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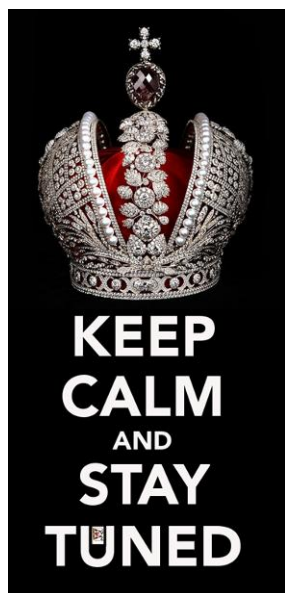


"Fall of the House of Romanovs, March 1917".

The cover photo shows a silver ruble of 1895 with the head of Emperor Nicholas II and later stamped on it the text "Fall of the House of Romanovs March 1917".



March is in many ways a dramatic month for the Romanov Dynasty. The start of the dynasty, with Michael Feodorovich's election as Tsar in 1613 is commemorated in March. Tsar Alexei Michailovich was born in March 1629. Emperor Paul I was killed in March 1801. In March 1845 Emperor Alexander III was born. In March 1855 Emperor Nicholas I died. In March 1861 Emperor Alexander II liberated the serfs, but it did not prevent him to be killed by the "People's Will" in March 1881. In March 1917 Emperor Nicholas II abdicated and Emperor Michael II deferred his acceptance of the throne until the people had approved the continuation of the monarchy - it never happened, and it was the end of the Romanov dynasty's reign. The Romanov dynasty started in March, with a Michael, and ended in March with a Michael.



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

"Tomb of the unknown Tsar": the mystery of Russian Orthodox Church bias against the Tsar's remains is revealed

Victor Aksiuchits tells about the "burial case"

10 March. MK. - Burial of the remains of Tsarevich Alexis and Grand Duchess Maria - the last remaining unburied members of the family of the last Russian Tsar is postponed indefinitely. The original ceremony was scheduled to be held on October 18 last year. Then it was moved to February 1, the deadline for the investigation of the renewed at the insistence of the Patriarch of the cause of death of the Royal family. But February passed, and instead of the long-awaited end of the story it has become intriguing. The investigation was extended, its previous leader, Vladimir Solovyov, is actually removed from the case. And the Patriarch spoke at a Council of Bishops with a devastating critique of the "old" investigation and the consequences of the government commission to study the

issues related to reburial of the remains of Emperor Nicholas II and his family, who worked in 1993-1998. At the last stage of its activities, in 1997-1998, the commission was led by Boris Nemtsov, who was at that time the first deputy of prime minister.

His thoughts on the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church, the memories of the events 20 years ago and a forecast of the development of the situation shared the former head the group of advisers to Boris Nemtsov and actual secretary of the commission, politician and philosopher Viktor Aksiuchits.

Viktor, according to the Patriarch, the church leadership has sent the Commission a series of questions suggested conduct additional examination. "The proposal was ignored, and the questions received formal reply," - Kirill stated. You accept criticism?

- It looks like Patriarch was poorly informed. In 1995, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church really asked investigators 10 questions, mainly relating to the myths in this case: that Nicholas II's head was cut off and stored in Lenin's office in Kremlin, the remains were burned and the murder itself was of a ritual character, and so on. Furthermore, it was suggested that a number of additional expertise - genetic, dental, anthropological, historical. Church leaders proposed the professor Rogaev (Eugene

Rogaev, Head of Genomics and Human Genetics Institute of General Genetics, Russian Academy of Sciences - "MK") for genetic expertise. He expressed doubts in previous investigations. All the proposed examinations were performed, all the experts, including Rogaev, confirmed the results of previous studies. Exhaustive answers were given to all 10 questions. In January 1998, these materials were given to the Patriarch. Since then, no more questions were sent by the Patriarchate to the Commission. And especially no any formal charges were made.

According to the Patriarch, in the course of the investigation the rules of storage and transportation of genetic material samples were badly violated: bone fragments were "stored and transported in not in sealed form", creating "conditions for possible manipulation of test materials."

- Patriarch was misled by people who have never attended the findings and transportation of genetic materials and do not have any idea about it. As a participant of the events I can testify that all investigative actions were carried out in strict accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure. I would also like to remind you that the case is under special control of the Attorney General, and his assistants were in the commission and carried out supervision of the process. That is, any information on violations immediately can be verified. But none of this fact has been proved.

It is noteworthy that archaeologist Sergei Belyaev appears among the people who were sources of information for the Patriarch. About Belyaev's competence said scandal connected with the search for relics of Ambrose of Optina. In 1990s Belyaev headed the excavations in which were allegedly discovered the remains of the Elder. These remains were in the Optina Pustyn' and worshiped for several years. Until further excavations have not found the true ashes and it became clear that for the first time instead of the relics of Saint had been taken remains of his cell-mate.

But Belyaev was a member of the government commission. As well as a number of other violent critics of the official version, which refers to the patriarch - Metropolitan Juvenal, Academician Alexeyev, the leader of the Russian Nobility Assembly Andrei Golitsyn ...

- Some of these people say today that they have always opposed recognition of the remains. However, they, like other members of the commission unanimously voted at the last meeting on 30 of January 1998 for the official decision of the commission. According to this decision remains which were found near Yekaterinburg belong to the Royal family.



The meeting at the residence of the Patriarch on 15 of January, 1998. From left to right: Victor Aksiutichits, Boris Nemtsov, Alexiy II, Vladimir Soloviyov, and Alexander Shubin.

One of the key points of the accusation from the Patriarch is that "insistence of Academician Veniamin Vasilyevich Alekseyev to conduct a thorough historical examination was ignored."

- In the course of the investigation and in the framework of the Commission historical studies of an unprecedented scale have been conducted. In 1993-1998 the special commission of historians headed by academician-secretary of the Department of History of RAS Koval'chenko worked on behalf of the government. All state and departmental archives of Russia have been studied, many foreign archives and private collections, in which could be material related to the fate of the Royal family. The origins of Alekseev's position, in my opinion, lie in the fact that at the time he proposed to the Commission to allocate solid finances for their research. But since a lot of work with archival documents has already

been done, it was considered inappropriate in the Commission. In response, Academician Alekseev initiated the flow of "dissenting opinions" which do not dry out and continue to this day.

Academician, in particular, questioned the fact that all the members of the Royal family were killed in Ipatiev house.

- Yes, in his books and speeches Alekseev proves that the Empress and all the Emperor's daughters could survive and live to a ripe old age. And the remains discovered in the burial in the Old Koptyakovsky road belong to unknown people, whose corpses were buried by secret services on the orders of Lavrenty Beria in 1946. Of course, the venerable academician does not show any real documentary proof of this blatant misinformation.

Alekseev is not alone in his opinion. Chairman of the Synodal Information Department of the Moscow Patriarchate, Vladimir Legoyda recently expressed firm belief that "the questions posed by Academician Alekseev - is a serious question, and cannot be ignored."

- Strange, in my view, the statements of fabrications by Academician Alexeyev come into direct conflict with the decisions of the Russian Orthodox Church to canonize Nicholas II and his family. After all, they are canonized as the martyrs on account of their martyrdom. Here it is either one or the other.



Victor Aksiutchits

But, maybe, it would be necessary to do still alternative versions? At least in order to once and for all to put an end on this point.

- Experts of the government commission checked a number of versions. Including the one according to which Anna Anderson (aka Anastasia and Anna Tchaikovsky Manaahen) is Anastasia Romanov who was wonderfully escaped. Of course, there is no any documentary evidence of this legend,. But the problem is that there is a lot of options "afterlife" of the royal family. During the work of the commission dozens of people turned in their statements that they are direct descendants of the Emperor, demanded immediately to recognize their rights. On what

basis the investigation should examine the versions of Alekseev, but leaving others unattended? If you start deal with each alternative version, the investigation could be delayed indefinitely.

And yet maybe Commission hurried to decide on the burial in 1998? After all, it was obvious that the case would end in scandal.

- The commission and the government had no legal grounds to postpone the decision of this question. And from a moral point of view it is also could not be justified. By the way, I agree with these arguments, and so did Patriarch Alexy II.

Where did you get this information?

- After the commission's work was completed, Nemtsov decided to meet with the Patriarch. Preparation of the meeting was given to me. It took place on 15 of January, 1998 at the residence of the Patriarch in Chisty Lane and lasted about two hours. In addition to Nemtsov it was attended by Vladimir Solovyov, your humble servant and Alexander Shubin, Nemtsov's adviser. Solovyov gave an official response to the Prosecutor General of the Synod's questions, as well as two volumes of historical and forensic materials. His Holiness carefully read the note, scanned the materials and asked clarifying questions. Then the Patriarch pushed away the folder, put his hand on them and said, "You convinced me. This question can be considered solved. Let's discuss the place and time of burial."

His Holiness offered the funeral ceremony in the first or the last week of Lent. He said there was no point to delay the process. Nemtsov said in response that the media can accuse the commission of being in a hurry, so it is best to hold the burial on July 17 on the 80th anniversary of the shooting. After

a long discussion, we agreed on the proposal of the chairman of the commission. Patriarch agreed with the proposed burial place - Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg. We left with the conviction that we had reached full mutual understanding.



Patriarch Kirill during the Bishops' Council. Moscow Christ the Savior Cathedral, February 2, 2016.

What happened then? Patriarch changed his mind?

- I think the Patriarch didn't change his previous opinion. But the Holy Synod at the meeting held on 26 February 1998, adopted a different decision. And the Patriarch was forced to agree with it. I must say that His Holiness has always tried to avoid conflicts within the Church, and sought to find a compromise.

Well, what guided the rest of the bishops?

- Metropolitan Juvenaly, a member of the government commission reported to the members of the Synod. Apparently, it was his performance that misled the bishops. Finally, noting that the Commission's decision "has caused serious doubts and even confrontation in

the Church and in society", the Synod suggested to bury the remains in a temporary "symbolic grave-monument" and then, "when is removed all doubt "return" to the final question, the issue of the place of their burial." This idea belongs to the same Metropolitan Juvenaly. The first time he proposed it in a meeting of the commission and on my request to give an example of "symbolic grave-monument". Metropolitan said that this could be like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On this, I noticed that in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier there are remains of real persons, whose names were not found. Only stone on Lubyanka Square can be called symbolic grave. Juvenaly's offer, of course, was not supported in the committee, but he found a more appreciative audience in the Synod. This played in the end, I believe, a fatal role, because it was impossible to respond meaningfully to it. If, for example, they asked to postpone the burial, to conduct additional studies, it could be discussed. But how to respond to the proposal to bury unknown person no one knows where, no one knows how? According to Juvenaly, instead of the names it should be written "symbolic grave-monument" on the gravestone. Complete nonsense!

In his report at the recent Council of Bishops, Patriarch Kirill criticized "old," investigation of the "Tsar's business" and activities of "Nemtsov's" commission.

Juvenal should not be suspected of lack of knowledge: as a member of the commission, he had all the investigation materials. Do you have an explanation of his motivation?

- As far as I know, the next day after our meeting with Patriarch Alexy, he told him his claim, why this question was decided without him, the government commissioner and chairman of the Synodal Commission for the Causes of Saints? The Patriarch said that these were preliminary agreements and a decision will be taken by Synod. It is possible that the Metropolitan was led by jealousy and resentment. In addition, Metropolitan Juvenal has a complicated attitude to the personality of last Russian Emperor. When a few years after these events, we met him in one of the suburban churches, Metropolitan told me that he had received material from Switzerland, proving that Nicholas II was a Freemason. Of course, it was nothing more than a rumor: no evidence of Freemasonry of Nicholas II there ever was. This episode shows the level of understanding of the problem by some hierarchs of the ROC. There are a great mistrust of indisputable scientific facts and overly trust to all kinds of myths.

- You probably talked to the members of Romanov family attended the funeral of the last Russian Tsar. How estimated Romanovs the position of head of the Russian Imperial House, Maria Vladimirovna, who refused to recognize the remains like the Patriarchate?

- Naturally, they denounced this position. But we should start with the fact that almost none of them recognize Maria Vladimirovna and rights of Kirillovichs in the Romanov House. By the way, somewhere in the year before the burial, I met and talked with Grand Duchess Leonida (Princess Leonida Bagration of Mukhrani, mother of Maria Vladimirovna, who passed away in 2010. - "MK") - at that time the eldest of Kirillovichs.

Did you persuade her to take part in the forthcoming ceremony?

- No, this is a different, though no less intriguing story. The fact is that Yeltsin was inclined to the decision to officially recognize the status of the Russian Imperial House. Nemtsov ordered me to develop this project. I was not a supporter of this, so I went on malfeasance: in one of the meetings with the Orthodox community I informed about the existence of such a plan. As a result, a scandal arose in the press, and the project "leaked."

And what was the supposed official status?

- About the same as the status of the King's house in Bulgaria: the recognition of the Russian Imperial House by the state as a historical, cultural institutions, legislative consolidation of this status, the allocation of an official residence. No more. But many were afraid that they will receive some special powers.

That is a return to the monarchy did not go?

- Officially, of course not. Although there were rumors that such plans existed in Yeltsin's encirclement—to move toward a constitutional monarchy that would allow the president to save the ailing power, for example, as a regent for heir.

And why didn't you like it? You, as far as we know, have monarchist views.

- Yes, I am the monarchist, and have studied this question. In my opinion - and the same position shared by most representatives of the Russian patriotic public - Maria Vladimirovna and her son George Mikhailovich have no legal or moral reason to call themselves Grand Duchess or Duke, and especially members of the Russian Imperial house. In late 1997, Maria Vladimirovna asked the government commission for one condition: she will take part in the burial of her slained relatives, if she is to enjoy special status. The government disagreed, and Maria Vladimirovna refused to participate. Is it worthy of the Imperial House?!

So what did you discuss with Leonida?

- I was at a meeting with Nemtsov. Initially, there was a general discussion on various secular and political themes. Then Leonida asked, what about giving official status to the Russian Imperial House. Boris said that the president graciously consider this idea. And then he instructed me to make concrete proposals on this issue. The meeting took place in Moscow, at the state dacha provided by Yeltsin to the Kirillovichs, for their stay during visit to Russia.

They still use it?

- I do not know. But I think, if they chose this house, it would be known.

How, why and under what circumstances Boris Nemtsov, the first deputy of prime minister headed the commission on the identification and burial of the remains of the Tsar? Whose idea was it?

- As far as I know, this was the idea of the investigator Solovyov. Vladimir Solovyov told me, after the government reshuffle took place, he was summoned by the then Assistant Head of the Presidential Administration Denis Molchanov and asked which one of the vice-premiers, in his opinion, will be able to more effectively supervise the Commission. Solovyov said that, in his opinion, it is better to deal with Nemtsov.

And why Solovyov proposed Nemtsov? He was familiar with Boris Yefimovich?

- No, they were not personally acquainted. But Solovyov sympathized with Nemtsov, which was known to be a man with principles, opened enough, not prone to Byzantine diplomacy. So Solovyov made no mistake. Basic research at that time was completed, the remains belonging to the Imperial family was

100 percent proven already in 1995. However, the previous head of the commission did not dare to give the final decision, afraid to get under fire. But Boris was not frightened, selflessly assumed political responsibility. If he declined, it would have dragged on for decades. Nemtsov made a lot of mistakes, in my opinion. However, he was faultless in this matter.

Nemtsov immediately accepted the offer to lead the commission for identification and burial of the remains of the Royal family. I remember that he called me, told about it, asked: "Could we do it?" - "Of course, - I answered. - I'm in the subject. "

And when, by the way, did you first come into contact with the "theme"?

- At the end of 1980. Geli Ryabov called me and offered to meet (screenwriter, film director and discoverer of the remains of the Royal family, the discovery was made jointly with the geologist Alexander Avdonina on 1 of June, 1979. - "MK"). We were familiar with him before, but I was then, as they say, widely known in narrow circles of the Orthodox community. As co-editor - together with Gleb Anischenko - Samizdat (made unofficially) magazine of Russian Christian culture "Choice". Geli arrived in my home, talked about his amazing discovery, about how the search went, he tried to make an examination and everybody dashed aside him...



You immediately believe him?

- Yes, I had no doubt: the information was credible.

Your opponents found it strange that Ryabov and Avdonin conducted their search, they say, under the noses of "competent" authorities, and those did not react. Do you think it was suspicious?

- I will say more: in the words of Ryabov, searches were under private auspices of minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR Nikolai Shchelokov. That is why they were success. According to "legend cover," they were looking for a place of burial of policemen and Chekists, who died during the Civil War... It is difficult to say what motivated Shchelokov. But it is obvious that the minister was in defiance of the "general line" in this issue.

You know, who is now engaged as the investigators of "the Tsar's business"?

- Just what is reported in the press. Unfortunately, very little information. Despite the claims of the Patriarchate and the Investigative Committee of the "full disclosure" of the research, all is under the cover of "investigative secrecy." Nothing is known, for example, whether the research is carried out of the remains of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, sister of the Empress. According to our opponents, her genotype is in contradiction with the data on the remains of Alexandra Feodorovna. Nothing has been reported on the audit information of Metropolitan of Tashkent and the Uzbekistan Vincent - that the burnt remains of the royal family supposedly were found near Ganina Yama. The Patriarchate also silent whether some "fat mass" found by Kolchak's investigator Sokolov in Ganina Yama and located in a church in Brussels will be investigated.

So, the Church still has reason to doubt.

- In my opinion, no. But if the Patriarchate is in doubt, then let him initiate such studies. Especially as now they have in this regard complete carte blanche. However, so far there is no indication that the Patriarchate is committed to resolve their publicly expressed doubts. Judging from what I know, the process has become slow character. All genetic studies assigned to the former head of the investigation, should already be completed. But also a new historical examination appointed and it has hardly even begun, because the composition of the expert group has recently undergone significant changes. Its former CEO, head of the State Archive Sergey Mironenko, is removed from the case. The representatives of the Patriarchate have repeatedly said that "credible" experts will be involved, but we do not know any names yet. Which, of course, cause some concern.

Of course, the main event related to a new stage of investigation, a change of the head of the investigation. How do you assess the fact of the removal of Vladimir Solovyov? What was behind it?

- Technically, Solovyov has not been dismissed, but it was to improve the status of the investigation. The head of the investigation team was Igor Krasnov, head of the investigation of particularly important cases of management, reporting directly to Bastrykin. Solovyov is also in this group. But in fact, he is moved away from the case. The initiator can be the Patriarchate. As far as I know, shortly before the reshuffle Patriarch met with the head of the Investigative Committee. Solovyov has long been, since the 1990s, leading to irritation and dissatisfaction among the Patriarchate and its officials by his independent and principled position.

How may the change of management investigation team affect the course of events?

- Of course, they will seek out - and certainly will find - some small "fleas". But the final decision, I am sure, will repeat the conclusions to which consequently came Solovyov. However, his actual suspension certainly will delay the decision of all questions connected with this case.

There is an opinion that the issue they want to delay for 20 more years.

- As you know, last summer an interagency working group on issues related to research and the reburial of the remains of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria Romanov was established by President Order. And Putin does not change decisions unreasonably. So I do not think that the case will drag on for so long.

Why did the Church crave this delay? What it gives?

- There are complex reasons. There are people that are very negatively to the Emperor's remains in the Orthodox community environment, which they describe as "Izhemoschami" (False remains). The radicals are few, but very active. They act in the media, make conferences and "round tables". Some threaten to split. It seems that the recognition of the remains is delayed, not least in anticipation of that passion will calm down. One also has to take into account the force of inertia: in the last quarter century, the representatives of the Patriarchate said many inadequate in this regard. Among the hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church there is an opinion that not to recognize the Tsar's remains is a smaller sin than to recognize that the Church made a mistake. But I hope that common sense still prevails. I have always said and I repeat once again: until all the Romanovs are buried, the civil war will not end in Russia, and national reconciliation will not happen.



Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill urged to remove the name of Peter Voikov from streets, districts and the metro station in Moscow

29 March. RIA Novosti - Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Kirill urged to remove the name of the revolutionary Peter Voykova, a party in the shooting of the royal family, from the names of streets, districts and the metro station in Moscow.

Earlier, the Russian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox community have repeatedly called for the renaming "Voikovskaya" metro. "It is impossible that in the city is preserved - in our toponymy - the names of criminals and terrorists, I mean Voikov" - said the Patriarch in his first ever meeting with the deputies of the Moscow City Duma.



"What will it mean for young people who get to the history of this man, and see his name in the names of streets and the metro. These names of persons need to be removed, which directly can be called a murderer or a terrorist, if they are in the name of the place", - the head of the Russian church.

According to him, the church is against the demolition of monuments, however, said the Patriarch. "You need to go to the steps that have great moral significance." "Reasonable names - this is what forms the moral state of society, and if you like, generates the national idea" - said the Patriarch.

"We are not talking about that, "the entire Soviet era to be renamed, as they do in the neighboring countries. Those who have always served the Fatherland, who worked for the country, regardless of the political system - their names should be kept, it is worthy people and we know generals, academics, writers and ordinary workers - and God forbid touching their memory, but it does not mean that with reference to "do not touch the era of" you can save the names of people who have stained themselves with innocent blood"- said the primate.

Assessing the voting last year on the portal "Active citizen" to rename the Moscow metro station "Voikovskaya," the Patriarch said that it was held "totally unprofessional". "No one could keep track of how many times someone push buttons".

Voting started on November 2 2015 and was running for 3 weeks. For the preservation of the existing name voted 53% of respondents - more than 161 thousand people.



The first church dedicated to St. Eugeny Botkin was consecrated in Moscow

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill on March 25 the chairman of the Synodal Department for charity, the Administrator of the Eastern Vicariate of the city of Moscow, Bishop Panteleimon of Orekhovo-Zuevo performed the rite of consecration of the small church at the hospital №57.

This is the first church in Russia, consecrated in honor of the holy martyr Eugeny Botkin, court physician of the family of Nicholas II, recently canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church.



