



# Romanov News Новости Романовых

*By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovskiy*

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*Chapel in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs at Livadia*

## The "Elizabethan route in Moscow" and the pilgrimage "Moscow-Ural-Siberia" (Part 1)

On Monday, 23 of May, Government of Moscow hosted the IV International public forum "Elisabeth legacy today. 2016." It took place in the famous where previously was working residence of the Governor-general Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. The main event was the presentation of the Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society's new tourist and pilgrim route - the "Elizabethan route in Moscow" and the "Moscow-Ural-Siberia", both intended to be starting points for a large Elizabethan route in Russia and to connect all the memorial places of the Grand Duchess in Russia and abroad.

The event, which is held with the blessing of Patriarch Kirill and the support of the Moscow government, has the aim to integrate social, scientific and religious organizations, to continue the tradition of education and charity, started by Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

At the opening participants of the forum were greeted by Mayor of Moscow Sergei Sobyenin; Deputy Culture Minister Alla Y. Manilova; Chairman of the Supervisory Board of "Elisabeth Sergius educational society" Anna V. Gromova; Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, permanent member of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate; Pavel Eduardovich Kulikovsky, great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Honorary member of the "Romanov Family Association", Sergei V. Mironenko, Scientific director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation and Vladimir R. Legoyda, Chairman of the Synodal Department for Church relations with society and the media.



Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said - "Let me congratulate you on the opening of the forum "Elisabeth legacy today." I wish to thank everyone who participates in this event, who keeps the memory of our history, the memory of the people who have given themselves to the service of the city and the Fatherland. It seems to me, it is extremely important, and such people are Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna".



According to him, the end of XIX - early XX century, when the Grand Duke was governor-general of Moscow, have become one of the best periods of the city's development, "The population has increased by nearly one and a half times and amounted to



more than a million inhabitants. At that time, they built factories and housing. Stations were built that connected Moscow with the remote areas of our country".

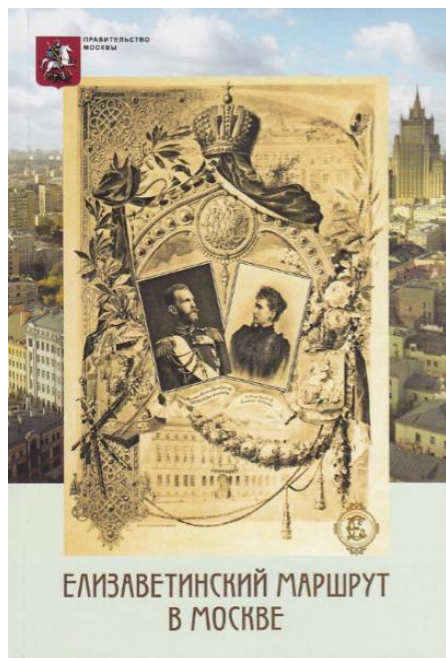
He added that the Moscow government is ready to support the continuation of historical and educational work - "The study of the past and preserving the memory of it is very important and necessary thing in order to remember the history of our city. The government is ready to contribute to this in every way. You know, in 2013, a documentary about Sergei Alexandrovich was made with the support of the Department of the media " - said Sergei Sobyenin.

"We need to restore historical justice towards the people who served Russia, not only because of the commitments made by birth, but also, above all, because of the deep inner conviction and love for the Fatherland. Love, mercy, compassion, self-sacrifice - meaning of these words should not be not erased in the bustle", - mentioned Deputy Minister of Culture of Russia Alla Y. Manilova.

"Her work touched many different areas of public life in Russia: the education of children of poor parents, the treatment of the wounded and sick, and support of national art and museums" - said Deputy Minister of Culture of Russia Alla Y. Manilova.



Soon Moscow's bookstores will receive the tourist guide of the Elizabethan route - "While the guide includes 17 objects. Some of them are well known as, say, the Historical Museum and Moscow Kremlin cathedrals. Some are less known, such as Elizabethan Gymnasium in Big Kazenny Lane, which was under the patronage of Elizabeth Feodorovna. I think that everyone interested in the history of Moscow would like to read this guide, and we will ensure its delivery to the bookstores" - said the chairman of the Supervisory Board of Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society Anna Gromova.



Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, permanent member of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, said -

*"Dear participants and guests of the forum!  
Christ Is Risen!"*

*On behalf of His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill I am glad to welcome the organizers, participants and guests of the forum dedicated to the tragic events in Russia in the first quarter of the twentieth century and the representatives of the Royal House of the Romanovs, who were glorified in the face of saints and memory of whom retained by the people, also due to the work of "Elizabeth-Sergius educational society".*



*It is symbolic that the forum is being held in the house which until 1917 was the residence of governor general of Moscow, which more for more than ten years was associated with Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and his wife Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The tragic history of our homeland in the early twentieth century can be traced on example of this grand-ducal couple.*

*The Grand Duke was a staunch supporter of the inviolability of the millennial state system of Russia, which did not prevent him to be open-minded and to take a sober view of the situation in the country and the world. Sergei Alexandrovich was a patron of workers' organizations, he publicly defended the interests of ordinary people. He wanted the citizens to learn how to defend their rights and to bring about change for the better by lawful means.*

*In the early twentieth century in Russia revolutionary moods intensified more and more, including the fault of the forces interested in destabilizing the country. Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich was on their way. The revolutionaries, who wanted shocks, saw the opponent in Moscow mayor. Liberal-minded intellectuals thought he was a brake of reforms in the country.*

*February 17, 1905 the Lord judged the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich to take the crown of martyrdom: he was the victim of a revolutionary – terrorist's bomb. Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna wrote to Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, April 7, 1910: "My dear ... Sergei gladly died for you and for the country. Two days before his death, he said, that he would shed his blood with willingness, if it would help."*

*Elizabeth Feodorovna herself in God allotted lifespan managed to make unusually much. After the death of her husband, she gave most of her jewels to the treasury, while for the remaining funds she established in Moscow the Marfo-Mariinsky Convent of Mercy. A Sunday school, a library, kitchen for the poor, an orphanage for girls worked at the monastery. The Grand Duchess slept in her cell on wooden boards, performed the most menial jobs. Patients told that the healing power came from her that helped them to endure pain and to agree to risky operations.*

*Heart of Elizabeth Feodorovna was opened to other people's suffering, full of generosity and forgiveness. It is known that the Grand Duchess promised to ask pardon of the murderer of her husband - the terrorist Kaliayev, to whom she had come to the prison. But the killer remained adamant in his crime and refused forgiveness.*

*However, one person virtue could not stop the revolutionary shaft that hit our country. In 1917 the monarchy collapsed in Russia, and the Russian land was filled with rivers of innocent blood. The victim of the revolution itself became Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, shared the fate of the Imperial family and the many thousands of our fellow citizens. She was able to leave Russia, but she did not do it, but first voluntarily went into exile, and then was martyred near Alapaevsk. Killers rage extended not*



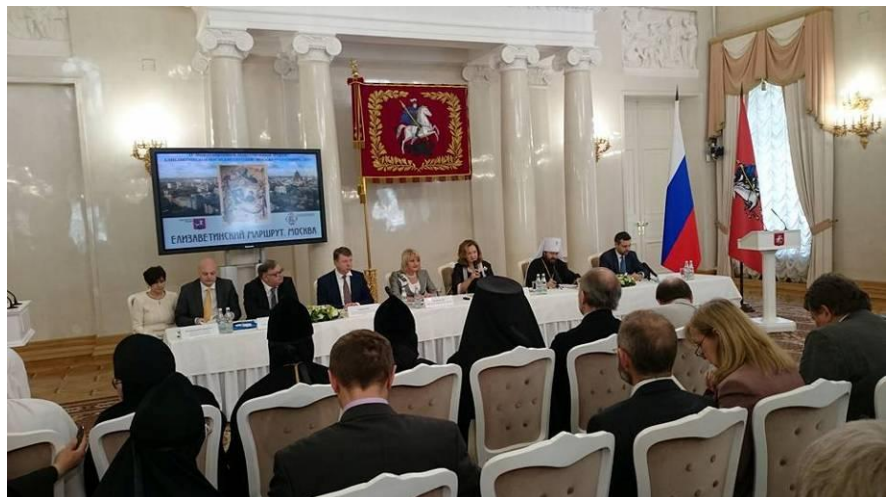
*only to the representatives of the Imperial House, but also the surrounding people and those who help them, in particular, the nun Varvara (Yakovleva). The example of the Christian experience of imminent death Elizabeth Feodorovna is instructive. When security officers pushed her to the abandoned mine shaft, she repeated the prayer of crucified Saviour of the world, "Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34.).*

