



Romanov News Новости Романовых

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Emperor Alexander I the Blessed
(1777-1825)

Oil on canvas, by Stepan S. Shchukin, dated 1806

Emperor Alexander I the Blessed - 190 years anniversary of his repose

Starting September 1st, 1825 Emperor Alexander I undertook a voyage to the south of Russia officially due to the increasing illness of his wife Elizabeth Alexeievna, however he was travelling without her and went to inspect military settlements. On September 14 the Emperor arrived in Taganrog and only 9 days later came the Empress. Alexander visited Azov and the mouth of the Don with her, and on November 1st they went to Crimea. Then they visited Simferopol, Alupka, Livadia, Yalta, Balaklava, Sevastopol, Bakhchisarai, and Evpatoria.

November 9 on the road from Balaklava the Emperor caught a bad cold, while riding in just his uniform when it was wet, with piercing wind. November 17 he returned to Taganrog already seriously ill. November 19th the Emperor disease worsened. Alarming bulletins were sent to St. Petersburg and Warsaw about his health. November 21 a temporary relief came. However November 26 the Emperor fell into unconsciousness. Doctors said that there is no hope of recovery. He was in delirium and November 28 the Emperor "fell into a lethargic sleep", which was replaced in the coming days with convulsions of agony.

December 1st (OS 19 November) 1825 at 11 am, Alexander Pavlovich died.

He was interred at the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral of the Peter and Paul Fortress in Saint Petersburg on 13 March 1826.



Emperor Alexander I was born on 23 of December (OS. 12 December) 1777, in Saint Petersburg to Grand Duke Paul Petrovich, later Emperor Paul I, and Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna (Sophie Dorothea of Württemberg).



Alexander and his younger brother Constantine were raised by their grandmother, Empress Catherine the Great. From the free-thinking atmosphere of the court of Catherine and his Swiss tutor, Frédéric-César de La Harpe, he imbibed the principles of Rousseau's gospel of humanity. But from his military governor, Nikolay Saltykov, he imbibed the traditions of Russian autocracy. Andrey Afanasyevich Samborsky, whom his grandmother chose for his religious instruction, was an atypical, non-bearded Orthodox priest. Samborsky had long lived in England and taught Alexander (and Constantine) excellent English, very uncommon for potential Russian autocrats at the time.

On 9 of October 1793, when Alexander was still 15 years old, he married 14-year-old Louise of Baden, who took the name Elizabeth Alexeievna.

They had two daughters who

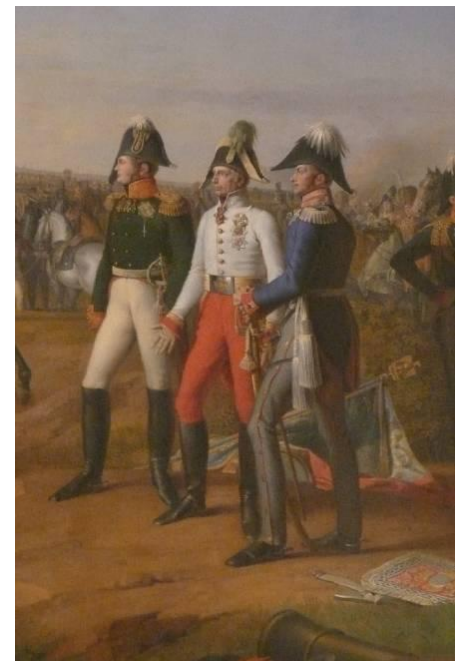
died young: Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Alexandrovna.

The death of Catherine II in November 1796, before she could appoint Alexander as her successor, brought his father, Paul I, to the throne. Paul's unpopular policies led to a conspiracy to assassinate him. His son, then 23-year-old Alexander, was in the palace at the moment of the assassination, to whom General Nicholas Zubov, one of the assassins, announced his accession to the throne.

Alexander I succeeded to the throne on 24 March 1801, and was crowned in the Kremlin on 15 September of that year.

He ruled Russia during the chaotic period of the Napoleonic Wars. As Grand Duke and Emperor, Alexander often used liberal rhetoric, but continued Russia's absolutist policies in practice. In the first years of his reign, he initiated some minor social reforms and, in 1803-04, major, liberal educational reforms. The second half of his reign was increasingly arbitrary, reactionary and fearful of plots against him. He became more religiously oriented as well as politically conservative.

In foreign policy, he switched Russia back and forth four times in 1804-1812 from neutral peacemaker to anti-Napoleon to an ally of Napoleon, winding up in 1812 as Napoleon's enemy. In 1805, he joined Britain in the War of the Third Coalition against Napoleon, but after the massive defeat at the Battle of Austerlitz he switched and formed an alliance with Napoleon by the Treaty of Tilsit (1807) and joined Napoleon's Continental System. He fought a small-scale naval war against Britain, 1807-12. He and Napoleon could never agree, especially about Poland, and the alliance collapsed by 1810. The tsar's greatest triumph came in 1812 as Napoleon's invasion of Russia proved a total disaster for the French.



The entry into Paris, through the Triumph Arch on March 31, 1814, is properly his most glorious moment. This was not just a tribute to a military victory and the liberation of Europe, but also facilitated a change in the mind of many Europeans - It defined Russia as a Christian and civilized country, in contrast to the behavior of Napoleon's army in Moscow, where they committed sacrilege, robbed its citizens and finally burned the city. Emperor Alexander had ordered his army not to do the same in Paris, to the admiration of Parisians and the rest of the world. For his Victory and his Mercy, he was awarded the title "The Blessed" on 25 April 1814.

Under Alexander I was joined the territory of Georgia (1801), Finland (1809), Bessarabia (1812), and the former Duchy of Warsaw (1815).

He was one of the leaders of the Congress of Vienna 1814-1815 years and the organizers of the Holy Alliance, an alliance to suppress revolutionary movements in Europe that he saw as immoral threats to legitimate Christian monarchs.

Alexander died without issue and after great confusion that included the failed Decembrist revolt of liberal army officers, he was succeeded by his younger brother, Nicholas Pavlovich as Emperor Nicholas I.



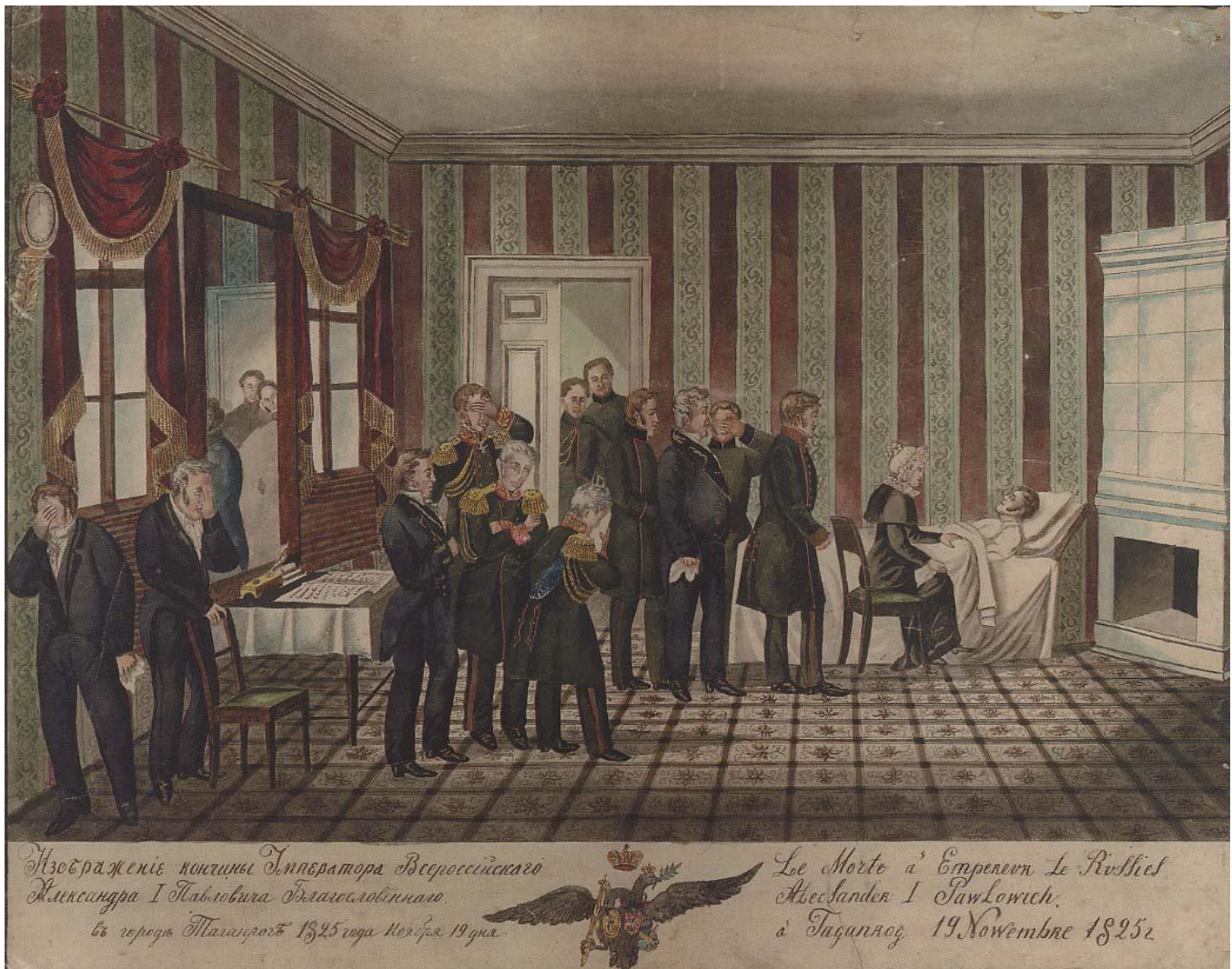
Above - The funeral train of Emperor Alexander I, passing the monument to Emperor Peter the Great on Senate Square in St. Petersburg.

Right - Emperor Alexander I's tomb in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, St. Petersburg.



Memorials

During the reign of Emperor Alexander I and after his death were places named and memorials made in his honor: "Alexanderplatz" was named in 1805 and is one of the most famous squares in Berlin. "Alexander I Land" in Antarctica, was named in 1821. In Helsinki in honor of Alexander I is named the street "Aleksanterinkatu". In Moscow is the park next to Kremlin named "Alexander Garden".



Emperor Alexander I's death in the Taganrog palace (pictured above), was in the one-story stone building in Russian classicism style on Grecheskaya Street, 40. After his death the building was bought by his widow Empress consort Elizabeth Alexeievna and turned into the first memorial museum in Russia, dedicated to Emperor Alexander I.



Left - The Taganrog palace where died Emperor Alexander I. Right - The monument to Emperor Alexander I in Taganrog, erected in 1831.

The monument to Emperor Alexander I in Taganrog

Emperor Alexander Pavlovich actually refused from monuments in his honor, explaining that the best monument would be the people's memory. However in 1831 in Taganrog the first monument showing

Emperor Alexander I in full figure was erected in front of the Greek monastery, where the first funeral service took place. The bronze figure of the Emperor was draped in a simple cloak, beneath which was visible a general's uniform. With one hand, the Emperor holds his sword, the other holding a scroll - a set of laws. One leg of Alexander I trampled a writhing body of a snake, symbolizing the victory over Napoleon. At his feet winged angels point to the angelic nature Alexander I. In the 1920s the monument was demolished. For a while the figure stood boarded up on the square, and then it was taken to Rostov for a meltdown. The monument was restored for the 300th anniversary of Taganrog.



The Alexander Column

On 11 of September (August 30), 1834 the grand opening of the Alexander Column took place at the Palace Square in St. Petersburg. The monument was designed by August de Montferrand and erected by decree of Emperor Nicholas I in honor of the victory of his elder brother Alexander I over Napoleon.

Alexander Column is not dug into the ground and not fixed to the foundation. It stays still owing just to the exact calculation and its weight. This triumphal column is the highest in the world. It weighs over 600 tons, its height is 47,5 m.

The column is crowned by a bronze figure of an angel (by Boris Orlovsky), trampling on a serpent, symbolizing the defeated enemy, with a cross. In his left hand the angel holds a four-pointed Latin cross, and the right one is risen to the sky. The angel's head is tilted and eyes fixed on the ground. The sculpture also stays still owing to its own weight.

The pedestal of the monument is decorated with bronze bas-reliefs depicting allegorical figures and military armor. On the bas-relief facing the General Staff Building there is a figure of Victory, writing memorable dates in the History book: "1812, 1813, 1814". The bas-relief facing the Winter Palace comprises two winged figures with the inscription: "*To Alexander I from grateful Russia*". The other two bas-reliefs show figures of Justice, Wisdom, Mercy and Abundance. The base of the column has a form of a laurel wreath. The column is surrounded by decorative bronze railings, designed by Auguste Montferrand.

On 11 of September (August 30), 1834 "in the presence of the emperor, the entire tsar's family, many Russian and foreign dignitaries" the grand opening of the monument took place. After a public liturgy on the square in front of the Alexander Column a military parade was held. It was attended by about a hundred thousand people, including regiments, which had distinguished themselves in the war of 1812.





Monument to Emperor Alexander I in Alexander Garden in Moscow

November 20th, 2014 the monument to Emperor Alexander I was opened in Alexander Garden, at the Moscow Kremlin wall. It was timed to the 200 years anniversary of his triumphal entry into Paris, after a victory over Napoleon, not just in a battle, but in the entire war, leading to Napoleon's abdication.

The Russian President Vladimir Putin and Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill led the opening ceremony, which was also attended by Minister of Culture Vladimir R. Medinsky, executive secretary of the President of the Russian Federation Alexander Kolpakov, Moscow Mayor Sergei S. Sobyenin and Paul Kulikovskiy, the only descendant of the Romanov family present.

The statue of Emperor Alexander I, made by sculptor Salavat Scherbakov, brilliantly captures him as the Statesman, the war hero, and "the Blessed", in his powerful pose. His face portrays a very determined man. With his right hand closed in a fist and his left holding a sword, but still in its scabbard, it looks like he is thinking - "I told you so - I will fight to the end, rather than sign a dishonorable peace!" As a winner he is standing on a pile of captured weapons.



Memorial medals

Several memorial medals were issued upon the death of Emperor Alexander I.

Russian medal. Diameter 6,8 cm.

Front - Bust of Alexander I facing right, with a snake making a ring. Inscription: "Alexander I the Blessed * Died in Taganrog November 19, 1825".

Back - The all seeing eye of God. The inscription

says "Our Angel in Heaven" - "Notre ange est ciel" - the opening lines from a letter of Empress Elizabeth Alexeievna, written to the mother of Emperor Alexander I, Empress Maria Feodorovna on the day of his death. "1812" - a reference to war with Napoleon.

Gold and silver medals were awarded high personages who attended the burial ceremony, copper specimens were given to soldiers standing on guard at the tomb of the Emperor.

Prussia, Berlin Royal Mint
- Medalists Franz Heinrich Brandt. Diameter 4.5 cm.
Front - inscription in German: "Alexander I. Emperor of Russia * Born 23 Dec. 1777. Died 1 Dec. 1825".

Reverse - "In memory of prayerful remembrance on 23 Decem. 1825".

The medal was struck at the behest of the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III for the Guards, who bore the name of Emperor Alexander I.



Poland (Russia) Warsaw Mint - unsigned. 15.7 mm (jetton).

Front - Bust of Alexander I with a star with the letter V. The inscription says: Alexander I, CES, W, R, KR, POL.

Reverse - Regalia, with crossed sword and scepter, above - crown, beneath - the orb and a cross. Inscription: "D.I. Grudnia 1825".

Poland (Russia) Warsaw Mint. Unsigned medalist. Silver, 28.73 g. Diameter 41.0 mm.
 Front - Alexander I bust in a wreath, star above it. Inscription in Polish: "Alexander I, who restored of the kingdom of Poland, 1815".
 Reverse - In a laurel wreath inscription in Polish: "Mourning benefactor of Poland, 1826".



Memorial event dedicated to the 190th anniversary of the repose of Emperor Alexander I

December 2, 2015 at 12:00 a memorial event dedicated to the 190th anniversary of the end of the life's journey of Emperor Alexander I the Blessed, and the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Holy Alliance, took place in Alexander Garden, at the Moscow Kremlin, at the monument to Emperor Alexander I.

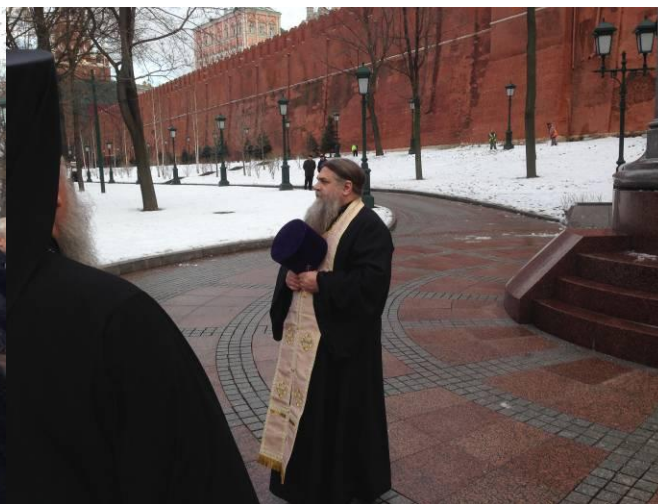
Women's Orthodox-Patriotic Society and the Society of Descendants of Participants in the Patriotic War of 1812, were the co-organizers of the event, which was supported by the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

On the right to the entrance to the Alexander Garden Russian flags was blowing in the wind. The temperature was around zero degrees Celsius, the snow cleaned from the walking path going through the garden, making the manhole cover to the water drain system visible - on them are written "Alexandrovsky Garden, Moscow. 1823 - 2013", a reference to the creation of the garden in 1823.

After the Napoleonic Wars, Emperor Alexander I ordered architect Osip Bove to reconstruct parts of the city which had been destroyed by French troops. Bove laid out a new garden from 1819-1823, on the site of the riverbed of the Neglinnaya River, which was channeled underground. Since then the garden have developed into a historical place with several memorial monuments.

At the monument to Emperor Alexander I about 100 people gathered. Talking eagerly and waiting in anticipation.

The event started with litiy led by Father Alexander (Shumsky) and Hieromonk Nikon (Belavenets), and at the end Father Alexander read the "Manifesto of the expression of the Russian people Thanks for the salvation of the Fatherland."



Chairman of the Society of Descendants of Participants in the Patriotic War of 1812, Vissarion Alyavdin made the first speech, followed by the chairwoman of the Women's Orthodox-patriotic society, Galina Ananina. Sculptor Salavat Scherbakov, Chairman of the Russian Nobility Assembly Oleg Scherbachev, and a representative of the descendants of the Romanov family Paul Kulikovsky with spouse Ludmila, also said some words.

Then wreaths and flowers were place at the foot of the monument to Emperor Alexander I.



Wreaths at the monument; to the left from the "Society of Descendants of Participants in the Patriotic War of 1812" and to the right from the "Fund Imperial heritage"



Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI_ic9C-JeI

The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

On the initiation of Patriarch Kirill it is planned to exhume of the remains of Emperor Alexander III and it was originally planned for November 3rd, 2015 in the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg. However on the day the senior investigator of the Main Directorate of forensic criminology Vladimir Solovyov said "the opening of the tomb of Emperor Alexander III depends on technical conditions. All these works will probably not be completed before mid-November".

