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The reburial of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich Jr. and his wife Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaievna

Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 10.40 the participants in the ceremony of reburial of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich (Jr.) and his wife Grand Duchess Anastasia gathered at the Grand Cathedral of the Donskoi Monastery in Moscow. A memorial service for was held headed by Vicar of the Donskoi Monastery Paramon, co-served by the monastery monks and clergy.



11.15, the 154 regiment carried the coffins out of the cathedral and put them on a hearse. A motorcade then drove to the memorial park complex in the Brethren Cemetery at Sokol. Before the entrance to the memorial complex was established a funeral procession with Honor Guard with drummers and flutists; ranks of the 154 regiment which carried the coffins with the remains; members of the Romanov family; and then officials and invited persons.



Then arrived the Mayor of Moscow S. S. Sobyanin, who was met by Minister of Culture of Moscow Government A.V. Kibovsky.

12.10 started the funeral procession to the chapel, where it was met by the clergy of the Moscow diocese.



Opening the ceremony, Chairman of the State Duma S.E Naryshkin reminded of the importance of the merits of the Grand Duke as the Supreme Commander of the Russian land and naval forces. During the First World War, the name of the Grand Duke became a symbol of Russian society and to all those who with the victory of Russia "tied their national liberation."

- "Grand Duke Nicholas and his wife Grand Duchess Anastasia returned to their homeland. Their names acquire its rightful place in the memory of the Russian society", - said Sergey Naryshkin. Chairman of the State Duma said that the remains of the Grand Duke and his wife, in accordance with military honors and Orthodox traditions, three days ago were brought from France, where Nicholas and his wife have lived the last years of his life.

- "The Grand Duke did a lot for the military fraternity between Russia and France, our alliance strengthens and later - during the Second World War in the fight against a more serious enemy, the seventieth anniversary of the victory over which we will soon be celebrating". On behalf of the Russian Federation he thanked the French authorities for assistance in the return of the remains of the Grand Duke and his wife home.

Chairman of the State Duma said that the last will of Nicholas was to be buried on the territory of Russia: "Today marks the will of the Grand Duke. Eternal memory!".



Addressing the participants of the ceremony, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill said:

"We are witnessing a symbolic act: once evil will split our country and our people have had the courage to get together to overcome historical differences and to really reconnect. A sign of this was the restoration of canonical unity within the Local Russian Orthodox Church.

Today carried the aspirations of the outstanding sons and daughters of the Russian, who died beyond the borders of their homeland, dreamed of

being buried in his native land. Today we are witnessing the reburial Commander of the Russian troops of the First World War, Grand Duke Nicholas and his wife. Remarkably, it was accomplished in the year

of the 70th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany, for what happened from 1941 to 1945, in a certain way related to the events of the First World War. This is a single tragedy of the XX century, and it was not equal in the history of mankind: failed states, divided nation, tens of millions of victims. The fact that we are now committed, is part of a symbolic act to overcome the chaos of the division that brought our people the last century.

Let us pray for the repose of the souls of the departed servants of God whose bodies now rely here on the sacred ground of the military cemetery where lie the remains of soldiers and officers who defended our country during the First World War.

Eternal memory and prayer! "

The mayor of Moscow, Sergei Sobyenin said - *"For Moscovites the reburial of the remains of the Grand Duke and his wife is a special event. It is the latest restoration of historical justice. Last year marked the 100 anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, in which millions of Russians perished. In honor of this event was erected on Poklonnaya Hill a monument to Russian soldiers. Today, the supreme commander of the Russian army returned to his soldiers. Peace be upon him".*

Among those attending the ceremony were Prince Dmitri Romanov with spouse and Prince Rostislav Romanov, as representatives of the Romanov House, Archbishop of Geneva and Western Europe, Mikhail (Russian Church Abroad), State Secretary - Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation General of the Army N.A. Pankov, deputies of the State Duma Vladimir Vasiliev, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and Iosif Kobzon, representatives of the Moscow Government, Prince Alexander Trubetskoy with spouse, Nicholas Dobrynin, Alexander Dobrynin, Director of State Archives Sergei Mironenko, Chairman of the Society of descendants of participants in the First World War Vissarion I. Alyavdin, scientists, historians and public figures.

12.30 The clergy of the Moscow diocese made funeral service headed by Metropolitan Hilarion. Moscow Synodal Choir sang During the memorial service.



12.45 After the funeral service, the coffins of Grand Duke Nicholas Jr. and his wife was put into the place reserved for them, under the floor in the chapel.



The participants then left the memorial ceremony in the same sequence as arrived and went for a memorial dinner in the Petrovsky Palace.

- Videos - 1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT_ea70i0H0
2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1401163/>
3) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/282972>
4) http://tvrain.ru/teleshov/picture_of_the_day/perezahoronenie_velikogo_knjazja_nikolaja_romanova-386728/
5) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/133066
6) http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201504301809-ailw.htm
7) http://www.gazeta.ru/social/video/2015/04/30/v_moskve_perezahoronili_prah_nikolaya_romanova-mladshego.shtml
8) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/67396>

There were several events before the reburial in Moscow

On 14 April, the Russian newspaper Russian Gazette published an interview with Prince Dimitri Romanovich. He explained what happened;

"We always hoped that one day the time would come. Homecoming of the remains of the Russian Supreme Commander seems to us an important reminder of the role Russia played in World War I, defending Europe. After the events of 1917, Nicholas was in the estate of his brother - my grandfather - in the Crimea before the outbreak of civil war condemned him to exile. Crimean coast, he left on one of the last ships.

At the time of the death of Nikolai Nikolaevich in January 1929, it was not possible to fulfill his desire - to rest next to the soldiers who fought under him. And this time has now come.

Russian history is back, and Russia for the first time marked the anniversary of the Great War. Divine Providence was also pleased to Crimea, now returned to the fold of Russia.

The Grand Duke and his wife Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaievna, nee Princess of Montenegro, are now buried in the French Cannes. During a visit to Moscow in December 2013. I gave a letter and



my elder brother Nikolai Romanovich ascertained as the next of kin, in which we told it is our intention to move their ashes to Russia.

During the trip to Moscow at the invitation of the Chairman of the State Duma Sergei Evgenevich Naryshkin, I visited the site of the Bratsk military cemetery in Moscow, where are the remains of soldiers of the First World War. Located there is a chapel in honor of the Transfiguration of the Lord, which seems to me worthy of a place of eternal rest for the first Commander of the Russian army and his wife.

I am grateful to the President of Russia Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and the Russian authorities adopted appropriate decisions."

16 April, on Radio "Echo Petersburg" was invited Ivan Artsishevsky, as representative of the Romanov Family Association in Russia and Zoya Belyakova, for a talk about "Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich (the Younger): Controversial issue the reburial".

Listen to it here (in Russian) - <http://echospb.ru/articles/270075/>

In the program Belyakova expressed her view, that this reburial should not be take place in Moscow, but should be in St. Petersburg, in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul.

On 18 April, Alexander Kibovsky, Minister of Culture in Moscow, participated in a volunteer action with 100 people, to put in order the territory of Bratsk military cemetery and the memorials in the park in Sokol. The other volunteers came from the Russian Military Historical Society and the Military-patriotic movement of the Moscow Art and Industrial Institute "Juncker ICEJ".



Sunday, 19 April, there was the last Panikhida for Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich and wife Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaievna in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Cannes.



22 April, State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin announced at the meeting of the "working group on the reburial of the Grand Duke", that the solemn ceremony of the reburial will be held in Moscow on 30 April - "In the family survived the oral testament that the Grand Duke would like to find peace in his native land and would like to be buried next to the soldiers of the Russian army of the First World War." - said Naryshkin.

Friday, 24 April, 2015 in the morning at 08:00 was made the exhumation of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich and his wife Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaevna in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel. Their remains had been lying in the crypt since 1929, after he died in Antibes where he lived with his family.



Video of the moving of the remains of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich, from the crypt under the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Cannes to its front porch for the memorial service - <http://www.m24.ru/videos/81118>





At 11:00, Prince Dimitri Romanovich Romanov with wife Dorrit and Prince Rostislav Rostislavovich, together with representatives of the Russian Federation - headed by Ambassador of Russia to France Mr. Alexander Orlov, senior representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate, the Prefect of the Alpes Maritimes, the Mayor of Cannes, attended a religious ceremony at the entrance to the church St. Michael the Archangel.

Then the coffins were put into cars and transported Paris.

Left behind in the crypt in Cannes are the brother of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaievich Jr. - Grand Duke Peter Nikolaievich and his wife (a sister of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaievich Jr's wife, Grand Duchess Melitza Nikolaievna) and Prince Peter of Oldenburg, who once was married to Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna.

27 April, started the ceremony in the memory of the Supreme Commander of the Russian army in the historic Les Invalides in

Paris. The Requiem at the Cathedral of St. Louis was made by Bishop Nestor, who heads the Diocese of Korsun ROC.

Among those attending the memorial was Prince A. Troubetskoi, Prince N. Labanov-Rostovsky, Count P. Scheremetev, Count S. Kapnist and N. Dobrynin.

Video report from the memorial service in Les Invalides in Paris -

<http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1399942/>

Same evening was the remains of the Grand Duke and his wife transported to Russia.



At the Moscow airport "Chkalovsky" landed the airplane from France, carrying the remains of the Grand Duke and his wife. The plane was met with military honor guard and military band. On board were also the relatives, the executive secretary of the Russian Historical Society Andrei Petrov and Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/132883

From the airport the remains was brought to the Donskoi Monastery. There was held a memorial service in the Great Cathedral of the monastery, led by His Eminence Varsonofy (Sudakov), Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, Chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate, concelebrated by the brothers, clergy and parishioners of Donskoy monastery.

The next two days remains of the grand couple's stay in the Donskoi Monastery, in the ancient church tradition, in front of them was constantly read Psalms. To the liturgy was added a special application on their repose and every day after the Divine Liturgy was made a memorial service.



On 27 April, the TV channel "Russia Kultura" premiered the documentary "Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich (the Younger). Glad to prove his love for Russia" (it was repeated on 28 April). In it is told the story about an outstanding military career of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich Jr.; discussed is the dramatic vicissitudes of personal life; his family history, with the last Russian Emperor, and the period of life in exile. There are rare films and photographs, unique materials from the collections of the State Historical Museum, the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the State Public Historical Library.

In the film participate: Dean of the Faculty of History, Political Science and Law RSUH - Alexander Logunov; Candidate of Historical Sciences - Olga Pavlenko; Director of the Historical Museum - Alexei Levykin; Director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation (Garf) - Sergei Mironenko; executive secretary of the Russian Historical Society - Andrey Petrov; and Chairman of the Russian Historical Society, Sergei Naryshkin.



Video Trailer - http://tvkultura.ru/brand/show/brand_id/59341

The full video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N201YZ9_Lug

28 and 29 April, "everyone was able to come and pray at the coffins" in the Donskoi Monastery.

Video - 1) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/282727>

2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1400270/>

3) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/282796>

4) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1400362/>

...And then the coffins went to the Brethren Cemetery at Sokol.





New monument to Emperor Alexander II in Shakhty on his birthday

29 April - on the birthday of Emperor Alexander Nikolaievich - in the center of the city Shakhty, Rostov-on-Don Region, was unveiled a monument to Emperor Alexander II.

Shakhty is a city located in Rostov Region, on the southeastern spur of the Donetsk mountain ridge, 75 kilometers north-east of Rostov-on-Don, 1050 km south of Moscow and only 20 km from the Ukraine border, with about 250.000 citizens.

Emperor Alexander II was born 29 April (OS 17 April) 1818 in Moscow Kremlin, as the eldest son of Emperor Nicholas I of Russia and Alexandra Feodorovna Charlotte of Prussia.

197 years later, in Shakhty, was his monument standing on a square in the central part of the city, in a pedestrian zone - within walking distance to central schools, higher and secondary educational institutions of the city and the memorial park called "Alexander Park". It is installed in front of a 100 years old building at the intersection of Avenue Shevchenko and Pushkin.

It was a beautiful sunny day and many citizens and visitors was standing all around the square.



The opening was attended by Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky, Mayor of Shakhty Denis Ivanovich Stanislavov, Chairman of the City Council Irina A. Zhukova, First deputy head of Shakhty Igor Ivanovich Medvedev, Deputy head of Shakhty Elena Alexandrovna Sharvarko, Vasili Yurivich Yashikov, Bishop Simeon Esin, Priest George Groshev, spokesman for the diocese Shakhtinskaya Ilya Gennadievich Sharkov and clergy of Pokrovsky Cathedral, Cadets from the Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossacks Cadet School, led by the director Cossacks colonel Vitaly Alexandrovich Bobylchenko, and other Don Cossacks.



A short fanfare announced the start of the official ceremony, followed by two ceremony masters making the introduction to today's event and finishing with giving the word to representative of Romanov House - great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - Pavel Eduardovich Kulikovsky.

Who then addressed the audience:
"Mr. Mayor, dear citizens of Shakhty and visitors. I am very pleased to visit the city of Shakhty again - this time it is even a double pleasure. Today is the birthday of my great-great-great-grandfather Emperor Alexander II. In 1818, 197 years ago, he was born in Moscow Kremlin. He grew up and became one of the great Tsars of Russia. He is remembered for his decision to emancipate the serf in 1861. He is also

remembered as the liberator of Bulgaria, after the victory in Russian-Turkish war in 1878. And for this he received the honorary title of Tsar-Liberator. All over Russia were erected many monuments in his memory. Almost as many as there was for Peter the Great. But your town wanted to take it a step further. After Alexander II was tragically killed in 1881, the city was renamed to Aleksandrovsk-Grushevskii and for the next 40 years the city was named in his honor.

But a monument to the Tsar Liberator in Aleksandrovsk-Grushevsky there was not, and now we can finally open this monument. I hope that it will stand for many years, and will remind residents and visitors about the great Russian history. I want to thank all those who have been involved in the work of creating and erecting the monument. I think that you can be proud of it - it's a wonderful monument!

I congratulate Shakhty with its new monument."



The ceremony masters gave the word to Mayor Denis Ivanovich Stanislavov - *"Today is a very important day: we return to Shakhty historical justice, while not infringing the rights of any other periods of formation and development of Shakhty. By opening of the monument to Emperor Alexander II, we are reviving the history of Russia, and it is this history that makes us a great nation, makes us stronger. I sincerely thank all those who took part in the construction of the monument, which, I am sure, will be a "pearl" of our city".*

Stanislavov emphasized that the monument is not only to the Tsar-Liberator, but also to a great statesman and the reformer, who did so many good things for his country.

Then the Chairman of the City Council Irina Anatolievna Zhukova said - *"In 1883, Emperor Alexander III signed a decree on the establishment of the city Aleksandrovsk-Grushevsky, The name of this city came from Alexander II and the coal settlement Grushevsky".*

To open the monument went the exclusive right to the representative of the royal family and the best student of the Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossack cadet corps. Cadet Cyril Povecherov together with Paul Kulikovskiy pulled the string holding the cloth on the front of the pedestal and opened the monument. The other Cadets loudly shouted "Hurrah!" - Not only in honor of the monument, but also to a colleague and the director of the best Cadet school.





Bishop Simeon (Esin) of Shahtinskii and Millerovski and clergy of the Shakhtinskaya diocese made memorial service and consecrated the monument, after which he addressed the audience:

"Dear Denis Ivanovich, Paul E., dear Shakhty! Christ is Risen!"

Today is a significant day in the recent history of our cathedral city. On behalf of a grateful posterity, we open and dedicate a monument to the great maker of Russia's reforms, the Tsar-Liberator, who gave status, and the original name of our city. And although the dramatic years of the history of the country, the name of the city - Aleksandrovsk-Grushevsky - have been lost, the name and merits of



the Tsar has not faded, he who gave freedom to millions of Russian peasants and liberate the people of southern Europe from centuries of Ottoman oppression. Today we rightly pay tribute to a caring and prudent governor of our great fatherland, who in more than a quarter-century strengthen Russia.

Having ascended to the throne in the ancestral feast day of St. Apostle Philemon, which by its handling from paganism to Christianity first gave freedom to his slave - Emperor Alexander, the love of his subjects and cares for the welfare of Russia, given the long-awaited freedom to numerous Russian class. Unfortunately, March 1, 1881 Russian magnanimous monarch fell victim to the vile terrorist murderers on the streets of his capital. Emperor sealed his love for his subjects with his blood.

In 1883, the memory of the great reformer of the country has been embodied in the name of our city.

A monument does not need the Tsar Liberator. His worthy service to the Motherland has already accepted the Lord. Nothing is needed to

add to his greatness. This monument we need. People who are keeping their history. Those who do not learn from the past, cannot have a prosperous future.

The consecration of this beautiful monument is for all of us a real festival of patriotism and historical justice. This celebration took place thanks to the talent of the sculptor and goodwill of the City Administration in the person of Denis Ivanovich Stanislavov, thanks to concerned citizens - initiators, including urban Cossacks and several national communities of the city.

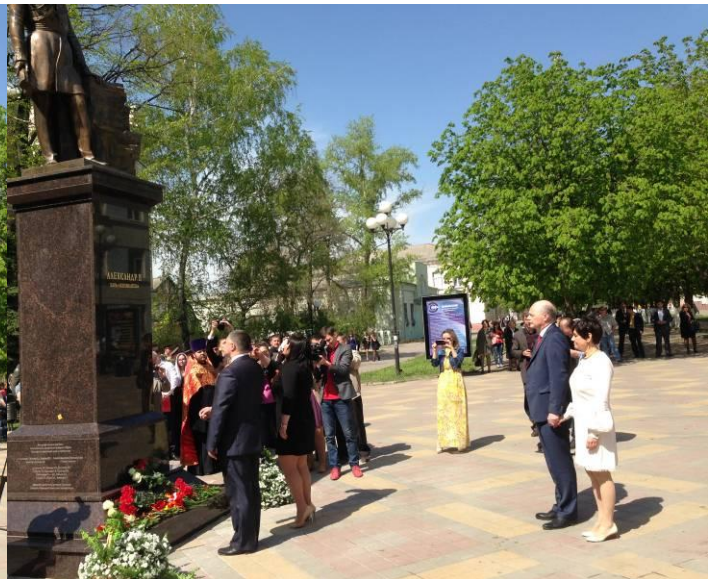
Gracious LORD saves the creators of this monument in the health and well-being, and grant peace and prosperity of our city and the welfare of its residents."





A detachment of drummers from Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossack cadet corps marched in the middle of the square forming different patterns while playing. The entire Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossack cadet corps then made a parade of honor passing the monument to the Tsar-Liberator.

The final part of the official opening ceremony was laying of flowers at the monument. First was invited some school children, then Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, Mayor Denis Stanislavov and Chairman of the City Council Irina Anatolievna Zhukova, and then followed the many other officials and guests.

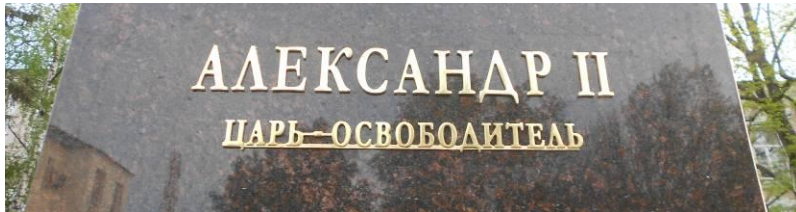


Video -

http://33tv.ru/news/society/pamyatnik_ottsu_osnovatelyu_imperatora_aleksandra_2_uvekovechili_v_br_onze.html



The pedestal is made with dark granite and the sculpture itself is of bronze. The height of the monument is 5.7 meters, of which 2.4 meters is the figure of Emperor Alexander II. The project of the monument was last year decided via a competition, won by the local sculptor Yuri Levachkin. Layout of clay, plaster mold, foundry work, and finally finished in bronze.



On the front is placed the inscription "Alexander II. Tsar-Liberator", and on the back side is a brief biographical note about the Emperor Alexander II.

On the wall, a part of the sculpture of Emperor Alexander II, is written in the bottom "1805 Popov" and in the top "1883 Alexandrovsky-Grushevsky". This is a reference to the first settlements included in the territory of the city Shakhty, was in 1805 called Popov and when Emperor Alexander II in 1881 was killed, the city asked to be renamed Alexandrovsk-Grushevsky - Alexandrovsk in memory of Emperor Alexander II, which was approved by Emperor Alexander III in 1883.

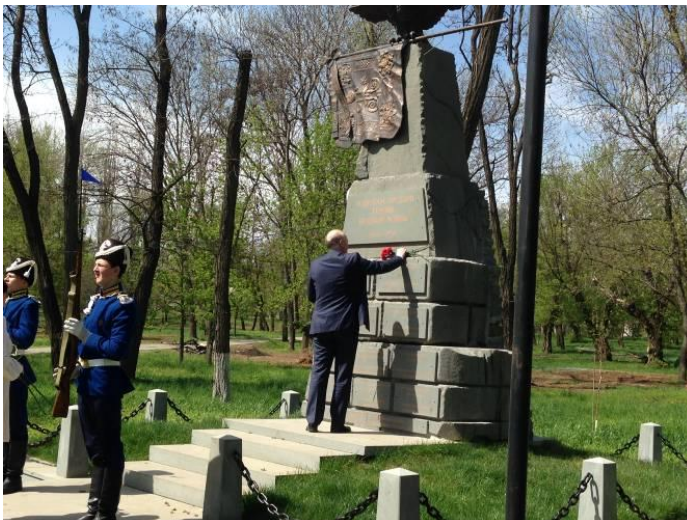




After the opening, Paul and Ludmila Kulikovskiy went with the First deputy head of Shakhty Igor Medvedev and Vasili Yashikov to the Alexander Park, a memorial park around the corner from the city square with the monument to the Tsar-liberator. Here again was lined-up the Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossack cadet corps on the main avenue in the park and this time next to a memorial to the Cossacks regiments that fought in the First world war.

The memorial was unveiled on the Day of Shakhty, 31 August 2014 - to coincided with the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

Under the eagle holding the flag are plates on the pedestal of stones with the names of all Cossack units that participated in World War I.



In the memorial complex we stand in front of the eternal flame and paid respect to the soldier who died defending the Fatherland.

Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossack Cadet School



The Cossacks cadet school in Shakhty is named after the legendary Caucasus campaign hero Don Cossack lieutenant-general Yakov Petrovich Baklanov.

He is seen as an inspiration, as he worked his way up through the ranks from the bottom, and was a fearless military commander.

The school "Shakhtinsky Y.P. Baklanov Cossack cadet corps" was established in 2002 as a branch of the Don Emperor Alexander III Cadet Corps in Novocherkassk, Rostov region. On the basis of the decision of the Administration of the Rostov Region of 12 July 2004 "On reorganization of the state educational institution of the Cadet Boarding School Don Emperor



Alexander III Cadet Corps" was it separated out as a branch in its own legal entity. July 12, 2007 the school became an independent educational institution.

The school is located in the area Krasin in Shakhty and covers an area of five hectares, on which there are two three-storey buildings (residential and educational buildings), a soccer field and volleyball, parachuting town, gym, boxing gym, climbing wall, shooting gallery, a dance hall, an assembly hall, a library, a museum, a language lab, a computer room, an office of a psychologist, and a medical office. The about 200 cadets are in the school attending education on the level of 6 and 10 classes. The director is Cossacks colonel Vitaly Alexandrovich Bobylchenko.



In the afternoon Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky, with Igor Medvedev and Vasili Yashikov, visited the school, who in honor of the guests made a parade on the square of the school. Paul Kulikovsky addressed the officers and cadets.

"Officers and Cadets, it is a great pleasure to be here again at the Shakhtinsky Cossacks Cadet School". Last time was when we opened the monument to Tsarevich Alexei. It was a wonderful day, which I remember with great joy.

This time I came to Shakhty to open a monument to the Tsar-Liberator - my great-great-great-grandfather.

Military service has always been a tradition in the Romanov family. They started as cadets and many of them ended as generals. This tradition has been kept in my family, even when living in exile. I can mention that my own grandfather, Gury Kulikovsky, born in 1919 in Novominskaya, just 200 km from here in Kuban, became an officer in the Royal Danish Hussars. His brother was in the Royal Danish Guards. And I have also done military service, both in the army and in the airforce.