Bishop Panteleimon of Orekhovo-Zuevo congratulated the audience with the fact that they witness an outstanding event. He stressed the importance of the fact that the hospital church is dedicated to the holy martyr-Passion-bearer Eugeny Botkin. "Holy Martyr Doctor Eugene defeated death, overcome the evil by faithfulness to God, devotion to duty, his life, which was filled with love. He lived with God and each of us can join God in this church. "

The church in the 57th hospital was established at the initiative of the institution itself, and largely thanks to the head of the Research Institute of Pulmonology, located in the hospital building, Alexander Chuchalin . He told the audience about the life of Eugene Botkin, about his views, and the service of God and neighbor - "We have gathered today to the good initiatives of the Russian people - triumph of the holy martyr Eugene Botkin. Our church, which is now to be consecrated, is very modest. But I think that it is good that there is a church here, and the power that lies in it, will bring you joy."



The main dome was raised above the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Paris

Prince Dimitri Romanovich Romanov came to French capital to participate in the ceremony.

The construction of the Russian Orthodox spiritual and cultural center in Paris has entered the final stage. On 19 of March the main dome was raised at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, located on the territory of the complex. The delegation of Russia was led by the head of the Government Staff, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Prikhodko. The delegation also included a spokesman for Prime Minister Natalia Timakova, Russian Ambassador to France Alexander Orlov, prominent representatives of the Russian community in France, the clergy and the Paris city hall.



The Orthodox center in Paris is a monument and a symbol of faith, connecting Russia and France. The complex will include the initial Franco-Russian school for 150 students, a library, exhibition halls, rooms of Orthodox parish, seminary.

The complex with a total area of 4.2 thousand sqm is built on territory that previously belonged to the French weather service Meteo-France. The plot on the left bank of the Seine River, in the 7th District, Russia acquired in 2010. Terms of the acquisition are confidential.

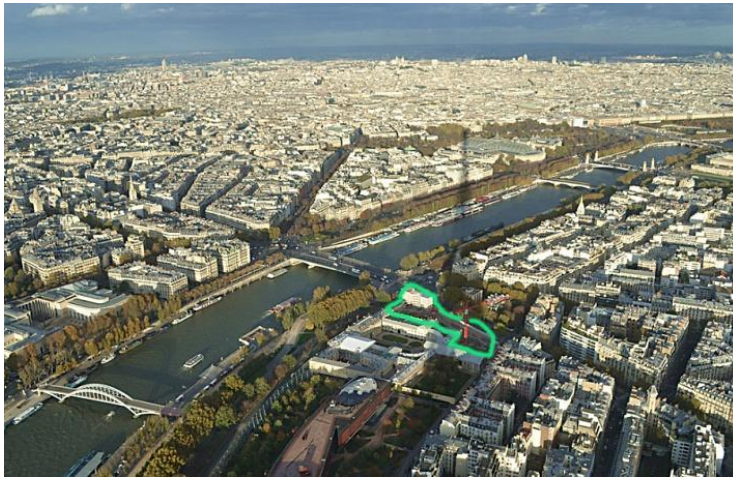
According to expert estimates, the cost of land in the historic district of Paris is about € 70-75 million. Estimate of the cost for the construction of the spiritual and cultural complex, experts are ready to give after completion of construction.

In 2011, in the presence of Vladimir Putin and Francois Fillon, then the head of the French Government, a contract was signed for the construction of the spiritual and cultural center.

The final version was approved in January 2014. Its author was the renowned French architect Jean-Michel Wilmot. List of his famous works includes the restoration of the Royal Institute of the professors of the College de France in Paris's Latin Quarter and artistic Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. In its draft Wilmot managed to harmoniously combine tradition and modernity.

Construction of the center was entrusted with the largest French construction group Bouygues. Its head Martin Bouygues assured that the company considers "an honor to participate in such an important project, which is of international significance." "We will make every effort to make it become the undisputed and indisputable success for Russia and France".

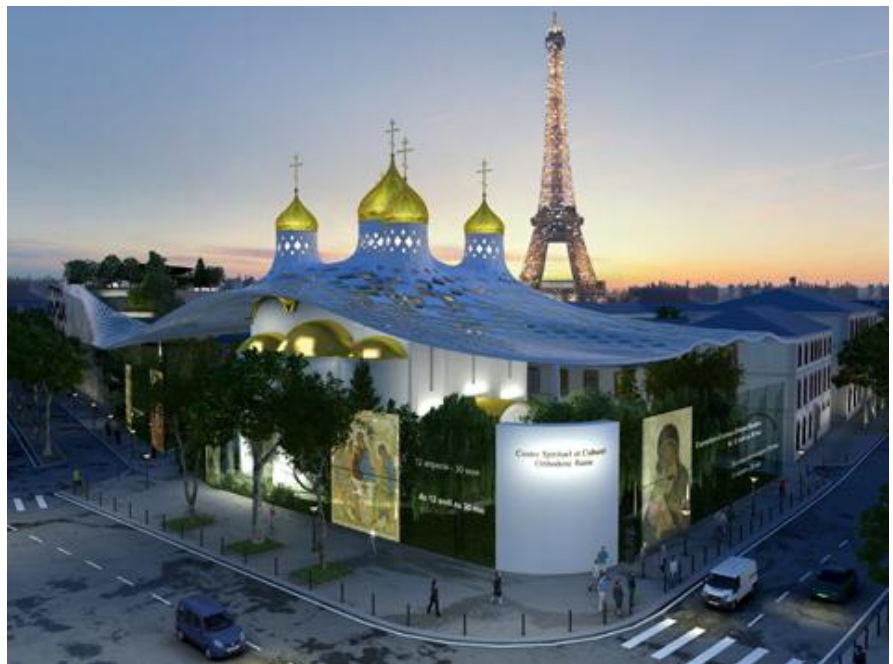
With the installation of the 12-meter central dome construction of the complex will come to the "finish line". The church will rise immediately by one-third, reaching a height of over 36 meters. Four small six-meter domes will be installed later. Completion is expected in the summer. "The new Orthodox church on the left bank of the Seine will be inaugurated this year", - said Russian Ambassador to France Alexander Orlov.



The traditional Orthodox architecture dome "onion" form were made in Brittany by the French firm "Multiplast" made of composite materials - a package of several layers of fiberglass and foamed polymer impregnated under vacuum with epoxy resin. This technology is widely used today in the shipbuilding and aerospace engineering, construction remains unique. Its use has not only significantly accelerated the progress of work, and more than five times lower the weight of the structure. When using traditional wooden or metal frame weight of 12-meter main dome would exceed 42 tons, the composite one weighs 8 tons.

All five domes are covered with a very thin layer of gold-platinum alloy having a bright and slightly matte finish, known in the art as "Lunar gold." For their gilding more than 90 thousand leaflets of 8x8 cm were taken, each of them was applied manually.

The head of the Korsun diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, Bishop Nestor reminded that Orthodoxy is present in France since the XIX century. "There were great representatives of Russian emigration, prominent theologians, who opened Orthodoxy for the French", - he said.



According to the Bishop, parishes' life in France has recently intensified significantly. "Now there are processes associated with the Diaspora which in its scope and significance, probably surpass all that was before - says the bishop.

The new church will be a monument to the Russians who gave their lives for the freedom of France. One hundred years ago, in the midst of the fateful battle for French First World War - the Battle of Verdun, Russia came to help Paris. In March 1916 the Russian army began an offensive on the Eastern Front. Russia has lost 78 thousand men who killed and wounded in Naroch offensive.

Video - 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JIAf6GKAXQ>

2) <http://www.1tv.ru/news/culture/304191>

A senior in the Romanov family: burial of the Royal children will help to unite all Russians

15 March. TASS Russian News Agency.

Prince Dimitri Romanovich considered that by repaying a debt to the victims of the tragedy, Russia will be able to put an end to the drama, that almost a century ago divided the society into white and red.

At the end of last year, the State Archive of the Russian Federation has transferred the remains of the Tsarevich and his sister in the custody of the Russian Orthodox Church. How you, Your Highness, took this news?

- I think that this step brings us closer to the long-awaited ceremony of a decent burial of the remains of the children of the Emperor, which the Russian Orthodox Church recognized Martyrs.

As far as I know, a temporary storage place of the relics is the Novospassky monastery in

Moscow. This monastery for centuries was the burial place of the Romanov and always enjoyed special reverence. Ever since we learned about the discovery of the remains near Yekaterinburg my brother Nikolai Romanovich and I always tried to conduct a Christian burial of Sovereign's children. And this time has come.



How soon, according to your expectations, could take place the burial ceremony of Tsar's children in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul on the territory of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg?

- The Russian Orthodox Church wished to conduct additional studies of the identification. The examination should confirm the authenticity of the remains of the Emperor and his family. This work, as far as I am informed, is progressing well. The results of studies conducted in the years 1995-2009, found a new confirmation.

I want to emphasize that we never have doubts of the objectivity and high qualification of the professionals involved in identification. A prominent role in this work belongs to the outstanding genetics Evgeny Rogaev.

Do you think that this chapter of Russian history really will soon come to an end?

- The fact that the remains were found on Koptiyakovsky road inclines us from the start to believe in their authenticity. In our family we agreed with the findings of the investigation for a long time. The one, who judged otherwise, had time to justify objections. But, as we see, opponents didn't find any facts. I repeat the words told on the subject by my late brother, head of the family and historian. "Someone - he observed - is always going to miss some information, but it is the desire to be sure "101%". For us enough evidence available today. We believe the facts, the documents collected by investigator for particularly important cases, Vladimir Solovyov, and head of the State Archive Sergey Mironenko, the members of the Working Group of the Russian government.

How will be presented the descendants of the Romanovs at the funeral service in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul?

- I will try for sure to be on this day in St. Petersburg. On the eve all my thoughts are about Christian martyrs, how to give a worthy tribute to their memory.

As head of the House I am in regular contact with other relatives to inform them about the upcoming ceremony. The emigration scattered our family around the world. Some families live not only in Europe but also in North and South America. Invitation was sent to the different parts of the world almost to hundred descendants of the Romanovs, and yet none of them refused.

In my opinion, the upcoming ceremony - on a par with events such as the restoration of canonical unity of the Russian Orthodox Church after years of division as a result of the revolution and civil war.

To repay a debt to the victims of the tragedy, Russia will be able to put an end to the drama almost a century ago divided the society into white and red. The past cannot change, and the St. Petersburg ceremony is not to judge "for" and "against." It will help to unite all Russians to go ahead.

I believe that we are on the way, finally to turn the tragic page of history. God willing, it will be this way.

Princess Olga plans tell-all book on her Royal relations

The Russian Revolution may have denied Princess Olga Romanoff her life of luxury but, she tells Camilla Tominey, her family's time as aristocrats in exile has been far from dull.

13 March. Daily Express. By Camilla Tominey

If Princess Olga Andreevna Romanoff had been born a boy she could claim the Imperial throne of Russia.

Instead the great niece of the last Russian Tsar lives a quiet life in a haunted 13th-century house in rural Kent where she was brought up on anecdotes about the Russian Revolution, Rasputin and royalty.

The daughter of Tsar Nicholas II's eldest nephew, Prince Andrei Alexandrovich, Olga, 65, was once considered a possible bride for Prince Charles and has so many stories about her

Royal relations that she is now writing a tell-all book.

She shares great-great-great grandparents with the Queen and Prince Philip and her paternal grandmother, the last Tsar's sister Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna, was cousin to George V, the Queen's grandfather.



One extraordinary anecdote passed down through the generations is of George V's wife Queen Mary "ripping off" the Grand Duchess following the Russian Revolution.

Rumour has it she was so into bling that when the exiled Russian royal was forced to sell her jewellery to London jewellers Garrard, Mary swept in early to buy the gems at a discount.

It was not until decades later that the present Queen made amends for her grandmother's behaviour, according to family legend.

"My grandmother did manage to get some jewels out of Russia after the Revolution but no money," Olga said. "Penniless and stateless, she decided to sell the gems to the royal jewellers.

Allegedly Queen Mary bought it all at cost price the night before the auction. "My mother always told me that the Queen made up for the loss, which was very decent of her if it's true, although it could be a myth.



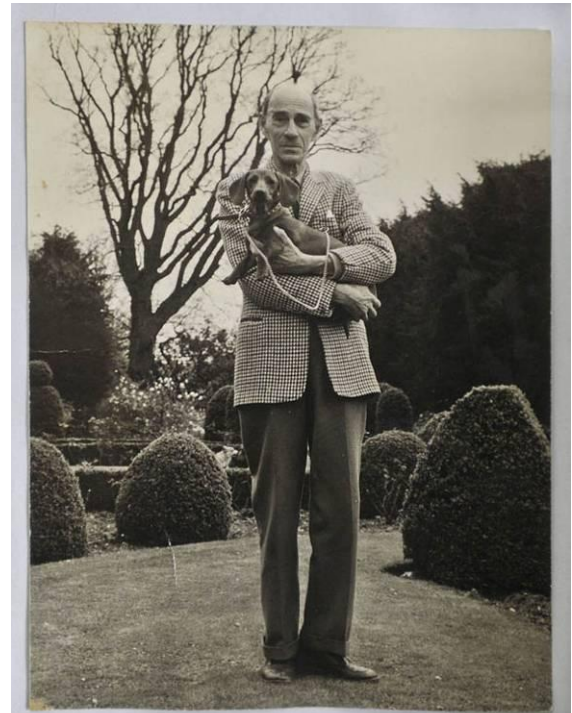
A signed photograph from her Aunt, Queen Mary

I often used to see Princess Diana decked out in Romanov gems. I still see them on royals, occasionally.”

Queen Mary, who died in 1953, apparently had a reputation for coveting other people’s possessions.

“She would go to a dinner party and say, ‘Oh I do like that’ and the hosts would be obliged to give her whatever it was,” Olga said.

“If it happened to be one of their favourite Sheraton chairs they’d have to give her the whole dozen. People got wise to it and put the good stuff in the attic and brought out the second best for her visits.”



Olga's father Prince Andrei Alexandrovich

Olga’s father also had his own extraordinary stories, such as how he used to rollerskate along the corridors of the Winter Palace as a boy with his cousins Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Alexei.

He was 20 when the Russian Revolution forced his uncle’s abdication in 1917. The Tsar, wife Alexandra and their five children were murdered by the Bolsheviks on July 17, 1918.

Kept under house arrest in Crimea for more than six months after the fall of St Petersburg, Prince Andrei’s side of the family managed to escape with George V’s help on HMS Marlborough while other Romanovs fled on HMS Forsythe from Odessa, changing their name for fear that Stalin’s death squads might come after them.

The Grand Duchess and her mother, the Grand Empress Dagmar, initially stayed at Buckingham Palace with her sister Alexandra, now Edward VII’s widow.

“Great-grandmother was an Empress, albeit exiled. And Alexandra was still considered a queen so there were problems like who stood in front when they went out on the balcony.”

Mother-of-three Olga inherited Alexandra’s desk which sits in the study at her home, Provender House, although she didn’t get any of the family jewellery.



“I always thought I was hugely wealthy and that my mother had lots of money because she kept the house so well and threw parties but in actual fact, no. She sold her jewellery to run the house and as I have discovered, it costs a bomb. “Ironically, that’s very in keeping with the Romanovs.

They had these beautiful palaces but they lived in the attics, with

very middle-class things like antimacassars and sofas. They lived a very simple life when they weren't doing the court thing."

As well as hosting weddings, Olga gives "talks and teas" to visitors enthralled by anecdotes.

One tale that has caused speculation for nearly a century is Grigori Rasputin's role in the Romanov dynasty.

It was thought the bearded mystic, who grew close to the Tsar and Tsarina after "healing" their eldest son and Heir Alexei's haemophilia, was killed by Prince Felix Yusupov, married to Princess Irina.

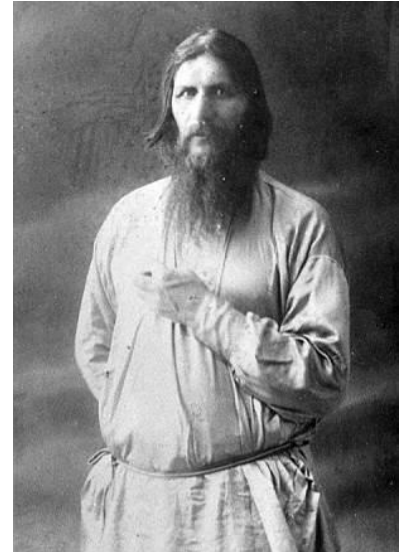
"But now they think the British Secret Service bumped him off," said Olga. "My father was livid because he actually liked Rasputin.

"OK he was dirty; he liked women; he was a peasant; but my father thought he was a good guy because he did actually help Alexei.

"The archives are opening up and now you do see a totally different side to what has been put out over the past almost 100 years."

Since the BBC's *War and Peace*, interest in the Romanovs is at fever pitch but Olga snubbed the drama because "it didn't make the family look very good".

However, she plans to attend the reburial of Alexei and his sister Maria, identified by their DNA in 2008, which President Vladimir Putin said will be bigger than the Tsar's re-interment in 1998. It may be held next year to coincide with the centenary of their deaths.



Grigori Rasputin



Princess Olga Andreevna Romanov at her coming-out ball at the Dorchester Hotel, 29th June 1968, and as patroness on the Debutant Ball 2015.

In the meantime there is the next Russian Debutante Ball to organize.

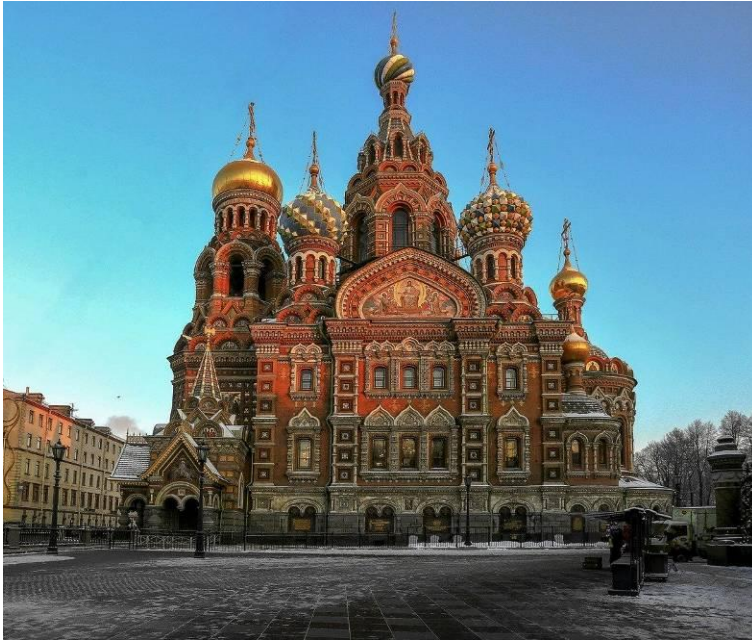
Now it's patron, Olga's "coming out" was in 1968 when she was 18 and her sights are set on the next generation of young, well-connected Russians rising through the social ranks.

"My mother was so desperate to make a grand marriage that she put down my hobbies as skulling and tennis.

I didn't even know what skulling was. Tennis? I couldn't even hit the ball. In the end I only met Prince Charles once, at a ball in Scotland when I was 17!"

Memorial service for Emperor Alexander II in Cathedral of the Savior on Spilled blood

On March 13, in the Cathedral of Spilled blood, in St. Petersburg a memorial service (Panihida) was served for Emperor Alexander II, who was killed on this day 135 years ago.



The church of the Savior on spilled blood was built at the Griboedov Canal, on the site where Emperor Alexander II was fatally wounded 13 (OS 1st) March 1881.

The church was built between 1883 and 1907, as a memorial to Alexander II. Funding was provided by the Imperial family with the support of many private donors.

An elaborate shrine was constructed at the end of the church opposite the altar, on the exact place of Alexander II's death. It is embellished with topaz, lazurite and other semi-precious stones, making a striking contrast with the simple cobblestones of the old road, which are exposed in the floor of the shrine.



Hermitage presented an "inter-museum of Alexander II"

The project participants are the State Hermitage, the State Museum of the History of St Petersburg, the Museum of Political History and the St Isaac's Cathedral State Memorial Museum (Church of the Saviour on the Spilt Blood).



On this day, representatives of the media were given a historical press tour devoted to key events in the history of our country – the abolition of serfdom and the assassination of the Tsar-Liberator Alexander II. 3 March (19 February, Old Style) is the 155th anniversary of the publication of the manifesto on the abolition of serfdom, while 13 March (1 March, Old Style) will be the 135th anniversary of the assassination of Emperor Alexander II. During the press tour, journalists were taken to sites connected with those events. Besides that, each participating museum prepared a one-day exhibition presenting unique items from its stocks, many of which had never been exhibited before.



The press tour began at the State Hermitage, in the Great Church of the Winter Palace, where Alexander II's funeral was held and where his uniform is on permanent display. On show there, too, as part of the one-day exhibition event, were a commemorative drinking vessel made for the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the serfs bearing a portrait of Alexander II, a double-headed eagle, the date XIX/II and the text of the decree; a silver medal of 1861 "In Commemoration of the Liberation of the Peasants from Serfdom" and a watercolour by Villiers de l'Isle-Adam showing Palace Square on 19 February 1861. Yulia Kantor, head of the State Hermitage's Historical and Informational Service addressed the party: "This is quite an unusual event, not only because we are marking these historic dates, but also because it is a kind of experiment. My colleagues from other museums and I decided to take you around and through to tell everyone who is interested how museums preserve history, how they present and tell it." The curators – Galina Printseva, Irina Bagdasarova and Nikolai Vvedensky – spoke about the exhibits, two of which are being displayed for the first time.