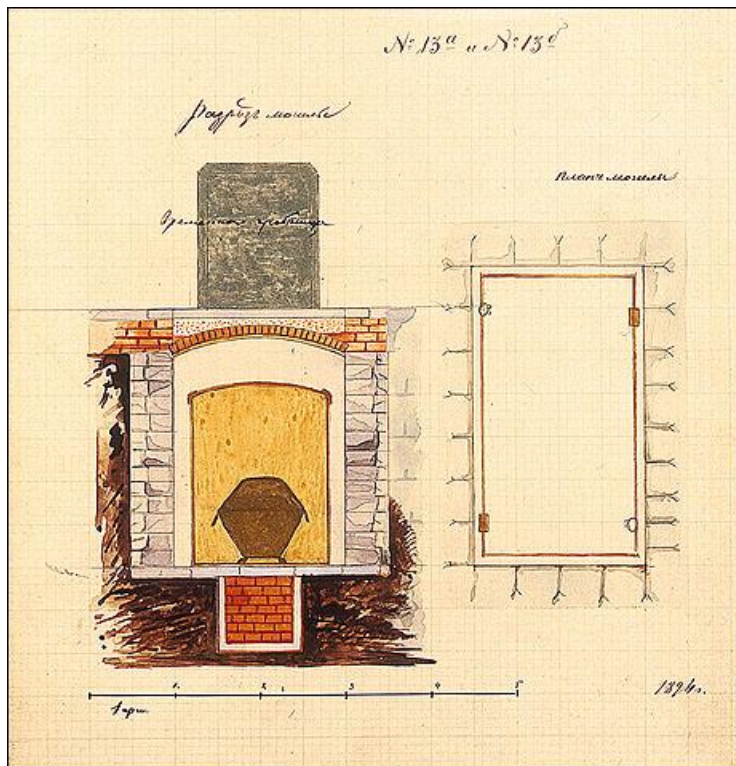
The "technical conditions" is the expected difficulties in the process of opening the grave of Emperor Alexander III. It is presumed it was never opened and then the coffin is isolated in a in copper box, and laying under a layer of bricks, made as a mausoleum - which means it is a monument of art - and above it is placed a marble slab assumed weighing about a ton. If it is destroyed during the process it can never be restored.

Peter and Paul Fortress is preparing to exhume Emperor Alexander III

1st of November - In the cathedral, where lie the emperor, there is a big fence of plywood. Access is blocked not only to the grave of Alexander III, but to several other graves. In particular, to - Alexander II and his wife Maria Alexandrovna.

Installation of the fence started more than a week ago. But on November 1 at the tomb of Alexander III on the anniversary of his death, was a part of the fence removed, so that the visitors could go to the grave. The day after it was closed again.

Another change to the Peter and Paul Cathedral was the closing of the St. Catherine Chapel, where lies the family of Emperor Nicholas II and his servants. For a long time after the exhumation of the remains of the emperor on 23 September it was closed. Now the door is open again.



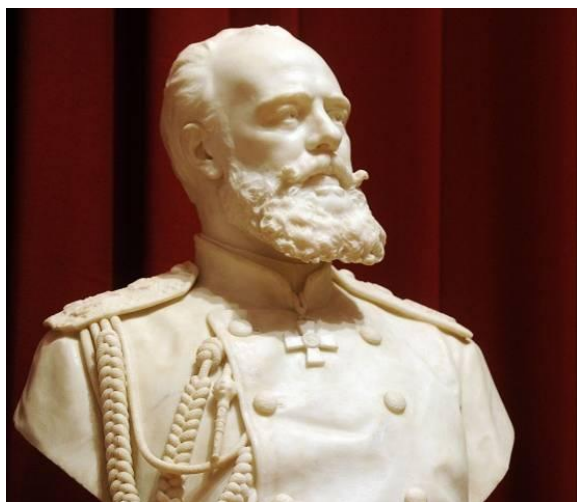
The Peter and Paul Cathedral will begin the study of the tomb of Emperor Alexander III

3 November, "Living Water" - In The Museum of the History of St. Petersburg (the fortress) on 3 of November a closed meeting on preparations for the exhumation of the remains of Emperor Alexander III took place. It was attended by representatives of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Russian Orthodox Church.

The meeting dealt with the procedure itself and the duration of the works. Opening the grave of Alexander III will be held for the first time. It is assumed that the during process of exhumation priests always will present.

Before starting work at the tomb of the emperor in the Peter and Paul Cathedral vicar of Holy Trinity Alexander Nevsky Lavra Bishop of Kronstadt Nazary served litany concelebrated by Bishop Yegoryevsky Tikhon (Shevkunov) and rector of the Cathedral Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov). Then Tikhon Nazarov, Archimandrite Alexander and members of the church commission started the studying of the results of the examination of the royal family remains.

Video - <http://www.5-tv.ru/news/101741/>



House of Romanov we must help the church get to the truth

4 November, Lifenews - Interviews with representative of Romanov Family Association Ivan Artyshevsky and secretary to the head of the "Russian Imperial House" Alexander Zakatov.

For representatives of the Imperial family it is hard to accept the exhumation of Alexander III, but believe that the truth is more important.

In the Peter and Paul Cathedral on 3 of November work of the commission that will examine the tomb of Alexander III began.

- The family is not thrilled with the fact that it will disturb their ancestor, but initially it was decided to help the church to complete these studies. Because it is not normal that for many years the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and his sister Maria kept first in the UK, then in the State Archive of the Russian Federation are. Geneticists have no doubt. But still you need to put a full stop and eliminate any doubts - said representative of Romanov Family Association Ivan Artyshevsky.

According to the head of the "Russian Imperial House" Alexander Zakatov, the Princess Maria Vladimirovna Romanova, there are doubts about the authenticity of the remains found in Ekaterinburg. There were serious procedural violations during the investigation.

All members of the Romanov family agree on one thing, that this story needed the final point.

Video - <http://lifenews78.ru/news/168000>

Romanov family were not asked to provide the material for the examination of the remains of the Royal family

6 Nov - None of the representatives of the Romanov family had received from the Russian law enforcement requests to provide material for genetic research related to the resumption of investigation into the death of Nicholas II and his family, told Ivan Artyshevsky, representative of the Romanov Family Association in Russia.

Family members of the Romanov Family Association do not consider that the forthcoming exhumations will insult Emperor Alexander III. "There is no insult to the Emperor, everything is done according to the canons of the Orthodox Church" - said Artyshevsky, adding that the members of the Romanov family are "sympathetic to the process."

"It is important for achieving the goal - the recognition of the Church of the authenticity of the remains of Nicholas II and his family - said Artyshevsky. - Family (Romanov) made the decision in every possible way to help the Russian Orthodox Church to take a decision on the identification of the remains.

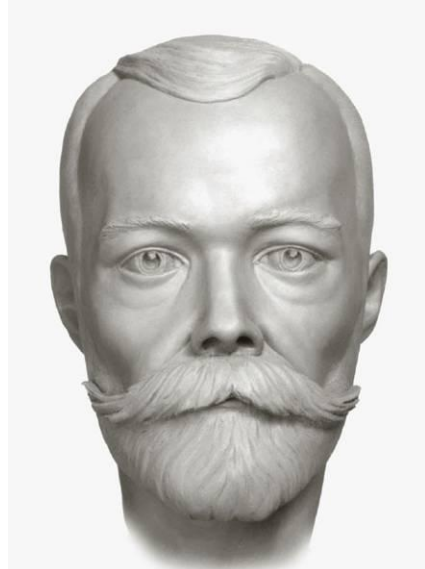
Former head of the Association of Romanov family members, Nikolai Romanovich, and the current head - Dmitry Romanovich spoke with the Patriarch and decided to help Russian Orthodox Church.

The results of genetic analysis of DNA samples of exhumed remains of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg

11 Nov, Official statement of the Investigative Committee

In order to conduct additional research at the request of the Russian Orthodox Church in the framework of

a renewed criminal investigation of the death of a family member of the Russian Imperial House of Romanov on 23 of September, 2015 exhumation of the remains of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna was conducted in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg in the presence of representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Russian government and the Russian Investigative Committee. The samples were not previously investigated.



The State Hermitage Museum also traces of blood samples taken from the clothes of the Emperor Alexander II, in which he was at the time of terrorist attack on First of March, 1881.

Samples were taken for genetic identification of skulls found at the burial. Chief of genetic expertise is E. I. Rogaev, laureate of State Prize of the Russian Federation, professor of Moscow State University, head of Genomics and Human Genetics Department of Vavilov Institute of General Genetics of RAS.

As a result of the work they managed to extract DNA suitable for genetic analysis of the fragments of the lower jaw of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, and cervical vertebra of Emperor. To date E.I. Rogaev together with members of his laboratory of the Institute of General Genetics, conducted a genetic analysis of DNA inherited through the female line (mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)).

Analysis of the most informative parts of mtDNA, obtained in the study of samples taken September 23, 2015 of the jaw and vertebra of the Emperor, has shown that they coincide with the data obtained earlier in the investigation of a shirt of Nicholas II with traces of his blood, and the previously established mitochondrial sequences from other specimens of the skeleton. These samples revealed heteroplasmy - a rare genetic mutation which was present in samples of Nicholas II.

As a result of the primary genetic analysis of mtDNA extracted from a fragment of the lower jaw of the skeleton of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, identified highly informative sections of mitochondrial DNA, rare for human populations and coinciding with the options from the descendants of Queen Victoria on the maternal line (the Empress was the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth). The research further indicates the authenticity of the test "Yekaterinburg remains".

Research will be continued. Experts will further scientific work on the additional genetic system for highly reliable final conclusion on the identification of the skulls. It will be also comparisons with closest relatives, including blood samples taken from the clothes of the Emperor Alexander II.

The remains belong to Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna

11 November, 1TV - Experts came to the conclusion that they really belong to Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna. At the same time, as reported by the Investigative Committee, the work will continue. It is necessary to conduct a comparative analysis of DNA from close relatives.

Video - <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/295951>

ROC waiting for the completion of all studies of the remains of Nicholas II

11 November, RIA NOVOSTI - "When all maximum possible investigation are done, the church will review the results and in peace make its decision," - said the head of the Synodal Department for Church and Society, Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin.

According to him, "Of course, it is necessary to respect the work of scientists who with the utmost seriousness and responsibility have tried to isolate DNA from the jaw and cervical vertebrae, attributed to Emperor Nicholas II, and the skull attributed to Empress Alexandra." "When the official data will be obtained, the church, of course, will take them into account, as well as the results of any other investigations, as well as any position on the identification of Yekaterinburg remains", - assured Chaplin.

At the same time, he mentioned "positive note of Mr. Markin's words that research will continue."

Bishop Tikhon: Opening of the grave of Alexander III will show whether it has been desecrated

13 November. PRAVMIR - At the press conference - "The study of the authenticity of the remains of the Tsar: the official position of the Church" - Bishop Tikhon Egoryevsky said that the tomb of Emperor Alexander III in the Peter and Paul Cathedral might have been desecrated in Soviet times.



Answering the question of "Pravmir" about who and what expertise carries with samples of the remains allegedly belonging to Nicholas II and Alexandra, that the exhumation was handed over to representatives of the Church, Bishop Tikhon Egoryevsky said:

"At the opening of the grave we have received the samples suitable for genetic analysis of the remains, a skull that may belong to Nicholas II. Now they are kept in the church - until, hopefully, we get the remains of Alexander III. And even if his tomb was desecrated, we hope to get genetic material. And then there are genetic studies conducted in two or three laboratories, including foreign ones. We will inform you of all the results of the study."

For a long time known the stories that the tombs of the Tsars in the Peter and Paul Cathedral were opened. "Perhaps, the remains of the Emperors who build Russia, were disturbed and reside in the improper form. Even so it is important to examine the tomb of Alexander III", - said Bishop Tikhon.

"When we open the plate, it will be clear, the grave was invaded or not, - said Bishop Tikhon, - when they could have been opened - it is an area of hypotheses. From 1919 to 1922, the entrance to the Peter and Paul Cathedral was closed for the people. And it could happen then. Motives - from

elementary robbery and to the fact that Lenin's hate of tsarist government was personified, or it could be something else. If the tomb of Alexander III was opened, then it was very quickly and it wasn't covered properly."

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1568436/>

ROC calls unfounded accusations in connection with investigations of the remains of the Romanovs

13 Nov, Planet Today - The accusations against the Russian Orthodox Church, who insist on a further study of the remains of the Tsar for a decision on the recognition or non-recognition of their holy relics, is unfounded; work is done through donations and without money from the state budget. This was announced today at the press conference by executive secretary of the Patriarchal Council for Culture, Bishop Tikhon (Shevkunov).

"There are accusations of the Church, so to speak, that it is almost obscurantist. Like, why? Everything is already known, genetic studies have put point. Stop acting like this! Yes, even, God forbid, at public expense, but now it all is made through donations, which helped us to collect even members of the government, for what we are most grateful" - said the bishop.

"We were blamed being an obscurantist by some capricious people who are ignoring public opinion. Do not! I guess if we do something, we have a strong reason for it" - he added.

Grave of Emperor Alexander III may have been opened before

13 Nov. Interfax - The Russian Orthodox Church does not rule out that the grave of Alexander III in St. Petersburg's Peter and Paul Fortress could have been opened before.



"We are not alleging anything, we are not alleging that the grave was invaded, although we believe it could have happened. The only thing we are alleging now is that the headstone was disassembled and then assembled again," Bishop Tikhon, secretary of the Patriarch's Council on Culture, told a press conference in Moscow.

"It is possible that the Tsar's remains were disturbed, there could have been looting and they are in an inappropriate condition," the bishop said.

The bishop said a possible opening of the grave

is indicated by the absence of metal belts holding the marble covers of the headstones, which was discovered by experts who worked in the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral.

The bishop also said that garbage, traces of asbestos and plaster and broken stones had been found under the headstone cover.

Experts now have to lift up the stone under the headstone, he said, reiterating that all actions are recorded on video and photographed.

Bishop Tikhon said graves in the Peter and Paul Fortress have been opened before, possibly many times. He said there is evidence of the opening of Tsars' graves, including Peter I and Alexander I, adding that the remains of the latter were not found, the grave was empty and that evidence can become "a weighty argument" to the Russian Orthodox Church. "We are not brushing any evidence aside, we are trying to check it," he said.

"The remains allergy being Nicholas II could be remains of Alexander III" says bishop

13 Nov - Bishop Tikhon, secretary of the Patriarch's Council on Culture, presented in the press conference in Moscow the theory that the remains of Emperor Alexander III was placed instead of the remains of Nicholas II in 1993....

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



The remains of Alexander III will be exhumed late November

16 Nov. Interfax - This week experts are to continue preparations for the exhumation of the remains of Emperor Alexander III for the new genetic examination in the case of the death of the last Russian Royal family. "It is necessary to remove the main plate on the tomb of Alexander III in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg. This is probably going to happen on Thursday" - said the senior investigator of the Main Directorate of forensic criminology TFR Vladimir Solovyov.

"This is not the exhumation of the remains of Alexander III. Under the thick massive slab weighing more than a ton is the crypt, its demolition will take a lot of time. The exhumation will happen somewhere in late November, not earlier" - he said.

The first phase of research was positive, but the work will continue, and we are building up. We start the second phase of the so-called Y-chromosome" - Soloviev said. "Another step - identification of hemophilia in the remains of Alexandra Feodorovna, her daughter and Tsarevich Alexei. Plus to complete the study of blood on the clothes of the Emperor Alexander II, who died in 1881". "Another step is the work on the servants", referring to genetic studies of the remains of the people who were executed by the Bolsheviks, along with the Royal family.

At least one month required for studies related to Royal family case says leading genetic scientist

23 Nov. Interfax - Yevgeny Rogayev, head of the department of human genetics at the Institute of General Genetics, told that most of the new DNA studies related to the investigation of the death of the Russian Royal family are to be completed within a month.

"One more month. Then we will see. Everything depends on the tasks that will be given to us," he said. "Now everything proceeds in working order, effectively," said Rogayev, who is in charge of DNA studies in the framework of a new expert examination related to the investigation of the death of Nicholas II and his family.

The head of the investigation was replaced in the case of the death of the Imperial Family

23 Nov. MK - The Investigation Committee decided to raise drastically the status of the "royal affair", from now on will be engaged a large investigation team under the command of Acting Head of the Main Investigation Department of the TFR Igor Krasnov. Since the initiation of the case №18 / 123666-93 (19 August 1993), and until recently, Vladimir Solovyov, senior investigator of the Main Directorate of



forensic criminology TFR, led the investigation. Solovyov is not removed from the case - he, too, joined the group, and his status is also increased, he became a senior investigator for particularly important cases.

However, according to sources of "MK", the recent personnel changes - it is undoubtedly a blow to Solovyov, who has been an "eyesore for a long time for the Church," and which "are now trying to put him out of the game."

According to our interlocutors informed, such decisions were lobbied by the leadership of the Patriarchate. Sources of the "MK" do not exclude that this may be followed for the removal of a number of experts who was involved with Solovyov. And accordingly - to attract new recommended by the Church.

Opening of the tomb of Alexander III may take several days

24 Nov. - In the Peter and Paul Cathedral St. Petersburg in the morning of 24 November 2015, in the presence of the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofy, Bishop of Kronstadt Nazaire and Bishop Tikhon and Abbot Peter and Paul Cathedral, Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov) was, as in previous days, committed lithium at the tomb of Emperor Alexander III.

Head of the Russian Archives Sergei Mironenko told that works to open the tomb may take a few days. "The works started. They say that they need three days. No one can say exactly so far how much time will be needed" - Mironenko said.

Reburial ceremony will not be after the exhumation of Alexander III

24 Nov. TASS - Restoration of the tomb of Alexander III after the exhumation of his remains in the framework of genetic research in the case of the death of the family of Nicholas II did not provide any ceremonies associated with the re-burial of the Emperor, told Chairman of the Heraldic Council under the President of Russia, George Vilinbakhov.

"It will be a pure restoration work," - he said, answering the question, it is assumed there any burial ceremony for the restoration.

Vilinbakhov did not comment on the decision on exhumation of Alexander III, saying only that "all should be in accordance with the law."

Opening of the tomb of Alexander III began in Peter and Paul Cathedral

27 Nov. - Representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church Committee, Smolny, the Investigative Committee, the Committee on State Control, Use and Protection of Monuments of History and Culture in St. Petersburg have arrived in the Cathedral.

The procedure began at 9:00. By 10:00 was uncovered the masonry tombs.

The Cathedral was closed all day and at the building was put riot police on duty.



"After removing the massive flakiness plate, the top flooring of the Putilov limestone which covers the brick arch vault, was made a survey which showed that the brick arch is not damaged, - said Vice-governor of St. Petersburg M. M. Kirillov. - Therefore, there was not an intrusion to the underground part of the tomb. Thus, the concerns of an autopsy of the tomb in the Soviet years were not confirmed. Under the brick vault tomb was discovered the well-preserved copper box with locks and there is the wooden coffin with the remains inside it."

Opening of Alexander's III the tomb in the framework of the criminal case on the death of the royal family

27 November
Official statement of the Investigative Committee



Today opening of the tomb of Alexander III was conducted at the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg in the framework of a criminal investigation of the death of a family members of the Russian Imperial House of Romanov. In addition to investigators, criminologists and leading experts in the field of genetics and forensic medicine opening was attended by representatives of the Patriarchate and personally - Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia, Alexander Bastrykin. During the entire opening procedure photos and video was carried out. Definitely it established that earlier there was no penetration in the crypt of Alexander III.

Currently, necessary studies are conducted on the site and also samples for further genetic studies and comparisons are taking. It should be noted that no premature conclusions will be done until experts will finish their work.

Recently the criminal case on the death of the royal family has been transferred under control of the administration of particularly important cases of the Investigative Committee of Russia for complete and objective research. Acting head of administration Major-General of Justice Igor Krasnov headed the Investigative group. It should be noted, that scientists geneticists of the world level involved in research as experts. In addition, when the Russian Investigative Committee set up a special working group, headed by Chairman of Russian Investigation Committee Alexander Bastrykin, Bishop Tikhon came in this group from the Russian Orthodox Church.



I note that the Russian Investigation Committee works in close cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Church. On the eve of opening the tomb there was a conversation between the Chairman of the Russian Investigative Committee Alexander Bastrykin and Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill. There was full understanding and participants of the conversation came to a consensus that the main goal of this work - to establish the truth and to be absolutely sure in the authenticity of the remains of the royal family, not to disturb their resting place later.