The Romanovs and the Cossacks have always had a special relationship. The Tsarevich was the Ataman of all the Cossacks armies. Cossacks made up the entire Lieb Guard Convoy, providing personal protection of the Emperor. I am happy that also today we have a special relationship.

It is important that we in you have defenders of the orthodox faith, you stay loyal to your military oath, and remain defenders of our Fatherland.

Glory to the Cossacks - Glory to Russia."

On October 15, 2011, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky participated in the official ceremony of unveiling the monument to the Royal Passion Bearer Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich Romanov, the Supreme Ataman of all the Cossack armies. The monument is standing in a nice small birch tree park next to the parade square.

This time, after the parade, they again visited the monument, laid flowers and paid respect to the Ataman whose life was cut short by the murderous Bolsheviks.



In the hall to the school museum Igor Medvedev and Paul Kulikovskiy cut the ribbon, opening the photo exhibition "The Imperial Family". It was a collection of photos that had arrived from the Feodorovsky Sovereign Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo. The photos series started with Emperor Alexander III, but the main part was with Emperor Nicholas II and his family. A special section were made about Emperor Nicholas II and the First World War.

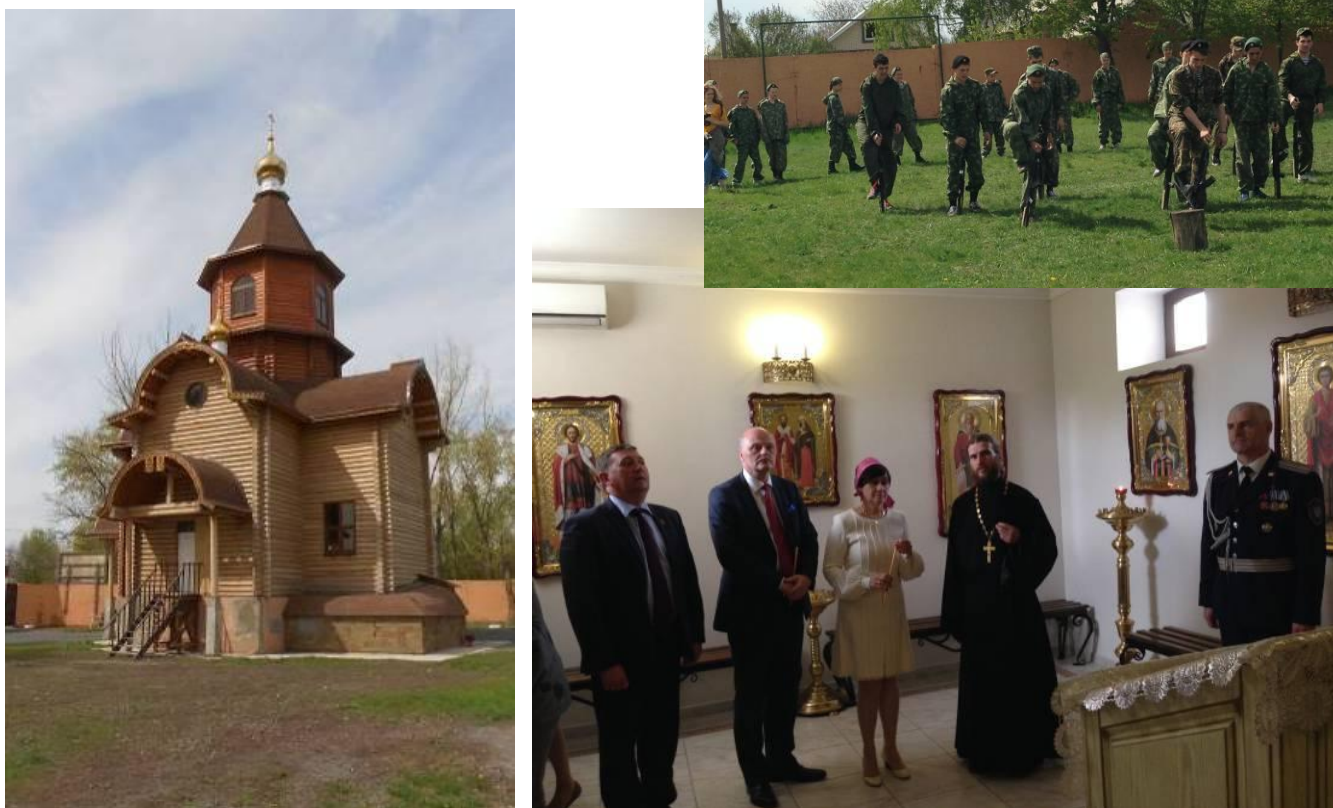


The cadets had also prepared a theater play about the fate of Emperor Nicholas II. It was very emotional, with music and video sequences running in the back.



With some of the older cadets were then arranged a question and answers session around a tea table. This led to talks about Baklanov, Suvorov, Peter the Great, Alexander I and other interesting subjects.

Out on the training field some cadets dressed in camouflage uniform showed their abilities in man-to-man combat and with weapons.



The afternoon ended with a visit to the chapel built in honor of Tsarvich Alexei. A plaque on it says "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - By Grace of God this church is founded in honor and memory of Saint Tsesarevich Alexei in the time of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill and Bishop Shakhktinsky and Millerovsky Ignaty on 7July/24 July 2012. The lower church is ready, while the upper church is still in progress.



Meeting with the Mayor of Shakhty

In the late afternoon Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy met with Denis Ivanovich Stanislavov, the Mayor of Shakhty, in his office.

In the informal meeting was shared impressions from the solemn opening ceremony of the monument to Emperor Alexander II. Everybody was happy that the event went so well and that many citizens had come.

The Mayor told about the educational projects in the city and efforts to promote interest to history among youth. He shared information about the preparation for the celebration of 70th anniversary of Great victory in Shakhty.

A very good, but short concert was next in the School of Arts. Both students and teachers was participating, playing all sort of music - Jazz, classic, opera, ballads, etc.

Visiting Pokrovsky Cathedral

In the evening Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, accompanied by the first deputy head of the city Shakhty I. Medvedev, Vasili Yashikov and Vitaly Bobylchenko, visited the Pokrovsky Cathedral in Shakhty. In the courtyard of the cathedral they were met by the Assistant Manager of Shakhtinskaya diocese, the cathedral priest Simeon Esin and the spokesman of the diocese of Shakhtinskaya I.G. Sharkov, both full members of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.

I.G. Sharkov held a tour of the cathedral, told about the architectural features, the history of its creation and destruction in the godless years and its recovery; the sanctuary of the cathedral, the history of the many rare icons; the concept of the beautiful wall paintings and iconography features a number of subjects.

There are many interesting icons, including one of the Holy Royal Saints, one of Passion bearer Nicholas Alexandrovich included in the iconostas, and above the iconostas is a huge fresco with the image of Tsarevich Alexei. There is also a very unusual icon of the saints of the imperial couple Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna - Alexander Nevsky and Mary Magdalene. This we studied more closely.

The next two days Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy visited the former Cossacks capitals; Novochoerkassk and Starychoerkassk, and attended more events in Shakhty. More about this in next issue of Romanov News.





Easter services in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

On the night of 11 on April 12, 2015 at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill Easter led the Easter service.



Ludmila and I joined the 7.000 others standing in the Cathedral. There were clearly many more people than on other Easter services we had attended there before. Not only in the church hall were we standing closer than usual, but some were even standing in the gallery, from where you could not see the service.

His Holiness was joined by Metropolitan Arseny of Istra, the first Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in Moscow; Bishop Theophylact Dmitrov, vicar of St. Andrew's Monastery; Bishop Sergiy of Solnechnogorsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate administrative secretariat; Bishop Sava, first deputy governor of the Moscow Patriarchate, governor of Novospassky monastery; Schema-archimandrite Eli (Nozdrin); Archpriest Mikhail Ryazantsev, Sacristan of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour; and clergy in Moscow.

Easter service at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior was visited by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev and his wife S.V. Medvedeva, and the Mayor of Moscow SS Sobyenin. It was also attended by Chairman of the State Duma Committee on CIS Affairs, Eurasian Integration and Relations with Compatriots L.E. Slutsky, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation on Rules and Organization of SA Popov, authorized Present at the RF Child Rights P.A. Astakhov, a delegation of French senators and deputies led by former Transport Minister Thierry Mariani of France, Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation, P.S. Raghavan.



At the beginning of the Easter service in the Christ the Savior Cathedral of the Church was brought the Holy Fire, delivered by a delegation headed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Andrew V. Yakunin and the Bishop of Dmitrov Feofilaktov from the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) in Jerusalem. Patriarch Kirill kindled by the Holy Fire candles and handed them over to worship the participants.

During the service, sang the choir of the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ the Savior (Director - Ilya Tolkachev) and the Youth Choir of Christ the Savior (Director - Svetlana Sokolovskaya).

To the singing of verses "Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior" was made a procession around the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.



According to the tradition of the Easter vigil His Holiness read the words of St. John Chrysostom Catechetical the Holy Easter.

At the end of matins Patriarch Kirill, V.V. Putin, D.A. Medvedev, S.V. Medvedev, S.S. Sobyenin exchanged Easter greetings and holiday gifts.

Easter Gospel (Jn. 1: 1-17) was read in 21 languages. His Holiness began reading the Gospel, about the incarnation of the Word of God, in Greek and Latin, then the concelebrating clergy continue reading in Hebrew, Slavic, Arabic, Sanskrit, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Moldovan, Gagauz, Kazakh, Latvian, Estonian, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese.

After the augmented litany of the Russian Orthodox Church was prayed for peace in the Ukraine.



Archpriest Mikhail Ryazantsev read the Easter Message of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill to archpastors, pastors, monastics and all faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church.

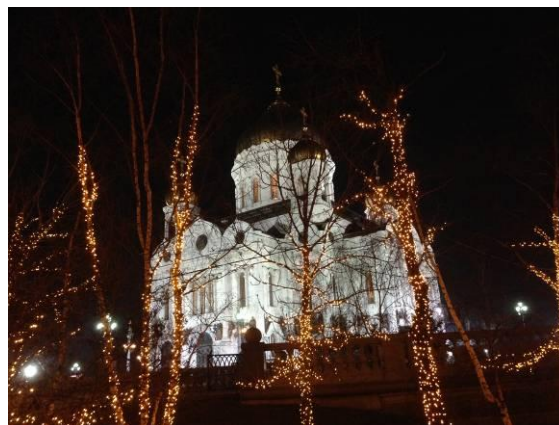
Then the Primate of the Russian Church consecrated Artos, and at the end of worship once again congratulated the participants on Easter: "All of you, my dear, congratulations on a Great Easter, the Resurrection of Christ, with the strength that God has revealed in His Son Jesus Christ through His

death and resurrection of Golgotha. This force and so help us God to govern our life paths to salvation and eternal life. Christ is Risen!".

"Christ is Risen. Indeed He is Risen."

Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=38&v=fJSyoVnEkZA>



Conversations about succession - Part 2

Russian Idea - publication 29/03/2015. Author: Oksana Karnovich

Conversation with Prince Trubetskoy

"Russian idea" continues a series of interviews with Russian aristocrats. We offer you a conversation with Prince Alexander Trubetskoy, Count Sergei Alekseyevich Kapnist and Yuri Alexandrovich Trubnikov.



OK.: Alexander, please share your opinion on the "Kirilovichi" branch of Romanov House.

Prince A.T.: I note that Vladimir Kirillovich had no right to the title of "Grand Duke". By law, a Grand Duke can only be sons, grandsons, brothers and sisters of the ruling monarch. For a great-grandchildren it no longer exists. Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich himself gave the title to his son Vladimir K. - himself being a grandson of the reigning persons, as Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich is the third son of Emperor Alexander II. So he has no right to call himself a "Grand Duke".

The last Grand Duke was Kirill Vladimirovich's brother - Andrei, who died in 1956. He, too, had a morganatic marriage with ballerina Mathilde Kshesinskaia.

Today, no representative of the Romanov family has the right to use the title of Grand Duke and Grand Duchess. The last Grand Duchess had died in 1960 in Canada - Olga, sister of Nicholas II. However, supporters of Vladimir Kirillovich believe that his father - Tsar Kirill I. But for us it is absolutely unacceptable, as he declared himself emperor, without the consent of the other Romanovs and, moreover, without the consent of the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna. This is the first.

Next, I am the chairman of the Association of Guards established in 1924 on the orders of Lieutenant-General Baron P.N. Wrangel in order to unite the Guards officers, scattered all over the world, to know where they are in the case, by any chance there will be an opportunity to overthrow the Soviet regime. But when it became clear that this is not possible - especially after the Second World War - Guards Association and Russian Military Union (EMRO) continued to exist as an memorial association.

And when the officers of the tsarist army have died, all children and grandchildren have decided to keep this association and renamed it Imperial Guard Memorial Society, in order to bear witness of their exploits, about who they were, etc. At the Guards Association, as long as it existed, were officers of all arms, ranging from low ranks to the ranks of generals, all enlisted, taking an oath to the Emperor. They never got close to him, did not admit nor Vladimir Kirillovich, not even Kirill Vladimirovich, who they did not recognize because of his behavior in relation to the Provisional Government. And Vladimir Kirillovich - because he had no right to declare himself the head of the Imperial House, not to mention the fact that there is a document in which he called on Russians to fight on the side of the Germans, when World War II started, signed by his chief aide, personal secretary to Colonel D.L. Senyavin. There are two documents, one of which was signed personally by Kirill I've seen, but I do not have it. People who has it, unfortunately, do not want to show it publicly. My father was an officer of the Guards Life Guards Horse-Grenadier Regiment and sworn to Nicholas II in Peterhof. He did not come close to these people. Near Paris there is the famous museum of the Life Guards Cossack Regiment; there they are also not allowed and never were invited. So you see, it says of itself. They have discredited themselves.

OK.: One thing to hate the Soviet regime, the other - to act with military operations against the Russian people. But cooperation with Hitler - it is a different moral category ... Did you communicate with Maria Vladimirovna?

Prince A.T.: I avoid meetings following the example of Count Pyotr Sheremetev. Maria Vladimirovna knows me not a lot, so I find it easier to avoid her. I just did not fall for it. I met her mother Leonida Georgievna. It was a long time ago, back in 1999, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the transition of Field Marshal A.V. Suvorov through the Alps. I read a report about it. Leonida sat in the front row. Passing by, I just said hello to her. This was the only direct contact.

DC .: But, tell me, please, why Russia recognized Maria Vladimirovna and her son, as heir to the imperial house?

Prince A.T.: I think, on the one hand, from the ignorance of historical facts in Russia, on the other - from the great pressure from her and her supporters, those people who from this received something. For example, she gives them orders and even titles. Once I got to the trade mission of Russia in France, and then a trade representative says, "You can congratulate me! I became a nobleman! "Apparently, the love of titles and orders is very strong in modern Russia. We believe that they have no right to do it, because the title of nobility can only assign the reigning monarch.

OK : Alexander, do you think Russia is ready to accept the idea of restoration of the monarchy today?

Prince A.T.: In conclusion we can say that, according to the law of succession, direct heirs to the throne of the Romanovs in Russia today, there are none. After the death of Nicholas Romanovich Romanov, the House Association is headed by Dimitri Romanovich, also elderly, with which I am very familiar and friendly. He is a very good man. The purpose of this Association - to unite all members of this genus, scattered around the world. But none of them claim the throne and do not call themselves heirs. As a ruling dynasty the Romanov dynasty ended. This is my personal opinion.



Let us recall how the Russian state was formed. The first union of different principalities at the end of the XIII century and the rise of Moscow began with Ivan Kalita and lasted for nearly 300 years, from the Rurik dynasty to Ivan the Terrible; then comes the Time of Troubles and selected is a new Romanov dynasty, which also ruled for 300 years. This suggests a certain cyclical and that a new dynasty appears when the previous end or in a coup or revolution. The second argument: historically it evolved

so that when the tsars were chosen, different candidates was considered, not only the descendants of Rurik, but even Trubetskoi, Golitsyn (they are Gediminovich), but Romanovs were elected. So there is a precedent.

If you have a question about the restoration of the monarchy in Russia, I think, a Zemsky Sobor can choose a new ruling dynasty. But is it possible? I think - no. Firstly, how now to define a Zemsky Sobor? The idea of monarchy, people should be approached in the same way as a person who took the decision to become a monk, knowing that it is forever. It is spiritual, a people responsibility. If people came to the idea that they need a king, he must be prepared that this is not for two weeks, not 20 years, and then a dynasty. Need a spiritual approach to the elected tsar, king, emperor (call it what you want), remained anointed of God despite even the Constitution. This philosophical system is different from the device of the republic: a person chosen - need to change the constitution; or passed time - elect a new president. But do not be fooled by empty ideas. I believe that the restoration of the monarchy in Russia is not ready. When you're ready, then - let's make a joke - I'm a candidate! But this is a joke!

Interview with Count Sergei Alekseevich Kapnist

OK.: Sergey, how do you comment on the fact that Maria Vladimirovna declared herself the head of the House of Romanov? Does she have a moral right to do so?

Count S.K.: On the question of Duchess Maria Vladimirovna, there are two points. Firstly, according to the rules of succession, she is not a "Grand Duchess". It's definitely clear. In my opinion, it's all said and proven. Enough to read history books, where absolutely clearly indicate how these rights are transferred.

Secondly, the fact that she allowed herself to hand out titles, it seems to me totally inappropriate. I do not want too much to insist on this fact, but sometimes for some others it is due to personal interests. People are ready for a title instead of something ... I think it there is a discouraging moral dimension in such actions. I think it is improper for a representative of the Romanov family. In my opinion, the main goal in this sad story - to tell the truth. This is our duty and responsibility before God and beloved Russian people.



Interview with Yuri Alexandrovich Trubnikov

OK.: Yuri, please tell us how Maria Vladimirovna found herself in Russia and became well received by the offices of the Russian government?

YU.T.: She became well received, because in Russia she came with her father, Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich, in 1991. I often saw him, at that time in France. Returning to Paris after the August coup, I told him about the events that took place in Moscow. He asked if I could deliver a letter to Boris Yeltsin. I replied: "With pleasure." Vladimir K. wrote that he wanted to visit Russia, where he had never been. A week or two weeks later, in September, I went to Russia, but could not find the employee of Yeltsin, whom he knew. He was away. Then I decided to discuss the request of the Grand Duke with Anatoly Sobchak, with whom I previously had an appointment. I told him about Vladimir Kirillovich and asked how to get the letter to Yeltsin. Sobchak himself suggested to pass it to him, as he was going to go to the Kremlin, and said, "This is an open letter?" I said yes, read. He read, and said: "I will invite Vladimir Kirillovich" - which he did. And two months later, on November 5th, we arrived in Leningrad, and on November 11 left St. Petersburg.

OK .: Did you come with Vladimir Kirillovich or by yourself?

YU.T.: I am a frequent visitor to Russia on duty, knew many people. I do not accredited Prince personally, but one of my friends - Alex Bereznikov. As part of our group. I came not with all, but the

day before, to see, to adjust and make sure everything was in order. We spent a few days in St. Petersburg. With him came his wife Leonida, Maria Vladimirovna and her son George, still a boy.

OK.: Where was the first meeting of Vladimirovich Kirillovitch with Yeltsin? In Russia?

YU.T.: With Yeltsin, he met for the first time not in Russia, but in France, in the ambassador's residence in Paris, on the street Grennel, in February 1992. Yeltsin came to Paris and Ambassador Yuri Ryzhov in his honor hosted a reception and invited all generations of immigrants. Many people for the first time entered the Russian territory. There was a lot of people. Among the guests was Vladimir K. and his wife, but without his daughter. After that they went to another room and exchanged a few words, nothing interesting. Neither one nor the other did not report anything substantial.

And then, a few months later, on 21 April 1992 Vladimir Kirillovich was gone. He was sent to St. Petersburg on April 29, with funeral service made in St. Isaac's Cathedral by Patriarch Alexy, and after that the Grand Duke was buried in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in the Grand Ducal Burial Vault.

OK.: Do you think that if not Vladimir K. used the chaotic Perestroika, the collapse of the communist past, that his family would be seen as heir to the imperial throne?

YU.T.: I've never heard that Vladimir K. called himself an heir.

OK.: So, after the death of Vladimir Kirillovich, Maria Vladimirovna has proclaimed itself the "head of the Romanovs"?

YU.T.: Not really. Her mother had a strong character and was convinced that the Romanovs-Kirillovich must return as heir to the throne, and persuaded the daughter in this, helping her around.

OK.: That is, to a greater extent in the family Leonida showed energy, preparing her daughter to "high mission" ... Have you met Leonida? What impression she gave?

YU.T.: The character is very strong, but it does not mean bad, as is commonly believed. Yes, she was able to get everything she wanted.

OK.: Did you talk to Maria Vladimirovna by the nature of your business?

YU.T.: I met her in Tyumen, where she sojourned, when they traveled across Russia. After that, I just had dinner with her in Paris, but I know her less than Vladimir Kirillovich.



OK.: In exile, everyone knows each other. When there were some social events, receptions, have you noticed anything in the behavior of Maria Vladimirovna, positioning itself as a "sovereign"?

YU.T.: After the death of Vladimir Kirillovich I met her less. It is difficult to answer the question directly. Sometimes it seems that yes, sometimes - not. As always, it all depends on the environment. King made by entourage.

OK.: Did Prince Vladimir Kirillovich have pain for Russia?

YU.T.: It was. However, I must say that until the very end, he had a small role in the life of emigration, very few knew him. He was not a bright man, ie, active, like many others then and now.

OK.: He was not a leader?

YU.T.: A leader he was not. Nevertheless, I deeply respected Princes Vladimir Kirillovich.

OK.: Are there any heir to the Imperial House?

YU.T.: The word "heir" I do not like in this case. The head of the Imperial House, who was Vladimir K. Romanov, and then Nikolai Romanovich Romanov.

In Kerch will come a bust of Emperor Peter the Great

In Kerch, in the park near the city's waterfront, is to come a bust of Peter I. This told Gennady Grigoriev, head of the Kerch Union monarchists, who initiated the action. According to him, the monument with a pedestal to the city is donated by philanthropist Mikhail Serdyukov, head of the "Avenue of Russian glory." Recently, with his support in Simferopol were busts of Yuri Gagarin and Sergei Korolev.



"If weather conditions do not interfere with the delivery, the bronze bust of Peter together with the pedestal will be delivered via the Kerch Strait by ferry on April 29th. At the installation site will be laid a strong foundation, because the weight of the monument is rather big - 2 tons. And on May 7, is scheduled its grand opening" - said Grigoriev.

He also noted that the monument will be opened on the anniversary of accession to the throne of Peter I in 1682 and the release of the Azov fleet from Voronezh in 1699.

Money for the laying of the foundations and the installation of the bust has been gathered by members of the Kerch Union monarchists and urban enthusiasts.

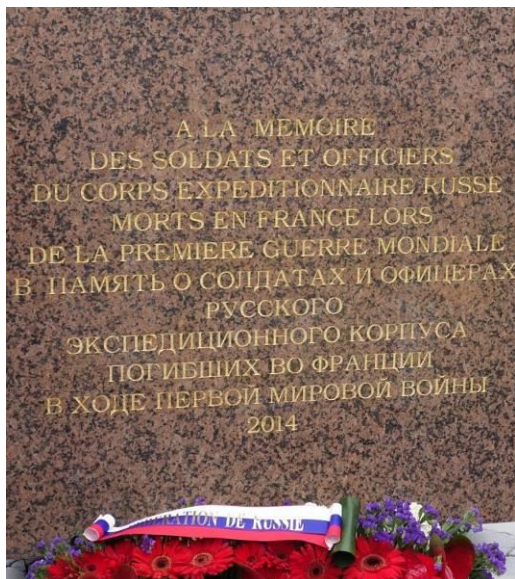
A new monument to the soldiers of the Russian Expeditionary Corps in France

A monument to the Russian Expeditionary Force who fought on French soil during the First World War, opened on Sunday, 26 April, in the commune of Kurci in the region of Champagne - Ardennes, with the participation of the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Medina.

The monument is a sculpture of a Russian soldier holding in one hand a little girl, and the other - a teddy bear.