Then the journalists went through to the rooms where the Tsar-Liberator was educated, lived and worked. Mikhail Meshalkin, junior researcher in the Department of the History



of Russian Culture, spoke about distinctive features of Alexander II's life as Tsar, his daily timetable and, of course, the preparation and implementation of the emancipation.

The press tour continued in the Peter and Paul Fortress – the State Museum of the History of St Petersburg, where the cells were shown in which members of “People's Will” organization that carried out the assassination were held. The journalists viewed the display “The History of St Petersburg–Petrograd 1703–1918”, where a multimedia presentation on the Great Reforms awaited them along with materials on show as part of the one-day exhibition relating to the notable dates such as a printed copy of the emancipation manifesto or A.V. Morozov's lithograph “The Assassination of the Tsar on 1 March 1881 in St Petersburg”. In the SS Peter and Paul Cathedral the journalists visited the tombs of Alexander II and his wife.



Then the group moved on to the Museum of Political History, where in the first hall of the permanent display “The Individual and the Authorities in Russia in the 19th–21st Centuries” they viewed exhibits specially selected for this event, including a piece of the rope from Sophia Perovskaya's gallows and a sketchbook that belonged to Konstantin Makovsky containing drawings made in the courtroom during the assassins' trial.

The end of the press tour was a visit to the Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood, part of the St Isaac's Cathedral State Memorial Museum, that was constructed on the site of the fatal attack on Alexander II. There the journalists learnt in detail about the dramatic story of the assassination and also about the history and artistic features of the memorial church.



The State Hermitage's new inter-museum project was conceived and developed in the Historical and Informational Service with great support in the organization and implementation from the Department of the History of Russian Culture and the Department of Numismatics. The project made it possible to try out new forms of historical-informational work with the media as channels for feedback with visitors. Such an unusual form of working with journalists, in our view, provides the possibility not only to exploit an “informational occasion”, but also to tell and show potential visitors little-known exhibits and bolster interest in the history of a location.

Video - <http://lifenews78.ru/news/188390>

Exhibition "Posthumous Casket of Alexander II" at the Museum of Artillery

From 11 March to 30 April

2016 marks 135 years since the tragic death of the Tsar-Liberator Alexander II. 1 (March 13) in 1881, he was killed by the "People's Will" at the Catherine Canal Embankment (now the Griboyedov Canal). As you know, one of the masterpieces of church architecture - the Cathedral of the Resurrection (Church of the Savior on Blood) was erected at the murder scene. Pieces of lattice were retained in it from the embankment, pavement slabs, and even cobblestones, on which fell, bleeding profusely, the mortally wounded Emperor.

However, this is not the only relics associated with this tragic event. After the death of Alexander II, his morganatic wife Princess Catherine Yurievsky (Dolgoruky) ordered to make a funeral casket in the memory of the deceased, where the pieces of wood and glass were placed which was broken off by the explosion of the Emperor's carriage, a piece of cloth from the uniform of the Life Guards Sapper Battalion, which he was wearing, memoranda of the Life physicians who provide medical help and was present at his death, passes to the Peter and Paul Cathedral in the memorial service and burial of the late Emperor.



The casket has been carefully maintained in the possession of the Life-physician F.S. Tsytsurin, which, by the way, includes several close witnesses of the passing away of His Majesty the Emperor. He, along with other private physician came to the Winter Palace to the aid of the doctor on duty. S.P. Botkin assumed manual resuscitation. Princess Yurievsky gave the dying ether, gave to inhale oxygen and ammonia ... there was attempted amputation of the lower leg. Unfortunately, it was all in vain...

"His Majesty ... the Emperor was unconscious, his face was very pale, his eyes half open, the pupils did not react to light, jaws convulsively clenched, breathing incomplete, superficial and less than normal, the pulse was hardly heard, was a faint heartbeat ... several attempts were being made to revive the activity of the heart and brain blood veins by pressure from the periphery to the center, but it was not successful ...

[When] every human help was long since over ... all ... were just unfortunate witness, little by little, but obviously fading life of ... Monarch!

Fast passing of His Majesty in connection with the terrible injuries ... followed no doubt by continued blood loss... "

After the death of F.S. Tsytsurin, the casket was transferred in 1910 to the museum of military engineering by the former lieutenant of the Life Guards Chasseur Regiment, the actual state councilor N.N. Moiseenko-Velikim. Subsequently, the funds of Military Engineering Museum received the Military-Historical Museum of Artillery, where the posthumous box with priceless relics is stored now.

By the 135-year anniversary of the death of the Emperor Alexander II, this unique item is presented in a new exhibition at the Museum of Artillery. Besides the box for the first time the visitors can see all the memorabilia, which had been stored in it and have never been exhibited before.

The exhibition is supplemented with copies of prints of images of the regicide on March 1, 1881, which allows to trace the chronology of events, starting from the first failed attempt, undertaken by terrorist Rysakov and ending with the explosion of the bomb thrown by I.

Grinevitsky, then the scene was like a battlefield: more than twenty people, bleeding, in different positions lying on the pavement, the snow was covered with blood, fragments of clothing and human bodies.



Video - <http://topspb.tv/news/news99338/>

Birthday of Emperor Alexander III is celebrated in Gatchina



On the day of the celebration of 171th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander III, Gatchina Palace invited to several exhibitions and events. There was arranged an excursion program called "From the Emperor's life", opened a new exhibition "Coronation Album of Alexander III" (From March 11 to June 5, 2016) and the exposition over 3 floors "From my favorite Royal residences. Gatchina, Tsarskoye Selo, Peterhof", was shown documentary films about the life of Alexander III and his family in Gatchina - "Alexander III's Gatchina", "Happy to be home again" and "The royal pets".

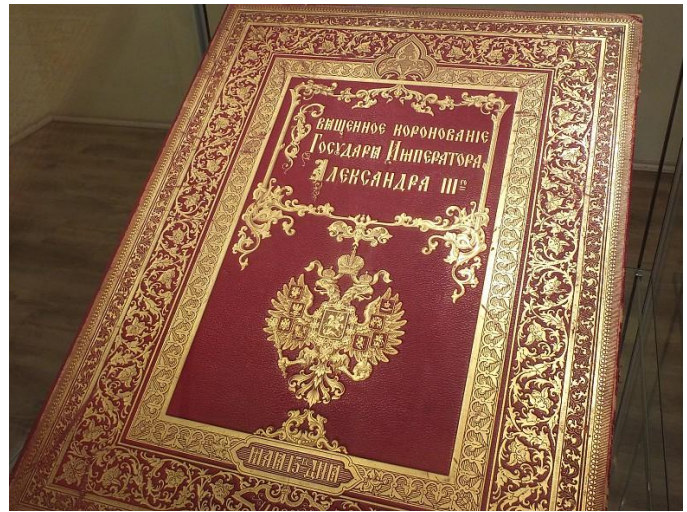
These are all part of a series of festive events related to the 250th anniversary of the Gatchina Palace.

When Emperor Alexander III lived in Gatchina it became known to all Russia, because the Emperor made it in 1881 the main Royal residence. In fact, Alexander III, turned Gatchina into the informal capital of the empire, worked daily in his palatial office, examining documents up to two o'clock in the morning.

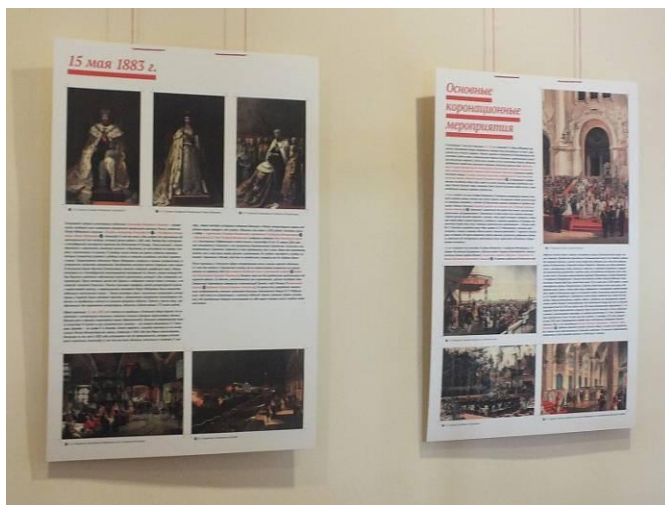


"Coronation Album of Alexander III"

One of the new exhibits is the ceremonial album "Description of the Sacred Coronation of Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna of All Russia, 1883" (the year of album's publication - 1885) from the collection of rare books of Gatchina Museum. The book is published in crimson leather bound with a rich gold-embossed on the covers, triple gilt edge, white moiré endpapers. The album, consisting of 8 chapters, gives careful, sometimes to the minute, the description of the enthronement of the new Monarch. There are 26 chromolithographs on separate sheets and drawings in the text to illustrate all the stages of the coronation, related historical places, objects and persons.



To the sounds of the "Coronation March" by Tchaikovsky and Glinka's Polonaise from the opera "Life for the Tsar" the visitor can "look through" the coronation book on a TV-screen, while the sacred original is safely displayed under glass on its "throne" in the middle of the exhibition. There are complementary exhibits with information about the history of the coronation ceremony, and about the tradition of coronation edition albums.



Царствование Императора Александра III
Фотографически исполненные копии с рисунков современных
Императору Александру III иллюстрированных изданий:
В 10 т. / Сост. Г. П. Анненков. СПб., 1895
ГМЗ «Гатчина»

"On May 7, 1883 Emperor Alexander III and his family went from Gatchina to Moscow for the coronation celebrations. The coronation itself was traditionally held in the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. The rite took place May 15, 1883, but it was only the beginning of the celebrations, then followed by all kinds of balls, gala performances, lunches, dinners, and during the celebrations was the consecration of Christ the Savior" - says Irina Huhka, senior researcher GMZ Gatchina.

"From my favorite Royal residence"

The exposition titled "From my favorite Royal residence" brings together famous exhibits of suburban palaces of St. Petersburg and the most characteristic features of everyday life of the Imperial family outside of official rooms.



In thirteen rooms there are about 400 items from the personal collections of the Romanovs - from Catherine the Great to the last Russian Emperor.

Home furnishings, furniture, decorative and applied art, clothing, porcelain and paintings from all three Imperial palaces collections are presented. There are typical male rooms, as the ceremonial reception, office and billiard room and female rooms, as the living room, music lounge, china cabinet, and children rooms. The main exhibit is the State Dining Room, which shows a masterpiece from Gatchina palace - the hunting service.

The idea of this exhibition itself has prompted the development of suburban museums, and more specifically, the closure for the restoration of the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo. The management did not want to send things to a long-term storage, so they passed it to Gatchina, who constantly are expanding its exhibition area and are interested in showing the Romanov collection.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149566/

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1612278/>





Salute in honor of Alexander III in Gatchina



On March 12 a salute was made for the 171st anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander III at Gatchina Palace.

A historical reconstruction of the exchange of the guards were made four times during the day on the parade ground at the monument to Emperor Paul I. Viewers saw not only the guards in uniforms as close to the one that was used by soldiers during the 1812-War, but also a real salute.

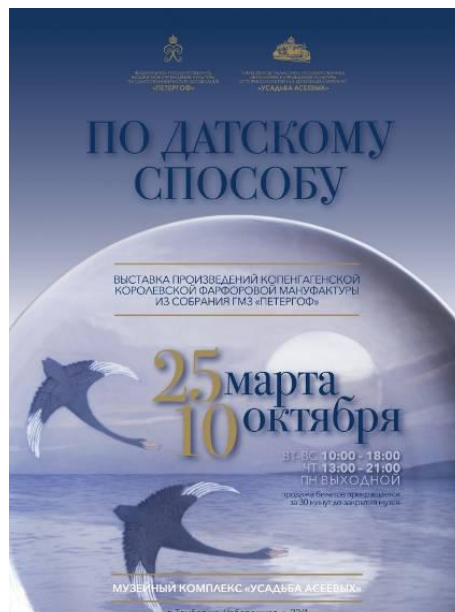
"The Danish Way"

- Dedicated to the 160th anniversary since the arrival of the Danish Princess Dagmar in Russia

March 25, 2016, Danish porcelain from the collection of Romanovs at Peterhof came to Tambov.

In the year of the 160th anniversary since the Princess Dagmar, the future Empress Maria Feodorovna, arrival in Russia "Peterhof" Museum-Reserve opened the exhibition "The Danish Way." It presented items made at Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory from the collection of GMZ "Peterhof" in Tambov historical and cultural museum complex "Aseev's Manor".

Opening of the exhibition "The Danish way" in Tambov is an unprecedented event, as in this composition, and the number of unique samples of art masters of the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory, including objects, painted in a single copy, for the first time leaves the walls of the Museum-Reserve.



Left – Portrait of King Christian IX of Denmark on a cup. Right - Portrait of his wife, Queen Louise - parents of Princess Dagmar / Empress Maria Feodorovna.

The Danish Porcelain Collection in Peterhof is one of the best in Russia. It is connected with the names of two generations of Romanovs - the family of the Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II. Each piece in the collection preserves the memory of the history of Peterhof, the habits and tastes of its crowned owners, of the difficult realities of the museum in the XX century, related to the war and the revolution, and the heroic deed of Peterhof employees, who returned seemingly irretrievably vanished masterpieces of the imperial summer residence to its historic place.

Tableware, vases, statuettes fine painted in muted tones, appeared in the Peterhof Palace long before the triumph of the Copenhagen Royal Porcelain Manufactory, held at the turn of the century during the World Exhibition in Paris. In 1866, the bride of Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich, the future Emperor Alexander III, the Danish Princess Dagmar came down from the ladder of the yacht "Alexandria" at Peterhof berth and first entered the land of her new homeland. Passionate fan of "Copenhagen style" Dagmar, received the Orthodox baptismal name Maria Feodorovna, introduced to Russian aristocratic circles fashion for a Danish porcelain "new style" and marked the beginning of a collection of works of the Copenhagen factory in Peterhof. The main part of Peterhof's Romanov collection is housed in the apartment of Maria Feodorovna in the "Cottage" Palace and in the interiors of the Lower dacha - the residence of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. The exhibition runs until 10 October 2016.



Video - http://www.vestitambov.ru/?new_id=49999

Exhibition dedicated to the family of the last Russian Emperor was opened in Kaluga

The exposition of the Mogilev Diocese of the ROC Belarusian Exarchate "Imperial Family: The Way of Love" dedicated to the last Russian Emperor and his family was opened in the Concert Hall of S.I. Taneyev in Kaluga.

The exhibition consists of a collection of photos of the Nicholas' II family, reproductions of paintings by the artist of our countryman Paul Rizhenko, accompanied by diary entries, documents, eyewitness accounts and biographies of the representatives of the Royal family.



Representatives of the city authorities, the clergy and the Cossacks, historians, and students of schools of the city attended the opening ceremony.

- This exhibition revives the pages of our history, and the people caught on the presented photos and pictures, their life is to us an example of true service to the Fatherland, - said at the opening of the exhibition one of the members of the clergy.

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



On 25 of March, 2016 the icon "Quick to Harken" returned in the "Tsarskoye Selo". The icon of the Mother of God "Quick to Harken" belonged to Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich (brother of Alexander III) and disappeared from the Catherine Palace during the Great Patriotic War.



Gabriele Demming (Germany) returned the object from the historical collection of the museum. Gabriele Demming and her sister, Ingeborg Schenk inherited the icon after their father's death in 2014. Relatives do not know all circumstances of how the museum object turned out to be with him. According to them, their uncle - chaplain Franz Feldhaus - was assigned to a military unit ID58 and it turned out he had use it at his unit's field altar during services. He died in February 1945 in Neukuhren. Shortly before that, he gave the icon to his mother (grandmother of Gabriele and Ingeborg). Later the object was inherited by their father - brother of the priest.



Ms. Gabriele Demming, the donator (2nd from left), and Professor Wolfgang Eichwede of the University of Bremen (3rd from left)

Having inherited an icon, the sisters soon began to look for its owner, enlisted the help of well-known German historian Wolfgang Eichwede - Professor of the University of Bremen. It was learned that the object is listed in the "Summary catalog of cultural property stolen and lost during the Second World War." The icon comes from the historical collections of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo", as evidenced by its inventory numbers. It is listed in the inventory of the pre-war museum. At the beginning of the Great Patriotic War it was not evacuated.

When talking about the return of the missing museum objects, since the 1960s, our historical collection have received back about a hundred items, - said at the handover ceremony of the icon deputy director of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" Iraida Bott.

Icon of the Mother of God "Quick to Hearken" belonged to the Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich. According to the inscription, it was presented "... in the parting blessing from Russian Saint Andreevsky monastery on Mount Athos by governor Hieromonk Paisii on May 21, 1875".



The Miraculous Icon of the Mother of God "Quick to Hearken" is one of the oldest icons of the Mother of God. According to tradition it was made in the X century, with the blessing of the founder of the Athos' Dohiarsky Monastery Venerable Neophytos. In front of the icon of the Mother of God "Quick to Hearken" one prays for spiritual enlightenment. Its prototype was made in the Holy Mount Athos and stored in Docheiariou monastery. The Icon, presented to Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich, is a copy of Athos' icon. The baby is sitting on the left hand of Our Lady, blessing with his right hand, while his left hand holding a scroll. Characteristic of this icon is that it shows the right heel of Infant God to the faithful. The icon is very revered by the people and members of the Imperial House, especially - in the family of Nicholas II and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

In 1930 the icon was kept in the museum collections, but, most likely, in the reign of Nicholas II it was in one of the rooms of the Alexander Palace.

The Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich first visited Athos in July 1867 on his way from Constantinople. Grand Duke said to the second confessor of the Russian monastery Hierschimonk Macarius, who met him on the shore: "It is my sincere desire to see Athos." At the holy gates he was met by the abbot

of the monastery 93-year-old elder abbot Gherasim with the Holy Cross and the confessor elder Hieroschimmonk Jerome with Holy Water, and priesthood in brocade robes with banners and censers; red cloth was laid on the way from the Holy Gate to the door of the cathedral. In memory of this event photo was taken. The Grand Duke visited the Russian St. Andrew's monastery, where he attended the laying of the cathedral church of St. Apostle Andrew with chapels in the name of St. Alexander Nevsky and St. Mary Magdalene, which was built up at the church in memory of the miraculous saving of Emperor Alexander II from the danger threatening him in Paris May 25, 1867. In turn, the Grand Duke donated a five-ton bell, which became part of the bell tower of the cathedral - the highest on Mount Athos (40 m) and consisting of twenty-five bells.

In 1875-1876 on the frigate "Svetlana" Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich for 339 days traveled around the Greek archipelago and the Mediterranean, also visited his aunt in Athens - Grand Duchess Olga Konstantinovna. During this journey the Grand Duke visited for the second time the monastic state of Mount Athos in Greece, and received the gift of an icon of the Mother of God "Quick to Harken".

Grand Duke Alexei Alexandrovich (1850-1908), the fourth son of Emperor Alexander II and Empress Maria Alexandrovna, the brother of Emperor Alexander III, was born in St. Petersburg. During ten years participated in internal and foreign voyages of Russian ships. In September of 1866 he was promoted to lieutenant. In 1870, he traveled to the inland waterways from St. Petersburg to Arkhangelsk. In 1871-1873 he was in North America, Japan and China. In 1873 he was promoted to captain of the first rank. He participated in the preparation of reforms of the Navy Department and creation of the first armored fleet. In June 1877 was promoted to rear admiral, in 1880 became adjutant-general, and in 1881 a member of the State Council. In 1888 he became Admiral. During the Russian-Japanese war of 1904-1905 he was dismissed as superior of the navy and maritime authorities, but retained the rank of General Admiral. He spent his last years mostly in France. He died in Paris from pneumonia on 59th year of life. He was buried in the grand tomb of Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Video - 1) <http://topspb.tv/news/news100387/>

2) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1616398/>

3) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/150050/



In Tsarskoye Selo began the restoration of the pavilion Chapelle

In Tsarskoye Selo started the restoration of the park pavilion - Chapelle, built in the XIX century by the architect Adam Menelas. Chapelle is a tower next to an alleged ruin of a church that never existed and an arch over a path. This is nostalgia for the Middle Ages.

The main decoration of the Chapelle in tsarist times was a marble statue of the Savior by German sculptor Johann Heinrich von Dannecker.

The image of Christ was made by the master for himself, but in the end the sculpture was acquired by the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna.

The inner space of the tower are covered with graffiti, as the abandoned building for decades attracted adventurers, vagabonds and sectarians.

The first phase of emergency work is due to end in July.



Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/150096/



Tsarskoye Selo completed the restoration of "Arsenal"

Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" has completed extensive restoration work in the Pavilion "Arsenal" in Alexander Park. In the autumn of 2016 a permanent exhibition related to the history of weapons will be opened in "Arsenal".

Initially, the site was the Arsenal Pavilion "Monbijou", built in 1747-1750-ies by architects Savva Chevakinsky and Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli. It was one of the best park facilities (created in the same style as the pavilion "Hermitage" at the Catherine Park), with richly decorated facades and interiors. Monbijou was used as a hunting lodge, and was placed in the so-called Menagerie - in an area that was used for the animals in natural conditions, as well as a hunting ground. Gradually the Menagerie came into neglect and disrepair. In the years 1817-1834 Adam Menelaws rebuilt it in the Neo-Gothic style - so appeared Pavilion "Arsenal". Interior decoration was designed by Alexander Ton: lancet windows with acquired European authentic medieval stained-glass, elegant light columns, murals in the interior! Central hall was the octagonal "Hall of Knights", which housed the best part of the collection of weapons owned by Nicholas I.



In 1883, according to the will of Emperor Alexander III its unique collection was transferred to the Imperial Hermitage, now it is partially exposed in the Knights' Hall of the State Hermitage.

During the Great Patriotic War, Arsenal suffered considerable damage, the post-war decades the building was in a dilapidated state.

The Pavilion restoration project started in 2011. The cost of the work, including project documentation, added up to 305 million rubles, almost all the funds allocated from the federal budget.