Video - 1)

<http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2692014#>

2) <http://5-tv.ru/news/102438/>

3) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/297105>

4) <http://ren.tv/novosti/2015-11-28/video-vskrytiya-grobnicy-imperatora-aleksandra-iii>

5) <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1236304/>

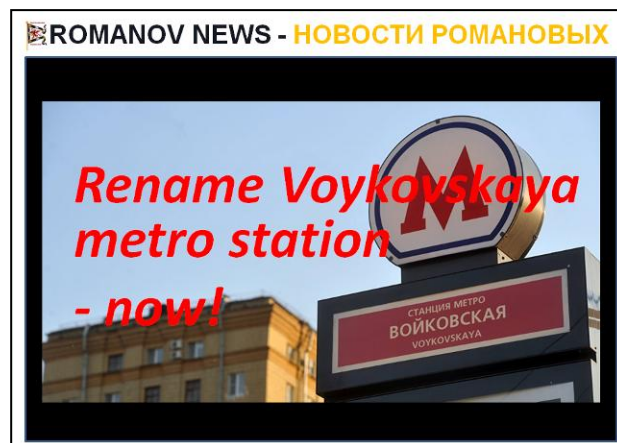
The "Voykovskaya" case seems to reach the end - for now

Muscovites have been offered to themselves decide the fate of "Voykovskoy"

November 8, Vesti, by Dmitry Kiselyov - The Moscow City Government launched an urgent initiative, let active citizens vote on the Web "for" or "against" renaming the metro station "Voikovskaya".

Nearby there is built a new railway interchange node, so that the name will appear in both cases, on the entire assembly.

The name of the nearby streets Voykovskaya is not discussed. Democratic technology experience is offered in a narrow case, addresses will not be changed, so any solution to the municipal budget is not having an impact.



Voting is very active. For a full week it was attended by more than 200 thousand people. Most is for not to rename, to leave all as it is. It's like in Russia is standing 20 thousand busts of Lenin and let them stand. Flowers planted around it according to the tradition. They say that the destruction is bad. But who is Lenin for us today, it is a complex question. So there is no answer to everything at once. The more difficult question is why there are fifty times more Lenin's monuments than the monuments to Pushkin?

The problem there is the proportions and requires reflection. There in the capital Metro station "Voykovskaya." Its name gave Peter Lazarevich Voykov. The one who in Yekaterinburg in 1918 with Yurovsky killed the Emperor, Emperor Nicholas II and his family, including the small children. To be sure, the innocent victims was pierced with bayonets. The floor in the Ipatiev house became slippery as in a slaughterhouse. The next morning, Peter Voikov removed from the slain jewelry and began to cut the Emperor to pieces. Then the others.

Video - <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2684426>

Vladimir Zhirinovsky: Voikov - Tsar killer, his name cannot be used in titles

10 of November - LDPR leader believes that there can be no doubt about the key role of the Bolshevik Peter Voykov in the brutal destruction of the Royal family in 1918, so his name should be removed from the place names in Russia.

"Now there is debate about renaming the metro station" Voykovskaya "and in general the role of Voykov. Allegedly, there are doubts, did he personally participate in the execution or not of the Romanov family, and therefore eligibility to rename names derived from his surname. No doubt about it can't be. Even if he did not shoot himself, then it is known that he was the main initiator of the execution, there is a transcript of the discussion on the subject of the Ural Regional Council. He participated in the organization of terrorist acts even before the revolution. This Voykov was among those who arrived in Petrograd in sealed train, was an agent of Western intelligence services. This man's name cannot be used for the names of streets or stations ", - said Vladimir Zhirinovsky. In addition, the Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party said that the party is opposed to perpetuate the names of any monuments or politicians. "We are in favor of renaming" Voykovskoy "and in general all the streets bearing the names of political figures. And no need to continue to assign such names because any politician is controversial. Better use of historical, geographical names. Returned the same name Ostozhenka, Znamenka, Prechistenka - a neutral, correct name, "- he stressed.

The press conference on the renaming of Voykovskaya Metro

A press conference devoted to the renaming of the Metro station named in honor of P.L.Voykov was held 12 November, in the House of Russians Abroad named after Solzhenitsyn.



The press conference was attended by President of the National Fund "Revival of Russian manor" V. I. Alyavdin; First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Culture of the Public Chamber Mikhail Lermontov; a descendant of Emperor Alexander III P. E. Kulikovskiy; doctor of historical sciences, professor of the Seminary of St. Nicholas Ugreshsky V. M. Lavrov; director of the House of the Russians Abroad, a member of the Public Chamber of the Moscow V. A. Moskvina, and Deputy Director of House of the Russians Abroad on the cultural and historical heritage I. V. Domnin.

The main purpose of the press conference - to draw public attention to the glaring fact of conservation in the names of streets and cities in our country are the names of executioners, killers (Voykov, Bela Kun), which is already proven and recognized by society. All press conference participants were unanimous on one point: renaming of Metro "Voykovskaya" and the district of the same name cannot be delayed any longer - the name of a terrorist and the main organizer of the criminal murder of the Imperial Family should not be on the maps of our cities.

- The voting on the portal "Active Citizen" has been going on for many days, and yet retained a definite advantage in the side of those who oppose the renaming. I think this is the result of that in this activity is involved mainly young people. They just do not know who Peter Voykov is - it is the result of the failure of the program studying the history in our schools in the 1990s-2000s. - Said the director of the House of Russian abroad Viktor Moskvina.

- One of the main arguments of the opponents of renaming is that it leads to the de-Sovietization, crossing out entire pages of our history. But those who advocate personally the Bolshevik Commissioner Peter Voykova among the voters are few, - said the president of the National Fund "Revival of Russian manor" Vissarion Alyavdin.

- The vast majority of opponents are against any renaming. While that's quite fresh example for the anniversary of the victory of the metro station "Podbelsky Street" (named, by the way, also in honor of a famous Bolshevik Commissar) was renamed the "Boulevard Rokossovsky" and without noise, and negativity in the community it did not cause! In the case the metropolitan leadership simply used its right, but with "Voykovskoy" in the same way "city fathers" did not want to do. Meanwhile, the situation with the current vote is very unclear. Share of opponents to rename - 56%, as there was in the first hours of voting, and still is - a lot of days later, but according to my information on the site "Active Citizen" daily comes to several tens of thousands of people, leaving behind their opinions, and many voted "for". This "frozen" result is a unique event for all the time that we had practiced online voting.

- Similar questions of moral character generally can't take a massive vote, the consequences can be very negative, - said the historian Vladimir Lavrov. - Imagine if Prince Vladimir in the choice of religion to Russia tried to ask people's opinion? - Supporters of Christianity would surely have suffered a crushing defeat. The most creepy characters - Hitler was chosen once to "the power" in Germany by mass voting. Why are there: for even Christ himself condemned to death by the will of the people: the

question of Pilate, who let them in honor of the holiday, the people shouted: "Not this man, but Varavva!" Christ have preferred a robber!

- The issue of renaming the "Voykovskaya" in the form in which it is put to a vote, is formulated defective, - said the first deputy chairman of the Committee on Culture of the Public Chamber Mikhail Lermontov. - People are overwhelmingly the most part unaware of Voykova do not know who he is. Therefore, to obtain an objective picture of public opinion should specify the issue, adding to the name Voykova the word "criminal" or "regicide". That's when the number of votes for that subway station is still bore the name of such a negative character for sure would have been many times less. In general, before organizing a referendum like the Internet, it would be logical to publicly discuss with the citizens whether they agree with the fact that the maps are immortalized the names of criminals, possibly even initiate the adoption of the relevant law.

- We provide a certificate from the Investigative Committee of Russia, - said Alyavdin. - They pointed out that on the basis of documentary evidence available to the TFR, Peter Voykov was an active supporter of the physical destruction of the Royal family. With his participation at the meeting in Urals Soveta in April 1918 was made an unspoken decision to prepare the murder of Nicholas II and his family during their transportation to the new place of exile. And after that the plan was developed even train explosion. This Voykov and his associates doomed to death not only the Royal family and their servants, but also several dozen Red Army soldiers who were guarding the train. A few hours before the murder of the tsar and his family on July 17, 1918, it was Voykov who signed the note on the issue from the warehouse of a large amount of acid, which is then used to destroy the bodies after the Romanovs were shot.



Paul Kulikovskiy's speech was short - *"Ladies and gentlemen, My name is Pavel Edourdovich Kulikovskiy. I am great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III. Grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of Emperor Nicholas II. I am the first and only descendent of the Romanov dynasty, after the revolution, who permanently lives and work in Russia. I live in Moscow. I love Moscow, but....*
...The name of Voykov on the map of Moscow, it is a shame of Moscow, it is a shame of Russia. Voykov have not done anything positive. He was a terrorist - a terrorist killing children. And still - Not all of the children are buried.
Why do the Russian society today accept to honor a terrorist?

I say save the honor of our country - rename station metro Voykovskaya. Rename Voykovskaya - now!"

The fate of the "Voykovskaya" decide 10 days of voting

November 12, Vesti, by Anastasia Sahovskaya - Do we need to rename a metro station "Voykovskaya" in Moscow? This issue is addressed now the city authorities with the Muscovites, historians and public figures. On the Internet, another 10 days portal "Active Citizen" will be opened for voting. But polls show, many do not even know that Voykov, whose name is the station, took an active part in the murder of the Royal family.

In Moscow, nine of names associated with the name of Peter Lazarevic Voykova. This street, a few passages, the bridge and the metro station. Every day 100 thousand people use it, soon it will be even more passengers: it will open a transport hub. And just a new round of controversy - after whom it called? Again after Voykov? Whether he is worthy of such a historical memory?

Now it is the name on everyone's lips - do not mention the fact that every day and every hour and every minute. From subway maps because words cannot erase. Under the scheme there are people - the usual, well-established. Hence, according to experts, and the intermediate results of the vote: it is attended by a quarter of a million people, and more than half, as before, see no reason to change anything.

"The habit is very stable in a man when he does not explain what is happening and what to rename. If there was ahead score that person as a criminal - " Do you agree to leave the station name in honor of the perpetrator? " - People have started to think, what they vote, " - says the first deputy chairman of the Commission on Culture of the Public Chamber of Russia, Mikhail Lermontov.

"People just do not know who was Voykov - insists the director of the House of Russian abroad Viktor Moskvina. - Some Bolshevik, nothing more. And that he was a murderer, a terrorist - few people, unfortunately, know. And, of course, mostly young people participate in internet voting. But it is very significant. "

In fact, the views of historians differ, but here, for example, what - Did Voykov kill royal daughters bayonet after the shooting or not, and did he use all sulfuric acid and kerosene, and did he sign at a pharmacy for five pounds, nearly a hundred liters when bodies were lying in the basement?

The acid and kerosene went to move after revolvers. Two days in a row Voykov associates manic rid of the bodies by burning, it seemed, even the mention of the Romanovs. What remains, dumped in a common grave and made a fire.

"My position is very clear: the station should be renamed. Voykov - a terrorist. I do not seek revenge, but I'm looking for the truth - says the great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Paul Kulikovskiy. - And I just can't accept that the name of the murderer, the killer of my family is immortalized in Moscow. "

Involvement of Voykov to death of the Royal family established a consequence - and the main carried out in the years of the Civil War, and further, in our time, and numerous memories, according to which Voykov was literally obsessed with the murder of the Emperor. And he made several unsuccessful attempts.

"He offers to arrange a train wreck - says the Institute of Russian History, Vladimir Lavrov. - Just some obsessed maniac! And what if we are about these names will be called around him and save the streets!"

"People who encroached on the most sacred to death, and the killing of his country, orthodoxy, people, children - clearly these people have blood on their hands. Definitely" Voykovskaya " need to Rename, and another thing - find that there should be" - said People's Artist of Russia Salavat Shcherbakov.

"One of the most popular proposals - a station" Voykovskaya ", for example, in honor of astronaut Volkov, who died tragically, the hero of the Soviet Union. No one calls for some kind of revenge, it is about to remove some offensive names from the map city and country maps, only about it! " - Trying to convince the president of the National Fund "Revival of Russian manor" Vissarion Alyavdin.

It even does not go to rename the street or area. No need to rewrite addresses, but only to re-release a subway map. And certainly it is not a call to forget - in any case - it is an absolute historical lesson. But in order to learn it, it is not necessary to repeat it constantly.

Video - <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2686171#>

Muscovites opposed the renaming of the metro station "Voykovskaya"

23 of November - The metro station "Voykovskaya" in Moscow should keep the same name. So says more than half of residents of the capital who voted in the referendum system of electronic "Active Citizen". Voting ended on 22 of November.

According to the results of the poll, for renaming the metro station "Voykovskaya" voted 35% and 53% voted against. 7% were undecided, and 5% said that experts should solve this issue. Turnout was more than 304 thousand people.

The ROC saddened by Muscovites indifference on "Voykovskoy"

23 of November. INTERFAX - The Russian Orthodox Church expressed bewilderment at the passivity of the citizens on the issue of renaming the metro stations "Voykovskaya."

"It surprises me that in the public space, many are actively opposed to perpetuate the memory of causing moral questions of characters from the past, such as Voykov, and the results of voting on the portal "Active Citizen" showed indifference of many of those who had been invited to participate in decision-making", - said the head of the Synodal Information Department Vladimir Legoyda.

"I do not believe that the name of the murderer and terrorist for someone has a value, but, unfortunately, agree with the fact that participation in the vote somehow for many of us are too burdensome," - he said.

According Legoyda, there were signals that the voting procedure was poorly conceptualized by the organizers, in particular, it was technically possible to vote from other regions and there was technical failures, "but no matter how it relate to the distribution of votes - 300,000 votes - a sad demonstration of civic indifference."

"Relations with the historic figures may be different, but when it comes to those who know only crime, each of us is called to make their moral choices even pressing the keys on a computer," - concluded V. Legoyda.

Another renaming process is going much easier in Yekaterinburg

Instead of a revolutionary name of a street in Yekaterinburg it now looks like it will be given the name of "Tsarskaya".

Tolmachev street in Yekaterinburg, named after a revolutionary, will be renamed to "the Tsarskaya", the decision was taken at a meeting of the Commission on the city names.

At the last meeting on November 26, under the direction of the deputy Head of the Administration of Yekaterinburg on the organization of important Russian and international events Sergei Tushin, was considered a number of new names for streets.

Additional suggestions were offered - "Romanovskaya", "Ipatievskaya", "Tsarskaya", "Nykolaevskaya".

The meeting was attended by Metropolitan Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill, who expressed the views and concerns of the diocese regarding the renaming of streets. Following the meeting, it was unanimously decided to rename the streets of revolutionary Tolmachev to "Tsarskaya".



Leonid Kulikovsky, a great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III died

Leonid Gurievich Kulikovsky, the son of Guri N. Kulikovsky, the youngest son of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, died in Australia on 27 September. He passed away at the age of 72.

It is reported that he was going for a walk with his dog "Rakky" - a pit bull cross - in the town of Katherine, south-east of Darwin, in the Northern Territory. Apparently he felt bad, sat down on the ground under a tree and died. The medical institution explained that the cause of death was a heart attack.

He was born 2 May, 1943 in Ballerup, in Denmark, as the second child of Guri N. Kulikovsky and Ruth Schwartz. In 1948 he moved with the entire family of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna to Canada, where he went to school at Ogden Avenue Public School in Lakeview.



When his parents divorced, he left Canada in 1956 with his mother and youngest brother Alexander and moved back to Denmark. Here he went to Bagsværd Kostskole (boarding School) until 1959. Then he returned to Canada for a few years until again returning to Denmark.



In 1967 he emigrated to Australia, where he settled in Sydney and worked at the Sydney Water Board.

In all those years he has never told his workmates about his royal background. As he told in an 1979 interview - "Why should I claim a title when it's worth nothing?" "What's more, I'm a labourer. If I put on airs I would be put down in no uncertain terms."

Asked why he hasn't used his connections to get a nice easy job, he said - "I've had the opportunity, but have always been against it. I have always wanted to prove myself and get a job on my own merits".

"As a labourer I can have a lot of freedom and I do not have to use my brain too much" - he chuckled.

But could the Great-grandson of a Tsar really be satisfied with such a menial task - "Of course I don't like it, but I have no choice. You've got to laugh about it, otherwise you'd go crazy".

Seven years ago after retirement, he bought a Winnebago motorhome and wanted to travel around Australia, starting out from Sydney. He got as far as Katherine and then he had problems with his vehicle. He then stayed in Katherine and lived at the North Bank Caravan Park with his dog.

In the days after the 27 September, the police searched Leonid Kulikovsky's living quarters. They quickly identified him and found out he had relatives in Denmark and contacted the Danish police.

However the relative the police looked for was his mother Ruth Kulikovsky, who had died 3 months earlier, so they had to find another relative, which then became his sister Xenia. Of course it took some extra time, but not much.

"At that moment I was in Moscow and met with his nephew, who had been asking me for some time to find his uncle," - the Very Rev. Dr. Archpriest Michael Protopopov, Chancellor of the Australian & New Zealand Diocese tells. "Then, I came back to Australia and started my search".

On 8 of October the sad message came to his sister from the Danish police, and on 9 October the Kulikovsky family informed Father Michael about Leonid Kulikovsky's death and that he had died in Darwin. Father Michael could now ask the local authorities and was informed that Leonid Kulikovsky's remains were in the local morgue, awaiting an autopsy and a decision about what should happen with him.

With the help of Father Michael and his friend in Darwin, Simon Andropov, a member of the Union of Russian Compatriots, further information was collected, permission was given by the family to them to act on their behalf, and to arrange the funeral and a burial place.

The story of the death of Leonid Kulikovsky while walking his dog, made it into media all over the world on 23 November, when Simon Andropov mentioned it to the media.

The headlines focused on Leonid Kulikovsky being an "heir to the Russian throne", which of course he was not, and how he was lying in a morgue for two month without being identified, which is also incorrect.



30 November at 1.00 pm. the Very Rev. Dr. Archpriest Michael Protopopov started the funeral service in the Serbian Orthodox church in Malak, a suburb of Darwin. (There is no Russian Orthodox church in Darwin). He had arrived specially from Melbourne to performed the funeral service. In 2008 he also led the funeral service of Prince Michael Andreievich Romanoff, who died 22 September 2008 in Sydney.

At Leonid Kulikovsky's funeral, the Northern Territories government was represented by Multicultural Affairs Minister Peter Styles, and the Russian Embassy by Maxim Raku from Canberra. The Speaker of the Northern Territory Assembly was also to formally mention Leonid Kulikovsky in the Parliament on the day.



Archpriest Michael Protopopov at the coffin of Leonid Kulikovsky, covered by a flag and with flowers in Russian colors on top.

A message from Mr. Kulikovsky's family was read out at the service:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, brothers and sisters, The death of Leonid Gurivich Kulikovsky came as a great shock to his family. We had just been talking with Father Michael in Moscow and had renewed hope of finding him, when a few days later we were informed by the police that he was found dead.

The life of Leonid before he went from Denmark to Australia in 1967 is well known to his family, but what he did in Australia is less known to us. For the last 20 years Leonid Gurivich Kulikovsky was not in contact with his family.

For some of you it might be the opposite. We guess that not many of you knows about his life before his arrival in Australia. Those who met him during his time in Sydney or in Katherine, most likely did not know that he is a descendant of the Russian Tsar Alexander III - the Peacemaker. Leonid did not show up about his roots.

In his family he was known as "Nidik", while in Australia, as we have learned, he was called "Old Nick". Leonid was never married and did not leave any scion. His father Guri died in 1984 and his mother Ruth died this year, just 3 months ago. The year 2015 will not be remembered as a good year for the Kulikovsky family.

It is with great sorrow that we are not able to be here today. But we are very pleased that he is having an Orthodox funeral and is grateful to Bishop Irinej for allowing Leonid to be buried out of the Serbian Orthodox Church.



We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Simon Andropov and Father Michael, who have help us with information about his death and with arranging the funeral. Finally, the family of Leonid Gurivich Kulikovsky would like to say thank you to all who came here today for a last farewell.

We pray for our brother, uncle and grand-uncle Leonid. Lord, have Mercy on Thy servant. Eternal Memory.

Moscow, November 28th, 2015.

On behalf of the Kulikovsky family. Pavel Eduardovich Kulikovsky, Godson and nephew"



Leonid Kulikovsky was to be buried after the funeral ceremony (with money sent from his family in Denmark), however the same morning the Kulikovsky family was informed that his burial had been delayed due to the local Paspaley family in the last minute had made an offer of a better gravesite and headstone at their private family burial area. The extra expenses they offered to cover. The Paspaleys are immigrants from Greece who fled the First World War for Australia and made their fortune in pearling and is known as the richest family in Northern Territories. For registration of documents it will take another couple of days, which is why the funeral will take place next week in the cemetery of Rapid Creek.