*One of the peasants, who witnessed the killing, said later that he heard the sounds of the Cherubic Hymn, sung by the Grand Duchess and those who suffered with her before going into eternity. Elizabeth Feodorovna fell not on the bottom of the shaft, but the ledge, which was at a depth of 15 meters. Next to her, they found the body of Prince John Konstantinovich with a bandaged head. With severe fractures and bruises she sought to relieve the suffering of others.*

*Church glorified Grand Duchess and nun Varvara among the saints. Remembering the feat of selfless service of Martyr Elizabeth, her fidelity to Christ, we turn to her in prayer as one of the patron saint of our capital city, the ministry of mercy and charity.*

*Today, we can make this ministry freely and openly, but many of us remember well the time when the church was oppressed in our country. Despite the obstacles, the threat of punishment by the authorities, yet there were people who had the courage to honor the memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs. I remember as a boy of fifteen years old at the time, when it was still impossible to imagine that the Royal Passion-Bearers will be publicly honored and glorified, I attended a church service devoted to the Royal family. It was performed in a private apartment by one of the Moscow priests according to the books published by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. Then Church Outside of Russia was far away from us, because there was a sad separation. Today it is in the fullness of unity with the Russian Orthodox Church, and together we venerate the Holy Royal Passion - our intercessors and prayer at the Throne of God.*

*The restoration of canonical communion between the Church in the Fatherland and Church Outside of Russia was not an only sign of the beginning of a new era in our country. The Jubilee Bishops' Council in 2000 proclaimed famous Cathedral of the martyrs and confessors of the Russian land. Magnificent church was erected at the place of Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg, where the Royal family was shot. The last Council of Archbishops of our Church glorified among the saints doctor Evgeny Botkin, who took a violent death from the hands of the executioners with the Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich and his family. In honor of the Royal Passion thrones of newly built churches are sanctified. All this testifies to the recovery of the historical memory of our people, their spiritual transformation.*



*At the same time, unfortunately, there is still the memory of the ideological mastermind of murders, executioners, whose names are given to streets and avenues, towns and cities, and even entire regions in Russia. Many of these names are in Moscow. Today, a large public outcry caused the discussion associated with the Voikov's. In his honor the area and a subway station are named. I hope that, despite the economic arguments, the Moscow authorities will listen to the opinion of believers and will remove from the Moscow toponymy the name of one of the regicides.*

*But in order that these rename will unite, rather than divide people, actions of dialog character are demanded - conferences, forums, round tables, which help to clarify the meaning of the spiritual feat of true sons and daughters of the country who gave their lives for Christ and fatherland. No less need to*

*contact people with places of such a feat. In this regard, I welcome the organization of educational pilgrimage "Elisabeth Route", during which the participants will visit the places that have become sacred for thousands of the faithful of our Church.*

*In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of "Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society" Anna Vitalevna Gromova and all the organizers of the Forum for their efforts in preserving the memory of the members of the Russian Imperial family, who left a significant mark in the life of our country.*

*I call upon you God's blessing!"*



Paul E. Kulikovsky said - "Mr. Mayor, Metropolitan Hilarion, Anna Vitalevna, Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters!

