Egger and bearing their blind embossed stamp to the lower left of the mount. Signed ('Alexandra') in dark fountain pen ink to the lower photographer's mount and dated 1914 in her hand.

Provenance: Provenance: The photograph is from the personal collection of Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna (1882-1960) Grand Duchess of Russia, daughter of Emperor Alexander III. Sister of Tsar Nicholas II.

Estimated Price: €2,600 - €3,900

**Auction house Eppli, Leinfelden, Germany, on 18 April;**



Imperial Porcelain, St. Petersburg. A rare and museum plates from the private service of Tsar Nicholas II., Late 19th century. On the front side ligated monogram "HA" Nicholas Alexandrovich (Tsar Nicholas II) under the Russian crown. Matt and gloss gilding, easily worked sublime and running fine. The edge with breakthrough decor and covered with small blue flowers. Green mark A III. D. 22 cm. (No estimate provided)



***J. James Auctioneers and Appraisers, Plymouth, MA, USA, on 18 April;***



Imperial Russian Wedding Plates, Circa 1901. Three Imperial Russian porcelain plates commissioned for the wedding of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna (younger sister of Tsar Nicholas II) and Duke Peter Alexandrovich of Oldenburg. White porcelain with scalloped rim bordered by tangerine and gilt bands that exhibit wear. Conjoined wreaths of laurel and roses bear cyphers "O" and "P" are tied with gold ribbon, beneath Imperial Crown. Unmarked. Estimated Price: \$1,000 - \$2,000



Russian Empire Poster, Dated 1914. Depicts nine portraits of Tsar Nicholas II and other leader of the allied armies in WWI. Published by Ivan Dmitrievich Sytin (1851-1934) Dated 1914, Moscow. 34.25"H x 25.5"W, Framed under glass.



Russian Empire Poster, Dated 1914. Depicts Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich of Russia (1856-1929), Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies. 31.5"H x 22.25"W. Framed under glass. Estimated Price: \$300 - \$600

Provenance: Important collection of historically significant Russian propaganda posters spanning from the Tsarist Empire to the Russian Revolution and Civil War. Private collection of the late Elinor Fagan.  
Estimated Price: \$500 - \$1,000

***Millea Bros. Ltd, Boonton, NJ, USA, on 19 April;***

Tsar Nicholas I, oil on canvas, Russian School (19th century), no signature found, 27.75" x 20.5" (sight), framed.  
Estimated Price: \$1,500 - \$2,500



Kornilov Bros. Russian porcelain kovsh, 19th c. Decorated with Imperial eagle and Russian proverb, strapwork handle, factory stamp on underside, 7.75"l x 4.75"w  
Estimated Price: \$400 - \$600



***Kaminski Auctions, Beverly, MA, USA, on April 12;***

Russian silver egg, with turquoise and amethyst cabochons, opens to reveal figure of peasant with basket that opens on his back, possibly a spice box, exterior decorated all over with double-headed eagles and shields of St. George and the dragon, marked 84 for .875 silver, double-headed eagle, A.K. / 1844, and maker's mark in Cyrillic, 6 1/2" h x 3 1/4" dia, approximately 18.75 troy oz TW.  
Estimated Price: \$1,500 - \$2,000



Russian silver egg, with stone cabochons, opens to reveal leaping stag, exterior decorated with stag heads and oak leaves, marked 84 for .875 silver, double-headed eagle, O.C. / 1818, and other worn mark, 4 1/8" h x 1 3/4" d, approximately 3.65 troy oz TW.  
Estimated Price: \$300 - \$500





## Did you know....



... That in Vyborg District, at St. Petersburg is standing a bust of Emperor Alexander III.

The story starts with the large psychiatric hospital in the name of Skvortsov-Stepanov in Vyborg district. Why the hospital was named after the ardent atheist Ivan Skvortsov is not known. However it is clear that this hospital was founded by Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich (the future Emperor Alexander III) in 1870 with a capacity of 100 beds. He paid 70.000 Rubles for the construction and 20 thousand per year for the maintenance and operation of the hospital.

The first buildings were made of wood. Only a small portion of these buildings in various states of preservation still exist, as in the beginning of XX-century was it replaced by stone buildings.

Next to it was built a church in the name of Saint Panteleimon, designed by I. B. Strom and on money from famous St. Petersburg patron Fedulovich Ilya Gromov. The opening was held on 5 November (OS. 23 October) 1871, in the presence of Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich.



By the 25th anniversary of the hospital (1895), in front of the church, was put a monument to Emperor Alexander III.







In 1929, the Church of St. Panteleimon was closed and rebuilt to be a warehouse. In 1931 the hospital was named the "City Psychiatric Hospital № 3" in behalf of I. Skvortsov-Stepanov".

In the autumn of 1990 the church building, with the roof lost since the 1950s, with sunken floors and walls blackened after fire, was returned to the faithful. In 1995-1996, the lost belfry and in June 1996 the cross on the dome were recovered.

In 2007 in front of the church, at the expense of the administration of the Primorsky district, a monument to Emperor Alexander III was installed.