Local friends remembered 'Nick' Kulikovsky. Brendan Hiller from Katherine who went to the funeral said Mr. Kulikovsky - "Was a down-to-earth man who was always reading and went for a seven-kilometer walk each morning." "Mr. Kulikovsky did only once hint at his royal ancestry" - Mr. Hiller said. "I said to him one day, that name sounds like a Russian name, and he said 'yes it is'". "He did tell me that he was related to the Tsars and I said 'oh you're famous then', and he looked up at me and smiled and said 'yes'. "I didn't think much of it at the time, I thought he was embellishing." - Mr. Hiller said.

Former Katherine pub worker Zdravko Radovic said his friend Mr. Kulikovsky never mentioned his royal ancestry.



The mentioning in Australian media led many to express concern about the dog's fate, but the local NT-news could report that within 24 hours the RSPCA had found the dog a new home".

Mr. Kyle Heyworth - who's grandparents own the North Bank Caravan Park in Katherine where Mr. Kulikovsky had been living told - "He was a lovely dog and very well fed. Wherever "Old Nick" went so did the dog ... Nick walked him every morning and every afternoon, he never missed a day." Mr. Heyworth added - "Old Nick was a very polite man and good for a chat."

For privacy reasons, the RSPCA couldn't disclose who in Katherine had adopted the pit bull cross.



Princess Olga Andreievna Romanov

As a great-granddaughter of Emperor Alexander III, Princess Olga Andreievna is the senior representative of the female descendants in the Romanov family today.

Born 8 April 1950, in London, she is the daughter of Prince of Imperial Blood Andrei Alexandrovich (1897-1981) and his second wife Nadine Sylvia Ada McDougall (1908-2000).

Her father, Prince Andrei Alexandrovich, was the second child, but first son of Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna and Grand Duke Alexander Michailovich. Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna is the eldest daughter of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna.

Her mother, Nadine Sylvia Ada McDougall was the daughter of Herbert McDougall and Sylvia Borgström. Sylvia Borgström wrote novels and biographies under the nom-de-plume 'Paul Waineman' and came from a Finnish banking dynasty.



Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna with her daughter Princess Irena and sons - Prince Andrei is sitting on the couch to the right.

Princess Olga Andreievna married Thomas Mathew (b. 8 July 1945) on 1 October 1975 in London. They separated in 1989. She has today three children:

- Nicholas Mathew (b. 6 December 1976). Married, 3 children.
- Francis-Alexander Mathew (b. 26 September 1979) - A freelance photographer. In 2012 he participated as "The Bachelor" in the Ukraine version of series. Appeared also in the second season of Secret Princes as "Prince Alexander" in the US series.
- Alexandra Mathew (b. 20 April 1981)

Princess Olga Andreievna attended in 1998 the funeral ceremony of Emperor Nicholas II, his family and servants and in 2006 the reburial ceremony of her great-grandmother Empress Maria Feodorovna in both Copenhagen and in St. Petersburg. She is a member of the Romanoff Family Association.



Princess Olga Andreievna lives in Provender House, Faversham, Kent, United Kingdom, a house she have inherited from her father. Provender is listed in Hasted's History of Kent as being in the possession of John de Provender in the 13th century but it also has links to the Black Prince (son of King Edward III) because in 1342 it was used as a hall house and hunting lodge for the Prince's chief archer, Lucas de Vienne.

Princess Olga Romanoff invites you into her home Provender House



8 of November, Kent Online, by Bess Browning.

Ever dreamed of tea and cake with a Princess?

A seemingly unlikely residence for Royalty, a small corner of the Kent countryside is in fact home to Princess Olga Romanoff, daughter of Prince Andrew Romanoff who was the eldest nephew of the murdered Tsar Nicholas II – the last emperor of Russia.

Stepping inside Provender House, tucked away in the village of Norton just off the rush of the A2, is like climbing into a time machine, and the princess is now inviting you inside.

Olga, 65, will be leading an amble through the vast and spectacular 13th century property, teaching visitors about her family tree and the rich history of the 30-room home... followed by a cuppa in front of an enchanting Tudor fireplace.

Her family tree is brimming with enthralling stories, but it is dotted with tragedy as well.

Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Tsarina Alexandra and their five children were massacred in 1918, bringing a brutal end to the Royal dynasty in Russia.

Olga's family were first associated with Provender House in 1890 and her grandmother, Sylvia McDougall, bought it in 1912 for her mother who was living there as a tenant.

Everything about this house is dripping in extravagance and every painting, ornament or piece of furniture has a story to tell – one of the many black and white photographs depicts the Grand Duchess Xenia and Princess Irina Yusopov, wife of Prince Felix Yusopov, who is believed to have killed the famous Rasputin.

Another picture in the drawing room shows Maria Feodorovna, an empress of Russia and Olga's great-grandmother, sitting next to her sister, Queen Alexandra, wife of Edward VII (Queen Victoria's son).

But something about Olga is remarkably different from her ancestors pictured adorned in their jewels and expensive clothing. She is a modern, modest Princess, driving an unassuming Volkswagen Golf, enjoying cooking and walking her dogs and would rather spend an afternoon in Faversham than in London or abroad.

The grandmother-of-three told us: "I visit London a few times a year for a charity event, a party or to see my children for dinner, but I would much rather be in the countryside.

The home is open for tea and cake

"I like the smell of the horses and having hay in my hair."



Born in London, Olga moved to Provender House when she was just a week old and was home-schooled there, before moving between the city, Scotland and Kent before settling in permanently after the death of her mother in 2000.

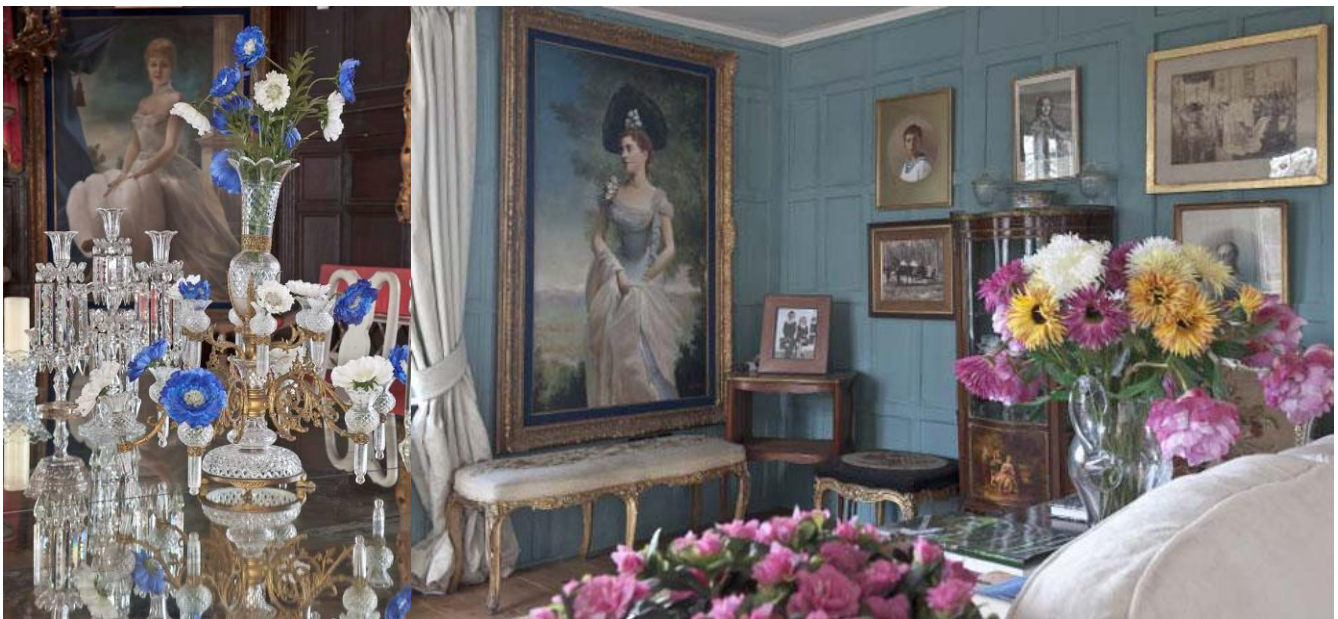
At that time, the house was in need of some serious repair and nurture. Olga took the project under her wing with the help of grants from English Heritage. The building has now been removed from the organization's at risk register.

In 2003, Ptolemy Dean, often known as the Queen's architect and the surveyor of the fabric of Westminster Abbey, led the complete renovation of Provender House, unmasking yet more of its fascinating architecture and even more history was unleashed. Five centuries of style and construction are now on show.



A new roof was erected, new windows were installed, gullies built to stop flooding which was gradually decaying the house and it has steadily been renovated to its former beauty but still maintaining its historical charm.

Everywhere you look there is something you didn't notice before – silk wallpaper from the early 20th century hangs delicately in the reception and the wooden crown posts towering above the immeasurable rooms.



Olga only uses about 10 of the 30 rooms but she says the five bedrooms are just not enough for her growing family.

She has a cleaner who comes in every week, a gardener every fortnight and once featured on Channel 4's *You Can't Get The Staff* where Olga was looking for domestic workers to maintain the house.

She said: "It's hard to look after. When you come to the end, you have to start again. There is a lot to do."

"I have quite a normal life here at Provender, but I don't know anything different from being a Princess."

"It's all I've known. I was a Princess from birth."

"As hard as it is to maintain, I would never leave this house now."

Princess Olga's family history is marred by tragedy.

The house is open by appointment from May to October but this is the first year for winter tours and tea. Tours and tea, for a minimum of eight people and a maximum of 12, can be booked at www.provenderhouse.co.uk for £25 per person.

Cossack dance in London raised £ 1950 for the foundation of the Romanovs

5 Nov, Angliya - Which has already become a good tradition the twelfth Cossack Ball was held in London last Saturday, October 31, in the gentlemen's club Carlton. Ball was held under the patronage and in the presence of Her Highness Princess Olga, as well as guests from Russia and Bulgaria. Cultural Attache of the Embassy of the Russian Federation Konstantin Shlykov read a welcoming speech by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, and in a minute of silence all guests honored memory of those killed in the plane crash in Egypt.

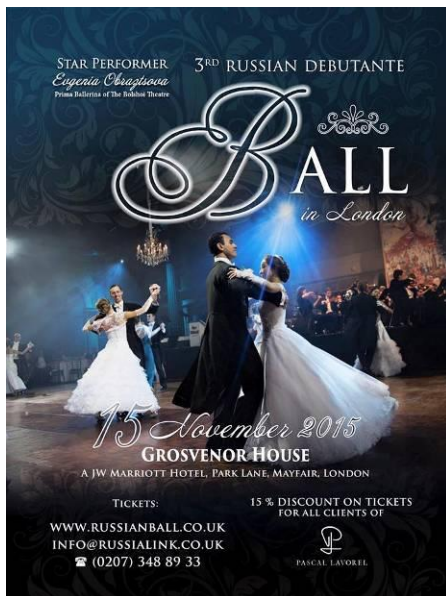


This year's program of the ball presented the international music ensemble Rusi Lebedi, violin duo Katie Lazarus, as well as the world-famous musician, laureate of international competitions, singer and composer Yuri Verevkin.

As always, the ball was for charity. The collected funds this year (£ 1950) will go to the Romanov Fund, which was created by Prince Dimitri Romanovich and other members of the Romanoff Family Association. "Half of the funds raised will go to help deaf children in the Rostov region, and half - to the foundation Hospice "Faith". Foundation "Faith" is the only non-profit organization in Russia, which provides regular support for hospices across the country. Now the Foundation collaborates with more than 50 hospices. Also, under the tutelage of the fund are more than 400 families with terminally ill children.

Cossack dance took place in London with the support of Rossotrudnichestvo and sponsor - vodka "Ivan the Terrible."





Daughters of the Russian elite make their glittering debut: Debutantes dazzle in gems and bridal gowns at lavish society event in London

16 Nov, Mailonline - By Tanya de Grunwald and Phoebe Jackson-Edwards

They might look like princesses dressed in bespoke gowns in lavish surroundings, but the guests at the Russian Debutante Ball are actually wearing rented dresses and budget accessories. The event, held at Grosvenor House, London, was the third of its kind in the capital and had the 60 debutantes adhering to the dress code of floor-length white bridal gowns, matching gloves and compulsory tiaras, which one girl revealed only cost her £15 from Amazon.

The Bolshoi Ballet's prima ballerina Evgenia Obraztsova performed at the dazzling occasion held last night.



Prima ballerina of Bolshoi Theatre Evgenia Obraztsova with HRH Princess Michael of Kent, left, and HH Princess of Russia Olga Romanoff, right, are posing in front of the debutantes of the Third Russian Ball

The Bolshoi Ballet's prima ballerina Evgenia Obraztsova performed at the dazzling occasion held last night in front of the debutantes in elegant gowns.

They danced and dined alongside a sprinkling of celebrities including the ball's patron Princess Olga Romanoff (great-niece of Tsar Nicholas II and now living in Kent), Princess Michael of Kent, her son Frederick Windsor and Siberian Strictly siren Kristina Rihanoff, who will attend as a guest of Pletnev, her former dance master.

Organizer Dr. Elisabeth Smagin-Melloni chose the 60 debutantes who were hand-picked from 200 applicants alongside her committee (which includes her Russian husband Alexander Smagin and choreographer Leonid Pletnev).

With registration fees at a relatively affordable £200, the ball is aimed at a new group emerging in the capital: upper middle class, highly educated, ambitious young women, largely from Russian-speaking countries.



Left - Princess Olga Romanoff is a patron of the ball. Right - Princess Michael of Kent with her son Frederick Windsor, descending the stairs.

Princess Michael chose a black gown with spotted trim and stand-out pearl accessories with a choker and drop earrings

The debutantes and their dates take to the floor with the debs holding bright corsages from their partners. The girls wore their hair in an elegant up do to complement the compulsory tiaras they wore for the formal event.

The debutantes must be aged between 16 and 25 and all speak several languages and have at least one degree from a top (usually British) university.

They must have a job or be studying, and be able to answer questions on topics such as their favorite author or their country's history.

The women who take part also spend months perfecting their dancing, ready for when they took to the stage last night to dance the Viennese Waltz to 'Polonaise' from Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin in front of 800 guests.

Most girls also opted for discreet pendants and pearls (worth around £200,000), courtesy of Swiss jeweller Piaget, which is sponsoring the night along with Harrods, and loaned the girls their gems. The scene could be straight out of the 1890s London Season – except that the girls have all arrived in black skinnies and spiked heels, glued to their Instagrams and chattering away in Russian.

Organizer Elisabeth said the ball is not solely about appearance, but 'first impressions are everything. I don't care whether their bag is from Prada or Marks & Spencer, but I don't want girls chewing gum or with their hands in their pockets'

Debutante balls are often assumed to be a uniquely British tradition (our most famous being the Queen Charlotte's Ball, dating back to the days of George III, when girls were presented to the queen to celebrate her birthday)

However, in the early 19th century they were just as much of a fixture among the European and Russian aristocracy.

In Russia, the party stopped abruptly after the 1917 revolution, during which Tsar Nicholas was executed with his family. But interest in the tradition picked up again in the post-Communist 1990s.

Now, as Russian nationals are scattered across the globe, Elisabeth has responded to an increase in demand for what she refers to as 'a taste of Russian history and culture and a feeling of togetherness'.

Many debts are from Russia but several come from Ukraine, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan – even England.

Foreign affairs are firmly off the agenda: 'We unite nations and communities,' says Elisabeth emphatically. 'The ball is not the place to discuss politics.'



'This is not about looks,' says Elisabeth. 'I don't want long-limbed idiots. But no elephants either! If a girl is 150 kilos then I'm sorry, but no.'

Applications to be a debutante (or a deb's dance partner) closed in May and auditions took place in April in London and Moscow.

The UK capital (dubbed 'Londongrad' because it is home to 150,000 Russian speakers) is the latest addition to the international roster of Elisabeth's balls, staged in cities where Russians live in significant numbers, take their holidays or have historical links.

As well as London, they also take place in Moscow (naturally), Biarritz and Vienna, with plans to expand to Karlsbad, Marrakech and Montreux (where many Russian girls go to boarding school) next year.

This year, the London ball is welcoming an English debutante, 24-year-old Helen Willis, a PhD student from Reading.

Holding a Russian Debutante Ball in London may seem incongruous, but to the debts themselves it makes perfect sense.

'Some of my friends helped out at last year's event and it sounded incredible and completely unlike any other night out,' she says.

'They've captured the special sparkle that I hear the English debutante scene has lost. I'm not from a posh family so I'd never be able to go to an English debutante ball.

'I love that the Russian one is much more inclusive.'

'London is the only place that feels like home – I love that you can do and be anything you like and nobody bats an eyelid,' says Julia.

'If you want to be a fairy-tale princess, you can be a fairy-tale princess. Just go for it.'

Exhibition about the Russian Cavalry Guard

The exhibition "Roads of glory and victories" in Gatchina is about the history of Russian Cavalry Guards. It is organized by the State Museum "Gatchina" together with the State Memorial Museum of A. V. Suvorov and Novgorod Museum and is dedicated to the 285th anniversary of the Horse Guards. It includes more than two hundred items, and covers the period from the second third of the XVIII century to the 1917 Revolution.



The exhibition reflects the main historical stages of formation and development of Russian Guards cavalry regiment in XVIII - early XX centuries. Visitors will see how it changes over time, the appearance of the guards, through the exhibited items of uniforms and items of equipment, weapons, awards and insignia.

Also on display will feature equestrian portraits, images of cavalymen and battles, silver kettledrums of the Life Guards

regiment, obtained as a trophy in the Battle of Poltava (the collection of the State Memorial Museum of AV Suvorov). They are depicted in the portrait with kettledrummer from the collection of the Novgorod Museum Reserve, which for the first time will be shown at the exhibition, together with the very timpani.

A separate room set aside the history of the Life Guard Cuirassier Her Majesty's Regiment, which was stationed in Gatchina from 1822 until before the outbreak of World War II. One of the central exhibits of the hall - a picturesque portrait of junior non-commissioned officer of the Life Guards regiment of Her Majesty's Cuirassier painted by N.S. Samokish.



Also, along with items of equipment cuirassiers and photos, there will be presented the sword of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, presented by his colleagues - officers of Cuirassier Regiment, as well as the memorial steel chair - a gift to the cuirassiers from chief of the regiment Empress Maria Feodorovna.

The exhibition runs November 27 until April 3rd, 2016.

Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich's gold sword "for bravery"

The second exhibition in Gatchina is represented by only one exhibit - a gold sword "For Bravery" owned by Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich (1798-1849) from the State Museum of Alexander Suvorov.



An example of award weapons to officers with gilded hilt and a knot of St. George (orange and black) colors. The sword was awarded to Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich on June 1, 1831 for participation in a battle on April 30, 1831 and for the defeat of the Polish army of forty thousand at the Battle of Ostrołęka on May 26, 1831. Subsequently, the Grand Duke gave his sword to General V.K. Knorring (1784 -1864), who also participated in the suppression of the Polish insurrection in 1831 and commanded the Guards Cavalry Division.



Later, the award was given to the Museum of the Horse Guards, and after the 1917 revolution, taken to Paris. In 1994, Russian military historian, researcher of uniforms Russian imperial army and the son of the last commander of the Cavalry Regiment V.V. Zvegintsev (1914-1996) donated it to the Suvorov museum .

The exhibition will last till December 20.



Emperor Alexander II monument erected in Sochi

On November 21 the grand opening of the monument to Emperor Alexander II was held in the center of Sochi, near the Art Museum. Project leader Mikhail Serdyukov said that the monument weight more than 4 tons, and height - 3.4 m.



It is written on the monument in golden letters - "The Liberator, Alexander II (1818-1881)". "Russian Emperor made great reforms, including abolished serfdom (1861), has ended the multi-year Caucasian war (1817-1864), and began the economic development of the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus."

According to M. Serdyukov the project "Alley of Russian Glory" is intended to revive the patriotic spirit of the Russian people.

"Establishing monuments and busts in different parts of Russia, we thereby pay tribute to our great ancestors and countrymen" - said the project manager.