"We appreciate the respect with which the French refer to the military brotherhood that binds our country during the First World War. It is symbolic that this monument we open on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the victory over the common enemy - Hitler's Nazism. And in Russia, too, honor French soldiers - in particular, the pilots "Normandy", who fought side by side with the Soviet soldiers," - said Vladimir Medina at the ceremony.





Later, the Minister noted that "in terms of a common historical memory we have an amazing relationship with France." "Every time we open in France monuments to Russian soldiers participates in the celebration a large number of enthusiasts, veterans, orchestras, mayors. Attitude to Russian soldiers to Russia's so surprising. I would say exemplary for Europe", - said the Minister.

At the opening ceremony of the monument was performed the national anthems of both countries: the Russian national anthem performed by students of the school at the Russian Embassy in Paris, and the Marseillaise by local schoolchildren. Location of the monument - the commune Kurci near Reims - was not chosen by chance: here in the 1916-1917 was fierce fighting, in which took part soldiers from the Russian Expeditionary Force in France.

115th anniversary of the repose of the Venerable Anastasia of Kiev

April 26 was celebrated the 115th anniversary of the repose of the nun Anastasia Kiev (in the world - the Grand Duchess Alexandra) in the church of Saints Peter and Paul in Znamenka. In the Sunday feast of the Divine Liturgy the Holy Myrrh-bearers was celebrated.

In his sermon the abbot mentioned the works that glorify the Holy representative of the House of Romanov, its "monastic life and live for Christ," about the holiday Myrrhbearers, providentially fell on that date. He congratulated the nurses with the holiday.

After a creative pause adults and children reunited in the church for prayer service to nun Anastasia, then was a performance of children's and youth choir of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Vladimir.

Born Princess of Oldenburg, she became Orthodox, when she married Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich (senior), the son of Emperor Nicholas I. Already in the worldly life Alexandra was an example of charity and compassion - taking care of the sick, helping the poor. On her funds were created Pokrovskaya community of nurses on Vasilyevsky Island with a hospital, an orphanage, a medical center for farmers in the estate Znamenka (Peterhof) and the Grand Duchess arranged 23 shelters for 5,000 orphans.



In 1889, in Kiev, the Grand Duchess founded the Pokrovsky Monastery and secretly took monastic vows with the name of Anastasia. Through the efforts of the nun while in Kiev were built a church, a hospital, organized a shelter for the blind and incurable patients, established an elementary school for orphaned girls. Reverend, being champion of the living - active and compassionate - she assisted in surgery, was on duty at the bedside.

The Grand Duchess was glorified among the saints as St. Anastasia nun of Kiev by Ukrainian Orthodox Church on November 24, 2009.

Russian Museum of Emperor Alexander III - 120 years - congratulations!



120 years ago in St. Petersburg was founded by the Russian Museum of Emperor Alexander III - now the largest collection of Russian art.

The decree "On establishment of a special setting called " Russian Museum of Emperor Alexander III" was signed by Emperor Nicholas II on 25 April (OS 13 April) 1895 - six months after the death of his father.



The main building of the museum is the Mikhailovsky Palace, a former residence of Grand Duke Michael Pavlovich, erected in 1819-25 to a design by Carlo Rossi on Square of Arts in St Petersburg. Upon the death of the Grand Duke the residence was named after his wife as the Palace of the Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna, and became famous for its many theatrical presentations and balls. Other buildings assigned to the Russian museum include the Summer Palace of Peter I (1710–14), the Marble Palace of Count Orlov (1768–85), St Michael's Castle of Emperor Paul (1797–1801), and the Stroganov Palace on Nevsky Prospekt (1752–54).

The Russian Museum of Emperor Alexander III opened on 19 March (OS 7 March) 1898.



"European Orders of Knighthood"

24.04. Kremlin Museums

On 24th April 2015 the 'European Orders of Knighthood' exhibition will be opened in the One-Pillar Chamber of the Patriarch's Palace. This exhibition presents insignia of European Orders of Knighthood, from the collection of the Moscow Kremlin Museums, from the prominent private collection of Andrei Khazin and pieces of insignia of the Order of the Garter from the Royal Collection bestowed upon Emperor Alexander II. The other contributors to this project are the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire (now a part of the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation) which is lending rare documents and the State Historical Museum which is lending portraits of members of the Russian Imperial Family.



The exhibition 'European Orders of Knighthood' introduces visitors to the honours systems of Great Britain, the Austria-Hungarian Empire, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, the Holy See and France. For the first time more than three hundred signs of the highest orders of XVII-XX centuries are exhibited in one exhibition space in Russia.

An important part place of the exhibitions display is the orders of knighthood of Great Britain. The British honors system is one of the oldest in the world, is has existed for six and a half centuries without interruption. The British system has had a significant influence on the development of honors and award systems of the European countries, including the Russian Empire.

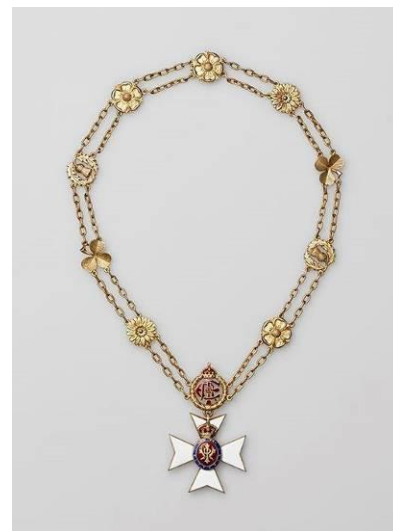
Particular attention is given to the Russian Emperors who were Knights of the Order of the Garter as well as to the dynastic alliance of the Romanovs and the British Royal Family. The appointment of Russian Emperors as Knights of the Order of the Garter reflected the position of the Russian Emperor and the diplomatic and dynastic connections between Russia and Great Britain through the nineteenth century.

First to be appointed, in 1813, at the end of the Napoleonic wars, was Emperor Alexander I. His appointment as a Garter Knight - alongside the sovereigns of the other victorious allies - was an acknowledgement of the contribution of Russia to the defeat of Napoleon.

The insignia of the Order of the Garter of the Emperor Alexander II, who died tragically at the hands of terrorists, are kept with care as part of the British Royal Collection at the behest of Queen Victoria. The insignia, which occupies a central place in the exhibition has been generously lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and returns to Russia for the first time since the revolutionary event.

An important discovery was made while working on the exhibition. It was revealed that in the collection of Andrei Khazin there is an award which once belonged to the last Russian Emperor, Nicholas II - a Royal Victorian Chain, founded in 1902 by King Edward VII of Great Britain as an award of honour reserved for foreign monarchs, princes and heads of state. It was sold by the Bolshevik government after. It was removed from the Armoury Chamber where it was sent from Petrograd with other evacuated imperial possessions, to Gokhran (the State Repository of valuables). By lucky circumstances, nearly a century later it is returning to the Moscow Kremlin to be displayed in the exhibition.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/132743



In Peterhof will open after restoration several updated exhibits

21 April. Interfax.

The director of the Peterhof State Museum Elena Kalnitskaya, told that at the beginning of the summer season - which started 25 April - that in Oranienbaum opens a new museum "Picture House". The museum is in a building built in the XVII century in the Lower Garden of the Grand Menshikov Palace. During the restoration of the building it was returned to its original appearance. The new exposition will partially recreate the picturesque collection Grand Duke Peter Feodorovich.



"June 1st will open the doors to the first five halls of the museum, and on 1 July in the east wing of the museum is scheduled to open the multimedia exhibit "Opera Hall", which reconstructs the court theater in the era of the Prince" - said Kalnitskaya.

May 23rd will open to the public the "front" of Chinese Palace, and on June 18 will be on display exhibits. The restorations in the Chinese palace continues: in the Grand Hall are they currently working on the ceiling painting by Stefano Torelli "The day banishes night" and wall decorations made of artificial marble.

May 30th after restoration reopen the museum "Tsaritsyn Pavilion" and "Olgin Pavilion" on Olgin pond in the park of Peterhof city. This year the exhibition in the pavilions is replenished with new exhibits, acquired by the museum specifically for them - a watercolor from an album of the Grand Duchess, the Queen of Wurttemberg Olga Nikolaevna, depicting the garden at villa Butera in Palermo, as well as a rare book edition "Olivuttsa" composed in honor of stay in Palermo royal family.



June 6 will be opened after restoration an updated exposition of the "Imperial yacht" museum. In the Great Hall of the museum has been decided to create a reconstruction of a cabin in an imperial yacht of the second half of the XIX century, which will be show a set of dresser and two chairs from the yacht "Power" and a table in the "Russian style". It will show the multimedia project - looking out from the window of the museum - visitors can see the waves rocking the boat, and then a chronicle of the life of the imperial family.

The Nicholas Hall exposition will be devoted to the yacht "Standart" and the history of the Imperial Yacht Club. It will provide an inkwell of Tsarevich Alexei, door plates "A. E. Derevenko" (guard of Tsarevich Alexei, he served on the Imperial yacht "Standart"), and the boatswain whistle from the yacht.

In addition to the exhibitions of the museum, in the summer will be host a series of events. So, in early July in the Alexandria Park will be a holiday that includes all elements of the historic carousel: equestrian ballet, a procession of courtiers, live pictures and staged battles. The festivities will go for two days, during which guests can visit a fair with old games and costume rental.

In late August in Alexandria - the first residence of the Romanovs, where there were bicycles, will be held velo-festival. The program includes competitions, Bike show, bike rally, as well as the work of children's playgrounds and shops with interesting fare.

The restored carriage of Empress Catherine II

17 April. Tsarskoye Selo Museum

In the Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" after a long restoration has returned the coach of the XVIII century - one of the carriage of the Empress Catherine II. Work on the rare exhibit was entrusted to the masters of restoration and research association "Phenomenon". Therefore, the coach had to make a trip from St. Petersburg to Moscow and back. This exhibit, kept in museum collections, for the first time visitors can see in the pavilion "Duty stable".



The Four-person carriage made in London (wood, metal, bronze, leather, velvet, kanaus; gilding; 5.15 x 2.10 m) - witness lavish ceremonies of the Russian Imperial Court. Over the past hundred years the coach has experienced many movements and not always kept in ideal conditions. Having lost its luster and finish of the parts coated with a layer of dust, the subject even in this state stood out among the other coaches in the museum fund by its quality, harmony and elegance of execution. Therefore, it was decided to restore it.

In the collection of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" the coach came from the former court stables, whose collection of imperial carriages was disbanded in 1928. In its inventories the coach was listed as a carriage of French work, acquired in 1809 for Tsar Alexander I. However, the design and decor of the crew is more consistent with coaches of the 1760-1780's, and on closer inspection of the rear springs crew discovered a brand «London».

- Unfortunately, we do not know the name of the master, who made this carriage. In addition to the brand «London» on the rear springs of the carriage are no other marks explaining its origin. According

to British colleagues, in the XVIII century stamps marking carriages was not applicable. The registration books, which the guild of carriage master had, was destroyed during the bombing of London in World War II - said custodian of the coaches GMZ "Tsarskoe Selo" Irina Bredikhina.

Both in general terms and in detail, the finishing of the Tsarskoselskaya coach - is a coach analogue to the Berlin (made in Paris in 1763, now in the Kremlin Armory Museum), which was loved by Catherine II. The Tsarskoselskaya coach is made in the style favored by the Empress - "classicism" - thanks to its lightness and elegance and could be useful not only during the coronation festivities, but also during the festivities of the imperial family: christenings, engagement and wedding grand dukes and duchesses and other special occasions Court.

Restoration of the coach lasted one and a half years.

Video - 1) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1395276/>

2) <http://topspb.tv/news/news71066/>

At the "Cottage" palace in Peterhof returned fountain "Nymph on a dolphin"



During the war was dismantled only the nymphs. Because of this it has been preserved and did not require major restoration. The remaining parts were left in place. In the XXI century they were replaced by copies, so now is only the "Nymph on a dolphin" an original part.

On 17 April, returned the "Nymph on a dolphin" to its historic site. The fountain was installed on the terrace of the palace "cottage" in Peterhof in 1849.

Its manufactured in France by order of Emperor Nicholas the First. The Bowl basin has three allegorical sculptures: the eagle - thrust its claws into the wild boar, symbolizes strength; an owl - catch the mouse - justice; and a stork holding a fish - caution.



Video - <http://topspb.tv/news/news71132/>

The Faberge "Jade" egg or "Empire" egg, 1902

The Jade egg is one of the Imperial Easter eggs made by Faberge for Emperor Nicholas II, as a gift to Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna. Location is unknown and it is believed lost - but is it?

According to art historian Valery Skurlov - consultant for the Russian department of auction house Christie's, the evaluator of artistic values of the Ministry of Culture and a scholar of Faberge - it may still exist!

There are a lot of documents that are not disclosed, for example, in Garf (Russian State Archives) is the Torgsin fund. Is the trade organization of the USSR, in 1931-1936 years to buy and sell foreign currency, antiques, jewelry of foreigners and Soviet citizens. Approximately 15% of the cases in the archive fund of Torgsin is still classified.

There are fund the Monetary Authority of the People's Commissariat, which handled in 1922 (93 years ago!) Imperial Easter eggs. To them was transferred 42 Easter eggs. Five years later was only 24 left. Where have the 18 eggs gone over this time?

One of these is the jade egg "Empire", created in 1902 by Faberge on order by Nicholas II - for his mother, Empress Maria Feodorovna. Some critics question its origin, but primarily because of the lack of documented "history of existence" of the work in the years 1922-1995. In the West, it is a very important with a legal purity of origin. And suddenly this subject for some "bloody" history. When an object is worth millions of dollars, to deny such stories, I would not.



I had the egg "Empire" in my hands and is inclined to believe that it is true.

In 1922, this jade egg with a miniature of Emperor Alexander III and two diamonds were still in Russia. Then the traces are lost. These days, it suddenly was announced in 1995 in, to be in an antique shop in St. Petersburg. It was bought from the heirs of a security officer, an old Bolshevik, comrade Schwarz (died in 1951). He was in 1918 chairman of the All-Ukrainian Cheka. However, the egg was without the royal attributes (without crown with

diamonds, without the monogram of the tsar and his wife, and without miniatures).

So why not find the documents for the transfer of this valuable object in the years 1922-1951 to Comrade Schwartz? And to understand in what capacity he received it - as a gift or simply bought at closed sales.

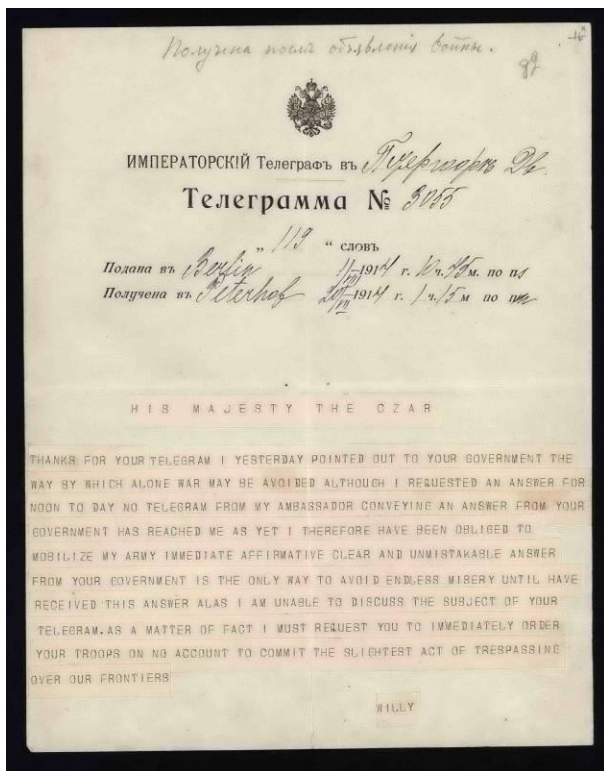
In Serbia started a multimedia exhibition on First World War

April 9, 2015 in the Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade, opened the exhibition "Look in the eye of the war. Russia in World War I in the newsreels, photographs and documents", telling about the exploits and stability of the Russian army.



Prepared specifically for this project, is a series of 15 short documentary films based on unique newsreels, filmed on different front line, interactive thematic panel, a holographic image of the "latest technology" during the First World War, military marches, songs and effects to create a sense of authentic atmosphere on visitors. For the first time in Belgrade is presented unique documents, giving an idea of Russian diplomatic efforts to prevent war, about the fighting and the activities of the Russian Supreme Commander.

Left - Prince Imperial Blood John K. and his wife Princess Serbian Elena. 1911 GA RF



A separate section of the exhibition is devoted to the history of relations between the House of Romanov with the royal house of Karadjordjevic.

This exhibition project is prepared by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Federal Archival Agency of the Russian Federation, the State Archives of the Russian Federation, the State Museum and Exhibition Center "ROSIZO" with the participation of the Russian Historical Society and the Russian military-historical society.

The exhibition in Belgrade continue to work up to 10 May 2015.

Left - Telegram of Kaiser Wilhelm II to Emperor Nicholas II. July 19 / August 1, 1914 SURVEY GA RF



In Kiev could collapse the Mariinsky Palace

8 April.



Architects are sounding the alarm because of the fact that in February of this year were stopped all restoration work in the Mariinsky Palace, and the architectural monument is rapidly destroyed. Dampen walls, crumbling plaster on the outside of the building, brick blocks fall off and elements of the bas-relief and a balcony is about to collapse!

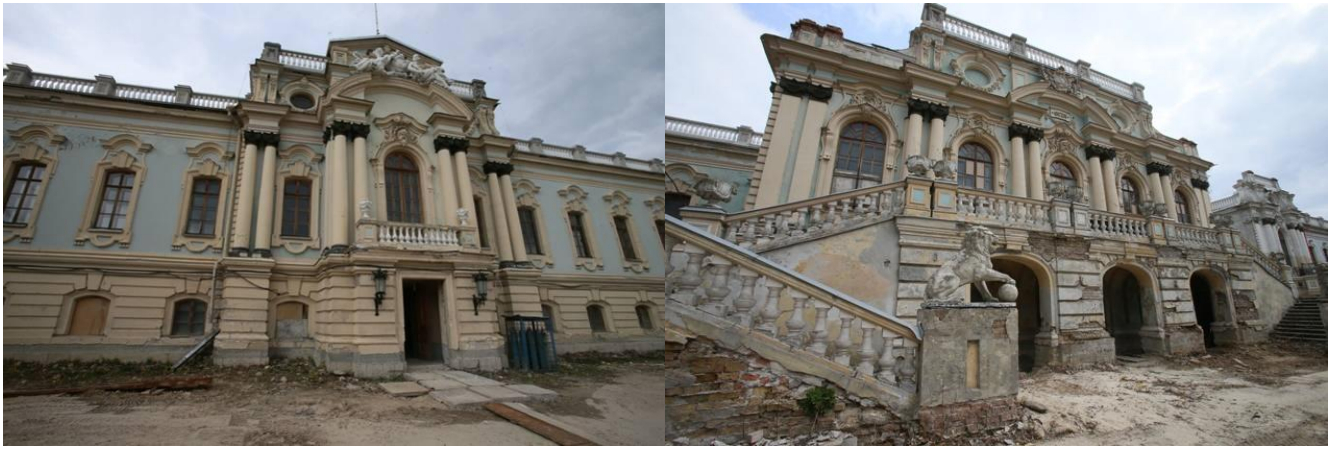
"Because of the crisis in Ukraine has been minimize funding. And, unfortunately, the Mariinsky Palace made the list. Once was approved the budget and public administration affairs appealed to the Ministry of Finance to allocate money for restoration. They promised that after allocation of the budget, to allocate

money. But again it was "forgotten". Therefore, we were forced to suspend all work. But another building pause the Mariinsky Palace will not survive!" - Says Head of Capital Construction and Housing and Utilities Dusi Basil Mozhar.



The issue is price. Restoration of the palace dates back to 2007. But in all that time the work done is only during about 2.5 years. According to the architects, during installation of utilities was broken the integrity of the building. And when the time came to restore, they run out of money, so today the palace is extremely sensitive to atmospheric precipitation. Only 30% of the work was carried out of the needed, amounting to about 240 million UAH - despite the fact that the total cost of restoration at prices in 2012 is 952 million.

"I'm afraid, because of the price changes in the market on building materials, now this amount will exceed one billion. As soon as we renew funding, we in a year and a half will be able to complete all the work," - says Mozhar. For the introduction of the first stage of the palace in 2015 is necessary 300 million.



Mariinsky Palace was built in the Tsar's garden (now - Mariinsky) by order of Empress Elizabeth given in 1744 and completed in 1752. The empress did not have time to visit the palace - the first royal personages to stay in the palace became Catherine II, who visited Kiev in 1787.



The Mariinsky Palace during the visit of the Imperial family, 1911.

The Russian Nobility Ball 2015 in America

The Russian Nobility Association in America will celebrate its thirty-sixth annual Spring ball and its eighty-second year in 2015 with a wonderful evening at the Hotel Pierre in New York. Guests will enjoy an excellent meal, balalaika entertainment by the Barynya Ensemble, and dancing into the night with the famed Alex Donner orchestra.

Please join the Russian Nobility Association at the Annual Spring Ball - May 8, 2015

For more information visit
RNA@russiannobility.org

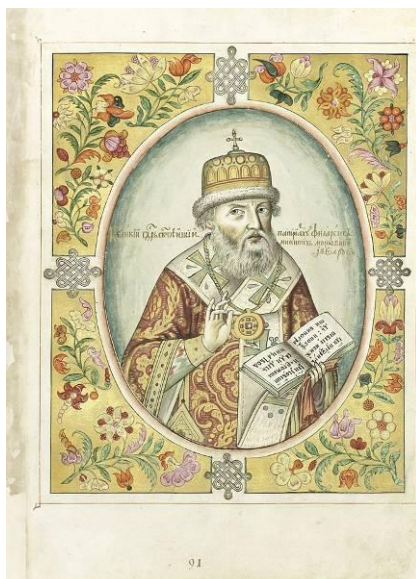
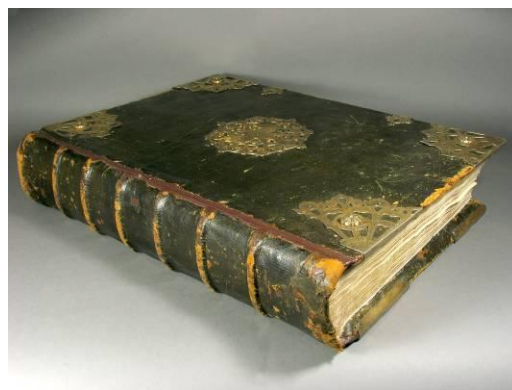


More Russian heritage saved

A multi-year restoration of a unique monument of Russian history and culture - the book "Royal Titulyarnik" from 1672, from the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts is completed in the restoration Center Grabar, largely thanks to the initiative of the artist and restorer Natalia L. Petrova.

"Titulyarnik" was created in 1672 as a gift for the ruling Emperor Alexei Mikhailovich Romanov. After receiving the books it served as the official handbook for diplomatic services. The authors of the text were employees of Ambassadors and the worked on the decoration of the book's was the best artists of the Armory.

The book contains 247 pages, 98 of which are made portraits of the great Russian tsars, patriarchs and foreign rulers, coats of arms of lands and seals.



A silver cup, made in honor of the coronation of Emperor Nicholas I in 1825, renovated in the metal workshop of Center Grabar.

The cup, decorated with stamped ornaments arranged with medallions with portraits of Emperor Nicholas I, and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna, Tsarevich Alexander (II) and four figures of angels.

Monument to Emperor Nicholas II in Livadia is planned

5 April. IOPS

In Livadia has joint efforts of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society (IOPS), the charitable foundation "Revival of Cultural Heritage", Nicholas Berlyukovsky monastery and of the Council of Ministers of Crimea to establish a monument to Emperor Nicholas II.



"Our foundation has decided to give Livadia Palace-Museum a monument of Emperor Holy Passion Nicholas II", - said deputy chairman of the Moscow regional branch of IOPS Alexander Panin.

According to him, the grand opening of the monument to the Holy Passion-bearer Emperor Nicholas II should be in Yalta on May 19, 2015, the birthday of the Emperor and the feast day of St. righteous Job the Suffering.