Museum decided to apply modern methods of restoration with preservation elements. The cast iron spiral staircase (leading to one of the towers) is recreated and the main staircase of limestone. Also floors are recreated using authentic stone slabs, parquet floors, doors and windows. Restorers relied on preserved iconographic material: pre-war photographs and watercolors by Aloysius Rokhshtul - they were guided in choosing colors for painting interiors.



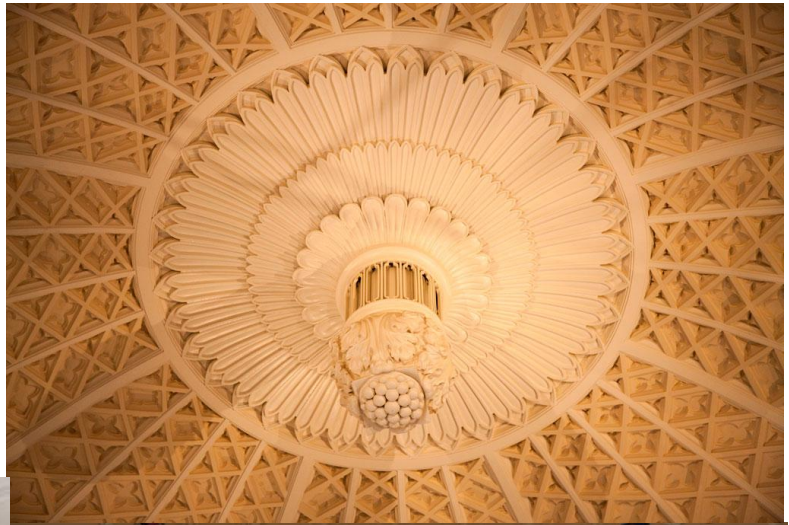
One of the most difficult stages was the preservation of the brick dome of the Hall of Knights. During the Great Patriotic War, the roof above it was destroyed in the arch formed by two holes of the fragments, and more than 70 years old brickwork was exposed to rain and snow. However, surveys have shown that the clutch is in a satisfactory condition, and it was decided to keep it. Rafter system is now based not on the dome, but on the supporting walls of the building. This greatly eased the burden on it.



Stucco decor dome as a "Gothic" decorative mesh with a developed "locking" element was completely lost and recreated on the iconography and fragments of the metal frame for the "ribs" gothic grid.

Fairly well preserved is the system of drains that run inside the building. The remaining tube is restored. Water falls on the drains to drain, and then - to grotto, which is located next to the pavilion.

The building is fully equipped with utility networks. In accordance with the project in the basement there are located: entrance area, cloakroom, technical and office space, a museum hall. On the ground floor - exhibition halls, a grand staircase, a spiral iron staircase in the north tower. As before, the exposition center will be the octagonal room on the second floor - Hall of Knights.



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

In Volyn believers pray near a monument to Tsar Nicholas II

Already at the entrance to the village Olenino in the Volyn region, Ukraine, shining domes of the local church are seen. The only church in the village was built on a hill 15 years ago. And near the church there is a monument which has become controversial, but the monument is looked at by the tourists who come there.



The granite monument in the form of a headstone with a cross is set by the local priest, Father Leonid, in honor of Emperor Nicholas II and his family. The faces of all the members of the royal family are on the back plate, and added a few quotations from the Holy Scripture ... It would seem, nothing wrong with that. Yet in the depths of Volyn such a monument looks, to put it mildly, strange.

The inhabitants of the village Olenino have their opinion.

"The monument as a monument does not bother anyone", - told an employee of the village council Galina Oleninsky. "Although our church is named in honor of St. Job of Pochaev, against a monument to Nicholas II no one spoke, - explained Father Leonid. - He was the last Tsar, before the arrival of the Bolsheviks, whose family was martyred".



However, the villagers still secretly surprised, they say, why should they in the village be a monument to the Russian Tsar? But silence, do not dare to criticize the actions of the priest.

"What the Romanovs did well for us and Ukraine - it is not clear - shrugs local resident Mary. - But I'm trying to get this monument side. And in a temple there is even our icon with the face of the Royal family. Not everybody likes it ... But Father Leonid painfully reacts to resent. You just do not write my name and something else out of the church I will drive".

"And there were such cases?"

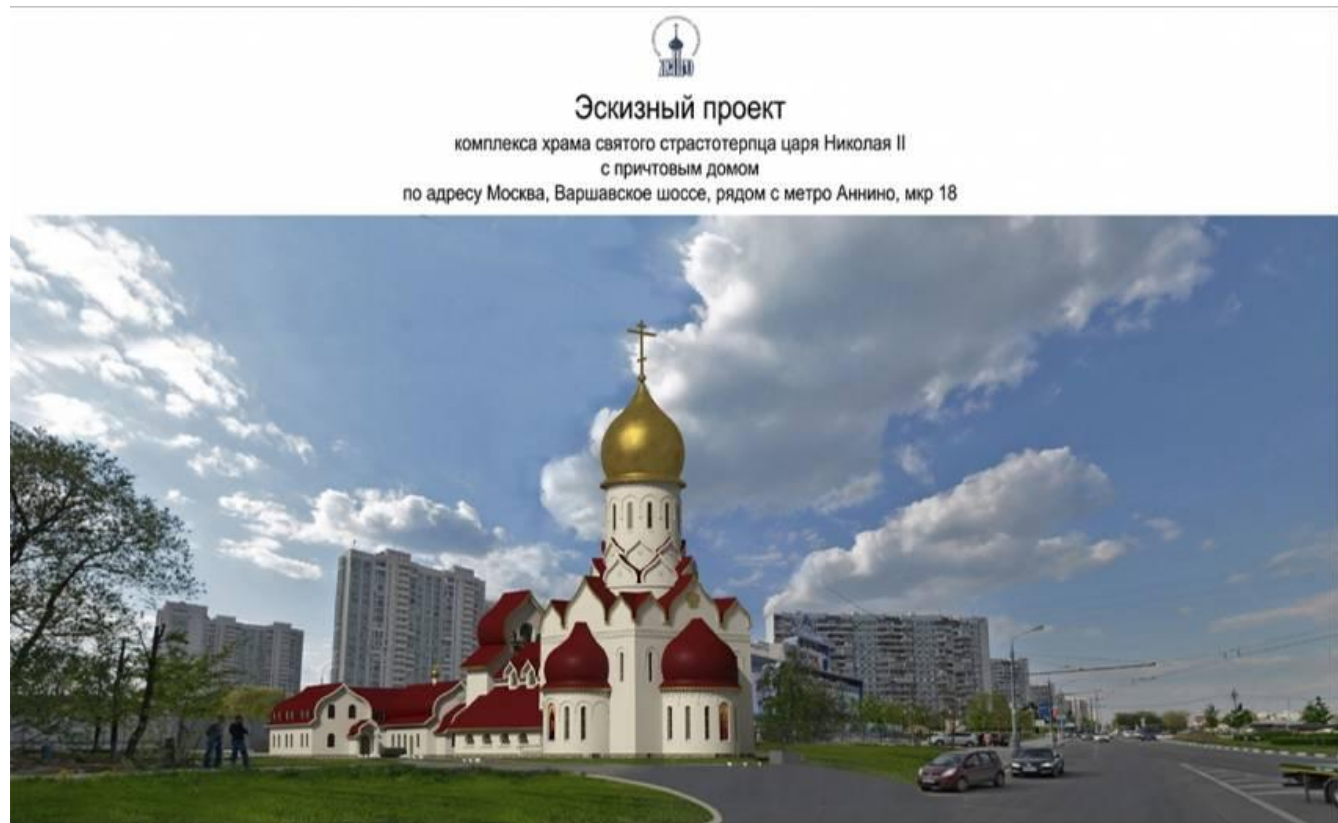
"Yes, several times. Once at a funeral the church ordered visitors to leave, because they were of another religion".

And the villagers still remember how Father Leonid kicked out of the church a man who read during the service "Credo" in the Ukrainian language. The father in the village has a reputation for strict and uncompromising man. But the people respect him, saying that thanks to him in the village so far there is only one church and one religion - Orthodox (Moscow Patriarchate).

A church in memory of Tsar Nicholas II will decorate "the south gate" of Moscow

In the south of Moscow, in Annino area, - on the Warsaw highway - the first church in the capital, as a monument in honor of the Tsar-martyr Nicholas II will be built.

Plans for the construction of new churches and others were discussed on March 10 in the Church of Christ the Savior at the meeting on the design of new Orthodox complexes.



Memorial Church in Annino is made in the style of Russian Art Nouveau and based on examples in Moscow and Pskov of ancient architecture.

The design of the church will symbolize the holiness of the Tsar and his martyrdom. For example, one golden dome will be a symbol of Nicholas II, and the red roof on the church and the apse - of his martyrdom. At the same time the simple architecture of the church, will be a symbol of humility, meekness and simplicity, like the last Emperor of Russia.

A monument to Nicholas II also will be part of the Annino complex in Annino. It will be set in the church.



Перспективный вид храмового комплекса №3



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"Easter gifts" presented in Kolomna

Before the light of Easter, employees in "Kolomenskoye" Museum have decided to present the visitors' "Easter gifts". Exhibition hall of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich palace in Moscow opened the exposition of porcelain Easter eggs from the collection of Galina Oistrakh. More than 160 samples from XVIII - early XX century are on the stands. Basically they all are products of the Imperial Porcelain Factory, which was founded in St. Petersburg by Empress Elizabeth.





"Imperial factory is interesting for a variety of parameters, because there were collected unique artists. To paint the egg so that the painting is not deformed is very difficult, so artists were of the highest class, especially when they are carried out eggs with faces of Saints", - says Galina Oistrakh.

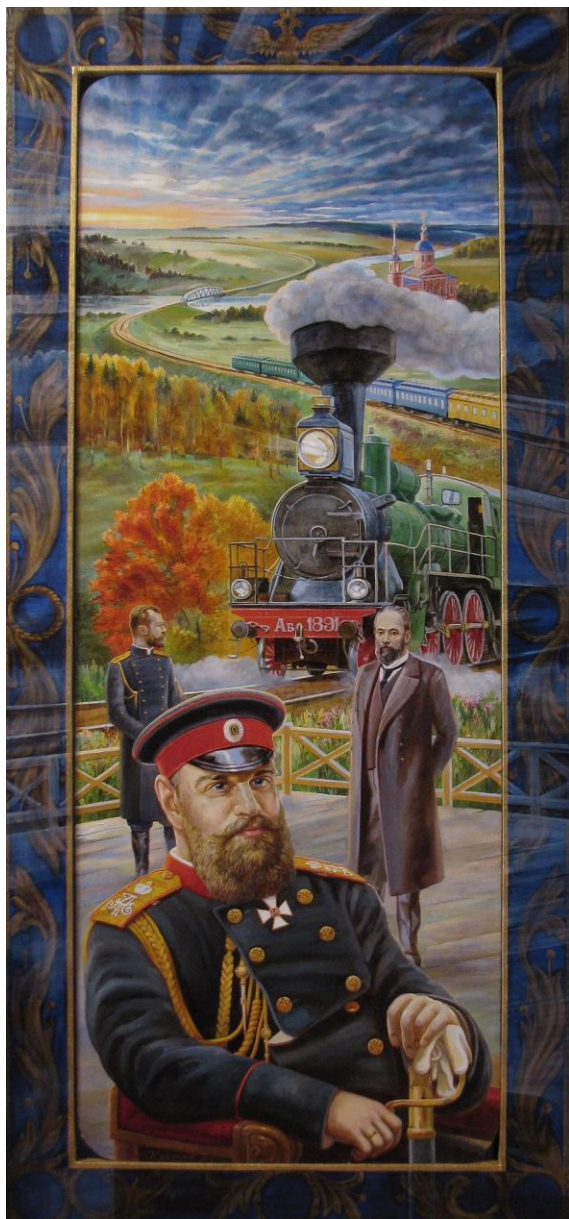


The exhibition shows products of various sizes and colors, and in the Imperial Court there was even a kind of porcelain fashion, where styles changed - from the Empire to Art Nouveau. The exhibition is supplemented by graphic works and paintings, as well as glassware, books, icons and furniture of Tsarist Russia. According to the organizers, all of this allows you to feel the atmosphere of the time and make a short excursion into the history of the celebration of Easter.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149985/

The Trans-Siberian Railway marks its 125th anniversary

March 29, in Russia, especially in Siberia an important historical date was celebrated. Exactly 125 years ago, Emperor Alexander III issued a decree on the construction of the Great Siberian Railway.



*"The beginning of the Great Siberian Way"
by Michael Kartuzov. 2012.*

On March 29, 1891, Emperor Alexander III signed a document initiating the construction of the Trans Siberian Railway. Today it connects European Russia with Siberia and the Far Eastern provinces and stretches over 9882 kilometers, making it the longest railway in the world. Alexander III praised the beginning of the construction works and understood the importance of the railway from the very beginning, especially in connecting the centre of Russia with the major port city of Vladivostok in the Far East. It was designed to help strengthen local agriculture production, increase gold mining and expand trade agreements.

He wrote the following in his message to the Heir of the Russian throne: "I order that the building of the continuous railway across all Siberia shall begin; I want it to connect Siberian regions, rich in natural resources, with the rest of the Russian railway infrastructure. I want you to declare this as my will after your return from the countries of the East. I also want you to start building the Great Siberian Railway in Vladivostok using the funds from the Russian treasury."

His son Nicholas took the throne three years later and continued his father's work.

The harsh Siberian climate and areas of thick forest made the construction process difficult. The majority of builders were convicts, soldiers or peasants; at times more than 89.000 workers were involved in the construction of different sections of the railway. Most of the railroad was built by hand. At that time, precision measuring instruments and modern construction technology were not available and the main tools were hammers, axes and shovels. Engineers and workers relied on the accuracy of their own eyesight when laying down railway lines.

But despite the primitive tools, construction continued at a remarkable rate. 413 kilometers of road had already been built by 1893. In 1894 the number rose to 891 kilometers and a year later it was more than 1340. The most difficult

stretch was around Lake Baikal, where the railway winds through the mountainous slopes surrounding the legendary lake, coming so close to the shore that its clear waters can be seen from the windows of the train.

The route was completed in 1905, but work to increase its traffic capacity, which proved to be insufficient during the Russo-Japanese war, continued in the years after.

Today the Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railway in the world. It runs through the whole of Eurasia. From Moscow, Yaroslavl Station, every second day train goes to Vladivostok. In the near future railway will be extended to the island of Sakhalin.

Video - <http://www.5-tv.ru/news/105626/>



"Faith, hope, love": The tomb of the Romanovs"

On March 27 Russian TV-channel "Moscow Domashny" show the documentary "The tomb of the Romanovs" in the series called "Faith, Hope, Love". It focuses on the Tomb of the Romanov dynasty in the Novospassky Monastery.

The series "Faith, Hope, Love" takes its name after the three main Christian virtues, and is honoring the Christian holy places and churches in a series of educational films. This part tells about three of the women buried in the Novospassky Monastery - Nun Martha, born Xenia Shestova, Princess Irina and Princess Tarakanova.

In the beginning of the documentary is seen Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky arriving at the Novospassky Monastery, bowing to the memorial cross for Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, looking at the 400-years Romanov anniversary monument to Tsar Michael Feodorovich and Emperor Nicholas II and then entering the Romanov Boyar's crypt under the Transfiguration Cathedral. There Paul Kulikovsky tells about his feelings when coming to Novospassky monastery, and Ludmila Kulikovsky tells about details in the life of the Great Nun Martha.



Nun Martha

Xenia Shestova (1560-1631), is the mother of Tsar Michael Feodorovich. During Tsar Boris Godunov's repression of the Romanovs, she was forced to take the veil, changing her name to Martha. After several years of exile at Tolvuysky pogost, she settled with her son in Kostroma. It was there that the ambassadors arrived to inform her son Michael about his election to the Russian throne in 1613. During the first years of his reign, Martha (the "Great Nun", as she came to be known) exerted great influence on her son. After the return of her husband Nikita Romanov from Poland in 1619 her influence at court diminished.



Nun Dosifeya

In 1785 a woman tonsured as a nun with the name Dosifeya was brought to Ivanovo monastery in Moscow, on the highest command. She was of noble appearance, about forty years old. In the monastery she kept for about 25 years closely guarded.

Her background was a secret, but it is assumed she was the daughter of Empress Elizabeth and Count Alexei Razumovsky. In late 1745 or early 1746 they had a daughter, Princess Augusta - who later became known in history under the name of Princess Tarakanova and Nun Dosifeya.

Princess Augusta was raised abroad and lived there until the 1780s, after which she came to Russia and then sent to the monastery.

After the death of Catherine II in 1796 people were admitted to Dosifeya, and then she opened her God-given gifts of prayer, insight, guidance and consolation. She was attended by senior officials and accepted as one of the persons of the Imperial family. Dosifeya died on 4 of February, 1810, 64 years of age in Ivanovo Monastery. Interment was made with great solemnity. Her body was buried in the Novospassky Monastery, near the eastern fence, on the left side of the bell tower. The funeral showed how people's veneration of the older women in life and in death. In 1908, a chapel was erected at her grave (it has recently been restored).



In the mid-1990s a case for Dosifeya's canonization was prepared and given to His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II. Her relics were uncovered in the Novospassky Monastery on 5 of September, 1996 and in late 1997, the remains of nun Dosifeya were transferred to the renovated church of St. Roman the Melodist - the tomb of the House of Romanov in the Novospassky Monastery and reburied to the left side of the altar.

There was an imposter, who claimed to be Princess Tarakanova, which is known to travel to several cities in Western Europe, becoming a mistress of Philipp Ferdinand of Limburg Stirum and lived off his money in the hope that the count would marry her. She was eventually arrested in Livorno, Tuscany by Alexei Grigoryevich Orlov, who had been sent by Empress Catherine II to retrieve her. Orlov then lured her aboard a Russian ship, arrested her, and brought her to Russia in February 1775. She was imprisoned in the Peter and Paul Fortress, where she died of tuberculosis that December. She was buried in the graveyard of the Peter and Paul Fortress. A famous painting by Konstantin Flavitsky, made in 1864, depicts the legend of her being in the prison in Peter and Paul Fortress and being killed by the 1777 flood, when in reality, she had died in 1775.

Princess Irina

Irina (April 22, 1627 - 8 April 1679) was the eldest daughter of Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich and his second wife Tsarina Evdokia Luk'yanovna. She was the first "Born in Purple" ("Porphyrogenitus") Grand Duchess in the Romanov dynasty. She was born when her father was on the throne. Irina grew up in the house, where court masters taught the girl literacy and needlework. Irina has had a great influence on her younger brother, Alexei, even when he became Tsar. In his letters in the 1650s, he first of all refers to his sisters: Irene, Anna and Tatiana, and then later to his wife and children. In these letters, he tells the older sister to take care of his home. Only after his second marriage Alexei puts in correspondence his young wife Natalia.

Irina lived in Moscow, in the village of Rubtsov (Intercession), which she got from her grandmother the Nun Martha. There she was engaged in farming, plant in the gardens, arranged ponds, and also in charity. Irina allocated large sums of her own money to build the Assumption monastery.



The Grand Duchess was very sympathetic to the Old Believers. She defended the boyar F.P. Morozov and Avvakum.

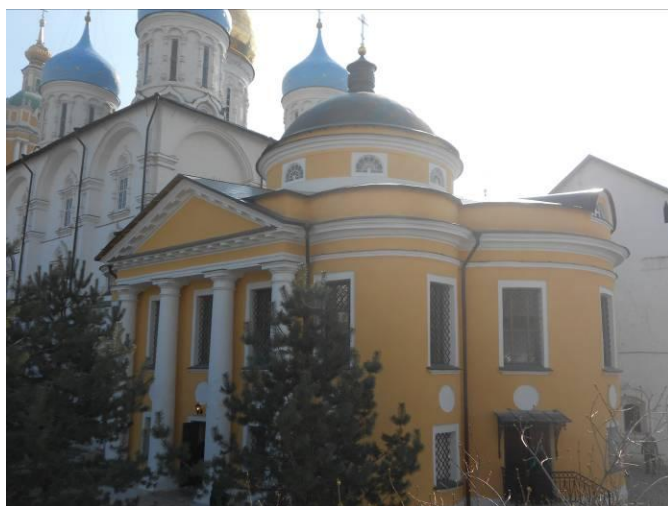
Grand Duchess Irina was never married. July 29, 1672 she, along with Prince Feodor Alexievich became godparents at the baptism of her nephew, Grand Duke Peter Alexeievich.

In remembrance of her grandmother, Nun Martha, she stated in her will that she wanted to be buried near her. She died at the age of 51 in 1679 and was buried in Novospassky Monastery.

Video - <http://www.doverie-tv.ru/videos/7277>

Memorial service for Boyars Romanovs

On 31 of March, in Novospassky Monastery a memorial service (Panihida) was held for the three Romanov boyar brothers - Alexander, Vasili and Michael Nikitivichi. They were brothers of Feodor Nikitovich, the later Patriarch Filaret, and uncles of the first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty Michael Feodorovich. They were all killed during the repression of the Romanov Family by Tsar Boris Gudonov in the beginning of the 17-century.



The service was held in the Church of the Icon of Mother of God "The Sign", which is still under restoration. The Church is also known as a necropolis for the families closely related to the Romanovs - Sheremetev, Cherkassky and Sitsky.

The service was led by Father Pavel. Among those attending the memorial service were Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy, Lubov Akelina, Galina Schutskaya, and Denis Solodovnikov.

After the service was held a Round table: "The Church of the Sign in Novospassky Monastery as a memorial of the boyars Romanovs and their relatives, who suffered during the reign of Tsar Boris Godunov."

History of the Cathedral of the Sign.