Vice-mayor of Sochi Irina Romanet told about the monument of Emperor Alexander II. - "During the reign of Alexander II was over long-standing debilitating 47-year-old Caucasian war. It was in 1864, Alexander II was victorious and ended the war. And actually active development of the Black Sea coast started since 1864. The second reason, which has to do with our great Russian history, is that during the reign of Alexander II serfdom was abolished in 1861. In general, Alexander II was a great reformer."

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iQAXaK2VLA>

Monument to Emperor Alexander II was unveiled in Yaroslavl



On 24 of October in Yaroslavl a monument to Emperor Alexander II was consecrated by Metropolitan Panteleimon of Yaroslavl and Rostov. The solemn ceremony was attended by Chief Bailiff of Russia Arthur Parfenchikov, the clergy of the Diocese of Yaroslavl and Feodorovsky abbess of the convent of Pereslavl Abbess Varvara (Chekotkova), and officers of judicial police officers of the Yaroslavl region. The monument was erected in the square near the Church of Demetrius.

Video - <http://gtk.tv/news/67266.ns>



"Tula art in steel XVIII-XIX centuries"

In State Historical Museum, New Exhibition Hall, opens December 22, 2015 the exhibition "Tula art in steel XVIII-XIX centuries." It shows for the first time in its entirety and diversity the phenomenon of the Tula art as an original, artistic style, which had a characteristic national identity and develop in line with the European historical, cultural and artistic process. Achievements Tula gunsmiths in masterly handling of steel is the epitome of the industrial progress of the XVIII century.

The exhibition is a corporation between several Russian museums; State History Museum, State Hermitage, State Historical and Cultural Reserve "The Moscow Kremlin", State Historical-Architectural Palace and Park Museum-Reserve "Pavlovsk", State Historical-Architectural Palace and Park Museum-Reserve "Gatchina", State Historical-Architectural Palace and Park Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo", Gallery "Turandot Antik", Collection of I.M. Vilkina, Collection E.A. Malinko and with the participation of Victoria and Albert Museum (London).

In the XVI century Tula became one of the centers of iron production in Russia. By the end of the XVII century it definitively determine the nature of the organization of production of gunsmiths, both major and minor weapons workshops. Despite repeated attempts to centralize the production of Tula, from the end of XVII century, as well as by the foundation in 1712 by decree of Peter I of the Imperial arms factory, the craft nature of the organization remained unchanged until the middle of the XIX century.

Tula gunsmiths municipal corporation was obliged to fulfill state orders for weapons, while it possessed a number of significant benefits, among them - the duty-free trade of any goods, including weapons. This stimulated the development and improvement of fisheries by gunsmiths. And now, these so-called "particularistic" products of Tula gunsmiths are the pride of Russian national culture.

In the second half of the XVIII century, it has developed an original style of Tula steel products, based on the virtuoso use of various properties of steel. It was during this period of artistic skill of Tula gunsmiths reached its peak. Fluency in labor-intensive methods of finishing of steel products to give master additional opportunities to create genuine masterpieces.

Many of the technological methods used by Tula craftsmen were also characteristic of the known major European metalworking centers. A comparative analysis of the works of British and Tula craftsmen suggests convergence, ie occurrence of similar phenomena in various sources of origin in one and the same time if the necessary conditions were similar. Thus, the artistic skill of Tula gunsmiths, which had the characteristic of national identity, developed in the mainstream of European historical, cultural and artistic process. The high level mastering of Tula gunsmiths contributed to the formation of a sustainable relationship to their products as a matter of national prestige. Since the mid-1750s. Tula art steel products often were among the ambassadorial gifts.



Monument to Peter the Great in front of the administration of the Tula arms factory, opened in 1912 to the 200th anniversary of the Tula arms factory. Made by sculptor R. R. Bach. T



It would not be an exaggeration to assume that the art of Tula art began to develop in that time, largely due to the state, with imperial support. The demand for artistic goods - army and hunting weapons, and works for a particularistic imperial court and Russian aristocracy is a strong incentive to create genuine artistic masterpieces.



Already in the last quarter of the XVIII century steel products Tula gunsmiths became collectible - they were collected by Empress Catherine II. A brilliant collection of such items are not only rare things in the Imperial court's cabinets, but also in the collections of major grandees of Catherine's time, particularly in His Serene Highness Prince G.A. Potemkin, who has repeatedly demonstrated it to his guests.

Due to the need to increase the production of weapons for the army in the first quarter of the XIX century, Tula gunsmiths were forbidden to produce art products. The ban was lifted only in 1824. Then and prior to the 1880s, Tula gunsmiths made art products, meeting the needs of the general population. Retaining many of the old techniques, the elegant, eye-pleasing items that are largely consistent with nostalgic memories of the distant past. A typical product of this time, a certain artistic conservatism, at the same time could not be better matched retrospective style of the time.

The best examples of these products are regularly exhibited at Russian and international exhibitions and industrial manufactories. The exclusive nature of the skill, determined the fact that the heritage of Tula gunsmiths art is less than 1 500 items.

The exhibition catalog includes 219 subjects. This is state and art goods of Tula gunsmiths, giving an idea of the diversity and originality of their skills. The samples of masterfully decorated weapon includes - hunting rifles and pistols made for Elizabeth, Peter III, Catherine II, hunting kits for children of Grand Duke Paul Petrovich (the future Emperor Paul I) and his sons, Alexander Pavlovich (the future Emperor Alexander I) and Constantine Pavlovich.



The exhibition includes rare examples of steel furniture for the army of the second half of the XVIII century, including the famous folding Curule chair, made on palace orders in 1740s for Empress Elizabeth; a full ensemble of objects, which was presented to Catherine II on behalf of the community of Tula gunsmiths June 25, 1787 during her stay in Tula, while returning from a trip to New Russia and the Crimea.

A special place in the exhibition take items made in the famous technique of "diamond-cut", including memorabilia associated with the names of Catherine II, Maria Feodorovna, Alexander I, and Elizabeth Alexeyevna.

Among the unique monuments - the box for chess with the image of the Tula arms factory in 1782 made by Andrian Sukhanov, a set of objects presented to Alexander I on the occasion of his coronation in 1801, a saber from the gifts of Emperor Alexander I to the Emperor of Japan in 1803.

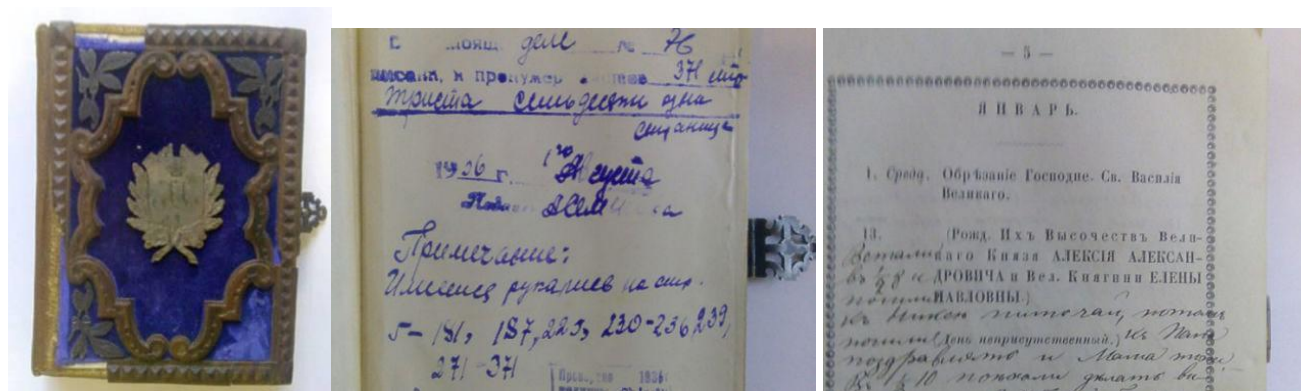
On display are objects made by famous Tula gunsmiths - Peter Goltyakovym, Nikolai Zahava, Alexei Leontiev and Ivan Lyalin, Alexei Bogolepov, Ivan Sveshnikov and others. The discharge of weapons

and pieces of furniture, lamps and items for a desk, boxes and ornaments affect not only breadth and diversity, but also the size - from large pieces of furniture, height, such as a fireplace, tall 1,30 meter to tiny objects.

Each of the exhibits can rightly be considered a true masterpiece, the pride of the Russian national culture.

"Moskvich" was arrested for trying to sell diaries of Emperor Alexander III

24 November MK - The capital's police prevented an attempt of sale of unique books that have special historical, artistic and cultural value, said the head of the press service of the Moscow Department of Internal Affairs Andrei Galiakberov. Among the works turned out to be a lost 1864 diary of Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich Romanov (Later Emperor Alexander III).



The man was trying to include the book in one of the auction houses in Moscow, when he was detained. He explained that for a long time, these books were kept at his home and his parents bought them from an unknown citizen. Among the seized books the diary of Alexander III is the most valuable item. "In it, he recorded his every day: what time he got up, like drinking coffee, with whom he met.

"The examination confirmed the authenticity of the findings, the estimated cost of which is about 3 million rubles" - said Galiakberov. Also diaries from 1888 and 1892 were seized. The estimated cost of each of which is about 30 thousand rubles.



As it turned out during the inspection, these publications was in the State Archive of the Russian Federation. The time and reasons for the disappearance of the books is not known, possible they were taken before the start of the 1990s. A lot of people, responsible for the safety of exhibits are no longer alive. The seized treasures will be transferred to the State Archives.

Video - <http://www.vesti.ru/videos/show/vid/663604/cid/3041/#>

"From the great shocks to the great victory"

On the Feast day our lady of Kazan and the Day of National Unity, 4th of November - opened the XIV exhibition Forum on "Orthodox Russia. My history", this time with the additional title - "XX century. 1914-1945. From the great shocks to the Great Victory".

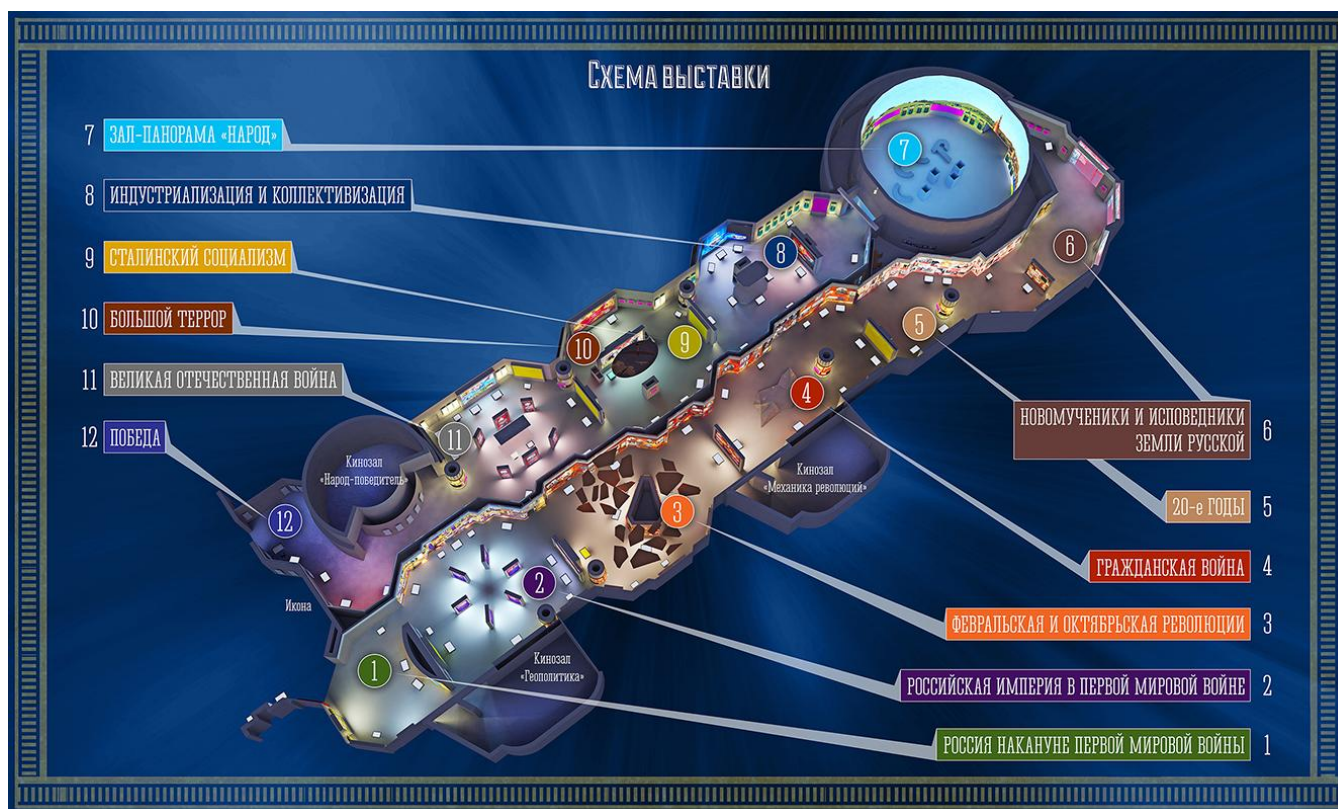
President Vladimir Putin and Patriarch Kirill opened the exhibition by lighting a candle at the Reigning Icon of the Virgin, brought to the exhibition.

The icon of the Mother of God "Reigning" was found on 15 March 1917 at the Ascension Church in Kolomenskoye near Moscow - on the day of the abdication of the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II. The icon is kept in the church of Our Lady of Kazan in the museum-reserve "Kolomenskoye" and is one of the major shrines of modern Russia.



One hall is devoted to the Russian situation at the start of the first World War, showing the relations between Emperor Nicholas II, "Willy" (Kaiser William II) and "Georgy" (King George V). The next hall is devoted to the First World War and leads into the hall with the February and October revolutions and then to the hall about the Civil War. The rest is about the Soviet period up and including the victory in the Second World War.

The exhibition was open until 22 November, and during its 18 days, was it visited by 272,159 people. Of these was more than 47,000 organized groups of schoolchildren and students.





НИКОЛАЯ II

ТЕЛЕГРАФНАЯ ПЕРЕПИСКА НИКОЛАЯ II И ВИЛЬГЕЛЬМА II С 16 ПО 19 ИЮЛЯ

1914, 23 ИЮНЯ Англия обещает Германии нейтралитет

1914, 10 ИЮЛЯ Австро-Венгрия предъявляет ультиматум Сербии

1914, 14 ИЮЛЯ Николай II предлагает перенести решение австро-сербского конфликта в Гаагский международный трибунал

1914, 22 ИЮНЯ Германия толкает Австро-Венгрию к войне

ВИЛЬГЕЛЬМ II

1914, 19 ИЮЛЯ ГЕРМАНИЯ ОБЪЯВЛЯЕТ ВОЙНУ РОССИИ НАЧИНАЕТСЯ ПЕРВАЯ МИРОВАЯ ВОЙНА

1914, 21 ИЮЛЯ ГЕРМАНИЯ ОБЪЯВЛЯЕТ ВОЙНУ ФРАНЦИИ

1914, 24 ИЮЛЯ АВСТРО-ВЕНГРИЯ ОБЪЯВЛЯЕТ ВОЙНУ РОССИИ

«Теперь или никогда!»

Записки Вильгельма II о желании австрийцев «разобраться» с сербами

«Сербию надо сломить»

1914, 7 ИЮЛЯ Президент Франции Р. Пуанкаре прибывает в Россию за поддержкой

1914, 16 ИЮЛЯ В России началась мобилизация против Австро-Венгрии

От великих потрясений к великой победе: выставка в Манеже

ХРОНИКА ФЕВРАЛЬСКОЙ РЕВОЛЮЦИИ

1917, 22 ФЕВРАЛЯ Николай II и императрица Александра Фёдоровна уходят в Монако

1917, 23 ФЕВРАЛЯ (8 МАРТА по юлианскому календарю) Итоги суток: обуревшие толпу женщины-работницы Петрограда вышли на улицы с требованиями хлеба и прекращения войны

1917, 25 ФЕВРАЛЯ Николай II распустил Думу на казнь и приказал С.С. Хабарову прекратить беспорядки в столице

1917, 26 ФЕВРАЛЯ Штурм и взятие Зимнего дворца: прорыв сил, против демонстрантов

1917, 27 ФЕВРАЛЯ Вуки в Зимнем дворце. К концу дня в Зимнем дворце вырвано 70 000 снарядов

1917, 28 ФЕВРАЛЯ Исполком Петроградского Совета убитых и Солдатский депутат по плану с митингом Н.С. Чхеидзе

1917, 28 ФЕВРАЛЯ Николай II попросил для подписания безсрочной отставки Н.И. Иванова и выезда в Петроград. Выходящих поручились за Москву

От великих потрясений к великой победе: выставка в Манеже

«Умрем за Родину»



There was in the "revolutions hall" a quote by Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich -
"Even I, a Grand Duke, with the fall of old regime I will finally breathe freely in a free Russia, and ahead of me ... I see only the shining stars of the people's happiness ...".
 - 9 March 1917, Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich.

And there is another quote by Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovich -
"Imperial system could not exist until now, if the "red danger" exhausted by people like Tolstoy and Kropotkin, terrorists, like Lenin or Plekhanov old psychopath as Catherine Breshkovsky or Figner or adventurers type Savinkov and Azef. As it happens with every infectious disease, the real danger of the revolution was to many carriers of infection: mice, rats and insects ... Or, to put it more literally, it should be recognized that the majority of Russian aristocracy and intelligentsia was an army of hawkers infection. The throne of the Romanovs fell not under the pressure of the forerunners of councils or youth-suicide, but carriers of aristocratic families and court titles, bankers, editors, lawyers, professors and other public figures, living bounty of Empire."
 - 1933, Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich



Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1561781/>

In the museum of Benoit in Peterhof opened an exhibition of Imperial children's books

In St. Petersburg, on November 5th, opened in the Museum of the Benois family the exhibition "For the heart and mind. Children's Reading in the imperial family."



The name of the exhibition follows the name of the first Russian magazine for children "Children's Reading for the heart and mind" (published from 1785 to 1889), created by educator and publisher Nikolai Novikov. The event is dedicated to the "Year of Russian literature" and the first one is a thematic exhibition of books that make up the home reading of junior representatives of the Romanov dynasty from the 18th to early 20th century.



Among the publications in which the children of reigning persons learned, to know the world, with whom they spent hours of leisure - is very common especially in the 19th century collections instructive and edifying works, secondary literature, Russian alphabet, books on the natural sciences, literary anthologies, works of popular the ancient classics and, of course, books of adventure and travel.

Of great historical and cultural interest is that part of the exhibition, which presents the memorial books of the private imperial and grand meetings, publications with inscriptions of authors autographs to the grand dukes and children of the Romanovs. There are relatively few publications which have survived,

but put in one exhibition they give a clear picture that the book world around the Imperial children was not much different from the usual reading of nobility at that time.



Household objects from the collections of the State Museum "Peterhof", associated with the life of the children - toys, board games, interior artifacts, stationery, children's drawing tools and maps, books souvenirs - recreate the homely atmosphere of the epoch in which was introduced reading of the Imperial Family.



"Catherine II. The golden age of the Russian empire"

4 November - "Night of Art" began at the Museum-Reserve "Tsaritsyno" with the opening of the exhibition "Catherine the Great. The golden age of the Russian Empire". The official ceremony was held in the ceremonial hall of St. Catherine and started with a fashion show dedicated to the fashion of the XVIII century.

Guests at the vernissage was welcomed by the project manager Natalia Samoilenko (CEO of GMZ "Tsarina"), curators of the exhibition Olga Dokuchaeva (Deputy General Director of the State Museum "Tsarina") and Lyudmila Markina (Head of the Department of Painting XVIII-first half of XIX century the State Tretyakov Gallery) and Philippe Dzyadko, chief editor of Arzamas, who participates in this project. The new exhibition project consists of several parts: a permanent exhibition, an exhibition of one object ("museum tour") and the educational unit.