The project has passed all stages of negotiation. Currently, a monument to the Emperor is ready to be shipped to the Crimea. The Fund is prepared to deliver the monument at its own expense to Yalta and donate it to the Livadia Palace-Museum under the auspices of IOPS.

"This will truly be a major event. Thousands of visitors of this unique cultural reserve will be able to see the monument every day and offer their prayers, think and analyze what happened and what should not happen again," - said Alexander Panin.

"The purpose of this unique and one of a kind alley - to convey to all who visit Berlyukovsky monastery, forgotten pages of our great history. For many years the history of our homeland distorted, life and works of the sovereigns of the Romanov dynasty belittled their exposed tyrants, pampered luxury and think only about their own benefit. It's time to tell the truth about the great victories, accomplishments, and the affairs of the prosperity of the Russian Empire, all that was done under the supervision of the Romanovs, the true and powerful Orthodox country", - said Alexander Panin.

He also reported on the celebrations coming at the monastery in the summer of 2015, when the mall will be opened and installed two new monument - Emperor Nicholas I and Paul I. "These sites are ready and only waiting in the wings to go to our monastery. There is no doubt that this will be a great triumph and an important event for the life of our community", - said Alexander Panin.

Easter eggs. Customs and traditions

State Historical Museum: 03/30/2015 - 04/20/2015

The Easter eggs collection of the State Museum of History started in the late XIX century. It now has about 500 exhibits made of wood, woven from straw, decorated with carvings, paintings, and inlaid. Depending on the method of coloring eggs they are divided into painted ("Eggs") and colored ("Krashenki"). The collection includes artifacts such as an egg, dated 1906, decorated with the monogram of Tsar Alexander I; egg made at the factory "Einem"; and egg with a touching inscription made in ink by hand "28th April 1909. Holy Saturday. Dear sweet Julichka from your loving husband Vladimir".

By tradition, on Easter Sunday staged dances, skating, swing and various games. The most popular form of entertainment was skating with colored eggs over bumps or specially constructed hills. Toy "Red Hill" from the museum's collection is reminiscent of that tradition.

The museum's collection has been actively replenished in the 1960s. After the ban since the revolution of 1917, many of the centers of handicrafts again began to paint eggs. Those years were the heyday of Polkhovsky Maidan and Crutzen, their products are in great demand.

Then, the museum has received more than 200 Easter eggs painted by such famous artists as A.T. Subbotin, A.M. Tsvetkov, M.I. Arbuzov, A.F. Vilko, M.F. Sergeichik, E.I. Kazakov, M.V. Shtyrkova and others. The products are decorated with a kind of naive paintings filled with life and authentic decorations. The end of the 1980s - a new stage in the history of Easter eggs. Return and improved their tradition decoration. Author's painting late XX - early XXI century is an original phenomenon in Russian culture. It is characterized by an unusual variety of subjects, among which are some of the most common: religious, landscape, literature. Often in the decoration of Easter eggs is used traditional techniques and styles. In this direction, the famous Palekh masters work. They connect iconographical motifs with forms of popular souvenir.



Video - <http://mediashm.ru/?p=6812#6812>

Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's paintings on display at Sandringham

In a new exhibition, which opened on 4 April in Sandringham - the country house of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) - is on display flower studies by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister to the last emperor of Russia, Nicholas II, and one Easter table painting by her.

The headlight is however on a previously unseen portrait of Her Majesty The Queen, painted by her husband, Prince Philip.

The painting The Duke of Edinburgh shows The Queen in her younger days, wearing a bright dress and reading a newspaper, presumably at breakfast owing to the bread, and marmalade pictured on the table. He painted The Queen At Breakfast at Windsor Castle in 1965 when his wife was 39 years old.





Prince Philip and The Prince of Wales are keen painters, but the exhibition also features the works of Queen Alexandra, the wife of King Edward VII - She also a had dab hand with a paintbrush and the exhibition will feature a view of Egypt that Alexandra painted while visiting the country in the 1860s. There is also a portrait of Alexandra painted by her Equerry, Major Gen Sir Arthur Ellis.

Not only will Sandringham Museum be putting these paintings on show, but also a whole host of royal memorabilia. The exhibit provides a small glimpse of just how the Royal Family have been living at their Norfolk home for generations. From Edward VIII's 'horseless carriage' to Elizabeth II's last state limo.

Less formal than the royal transport includes George VI's roof rack that he used for his flying rods and a picnic trailer designed by The Duke of Edinburgh.



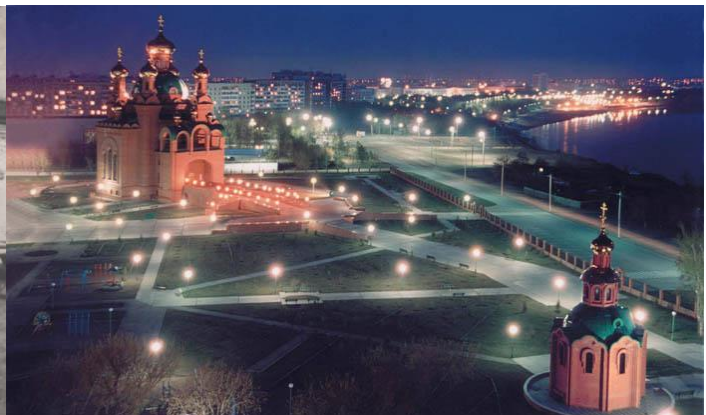
Pavlodar was named after Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich

4 April marks 154 years since Pavlodar was given city status. Few people know that the city was named in honor of the New Martyr, victims of political repression, the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich Romanov. And not after Emperor Paul I, as some historians thinks, who are for the renaming of the city.

In 1860, merchants Koryakovsky and village headman Alexei Poluyanov wrote a petition to the governor in Omsk: it is time to transform the village into a city. The merchants demanded town privileges. Like, you need to expand trade and to build on the Irtysh river vessels.

The merchants, using the fact that in September of that year Emperor Alexander II had a son, Paul, suggested naming the new city Pavlodar. The Emperor liked the idea, and April 4, 1861 came the royal decree - "imperial approval status of the Committee on the construction of the Siberian village Koryakovsky Siberian line Cossack troops on the degree of provincial town, and the name of this city Pavlodar."

Pavlodar is a city located in northeastern Kazakhstan , 450 kilometers north-east of the capital city of Astana , and 405 km south-east of the Russian city of Omsk on the river Irtysh , the administrative Center of Pavlodar region.



In Gatchina Palace is returned sculptures from the collection of Count Orlov



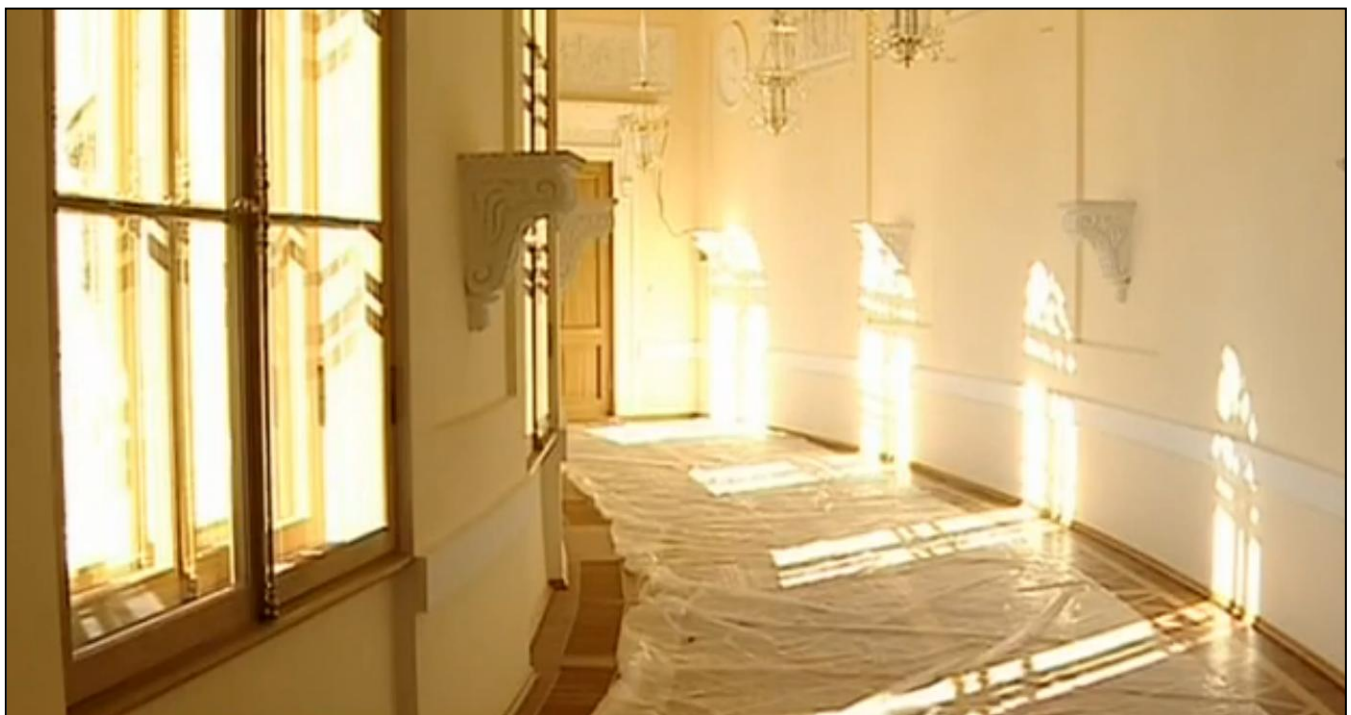
3 April. Kultura

In the Greek gallery of Gatchina Palace has returned sculptures from the collection of the first owner of the residence - Count Orlov. After World War II they were in Pavlovsk. There they have long adorned the public gallery of the palace. The two museums agreed to return the unique collection, as soon as the restoration of the interior of the Gatchina Palace was ready.

In Gatchina the sculptures of the 16 noble men are expected to move to their native Greek gallery Palace. For the first time in the public gallery residence of Count Grigory Orlov they appeared during the reign of Catherine the Great. The Russian court following Europe embraced the fashion for antiquity, and in Italy ordered copies of Roman statues. Among the Italian works of the XVIII century there are real antique works.

At the beginning of the war, most items that adorned the Greek gallery, were not included in the lists of evacuation. The busts remained in the palace - the heavy Romans hid in the basement.

"After the war, they were in a central repository of museum collections in Pavlovsk, and it's only recently, after lengthy negotiations, and in connection with the restoration of the Greek galleries, Pavlovsk passed them in temporary storage", - said the custodian of the sculpture GMZ "Gatchina" Inna Belyaeva.



Together with the busts before the war was the Greek Gallery complemented by medallions XVIII century. In order not to disrupt the unity of their coloristic appearance they were painted over with white paint. Now, after the restoration can be seen all the nuances of fine coinage. Original medallions remains in the museum, but copies will be placed next to the busts at historic places. In the gallery they

are ready for the return of ancient heroes, with fully restored moldings, door and window openings returned to proportions from post-war works.

"When in 2010 I first got here, there were piles of garbage almost to the waist. We started with a staff that scraped debris and carried it away. And no one could imagine, of course, that in five years we will see the Greek gallery in this way" - shared director of the State Museum "Gatchina" Vasily Pankratov. The main scenic decorations of the gallery, paintings by Hubert Robert, will return to the interior in the form of copies, the originals remain in Pavlovsk.

With the completion of the restoration of the marble staircase in Gatchina Palace it is ready to regain the status of the most magnificent in the vicinity of St. Petersburg. In addition to the rich decor, the creation of the architect Roman Kuzmin, surprises with its engineering solutions. This is a unique logistics hub of the residence, allowing to get to all the main interiors of the palace.

With the introduction of this interior in the museum, they can change all sightseeing routes, even the entrance to the palace can be transferred from the area inside the Arsenal Block.

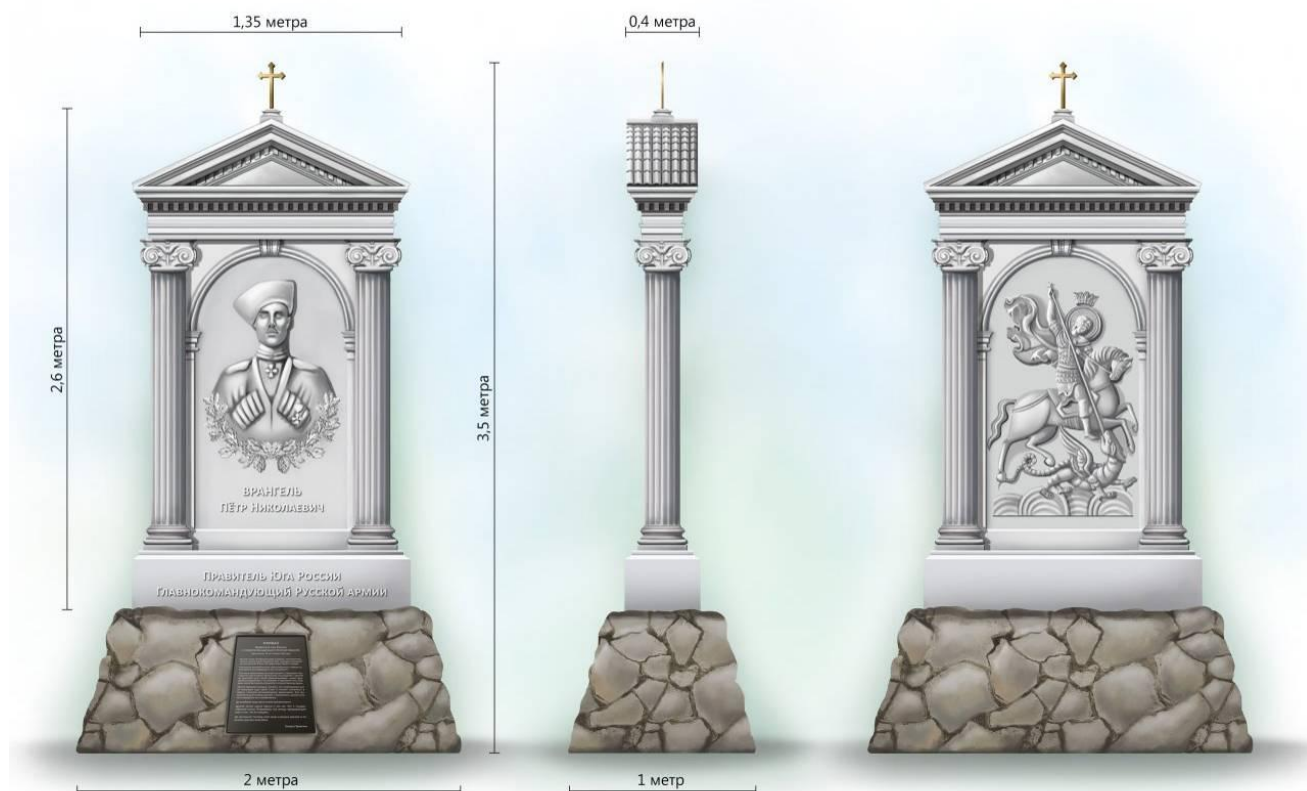
Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/131302

In Kerch will be established a monument to General Wrangel

3 April. Russian Gazette

Kerch city administration and the city council decided to install on the city's waterfront monument to one of the leaders of the White movement during the Civil War, Lieutenant-General Peter Wrangel.

Kerch Union monarchists offered to decorate the square near Seaport with a memorable sign: on the one side - the face of St. George, who guards the Russian and Kerch, on the other - a high relief of Peter Wrangel, that April 4, 1920, new style led the White movement in the south of Russia. Crowned by a memorial Orthodox cross.



The initiative of the monument due to the fact that in 2015 marks the 95th anniversary of the tragedy of the Exodus Russian army from the Crimea.

- When it comes to this event, most people think of the Sevastopol, but the evacuation took place in five ports in Crimea, and the Kerch was the last and took in the ships standing in its harbor, 40 thousand people - told Constantine Khodakovsky one of the initiators of the project and author of the book "Russian Exodus. Kerch. 1920". - Thanks to Commander were shipped every single person, including more than 5,000 soldiers, who could not be evacuated from Feodosia. Few people know that Peter Wrangel remained off the coast of Kerch until he was personally convinced that the loading in the last port was successful.

The most severe trials of the sea crossing befell those who was evacuated from Kerch. Loading began on November 12, but for some reason the first ships of the fleet were not able to hit the road on the coast of the Crimea until the evening of November 18 in storm conditions. The only loss in the Russian Exodus was the destroyer "Live" with several hundred Cossacks on board.

- Many people had to stay more than a week in extremely difficult conditions in the sea transport, - continues Konstantin Khodakovsky. - By the efforts of Peter Nikolaevich was carried out large-scale evacuation and saved from the death tens of thousands of people.

Kerch - is the final and most difficult act of Russian Exodus. Therefore, there should be a monument to a man who did his best to honorably withdraw the army from the disaster situation.

In Kerch, where there are dozens of sites of revolutionary figures and events, the names of the leaders of the White movement is not awarded the same attention. And together with the public authorities we intend to correct this injustice.

- Guide to the attention of the city considered the proposal of public organization "Union of Kerch monarchists" led by Gennady Grigoriev, - said the official website of the Kerch city council. - The is already a cross dedicated to the end of the White Guard and an Ushakov monument in the square. Personality Lieutenant General Baron Wrangel deserves a lot of attention. And his role in the history should be reviewed.



Project and land park is now under development. But the model of the future monument of the sculptor Andrew Klykova and architect Mikhail Pankratov is already presented to the public. The monument project Wrangel in Kerch is supported by member of the Federation Council of the Crimea Sergey Tsekov, People's Artist of Russia Alexander Mikhailov, president of the International Film Festival "Russian abroad" Sergei Zaitsev, and Honored Artist of the Republic of Crimea Konstantin Frolov. Shown in the photos are also some earlier proposals for the monument.

The murderer Stalin

2 April. Pravmir

One third of Russians began to treat the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin with respect, although three years ago about such an attitude had only 21%, according to the survey, "Levada Center".



Here is a summary of what Rector of the Moscow Church of the Trinity in the Trinity-Sergius Golenishchevo Archpriest Pravdolyubov said (Full text in the Russian article):

I'm not ready to understand the detail of the data, because the survey is not always an accurate reflection of reality. Some people are afraid to talk today about his true attitude towards Stalin. Young people know little about the life of this man.

I lived three years under Stalin, was born in 1950 and relate to older people. I want to say that this is one of the most terrible and demonic figures in the history of mankind. Hitler did not kill Germans - not destroyed nor peasants, nor intellectuals nor clergy. He has committed atrocities, but what did Stalin, was indescribable. This figure is beyond the scope of universal existence. He has no right to that on the positive evaluation, he committed a crime against humanity.

If there is the concept of the "Holocaust", if there is the concept of "Holodomor", then there is still no clue as to what happened to the Russian people, the Russian peasantry, with the Russian clergy, intellectuals, Cossacks, an enormous number of completely innocent people. And it is ignored! But this figure - at the level of the Antichrist. Therefore it is impossible to keep him on a par with others.

How can we relate positively to this man - a murderer of millions of people? Blood was shed, the country destroyed. That is why it is so unobtrusive celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Borodino and the 400th anniversary of the Romanov House. And so there is no forgiveness of this terrible, horrific, bloody regime of the time and its leader - the murderer Stalin.

Read the entire article here (In Russian) - <http://www.pravmir.ru/prot-sergij-pravdolyubov-reabilitaciya-stalina-proisxodit-na-glazax/>



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky - 175 anniversary since his birth



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born 7 May 1840, 175 years ago on 7 May 2015!

"1812 Overture", "Romeo and Juliet", "Swan Lake", "Symphony No 6", "Pathétique", "Piano Concerto No 1", "Eugene Onegin", "The Nutcracker", "Violin Concerto", "Souvenir de Florence", "The Sleeping Beauty" - for sure one or all of these you have heard!

The world famous Russian composer, whose works included symphonies, concertos, operas, ballets, chamber music, and a choral setting of the Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy, was

the first Russian composer whose music made a lasting impression internationally.

He bolstered his success with appearances as a guest conductor later in his career in Europe and the United States. One of these appearances was at the inaugural concert of Carnegie Hall in New York City in 1891. Tchaikovsky was honored in 1884 by Emperor Alexander III, and awarded a lifetime pension in the late 1880s.

Despite his many popular successes, Tchaikovsky's life was punctuated by personal crises and depression. Contributory factors included his leaving his mother for boarding school, his mother's early death, as well as that of his close friend and colleague Nikolai Rubinstein, and the collapse of the one enduring relationship of his adult life, his 13-year association with the wealthy widow Nadezhda von Meck. His sudden death at the age of 53 is generally ascribed to cholera.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, a small town in Vyatka Governorate (present-day Udmurtia) in the Russian Empire. His family had a long line of military service. His father, Ilya Petrovich Tchaikovsky, was an engineer who served as a lieutenant colonel in the Department of Mines, and manager of the Kamsko-Votkinsk Ironworks.



Tchaikovsky had four brothers (Nikolai, Ippolit, and twins Anatoly and Modest), a sister, Alexandra and a half-sister Zinaida from his father's first marriage. Tchaikovsky took piano lessons from the age of five. A precocious pupil, he could read music as adeptly as his teacher within three years. His parents were initially supportive, hiring a tutor, buying an orchestrion (a form of barrel organ that could imitate elaborate orchestral effects), and encouraging his study of the piano for both aesthetic and practical reasons. Nevertheless, the family decided in 1850 to send Tchaikovsky to the Imperial School of Jurisprudence in Saint Petersburg.

On 10 June 1859, the 19-year-old Tchaikovsky graduated with the rank of titular counselor. Appointed five days later to the Ministry of Justice, he became a junior assistant within six months and a senior assistant two months after that.

In 1861, Tchaikovsky attended classes in music theory taught by Nikolai Zarembo at the Mikhailovsky Palace (now the Russian Museum) in Saint Petersburg. These classes were organized by the Russian Musical Society (RMS), founded in 1859 by the Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna (a German-born aunt of Tsar Alexander II) and her protégé, pianist and composer Anton Rubinstein. The aim of the RMS was to foster native talent, in accordance with Alexander II's stated intent. Previous tsars and the aristocracy had focused almost exclusively on importing European talent. The RMS fulfilled Alexander

It's wish by promoting a regular season of public concerts (previously held only during the six weeks of Lent when the Imperial Theaters were closed) and providing basic professional training in music. The classes held at the Mikhailovsky Palace were a precursor to the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, which opened in 1862. Tchaikovsky enrolled at the Conservatory as part of its premiere class but held on to his Ministry post until the following year, wanting to make sure his course lay in music.

After graduating from the Conservatory, Tchaikovsky briefly considered a return to public service due to pressing financial needs. However, Rubinstein's brother Nikolai offered the post of Professor of Music Theory at the soon-to-open Moscow Conservatory. The offer itself boosted Tchaikovsky's morale and he accepted the post eagerly. He was further heartened by news of the first public performance of one of his works, his Characteristic Dances, conducted by Johann Strauss II at a concert in Pavlovsk Park on 11 September 1865.

Tchaikovsky lived as a bachelor most of his life. In 1877, at the age of 37, he wed a former student, Antonina Miliukova. The marriage was a disaster and lasted for only two and a half months before Tchaikovsky left.

Tchaikovsky was homosexual. He remained aware of the negative consequences should knowledge of his orientation become public. Nevertheless, many of his colleagues, especially those closest to him, may have either known or guessed his true sexual nature.