*It is a great pleasure for me to be here at the presentation of Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society's latest initiative, an "Elizabethan route in Moscow", which is followed by the pilgrim tour "Moscow-Ural-Siberia".*

*For those who do not know me, I will give a very short introduction. I am a great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, who married Nicholas Alexandrovich Kulikovsky.*

*Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was*

*the last of the Imperial Family who left Russia. It happened in February 1920. I arrived in Russia in 2008, as the first descendant of the Imperial family - and still the only one - to permanently live and work here - and I live in Moscow.*

*Being here in the Moscow Government building on Tverskaya, the former residence of the governor general of Moscow Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, is symbolic.*

*One could say that today's project started here, with Emperor Alexander III's appointment of his brother Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich as the governor general of Moscow in 1891. The grand ducal couple moved to Moscow, became very attached to the ancient capital, and left a great legacy here.*

*It is a legacy, which extent, we today are not fully aware of. A lot of information is lost, some needs to be re-discovered, and for many people it is, thanks to initiatives like the one presented here today.*

*Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich ended his life in Moscow in 1905 and was first buried in the Chudov Monastery in Kremlin - which, as a side remark, I very much hope will be recreated -, but Sergei Alexandrovich's remains were in 1995 transferred to Novospassky Monastery - One can say he is forever connected with Moscow.*

*Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna stayed in Moscow and created the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in 1909, which now again is helping people in need.*

*It is attracting people from all regions of Russia, and many from abroad. Not just pilgrims, but also a lot of tourists. Martyr Elisabeth is honored all over the world and I am sure the interest in her and her legacy will only increase with time.*

*So, to start a tour in their memory in Moscow seems just right.*

*Historical tourism is a growing segment and all regions of Russia should make sure to tap into this opportunity. Russia's more than 1000 year history is tremendously rich on dramatic events, heroic achievements, and spectacular places where it all happened.*



*To me, it is logic to develop historical tours to increase tourism. In addition, I think it will raise awareness about our history in general, strengthen the values that unite us, and facilitate an increase in patriotic feelings.*

*My wife - Ludmila - and I, have visited many of these places on the "Elisabethan route in Moscow" and we will also be among the pilgrims going on the route from Moscow to the Urals. We are not just talking about it, we are doing it!*

*I am sure all the descendants of the Imperial Romanov Family joins me in expressing gratitude to all those who are maintaining and developing Russia's historical heritage, and in particular to all those who have participated in creating this project.*

*Mayor of Moscow Mr. Sobyenin and the Government of Moscow, thank you for your support of the project and for your hospitality here today.*

*Special thanks to the Russian Orthodox Church for their participation. Without the church it would not have been possible.*

*Last, but not least, a low bow to Anna Vitalievna and her team in the Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society, for all they are doing in keeping the memory of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, and the Holy Royal Martyrs.*

*The work you are doing to enlighten us all, and your many successful projects brings this knowledge out to a lot of people - even abroad -, it is much appreciated. We wish you success with this new Moscow route.*

*We are ready to go!"*



Chairman of the Synodal Department for Church relations with society and the media V.R. Legoyda said - "Thanks to the works of Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society thousands, hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions of people are given the opportunity to participate in the Elisabethan route. This touch of history, opening difficult, but very important pages, this is an opportunity to go the way that went the saints".

"What is the Elisabethan route? Besides the fact that it is living history, it is, above all, the route of love and sacrifice. This is the route - the most important - which every Christian must pass. It is not easy, but without passing a Christian life does not make sense ", - he concluded.

The key attractions in the center of Moscow, which in one way or another is connected with the Grand-Ducal couple, are included into the new metropolitan route: the building of the Moscow government on Tverskaya, where they lived; the Assumption Cathedral of the Kremlin, where the Governor-General organized the coronation of Emperor Nicholas II; the State Historical Museum, where the chairman for 25 years was the Grand Duke; GUM – Sergei Alexandrovich initiated the construction of the shopping malls on the Red Square; Museum of Fine Arts on Volkhonka named after Pushkin - the Grand Duke led the committee on its construction; Elisabeth Feodorovna's Marfo-Mariinsky Convent on Bolshaya Ordynka; House of Unions, which formerly held charity balls of Grand Duchesses; Elisabeth's charity building of labor collectives on Prechistenka - now the residence of the Australian Ambassador; Fraternal cemetery in the Sokol area founded on her request; Church of Russian Sorrow at Khodynka;

Iverskaya church on Polyanka (there Iverskaya community of the sisters of charity was located) and many other places.