The permanent exhibition includes objects from the collections of the Museum "Tsaritsyno": books, prints, documents of the second half of the XVIII century, paintings, porcelain, made in factories in Russia, France, Germany, weapons, items made of precious metals, works of Arkhangelsk masters bone carvers. In addition to authentic objects from the museum collection in the display are digital collages, prints made on the basis of the XVIII century and provided with commentary explaining the meaning of the image.



In the hall, "museum tour" in a few months will be a "guest" - a painting by Stefano Torelli's "Allegory of Catherine II victory over the Turks and Tatars" (1772) from the Tretyakov Gallery. Lyudmila Markina for the guests held a small tour, explained the meaning of the staging allegorical paintings and the value of certain items.

The educational unit consists of a library of open access and virtual lectures, the content of which is a non-profit educational online project Arzamas. Until the end of February 2016, while in

"Tsaritsyno" the Torelli painting are exhibited in the auditorium you can "visit" a course at Oxford University professor Andrei Zorin "Greek project of Catherine the Great." Additional materials for the

lectures are always available on modern electronic media, installed in an adjacent room of the library. The first visitors gladly settled before a big-screen TV in the comfortable easy chairs and tables.



The Grand Duke Sergei and Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna exhibition in Moscow



Left - A portrait of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich by V. K. Shtemberg.
Right - A portrait of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, by F. I. Rerberg

Above and the following photos by Ivan Podyapolsky and Paul Kulikovsky

On 2 of November State Historical Museum opened the exhibition "Moscow - the Holy Land of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna".



The opening were attended by the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, Mayor of Moscow Sergei Sobranin, head of the Department of Culture of Moscow Alexander Kibovsky, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan of Volokolamsk Hilarion (Alfeyev), Chairman of the Synodal Information Department of the Moscow Patriarchate Vladimir Legoyda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mikhail Bogdanov, Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergey Stepashin, Chairman of Fund Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society Anna Gromova and Great-

great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III (brother of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich) Paul Kulikovsky with wife Ludmila.

The opening ceremony took place in the front lobby of the museum and it was packed with guests. With a minute of silence in memory of those killed in the plane crash on October 31 started the opening ceremony.

Mayor of Moscow, Sergei Sobyenin said - "Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich for almost 15 years was governor-general of Moscow. The exhibition is dedicated to a statesman".

"On the eve of National Unity Day, we open a unique exhibition dedicated to two wonderful people with a tragic fate, whose names are inscribed in the history of Russia as a shining example of serving the people and the country. They were real ascetics who have made significant contributions to philanthropic movement in Russia late 19th century and the culture of her heart - Moscow ", - said Vladimir Medinsky.



"It is symbolic that the exhibition was launched at the Historical Museum, which opened with the direct participation of the grand couple. Acquaintance with the exposition would incorporate the history and the best example of selfless devotion and patriotism, and on the eve of National Unity Day it becomes another event that will help every visitor to meet with Russian roots of charity and better understand this phenomenon, " - he continued.

Metropolitan Hilarion said: "They have revealed an example of couples whose relationships have been built on a deep faith in God".



"Thanks to Sergei Alexandrovich and Elizabeth Feodorovna in Russia caught on philanthropy and charity, they have helped to create in Moscow, two of the largest museum - The Historical and the Fine Arts. They are always surrounded by the most enlightened persons - scholars, artists and architects. The uniqueness of the exhibition is that many of the exhibits outside these walls a mere mortal cannot see. They just do not show it to anyone. Churches and private collections, tens of museums in Moscow brought personal belongings, awards, letters, each of which - a story of love and service to the people. They simply collected unique items and then donated them. The fact is that Elizabeth Feodorovna after her husband's death, when she took the



decision to take the veil, almost all her property was bequeathed. And this is in the reports in the historic and Pushkin museums" - said the director of the Historical Museum Alexey Levykin.

"For us it is important that the person Elizabeth Feodorovna and Sergei Alexandrovich joined Moscow and the Holy Land" - said at the opening of the exhibition, Anna Gromova - "That in their pilgrimage to the holy writings of the Savior's life on the ground in Jerusalem, they consecrated their lives and brought this holiness of his life to Moscow".

"The Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich raised Moscow to the level of a capital city, to the level which meant Alexander III, when he said: "Moscow - the church, and Kremlin - the altar of her". Our national shrine, our national traditions, moral values, loyalty and service of power to the people - it was revived by Grand Duke Sergei."



At the opening, the main organizer of the exhibition, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of "Elisabeth-Sergius educational society" Anna Gromova received flowers.



Then entered the Central Military Orchestra of the Russian Defense Ministry and played the Russian premiere of "Elizabeth, full of grace", a work of the English composer John Tavener.



The parents of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich - Emperor Alexander II (Painter A. A. Kharlamov) and Empress Maria Alexandrovna (unknown artist)



The exhibition is amazing, with many objects, several unique items, gifts to and from the Grand Ducal couple, very personal and touching "little things" revealing Sergei and Ella's relationship and it is all organized very beautiful, combining public service and private life, secular and spiritual life. There are paintings, photos, icons, letters, documents, journals, awards, personal belongings, works of fine art, crafts and jewelry - including Faberge objects - and rare documentary newsreels, frames where you can see the Grand Duchess herself. In total more than 400 exhibits illustrating the incredible life, relationships and love for one another and for Moscow.



Top left - objects and a dress belonging to Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. Left - object of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich related to his time with the Preobrazhensky Regiment.



Portrait of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, supposedly made by K.F. Yuon. For a long time kept in Orel by his disciple. In Soviet times, it was hidden. After a few days in the exhibition it was sent to restoration and spectral analysis.



The Holy Doors and the icon of the church in Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich's estate Ilinskoe.



Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich's diary

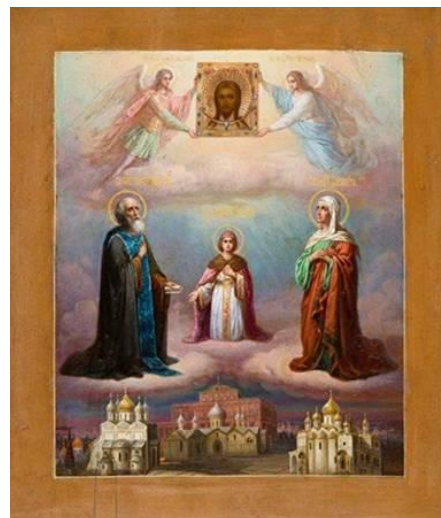


There is the Order of St. George IV degree, handed to Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich May 15, 1877 during the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878.

Private gold objects of Sergei Alexandrovich - a reliquary cross, scapular, medallion and three rings, including his wedding ring - Which were on him on the day of his tragic death 17 (4) in February 1905, when he was killed by a bomb thrown by the terrorist Ivan Kaliayev at the Senate Square of the Moscow Kremlin.



Several assigned icons - On one of them - "St. Sergius of Radonezh, the Holy Prince Dimitry and Saint Elizabeth" - depicted kneeling saints in the background of the Kremlin cathedrals. There is no doubt that Reverend Sergius and righteous Elizabeth depicted in the icon as the Patron Saints of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and his wife Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.



The icon "Descent from the Cross," the first half of the XVI century, from the tomb of the Grand Duke in the Kremlin's Miracle Monastery - one of the best carved icons of the Kremlin collection. It comes from the private collection of icons of Sergei Alexandrovich, which was kept at the Church in the name of St. Sergius of Radonezh, where the Grand Duke was buried in 1905.

The unique shroud was made in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. In its manufacturing participated the maid of honor of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, Maria Yermolova.

The shroud was put on the top of the tomb of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, when he was buried in the church of St. Andrew in the Chudov Monastery in Moscow Kremlin.



The exhibition is a joint project of Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society, the State Historical Museum and the State Museum and Exhibition Center ROSIZO, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Russian Orthodox Church and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Moscow Government.

The exhibition concludes the celebrations dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Saint Elizabeth Feodorovna, which began a year ago at the home of the Grand Duchess in Darmstadt.



Left - Porcelain Easter egg with monograms of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

Right - Icons of the Saints - contemporaries of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna: martyr Vladimir (Epiphany), St. Tikhon (Bellavin), Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, St. Macarius (Nevsky), St. rights. John of Kronstadt, Serge Reverend Confessor (Srebryanskaya), the martyr John (Vostorgov) and others.

The exhibition runs until 22 February 2016.

Videos: 1) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/social/295401>

2) <http://www.m24.ru/videos/96661>

3) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/79896>

4) <http://ren.tv/novosti/2015-11-02/istoriki-rasskazali-o-samoy-neobychnoy-supruzheskoy-pare-chety-romanovyh>

5) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/144006

6) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1560316/>

The XVIII Elisabeth-Sergius reading

Before the opening of the exhibition about Grand Duke Sergei and Grand Duchess Elisabeth there was held XVIII Elisabeth-Sergius readings in the State Historical Museum's conference hall. The conference was devoted to the contribution of the Grand Ducal couple to the cultural development of Russia.



Welcome speeches were made by the Director of the State Historical Museum Alexei Levykin, head of the Fund Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society Anna Gromova, head of the Department of national policy, inter-regional relations and tourism of the city of Moscow Vladimir Chernikov, Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Bishop Voskresensky Sava (Mikheev), Director of the Foundation for the Memory of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich - Denis Solodovnikov. A greeting from the Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society S.V. Stepashin was read by IOPS Deputy Chairman Nikolay Lisovoy.



Bishop Sava, Governor of Novospassky Monastery, Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia:

"I am pleased to take part in these remarkable readings dedicated to the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna as patrons of science and art. Sergei Alexandrovich and Saint Elizabeth had done many good deeds. Just the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, alone buildings, acquired in the Holy Land, in order to support the pilgrims - that says a lot. The fact that the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was not indifferent to the lives and livelihoods of pilgrims.

Did you know what in those days meant a pilgrimage to the Holy Land? It was a martyr, a feat of confession. It is only now we are able to move to different modes of transport, which we at once can be moved to any area of our vast Earth. And while it was associated with martyrdom. Each pilgrim, going to the Holy Land, did not know whether he will come back healthy, and indeed whether he will live - in the way it was and robbers who might rob and numerous diseases. Knowing all of these burdens of the pilgrimage of life, the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich founded the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, whose task was to help the pilgrims to visit the Holy Land, to break those precious places where untouched by our Lord Jesus Christ. Speaking of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nun Elizabeth - look at her life. Her life is connected with compassion, she took care of



the orphans, all the poor people. Their life was with her husband devoted his neighbor and one only by their deeds and actions, which we are studying, talking about them as people with a great soul, you might say, a holy soul. It is no accident that nun Elizabeth became among the host of saints. This morning for me - really it is a great honor to be at this event. May the Lord help us to learn something new, make some wise decisions, and most importantly - to our opinion with you was broken, so we saw each other only in very good and kind way, because God calls us to do.

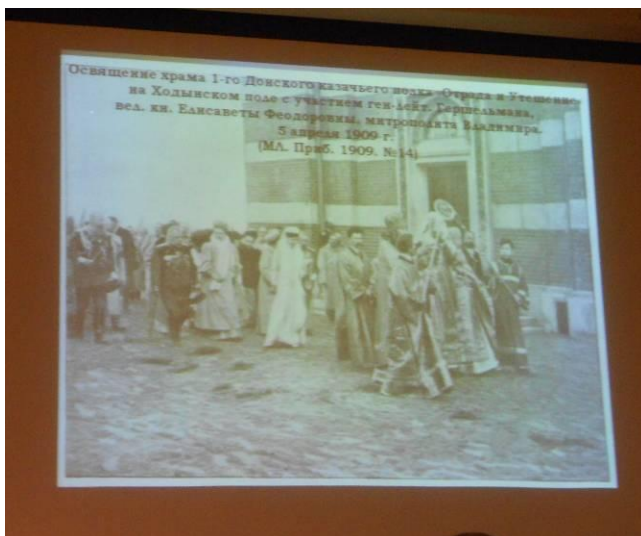
Among the many reports were "The Moscow Grand-Ducal couple. Saved and lost (based on the Moscow periodicals beginning of XX century)"; "Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich - the patron of historicism in Russian art"; "Church building by Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in the Holy Land"; "Gifts of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna to the Historical Museum"; "Scientific societies and organizations under the patronage of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich"; "The role of the couple in the creation of the Grand Moscow Art Theatre"; "Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the artist V.M. Vasnetsov"; "Art collection of the Grand Ducal couple in the estate Ilinsky-Usovo" and more.



Vladimir Fotievich Kozlov, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Department of State Humanitarian University:

"For us it is very important to study the life on earth of the Reverend Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna. When we talk about her legacy, we usually have in mind her great achievements in the establishment of the Martha and Mary Convent, her charity work during the Russian-Japanese War and World War I, we talk about her leadership in Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, about the martyrdom, about the churches, the monasteries, the houses. But the time has come - and to seriously engaged in - a detailed study of the archives, in literature, in the press, where there are details that may expand even more our understanding of the enormous role of Elizabeth Feodorovna

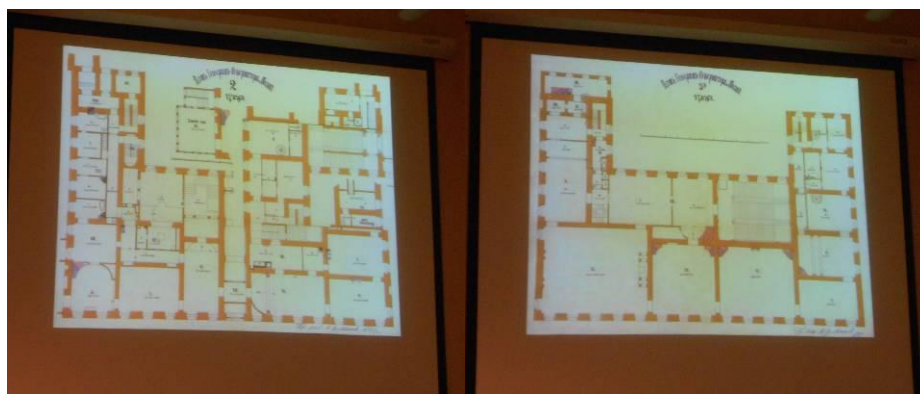
in the history and culture of Moscow. It's time to explore actively such an inaccessible source as the Moscow periodicals, which is of great importance for the study of everyday life, and to compile biographical chronicle. Elizabeth Feodorovna was involved in various activities and has an impact on the lives of Orthodox Moscow, cultural Moscow, Moscow theater, art of Moscow, Moscow charity, medical, ...



As a rule, we draw attention to the two newspapers, "Moscow News" (conservative, right-monarchist newspaper) and "News". But often is bypassed "Moscow church statements", "Russian Gazette", "Voice of Moscow", "Moscow sheet", and others. These are the best chronicles of over 20 years in Moscow. It is important to remember the newspaper "Russian word", and the illustrated supplement to the newspaper which was "Iskra" - this is a very important source for the study of the visual history of Moscow, a visual biography of Elizabeth Feodorovna and Sergei Alexandrovich. We need people who

will view these materials in the context of already known subjects. In many photos you can see the memorable images of Elizabeth Feodorovna and Sergei Alexandrovich until 1905.

Elizabeth Feodorovna actively participated in many exhibitions, visiting museums, and educational institutions - this is her patronage of Moscow. Several times during the year, she visited the Stroganov School, attended charity performances, charity fairs and markets, nurtured community of sisters of mercy. In the Russian-Japanese War and the First World War she made a huge contribution to the care of the wounded. Engaged in construction of a church dedicated to the memory of Sergei Alexandrovich. I urge everyone who has been studying the life of Elizabeth Feodorovna, pay attention to this micro-history.



Yuri Rostislavovich Savelyev, a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Arts talked about "Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich - the patron of historicism in Russian art".

He showed a lot of interesting illustrations, among them the plan of the Governor's Palace in Moscow during the time of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, and water colors made of several of the rooms, which are also in the exhibition.

In the picture to the right can be seen the painting of Emperor Alexander III by Valentin Serov, which Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich ordered in 1895. It was later in Alexander Palace (in Tsarskoye Selo), in the office of Emperor Nicholas II.



Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" started "wood restoration" in Babolovsky Park.

We are working on clearing the English Garden, adjacent to the palace Babolovsky, crown formation at Willow alley, as well as the treatment of historic oaks.

Clearing the English Garden - this is the only opportunity to save the preserved old-growth trees, especially oaks, which are suffering from too dense array of self-sown. In addition, it will allow us to find out - what state preserved the composition of the garden of the XVIII century, pledged on the personal order of Catherine II master gardener John Bush.

By order of the museum developed a project on the conservation of old-growth trees willow alley, he agreed with KGIOP. This unique work with wood can be compared with the restoration. Silvery willows planted at the beginning of the XX century. Sixty years have greatly cut the crown, but because of the lack of systematic care of the trees have survived in poor condition.

In fact, experts revived trees, give them a second life. After pruning followed by a specially designed rehabilitation program. Willow - very responsive and rewarding plant. So next summer alley again becomes pictorial and silver. In addition, experts are now treated old-growth oaks on the longitudinal alley, better known as Oak.

Babolovsky park is not full of architectural structures in as much as Catherine and Alexander. The main attraction - it was his space-spatial composition, old-growth trees, oak and larch, mostly planted in the 1820s.

The lack of symmetry is picturesquely situated Wood Group and grandly mighty oaks, the desire for naturalness - the distinctive features of the landscape park created man in such a way as to give the impression of "pristine" nature.

- Babolovsky Park - the clearest example of how illusory this impression. Over the past decade, he lost much of his compositional structure. Native species of woody plants replacing decorative rocks, changes the hydrological regime, overgrown with weeds and flooded meadows, changing alternation of open and closed spaces. Completely overgrown picturesque glade in the English Garden at the Palace Babolovsky. Beautiful park with an elaborate design of the road, the scenery magnificent meadow, trees and walkways became almost groomed forest, swampy places. Therefore, our main task - to do it gradually without disrupting existing ecosystems! have to recreate the lost song, - says the keeper of parks GMZ "Tsarskoe Selo" Olga Filippova.

In the photo (from top to bottom): Willow Park alley Babolovsky in October 2015 in the 1950s and at the beginning of the XX century.



More Armour for Arsenal

Tsarskoye Selo won a number of precious artifacts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries at the recent Leclere and Bonhams auctions in Paris and London.

These Western European armor and weapons include plate armor, several helmets, halberds and sciacona swords, a two-handed sword, and a wheel-lock carbine.

The most valuable is a 1550-75 German armor set consisting of a burgonet, a gorget and a cuirass with pauldrons and tasses. All these items are rare Western European artifacts, previously not represented in our collection. In the nineteenth century, similar armor and weapons were on display at the Alexander Park's Arsenal, which housed Emperor Nicholas I's collection of over 5,000 items that were moved to St. Petersburg in 1885-6 and are currently on display and in the stores of the State Hermitage. The purchased artifacts will complement the Tsarskoye Selo collection of oriental arms and grace the Arsenal pavilion after its restoration. The new display at the Arsenal is expected to be opened in the Fall 2016.



Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/144594/



Foundation stone laid for the monument to St. Grand Duke Vladimir in Moscow

November 3 was held the inauguration of the foundation stone to the monument to St. Grand Duke Vladimir, on Borovitsky hill next to Kremlin in Moscow. The ceremony was attended by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill, Russian Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky, the mayor of Moscow Sergei Sobyenin and a descendant of St. Grand Duke Vladimir and of Emperor Alexander III Paul Kulikovsky.



Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill noted the significance of the monument to Prince Vladimir for the whole country. "I would like to congratulate all of us with a remarkable event - with laying the monument in honor of the great Saint Prince Vladimir here - in the heart of Moscow. And it has been done in the millennium year of his death. Great anniversary year for the whole Russian world, for all peoples, heirs of the ancient Kievskaya Rus. Prince Vladimir was the founder of a new civilization, which entered the Russian people, the ancient Rus"- said the Patriarch.

The mayor noted that Borovitskaya area - it is a symbolic place for the city, but not well appreciated. "A landmark, a key place for the city, for the Kremlin, but, nevertheless, not very popular. I hope that with the erection of the monument here we will create a quality public space, and here will be coming hundreds of thousands of Muscovites"- said Sobyenin.



In 2015, the 1000th anniversary of the repose of St. Grand Prince Vladimir - Baptiser of Rus is celebrated. In February, a competition was held to design the monument. The monument will be built on public donations for the project of sculptor Salavat Shcherbakov.