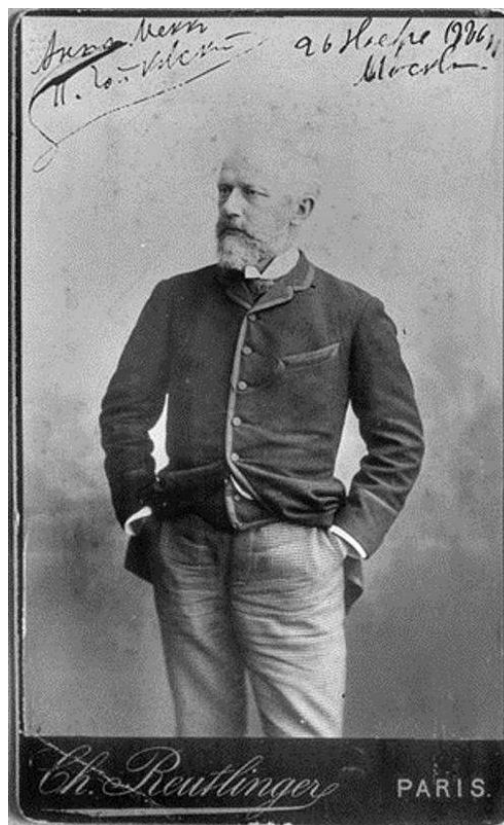
Tchaikovsky and Emperor Alexander III

In 1880, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour neared completion in Moscow; the 25th anniversary of the coronation of Alexander II in 1881 was imminent; and the 1882 Moscow Arts and Industry Exhibition was in the planning stage. Nikolai Rubinstein suggested a grand commemorative piece for association with these related festivities. Tchaikovsky began the project in October 1880, finishing it within six weeks. He wrote to Nadezhda von Meck that the resulting work, the 1812 Overture, would be "very loud and noisy, but I wrote it with no warm feeling of love, and therefore there will probably be no artistic merits in it." He also warned conductor Eduard Nápravník that "I shan't be at all surprised and offended if you find that it is in a style unsuitable for symphony concerts." Nevertheless, this work has become for many "the piece by Tchaikovsky they know best."

Following the assassination of Emperor Alexander II in March 1881, Emperor Alexander III succeeded to the Russian throne. For the coronation celebrations in May 1883, Tchaikovsky was commissioned to write a festival cantata - entitled Moscow - and a Coronation March for orchestra.

The March was commissioned by the Mayor of the City of Moscow for a public performance in Sokolniki Park, at the coronation celebrations of Alexander III in May 1883. Tchaikovsky received the commission while in Paris, where he was busy with the instrumentation of his opera Mazepa, and he protested his great displeasure at being forced to interrupt this work. However, he began composition on 5/17 March, according to the date in the notebook containing sketches for the march and the cantata Moscow, which had been separately commissioned.

On 9/21 March 1883 Tchaikovsky he wrote to Nadezhda von Meck - *"My plans have been upset by two unexpected and very burdensome tasks foisted upon me. The city of Moscow have commissioned from me a ceremonial march to be played at the festivities which are to be organized for the Sovereign at the Sokolniki... Hardly had I managed to reconcile myself to the thought that I must tear myself away from the opera for the march, when suddenly I received a*



letter from the festival committee about a cantata. Both works, especially the cantata, have to be ready very soon, a prospect which fills me with dread".

In a letter he told - "The march should be ready within ten days. This goes very much against my instincts, because I am generally not disposed to composition, and what's more, I have had to set aside my poor unfinished opera for this".

In another letter he reported that: "I am now simultaneously writing the March and the cantata... My days are spent as follows: in the morning until 12 o'clock I write the march; after a stroll, from 2.30 to 6.30 I write the cantata..."

By around 21 March/2 April both the cantata Moscow and the Coronation March had been completed in sketch form, and Tchaikovsky had commenced the orchestration of both works.

On 23 March/4 April Tchaikovsky told - *"I have finished the march, and will look through it once more and send it in a few days".*

The Coronation March was performed for the first time on 23 May/4 June 1883 in the Sokolniki Park in Moscow, conducted by Sergey Taneyev. In Saint Petersburg on 29 December 1884/10 January 1885 it was performed under the title Festival March, in the fourth symphony concert of the Russian Musical Society, conducted by Hans von Bülow.

Tchaikovsky also conducted the March at the opening concert of the Carnegie Music Hall in New York, on 23 April/5 May 1891.



Emperor Alexander III greatly admired Tchaikovsky's music, and members of the Imperial family frequently attended Tchaikovsky's operas and ballets, buying up new editions of Tchaikovsky's music to play at home.

Tchaikovsky had actually already in 1866, for the forthcoming celebrations of the marriage of the heir to the Imperial Throne, Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich, and the Danish Princess Dagmar (later Tsar Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna, dedicated a musical piece to him - The Festival Overture on the Danish National Anthem, Op. 15. Tchaikovsky wrote his Festival Overture between September and November 1866 in Moscow. It was commissioned from Tchaikovsky by Nikolay Rubinstein.

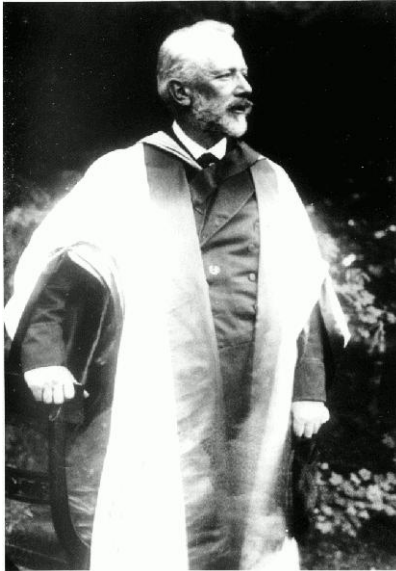
Whether the Overture was performed at the wedding has not been established. However, by this time it had already been performed in Moscow, in the Hall of the Nobles' Society, at a concert in aid of families of the victims of the war in Crete, conducted by Nikolay Rubinstein.

Regarding the dedication of the work, Tchaikovsky wrote in 1892: *"The "Danish Overture" was once dedicated to the heir to the throne, and I received some jewelled cufflinks, which I immediately sold for half a kopek to Dubuque. This was so long ago that I don't remember the how and why...."*

The London première of the Overture took place at a concert in the Queen's Hall on 3/15 June 1898, conducted by Henry Wood. This was possibly the first performance to include the revisions Tchaikovsky made in 1892.

44 years old, in 1884, Tchaikovsky began to shed his unsociability and restlessness. In March of that year, Tsar Alexander III conferred upon him the Order of St. Vladimir (fourth class), which carried with it hereditary nobility and won Tchaikovsky a personal audience with the Tsar. This was a visible seal of official approval which advanced Tchaikovsky's social standing. This advance may have been cemented in the composer's mind by the great success of his Orchestral Suite No. 3 at its January 1885 premiere in Saint Petersburg, under von Bülow's direction, at which the press was unanimously favorable. Tchaikovsky wrote to von Meck: *"I have never seen such a triumph. I saw the whole audience was moved, and grateful to me. These moments are the finest adornments of an artist's life. Thanks to these it is worth living and laboring."*

In 1885 the Tsar requested a new production of Eugene Onegin to be staged at the Bolshoi Kamenny Theatre in Saint Petersburg. (Its only other production had been by students from the Conservatory.) By having the opera staged there and not at the Mariinsky Theatre, he served notice that Tchaikovsky's music was replacing Italian opera as the official imperial art. In addition, thanks to Ivan Vsevolozhsky, Director of the Imperial Theaters and a patron of the composer, Tchaikovsky was awarded a lifetime annual pension of 3,000 rubles from the Tsar. This made him the premier court composer, in practice if not in actual title.



In January 1887 Tchaikovsky substituted at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow at short notice for performances of his opera Cherevichki. Within a year of the Cherevichki performances, Tchaikovsky was in considerable demand throughout Europe and Russia, which helped him overcome life-long stage fright and boosted his self-assurance. Conducting brought him to America in 1891, where he led the New York Music Society's orchestra in his Festival Coronation March at the inaugural concert of Carnegie Hall.

In 1888 Tchaikovsky led the premiere of his Fifth Symphony in Saint Petersburg, repeating the work a week later with the first performance of his tone poem Hamlet.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky was voted a member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts in France, only the second Russian subject to be honored so (the first was sculptor Mark Antokolski). The following year, the University of Cambridge in England awarded Tchaikovsky an honorary Doctor of Music degree.

Tchaikovsky and Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich

Tchaikovsky was introduced to the Grand Duke at a soirée given by Vera Butakova in Saint Petersburg on 19/31 March 1880, and they maintained a significant correspondence throughout the composer's remaining years. One evening during his stay in Saint Petersburg in the spring of 1880, while he was visiting in the home of his long-time friend Vera Davydova, now married to Vice-Admiral Ivan Butakov, Vera suddenly told him that Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich desired to meet him and had asked her to arrange it. Six days later he and the grand duke did meet, as described in a letter to Nadezhda von Meck on 20 March/2 April 1880:

"Yesterday I had to suffer quite roundly. Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolayevich has a son Konstantin Konstantinovich. He is a young man of twenty-two, passionately in love with music and very fond of mine. He wished to make my acquaintance and asked a friend of mine, the wife of Admiral Butakov, to arrange a soirée at which we might meet. Knowing my dislike of crowds and high society, he requested that the evening be intimate, without white tie or tails. It was quite impossible to decline. But the young man proved to be extremely pleasant and very gifted in music. We sat from nine o'clock until two in the morning talking about music. He composes quite nicely, but unfortunately does not have the time to work at it persistently."

Grand Duke Konstantin also recorded his meeting with the composer in his diary:

"I spent a delightful evening at Vera Vasilyevna Butakova's. She had promised to acquaint me with Tchaikovsky, our best composer, and invited him. Also present were his brother Anatoly, Apukhtin, and [Prince] Shcherbatov. Pyotr Ilyich looks like a man of thirty-five, though his face and greying hair make him seem older. He is not very tall, quite thin, with a short beard and meek, intelligent eyes. His gestures, way of talking, and indeed his whole appearance show him to be an extremely well brought up, educated, and nice person. He studied at the School of Jurisprudence, was very unhappy in his family life, and now devotes himself exclusively to music.... They got me to play; I very much wanted to play a song by Tchaikovsky, but I was afraid. His brother sings; I accompanied him in A Tear Trembles, then I played None But the Lonely Heart and afterwards also a romance in B-flat minor. P. Tchaikovsky was asked to play something from his new, not yet published opera The Maid of Orleans, and he sat

down at the piano and played the prayer chorus. We were all in raptures about the wonderful music... After supper, Apukhtin recited a few more of his own verses. We broke up at two [in the morning]. Tchaikovsky made the most agreeable impression on me."

Just two days after the soirée at Vera Butakova's, Tchaikovsky spent an evening with the young man's father, Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolayevich, brother of the tsar and president of the Russian Musical Society, whom he found "very affectionate and pleasant".

On 30 March/11 April, a few days before leaving the capital, he saw the younger Grand Duke Konstantin once more and again the two talked long into the night. A special bond, suggesting a degree of "elective affinity", was established between the two men, demonstrated after their second meeting by the grand duke's extraordinary proposal that Tchaikovsky accompany him on a planned voyage round the world. Loath to give up his freedom for the confinement of a cabin aboard ship for three years and uneasy about the inevitable strain of being continually in such august company, Tchaikovsky declined the tempting offer. But the mutual sympathy of composer and grand duke would grow and continue until the end of Tchaikovsky's life. "I am utterly charmed," he wrote to Modest on 3/15 April, "by this uncommonly likeable person". Grand Duke Konstantin for his part was also delighted by the opportunity to continue their acquaintance. "I parted from Tchaikovsky with visible mutual cordiality, just as if we had been acquainted and on friendly terms for a long time," he noted in his diary after their second meeting. "His short-sighted eyes glistened with a kind and affectionate light".

In early March 1881 Tchaikovsky was in Rome and also at this time, visiting the Italian capital during a cruise of the Mediterranean with two of his cousins, was the composer's august young friend Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich. Upon learning that Tchaikovsky had arrived in the city, Konstantin had wished to see him at once, and so the very next day after his arrival Tchaikovsky found both himself and the grand duke guests at a luncheon at the home of the Russian aristocrat Count Bobrinsky. Then, before he knew it, he found himself invited to dine the following afternoon, on 22 February/6 March, at the Villa Sciarra, where Konstantin was staying with his cousins, the Grand Dukes Sergey and Pavel Alexandrovich, the two younger sons of the reigning Emperor Alexander II. Tchaikovsky was presented to Sergey and Pavel, and his most august hosts treated him "extremely kindly, affectionately, and attentively." Finding all three grand dukes "very friendly."

On 24 February/8 March, at the dinner at Bobrinsky's in white tie and tails Grand Duke Konstantin, himself an amateur musician and composer, played a lot. The assembled guests also called upon Tchaikovsky to play, as well as trying to draw him into conversations about music, something that he always hated. So friendly had he and the young Konstantin now grown that the grand duke asked Tchaikovsky to call him simply by the familiar diminutive "Kostya." The three Russian imperial ships aboard which the grand dukes were travelling were anchored at Naples, and on 28 February/12 March, Tchaikovsky headed there to tour the ships and to rest from the bustle of Rome. In Naples there was talk of having the composer accompany the grand dukes to Athens and Jerusalem. But this was not to be. From Saint Petersburg on 1/13 March 1881 arrived the tragic news of the assassination of Alexander II, killed with a bomb by members of the radical group called the People's Will. The grand dukes left for Saint Petersburg at once.

From 19/31 August to 8/20 September 1886 Tchaikovsky composed the Twelve Romances, Op. 60, which he dedicated to Empress Maria Feodorovna. Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich had agreed to act as his intermediary in requesting the Empress to accept this dedication. Since their meeting in



Italy in the spring of 1881 Tchaikovsky and the grand duke had recently met again in Saint Petersburg on 18/30 March 1886, at a soirée in the house of Yuliya Abaza, a singer and the wife of one of the tsar's ministers. The official permission for this dedication was duly granted, and in his reply the grand duke informed Tchaikovsky: "Her Majesty has commanded me to thank you most warmly for the romances, which she found to be 'delightful'". As a further token of her gratitude, the Empress, in March 1887, sent Tchaikovsky "her inscribed portrait in a magnificent frame". Once again he was deeply moved by the imperial attention.



In a letter to Nadezhda von Meck on 10/22 November 1886 Tchaikovsky informed her about his contacts with the court:

"In the highest spheres, apart from the Sovereign and the Empress, who are favourably disposed towards me, I have one particular, special patron, namely Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich. During this stay in Petersburg I saw him quite frequently and called on him. His personality is uncommonly charming. He is a talented poet and quite recently, under the nom-de-plume K. R., a poetry volume of his has been published which is having great success and has had praise lavished on it by all the newspaper and journal critics. He is also devoted to music and has composed several very nice songs. His wife is a very attractive young woman, who, among other things, is notable for the fact that within just two years she has learned to speak and read Russian completely fluently. Despite all my shyness, especially with people from the high spheres, I felt entirely at ease in the midst of these most likeable august individuals and I derived genuine pleasure from my conversation with them".

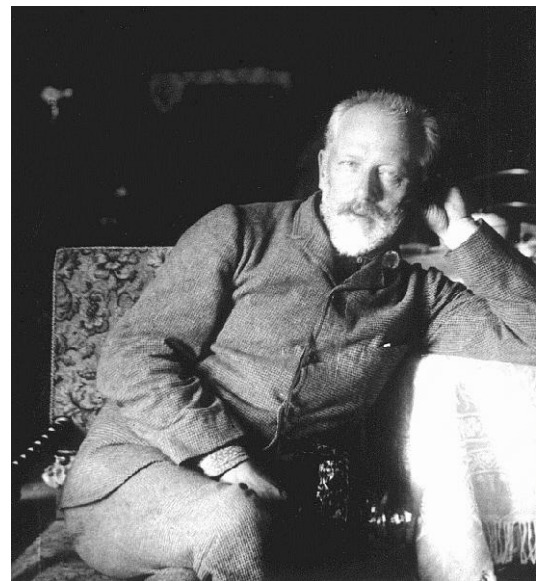
Although they had exchanged letters before, it was in the autumn of 1886 that Tchaikovsky and his "special patron," Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich, began their active correspondence, which would last seven years, right up to Tchaikovsky's death. The Six Romances, Op. 63, and the chorus Blessed is He Who Smiles, both written in late 1887, were settings of verses by the grand duke. In his library Tchaikovsky had three volumes of poetry by his august friend, two of them with personal inscriptions. The second of these, published in 1886, contains many sketches and notes in the margins which reflect the composer's work on the six romances. In October 1889, in one of his regular letters from Grand Duke Konstantin, Tchaikovsky received a poem that the grand duke had dedicated to him, "O people, you often wounded me so painfully". Reading it, Tchaikovsky felt a feeling "of proud consciousness that a splendid poem... had been created in part as a result of my letters of last year".

The correspondence between Tchaikovsky and the grand duke had, as Tchaikovsky confided to Nadezhda von Meck at one point, grown "very lively". Konstantin often sent his poems to Tchaikovsky for his opinion of them. Of one such poem, entitled "St. Sebastian", Tchaikovsky wrote to Mrs. von Meck that he had "praised it on the whole, but frankly criticized certain particulars." The grand duke was not in the least offended, on the contrary. "He was very pleased by this [criticism], but defended himself," Tchaikovsky continued in that letter to his benefactress. "And in this way an entire correspondence has sprung up which depicts this man in an uncommonly attractive light. He is not only talented and intelligent, but also surprisingly modest, full of selfless devotion to art and of the noble ambition to distinguish himself not in [military] service, which would be so easy, but in the artistic sphere. He is also a splendid musician—altogether, an exceptionally likeable person".

The correspondence between Tchaikovsky and his "special patron" was distinguished not only by a genuine amicability but also by an intellectual level rarely matched in Tchaikovsky's letters, apart from those written to select musical colleagues and to Mrs. von Meck. His letters to the grand duke contain numerous comments on his own work and the creative process and, in the several letters addressed to K.R. the poet, interesting opinions about versification, verse forms, and poetic genres. In his letter of October 1889, Konstantin wrote also that the tsar continued to take an interest in his work and had in fact recently asked Konstantin whether he could play any new works by the composer. "The news that His Majesty has deigned to inquire about me pleases me deeply!!!" responded Tchaikovsky with enthusiasm on 29 October/10 November. *"How to interpret His Majesty's question about small pieces? If it is an indirect encouragement for me to compose such pieces, then I shall devote myself to them at the first opportunity."* But he had in mind also a far more ambitious project, worthy of an increasingly loyal subject. *"I should like terribly to write some grandiose symphony, which would be, as it were, the crowning of my entire creative career, and to dedicate it to His Majesty,"* he told the grand duke. *"A vague plan for such a symphony has been floating around in my head for a long time, but a confluence of many favourable circumstances is needed for my design to be carried out. I hope not to die without having fulfilled this intention".*

Grand Duke Konstantin was present in the audience at the Hall of the Nobility during the première of the Sixth Symphony in Saint Petersburg on 16/28 October 1893, and later that evening confided to his diary his impressions of the symphony: "I liked it very much. The introductory Adagio is very sombre and mysterious, and it sounds charming. It transforms into an Allegro which has beautiful passages. The second movement Allegro con grazia is written in 5/8 or 5/4 and it is very lucid and good. The third movement, a kind of Scherzo, has a loud march at the end. And the Finale in the tempo Adagio; it has passages reminiscent of a funeral service. I saw Tchaikovsky in the interval".

On 23 October/4 November 1893, Grand Duke Konstantin noted in his diary: "I was told that P[yotr] I[lyich] Tchaikovsky has a true Asiatic cholera that began on Thursday and that he is now in a very dangerous condition. His nephew [Bob] Davydov is serving as a volunteer in the 4th company. I am very worried about Pyotr Ilyich". The next morning, Sunday, 24 October/5 November, he sent Modest a telegram: *"The Grand Duchess and I are very much concerned about Pyotr Ilyich. We would sincerely appreciate any known information regarding his state of health. Please accept my apologies for this awkward request. Konstantin"*. The next day Modest sent a telegram to Grand Duke Konstantin informing him of the composer's death. *"Pyotr Ilyich died at three o'clock this morning"*, Konstantin wrote in his diary moments after receiving the telegram. *"My heart bleeds. I loved him and respected him as a musician. We were good and genuine friends, and I shall miss him"*.



The grand duke immediately wired a message of condolence to Modest from himself and his wife: "This is painfully heart-rending. With deep sorrow we mourn the loss of Pyotr Ilyich. We had long ago come to love him sincerely. May the Lord rest his soul and send comfort to you. Konstantin. Yelizaveta". Later that day, Konstantin added in his diary: *"For a long time I could not recover after having received the grievous news about Tchaikovsky's death. Another person in the treasury of Russian art is no more. I corresponded with him and I possess not a few of his letters"*. The next day, while at the tsar's residence of Gatchina, near Saint Petersburg, Konstantin noted: *"Yesterday morning I was not really myself. I kept lamenting the untimely death of Tchaikovsky. Everyone was struck by it... I tried to write a poem on Tchaikovsky's death, but nothing worked out... The Emperor and the Empress are very upset by the death of Tchaikovsky"*.

Emperor Alexander III personally decreed that Tchaikovsky should be given a state funeral.

The funeral service was attended by Grand Duke Konstantin, Prince Alexander of Oldenburg, Government Council member Nikolay Stoyanovsky, Count Vorontsov-Dashkov, other high-ranking officials, and many figures from the musical and artistic world, and men of letters.

The grand duke recorded his impressions in his diary:

"Yesterday was one month after I received Tchaikovsky's last letter, and now he is already buried. I intentionally went to the city so that I could attend a funeral mass in the Kazan Cathedral... The church was full, only those who had tickets were admitted. For a long while I had not witnessed so solemn a liturgy. They sang the Credo and We Hymn Thee from the liturgy composed by the deceased. I wanted to cry and thought that the dead one could not help hearing his own music that accompanied him to the world beyond. I could not see his face, the coffin was sealed. It was painful, and sad, and solemn, and good in the Kazan Cathedral".



Tchaikovsky died only 53 years old. He was interred in Tikhvin Cemetery at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, near the graves of fellow-composers Alexander Borodin, Mikhail Glinka, and Modest Mussorgsky; later, Rimsky-Korsakov and Balakirev were also buried nearby.

While Tchaikovsky's death has traditionally been attributed to cholera, most probably contracted through drinking contaminated water several days earlier from the local river.

Tchaikovsky was a pioneer in several ways. He became the first full-time professional Russian composer. This allowed him the time and freedom to consolidate the Western compositional practices he had learned at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory with Russian folk song and other native musical elements to fulfill his own expressive goals and forge an original, deeply personal style.

Tchaikovsky also encouraged himself to reach beyond Russia with his music. His exposure to Western music encouraged him to think it belonged not just to Russia but to the world at large. This mindset made him think seriously about Russia's place in European musical culture - the first Russian composer to do so. It steeled him to become the first Russian composer to personally acquaint foreign audiences with his own works, as well as those of other Russian composers.



The State Hermitage Museum, which celebrated last year its 250th anniversary was victorious in the nomination "Museum of the Year". This was announced at a ceremony held on Thursday 2 April at the Central Exhibition Hall "Manezh". Hermitage also claimed the award in the category "Exhibition of the Year" for the European Biennial of "Manifesto".

Russian businessman Viktor Vekselberg, who returned to Russia the second largest after the Kremlin Museum's collection of imperial Easter eggs and opened in St. Petersburg "Museum of Faberge", received an award in the category "Personal contribution".

Award "Restoration of the Year" was awarded Gury Nikitin for his work on frescoes in the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral in Suzdal.



The Exhibition "Royal funny lights. Culture festival in Russia XVIII century" in the State Museum-Reserve "Tsaritsyno" (28/02/2015 - 19/05/2015) has made a guide to the exhibition which can be downloaded from their web site -http://www.tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/2015/royal_amusing_fires_music/royal_amusing_fires_leaflet.pdf



Tsarevich Alexei's puppet theater is now on display in Tsarskoye Selo. Before returning home to the Alexander Palace, the puppet theater has come a long way. In 1931 it came to the Museum of Toys in Sergiev Posad, then it was transferred to the Museum of the Moscow theater Obraztsova. There more than 80 years no one knew its value. Establish his royal descent came about by accident. In 2007, for the shooting of a movie props was needed. Gordei Saltykov, Head of Museum Puppet Theatre SV Obraztsova: "An artist and restorer found a tag. Alexander Palace, Tsarevich theater - a lucky ticket for the Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo". After long negotiations and manufacturing an exact copy of the screen and seven puppets, the theater Obraztsova passed the originals to Alexander Palace.

Olga Taratynova, director of the Museum "Tsarskoye Selo": "We have friends in Paris, and we will try through them to learn the fate of the archive store. Most likely, it have been preserved and in France are stored."