Yuri R. Saveliev, Doctor of Arts, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Arts, made a presentation "Palace of the Moscow governor-general and its reconstruction. 1891-1893" followed by tours for the guest of the forum of the General-Governor's Palace - with focus of the former residential parts of the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

Afternoon session included several reports:

- Abbess Elizabeth (Pozdnyakova) of Martha and Mary Convent (Moscow). "Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy: the center of pilgrim's attraction."
- Abbess Elizabeth (Koltsova) of St. Elizabethan female monastery (Kaliningrad). "The legacy of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Kaliningrad. The connection with the Romanov Kaliningrad earth."
- Paul Oxborrow, PhD. (England). "English kinship Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the project Pilgrimage route in the UK."
- Abbess Maria (Sidiropulo) of the monastery of St. Elizabethan (Germany, Buhendorf). "The legacy of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Germany."
- Alexandra Rank, Chairman of OTMA Fund, (Germany, Wiesbaden). "Romanov's Memorial Places in the Southern Germany."
- Abbess Xenia (Tarabanova) of the convent of St. Xenia of Petersburg (Orel). "Dolbenkino Manor of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich in the Elisabeth route".
- Nun Magdalene (Proferansova), Head of art restoration workshop at the monastery of St. Mary Magdalene (Jerusalem, Israel). "The Church of St. Mary Magdalene as the Centre of Martyr Elizabeth in the Holy Land."

The forum concluded with the presentation of the book "The Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich: the way of Russian conservative" by D.M. Sofin, Ph.D., associate professor of modern history of Russia. After author's presentation, Dr. Sergei V. Mironenko, scientific director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation presented his comments to the book.

Videos - 1) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2756920&cid=3721>

2) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/92814/>

3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t33FFWUCYKs>

### **"Moscow-Ural-Siberia"**

On May 24-29 the Forum continued its work on Ural land. Delegates became pilgrims on the Elizabethan route "Moscow-Ural-Siberia", which was held in places of memory of the Royal Martyrs and St Elizabeth Feodorovna in Yekaterinburg, Verkhoturye, Alapaevsk and Tobolsk.

- More about the pilgrimage in Part 2 in next issue of "Romanov News".





## Romanovs in Crimea

On May 6th, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky arrived in Crimea to attend the opening of the "Greek-Russian Youth Festival" in Yalta, but of course took the opportunity to visit as many places as possible which are related to Romanovs in Crimea.

### Chersonese

Going to Crimea, to a Greek-Russian event, in the year of the 1000 years commemoration of Saint Grand Duke Vladimir death who was baptized in Crimea, one has to visit Chersonese, the ancient Greek colony founded approximately 2,500 years ago in the southwestern part of the Crimean Peninsula, now at the outskirts of Sevastopol.

The ancient city is a mix of Greek, Roman and Byzantine culture. The defensive wall was approximately 3.5 kilometers (2.2 mi) long, 3.5 to 4 meters wide and 8 to 10 meters high with towers at a height of 10 to 12 meters. The walls enclosed an area of about 30 hectares (74 acres) and the buildings include a Roman amphitheatre and many Greek temples.

The surrounding land under the control of the city, the chora, consists of several square kilometres of ancient but now barren farmland, with remains of wine presses and defensive towers.



Stanislaus, Archpriest Stephan Slomchinsky, Paul and Ludmila Kulikovsky, and Nikolai, at the St. Vladimir Cathedral in Chersonese



During most of the classical period Chersonese was a democracy ruled by a group of elected archons and a council called the Demiurgi. As time passed the government grew more

oligarchic, with power concentrated in the hands of the archons. A form of oath sworn by all the citizens since the 3rd century BC has survived to the present day.

It was subject to Rome from the middle of the 1st century BC until the 370s AD, when it was captured by the Huns. It became a Byzantine possession during the Early Middle Ages and withstood a siege by the Göktürks in 581.