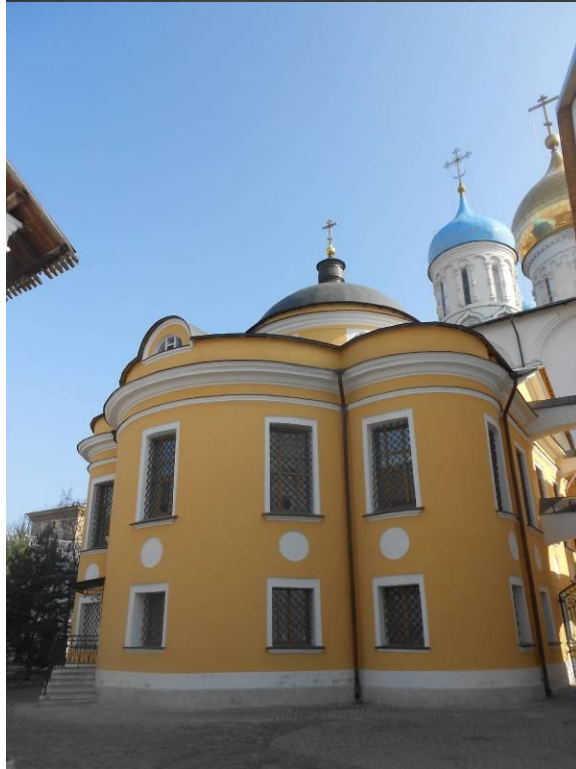
On the order of (the false) Tsar Dimitri I, in January 1606 the remains of the three killed Nikitovich brothers - Alexander, Vasili and Michael - were returned to Moscow for burial in the Novospassky Monastery.

After their nephew Michael Feodorovich Romanov became Tsar, he ordered a church to be built over their graves. It was a tent-type church, which was ready about 1620. It was located on the north-western corner of the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, which houses the Boyar Romanov's necropolis in its crypt.

Unfortunately there is no accurate description of the appearance of the church.



In the late 18th century, the wooden church was completely decayed and in its place was built a new church, financed by Count Nikolai Petrovich Sheremetev - philanthropist, patron of the arts, statesman, spouse of former serf actress Praskovya Ivanovna Zhemchugova. The Sheremetev's are also relatives of the Romanovs.



The project of the new church was made by architect Elizvoya Semenovich Nazarov, a student of the famous architect Vasily Bazhenov, and was approved by the Synod in 1791. The consecration of the new church took place in 1795. The new Church of the Sign is designed in the classicism style. Its shape is round, slightly elongated with one big dome. There are three entrances. The relative small size of the church is very bright due to 20 big windows.



On the ground floor were placed the tombs of the four brothers of Patriarch Filaret: Alexander, Michael, Vasili and Ivan. A central double crossing stair (and a stair along the wall next to the northern entrance) leads up to the church on the second floor. The floor is in its middle opened, allowing light to shine down on the ground floor, while those attending services there stands around along the walls.



In 1857, Emperor Alexander II ordered to tidy up the tomb of his ancestors. There were hang new icons of their patrons saints - and over the entrance was placed the Romanov coat of arms, carved out of white stone.

Now on the ground floor there are stone tombs taken from the crypt below the church. Among them are some very small, most likely tombs for children who died in infancy. At one place the floor is opened to access the crypt and there other tombs can be seen, which belongs to members of the Cherkassky family, including an un-identified Prince.



Round table in Novospassky Monastery

The Round table "The Church of the Sign in Novospassky Monastery as a memorial of the boyars Romanovs and their relatives, who suffered during the reign of Tsar Boris Godunov" was held in the nearby Church of St. Nicholas (inside Novospassky Monastery).

The director of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich memorial society, Denis Borisovich Solodovnikov greeted the audience welcome and introduced the theme.



Then Paul Kulikovsky, as a descendant of the Romanov dynasty shared his thoughts:

"Brothers and Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all thank you for the panihida today, in memory of my relatives. A thank you also to Bishop Savva for allowing this meeting to take place here in Novospassky Monastery. It is truly the right place for this conference. And as always it is a pleasure for me to come to Novospassky, where I feel the spiritual connection with my ancestors.

Thank you also to Denis Borisovich for arranging today's event. I hope it will be successful and you will be able to achieve your planned results with it.

Today's event, here on the last day in March, made me think about several things. March was a dramatic month in the history of the Romanov family. In March was elected Mikhail Feodorovich as the first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty. With Emperor Nicholas II's abdication in March and his transfer of power to his brother Mikhail Alexandrovich, it also ended with a Mikhail - and in March.

Some says that history repeats itself - Well, some events have repeated itself - Already during the time of Tsar Boris Gudonov the Romanov family were repressed, as they were seen as competitors to his power. This also happened in 1917 - The Romanov family have been repressed twice!

When Tsar Boris Gudonov died in 1605, it was possible for the Romanov family to re-bury them here in Novospassky Monastery, which apparently happened in March 1606 - now 410 years ago.

One can of course wonder why they were not buried next to their father Nikita Romanovich Yuriev-Zakhar'in, who was already buried in the family crypt under the Transfiguration Cathedral here. But it is said that already then was the idea conceived that they deserved a memorial church over their graves.

Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich did built a church over their graves - and it became the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God "The Sign". The Church was in those days of wood and later it was decided to turn it into a stone church - which was ready in 1795.

The brothers were never forgotten. People remembered them as victims of repression, but their fate here in Novospassky now seems to have gone into the shadow of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, who was re-buried here in 1995. Maybe it is time to include them into the commemorations?



Emperor Nicholas II started the process to glorify "Boyar Mikhail Nikitich Romanov" in the face of the saints, but the revolution prevented it. Maybe this it is time to look at this case again and to take it up with the church?

When the Church of the Sign is finally restored, it is of course in itself a memorial, but I hope it will be possible to put up a memorial plaque or another kind of memorial monument, in special memory of the three Nikitich brothers. And maybe it is possible to do even more. I am looking forward to hear what you have to say. Thank you."

Leonid Andreevich Belyaev, archaeologist, from the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences have conducted archaeological excavations in the Novospassky Monastery, including in the basement of

the Church of the Sign. There he has discovered several tombs from the 18th century and He told about his discoveries, supplemented by several photos. About the tombs he told, that most of them are in bad conditions and they all look like they have been opened at some point in time. He saw the location of the tombs in the Church of the Sign as being in a logic continuation from the crypt of the Romanovs under the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, when you look at the locations of all the tombs there.

In 2014-2015, among the tombs were found some of Princes Cherkassky and Sitsky, relatives of the Romanovs. They are not yet identified, but one is of a 15-20 year old man.

Biological analysis of the teeth in the tombs suggests that they all belonged to the nobility, as they were well-fed. It is planned to conduct further analysis, including trace elements from the soil of the estate of the boyars Romanovs in Varvarka and of Kabarda (where Princes Cherkasssky lived) and to make genetic analysis to identify discovered graves. Now a large genetic database of the Romanovs has been accumulated - in connection with the family of Nicholas II - so Belyaev said he now wanted to get genetic material from the Cherkassky family, of which there also are living descendants.



In front - Galina K. Schutskaya and behind - Leonid A. Belyaev

Father Pavel then told more about the Cherkassky family. One well known member of the family from this period is Prince Ivan Borisovich Cherkassky (ca. 1580 - 4 April 1642) who was a Russian statesman, and for 20 years headed the government under Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich, his cousin.



Father Pavel

Ivan Cherkassky was the only son of Boris Kambulatovich Cherkassky and Marfa Nikitichna Romanov, a sister of Patriarch Filaret. In 1599 he was arrested together with other prominent members of the Romanov "clan", in 1601 exiled, but already in 1602 returned to Moscow. After Mikhail Romanov's election in 1613 to Tsar, Ivan Cherkassky was made a boyar. After Filaret's administrative reform in 1619 he was put in charge of key ministries, which made him in essence a de facto head of the government. He was also the richest man in Moscow, measured in numbers of serf. A contemporary in 1634 wrote that Ivan Cherkassky managed affairs well and didn't allow red tape. Cherkassky was married to Evdokia Vasilievna Morozova, a cousin of Boris Morozov, but died childless.

Galina K. Schutskaya, Director of the Romanov Boyar House, gave a short biography of the main persons of today's theme - Boris Gudonov, Nikita Romanovich Romanov, his sons Feodor, Alexander, Ivan, and Michael Nikitovich Romanov and quoted letters and documents about their fate.

The brothers had different houses in Moscow, close to Kremlin. The Romanov Boyar house on Varvarka street is well known as the home of Feodor Nikitovich, while Michael Nikitovich had a house on Nicholskaya street.

The area around Kremlin (today named) "Romanov Lane" was a special territory under Tsar Ivan IV. He gave one side of the street to Boyar Nikita Romanov, who's sons built several houses there and Ivan Nikitovich was living there. They built the first Church of the icon of the Mother of God "Sign" in Romanov Lane. A later version of the church still exist today in what is now called the Sheremetev Court Yard.



Boyar Feodor Nikitovich Romanov, later Patriarch Filaret



"Through the eyes of memory." The images of Russian manors in the photos. 1860-1920-s



On March 22, State Historical Museum opened the exhibition "Through the eyes of memory". Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky participated in the opening ceremony with Thomas Noll, Yuri Savel'ev among the guests.



The curator of the exhibition Anastasia Vasil'chenko (holding flowers) with Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky



A photo with Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna and Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, 1884 - and sign by them in the bottom

The exhibition features 170 works from the collection of the Museum of History, supplemented by photographs of the Multimedia Art Museum and the Museum of Architecture named after A.V. Shchusev.

There are several photos of special interest: Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich with Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the Yusupov family, at their estates near Moscow - Ilyinski and Arkhangelskoye - some exhibited for the first time.



The exposition allows trace the evolution of the manor theme in the domestic photographic art, to identify its main themes and interpretations. Manor as the basis of a noble life, the economy and culture of the Russian Empire was a vivid expression of the national genius and the place of contact of elite and popular cultures. The vanished world of Russian manors left many literary and documentary evidence.

The manors are presented in several aspects: from the ceremonial types of large estates and amateur snapshots from family albums to feature images of old parks and abandoned estates. There are depicted famous estates as Ostafyevo, Arkhangelsk, Ilyinskoe, and Porechie.



Princess Zinaida Yusupov

The documentary photos made in 1890-1910 are of great interest in the study and preservation of the Russian Country houses, with its artistic and historical artifacts. The photographers fixed features of the architectural ensemble and the interior of the complex estates.



The exhibition "Armenia. Legend of being"

On March 10th State Historical Museum in Moscow opened the exhibition "Armenia. Legend of being", presented the long history of Armenia in 160 items - from the adoption of Christianity in the IV century to becoming a part of the Russian Empire.

Russian Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia Hasmik Poghosyan opened the exhibition, and among the guest were Paul Kulikovsky, Great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III with spouse Ludmila, Tatiana and Sergei Richter, Sergei Devyatov and spouse.



Cross with the relics of St. George. Armenia, 1746

Among the exhibits - monuments of the ancient world of the powerful state on the territory of the Armenian Highland; religious items; ancient manuscripts; carpets and women's costume from the XVIII and the XIX century. On one of the most tragic events of the XX century history - the Armenian Genocide - is told in photos of destroyed, looted and burned landmarks.

Christianity had spread into Armenia as early as AD 40 and it was the first country to adopt Christianity as the official religion - in year 301! - ten years before the Roman Empire granted Christianity an official toleration under Galerius, and 36 years before Constantine the Great was baptized.

In 1045, the Byzantine Empire conquered Armenia. In 1071 the Seljuk Turks came. During the 1230s, the Mongol Empire conquered Armenia. In the 16th century the Ottoman Empire took over until 1827, when during the Russian-Turkish war, they cede Eastern Armenia to Imperial Russia, while Western Armenia still remained under Ottoman rule.

When World War I broke out the government in Istanbul began to look on the Armenians with distrust and suspicion. On 24 April 1915, Armenian intellectuals were arrested by Ottoman authorities and, with the Tehcir Law (29 May 1915), eventually a large proportion of Armenians living in Anatolia perished in what has become known as the Armenian Genocide.

The genocide was implemented in two phases: the wholesale killing of the able-bodied male population through massacre and subjection of army conscripts to forced labor, followed by the deportation of women, children, the elderly and infirm on death marches leading to the Syrian desert. Driven forward by military escorts, the deportees were deprived of food and water. The International Association of Genocide Scholars places the death toll at "more than a million".



Left - Religious text on parchment from V century. Middle - Stone cross. Left - Gospel from XIV-century



Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149305/

"The facts do not support the thesis that Russia has always been on the margins of Europe"

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov summed up the country's foreign policy under the historical basis



03.03.2016 Russia in Global Affairs

"Historical facts do not support the widespread thesis that Russia has always been on the margins of Europe and was an outsider of the European policy", - wrote Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in an article for "Russia in Global Affairs" magazine. The diplomat cited a number of theses to confirm his words, completing the historical quotations from Henry Kissinger and Ivan Ilyin.

"Historical Perspective of Russian foreign policy" is the title of Sergey Lavrov's article. According to the minister, "international relations go through a very difficult period, and Russia, as it has happened many times in history, was at the crossroads of key trends largely determine the vector of the future global development."

"In this regard, there are different points of view, including doubts about whether sober enough we assess the international situation and our own position in the world. Again, echoes the eternal dispute between Russia for "Westerners" and supporters of his own, unique way, - says Sergey Lavrov. - There are those - both domestically and abroad - who are inclined to believe that Russia is almost always doomed to be lagging or "catch-up" the country is forced constantly to adapt to the rules of the game invented by others and therefore cannot be in full voice to assert its role in world affairs. "

However, according to Sergei Lavrov, "the historical facts do not support the widespread thesis that Russia has always been on the margins of Europe, was an outsider of the European Policy." Then the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry cites a number of theses in support of his words. "Kommersant" quotes from the article:

On the Baptism of Rus

"Baptism of Rus in 988 contributed to leap in the development of state institutions, social relations, and cultural transformation of Kievan Rus in the full membership of the European Community. While dynastic marriage is a better indicator of the country's role in international relations, and speaks for itself that in the XI century, just three daughters of Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise became queens respectively of Norway and Denmark, Hungary, France, his sister - wife of the Polish King, and his granddaughter married the German Emperor. Numerous scientific studies show the high - sometimes higher than in Western European countries - the cultural and spiritual level of what was then Russia. Its refinement in the European context is recognized by many prominent Western thinkers. But at the same time the Russian people, with their own cultural matrix, their spirituality, never merged with the West."

About Alexander Nevsky

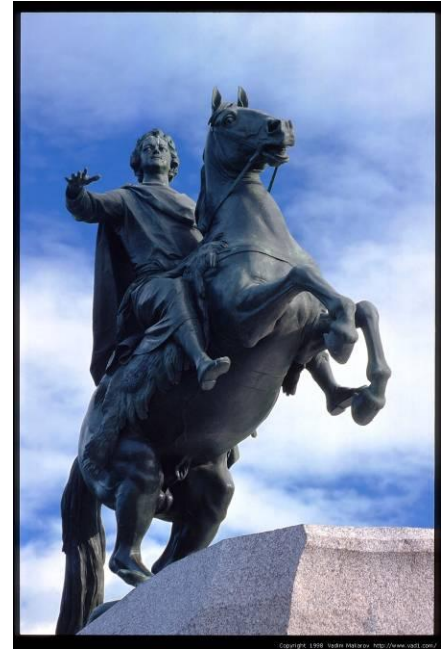
"The Grand Duke Alexander Nevsky took temporary subordination of generally tolerant Golden Horde' rulers, to defend the right of the Russian people have their faith, to decide their own destiny, to subordinate despite the attempts of the European West Russian lands to deprive them of their own identity. Such a wise, far-sighted policy, I am convinced, remained in our genes. Russ bent but did not break under the weight of the Mongol yoke and was able to get out of this ordeal as a single state, and subsequently in the West and in the East began to be viewed as a kind of heir to the fallen in 1453, the Byzantine Empire."

About Peter I

"Peter I with his talent and energy has given this imperative explosive. For a little over two decades first Russian Emperor relying on strong measures at home, the strong and successful foreign policy, managed to push Russia into the category of leading European states. Since then, Russia can no longer be ignored no serious European issue can be solved without taking into account Russia's opinion."

About Alexander I

"For at least the last two-plus centuries any attempts to unite Europe without Russia and against it invariably ended in a terrible tragedy, to overcome the consequences of which whenever it was possible only with the decisive participation of our country. I am referring, in particular, to the Napoleonic wars, at the end of which it Russia was the savior of the system of international relations based on the balance of forces, and mutual consideration of national interests and excluding total dominance on the European continent of a single state. We remember that the Emperor Alexander I took a direct part in the development of the Vienna Congress in 1815, the solutions that ensure the development of the continent without any serious armed conflict during the next forty years."



On the Revolution of 1917

"Without a doubt, the 1917 revolution and the subsequent Civil War was a terrible tragedy for our nation. However, all other revolutions were the tragedies. This does not prevent, for example, our French colleagues extol their shocks, which in addition to the slogans of liberty, equality and fraternity brought to the guillotine, and rivers of blood."

On the collision of two totalitarianisms in the XX century

"Talk about" the collision of two totalitarianisms ", which are now being actively implemented in the European consciousness, including at the level of school textbooks, groundless and immoral. The Soviet Union, for all the evils then existing system in our country, does not set out to destroy entire peoples."

On the lost chance

"End of the Cold War and the associated irreconcilable ideological confrontation provided a unique opportunity for the reorganization of European architecture on the principles of indivisible and equal security, and enhanced cooperation without dividing lines.

There was a real chance for a decisive overcoming the division of Europe and the realization of the dream of a common European home, as advocated by many thinkers and politicians on the continent, including French President Charles de Gaulle. Our country has been completely opened to such an option, and has performed with numerous proposals and initiatives in this regard. It was logical to create new bases of European security through strengthening the military-political component of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Vladimir Putin, in an interview to the German edition of Bild recently quoted prominent German politician Egon Bahr, who put forward similar ideas.



Western partners have unfortunately gone the other way, chose the expansion of NATO to the East, closer to the Russian borders geopolitical space controlled by them. This is the root of the systemic problems in Russian relations with the United States and the European Union."

Competition between Powers

"One of the basic issues in international affairs today is the form of natural competition between the leading world powers. We see how the US and the Western alliance led by them trying by any means to maintain a dominant position or, to use the American vocabulary, to ensure its "global leadership." In the course there are a variety of methods of pressure, economic sanctions, and even direct intervention force. Large-scale information wars are conducting. Technologies of unconstitutional change of regimes through the implementation of "color revolutions" are worked out. At the same time for the people who are the target of such actions, the democratic revolutions are devastating. Our country, which came in its history through the period of the promotion of artificial transformation from abroad, firmly based on the preference of the evolutionary changes that should be made in the forms and at a rate corresponding to the traditions and level of development of a society."



On relations with the United States and the European Union

"We do not seek confrontation with the United States nor the European Union nor NATO. On the contrary, Russia is opened to the widest possible cooperation with Western partners."

Equilibrium and great power

"I refer to the opinion of the wise life and political experience, as Henry Kissinger, who, speaking recently in Moscow, said that "Russia should be seen as a key element of any global equilibrium, rather than as primarily a threat to the United States ... I am speaking, - he stressed - for the opportunity of dialogue in order to ensure our common future, and not to deepen the conflict. To do this, that both sides respect each others values and interests". "We adhere to such an approach. And we will continue to defend in international affairs the principles of law and justice."



Russian philosopher Ivan Ilyin, thinking about Russia's role in the world as a great power, emphasized that "great power is not determined by the size of the territory and number of inhabitants, but the ability of the people and their government to take the burden of the great international problems and to cope with these problems creatively. A great power is that which, asserting their existence, their interest ... making creative, are built up, the legal idea of the whole assembly of the peoples in all the "concert" of peoples and nations." It is difficult to disagree."

The Imperial order of St. Olga - only once awarded!

8 of March, 2016. Russian Planet. By Oleg Naumov, doctor of Historical Sciences, professor, member of the International Academy of Genealogy (France)



The insignia of St. Olga of 1st and 3rd degrees presented on 2 of April, 1916 by Emperor Nicholas II to a mother of three soldiers-heroes.

Which is most rare award in the Russian Empire? No, not the highest award - the Order of St. Andrew, and the first degree of the Military Order of St. George, which was given only 25 times. Most rare award was the Insignia of St. Olga, which is also known as the Order of St. Olga.

It is dedicated to one of the most famous women in Russian history - Princess Olga, the wise ruler of the ancient Russian state, the mother of a brave commander - Prince Svyatoslav Igorevich, who conquered Constantinople and crushed the Khazars. By the Russian Orthodox Church, Princess Olga is ranked as a Saint.

Insignia of St. Olga was designed exclusively for women, and the time for its establishment was the most suitable. It was the First World War. It would seem need a reward for military exploits and appeared female award. The very thought of any new order at the beginning of the XX century seemed unexpected and inappropriate.

For decades, the Order of the Russian empire was set up at all. Of the latter, you can list the Order of St. Vladimir, established in 1782 for the 20th anniversary of the reign of Empress Catherine II. Then Russia recognized the Holstein-Gottorp Order of St. Anne, and two Polish insignia - the Order of the White Eagle and St. Stanislaus, but in fact there were no Russian orders for nearly a half century. And in the midst of the fighting with the Germans Emperor Nicholas II signed a decree on the insignia of St. Olga. At the same time the female award - in honor of St. Catherine - has long existed in the country: for two centuries it complained to foreign Princesses and court ladies.

But there was a need for reward for all the ordinary women - doctors, teachers, civil servants. It was assumed that the Emperor would grant a reward for the efforts to strengthen faith (Saint Olga was baptized long before the adoption of Christianity), defensive efforts, youth education (Saint Olga brought up Prince Svyatoslav Igorevich), mothers of heroes, and so on.

Work on the new order was going on for a long time. There have been many projects, thought through the finest details. The Empress Alexandra Feodorovna was involved in its creation. Finally, the project has been selected, which has offered Prince Mikhail Putyatin, general and at the same time the talented original artist, a connoisseur of art of ancient Russia.