Video - <http://topspb.tv/news/news69853/>



A rare video - "Bicentennial anniversary of Poltava battle", shot by J. Meyer. Produced by A.A. Khanzhonkov. Poltava, 27-28 June 1909. Tsar Nicholas II with retinue and guard of honor. Among those present: Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, V.B. Fredericks, V.A. Sukhomlinov, General N.I. Ivanov. Poltava head A.A. Chernenko presents the Tsar "bread and salt", among those present P.A. Stolypin, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, Prince P.A. Oldenburg. Prayer on the burial mound "Mass grave." Nicholas II was talking to the Metropolitan of Kiev and Galicia Flavian, accompanied by V.B. Fredericks, Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, Duke G.G. Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Nicholas II, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, P.K. Benkendorf, V.N. Orlov come out of the station building in Poltava. Nicholas II in Petrovsky Boulevard at the opening ceremony of the monument to the commandant of Poltava A.S. Kelin. Nicholas II, accompanied by Grand Duke Nicholas, Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, P.A. Stolypin, V.B. Fredericks bypasses the ranks of the peasants of Poltava province. Nicholas II accompanied by a retinue goes to the monument of Fame in Alexander Garden to lay a wreath.

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



Easter is a magical time of year, bringing to mind chicks, bunnies, and of course, Easter eggs. The Easter eggs that collectors drool over are the coveted Fabergé Eggs from Russia. For those of us who can't get our hands on an authentic Fabergé Egg, there is a close second. Fabergé Egg coins depict some of the elegance and grace of the priceless Russian ornaments without the astronomical price tag. Cook Islands have issued a series of \$2 and \$5 called "Imperial Fabergé Eggs", featuring several coins depicting exquisite Fabergé Eggs - The Lily of the Valley, Pansy Egg, Coronation Egg, Tsarevich Egg, Clover Leaf Egg, Rosebud Red and Bay Tree Egg.

Fabergé Egg Coins



Recently was also introduced the new coins - egg "Alexander Palace". The Jade Easter gift was made for Empress Alexandra Feodorovna in 1908. The egg is decorated with miniature portraits of the Romanov children and the couple framed in diamonds. Located inside the egg was a model of the Alexander Palace of precious metal, rock crystal, which is mounted on a gold table. Now the egg is part of the collections of the Museum of the Moscow Kremlin. Obverse: Portrait of the British monarch, topped with ornate semicircular frame. Near guises stamped mark "MD Poland". Under it is cut the name of Her Majesty - "ELIZABETH II". At the top is marked issuer - "NIUE ISLAND". To the left is the face value - "1 DOLLAR", to the right - the year - "2015". The lower area is decorated with the shown the egg within a basket of flowers inside. Under it is stamped data on the metal / sample - "Ag 999". Reverse: A color image of the egg "Alexander Palace", on top is engraved the coat of arms of the Russian Empire. In the bottom is coined name of the series - "Imperial Faberge Eggs". Specifications circulation oval coins: Denomination: \$ 1. Shape: oval. Metal: Sterling Silver (999). Dimensions: 29.2 x 39 mm. Quality: proof. Claimed weight: 16.81 gr. Volume: 1999 units.



Romanov News have shown it before, but here is a video (In English) with the legendary Yuri Shishoff telling about how he was inspired by the Faberge egg "Pinecone" from 1900, and created a magnificent guitar Fender Stratocaster Pine Cone in gold and diamonds. The unique electric Faberge & Fender Stratocaster Pine Cone will be auctioned. Its estimated cost is more than \$ 1 million.

"Appearance pays tribute to the bright lights of the old skill of jewelers who created their masterpieces at the turn of 19-20 centuries. The design was made in 3D, and then translated into reality. Body of the guitar is carved from maple and covered with pure silver with gold of 18 carat gold. Extra shine and beauty of this tool underscore the 550 inlaid diamonds, which are also used to decorate the knobs and switches," tells its creator Yuri Shishoff.

The Brilliant debut of the electric Faberge & Fender Stratocaster Pine Cone was held in Anaheim, California, one of the world's largest exhibitions of musical instruments and equipment NAMM Show 2015.

Video - <http://libymax.ru/?p=73251>





One of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna's Easter paintings is listed by "Russian Between The Headlines" as one of the best Easter paintings in Russian art.....

See them all here -

http://rbth.com/multimedia/2015/04/10/easter-paintings_94405



In March 2015, in the build-up to Easter, Fabergé took over four of the windows in famous Harrods store in London, the centrepiece being a giant, interactive 3D egg. Visitors were able to choose their favourite pattern and see their chosen pattern projected onto the egg. The technology used large amounts of light on relatively small areas, making it visible in daylight.

Video - 1) <https://vimeo.com/122094372>

2) <https://vimeo.com/122968869>



For the Easter holidays in Pärnu Museum opened the exhibition "The most famous Easter eggs".

The exhibition shows Easter eggs from various Estonian museums, introducing a thousand years old Easter egg, Fabergé eggs, Easter eggs made by Hutsuls and many more, made of gold, silver, jade, agate and clay.... The exhibition celebrated the 750th Anniversary of Pärnu's council right, which was given at Easter time in 1265. The exhibition was open for only two weeks, from 5th to 19th April 2015.



The decision on recreating the monasteries in the Kremlin is still not taken. The final decision will take the leadership of the country, said in an interview managing director of the President of the Russian Federation's office Alexander Kolpakov. "I would like to immediately recall and clarify - in the well-known initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, it was primarily about the revival of the historic appearance of the Kremlin - an outstanding monument of world culture. According to him, "the country's leadership, based on expert judgment and the public response, must decide about the revival of the Ascension and the Miracle Monastery."



Recently the exhibition Hall of Fame and the history of Russian Federal Security Service was donated by the artist Oleg Putnin, his painting called "Walk of Emperor Nicholas II, accompanied by the personal escort and convoy commander, Major-General Prince G.I. Trubetskoi."

"I made it in two months, with most of the time spent on the study of different materials of the time - documents, photos. I tried to make this work in a certain historical truth, to set the mood. Here we see the old Moscow, a view from the Kremlin. I found pictures of that period, made from different points, - From them I were able to determine which houses was on the other bank of the Moscow River at the beginning of the last century. Had a little effort to find out how to dress Nicholas II, as he rode. Judging by archival photographs, it was often on a black horse. Also, it was necessary to look at how to dress his guards,



the personal escort. There used horses of different colors, but in many of the photos I saw they were white, which is reflected in my work ... The atmosphere of the painting, in principle, happy - a stormy spring, sometimes a little sun - lit church in the background ... But in this case there is considerable cloudiness. "



"Masterpieces from the hermitage: the legacy of Catherine the Great" will be on display from 31 July 2015 – 8 Nov 2015 at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Australia. The exhibition showcases one of the world's greatest art collections. Featuring works by artists including Rembrandt, Rubens, Velázquez and Van Dyck, the exhibition offers over 400 outstanding works including the finest group of Dutch and Flemish art to come to Australia. This exclusive Melbourne exhibition will also highlight the innovation and vision of Catherine the Great, whose inexhaustible passion for education, the arts and culture heralded a period of enlightenment in the region. The extraordinary works sourced and commissioned by Catherine during her 34-year reign, created the foundations for the Hermitage today – considered to be one of the world's greatest treasure houses of art and decorative arts.



April 9, 1699 Peter I issued a decree "On the observation of purity in Moscow and punishment for throwing litter and debris in the streets and alleys."

This document obliged the inhabitants of the capital to not throw away garbage on the streets, to monitor the cleanliness yards and roadways, and to take all waste out of the city and cover it with soil.

For the violators of the decree awaited a sentence: "Who will throw litter on the big streets and alleys, such people are taken in to the clerk, and it shall be punished for what it has done - beating with the whip, or be fined." And if the offender was caught a few times, then the penalty is increased. The penalty could be 10 rubles, which in those days was a large sum.

The decree of the tsar became a powerful tool not only for the officials responsible to the tsar for the "decorum" in Moscow, but also for janitors, to monitor the cleanliness of the streets. Also under Peter I in the capital began to lay sewers, and the streets to set the urn. And Muscovites fear the promised punishment and there became much less litter.

Over the whole period of Peter the Great in power, there were published about 4 thousand decrees, manifestos and other documents. A series of reforms Peter I were aimed at improving the quality of life, including in the field of landscaping and cleanliness of the city.

Later, the work of Peter to improvement the capital continued Catherine II.



A miniature of Emperor Nicholas II is presented in 360 view. It was up in auction at Authenticated Internet Auctions, UK, on April 21, 2015. Cannot say it look genuine, but the presentation looked good. Have a look here - <http://www.imagehosting.me.uk/catalogue/lot48>





A new museum dedicated to the role of religion in culture and history of Russia, will opened in St. Petersburg in the second half of 2015. The St. Petersburg diocese announced the beginning of the collection of exhibits. "The museum is located in the Metropolitan housing the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, after it completed restoration work - said the director of the museum, Archimandrite Nektarios (Golovkin). Its concept is to show Christianity in Russian history and culture since the days of Prince Vladimir and up to now, and its role in the formation of the state."

Foundations of the new museum, which will be located on an area of about 500 square meters, is still small: According to Archbishop Nektarios, it will include archival documents, books, vestments of priests, icons and church painting. The new cultural institution, which will be called the Joint Museum of Church History, is created at the expense of the Russian Orthodox Church and upon donations.



More interesting videos with the Imperial family -

1) showing the French president M. Poincare on state visit in Russia in 1913, being received by Emperor Nicholas II at Kronstadt, revue of honor guard in Peterhof, and military parade in Krasnoe Selo. Imperial family arrives in Moscow, May 1912, praying at Iverskaya Chapel. The Imperial family walking in Kremlin, 1912. The Imperial family walking in Kremlin, 1913. At Princess Louise's wedding, 24 May 1913 in Berlin.

Video - <http://fs.net-film.ru/fs23042.mp4>



2) In the beginning can be seen Emperor Nicholas II and behind is his sisters Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and Grand Duchess Xenia. The Imperial Family on Red Square, with Cathedral St. Basil in the background. Nicholas II at a zoo park. Tsesarevich Alexei onboard Standart. Consecrating a foundation of a building. Nicholas II kayaking and Tsesarevich Alexei watching. Grand Duchess' Maria and Anastasia playing tennis.

Video - <http://fs.net-film.ru/fs37679.mp4>



3) Starts with the same consecrating a foundation of a building. Then Emperor Nicholas II unveiling the monument to Emperor Alexander II in Kiev August 1911 (Notice the man in the middle of the picture with a big camera). Nicholas II visit a zoo park. The Imperial family in a horse carriage, including Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. Empress Alexandra and Tsesarevich Alexei in a carriage. Nicholas II inspection agriculture tools. The Grand Duchess' and Tsarevich celebrating "White flowers". Nicholas II arriving and receiving traditional "bread and salt". The empress and grand duchess' receiving hand kisses and flowers.

Video - <http://fs.net-film.ru/fs37718.mp4>



Two paintings commissioned by the chief prosecutor of the republic is to be made by Crimean artist. Already in May the interiors of Livadia Palace (Big Yalta) will be replenished with new exhibits. These are two pictures that are commissioned by the Crimean prosecutor Natalia Poklonsky, now being made by artist. Recall that in February 2015 the public prosecutor, being on a visit to Livadia admitted to the press that she wanted to establish a monument to the royal family of the Romanovs at Livadia, but this plan is now changed.

- It will be two huge, beautiful portrait of our Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna - told Natalia Poklonskaya. Such a gift to Livadia - the residence of the Romanovs - may come on May 18, on Emperor Nicholas II's Birthday - 147 years.



In honor of the 170th anniversary of the mistress of the main architectural attraction in the region Princess Eugenie Oldenburg in Ramon, was on 7 April a presentation of a book about the life of the famous family, as well as local history readings, organized with the support of the regional department of culture. 20 years of tireless searching and hard work - first published in 2001 - is now updated and supplemented with unique illustrations, a family biography of Oldenburg. Author of the edition - Ramon - is ethnographer Lyudmila Obratsova.

Live music, flowers and congratulations. Among the guests - the wife of the governor Tatiana Gordeeva - "Meticulous reconstruction work carried out is not as fast as we would like. Much has been done, but there is - even more".



The international conference "World of Fabergé: Stone Carving Theory and Practice", organized by Fabergé Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, has announced its dates - October 8–10, 2015 - and the main theme - "Stone Carving Theory and Practice". The three-day program at the White Column Hall of the Shuvalov Palace will feature such prominent speakers as members of Fabergé Museum's Advisory Board along with leading Russian and foreign experts in the art of stone carving. Conference organizers are encouraging members of the museum, artistic, collecting and research communities to take active interest in the event and to contribute to the program.

In order to apply for participation, please follow this [link](#) to open the registration form. Please submit your completed forms by July 1, 2015. Please send abstracts and papers for publication to conference@fabergemuseum.ru by September 1, 2015. The complete conference program will be announced by September 20, 2015.



Russian scientists, in collaboration with American colleagues, conduct research on the mammoth tusk. Academics suggest that it may have belonged to the Emperor Alexander II. On it is carved drawings on the theme of the Yakut holiday Ysyakh. At present, the exhibit is in the British Museum, but will soon be transported to Russia, where it will be further investigated.

"This thing did Yakut carvers. More than 150 years ago this tusk was taken out of the country, and never returned to Russia. It is noted that at the end of 1867, at the Paris World Exhibition, the exhibit was seen - said the director of the National Art Museum of the Yakut Asya Gabysheva. - Many experts believe that the tusk belonged to Emperor Alexander II, and he got it as a gift from the people. There is also a theory that there is a second part of the exhibit."





Smolny Cathedral, St. Petersburg, at present belonging to the state museum-monument "St. Isaac's Cathedral" ("Museum of the four Councils"), will be transferred to the Russian Orthodox Church. This was announced by the museum's director, Nikolai Burov.

"We are interested in that as soon as possible to move to a new location," - he said. Now in the cathedral are performances of the Smolny Cathedral Chamber Choir and organ concerts. According to Burov, the ensemble has been offered another site - at the corner of the Duma Street and Nevsky Prospect. "In this building is located Sberbank, and we are very grateful for the offer as a concert hall. Of course, it is necessary to do a restoration project, and then the restoration itself, but with the place we are more than satisfied". Restoration of the premises may take up to three years and will require 150 million rubles. These funds will ask the museum from the city budget.



The exhibition "Catherine II. Path to the throne", from the funds of the State Historical Museum, have now reached the Rostov region. On 28 April it opened in the exhibition center "People's House" in The State Museum-Reserve of MA Sholokhov. It will be open until August 9, 2015.



On Monday, April 13, at the multimedia press center of MIA "Russia Today" was held a press conference dedicated to the meeting with the delegation of the Russian Institute of Strategic Studies. Members of the delegation arrived in Crimea to participate in the International scientific and practical conference "Crimea in Russia. Western policy: hope for peace, or the inevitability of conflict."

Among the participants - the chairman of the Serbian patriotic organization "Our Serbia", the creator of the NGO "Serbian code" Mladjan Djordjevic. Responding to a question on the growth of monarchist sentiment in Serbia and Russia, the Serbian guest admitted that he is a staunch monarchist.

"I believe that monarchy is the best form of government of the state. And, despite the fact that during the communist regime was inflicted serious wounds on Serbia, most of the Serbian youth is brought up in the spirit of monarchy. The Serbs remember Emperor Nicholas II and in gratitude, with the support of RISS, in Belgrade was erected a monument to the Russian monarchy. In the twenties of the last century in Serbia took refuge about forty thousand Russian expatriate with the ships of the White Guard. Our King Alexander, in his time, has done a lot to strengthen the close relations between our two countries" - said Djordjevic. Mr. Djordjevic added that he would also like to see "in Russia comes a tsar."



Crimea expects to receive this year from the Russian federal budget for the restoration of the famous palace museums 1.4 billion rubles, said the head of the republic Sergey Aksenov.

"On the restoration work to be provided 1.4 billion rubles ... All our palace complexes in this year should be properly repaired, and restoration work carried out," - said Aksenov.

According to him, the Crimean palace memorials should be able to "show tourists, not peeling paint and plaster, but the preservation of cultural heritage."

One of the main attractions of the Crimea are palaces and parks that was belonging to the Romanov dynasty, as well as the famous aristocratic families - Vorontsov, Yusupov, and Golitsyn. Currently, the palaces and parks owned by the Russian nobility in the old days, are all museum objects.



Video - Hermitage 250 years - about their photo collection. It shows photo album of Emperor Alexander III, photos from the 1903 historical ball, and many other rare photos.
Video - http://tvkultura.ru/video/show/brand_id/47724/episode_id/1188935



The possibility of the restoration of the palace and park ensemble in Ropsha is still questionable - told the director of the State Museum "Peterhof" Elena Kalnitskaya - "In May, I will present the project of restoration of the palace Ropsha to the board of the Ministry of Culture. We propose to establish a large-scale restoration school there, but even if it is paid, return on the project - 30-40 years. And the cost of implementation - 5 billion rubles, according to conservative estimates. In the Ministry of Culture, we have already proposed to organize a nursing home or a hotel. We are also always pushing to create a public-private partnership, it is now fashionable word. But no entrepreneurs offer help or support. No queues with bags of money at our door is not necessary. The only option in this case - to get the money for the conservation of the palace and wait for better times". According to the Director in 2015 the budget for funding of restoration work has been reduced by approximately 15% compared to last year. "This year we did not start a restoration of a new object, only completing what has already begun".



Ballerup Museum, Denmark, opens its doors to a new permanent exhibition entitled "The Road to Ballerup". The exhibition is about Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and the other immigrants who have moved to Ballerup through time. The newly designed exhibition opens on 8 May. There will be Russian folk music, tasting of food from different countries and of course a first look at the new exhibition. More information about the museum here - <http://www.ballerupmuseum.dk/>

VEJEN TIL BALLERUP
VÆR MED TIL AT ÅBNE
BALLERUP MUSEUMS
NYE UDSSTILLING FREDAG DEN 8. MAJ KL. 16-17

Udstillingen handler om storfyrstinde Olga og andre immigranter, der er flyttet til Ballerup gennem tiden.

Udstillingen åbnes af Misser Hawwa, der er projektleder af Bydelsmedrene i Ballerup, og hvis historie er med i udstillingen.

Vi byder på russisk folkemusik, smagsprøver fra forskellige lande og naturligvis et første kig på den nye udstilling.

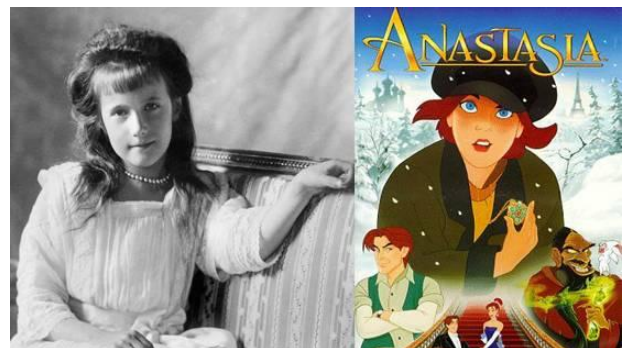
Med venlig hilsen
Ballerup Museum



A new stage musical version of Anastasia, the story of the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II of Russia, will premiere next year at Hartford Stage. A team of Broadway talent is attached. The show is set to start in May 2016 and is inspired by the 1956 film starring Ingrid Bergman, Helen Hayes and Yul Brynner, as well as the 1997 animated film, both by 20th Century Fox. Six songs from the 1997 version will be used in the stage musical, including the Oscar-nominated "Journey to the Past". New material by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, who wrote the songs for the animated feature, will pen the score with a book by Terrence McNally. Darko Tresnjak, who staged last season's A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, will direct.

In addition to the 20th Century Fox features, there was also a 1954 Broadway play of the same name by Marcelle Naurette and a 1967 TV movie starring Julie Harris.

Anastasia tells the story of the youngest daughter of the final Russian royal family. During the Bolshevik revolution, the entire family is killed, but for many years it was believed that young Anastasia survived and lived under an assumed name. The movies and stage show will tell the story of what might have happened if that were the case.





"Rebuild the Ipatiev House" letter sent to the President of Russia. Yekaterinburg Oleg Bazylev for more than ten years had the idea to restore the Ipatiev house, where in July 1918 was shot the royal Romanov family.

- I was impressed with the childhood story of the Ipatiev House. More than ten years, I have prepared a project to restore this historic site, and finally began to translate the idea into practice. To restore the Ipatiev house I think will help tourist interest in Ekaterinburg. A little later, I want to organize a pre-trial experiment and maybe we will open new secrets of the story - told Oleg Bazylev, organizer of the project. Now the restoration of the historic house, namely its financial part, fully rest on the shoulders of Oleg. At this time he spent on the creation of the layout and preparation of documents about 100 thousand rubles, but this is not the final sum. Oleg says, to put the house in its original place is impossible, so he is looking for a new one. Perhaps a historical building located on the way of the religious procession, on the streets: Kuibyshev - East --Chelyuskintsev -Sverdlova - Karl-Liebknecht -Tolmachëva, or on the way to Ganina pit.



Sculptures of Romanovs was in the exhibition "the voters of St. Petersburg", which opened on 23 April in the atrium of the Central Election Commission. The twelve sculptures are exhibited for the first time, including a composition dedicated to Mikhail Romanov and Sophia Merenberg, Peter the great, and Admiral Ushakov, and all of them are in process, so the exhibition presents their plasticine model.

Alex Puchnin, chairman of the St. Petersburg election commission: "Of course, a little strange name "The voters of St. Petersburg", but voters are those who make the decisions, the most important decision. The Romanovs, Zelenova, Zhelobovsky, Ushakov - the people who made the decision, by which St. Petersburg has become known to all."

Video - <http://topspb.tv/news/news71638/>



On Sunday, April 26, at the Livadia Palace in Yalta, was the traditional day of charity "White Flower". Over 100 years ago, in 1911, this holiday has appeared thanks to the imperial family of Nicholas II. It was only in 2005, thanks to the Holy Cross community home church of the Romanov family, "white flower" received a second birth. The holiday began with a concert of the Crimean Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Honored Artist of Alexander Dolinsky. Against the

background of blue sea and white walls of the royal palace magical sounds of music in common with the ringing of bells home church of the Romanov family, creating an amazing and unique atmosphere. Rector of Holy Cross Church of the royal family in Livadia Archpriest Dimitry gave all present the blessing of Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimea Lazar. As guests of honor at the festival were the wife of the head of the Crimean Republic Elena Aksenov, Minister of Tourism and Resorts Elena Yurchenko, and the prosecutor of Crimea Natalia Poklonskaya.

"For me, it is extremely important that I for my colleagues and associates bring this good news about how to store and increase our Russian heritage, our tradition of charity in the Crimea", - said the head



of the Elizabethan-Sergeevskoye educational society Anna Gromov, who represented in Yalta the Moscow charitable and educational non-governmental organizations. All funds that were collected during the day of charity "White Flower" will be used to help families with disabled children.



April 29, in the Church-on-Blood was held a public lecture by the Director of the Children's Educational Center in honor of the Vladimir Icon of the Blessed Virgin. Alexey Leonidovich talked about the education of pious women on the example of the Holy Royal Martyrs Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia. "Otma" - a collective anagram derived from the first letters of the names of the Saints, with which they signed general letters. One of the goals of the lecture was to show the similarities and individual characteristics of the Grand Duchesses. The best reviews about them are the words of Athanasius Belyaeva, from the eve of Easter 1917 - "God grant that all the children were so morally high, as children of the tsar. Such gentleness, humility, obedience to the will of the parent, unconditional devotion to the will of God, in purity of thoughts and ignorance of the earth's dirt, passions and sins." The meeting was organized within the third charity festival "Days of White Flower".



April 30, 2015 in Yekaterinburg, was a procession to commemorate the arrival of the royal family into exile in the Urals. At 14.00, the pilgrims went from the station Shartash to the Church on the Blood, where in 1918 was shot Emperor Nicholas II and his family.