Chersonese's struggle for independence always troubled the central Byzantine government, who then in 841 made the city a center of a military administrative unit headed by a strategus appointed from Constantinople. This measure did not curb the rebellious spirit of the city, and at the end of 10th century the Chersonites probably joined in a revolt led by Bardas Phocas and Bardas Sclirus, feudal lords in Asia Minor. However, a corps of six thousand from Kyivan Rus' helped Byzantine Emperor Basilus II quash the rebellion in Asia Minor, while Grand Duke Vladimir himself lead Kyivan Rus forces to suppressed the insurgency in Chersonese. In exchange for this assistance the Byzantine Emperor Basilus II gave his sister Princess Anna, in marriage to Vladimir.

Another version tells that Grand Duke Vladimir agreed to evacuate Chersonese only if Emperor Basilus II's would give his sister Anna in marriage. The demand caused a scandal in Constantinople, but was accepted with a pre-condition for the marriage settlement - Vladimir was to be baptized. He did it in Chersonese in 988, thus paving the way to the Baptism of Kievan Rus'.



After the Fourth Crusade (1202-04), Chersonese became dependent on the Byzantine Empire of Trebizond, and then fell under Genoese control in the early 13th century. The Mongol -Tatars began their continuous devastating raids on Crimea in 1223. Chersonese was initially just looted, but in 1278 also partly destroyed, possibly by Khan Nogay, and in 1299 sacked again by the Mongol-Tatar armies. In 1399 the Tatars finally destroyed Chersonese, so that only ruins remained where once stood a prosperous city.

### **Excavations**

Chersonese's ancient ruins were excavated by Russians, starting in 1827, where three temples were discovered. Soon Chersonese received the epithet of "Russian Troy", with every year new houses and streets, squares and churches of the ancient city appeared from under layers centuries-old.

The most systematic excavations began in the late 1880s under the leadership of General K. E. Gemmelman.

In 1886 Chersonese was visited by Emperor Alexander III. After seeing the museum (in the monastery) and seeing how few things there was, despite years of excavation, he remarked sadly: "I think that all has been stolen".

In 1887, Countess Praskovya S. Uvarova, head of the Moscow Archaeological Society, addressed to Alexander III to rescue "Russian Pompeii." The Emperor replied - "This must be done so as not to be reputed as barbarians. Present conclusion to me as soon as possible to save all that could be saved."

Deputy Chairman of the City Bank of Sevastopol Carl Kazimirovich Kosciuszko-Valyuzhinich was appointed to manage the excavations in Chersonese Archaeological Commission. Having started the excavations in May 1888 Kosciuszko almost immediately found a workshop from 3rd century BC, in which terracotta figurines were made . In the following year many more important finds were made. Chersonese really became a "Russian Pompeii".



In 1892 he organized on the territory of Chersonese a museum called "Warehouse of Local Antiquities of Imperial Archaeological Commission."

Then followed several prominent visitors; Greek Queen Olga Konstantinova, Greek Prince Constantine, Prince George, Russian Emperor Alexander III and Russian Emperor Nicholas II visited chersonese three times - in August 22, 1898, September 18, 1902 and in August 1913.



*In 1902 Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna visited Sebastopol and then toured Chersonese, starting at the museum.*

The excavated tombstones hint at burial practices that were different from the Greek ones. Each stone marks the tomb of an individual, instead of the whole family and the decorations include only objects like sashes and weapons, instead of burial statues.

The "1935 Basilica" is the most famous basilica excavated in Chersonese. The original name is unknown so "1935" refers to the year it was excavated. The basilica was probably built in the 6th century on the site of an earlier temple, assumed by historians to be a synagogue, itself replacing a small temple dating from the early days of Christianity.







There is an archaeological museum with about 200,000 smaller items from 5 AD to the 15th century, of which 5,000 are currently exhibited. They include: ancient texts, including the Oath of Chersonese citizens (3rd century BC), decrees in honour of Diophantus (2nd century BC), a collection of coins, a mosaic of black and white pebbles and coloured stones, ancient ceramics, architectural fragments, including ancient and medieval abacuses, reliefs, and the remains of ancient murals.