He has created designs for each of the three degrees of the sign. Drawings were unusual and elegant. The first degree was in the shape of the cross covered with blue enamel, the center of which was decorated with a gold medallion with the image of Princess Olga. Second degree appearance was exactly the same, only the gold parts were replaced with silver, and the third was a degree slotted oval medallion with the same cross inside. All three levels should be worn on the dazzling snow-white tape.

The award of consolation

In July 1915 Nicholas II signed a decree on the establishment of the Order, and then began the most mysterious ... For some reason, Insignia of St. Olga did not complain to anyone for almost a year. Maybe war prevented, maybe worthy candidates were not be found. Only in April 1916, 100 years ago, the first and only one was awarded.

Order of the Statute provides that it can get the mother, brought up several sons-heroes. In accordance Vera Panaeva received the insignia of the second degree. Her sons Boris, Leo and Guri were officers in the Akhtyrsky Hussars, who fought bravely. All three of them to perform the feat, became a knight of the Order of St. George, but the fate has not been kind to them. They died, and their mother, as if in consolation, was bestowed by Emperor the Order of St. Olga.



Vera Panaeva - the only one awarded the insignia of St. Olga.

The Emperor's sister Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna were the honorary chief of the Akhtyrsky Hussar regiment, in which served the Panaev brothers, and she named her youngest son Guri Nicholaievich Kulikovsky after Guri Panaev (he died August 29, 1914).

No more awards of St. Olga were ever given. Moreover, there is not kept any Order of St. Olga - only drawings. Insignia of St. Olga was eliminated along with the rest of the awards of Imperial Russia in the end of 1917.

However, the idea of the award dedicated to an outstanding woman - Princess Olga - remained. Many years later came the same name on badges. Now there are as many as two awards named in her honor: one established by the Russian Orthodox Church in the year for the 1000th anniversary of the Baptism of Russia, the other in 1997 awarded in Ukraine, and is referred to as the Order of Princess Olga.

28 historical documents with signatures of Rulers returned to Russia

On 3 of March, 2016 a ceremony of returning stolen Russian archival documents, found during investigations of Immigration and Customs by the US Department of Homeland Security was held at the residence of the US Ambassador in Moscow.

The documents from the XVIII-XX centuries were stolen from the Russian archives in the 1980s - 2000s, were found in the period from 2006 to 2012, as the historical valuable documents was put up for sale by auction houses, art galleries, and private collectors. This was the sixth event of that kind.



Document signed by Emperor Paul I

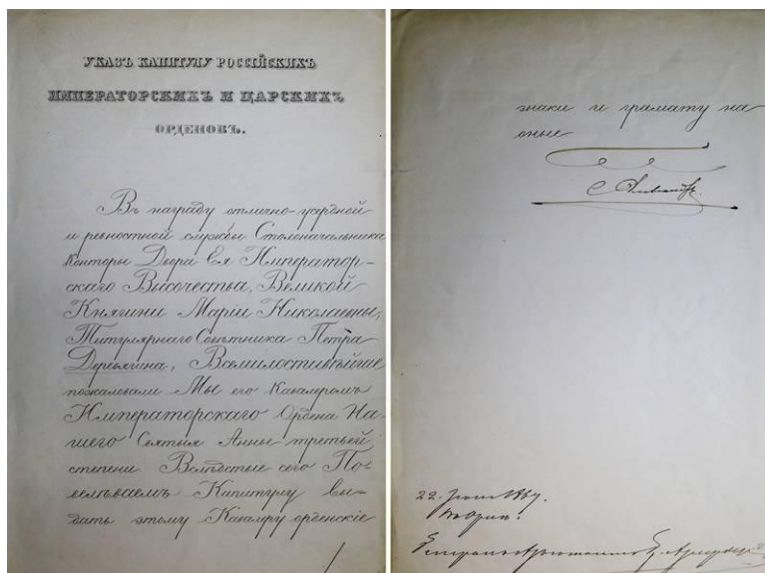
Among the 28 historical documents there are ten authentic Imperial orders of the court department from 1703-1894, including orders of Peter the Great, Anna Ioanovna, Elizabeth, Paul I, Alexander I, Alexander II and Alexander III.

Four of the Imperial decree were up for sale at "Leonard Auction" on December 10, 2011, when the Russian Culture Ministry bloked the sale. These documents were stolen in 1994 by a group of Vladimir Feinberg from the Russian State Historical Archive in St. Petersburg and smuggled into the United States.

On the eve of the ceremony, US Ambassador in Russia John Tefft said that despite the "not the good stage" of Russian-American relations, the countries proved that they can work together. "I am very proud of our efforts to return the documents," - he wrote on the embassy's page on Facebook.

Video - 1) http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149170/

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7UF6MJ46QI>



A decree signed by Emperor Alexander II, dated July 22, 1867, granting an honor to a Russian official.

Monument to Paul I in "Pavlovskaya gymnasium"



2 of March, 2016. News-Centre

The bust of Emperor Paul the First was installed in high school №209 «Pavlovskaya gymnasium». The opening ceremony of the monument took place on March 2.

The event began with the ceremonial removal of State flag and flag of the gymnasium. Dmitry Efimov, director of the gymnasium stressed that the bust is a gift from the fund "Russian Glory Alley" and expressed gratitude to the head of the organization Mikhail Serdyukov and gave him diplomas. "We are particularly grateful that the first monument of Paul the First, which you give to Russian educational institution, appeared in the walls of our school," - he said. In turn Mikhail Serdyukov has presented educational institution several gifts, handed Dmitry Efimov miniature busts of Emperor Peter the Great, Empress Catherine II and the great commander Alexander Suvorov.

Nelly Simakova, head of the education department of the Central district administration congratulated "Pavlovskaya gymnasium" with a significant event: "Grammar school №209 today is literally the focus of patriotic education of students of the Central area. I would like to thank all the participants and organizers warmly that such important projects are embodied. "

The right to open a bust of Emperor Paul I was given to the artist Elena Petrusenko - author of three historical paintings, including a group portrait of the Emperor Nicholas I and his family "Tsarskoselskaya carousel" and a senior fellow of the Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps, the candidate of historical sciences Evgeny Yurkevich. After removing the covers rector of the church of St. John the Theologian, Archpriest Gennady Belovolov held a ceremony of consecration of the monument.

At the end of the ceremony the choir gymnasium under the direction of Svetlana Smirnova performed the unofficial anthem of the Russian Empire.



The exhibition "Forgotten Tsar: Feodor III Alexeevich (1661-1682)"

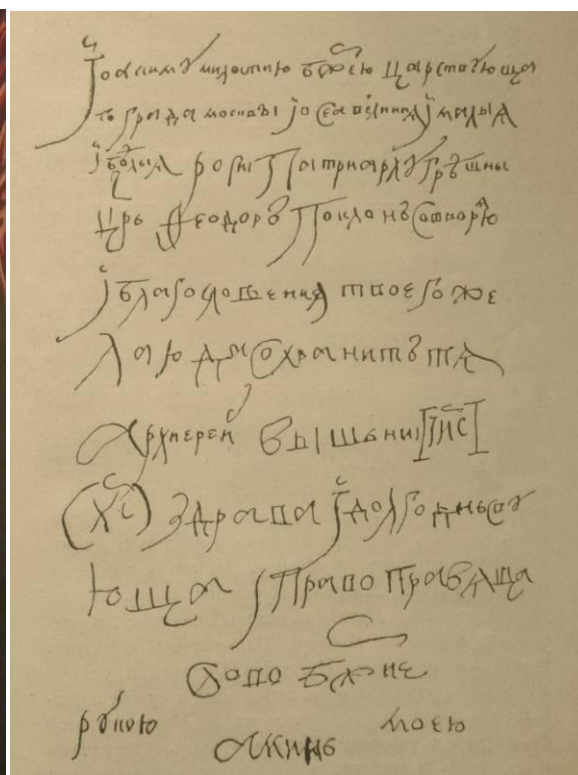


In Moscow, in the State Public Historical Library of Russia there is a small exhibition about the third Russian Autocrat of the Romanov dynasty. He has been undeservedly forgotten on the background of other, more colorful relatives. Tsar

Feodor III Alexeevich (1661-1682) ascended the throne fourteen years old, and six years later he died, but for a short period of his rule, he had much to do, anticipating, and in some ways, preparing reformatory genius of his younger brother, Peter I Alexeyevich. Restoring historical justice, the organizers

offer a look at the identity of the Emperor and his reign through the eyes of researchers.

Books and magazines on the display tell about the young Tsar as a statesman and a man. The exhibition presents the published documents and studies dedicated to education, personal qualities of the ruler, his family and the court entourage, as well as various aspects of state activity: changes in legislation, reforms and foreign policy issues. Among the most interesting materials is a "Marriage Greeting".





The 4 part (4 x 52 minutes) series "Matilda" by Alexei Uchitel has been listed for screening on 4 of April in the international competition Drama Series, in the TV festival "MIPTV" in Cannes. "Matilda" is a story about Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich's relation with the ballet dancer Matilda Kschessinska.

The Russian premiere of the movie "Matilda" is scheduled for the autumn of 2016, the 4 part TV series is expected to be shown in autumn 2017 on First Channel.

MIPTV - one of the most famous international markets of television and digital content. The event is held annually in Cannes, in mid-spring.



In Lipetsk some people want to install a monument to Catherine II. According to them, the Empress has made great efforts to the development of the city, and she is worthy of being immortalized there. Lipetsk lacks a monument to Catherine II. Lipetsk citizen Sergey Bundes is certain at least about it. He posted this message on the "Portal indifferent". According to him, the Empress remained in the shadow of Peter I, who is considered the founder of Lipetsk. Meanwhile, it was under Catherine the Great, the city began to blossom.

"Our city is known for and associated by many with the name of Emperor Peter I, but the contributions of Empress Catherine II remains in the shadow. Lipetsk is contemporary to St. Petersburg and can be said that it is St. Petersburg' brother, as it is believed that they are founded in 1703 by Peter I.

However, in fact, the name and the status of the city Lipetsk received in 1779 during the reign of Catherine II, and until that time it was only a large village famous for its ironworks. In the reign of the great Empress Lipetsk received a significant development, and its contribution to the development of our city must be appreciated", - says Sergey Bundes.

Note that the discussion of the initiative will last until mid-April. If the idea attains more than 400 positive comments, it will be considered by the city officials. However, not all townspeople are very happy with the initiative of a monument to the famous Empress. Some believe that to allocate funds for monuments is not the best idea. However, there are those who think differently. They say, Stalin's monument stands, so why not to put new one to Catherine II?

By the way, the city administration is already interested. The press service of the mayor officially launched on his page on the social network "VKontakte" his own vote about the monument. At present about 70% of respondents support the idea.



The chandelier to the "dressing room" in the Grand Peterhof Palace was returned. The porcelain chandelier is made in Germany at the Royal Porcelain Manufactory in the second half of the XIX century on the model II of Kendler (1706-1775).

In the second half of the XIX century the three halls of the Grand Palace (Living room, toilet and Cabinet of the Empress) had similar chandeliers. In order to recreate the historical reliability of "Peterhof" has been acquired a new porcelain chandelier for the Great Palace.



200 famous cars of the last century were a vintage car show in Moscow, among them Emperor Nicholas II's car.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/1611068/>



The fourth festival "Days of the White Flower" will be in Yekaterinburg from 19 March to 21 May. In the festival there are workshops, charity auction, photo contest and a citywide holiday. The money raised during this year's festival, will be spent on summer camp for children from large and poor families. Read more about it here: <http://www.xn----9sbekcvkd5a3b3b7c.xn--p1ai/default.aspx>



Two of the largest art collections - the Tretyakov Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery in London have begun a joint project. The first result is the exhibition in the British capital "Russia and the arts: the age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky." This is a unique collection of portraits of Russian writers, composers, actors from around the world made by brilliant Russian artists.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149500/



A sea fortress, commissioned by Emperor Nicholas I, is among Europe's eight most endangered cultural landmarks according to Europa Nostra.

In 1820, Tsar Nicholas I commissioned a sea fortress that later would serve as a brutal prison once Soviet Russia came into being. Both Estonian Jews and Soviet political prisoners were interrogated, tortured and killed in the Patari Prison, located in Tallinn, Estonia.

"That is the reason why this building has a particularly sad and horrible reputation and why it is difficult to find a new use for it," writes an Estonian heritage organization. The prison wasn't closed down until 2005. Rather than find a use for it, it's simply been abandoned and is now filled with graffiti and crumbling architecture. "If no emergency actions are taken to stop the rapid decay," writes Europa Nostra, "the buildings will be irreparably lost."



Sevastopol Center is now listed as a historical settlement of federal significance. The corresponding order was signed by the Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky. According to the decree, part of the urban area, a total area of 26 square kilometers and water area of Sevastopol Bay are taken under the protection. The new position will prevent the destruction of a unique architectural appearance of Sevastopol, resist the illegal building and preserve the cultural and historical significance of the city. Now on the list of Specially Protected Monuments there are 371 Sevastopol facilities, in particular - St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Palatine dock, Malakoff and many other monuments of the city of Russian glory.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149509/



A photo exhibition dedicated to the life of the monasteries on Mount Athos is opened in Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow. Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill attended opening ceremony. According to an ancient Christian tradition, the Virgin and St. John the Evangelist sailed, there was a storm and they landed on Mount Athos. Mary was so impressed by the beauty of the peninsula that she asked God for this place. Now Athos called "garden of God". Today it is the world's largest center of Orthodox monasticism. Among the twenty monasteries there is a Russian - St. Panteleimon. The exhibition devoted to the 1000th anniversary of Russian monasticism on Mount Athos.

"The event that we are celebrating this year is of great importance for the history of our country and the whole of historical Russia. It has great importance for the spiritual formation of our people, because one of the sources of Russian Orthodoxy was Athos. At least, this was the only basis for the development of Russian monasticism"- said the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/149594/



The 20-year long restoration of the Trinity-Izmailovsky (Holy Trinity) Cathedral in the Admiralty district of St. Petersburg will be completed in 2016.

- "We are coming to the end of two decades of restoration of the Trinity Cathedral. This year, the work is coming to its logical conclusion, and the Cathedral is ready, - said on March 21 at the City College of the Committee on State Control, Use and Protection of Monuments of History, the Culture Head of the Directorate Natalia Dzyadko.



The Trinity-Izmailovsky (Trinity) Cathedral or the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity is located in the Admiralty district of St. Petersburg. It was consecrated in 1835. Before the revolution the Cathedral served as a regimental for the Izmailovsky Life Guards Regiment. In 1938 it was closed and was to be demolished or rebuilt as a city crematorium. During the Great Patriotic War, the church was badly damaged, and after the war used as a store. Holy Trinity Cathedral was returned to the Russian Church in 1990 and began its long-term restoration, partially interrupted by a fire in 2006.

It was noted that after the end of this work, the restorers will be engaged in the restoration of the Anichkov Palace on Nevsky Prospect, and complete the restoration of the Smolny Cathedral.



Museum of History IRNITU opened on March 25 a photo exhibition, dedicated to the memory of the Royal martyrs and members of the last Russian Emperor's family.

On display there are dozens of photos of the Romanov family, gathered by people from Michael-Archangel Harlampios church in Irkutsk. According to director Olga Goroschenovoy of IRNITU History Museum, this exhibition reflects the core values of the Russian people and the spiritual feat of the Royal family:

"In the framework of spiritual and moral education of students Museum history IRNITU are periodically conducted Orthodox lectures. Often, we tell young people about the history of religion and the life of the saints, together with representatives of the parish of St. Sergius of Radonezh.



From March 26 to April 3, 2016 the 40 anniversary Russian Antique Salon will be at the Central House of Artists in Moscow. As usual there will be some special exhibitions. This year they include:

- Furniture in the Russian style - The exhibition in "Antique Trade A. Lelyanova" consists of items of decorative and applied art of the direction of traditional Russian style, which finally took shape in the reign of Emperor Alexander II and was the result of creative work of the best Russian architects of the time - Solntsev, Gornostaev, Monighetti, Hartmann, Ropet and others.

These works have become an expression of not only highly professional architectural design, but also very high-quality technical implementation, which was attended by the best Russian furniture, bronze casting and other shops in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

One example of this trend is represented by the decorative mirror in extremely rare technique of carving and painting with gold leaf by architect V.A. Hartmann.

- Russian collector's porcelain - Connoisseurs and lovers of Russian porcelain again will see the best collection of materials on the stand of «Galantic» salon.

Galina Oistrakh shows an exposition of works of Russian porcelain and glass of XIX - early XX century. The main core of the exhibition make the product masters of the Imperial Porcelain Factory and Glassworks - a unique vase, Easter eggs, items of crockery, sculptures - made during the reign of Nicholas I to Nicholas II.

The exhibition has a separate section presenting a selection of perfect in its artistic quality vases and cups of Alexander' II (1855 - 1881) period.

- Masterpieces of Russian Art Nouveau - Russian jewelry firms have been recognized among the current leaders of Art Nouveau, widely using in the work fine expressive line floral motives, as well as developing in line with its own modernity "original Russian style". Art pieces by Russian masters were of great success at international exhibitions, invariably hitting the European public with its deeply national interpretation of the Art Nouveau.

The exhibition of the Salon "on Kutuzovsky, 24" will feature products from Faberge, I. Khlebnikov, F. Lorie, O. Kurlyukov, N. Nemirov-Kolodkin and other prominent silversmiths and goldsmiths of the last century. Modern, first and most clearly, manifested itself in the silver products, decorative and utilitarian, the salaries of icons, genre and cast jewelry. One of the most striking phenomena in Russian Art Nouveau decorative art was the ceramic workshop of the Imperial Stroganov School.



The documentary "The Romanovs: The latter path" by French journalists of TV Channel France 5 is being made in Tobolsk. The film tells about the last years of the Romanov Imperial family - from the moment of the abdication of Nicholas II and before the tragic events in the Ipatiev house in Yekaterinburg. One of the key episodes will be the stay of the Royal family in exile in Siberia.

The film crew visited the former home of the Governor General at the lower part of the town and the museum complex "Palace of the governor", where there is the thematic exposition "Siberia under the auspices of the House of Romanov."

There are real things, such as the standard under which the steamer with Tsarevich Alexander arrived in Tobolsk, authentic autograph of Nicholas II, the cloth with the royal monogram embroidered to the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty, icon of Our Lady which the delegation presented to Emperor Nicholas in Tobolsk. Chairs from the governor's house of the Romanovs, royal napkins with monograms, a Chinese silk shawl that belonged to the Empress are also authentic. This shawl was presented by the Empress (a few days before their death) to Doctor Botkin in gratitude, for helping with the treatment of Tsarevich in Yekaterinburg.



The director of the documentary "The Romanovs: The latter path" is Alexander Dolgoruky, a descendant of the ancient princely family going back to the founder of Moscow Yuri Dolgoruky. After the events of 1917, his family was forced to leave Russia. Alexander now lives in Paris.



The video of the exhibition - "Created by hand with but a chisel armed..." Sculpture in St Petersburg's palaces in the 19th century - introduces the magnificent sculptural works that adorn the rooms of the imperial and grand palaces, private rooms of St. Petersburg in the XIX century. An integral part of the exhibition is watercolors of palace interiors with images of sculptures created by artists of the XIX century. There are more than 70 works from the collection of the State Hermitage (more than 30 sculptures and 40 watercolors).

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OVhaiTqKq0>

(PS - You might have to return to start, to view the entire video)



A religious procession around the historic area of the destroyed Monastery of the Passion was held on March 30 at Pushkin Square in Moscow, calling for the restoration of the Holy monastery. At the event was installed a portable belfry, a bell that awakens the memory of the bell tower of the monastery that was there with the church. At the end of the procession for the participants and visitors of the Pushkin Square was organized tea and a small community concert band "Passion of the monastery". According to them, under the ground in this place lie the remains of an ascetic monastery and foundations of destroyed buildings. In the summer of 2012 on Pushkin Square memorial sign dedicated to the monastery was established. In 1929, the central anti-religious museum was opened in the walls of the former monastery. In 1937 the monastery buildings were demolished.



On April 8, the Museum of the History of Photography (str. Professor Popov, 23) will open an exhibition about Sergei Levitsky (1819 - 1898) - "Russian Patriarch of photography". He graduated from the law faculty of Moscow University, and served in St. Petersburg in the Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Count Stroganov. He retired and went to Paris to acquire photographic knowledge, where he met with Daguerre and many well-known scientists - the pioneers of photography. His atelier, which was called "Light painting Levitsky," was opened in St. Petersburg in 1849.

Levitsky was a pioneer in many respects. He started using bromine at the daguerreotype print installed artificial lighting when shooting in a studio, as well as one of the first to practice the technique of collage, applying one frame to another.

Levitsky captured four generations of the Romanov dynasty, had the exclusive right to the portraits of the Emperor and Empress of Russia. For portraits of Napoleon III and his family, shot in Fontainebleau, he received the title of "Photographer of the Emperor Napoleon III» and became a member of the French Photographic Society.

Museum of the History of Photography will present the rare examples of the early period of professional work of the photographer from his collection.



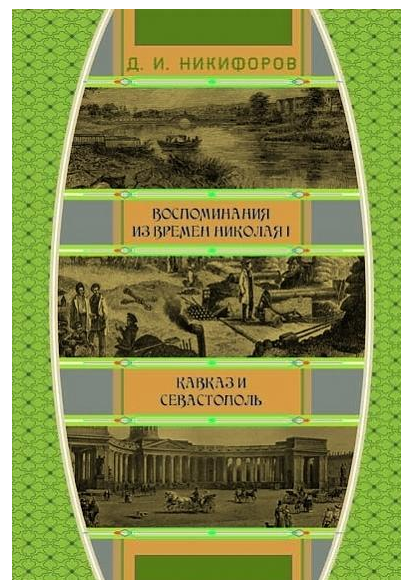
The Elizabeth-Sergius educational society received in the end of March, from collector Nina Moleva, things associated with the name of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The meeting took place in the well-known connoisseurs of art' Moscow apartment Nina Mikhailovna and her late husband - a famous artist Elia Belutin.