Simultaneously with the installation of the monument will be a comprehensive improvement of the Borovitskaya area as an open public space, with walking paths connecting it with the Alexander Garden and the embankment of the Moscow River.

The monument is expected to be installed in spring 2016.

Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz3dKHMfpig>



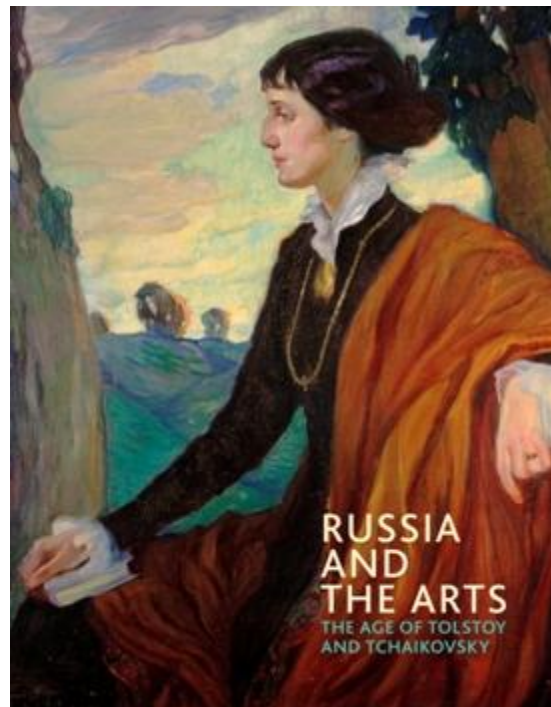


The exhibition "Russia and the Arts: The Age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky" opens 17 March - 26 June 2016 in the National portrait gallery (in Porter Gallery) in London, UK.

Russia and the Arts is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a selection of masterpieces on loan from the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

The exhibition will focus on the great writers, artists, composers and patrons, including Tolstoy, Chekhov and Dostoevsky, whose achievements helped develop an extraordinary and rich cultural scene in Russia between 1867 and 1914. It will also show how Russian art of the period was developing a new self-confidence, with the penetrating Realism of the 1870s and 1880s later complemented by the brighter hues of Russian Impressionism and the bold, faceted forms of Symbolist painting.

The fully illustrated exhibition catalogue by curator Rosalind P. Blakesley is available to pre-order from npg.org.uk/shop , RRP £24.95.



The permanent exposition of the State Historical Museum today was joined by three unique exhibits. They are represented in the project "Living exhibition." The service from the Imperial Porcelain Factory Museum was in 2014 acquired by the Ministry of Culture. A set of dishes with paintings based on the loggia of Raphael in the Vatican - a gift to Emperor Alexander II on Christmas Day. Part of the service in 1862, was exhibited at the World Exhibition of works of art and industry in London.

Also, in the permanent exhibition of paintings is now paintings of the XI century mosaics of the Kiev-Sophia Cathedral - "Archangel Gabriel" and "Our Lady." They were created at the end of the XIX century by art critic Adrian Prahov at the request of Alexei Uvarov - one of the founders of the Historical Museum. Prahov developed a special technology to make copies, but its long forgotten. In 2012, restorers again "decode" this technique.

Another unique exhibit - watercolor by artist Mikhail Ivanov, 1791. It depicts a scene of the death of an associate of Catherine II - Prince Potemkin-Tauride. "Watercolor, strange as it may sound, is kept in the museum almost 120 years, since 1894, but almost from the moment of admission it was in a poor state of preservation - commented curator of Russian charts Historical Museum Yevgeny Lukyanov - and therefore, probably no one dared, had the courage to take on the restoration to give it some kind of exposure."

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/144644/



A museum of tin soldiers will be in St. Petersburg. Generalissimo Alexander Suvorov participated in about 60 battles and lost none. It is possible that tin soldiers, which great commander collected all his life, helped him to develop the combat strategy and tactics. 60 thousand of these figures are now kept in the collections of the Suvorov Museum in St. Petersburg, but soon the toy soldiers will be provided separate accommodation, next door. Russia's first Museum of tin soldiers, and it will be updated with new exhibits.

For new battles new soldiers are needed. After the diorama "Suvorov crossing the Alps" deployed in five meters in length, the Victory Parade will be recreated, which was held at the Red Square in June 1945. Petersburg master Vladimir Nuzhdin once performed a similar order for the Ministry of Defense. "He worked for two and a half years, painted with his wife.

Vladimir Nuzhdin - the only one in St. Petersburg - creates classic flat tin soldiers. Once the children of the Russian Emperors played with such soldiers, and the children of artisans when they managed to get such a treasure. The main work - absolute accuracy and reliability - from engraving molds to the painting of the figures.

"You will need to bring children here in the first place, because we all probably played with soldiers, and our hero, too, the warlord, brilliant commander, began his career playing with Tin Soldiers", - says Director of the Museum of Suvorov Vladimir Gronsii.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/144617/



The exhibition "Armory Treasury of Russian Tsars" was exhibited at the Shanghai Museum from 4 July to 10 October 2015. According to the director of Shanghai Yan Zhigang museum exhibition has become one of the most popular in the history of Shanghai Museum - it was visited by 642,948 people.

"For us it is very important that the Chinese audience will appreciate this project. It becomes a tradition that our exhibitions in Shanghai beaten attendance records: previous collection of Faberge exhibition saw more than half a million people. The interest of the Chinese public to our expositions evident not only in China, but also in Moscow. Guests of the People's Republic of China account for a large portion of our foreign visitors, " - said General Director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums Elena Gagarina. She also noted that this year launched the Chinese version of the official website of the Moscow Kremlin Museums.

Cooperation of Moscow Kremlin Museums, and the Shanghai Museum began in 2012, when the exhibition "The World of Faberge" was shown. The "treasury of Russian Tsars Armory" was a continuation of the tradition of the exhibition and demonstrated the splendor of the Royal and Imperial arsenal - ceremonial, ceremonial, fighting, hunting weapons and armor from different countries and eras. The visitors saw more than 120 exceptional for its historical, artistic and material value of the memorial monuments.



The building "14 Corps" in Kremlin is being dismantled. This was said on 18 of November by the Department of the President of the Russian Federation. The apparatus of the presidential administration was housed there until 2011. Removing one of the administrative buildings will expand the territory of the Kremlin, available for tourists. At the same time extensive archaeological investigation will begin at this place. Discovered antiquity will go to the funds of the Moscow Kremlin, and will be opened to visitors.

The building of the 14th Corps, the administrative building of the Kremlin, was built in 1932-1934 on the site of the destroyed Chudov and Voznesensky monasteries of and the Small Nicholas Palace. It is not an architectural monument or an UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The decision to re-establish the historic appearance of the place and the restoration of destroyed monasteries will be made later. First, the project must be sent to UNESCO.

Video - 1) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/144763/



The film for the exhibition "In the Court of Russian Emperors. Costume of XVIII- early XX century in the Hermitage" tells about court ceremonies, which were an important part of the life of the Court and were intended to symbolize the greatness of the Russian state.

The court, formed under Peter the Great, includes the Sovereign and family, the court ladies and gentlemen, approximate and favorites, court offices and ministers.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuTLxH5d7v4>



The Reading Public Museum is pleased to host The Tsars' Cabinet, which highlights two hundred years of decorative arts under the Romanovs, from the time of Peter the Great in the early eighteenth century to that of Nicholas II in the early twentieth century. Many of the more than 230 objects in the nationally touring exhibition were designed for public or private use of the Tsars or other Romanovs. Others illustrate the styles that were prominent during their reigns. The Tsars' Cabinet is on view at RPM from January 22, 2016 through April 17, 2016 in the Second Floor Temporary Galleries. This exhibition is presented locally by the Marlin and Ginger Miller Exhibition Endowment.



Social activists have collected more than 30 million rubles for the restoration of the monument to the Russian Empress Catherine II in Simferopol, said Tuesday the head of the Committee on Education, Science, Youth Policy and Sports of the Crimean Parliament, Vladimir Bobkov.

"The total budget is about 31 million rubles. Already conception of the monument is fully agreed and ordered. At the moment, funds for the monument and the directly adjacent territory fully collected ", - said Bobkov.

It is about the restoration of a composition which consists of a sculpture of Catherine II, Suvorov, Potemkin and the Ambassador to Turkey Bulgakov. It was installed in the center of Simferopol in 1890. The monument was destroyed in 1921. In 2007, on the former site of the monument was put a foundation stone with the inscription "In this place will be restored the monument to Empress Catherine the Great."



Mariinsky Teachers College will be officially named after Empress Maria Alexandrovna Romanova.

The college has made an application for awarding the institution the name of Empress Maria in September 2015. In October a public hearing of the application was held. The educational institution reported that the official name change is expected in the coming days.

"On the 85th anniversary of the College of October 30 we were visited by the heads of department of science and education of the Kemerovo region, they announced that we will bear the name of the Empress. However, the official order, which has already been signed by the head of department of Arthur Chepkasov should we get in the next few days ", - told staff of the Mariinsky Teachers College.



November 20, an exhibition from the collections of the Mineralogical Museum after A.E. Fersman, RAS (Moscow), one of the world's largest and oldest public museums in Russia was opened in the exhibition hall of the Ryazan Kremlin.

You can get acquainted with how diverse in color, luster, appearance are minerals and such unique color and patterns are in precious stones as agate and jasper. Even among the minerals, in a well known rock - granite you will see a lot of unusual and beautiful.

Products of ornamental stones from Russia, including those made in the famous Peterhof factory and masters Faberge are also shown here.

Some products and stones shown at the exhibition are associated with the reign of the Russian Romanov dynasty - from items donated in the early XVIII century to Peter I, to the minerals from the collection of Alexander III and education of Nicholas II, to stones found by the last Russian Emperor. The exhibition will last till December 20, 2015.





On November 21, 2015 once again commemorative memorial service to commemorate the heroic deed of our ancestors of Gallipoli and all the wars of the White Movement, by the Union of Descendants of Gallipoli was arranged world-wide. This year marks 95 years since the exodus of the Russian army of General Wrangel.

Lieutenant-General Baron Wrangel established the Society of Gallipoli November 22, 1921, exactly a year after the arrival of the first parts of the White Army in Gallipoli.

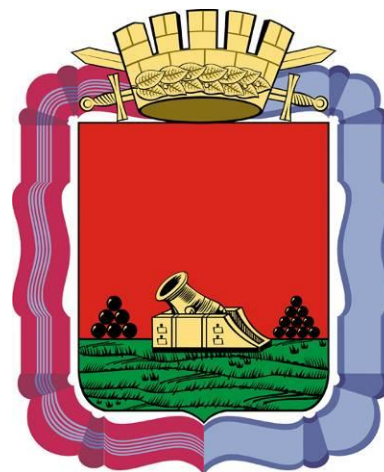
In memory of this event, the Board of the Union of Descendants of Gallipoli decided each year on the nearest Saturday to the November 22, everywhere where it is possible to perform a memorial service in areas inhabited by the descendants of Gallipoli and the White War.



Citizens of Bryansk asked to return the coat of arms from times of Catherine II. The Public Council of Bryansk recommended to the city council member to return to the heraldic coat of arms of the city, which was given by Empress Catherine II. Earlier, the authorities turned to the Heraldic Council under the President of Russia to approve and register a coat of arms, which was adopted in 2009, but the heraldry responded that it does not meet the requirements. It is necessary to pay more attention to details, supplement the coat of arms with elements that reflects the current status of the city.

As a result, the public council decided not to reinvent the wheel and take the coat of arms of the time of Catherine II. On October 30th, 2015 the new proposal for a coat of arms and flag of Bryansk was presented.

It keeps all the historical features - green grass, indicating the solid earth, a golden mortar and black cannon balls. In addition, the designer has added to it a crown with a sword and a laurel wreath and framed it with tape (looking like it is from the Order of the October Revolution and the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.) The committee members decided to forward this proposal to discussion among the residents of Bryansk. Townspeople can send their comments and suggestions by e-mail bryanskpress@online.bryansk.ru. As the press service of the City Council made clear that the presented version of the coat of arms is only a draft, and it will be changed and supplemented taking into account the suggestions of citizens and members of the commission.



Inauguration of the suite building was held in Ramon, Voronezh Region. The suite building of the palace complex of Oldenburg in Ramon, has returned to the appearance as in 1887. Exhibition of rare archival documents and photographs of the Oldenburg family will be located in two-storey building, built in the mid-1880s. Now there is a temporary exhibition dedicated to the 170th anniversary of Eugenia Oldenburg.



In St. Petersburg a festive bell was consecrated to St. Isaac's Cathedral on 26 November. The giant bell, weight of 17 tons and a diameter of 3 meters, has been recreated from drawings of Montferrand. The bell is located at the foot of the Cathedral, on a temporary belfry, but tomorrow it will start climbing. After the consecration it struck 12 times. The so-called festive bell was the final ensemble of St. Isaac's Cathedral. Apart from it, at the Belfry are set another 15 bells weighing from 50 kg to 10 ton.

Video - <http://www.5-tv.ru/news/102382/>



The Artillery Museum in St. Petersburg have devoted a separate exhibition to Grand Duke Konstantin Romanov - "Father of all cadets". It was opened on 25 of November and is dedicated to the centenary of the death of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich, president of the St. Petersburg Imperial Academy of Sciences, also known as a writer and translator, which used the pseudonym K .R. As the name of the exhibition emphasis it is about his work for military educational institutions of pre-revolutionary Russia: he was responsible for the Corps of Pages, 27 cadet corps, cadet schools and schools of soldiers' children. Visitors to the museum can see memorial photographs, uniforms of cadets, household items and everyday life of students: badges and medals, galleries, sports prizes, etc. A separate part of the exhibition shows the personal belongings of the Grand Duke and his family and historical documents. The exhibition will run until 11 January.



"It is time to change the names of the Sverdlovsk region" said Sergei Stepashin. Sergei Stepashin, former FSB boss, prime minister and now Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society made this statement during his visit to Yekaterinburg, where he opened a branch of the Imperial Orthodox Society." He said to TV channel "Vesti", that he is going to take the initiative to rename the Sverdlovsk region.



Gatchina and Oranienbaum exchange Imperial paintings. The exchange of picturesque masterpieces is a rare case in the inter-museum relationship. Gatchina and Oranienbaum were returned paintings that were there before the revolution. The signing ceremony of the agreement on the transfer took place at the Grand Peterhof Palace.

One of the paintings - "Settlers" was made in the XVIII century, presumably by a Dutch artist. The canvas was kept in the collection of Emperor Paul the First. It appeared in Peterhof after World War II, and now returns to the private quarters of the Emperor's Palace in Gatchina.

The second exhibit is a work of early XIX century by French artist Charles Santuario de Varenne "Bivouac in the mountains." It was made on the order of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich. It will now go to its historic place in the Grand Palace of Oranienbaum.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/145086/



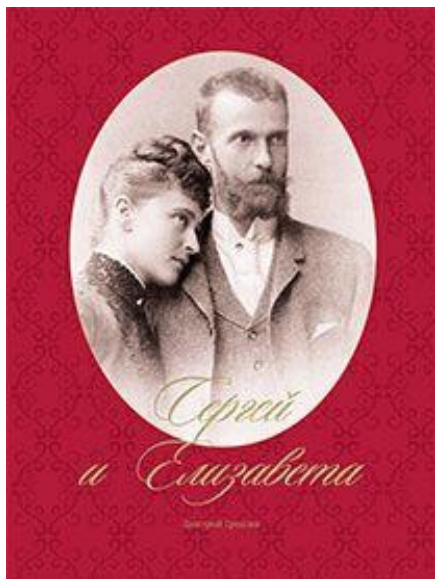
Next year the Altai Republic may be established a monument to Empress Elizabeth. In 2016 the republic will celebrate the 260th anniversary of voluntary entry into Russia. In connection with this memorable date region wants to honor Empress Elizabeth, who in 1756 signed a petition from Altai people accepting them as subjects of the Russian state.

The chairman of the State Assembly of the Republic, Ivan Belek, noted that for the construction of the monument should be asked the best Russian sculptors. Belevkov said that the sculpture should have a story, it must present not only the Empress, but the Altai Zaisans (Khans).

"Voluntary entry into Russia was a turning point in the history of the Altai people. With the support of the Russian state and the entire Russian people, we have kept ourselves as an ethnic group".

Accession of the Altai Mountains in Russia was preceded by dramatic events. The territory of the Altai Mountains was invaded by Chinese death squads, capturing the Chui valley and occupied Southern Altai. Then the twelve best Altai zaisans (khans) went with a petition to Elizabeth.

"Even now in the people's memory, are genetically preserved a sense of gratitude to Empress Elizabeth. She stayed in the Altai folk tales and songs under the name Bala Kaan" - said Belek.



In Moscow, the Russian Academy of Arts hosted a presentation of the new book by the publishing house "Dignity" from the series of "Illustrated History of Russia" - called "Sergei and Elizabeth". It is dedicated to the life of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and the time with his wife, Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The presentation of the book was done by the author Dmitry Grishin.

The presentation was attended by Paul E. Kulikovsky (great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of Emperor Nicholas II) with his wife Ludmila (Editor of "Russian History" magazine), the vice-marshall of the Russian Nobility Assembly Alexander Korolev-Pereleshin, Galina Churak, Head Department of the State Tretyakov Gallery, Doctor of historical sciences Zinaida Peregudova (GARF, a renowned expert of the history of the House of Romanov), first deputy Head of the Main Archive Department of Moscow Mikhail Gorin, a member of the Board of the Club of Orthodox Entrepreneurs Leonty M. Leontiev, staff of Martha and Mary Convent, Foundation for the Memory of Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna Macarius (Bulgakov), and Denis Borisovich

Solodovnikov from the Foundation for the Memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

"Sergei and Elizabeth were wonderful, the perfect pair - recalled the author, historian Dmitry Grishin. "To understand and comprehend them completely can only be done in close contact with the image of her husband, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. With his bright personality, his defining role, with his tragic loss. Sergei was not just her husband - loving and beloved - for his wife, he became a teacher, a mentor in all matters of life. He served her as a model and example. In the happy years of marriage, she almost "disappeared" in it, and took the heavy burden of widowhood, lived his memory, his precepts."

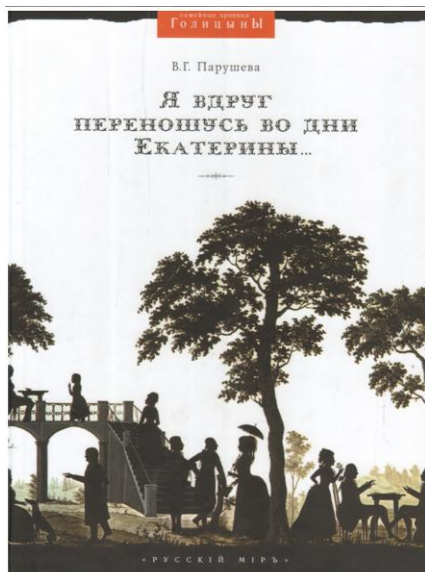
The son of the Tsar-Liberator, brother of the Tsar-Peacemaker, and uncle of the Tsar-martyr - is one of the most tragic figures on the Eve of the Russian disaster. A complex dramatic destiny, misunderstood and misrepresented during his lifetime and posthumously. Adherent of solid political principles and convictions, highly cultured, and one of the most educated men of his time. A fearless Knight, the Grand Duke, who fought against the enemies of the faith and the Fatherland. A deep believer and the first Christian martyr of the Imperial House in the twentieth century."

"In life, Sergey was doomed to be subject to persistent harassment by opponents, burned in the popular media with spreading of the most incredible lies. As time passed, true words of Sergei Alexandrovich sounded in a number of works on the history of the Romanov dynasty. Slowly but surely, like an ancient icon in the hands of restorers image of the Grand Duke is cleaned.

"This book - an attempt to describe for today's reader, who was Grand Duke Sergei, to help understand the full tragedy and the deep mysteries of the unknown fate of belonging that fell to her hero. The book does not aspire to full coverage, but striving for maximum reliability and versatility - it is biographical in form, but in fact a broader historical research that addresses the social, political, cultural and natural history issues.