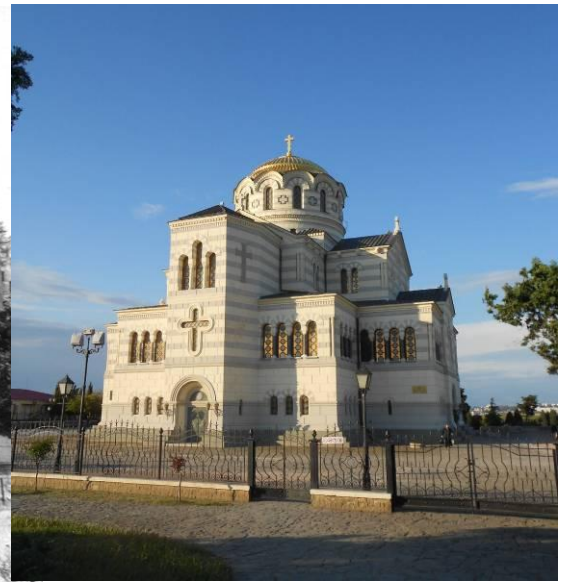


### ***Cathedral of St. Vladimir in Chersonese***

As mentioned the baptism of Vladimir the Great took place in 988 in the Chersonese. The idea to immortalize the place of the Baptism of the Holy Prince Vladimir Equal-to-the-Apostles was first raised in 1825 by the Black Sea Fleet Chief vice-admiral Alexey Greig. The remains of the ancient Christian churches, including cruciform basilica were found at the center of the market square. In 1830th the historians Frédéric Dubois de Montpéreux and N. Murzakevich made the conjecture that Vladimir the Great was baptized in this basilica.



On August 23, 1861 the solemn laying of the cathedral in honor of Holy Prince Vladimir the Great was committed in the presence of Emperor Alexander II and Empress Maria Alexandrovna. The Cathedral was built in Byzantine style. Construction took 15 years and was finished in 1876. It was one of the biggest Cathedral of Russia, with a height of 36 m, total area 1726 sq. m, and dome diameter 10.5 m. The decoration of the Cathedral took a long time, and the consecration took place on October 17, 1891, though the final decorative design was completed only in 1894. The right aisle of the cathedral was consecrated on July 12, 1892 in the name of the Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky. Left altar of the cathedral was consecrated in the name of the Apostle Andrew.



During World War II the cathedral was destroyed. The work on its restoration began in the late 1990s, and the consecration of the high altar of Vladimir Cathedral in Chersonese took place on April 3, 2004.



## "Crimean lighthouse"



On May 7, the First All-Russian Youth Festival of Greek culture "Crimean Lighthouse" in the framework of Russia-Greek year of culture was opened in Kirov Sanatorium in Yalta. At the opening, it was to discuss "The place and role of today's youth in the strengthening of bilateral relations in Yalta". The festival held under the auspices of the Head of the Republic of Crimea Sergey Aksenov, the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs, and with the support of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Cooperation Unit Head of the Parliament of the Hellenic Republic Olga F. Kovitidi.

The solemn opening ceremony of the festival was attended by Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation A.V. Zhuravsky, President of the Federal National-Cultural Autonomy of Russian Greeks, a member of the International Relations of the Presidential Council II Ivan Savvidi, descendant of the Imperial house of Romanov Paul Edward Kulikovskiy and his wife Lyudmila, members of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation: A.B. Totoonov, A. Aleksandrov, L.V. Kozlova, S. V. Mamedov, V.V. Poletaev, M. A. Afanasiev, deputies of the State Duma: L. K. Shoigu, O.V. Lebedev, A.D. Tychinin, as well as more than 300 representatives of the Greek youth from all over Russia.



*In the center, Senator Olga F. Kovitidi of the Federation Council, to the left Lyudmila Kozlova, Senator from Smolensk, Georgy Muradov, Representative of the Russian President in Crimea and to the right Paul and Ludmila Kulikovskiy*

According to the Permanent Representative of the Russia President in Crimea Georgy Muradov, this cultural event will allow our two countries to maintain common civilization for us - Russia and Greece - is one Orthodox family, which is recognized by all political scientists and philosophers as a single civilization. It has existed for centuries. And we are talking about the Russian-Greek friendship in the framework of cross-year Russia-Greece must not forget that the sacred duty of all people - to keep their civilization.