Video - <http://tv-soyuz.ru/news/elizavetinsko-sergievskomu-prosvetitel'skomu-obschestvu-peredany-veschi-svyazannye-s-imenem-velikoy-knyagini-elizavety-fedorovny-romanovoy>

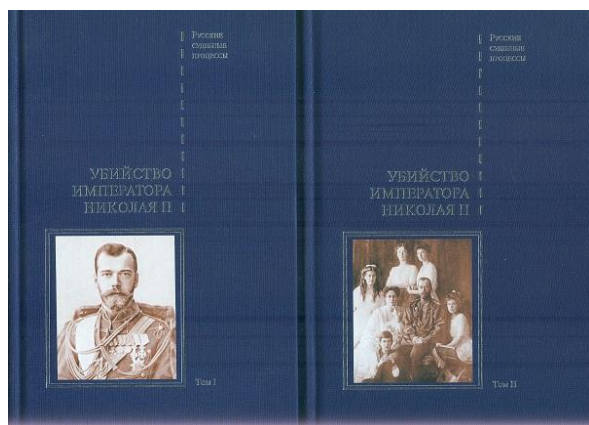


Memories of Emperor Nicholas I's reign. The Caucasus and Sevastopol

The publication brought together two books of Dmitri Ivanovich Nikiforov (1833/34-1907), an officer, the author of memoirs and books about Moscow. "Memories from the time of Emperor Nicholas I» (1903) embrace the first half of the XIX century. The writer remembers his childhood in the Tambov province, studying in a private school in Moscow and the Moscow Institute of Corps Railway Engineers, paints a picture of life of the landlords, middle nobility, simple peasants, middle class. The book "The Caucasus and Sevastopol" (1901) dedicated to the events of the Crimean War, in which the author participated in the Butyrka Regiment, first in the fortress of Anapa, then in Sevastopol, on the famous Malakhov Hill. (ISBN 978-5-85209-370-7)



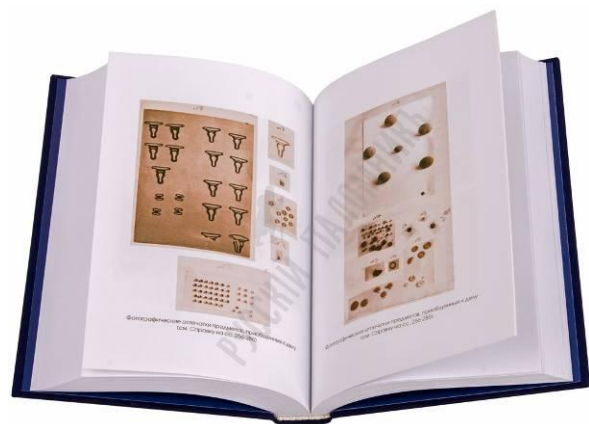
The case of the murder of Emperor Nicholas II, his family and their entourage



The new two-volume edition is written on the basis of previously inaccessible sources, recently opened in the Russian archives. Professional lawyers and historians were able to clarify some controversial and is considered still unreliable versions and hypotheses, one of the most important of the tragic events in our country's history of XX century.

Volume I: "Government and rule of law' by master of Laws V.N. Burobin. Preface by doctor of historical Sciences, L.A. Lykov. Materials of investigation file of N.A. Sokolov about the murder of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family in 1918-1919

Volume II: Materials of investigation file of N.A. Sokolov about the murder of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family in 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922.



Publisher: White City, Moscow. Hard cover, Format 145 x 215 mm, 448 pages. ISBN 978-5-906726-49-0

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Gold medal of Empress Elizabeth from 1752 sold for 280.000 USD

The extremely rare gold medal from 1752 "Opening of Kronstadt Naval Dockyard", weight of 50 Ducats, was sold for record 280.000 USD in auction in New York.



The 64.7 mm and 173.48 g medal is made by Georg Christian Waechter. Front with crowned and draped bust of Elizabeth wearing jeweled brooch and mantle adorned with Russian eagles, signed G. WAECHTER below, Latin legend around. Back with view of the docks at Kronstadt, a ship under construction in the foreground, a canal behind with bridge and locks, numerous ships further out in the harbor canal, three-masted ship under full sail out in the open sea; PERFICIT PARENTIS OPVS ("Completed the work of her father") around; NAVALI CRONSTAD DEDICATO D XXX IVL MDCCLII ("Kronstadt Naval Dockyard Dedicated 30 July 1752").

It is exceedingly rare and among the rarest of all Russian 18th Century Gold Medals - was even missing in Grand Duke George Mikhailovich's collection.

University Archives, Westport, CT, USA, on 16 of March

A signed photograph of future Russian Tsar Nicholas II at age 22. NICHOLAS II (1868-1917) Cabinet Photograph Signed "Nicholas /1890" in Russian. Sepia, 3.25" x 4.5" oval image, overall 4 x 6.25". Photographer's imprint, in Russian, on verso.

Estimated Price: \$4,000 - \$5,000

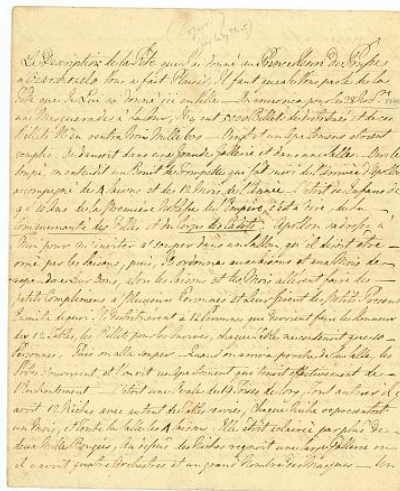
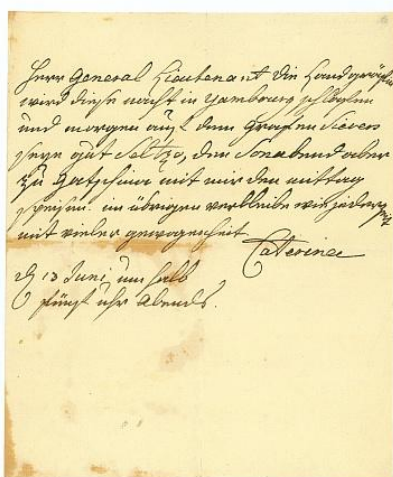


Stargardt Autographenhandlung, Berlin, Germany, on April 6

Letter from Anna Leopoldovna, Grand Duchess and regent of Russia 1740/41, nee Princess Elizabeth of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, wife of Duke Anton Ulrich of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, niece of Empress Anna Ioanovna, granddaughter of Tsar Ivan V, 1718-1746.

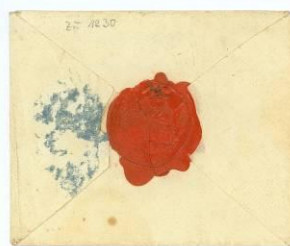
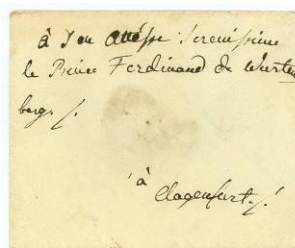
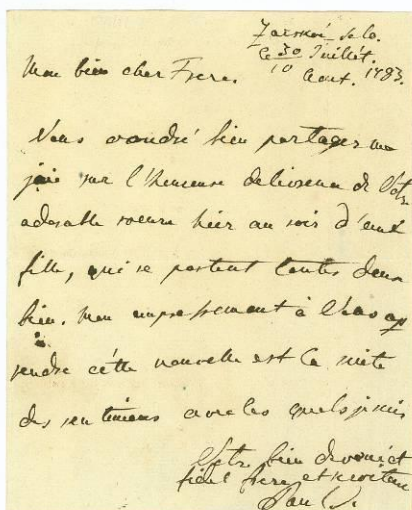
Signed "Anna". St. Petersburg 11.XI.1740. 3/4 S. folio. In Russian. With wide black border.

To King Charles V of Sicily, from 1759 King Charles III of Spain. She notice that she have taken over the regency for her minor son Ivan. Three weeks earlier Empress Anna Ivanovna had died and she had determined her grandnephew Grand Duke Ivan as heir. For him initially as his guardian was appointed Ernst Johann von Biron, Duke of Courland, but he was overthrown by Field Marshal Count Munnich on behalf of Anna Leopoldovna.



"Sleep ... the countess is this night in Jambourg and tomorrow at the Count Sievers, at Sunday in Gatchina with me for lunch..."

Catherine had invited the Countess Karoline of Hesse-Darmstadt with three of her daughters in the hope of finding a wife for her son, Grand Duke Paul. For the night was provided in Jamburg of Narva. In Gatchina, the country estate of Prince Orlov, the first meeting between Catherine and her guests took place. At the end of the visit, there was the marriage of the Grand Duke with the Countess Wilhelmina Louisa of Hesse-Darmstadt.



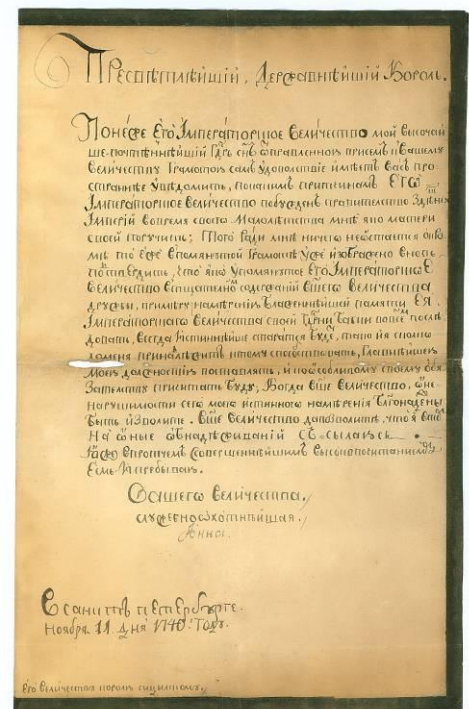
Letter from Paul I, Emperor, son and successor of Catherine the Great, 1754-1801 (killed).

Signed Tsarskoye Selo

30.VII./10.VIII.1783. Gold section. With hand-addressed envelope.

To Prince Ferdinand of Württemberg, a brother of his second wife Marie (Sophie Dorothee), which announce the happy birth of his daughter Alexandra.

"... Vous voudré bien partager ma joie pour l'heureuse de délivrance votre adorable soeure hier soir d'une fille, qui se portent toutes deux bien ... "



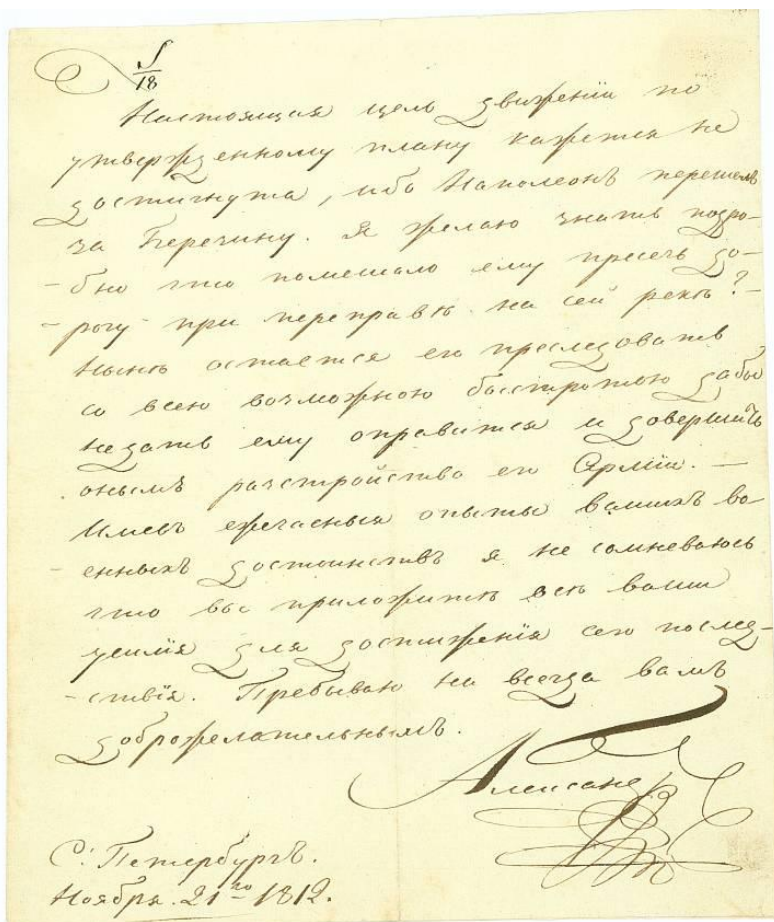
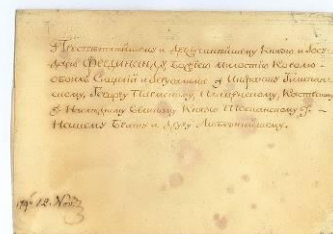
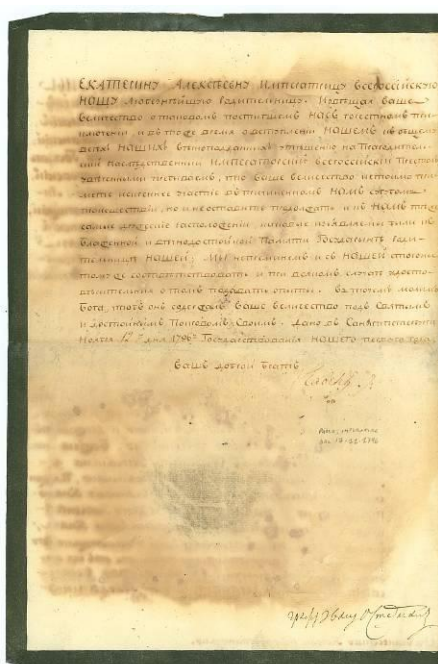
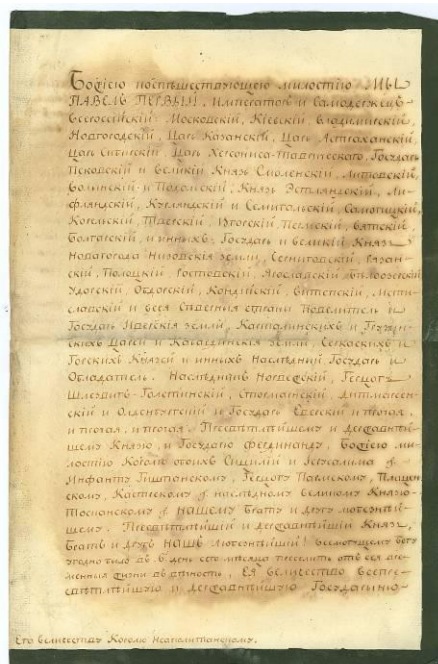
Letter from Catherina II, Empress,
nee Princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, 1729-
1796.

Signed "Catherina". 13.VI. (1773) "at half past five o'clock in the evening."
To Lieutenant General Friedrich Wilhelm von Baur.

Letter from Paul I., Czar, son and successor of Catherine the Great, 1754-1801 (killed).

Signed St. Petersburg 12.XI.1796. With wide black border.

To King Ferdinand IV of Naples with the news of the death of Catherine the Great and his enthronement. "I am Paul I". The Empress died on November 6. With countersigned by the Vice Chancellor Ivan Graf Ostermann.



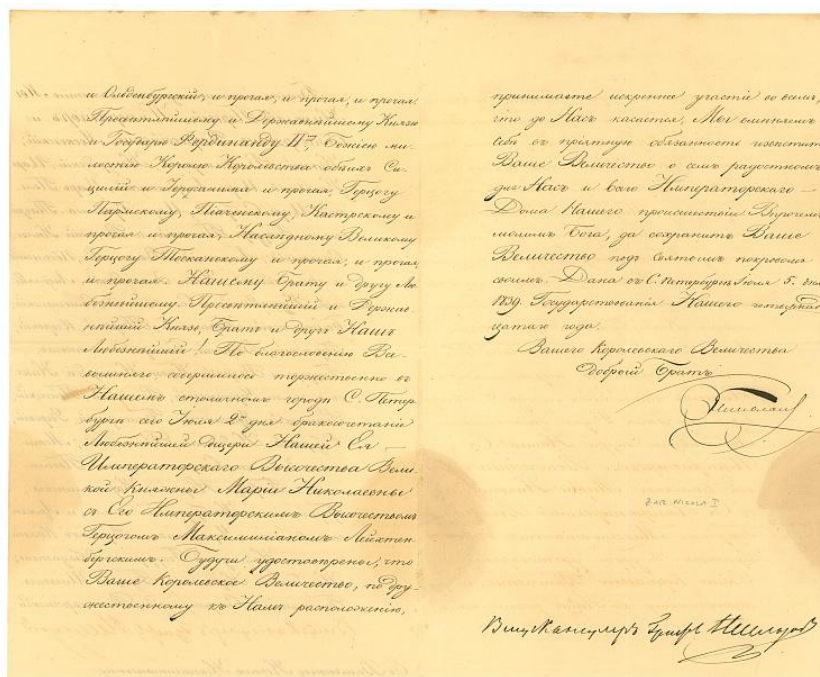
Letter from Alexander I, Emperor, 1777-1825. Signed St. Petersburg 21.XI. (3.XII.n.St.) 1812.

To the Russian General Peter Graf von Wittgenstein, the later field marshal and prince of that name. He asks for an explanation of how it was possible that Napoleon had forced the passage of the Berezina (November 26 to 28).

"... Napoleon the Berezina passed. All I ask about in detail is what has been done to cut him off at the crossing of this river. Now it only remains to pursue him with all possible speed, not to let him recover or to leave, and to complete the destruction of his army ...".

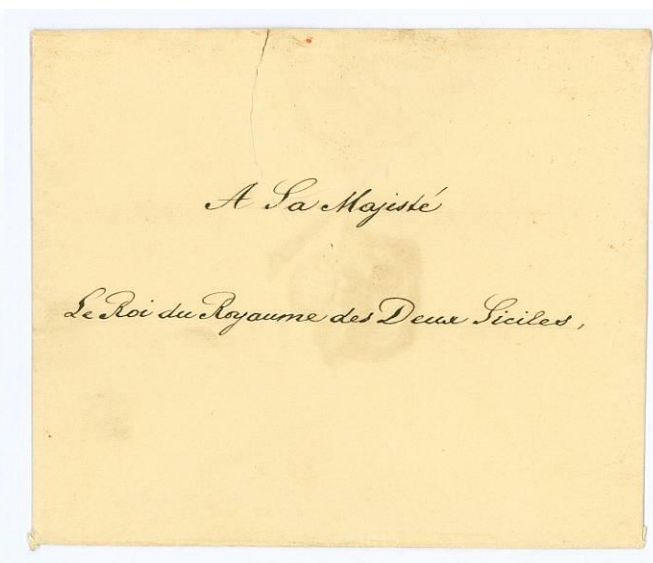
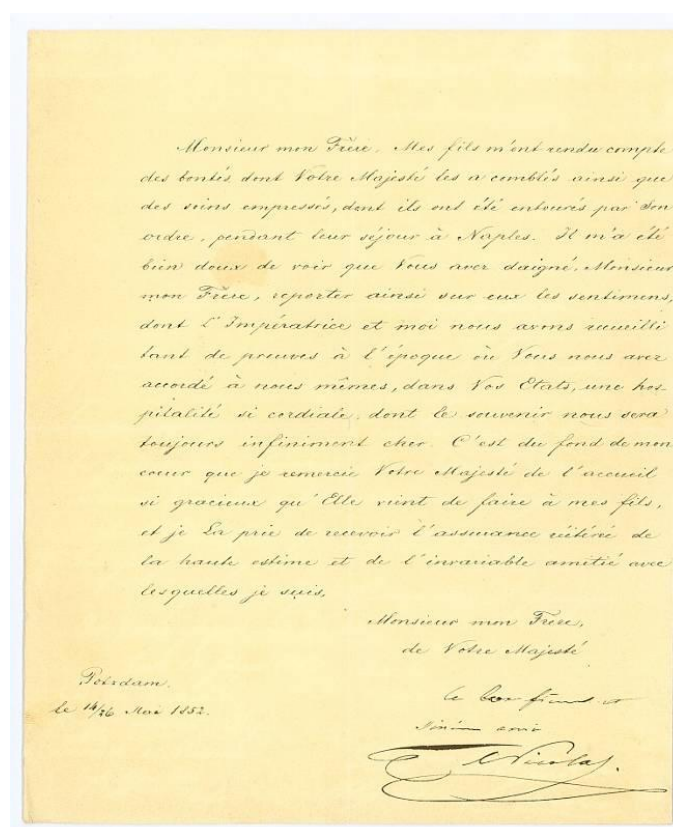
Letter of Nicholas I, Emperor 1796-1855. Signed St. Petersburg 5.VII.1839.

To King Ferdinand II of the Two Sicilies. With the messages that his daughter Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaievna had married Duke Maximilian von Leuchtenberg. Countersigned by Karl Robert Graf von Nesselrode.



Letter from Nicholas I, Emperor, 1796-1855. Signed Potsdam 14./26.V.1852. With sealed envelope. (Siegel crushed). During a stay at the Prussian court (the Emperor was a brother-in-law of King Frederick William IV.) To Ferdinand II, King of the Two Sicilies, which he thanked for the gracious reception of his sons in Naples..