And, of course, it is for those for whom the example of great spirituality, kindness and mercy is the image of the Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth" - concluded the author.

I was suddenly transported back in the days of Catherine

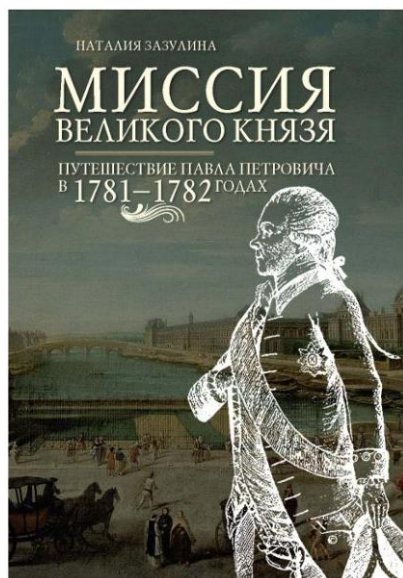


The book presents a biography of Prince Nikolai Golitsyn (1751-1809), which is a typical way of life of an aristocrat of the Enlightenment. It addresses aspects of Russian life of the XVIII century as upbringing, education, court life, estate construction.

The last topic is given special attention, as the hero of the study was the owner and builder of two wonderful suburban estates - Arkhangelsk and Nikolskoye-Uryupino. Details of his biography helped shed light on poorly known, but very important period of the existence of these sites. In a particular perspective in the book reflected many significant events era: palace coups, the Legislative Commission, Russian-Turkish war and the magnificent victory celebration, marriage of the Royal family, the Moscow plague and so on. Abundant quoting epistolary and other sources brings to the modern reader, and especially the colorful language of long-gone time.

Publisher: Russkiy Mir, Moscow. Hard cover, size 170 x 215 mm, 784 pages. Isbn 978-5-89577-218-8

The mission of the Grand Duke. The journeys of Paul Petrovich in 1781-1782



Based on extensive documentary material Natalia Zazulin's book "The mission of the Grand Duke. The journeys of Paul Petrovich in 1781-1782" - is not only a new look at the Grand Duke as a versatile man, curious, fond of astronomy, architecture, music and multilingual, but a comprehensive guide to Europe in the second half of XVIII century - the Europe which will not be just six years.

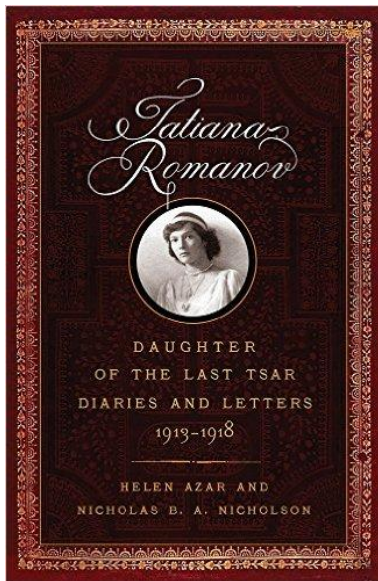
Author used in her work unique documents from a huge number of different archives. Archives of the Vatican Apostolic Library, including its secret archives, the National Archives of the United Kingdom, the archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, archives of the Vienna Chamber of the Court, and others were used in the work.

The book contains more than 1,000 colorful and black and white illustrations - paintings by famous artists, route maps, portraits of historical figures, and members of the ruling families. Many portraits the readers will see for the first time.

Natalia Zazulin book is a fascinating insight into the history of the XVIII century. The overseas travel of the Grand Duke, as well as our entire national history - it is an adventure, political intrigue and dynastic interests, and a detective sitcom all together.

Publisher: Boslen, Moscow. Hard cover, size 170 x 240 mm, 544 pages. Isbn 978-5-91187-224-3

Tatiana Romanov, Daughter of the Last Tsar: Diaries and Letters, 1913–1918



Grand Duchess Tatiana Nikolaevna of Russia was the second of the four daughters of Tsar Nicholas II and his wife, the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Long recognized by historians as the undisputed “beauty” of the family, Tatiana was acknowledged for her poise, her elegance, and her innate dignity within her own family.

Helen Azar, translator of the diaries of Olga Romanov, and Nicholas B. A. Nicholson, Russian Imperial historian, have joined together to present a truly comprehensive picture of this extraordinarily gifted, complex, and intelligent woman in her own words. *Tatiana Romanov, Daughter of the Last Tsar: Diaries and Letters, 1913–1918*, presents translations of material never before published in Russian or in English, as well as materials never published in their entirety in the West.

The brisk, modern prose of Tatiana’s diary entries reveals the character of a young woman who was far more than the sheltered Imperial beauty as she previously has been portrayed. While many historians and writers describe her as a cold, haughty, and distant aristocrat, this book shows instead a remarkably down-to-earth and humorous young woman, full of life and compassion. A detail-oriented and observant participant in some of the most important historical events of the early twentieth century, she left firsthand descriptions of the tercentenary celebrations of the House of Romanov, the early years of Russia’s involvement in World War I, and the road to her family’s final days in Siberian exile. Her writings reveal extraordinary details previously unknown or unacknowledged. Lavishly annotated for the benefit of the nonspecialist reader, this book is not only a reevaluation of Tatiana’s role as more than just one of four sisters, but also a valuable reference on Russia, the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the people closest to the Grand Duchess and her family.

Publisher: Westholme Publishing. Hardcover. ISBN-10: 1594162360 / ISBN-13: 978-1594162367. \$26.00

Materials for the "Russian provincial necropolis" Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich. T. 2: the provinces and regions of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East

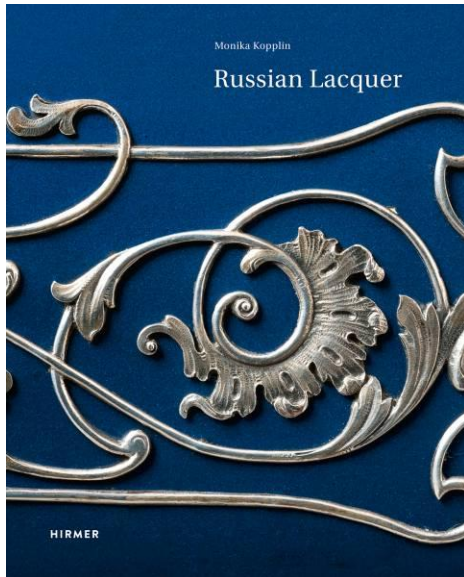


"Russian provincial necropolis" - a unique project of historian and organizer of science Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich in 1909- 1912 biennium. Clergy of all faiths have described tens of thousands of the most remarkable gravestones throughout the Russian empire. Collected data was published only partially - came out in 1914 is the only publication dedicated to the northern and central provinces of the country. Documents about burial in the rest of the Empire are preserved in the archives of the St. Petersburg (RSHA) and Moscow (GLM, RGADA) and represent an indispensable source of genealogical, biographical, historical and cultural information about our compatriots XVIII - early XX centuries.: nobles, officials, officers and generals, clergymen and clergymen, monks, merchants, commoners, peasants and others. In 2012 the first volume of "Materials for" provincial Russian necropolis "Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich," includes six documents Volga provinces was published. Second volume of "material" contains information on the 14 areas of Asian regions of the Russian Empire - the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (Akmola, Amur, Yenisei, Trans-Baikal, Irkutsk, Orenburg, Perm,

Primorye, Sakhalin, Semipalatinsk, Tobolsk, Tomsk , Ufa, Yakutsk), and includes information about more than 6.8 thousand people.

Publisher: Dmitry Bulanin, St. Petersburg. Hard cover, size 170 x 240 mm, 592 pages. Isbn 978-5-86007-791-1

Russian Lacquer: The Museum of Lacquer Art Collection



The Museum of Lacquer Art in Münster houses the most extensive collection of Russian lacquer art outside of the Russian Federation. Dating from the early nineteenth-century to the 1950s, the lacquer miniatures in the museum's collection highlight an extraordinary diversity of decorative techniques and provide a comprehensive overview of the local development of lacquer art.

Although the origins of lacquer art in Russia can be traced to Peter the Great, who came to appreciate the art during his travels in Western Europe throughout the eighteenth century, it reached its peak in the early nineteenth century after a workshop modeled on the German lacquerware manufacturer Stobwasser was established near Moscow. From this point, artists began to explore specifically Russian motifs. Western lacquer production subsequently disappeared under the pressure of industrialization, but Russian lacquer art continued to flourish and undergo significant innovations throughout the entire nineteenth century.

The first publication to present the entire collection of Russian lacquer held by the Museum of Lacquer Art, *Russian Lacquer* will be an indispensable reference for collectors and dealers.

By: Franz Hemmerle (Author), Monika Kopplin (Author). Hirmer Publishers. Hardback. 312 pages. 248 color plates. Size 9 1/2 x 11 3/4. ISBN13: 9783777424293



Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Dr. Fischer - Fine Art Auctions, Heilbronn, Germany, on 12 of November



A cigarette case - a gift from Tsar Nicholas I

A blue enamelled gold cigarette case as a gift from Tsar Nicholas I of Russia. Made in Switzerland, second quarter 19th century. With 130 old-cut diamonds of ca. 10 ct. Enamel on the rim slightly chipped. 8.6 cm long, 149 gr.

Estimate: 28.000 - 32.000 €



A pocket watch with Tsar Peter the Great

A silver pocket clock with Tsar Peter I. Circa 1900. Clock face and cover with the equestrian statue of Tsar Peter I and inscribed in Cyrillic. Diam. 45 mm. Estimate: 200 - 300 €

A portrait cup and saucer. (A portrait of Grand Duke Nicholas Pavlovich)

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 Pavlovich, later Emperor Nicholas I, 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. Estimate: 700 - 800 €



A porcelain tankard with the portrait of Tsarina Catherine II

Probably Meissen, 19th century. Cylindrical body with the polychrome painted portrait of Tsarina Catherine II. Handle with brass mounting. The lid with double-headed eagle and strawberry knob. Unglazed bottom with crossed swords. 17 cm high. Estimate: 2.200 - 2.500 €

Auction House Empire, Moscow, Russia, on 21 of November



Order of St. Anne with the Imperial crown decorated with swords (for military service). Unknown Workshop, St. Petersburg, 1850? S. Gold, enamel. Weight 9.32 gr. The size 37h x 19 mm. Hallmarks on the connecting ring: Assay "72" s and master referred to as "BA". Estimate: 180.000-220.000 rubles / \$3.000-3.666



A wall decoration plaque with a galvanic medal "In memory of the consecration of St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg. 1858 " Medalists A. Lyalin and V. Alekseev. " Unknown Workshop, St. Petersburg, 1860? Copper, wood, cloth, 172.52 grams. Diameter 108 mm. Estimate: 8.000-11.000 rubles / 133-183 \$



Badge of the Siberian Grenadier of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolayevich Regiment. Workshop of K. Bock, Moscow 1908. Silver, gold, gilding, enamel. Weight 22.94 gr. Size 46h x 38 mm. Badge was approved on December 21, 1907. Estimate: 18000-22000 rubles. / 300-366 \$



Jetton "In Honor of the Emperor Nicholas II". Unknown Workshop, Rostov-on-Don. Silver with photo. Weight 1.64 gr. Size 32h x 21 mm. Master referred to as "GH. Rudenko"

Estimate: 18.000-
22.000 rubles.
300-366 \$



Badge "In commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. Narva Collage 21 / II". Unknown workshop. 1913, Silver, 4.90 g. Size 17h x 27 mm. Estimate: 15000-18000 rubles. / \$ 250-300

Award medal "For useful work" from the Second All-Russian handicraft exhibition in St. Petersburg.
 Medalist M.S. Skudin. Copper, 127.44 g. Diameter 63 mm.
 Estimate 30000-34000 rubles. / 500-566 \$



Postcard with the image of the Supreme Commander Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich in a meeting with officers in the mobile military headquarter (train wagon) . Size 140 x 90 mm. Artist V.S. Svarog.
 Estimate 2500-3500 rubles. /41-58 \$

Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark, on 25 of November



Portrait of Tsar Alexander III of Russia (1845-1894), married to Princess Dagmar of Denmark. Oil on canvas. 130 x 92 cm. Painter unknown, 19th century.
Price est.: 60,000-80,000 Dkr / € 8,050-10,500



A pair of Russian 14k gold cufflinks, formed as the Russian double eagle with old mine-cut diamonds, mounted with chain and hanger. One with scratched inventory number 1781. Diam. 1.8 cm. L. 3 cm. Provenance: According to seller's information a present to one of his relatives from Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia. This relative was employed at the Court of Christian IX of Denmark, her father. Estimate: 20,000-30,000 Dkr / € 2,700-4,000



Late Empire gilt-bronze and malachite mantel clock, attributed to Claude Galle (1759-1815), domed case with circular dial within laurels and leaves, black Roman numerals, stepped rectangular base with leaf-cast border, feet cast with leaves and wreaths. Engraved on the back: "Geschenk von J. M. der Kaiserin Alexandra von Russland. Peterhof den 11t August 1834". H. 32,5 cm. W. 19 cm. D. 10 cm. Provenance: Present from Empress Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia (1798-1869), married to Emperor Nicholas I of Russia. Danish private ownership from about 1935 until today. Estimate: 30,000 Dkr / € 4,000





A Russian ruby-, sapphire- and diamond brooch, designed as a ring with slinged bow, set with old mine-cut diamonds in which a hanging circular-cut ruby and sapphire, mounted in silver and 14k gold. Workmaster Erik Kollin, indistinct assay mark but presumably Jakob Liapunov 1896-1903 in St. Petersburg, furthermore marked "A". H. 2.7 cm. Original case enclosed. Estimate: 50,000-60,000 Dkr. / € 6,700-8,050

Watercolour on paper - A Russian Church Ceremony. Signed M. P. Klodt 1896. 37 x 56 cm. Unframed. Michail Petrovic Klodt:

Peschnoe Deistvo (the Fiery Furnace). A Russian church ceremony, presumably with Tsar Ivan the Terrible holding a palm branch. Signed and dated M. P. Klodt 1896 (in Cyrillic). Watercolour on paper. 37 x 56 cm. Unframed. Presumably exhibited: Eighteenth Exhibition of the Society of Russian Watercolour Painters in St. Petersburg, 1898 no. 275.

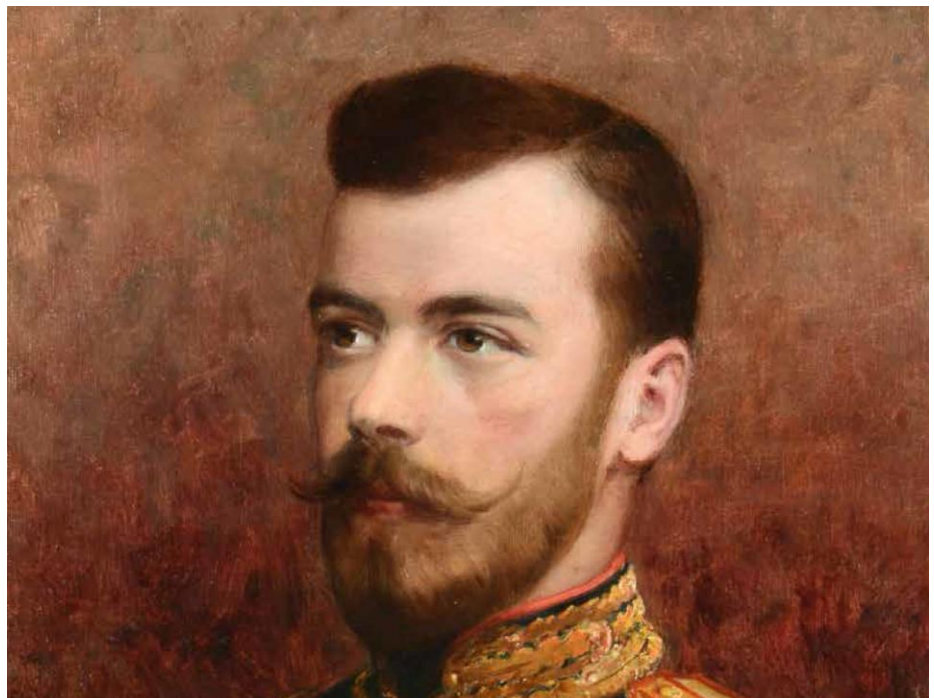
Provenance: Leo Ranek, agricultural attaché at the Danish Embassy in Moscow 1946-1972. Estimate: 10,000 Dkr. / € 1,350



Olivier Coutau-Begarie, Paris, France, on 11 December

Painting of Emperor Nicholas II

Oil on canvas signed lower right and dated 1901, preserved in an old gilt wood frame. Restoration and relining. View: Height: 54 cm - L. 44 cm. In setting: H. 73 cm. Estimate: 8000 €



A cigarette case as a present to Empress Alexandra Feodorovna on the occasion of her's 40th anniversary.

Cigarette case by Kubalyeff, Moscow, 1908-1917. Rectangular, slightly domed lid hinged in the center adorned with a miniature enamel polychrome image of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna represented in bust, head turned to the right, around a gold frame, applied to left side her monogram in Cyrillic "AF", and the date 05/25/1912, and to the left is applied the Russian Imperial crown in gold set with jewels. Opening set with a sapphire cabochon.

Hallmark title 84, Moscow, 1908-1917. Punch goldsmith: Vasily Kubalyeff, assets from 1907 to 1917.

H.: 8 cm - L.: 10 cm. Weight: 214 grams.

Estimate: 6000 €



Photos from a private album of Countess Zinaida Mengden, lady-in-waiting of Empress Maria Feodorovna.

An album containing several hundred old photographs spread over 60 pages, representing the Dowager Empress at various times in his life, covering a period from 1905 to 1917. Most of these pictures have never been published.

Landscape format: L. 44 cm - L. 33 cm - E. 8 cm., cloth binding. Competitions antique silver on paper.

Estimate: € 3500





A photo from the engagement of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich and Alix.

Photograph showing the group at the Rosenau Castle in Coburg on April 8, 1894. In the front row from left to right: Princess Irene of Prussia (sister of Alix), Grand Duke Serge Alexandrovich and his wife Grand Duchess Elizabeth (sister of Alix), Alfred the Duke of Britain, sitting: Princess Victoria, Marchioness of Milford Haven (sister of Alix), Princess Stephanie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Princess Beatrice of Great Britain, Duchess of Connaught, Duchess of Edinburgh, Queen Marie of Romania, Princess Alix of Hesse, Grand Duchess Maria's Pavlovna, Duchess of Cumberland. In the last row standing: Prince Louis-Alexandre of Battenberg, Marquess of Milford Haven, Prince Philippe of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, King Ferdinand Romania, Prince Henry of Prussia, Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, Tsarevich Nicolas (the future Nicholas II), Emperor Wilhelm II, Grand Duke Vladimir, Duke of Connaught, Prince of Battenberg, Princess Alexandra of Great Britain, and King Edward VII.

Silver photo, dated 1894 and mounted on cardboard. Picture: H. 22 cm - L. 27 cm.

Setting: H. 40 cm - L. 50 cm.

Estimate: 3000 €



74

Photos from the garden of Wolfsgarten (Hesse) in September 1899.

Includes Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, Grand Duke of Hesse Ernst-Louis, Prince

Nicolas of Greece, Grand Dukes Kirill, Boris and Andre Vladimirovich and Grand Duchess Victoria

Melita (future Grand Duchess Kirill).

Estimate: 1000- 1500 € each.



75



76



71



72



77



70

Photos from an album of Grand Duchesses Maria and Anastasia

With 25 photos, portraits and group scenes displaying the daughters of Emperor Nicolas II in the hospital in Tsarskoye Selo during First World War.

Silver prints. Vintage album signed by A. Funk, glued on cardboard. Photographs: H.: 11 cm - L. 15 cm.

Album: H: 19 cm - L. 24 cm.

Estimate: 5000 €



Did you know....



... That Paul (Paolo) Petrovich Troubetzkoy, best known for his monument of Emperor Alexander III on a horse in St. Petersburg, also made a painting and a statue of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

The painting was made in her home in 1890. Now it is in the State Tretyakov Gallery.



A clay model, about 1898-99 and the finished statuette in marble - 40.5 x 29 x 26.5 cm. Now in the Russian Museum.