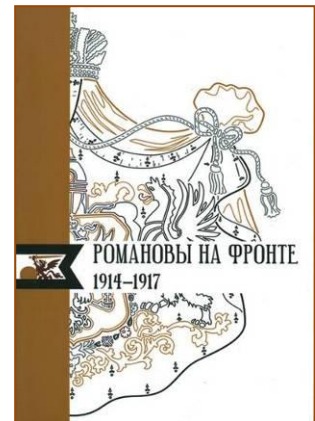
In the photo report of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for 2014 - "ABC Year of Culture: A to Z" - is included more than 300 key events of 2014, held in the framework of the Year of Culture. The reports includes the opening of the monument to emperor Alexander I in Alexander Garden at Moscow Kremlin, opening of the monument to Emperor Nicholas II in Belgrade, Serbia and the exhibition "Maps of Russia" in the Moscow Kremlin Museums. See the entire report here - <http://mkrf.ru/report/report2014/>





"The Romanovs at the front" - Ilya Kovalev, one of the students of the Kuban State University, studying on the initiated by Oleg Deripaska, as archaeologists, was the author of the historical and documentary research "Romanovs at the front. 2014-2017." The book, written for the centenary of the First World War, is dedicated to one of the forgotten and neglected pages - participation in the war next of kin of the Emperor, the princes of the Romanovs. The book is based on the citation from letters, newspapers, diaries and documents of the era, and is illustrated with photographs. As pointed out in the introduction, the author presents his work as "only the first step in the study of the topic - an attempt to bring together scattered information and to identify areas of research, an invitation to talk about the people and events that took place a hundred years ago."

This work was supported by the Foundation "Free Case". Volume edition is 270 pages, printed and publishing by "The Book" (Krasnodar).

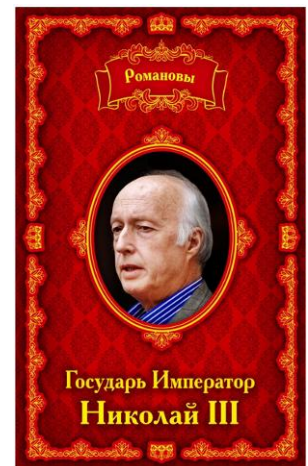


"The Romanovs. Emperor Nicholas III" - No, it is not a mistake, it does say Emperor Nicholas 3. As the description says - *"The book 'The Romanovs. Emperor Nicholas III' is intended for anyone interested in Russian history and prospects of development of the monarchy in Russia. Who is the Emperor Nicholas III and why only he is the only legitimate claimant to the Russian throne? What will be the sovereign state Orthodox Tsargrad in Montenegro and why the idea has attracted well-known Russian politicians?"*

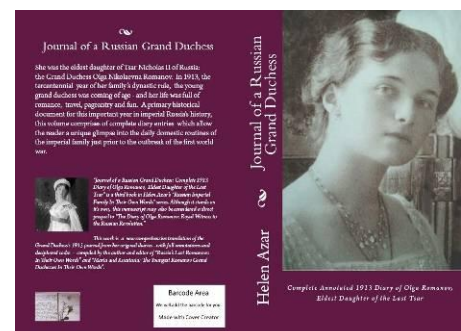
Scandalous stories from the life of Nicholas III and behind the scenes of modern Russian monarchism in the view of a young writer and historian Anne Sergievsky."

"Emperor Nicholas III" is maybe better known as Prince Karl Emich of Leiningen (born Karl Emich Nikolaus Friedrich Hermann Prinz zu Leiningen; June 12, 1952), the eldest son of Emich, 7th Prince of Leiningen and his wife Duchess Eilika of Oldenburg. He is a claimant to the defunct throne of the Russian Empire, held until 1917 by the Imperial House of Romanov, as a grandson of Grand Duchess Maria Kirillovna (1907-1951), eldest child of Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich, who claimed the Russian crown from exile in 1924. He is the great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander II of Russia. In 2013, the Monarchist Party of Russia declared him the primary heir to the Russian throne upon his conversion from Lutheranism to Eastern Orthodox Christianity, and in 2014 announced the formation of the Imperial Throne, wherein Karl Emich had agreed to assume imperial dignity as Emperor Nicholas III.

"Nicholas III" is one of the "Imperial" projects of Anton Bakov, a Russian local politician in Sverdlovsk region, businessman and leader of the Monarchist Party of Russia.



"Journal of a Russian Grand Duchess" - by Helen Azar. Is the complete 1913 Diary of Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaievna, eldest daughter of the Emperor Nicholas II. In 1913, the tricentennial year of her family's dynastic rule, Olga was coming of age - turning 18 in early November, and her life was full of romance, pageantry and fun. This volume comprises of diary entries from the full year, which allow the reader a unique glimpse into the daily domestic routines of the Russian imperial family just prior to the outbreak of the First World War. Paperback, size 22.86 cm x 15.24 cm, 302 pages, in English.





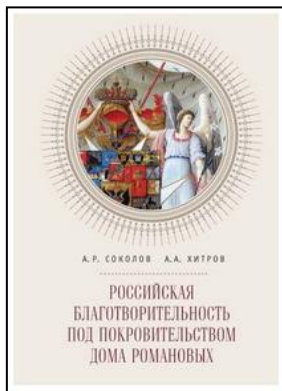
April 23, the Palace Museum in Darmstadt invited to the presentation of the new book "The choice is made" (Die Wahl ist getroffen") by Alexi-Beatrice Krist on the history of Darmstadt princesses in St. Petersburg. A total of four Princess of Hesse-Darmstadt from 1773 to 1894 years, intermarried with the House of Romanov; First Princess of Hesse, who came to Russia became Wilhelmina - future Natalia, wife of Paul I. The quite young girl came to the country in 1775 with her two sisters. Paul fell in love with the girl. Unfortunately, Wilhelmina, not having time to adjust to the new environment, died in childbirth at the age of 20, having lived in the country for only three years. Her niece Natalia Alexeyevna, Maximilian, in 1840, also traveled to Russia to become the future Empress Maria Alexandrovna, wife of Emperor Alexander II.

At the end of the century in Russia came the third representative of Hesse — Elizabeth, or as it is affectionately called at home, Ella. She was to become wife of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, the son of Maria Alexandrovna and Alexander II. The favorite granddaughter of Queen Victoria, the younger sister of Ella, Alice of Hesse, after the death of his mother grew up in Britain and at the time was not even thinking about the far north of Russia. Arriving to the wedding of her sister, Alice and at the first meeting won the heart of Tsarevich Nicholas. Nicholas and Alice, which became Alexandra in orthodoxy were so attracted to each other, to perform the marriage ceremony they did not wait for the end of mourning for the deceased Alexander III, and were married Nov. 14, 1894, on the birthday of Empress Maria Feodorovna, when was allowed some deviation from mourning ...

The author recounts their fate, publishing portraits of the princesses, and personal documents. Richly illustrated edition also informs readers about the collection of the Palace Museum and the unique collection of porcelain in Hesse. The book is published in German and Russian.



Russian charity under the auspices of the House of Romanov



Monograph doctor of historical sciences, professor, St. Petersburg State University, AR Sokolov and doctor of historical sciences, professor of Kaliningrad State Technical University AA Khitrova devoted understudied topic - charity Romanovs. Authors have succeeded in revealing the specific charities members of the imperial family, clearly identify the difference between the social policies of monarchs, and regulation of charitable activities of the august members of the family, when they acted as private philanthropists. The book is intended for a wide range of specialists, teachers and students, as well as for today's benefactors, patrons and lovers of Russian history.

Publishing House: Aletheia, St. Petersburg. Hardcover, size 145 x 215 mm, 568 pages. Isbn 978-5-9906154-2-7

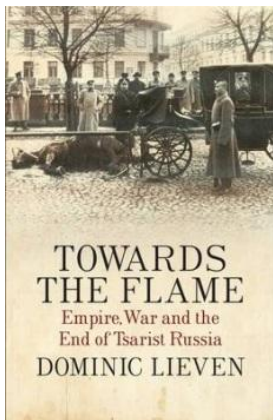


Nicholas II. Hypation night

Edward Radzinsky about Nicholas II - part of the trilogy "Three Tsars." Last Great Tsar Alexander II, the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II and Joseph Stalin the Bolshevik Tsar". Sacrifices and great historical drama being played out in Russia in the late XIX and the first half of the XX century.

Publishing House: AST, Moscow. Hardcover, size 130 x 200 mm, 320 pages. Isbn 978-5-17-089541-0

Towards the Flame: Empire, War and the End of Tsarist Russia



Dominic Lieven's new book, released end of May, is about the Russian decision to mobilize in July 1914, which he sees as maybe the single most catastrophic choice of the modern era.

Some articulate, thoughtful figures around the Tsar understood Russia's fragility, and yet they were shouted down by those who were convinced that, despite Germany's patent military superiority, Russian greatness required decisive action. Russia's rulers thought they were acting to secure their future, but in fact - after millions of deaths and two revolutions - they were consigning their entire class to death or exile and their country to a uniquely terrible generations - long experiment under a very different regime.

Dominic Lieven is a Senior Research Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge University, and a Fellow of the British Academy. His book Russia Against Napoleon (Penguin) won the Wolfson Prize for History and the Prize of the Fondation Napoleon for the best foreign work on the Napoleonic era.

*Publisher: Allen Lane. Format: Hardback. Number Of Pages:448. ISBN13:9781846143816. £17.00
Publication Date:28/05/2015*

Upbringing of Orthodox Sovereign in the House of Romanov.



Parenting sovereign - What can be more important? From strong-willed and moral qualities of the person who will stand at the head of the state, depends the fate of the people and the nation. So, education heirs to the throne has always been the most important task for the country - How to educate the Orthodox rulers in the Russian Empire. What is the basis of their unique system of education. Who taught our tsars. What are the consequences were miscalculations and mistakes in their education, and what this means. Education and upbringing of the head of state - is not only pedagogy and theology, it also geopolitics and economics. The book, written by researcher at the State Hermitage Marina Maevnoy Yevtushenko, show us the politics of the past from an unexpected angle. And how do you educate your children?

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions

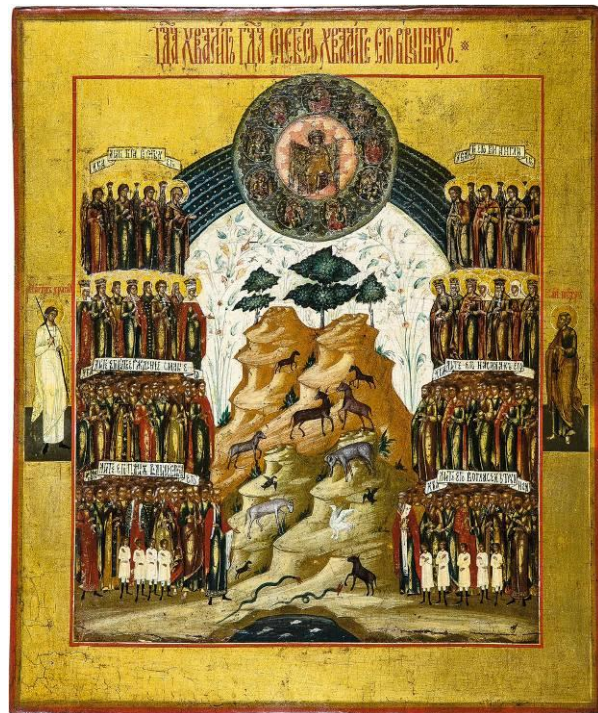
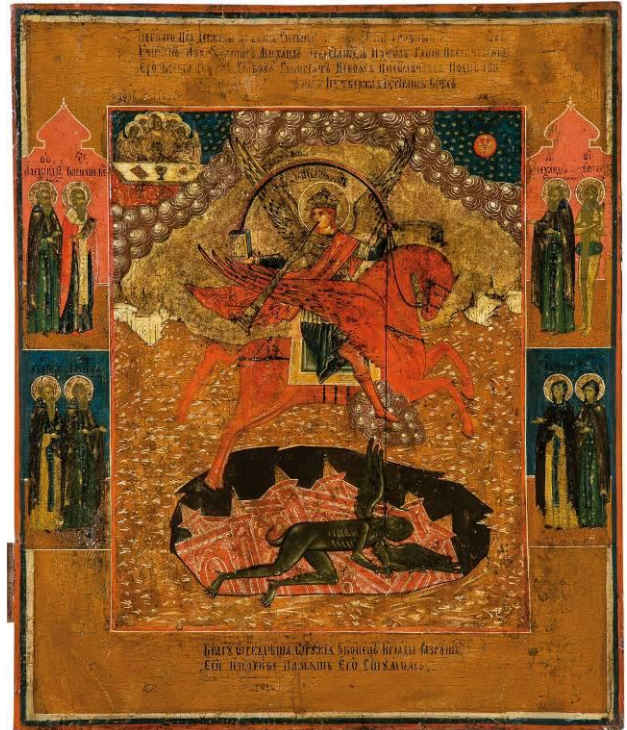


Dr. Fisher Kunstauktionen, Heilbronn, Germany, on 16 April:

St. Michael, Horseman of the Apocalypse. Russia, late 18th century. Egg tempera on gesso on wood panel, partly gilded. Crowned, with prominent, outstretched wings, astride a fiery winged horse, the archangel blowing a golden trumpet, raising a Book of Gospels and plunging his lance into the mouth of the Devil. Christ with angels appearing in swirling clouds in the upper left corner. With four family saints on the border. Rendered with saturated red and red colours complemented by gold details.

47.3 x 37 cm.

Price: 10.000 - 14.000 €



A rare icon illustrating psalm 148 "Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens". Central Russia, 19th century. Egg tempera on gesso on wood, border and other parts gilded. In the upper centre of the composition the enthroned Christ surrounded by nine circles with angels, arranged behind the seven heavens. In the lower part the paradise together with animals. The left and the right with Mary and St. John the Forerunner, with saints, martyrs and kings. Two border saints: Guardian angel and St. Peter. A Rendered with saturated red and red colours complemented by gold details. 44 x 38 cm. Price: 18.000 - 22.000 €

A silver-gilt guilloché enamel ash tray. Russia, marked Wigström, 20th century. The inside enamelled in translucent orange over-rayed. The gilded border decorated with sapphires and diamonds. Bearing spurious Russian hallmarks. Diam. 9 cm.

Price: 3.000 - 3.500 €





A silver cigarette case. St. Petersburg, late 19th century. With the image of Emperor Nicholas II from a Rubel. Rectangular form with curved sides. Under the lid is an additional lid with a photograph section. On top is a separate compartment for matchsticks with a hinged lid to strike the matches. Hallmarked standard "84" and maker's mark "NI" in cyrilic. 9.3 cm length, 232 gr.
Price: 900 - 1.000 €



A colorless cut-glass drinking set with 41 pieces of Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich of Russia. Russia, probably Imperial Glass Factory, St. Petersburg, circa end of 19th century. With monogram "AW" for Andrei Vladimirovich. Comprising 7 liqueur glasses, 4 bigger liqueur glasses (crack in one glass), 3 port

glasses, 6 wine glasses, 8 champagne glasses, 7 goblets, 2 water glasses, 2 pitchers with stopper (on stopper later), 2 pitchers. 10.5 - 25 cm high. 2 Karaffen. H. 10,5 - 25 cm.

Provenance: An Italian family bought this drinking set directly from Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovich of Russia in Paris, circa 1920.

Price: 6.000 - 8.000 €



(Left) Beaker with double headed eagle. Russia, 19th century. Colourless glass. The body decorated with silver and golden ornaments. Gilded rim. 10.5 cm high. Price: 700 - 900 €



(Right) Colorless beaker with enamel of Tsar Alexander I. Russia, mid 19th century. Finely painted initial "A" crowned by a baldachin. 9 cm high. Price: 1.200 - 1.500 €



(Left) A Russian porcelain Cabinet-Cup and Saucer. Batenin Factory, St. Petersburg, circa 1812. The cup decorated with a cartouch containing a portrait of Grand Duke Nicholas in military uniform against a blue background. The cup and saucer gilt-ground. Marked under bases with impressed cyrillic initials ".S.Z.K.B". Diam. (saucer) 15.5 cm. The cup 14 cm high to handle. Price: 1.000 - 1.400 €



Glass plate painted with the Russian two-headed eagle and Saint George slaying the dragon. 19th century. Framed behind glass. Diam. 39 cm. Price: 400 - 500 €



Sotheby's, New York, USA, 16 April;

An Imperial presentation gold ladies watch with Russian diamond-set gold brooch.

The cover of the polished gold case applied with a gold Imperial eagle with enameled St. Andrew's ribbon, the hunting cased watch Pavel Buhré, circa 1900, numbered 142911, held in original red leather presentation case applied with gilt eagle, together with a Russian diamond-set gold brooch of crown form with diamond-set pendant fob, maker's marks illegible, St. Petersburg, 1908-1917, 56 standard, French control mark. Diameter of watch 1 3/8 in. (3.5 cm); Brooch 2 x 1 in. (5 x 2.5 cm)

Imperial presentation ladies watches were designed to be worn suspended from an Imperial crown-form brooch. The box for the offered lot includes a space for such a brooch, but it was apparently replaced with the gem-set example, which is somewhat larger than the case opening. On the watches, and for comparable examples, see U. Tillander-Godenhielm, *The Russian Imperial Award System, 1894-1917*, Helsinki, 2005, pp. 209, 212. Estimate 8,000 - 12,000 USD.



Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna: A wood photograph frame with gilded silver mounts, Drozzhin, St Petersburg, 1908-1917 rectangular, the aperture border molded with palmettes above ribbon-tied laurel swags, the back with shaped strut, containing a photograph of Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1854-1920) inscribed Marie/ St. Petersburg 1910; struck with workmaster's initials I.K (Cyrillic), possibly Ilya Katorskii, 84 standard, in original fitted cloth case of retailer M.I. Drozzhin Height 13 in. (33 cm). Estimate 9,000 - 12,000 USD.



M.I. Drozzhin, located at Karavannaya 24 in St. Petersburg, was one of the suppliers to the court of Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna. Some of the invoices for their purchases have been preserved in the State Archives; one records a wooden frame with silver mounts purchased by Her Imperial Highness on 5 March 1910 for 48 rubles.

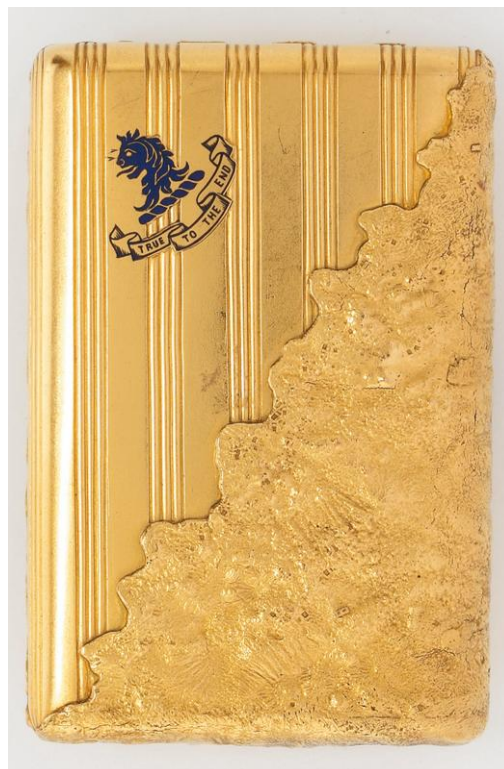
Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna: A Fabergé Imperial Presentation jeweled gold cigarette case, workmaster August Holmström, St. Petersburg, circa 1895
Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna: A Fabergé Imperial Presentation jeweled gold cigarette case, workmaster August Holmström, St. Petersburg, circa 1895 rounded rectangular, the exterior engraved with parallel lines partially covered with a samorodok surface, the upper left corner with gem-set Imperial cypher of Maria Pavlovna, the reverse with a lion's head and the motto 'True to the End' in enameled in royal blue champlévé, struck with workmaster's initials, 56 standard, and scratched number 2940, contained in original fitted case Length 3 1/4 in. (8.3 cm) Estimate 20,000 - 30,000 USD



Provenance: Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1854-1920) - Princess Catherine Galitzine Campbell (1897-1988), a gift from the above - Thence by descent.

Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna (1854-1920) gave this unusually heavy and beautifully jeweled gold cigarette case to her maid of honor (freilin) Princess Catherine (Ekaterina) Pavlovna Galitzine, daughter of Prince Paul Golitsyn (1856-1914/16), Nicholas II's Master of the Imperial Hunt and an Actual State Councilor, and his wife, Princess Alexandra Meshcherskaya

(1864-1941), a maid of honor (freilin) to Empress Alexandra. The marriage produced two sons and five beautiful and talented daughters; Catherine was the third. Although the Golitsyn family was large, Catherine Galitzine, as it was spelled in emigration, had particularly close ties to the Imperial court through both her father and her cousin Prince Mikhail Golitsyn (1840-1918), who served as Chancellor to the court of Grand Duke Vladimir and Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna from 1901 to 1918. These family ties helped the young Catherine to secure a position in Maria Pavlovna's court, which rivaled the Imperial court in splendor. In the dark days of the Revolution and Civil War, the loyal young Catherine stayed by the Grand Duchess' side. Catherine escaped Russia as well, although records and family traditions are unclear as to whether she accompanied the Grand Duchess or members of her family. She was able to make her way to the south of France, where she met Captain James Haldane Adair Campbell (1893-1945), a son of the Laird of Tullichewan and great-grandson of William F. Havemeyer, the illustrious mayor of New York. The couple married in London in 1922. Probably to honor her new family's history, the Princess commissioned a jeweler to add the Campbell family crest and motto ("True to the End") to the underside. After Campbell's death from an illness contracted while fighting in World War II, Princess Catherine worked as a journalist and writer. We are grateful to Princess Catherine's descendants for assistance in cataloguing this lot.



Two silver bowls from the Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna Service, Samuel Arnd, St. Petersburg, 1857

circular, with straight walls, the reeded rims relieved by scrolls and acanthus tips, with the Cyrillic initials MN beneath the Imperial crown, 84 standard, the underside of the larger engraved with the Old Russian weight 2 f. 6 1/2 z., the smaller engraved 1 f. 79 1/2 z.

Diameter of the larger 9 1/2 in. (24.1 cm)

49.8 oz., 1549 gr.

Samuel Arnd began his career supplying silver to the firm of Nichols & Plinke, who provided most of the silver for Imperial dowry services.

Estimate 6,000 - 8,000 USD

A Russian silver Imperial presentation kovsh, Moscow, 1744. Oval, the bowl chased and repoussé with the Imperial double-headed eagle with the monogram of Empress Elizabeth on its chest encircled by laurel wreath, the sides engraved with cartouches framing a series of Russian inscriptions recording Empress Elizabeth's presentation of this kovsh on 28 July 1744 to the starshin of the Don Cossack host Pantelei Selivanov for his faithful service, the prow with double-headed eagle finial, the handle replaced with a later engraved handle centering a medallion of the Empress under a canopy-form border, struck with the Cyrillic initials IAV of an unidentified master (Postnikova-Loseva, nos. 2538 and 2539) Length 10 7/8 in. (27.5 cm). Estimate 30,000 - 50,000 USD.



Provenance: Pantelei Selivanov - By descent within the family -Vladimir Nikolaevich Trotskii-Seniutovitch (1877-1957) - Thence by descent.

The offered Imperial presentation kovsh has a rare provenance: it has remained with the descendants of the original recipient, Don Cossack starshin Pantelei Selivanov since it was awarded in 1744. Selivanov, who is recalled in numerous 18th-century sources, is said to have continued to serve well into his old age, taking part in the Siege of Ochakov in 1788. By 1917, Vladimir Trotskii-Seniutovich, a petroleum engineer who worked for the Nobel Company, had inherited the kovsh and took it with him when he and his family went into exile. On the 18th-century practice of awarding presentation kovshi to Cossack leaders, see A. von Solodkoff, *Russian Gold and Silverwork*, 17-19 Century, NY, 1981, pp. 85-86.

A Fabergé silver and matte enamel menu holder, workmaster Henrik Wigström, St. Petersburg, circa 1909-1910
the curved officers' assembly menu holder formed as a 1909 pattern collar insignia of the Life-Guards 2nd Rifles Tsarskoselsky Regiment, with applied silver mounts finely chased in imitation of metal embroidery depicting the regimental pattern of stylized ancient Russian shields, bows, and arrows on a blue matte enamel ground, the rim enameled in transparent red, struck with workmaster's initials, Fabergé in Cyrillic, and 88 standard. Length 5 7/16 in. (13.8 cm). Estimate 10,000 - 15,000 USD.