" ... Il m'a été bien doux de voir que Vous avez ... daigné reporter ainsi sur eux les sentiments, dont l'Impératrice et moi nous avons tant de recueilli preuves à l'époque où vous nous avez à nous accordé mêmes , dans Vos budgets, une si hospitalité cordiale, dont le souvenir nous sera toujours infiniment cher ... "





Greeting card with the names in hand writing of the children of Tsar Nicholas II and Alexandra Feodorovna, born Princess Alexandra of Hesse and by Rhine.
 From the Grand Duchesses Olga (1895-1918), Tatiana (1897-1918), Maria (1899-1918) and Anastasia (1901-1918) and Tsarevich Alexei (1904-1918) to their grandmother Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, Princess Dagmar of Denmark, for Easter 1916.
 On the cover side a colored Russian Easter card.

Under the "Christ is Risen!" have the children, in the order of their age, signed their name after each other and add to end: "From all of our soul we congratulate you dear grandmother and send ??? eggs with the sister / 1916."



Христос воскрес!
 Ольга
 Татьяна
 Мария
 Анастасия
 Алексей
 от души
 поздравляем добрую
 бабушку и дедушку
 вместе с
 семьей. 1916.

Christie's, New York, USA, on 13 April



A golden table set of Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna, a daughter of Russian Emperor Paul I and his wife Maria Feodorovna, has been put up for auction at Christie's in New York. The set will be among the top lots at the so-called Auction of Masterpieces of classical art. According to experts, the lot costs from 1.5 to 2 million U.S. dollars.

The set was a present from the Russian Imperial family on the occasion of Grand Duchess Elena's wedding that took place on October 23, 1799. Later on, the set passed on from generation to generation. The last time the Swiss-made set, which weighs almost three kilograms, was put up for auction at Christie's was in 1931.



Historians believe that a tradition to give golden tea or table sets to children and grandchildren dates back to 1779 when Russian Empress Catherine the Great ordered a golden coffee set for her two-year-old elder grandson Alexander (future Russian Emperor Alexander I).

Sotheby's, New York, USA, on 15 April

Four Russian Imperial gilt and enameled glass wine goblets, Imperial Glass Works, St Petersburg, 1912-1917. Each with one side engraved and gilded with the crowned joint cypher of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna within a panoply of arms. The reverse is with black and gilt Imperial eagle. Each on a faceted baluster stem with spreading foot. One marked on base and dated 1914.

Height: 6 1/2 in./16.5 cm

Estimate: 6,000 - 8,000 USD



This glass service was mostly produced in 1912-1913 for the Romanov Tercentenary. The lavish Imperial celebrations of three centuries of Romanov rule required more stemware than the Court previously had on hand; a total of 1,050 pieces were produced, following rather urgent orders from the palace. Some examples are etched with earlier and later dates, however, suggesting that a less extensive service already existed before it was decided to use this design during the Tercentenary and also that replacement pieces were ordered in following years.



A Russian silver-gilt, cloisonné and plique-à-jour enamel cigarette case, St. Petersburg, 1899-1904. Rounded rectangular, both covers enameled in brilliantly colored plique-à-jour with a non-heraldic double-headed eagle (with a single crown, the shield on the breast with scrolling ornament), within scrolling floriade polychrome ornament in cloisonné on a stippled gilt ground, all within a border of white beads.

The interior with a Cyrillic inscription "In Memory of the Completion of the Construction of the Asserin Factory," struck with obscured maker's marks on flange, 88 standard, contained in contemporary leather-bound case of London antiquarian Ivor Mazure. Length: 4 1/4 in. Estimate: 3,000 - 5,000 USD





A Fabergé silver-gilt and guilloché enamel miniature frame, workmaster Johan Viktor Aarne, St. Petersburg, 1899-1903

Square, enameled in translucent yellow enamel over wavy engine-turned ground, inner border with border with dot and dash pattern, outer border reeded, mammoth ivory back with hinged scrolled strut. Marked on base of frame with Fabergé in Cyrillic, workmaster's initials, and 88 standard, the strut with 88 standard mark and workmaster's initials, in original fitted wood case. Height 2 1/4 in./ 5.4 cm.

Estimate: 20,000 - 40,000 USD



Hargesheimer Kunstauktionen, Düsseldorf, Germany, on April 16

A portrait miniature of Catherine the Great (Right) Russian, 19th century. Gouache on ivory. Within a horn frame. The glass minimally chipped. Diam. 70 mm (without frame).



(Left) Portrait of Empress Catherina the Great. Gouache on paper on a metal plate. 12,8 x 11,1 cm / 13,4 x 11,7 cm (with frame). Framed behind glass within a brass frame. After the painting in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg by Fedor Stepanowitsch Rokotow (1736-1808)



(Left) *Portrait of Empress Maria Feodorovna.* Watercolour on ivory. Within a gold-mounted frame. The tortoiseshell backside inset with a gold monogram beneath crown. Signed lower right (illegible). Diam. 12 cm. Portrait after Augustin Christian Ritt (1765-1799)



(Right) *A portrait miniature of Alexander I of Russia.* Russian, early 19th century. Polychrome laquer on metal. 11 x 7.3 cm.



(Left) *A tortoiseshell snuff-box with the portrait of Alexander I.* Probably Russian, circa 1800. Circular form. Centering a portrait of Alexander I of Russia in uniform beneath a gold-rimmed glass covering. Oil on copper. Diam. 8.5 cm.

A "Revolution" Rouble.

Russian, 1895. Showing the Double Headed Eagle and portrait of Nicholas II, later overstruck, dated '1917'. Diam. 3.3 cm, 17 gr.



Hermann Historica, München, Germany, on 25 April



A presentation sabre supplied to the Imperial Russian court, Zlatoust, circa 1816/1820

Ascribed to Master Wilhelm Nikolaus Schaaf. High-quality, curved and fullered single-edged blade. On the back of the blade etched and gilt Cyrillic maker's inscription "Zlatoust" and floral decoration. Blued and profusely etched on both sides. The lower half of blade etched with oak and laurel leaves on damascened ground. On the blued part of the blade mythological motifs, portrait of Tsar Alexander I (1801-1825) with laurel wreath, trophies, Russian double-headed eagle and Tsar's cypher "A I." within the laurel wreath.

Fire-gilt brass hilt with engraved and chased decoration, the pommel in the form of an eagle's head. The quillons struck with the hilt maker's initials "AA". Grip of stained wood (old restored crack) with brass pins. Leather-covered wood scabbard, probably of later date, with brass mounts. Length: 91 cm.

The sabre is probably an honorary gift from Tsar Alexander I. In the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg there is a similarly decorated sabre with identical hilt maker initials.

Estimated Price: €25,000 - €30,000

A heavy cavalry sword M 1826 for officers of the Russian cuirassiers, a so-called "golden weapon", awarded for bravery

Fullered single-edged blade. Fire-gilt brass knuckle-bow hilt with three side bars, two of them with Cyrillic engraving (tr.) "For Bravery". On the shell guard struck Russian maker's stamp "Borgman". Steel scabbard with gilt brass mounts. Length 98.5 cm. Attached portepee of the Order of St. George. Estimated Price: €35,000 - €42,000



A dagger for officers of the Russian navy

Double award with applied Order of St. George and Order of St. Anne for Bravery. Blade with etched Tsar's cypher "NII" and engraved Cyrillic inscription (tr.) "For Porutchik Dzvonkovsky from the officers in training of the 4th Platoon of the 1st Peterhof School for ensigns, 10 graduation 1916-1917-10/II". The reverse etched with Russian double-headed eagle with maker's mark of Zlatoust. Gilt (in traces) brass hilt with applied enamelled Order of St. Anne and St. George (chipping at centre) on the pommel. Engraved on both sides on the quillons, Cyrillic inscription "For Bravery". Leather-covered scabbard, the brass mounts with traces of gilding. Length: 35 cm.

The initial owner may have been Poruchik Sigismund Vladislavovich Dzvonkovsky (? - 05.1920), who was awarded the St. George weapon for bravery on 17 April 1916.

Estimated Price: €35,000 - €42,000



Photos of members of the Royal family, Russia 1910/1915

Tsar Nicholas II with his children Alexei and Anastasia (6.2 x 10.6 cm), Anastasia and her sister Maria at the beach (7x 9.7 cm), Anastasia with her sister on bars in a lake (8,5 x 8.5 cm), Anastasia in a park walking along and in the circle of a excursion company (8,5 x 8,5 cm) or in a circle of soldiers (8,5 x 8.5 cm), Maria in education (12 x 9 cm), Olga in education, together with Pierre Gilliard (12 x 9 cm). Three large-format group photos of Tsar's children. Manufacturer "Photographe de L'Empereur SM / CE de Hahn & Co./Tzarskoie-Selo", measures approximately 16x 21,5 cm).

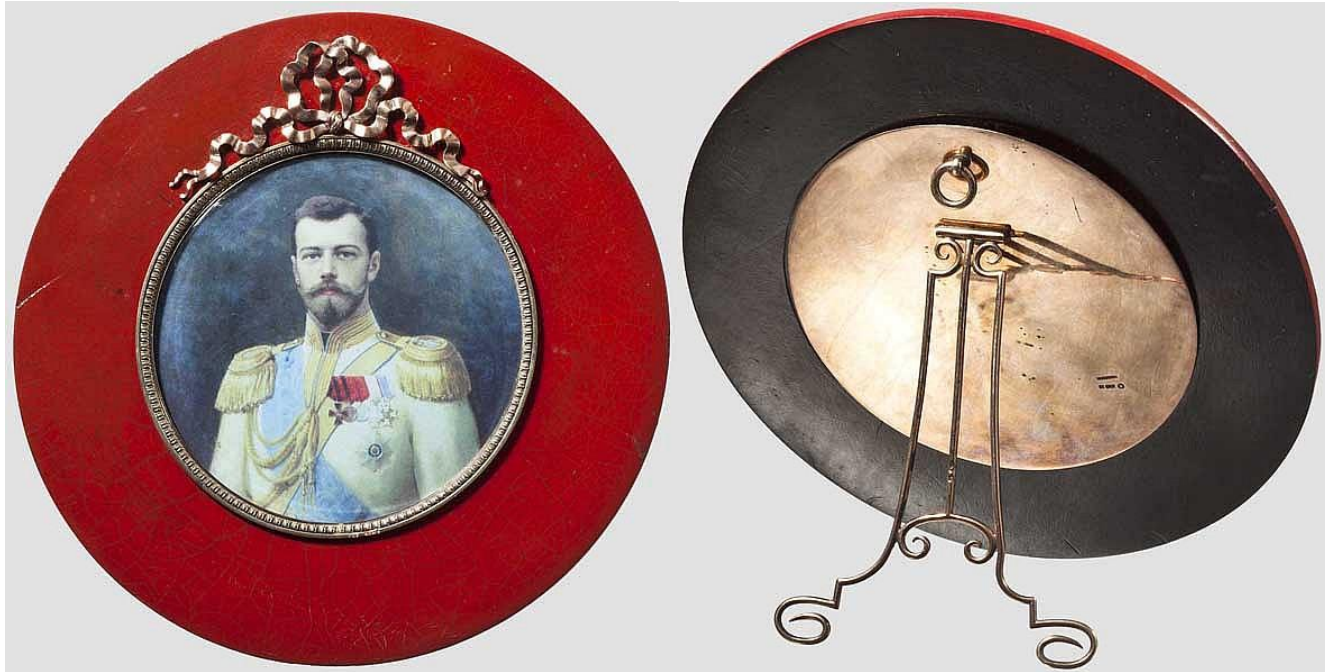
All photos are from the collection of the Swiss scholar and amateur photographers Pierre Gilliard (1879 - 1962), the teacher and French teacher of the Tsar's children. After the revolution, he went together with the royal family in captivity and had to leave them in Yekaterinburg. Around 1920 he returned to Switzerland. Some pictures are probably taken by Gilliard itself.

Estimated Price: €3,000 - €3,600



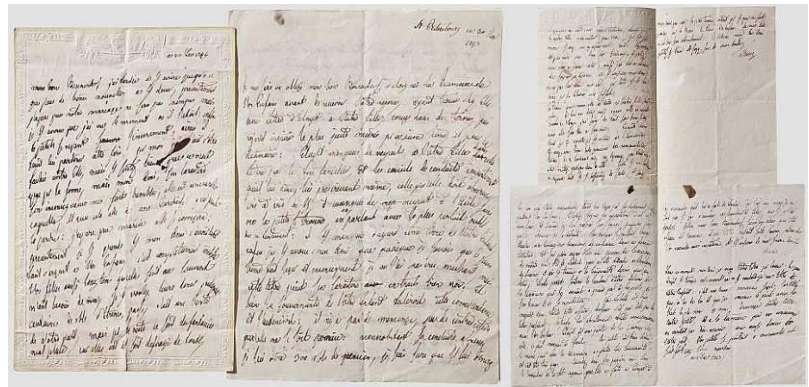
Red lacquered photo frame with gilded silver mounts, Carl Faberge, master A. Nevalainen, Russia, St. Petersburg, 1896-1908

Frame with St. Petersburg hallmark "88" zolotniki and master mark "TO" for A. Nevalainen. Gilded backplate with maker's mark "K. Faberge" hallmark "88" zolotniki, maker's mark "AN", and number "17858". Stand with the same maker's mark and fineness. Paper mache, painted red, reverse painted black. Inserted a printed portrait of Tsar Nicholas II. Diameter: 18.3 cm. Estimated Price: €1,000 - €1,200



Empress Maria Feodorovna (1759 - 1828) - two handwritten letters with signatures, Russia dated 1797

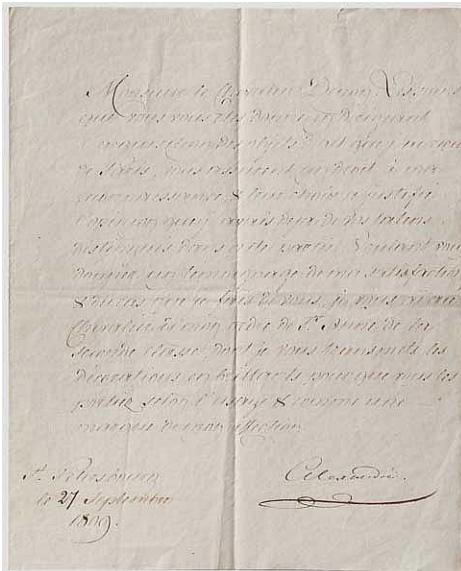
Two letters in French to General Christoph von Benckendorff regarding the wedding of one of his daughters. St. Petersburg, dated 30.11 / 12.02.1797 and 12.22.1797. Two sheets (19.5 x 14.2 cm) and (18 x 11.6 cm). Empress Maria Feodorovna, born Princess Sophie of Württemberg, second wife of Paul I, mother of Emperor Alexander I and Nicholas I. A letter with decorative embossing has a small hole.



30/11/1797. - "Je me sens ... obligé mon bon Benkendorf d'éloigner la Leamaire de Vos enfans avant de recevoir Votre Nepveu, ayant trouvé chez Elle une Lettre d'Elmpt à Votre fille, concu dans des termes qui m'ont inspiré le plus juste pour ce jeune homme mépris, et pour la Leamaire: Elmpt manque de re - spect à Votre fille dans cette lettre par le ton familier, et les conseils de conduite impertinent quil lui donne, lui même prescrivant, celle qu'elle doit observer vis à vis de Vous / il manque de respect ... en parlant avec le plus parfait oubli de ce lieutenant ... Et bien la governess de Votre Enfant toléroit cette correspondance ... La Lisbeth est bien coupable dans toute cette affaire. ...

"22/12/1797." - Mon bon Benkendorf / j'ai tardée de vous ecrire jusqu'à ce que de bonnes nouvelles j'eus à vous donner, presentement j'espère que notre mariage ne sera pas Rompue, mais je vous que j'ai avoue vue le moment où il retint, enfin la petite se repent sincèrement, ainsi il faut lui pardonner cette fois ... "

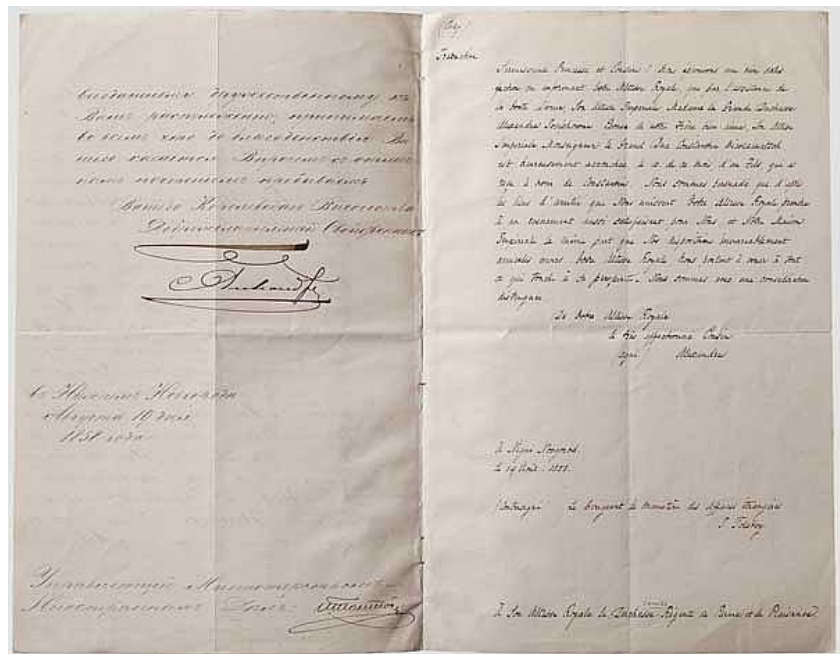
Estimated Price: €1,000 - €1,200



Tsar Alexander I (1777 - 1825) - letter with handwritten signatures, Russia dated 1809

Letter in French to the French art collector, medalist and draftsman Vivant Denon (1747-1825). St. Petersburg, dated 09.27.1809. Double leaf, one side (23.4 x 18.8 cm) written in ink. Watermark with the date "1802". Alexander I would like to thank for the happy purchase of artworks in Paris and appointed him a Knight of the Order of St. Anna.

Estimated Price: €1,500 - €1,800



Tsar Alexander II (1818 - 1881) - letter with handwritten signatures, Russia dated 1858

Letter in Russian to Duchess Louise of Parma, regent for her son Duke Robert, Nizhny Novgorod, dated 08.19.1858.

A sheet (32 x 21 cm), written two pages in ink. Alexander II tells the Duchess about the birth of his nephew, Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich.

Estimated Price: €1,400 - €1,680

Donation badge for participants in the "Day of the Russian flag" in the UK, founded 05.01.1917.

Silver, enamelled parts. English hallmark with maker's mark "HSW & B". Dimensions 38 x 26 mm, weighing about 13 g. With original band portion.

Crowned double headed eagle, with an enameled red cross, in which there is the cypher of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

Estimated price: 500 Euro.



Did you know....



... That in Spain there is a street named "Avenue Emperor Nicholas II".

In the military town El Empesinado, in seven and a half kilometers from the royal city of Valladolid, in Spain there is the headquarters of the Farnese Cavalry regiment and the street leading to it is called "Zar Nicolas II".

This is one of the few places on earth where a street is named after the Russian Emperor. Why here in the place of the permanent deployment of an elite armored military group of Spain - The oldest cavalry regiment in Europe.



The story starts in 1908. The Official Newspaper of the Ministry of War on 25 January contains a decree of King Alfonso XIII is awarding Tsar Nicholas II to be honorary colonel (chief) of the 5th Farnese Lancers.

At the same time King Alfonso XIII was appointed honorary colonel and chief of the 7th Olviopolsky Lancers. This regiment was formed by the decree of May 10, 1783 as the Olviopolsky Hussars, but in 1830 was transformed into the Lancers.



In connection with these important decisions, on 28 of March, 1908 representative of military mission headed by Grand Duke Boris Vladimirovich arrived in Madrid for celebrations and sharing of military uniforms and gifts. As part of the mission team officers of Olviopolsky Lancers regiment including Colonel Tomaszewski, Captain Massalsky, a lieutenant and a sergeant arrived. On the same day, the delegation headed by Boris was received in the Gasparini Royal Palace by King Alfonso XIII. There was the solemn ceremony of exchanging gifts. King of Spain was handed the uniform of a Colonel of Olviopolsky Lancers.



*Left - Grand Duke Boris Vladimirovich and King Alfonso XIII in the uniform of Olviopolsky Lancers.
Above - King Alfonso XIII with a group of Olviopolsky Lancers.*





The Spanish military mission, headed by the King's cousin Infante Don Fernando, included a group of soldiers under the command of General Milans del Bosch, arrived in St. Petersburg in May 1908. From Farnese Lancers in the delegation were Colonel Huertas, Captain Kunyado and Lieutenant Perez del Pulgar. The delegation was received by the Emperor, and delivered a uniform of a colonel of the Farnese regiment, decorations and the regiment had made an photo album - a work of Arts - with the history of the Farnese regiment, autographed by the commander of the regiment.

At a later date, Captain Scuratof visited the Farnese, 5th Lancers in their barracks "Conde Ansúrez" at Valladolid, where he was received by Colonel Huertas and the officers of the Regiment. The captain gave the regiment several gifts from Tsar Nicholas II, one of these was a portrait of the Tsar wearing the Colonel uniform of the Farnese Regiment. Unfortunately, the original location of the portrait is not known, but a copy, unsigned and undated, in a pretty bad condition is in the storage of the Army Museum.



The other two gifts are still with the regiment. One is a photo album of the Regiment of Olviopol Uhlans, with the inscription 1812-1912, centenary of the beginning of the war against Napoleon's armies. But it is certainly the gift of the Tsar's cup that most fondly is saved in the Farnese Regiment. It is a container of silver, richly adorned, shaped as a bottle holder or cup. Its name derives from Russian tsarscaia charasca, which becomes something like the Tsar's cup. With it is held the charochka ceremony, a rite of welcome to the new "Farnese".



Above - the photo album from the Tsar. Below - The Tsar's cup