Approximately 30 such menu holders were likely to have been commissioned early in 1910 for use by the officers' assembly at a celebratory meal commemorating the enlargement of the Tsarskoselsky battalion to a regiment. The official date of the change was 16 May 1910. On the battalion and regiment, see *The Russian Imperial Guards*, Moscow, 2005, pp. 389-390. For a pair of similar menu

holders, see G. von Habsburg, ed., *Fabergé-Cartier: Rivalen am Zarenhof*, Munich, 2003, p. 192, no. 153. We are grateful to Dmitry Gurevich for assistance cataloguing this lot.



Emperor Alexander III on horseback, Kasli Iron Works, 1899. After a bronze model of the 1880s by an unidentified artist, the Emperor in military uniform, cast with the factory mark with Imperial warrant dated 1899 and A. Bykov for the factory modeler. Length of base 11 3/4 in. (29.8 cm). Estimate 6,000 - 8,000 USD.



Emperor Nicholas II and the Russo-Japanese War: A group of 20 photographs, circa 1904-1906 most by Karl Bulla (1853/55-1929) and Viktor Bulla (1883-1938), as well as single prints by Court photographer Karl von Hahn and Edwin Emerson, depicting the Emperor and members of the Imperial family, including Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich, the Dowager Empress, and Empress Alexandra reviewing and blessing troops departing for the war as well as a series of photos of maneuvers at Kursk (20)

Bulla was the founder of a dynasty of Russian and Soviet photographers. His son Viktor served as a war correspondent during the Russo-Japanese war and his photos, including some in the offered lot, were published in international illustrated magazines such as L'Illustration, Niva, and others. Estimate 6,000 - 8,000 USD.

An Imperial presentation jeweled Fabergé gold cigarette case, workmaster Gabriel Nykänen (Niukkanen), St. Petersburg, 1899-1908

rectangular with beveled sides, the lid applied with a rose-cut diamond-set Imperial eagle, cabochon sapphire thumbpiece in red gold mount, struck with workmaster's initials, 56 standard Length 3 5/8 in (9.2 cm). Estimate 5,000 - 7,000 USD



A Fabergé two-color gold cigarette case, workmaster August Hollming, St. Petersburg, 1908-1917

of curved pocket-fitting form, the surface with green and reeded rose gold bands, cabochon sapphire thumbpiece, struck with workmaster's initials and Fabergé in Cyrillic, 56 standard, with later retailer's inventory number 6043A. Width 3 1/2 in. (9 cm). Estimate 6,000 - 8,000 USD.



A Fabergé varicolor gold, enamel and carved hardstone vinaigrette egg pendant, workmaster Henrik Wigström, St. Petersburg, 1903-1904

decorated with finely chased leaves and applied with sienna red enamel reserves within white opaque enamel borders above bands of red gold and rose-cut diamonds, set with pale blue chalcedony, struck with workmaster's initials, 72 standard, scratched inventory number 8065 Height with loop 1 in. (2.5 cm) Estimate 8,000 - 12,000 USD

Empire, Moscow, Russia, on 18 April:



Medal "For the naval battle of Cape Gangut. July 27, 1714" L.st .:" In the title of emperor is the word "Lord". Ob.st .: "In the legend the word "loyalty" is written by the letter "yat" and "Strongest" through "o". Silver, 26.06 g. Diameter of 41 mm. Extremely rare.

26-27 July 1714 battle took place between the Russian fleet, under the command of FM Apraksina, and

Swedish fleet, under the command of Vatranga. As a result, a bold attack by Russian sailors were captured 10 enemy ships. As a result of this victory, Russian troops approached Abo, was occupied Åland and created the preconditions for the transfer of military operations in Sweden. During this battle the medal were awarded to 3,125 sailors, soldiers and non-commissioned officers of the army regiments that participated in the battle. According to other sources, the lower ranks were given 3143 medals, and under-officers 357 medals. The medal was worn on the ribbon of the Order of St. Andrew. Estimate 550000-600000 rubles / \$ 9,000-10,000



2 rubles in 1718, Peter the Great. Gold, 3.97 g. Very rare coin. Estimate 600,000 rubles. / \$ 10,000

Medal "In commemoration of signing Treaty of Nystad between Russia and Sweden. August 30, 1721. Silver, 30.27g. Diameter of 41 mm.

The Russian delegation was headed by YV Count Bruce and AI Osterman, and Swedish side by Lilienshtern and Shtemfeldt. Russian troops from the captured territories of Sweden returned only to Finland and Livonia for cash compensation, as well as the Duke of Holstein renounced claims to the Swedish throne. This medal was awarded to the rank and file soldiers land and amphibious troops involved in the Northern War of 1700-1721. The medal was minted in size

ruble coin of the time and was worn on the ribbon of the Order of St. Andrew. Estimate 400 000 rubles / \$6600.



Table medal "In memory of the construction of the Annunciation (Nicholas) bridge through the river Neva in St. Petersburg. 1850. Signature of medalists at the bottom "Klepikov" and "Tolstoy" Silver, 160.17 grams. Diameter 76 mm. Very rare. The bridge was the first permanent bridge across the Neva River. Estimate 380000-420000 rubles / 6300-7000 \$



3 rubles 1879 St. Petersburg-HF. Gold, 3.92 g. Very rare. Estimate 900 000 rubles / 15,000 \$



Award medal for students of Petrovsky College St. Petersburg. Unsigned medalist. Gold, 57.80 g. Diameter 51 mm. In the original case. Very rare. Estimate 450000-550000 rubles / \$ 7,500-9,000

Bas-relief depicting the Russian Imperial couple. Unknown Workshop, Russia, 1900s. Copper alloy, 362.96 grams. Diameter of 147 mm. Estimate 32.000-34.000 rubles / 530-570 \$



Order of St. Anna 1st degree, decorated with diamonds. Workshop court jeweler Carl Blank, St. Petersburg, 1908-1917-ies. Gold, the silver, enamel, diamonds. Weight 34.80 gr. Size 77h50 mm. Hallmarks: assay "56", master named "CB" on the ear. With case for signs of the Order of St. Anne 1st Class. Cardboard, leatherette, velvet. Size 122h x 88h x 21 mm. The top cover with "gold"

state eagle. Order with diamonds, were in addition to awards and precious gifts from the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty. On April 14, 1829 marks the Order's St. Anne 1st and 2nd degrees, decorated with diamonds, was awarded to foreign nationals only for services "rendered to the Russian throne," and Russian nationals were awarded marks, Imperial crown decorated. Renowned jeweler Karl Blank in 1892, he worked at the company "Gang", and in 1909 and until its closure in 1911 was a companion. Since 1911, he served in the Cabinet of the appraiser His Imperial Majesty. In the case a note enclosed in Swedish, in which the Torah mentions alleged owner's name - Emil Melander, the famous Swedish architect, famous for the construction of church in Helsingfors.



Order of St. Stanislaus 1-th degree. Firm "Edward", St. Petersburg, 1908-1910. Gold, enamel. Weight 28.73 gr. Size 63h x 67 mm. Hallmarks: assay "56", master name "IL" on the top line of the company "Eduard". Estimate 450000-500000 rubles / 7500-8300 \$

Hargesheimer Kunstauktionen, Düsseldorf, Germany, on 18 April;

A massive tankard showing the Napoleonic war between Alexander I and Napoleon. German, Hanau, J.L. Schlinghoff, late 19th century The cylindrical body finely embossed with battle scenes showing the Napoleonic war and the emperors Alexander I and Napoleon on horseback. With hinged cover engraved with scrolling foliage and pineapple finial. Marked under base with German guarantee marks and master's mark 'JLS'. 25 cm high, 1397 gr. Reserve price: 2.800,00 EUR.



A silver mounted cut-glass tea-caddy. Russia, Moscow, Fabergé, 1896-1908 The spherical cut-glass body decorated with geometric motifs. The dome stopper with chased and engraved laurel wreaths and engraved monogram. The neck-mount repoussé and chased with swans above scrolling foliage. Marked with assayer's mark, 84 standard and master's mark 'K. FABERGE' in Cyrillic with Imperial warrant. 17 cm high. Reserve price: 5.500,00 EUR.



A Fabergé silver-mounted cut glass dish. Russian, Moscow, Fabergé, 1899-1908 The faceted rectangular bowl mounted at one end with a cast figure of Alkonost, the other with her tail. Marked with assayer's mark, 84 standard, 'K. FABERGE' in Cyrillic with Imperial warrant. Scratched inventory number '18858'. 33.3 cm long. Reserve price: 11.000,00 EUR.



A gold and sapphire brooch. Russian, St. Petersburg, Fabergé, August Frederick Holmning, late 19th century Of square shape. In the center the set with a sapphire cabochon surrounded by a circle with old-cut and rose-cut diamonds. Marked with city hallmark, 56 standard and workmaster's mark 'AH'. 3.5 cm long, 18 gr. Reserve price: 13.000,00 EUR

A Fabergé jewelled gold pendant. Russian, St. Petersburg, Fabergé, workmaster August Holmström, late 19th century Modelled as an elephant, the surface set with rose-and circular-cut diamonds, ruby eyes and gold tusks. Struck with city hallmark, 56 standard, 'KF' in Cyrillic and workmaster's initials 'AH'. 1.8 cm long. Reserve price: 2.000,00 EUR.



A Fabergé jewelled gold bracelet. Russian, St. Petersburg, Fabergé, workmaster August Holmström, circa 1880 Articulated bracelet composed of a series of links set with alternating diamonds, emeralds and rubies. Struck with city hallmark, 56 standard, workmaster's initials 'AH' and 'KF' in Cyrillic. 9.5 cm long, 35 gr. Reserve price: 8.500,00 EUR.



A jeweled gold brooch. Russian, St. Petersburg, late 19th century Formed as a gold flourish and set with circular- and rose-cut diamonds and sapphires. Struck with city hallmark, workmaster's initials 'M' and 56 standard. Soviet control marks. Contained in leather-bound fitted case stamped 'FABERGE ST. PETERSBURG, MOSCOW; ODESSA'. 5.2 cm long." Reserve price: 4.800,00 EUR.



22 miniature Easter egg pendants. Russian, circa 1900 Comprising hardstone eggs, jewelled gold eggs and eggs in guilloché enamel. Some marked with assayer's mark and various master's marks including 'KF' in Cyrillic. Minimally chipped. 49 cm long. Reserve price: 8.000,00 EUR.



A silver parcel-gilt bonbonnière with medals showing Catherine the Great. Russian, St. Petersburg, 1799 Circular. The cover and the bottom inset with gilt medals. One side decorated with the bust of the Empress Catherine II facing left surrounded by a Russian inscription. The reverse showing the coronation of Catherine the Great. Both after J. G. Waechter. Marked with

dated city hallmark, 84 standard, assayer's mark 'AJa' in Cyrillic. Diam. 8.3 cm, 156 gr. Reserve price: 250,00 EUR.

A gold cigarette case. Russian, St. Petersburg, Fabergé, 1908-1917 The surface applied at the lid with an angled rose-cut diamond-set Imperial eagle. Cabochon sapphire thumbpiece. Struck with workmaster's initials 'NV' in Cyrillic, 56 standard, assayer's mark and firm's mark 'FABERGE' in Cyrillic. 9 cm long, 116 gr. Reserve price: 8.500,00 EUR.



A gold imperial presentation cigarette case. Russian, St. Petersburg, Fabergé, Anders Mickelson, 1908-1913 Rounded rectangular, the hinged cover with fluted sunburst pattern emanating from an applied gold Imperial eagle centered with a diamond and set with rose-cut diamonds. With cabochon sapphire thumbpiece. Marked with assayer's mark, 56 standard, firm's mark 'FABERGE' in Cyrillic and workmaster's mark 'AM'. 9.5 cm long, 153 gr. Reserve price: 8.500,00 EUR.



(Left) Unknown painter, active early 18th century in Russia. Peter the Great on the horse in the battle. Oil on canvas, mounted, 19,5 cm x 15 cm, damaged, partially restored, craquelure, framed. Reserve price: 1.150,00 EUR.



(Right) Unknown painter, active ca. 1700 in Russia. Portrait of Peter the Great. Oil on wood, 18.5 x 15 cm, minimal restored, craquelure, framed. Reserve price: 600,00 EUR

Quinn & Farmer Auctions, Charlottesville, US, on 18 April;

Two pairs of skis and a pair of boots owned by Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich, the heir to the throne of Russia and son of Tsar Nicholas II.



Made by A.B. Otto Brandt, Helsinki, Ca. 1910. Both pairs of skis engraved with the Imperial cypher 'A' for "Alexei". Complete with two sets of ski poles. Contained in original fitted mahogany case applied with the Imperial cypher in silver. One pair of leather boot and the ski poles with applied inventory labels.

The skis were purchased by the local collector at a Sotheby's auction in 2011 for \$75,000, according to the auction house. They are estimated at about \$50,000 for Saturday's auction. Bidding starts at \$15,000.



The Tsarevich Alexei's skis did not sell

"At the Quinn and Farmer auction in Albemarle County on Saturday, there was one disappointment. Among the items in the auction were two pairs of skis and a pair of boots owned by Alexei Nikolaevich, the heir to the Russian throne and son of Russian Czar Nicholas II. Both pairs of skis were marked with symbols of the Russian Empire and stated that they belonged to Alexei. They each came with a pair of boots and two sets of ski poles in a fitted mahogany case with markings of the empire in silver.

A local collector in 2011 purchased the skis at a Sotheby's auction for \$75,000, according to the auction house. They were estimated at about \$50,000 for Saturday's auction.

"We didn't get an opening bid on the skis. That was really the only item of significance that was passed, and it may be because the Russian economy," Usry said. "We always try to figure out what went wrong so we can figure out what to do next time, and we think that may have had a lot to do with it. We were disappointed because everyone who saw them thought that they were the coolest item in the auction. I mean, the history that goes with them is just so cool."



Emperor Alexander III 1889 ruble sold for 26.000 euros

The Gorny & Mosch Auction in Munich, Germany, had in March an impressive collection of Russian coins. The prices realized bear witness to the fact that the ruble has significantly fallen in value against the euro. Mainly the coins and medals in the low and mid-range price segment have lost a number of buyers to the effect that the Russian coins and medals are relatively advantageously priced at the moment.

But one coin stood out - the exception was a ruble 1889, silver, struck in the St. Petersburg Mint graded brilliant, uncirculated, that rose from estimated 7,500 euros to 26,000 euros.

Hermann Historica, München, Germany, on 8 May;



Token for graduates of a cadet corps, Russia 1910. Silver, partly gilt and enamelled. French import mark. Dimensions 4.3 x 2.9 cm. Weight 24 g. Estimate 800 EURO.



Badge of the Life Guards Izmailovsky Infantry Regiment, Russia in 1910. Bronze, enamel. Dimensions 50 x 36 mm. Estimate 1500 EURO.



A Guard Battalion badge with wearer's award document and inscribed presentation photo from Tsarina Maria Feodorovna, Russia, dated 1890. Silvered bronze, enamelled in parts. Dimensions 55 x 29 mm. Complete with award document to Feodor Efremovitch Kozlov, lance corporal in the Pavlogradsky Lifeguard Regiment. Also an original photograph of the royal family personally bestowed by the Tsarina, with reverse dedication to the same wearer, stamped and signed by his battalion commander. Dimensions 16 x 10.7 cm. Estimate 1000 EURO.

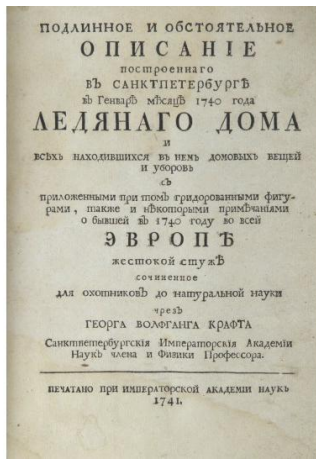


Bronze Medal for the 100th Anniversary of the Life Guards Regiment of the Empress Maria Feodorovna. Russia, dated 1899. N. Dmitriev medalist. Diameter 80 mm. Estimate 600 EURO.

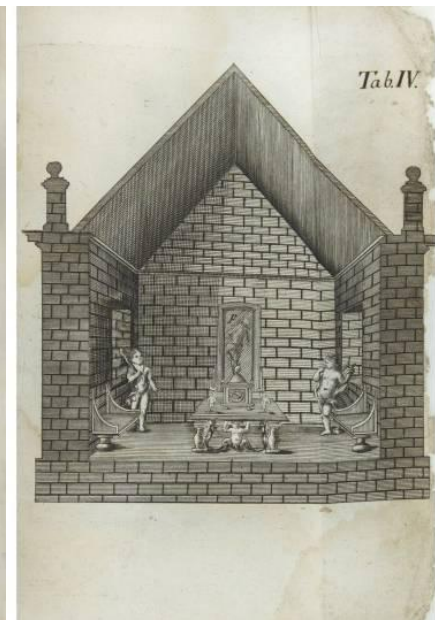
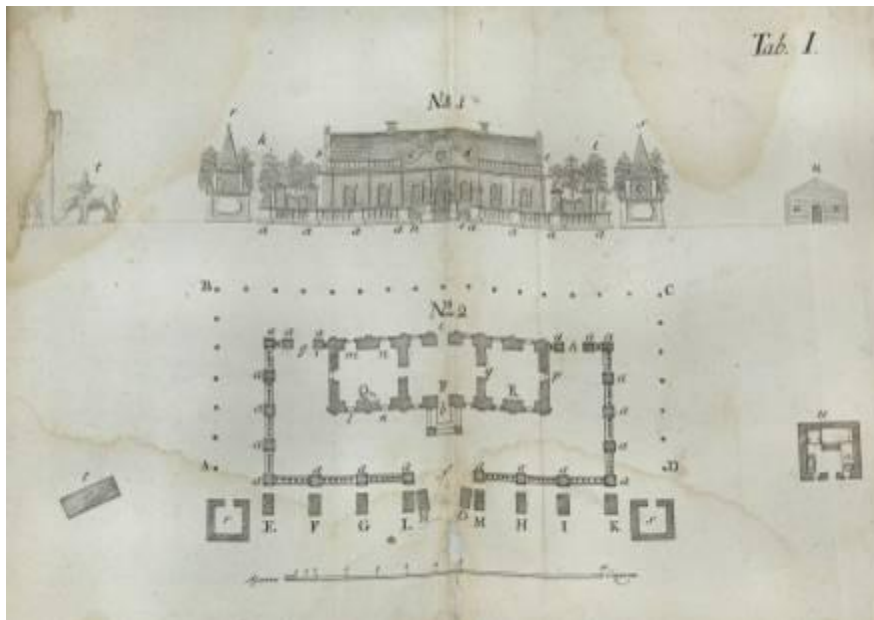
Shapiro Auctions, New York, USA, on 16 May:

Portrait of Empress Maria Feodorovna, after Johann Baptist Lampi the elder (Austrian 1751-1830).
Oil on canvas. 74 x 59.5 cm (29 1/4 x 23 1/2 in.)
Estimate \$20,000 - \$30,000.

Book - Saint Petersburg Ice Palace, Empress Anna Ivanovna, 1741. By Georg Wolfgang (German 1701-1754). A genuine and comprehensive description of the building of the Ice Palace in Saint Petersburg during the month of January in 1740. 215 x 165 mm. First Russian edition. Cyrillic types with roman and gothic, woodcut initial, typographical ornaments. Six folding engraved plates.



It is the earliest detailed account of the Ice Palace, describing and illustrating the famous example commissioned by Empress Anna Ioannovna, designed by Eropkin, and built on the Neva in January of 1740. It comprised three rooms furnished with benches, tables, chairs, candelabra, statues, and a bed, all made of ice, with windows of the thinnest ice looking out on a courtyard with trees, fountains, and working cannons, all again made of ice. The book was originally written in German and published simultaneously in Russian, German, and French.
Estimate \$12,000 - \$15,000



Did you know....



... That in Africa was a Cossack colony?

In 1888, when the scramble for Africa colonies came to an end, most European countries have announced their spheres of influence in the continent. Russia in the "Race for Africa" was not involved, but an adventurer Nikolai Ashinov who called himself a Cossack, came up with a bizarre plan how to transfer control of territory to Russia, in what is now a part of the independent state of Djibouti.

Together with a small group of supporters, mainly Cossacks, he raised his flag over an abandoned fort in Sagallo, on the Gulf of Tadjoura, then part of Egypt, and thus founded a colony. True, after France intervened in the case and Russian Emperor Alexander III said that he is not involved with the colonists, they were expelled. Subsequently, this area became known as French Somali land. The Russian colony in Africa lasted less than a month.



But the Russian colonist's flag was raised over Sagallo. The colonists called it "Fort New Moscow."



In 1883, Nikolai Ivanovitch Ashinov (an adventurer, and burgess of Penza, born 1856 visited Abyssinia in order to establish clerical and political ties between the two countries. After his return to Russia, Ashinov voiced his plans for a 1888 expedition to French Somaliland. Ashinov assured the participants that sultan of Tadjoura, Mohammed Loitah, had permanently leased him land in the region. Returning then to Russia, he said, calling himself a "free Cossacks", he would start in 1888 an expedition to Abyssinia. The magazine "Niva" said about Nikolay Ivanovich: "Brave adventurer and head of Russian volunteers who volunteered to accompany spiritual mission to the Negus John".

The French weekly Journal Des Voyages talked with Cossack Ashinov, shortly before his departure to Africa from Odessa in 1888. In the issue was discussed in detail about the route to Port Said. The Russian colonists had hired an Austro-Hungarian steamer that was to land them on the beach in Sagallo in January 1889.

On 10 December 1888, Ashinov along with 165 Terek Cossacks boarded "Kornilov", a ship heading from Odessa to Alexandria. The expedition then boarded the Russian ship "Lazarev" which brought

them to Port Said. In Port Said for 36,000 French francs Ashinov managed to hire the Austrian ship "Amfitrida", which entered the gulf of Tadjoura on 6 January 1889. The expedition was greeted by a group of Ethiopian priests.

The expedition was also met by four Cossacks, which Ashinov had left to guard the baggage and ammunition from his previous visit, and an Abyssinian priests, who were waiting for the arrival of the colonists, in particular, Archimandrite Paisius, spiritual director of the enterprise.



казаки в Абиссинии

There exist a photo of the Cossacks in Abyssinia in 1889. The settlement employed 200 people, among whom were priests, women and children.



Абиссинский писарь



члены русской колонии.



A painting depicting Sagallo Bay, made by the German landscape painter Johann Martin Bernattsem (1802-1878). One of the travelers of the time described the abandoned fort with the words "a miserable collection of shacks."

Ashinov struggled to keep the Cossacks under his control, and some raided the Danakil, stealing a cow and a sheep after driving off the local tribesmen with rifle fire. The sultan accepted 60 francs from Ashinov as reparations. The French foreign office demanded an explanation of Ashinov's actions, and the Russian ambassador in Paris distanced the Russian Empire from Ashinov.

To consolidate the coast and create a kind of outpost on the way inland Ashinov had to find shelter for the mission. He found an abandoned Egyptian fort on the coast Sagallo, and on January 14 Ashinov declared the fort Russian and christened it the "New Moscow" and said that "fifty versts along the coast and inland hundred - is now Russian land." A tent was erected to serve as the church of St. Nicholas and on 28 January was raised the new flag.



For construction Ashinov found nearby a forest and on the land he started to plant seedlings imported from Russia, fifteen thousand cuttings of grape varieties - the best Crimean -, cherry, lemon and orange trees. In the gardens were planted cucumbers, tomatoes and watermelons.



Rumours about the formidable size of the expedition quickly spread through the press. A story was in the French "Ashinova". The article says that he founded a colony on the spot, while it was belonging to France, which resulted in just a few weeks after the arrival of the Russian colonists, was sent to the area French warships.

On 5 February, the Cossacks did notice a cruiser and three gunboats and Ashinov received a letter from a messenger with an ultimatum, but not knowing the French language, he welcomed the general, because he did not expect an attack from the French, a friendly country to Russia. Ashinov misunderstood the message and did not surrender. The artillery barrage that followed came as a complete surprise for the Russians, leaving 6 colonists dead and 22 wounded. A white shirt was raised to show surrender.

The participants were arrested and deported back to Odessa.



Sagallo today. All traces of the Cossacks are gone.