The festival also included discussions between representatives of the youth with members of the legislative Russia, planting of an cypress alley in the Greek village Laki in memory of the civilians burned alive there in 1942 by the Nazi, a memorial service for the Greek victims at the Cathedral of St. Luke, and a concert dedicated to the Greek-Russian friendship.

## Vorontsov Palace - Alupka

The Vorontsov Palace or the Alupka Palace located at the foot of the Crimean Mountains near the town Alupka. It is one of the oldest and largest palaces in Crimea, and is one of the most popular tourist attractions on Crimea's southern coast.

Prince Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov (born 1782 – died 1856) was appointed Viceroy of Novorossia in May 1823. Before arrival in Odessa, Vorontsov started buying up lands in the southwest of Crimea,



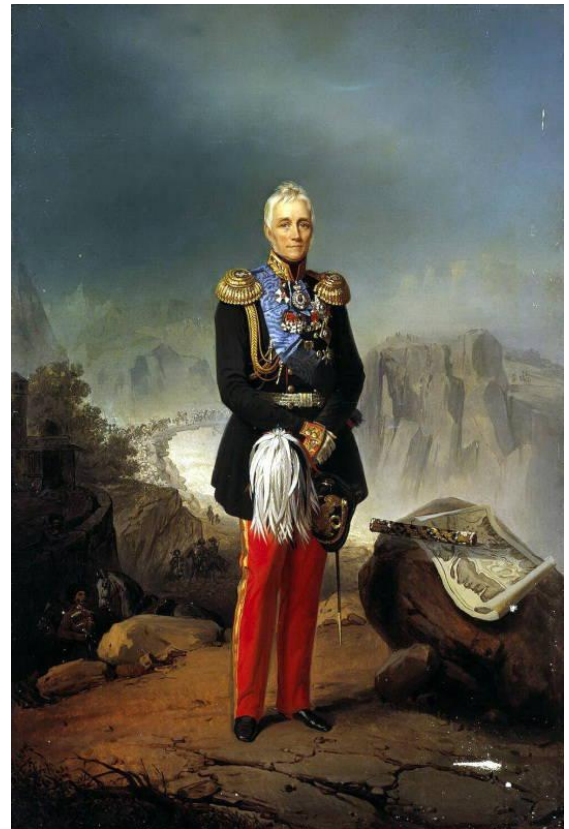
which was sparsely populated and little known at the time. Alupka was bought in 1824 from colonel Theodosios Reveliotis, the owner of Livadia and Oreanda. By that time, the Vorontsovs also had property in Gurzuf, Massandra, Ai-Danil, and Cape Martian.



The palace was built between 1828 and 1848 for Prince Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov for use as his personal summer residence at a cost of 9 million silver rubles. It was designed in a loose interpretation of the English Renaissance revival style by English architect Edward Blore and his assistant William Hunt. The building is a hybrid of several architectural styles, but faithful to none.

The Prince was a dedicated Anglophile. His father, Semyon Vorontsov, had been Catherine the Great's ambassador to England, and the Prince had been educated in London. On the accession of Emperor Paul I, in 1796, Semyon Vorontsov fell from favour and his estates confiscated and not returned until 1801, after the accession to the throne of Alexander I.

Once completed, the palace was visited by many members of the Russian Empire's elite ruling class; a great number of these vastly wealthy nobles were so taken with the palace and its seaboard site that they were moved to create their own summer retreats in the Crimea.



An important feature of the Vorontsov Palace is the adjoining park ensemble, which features 40 hectares (99 acres) of greenery and forestry arranged by German landscape gardener Carolus Keebach.

The construction of Mikhail Vorontsov's summer residence in Alupka impressed Tsar Nicholas I during his visit

in September 1837 so much that he decided to have his own family retreat built at neighbouring Oreanda.

The court architect Andrei Stackenschneider's design was chosen, and the first Imperial palace was built between 1843 and 1853 under the supervision of William Hunt and Combioggio, an architect from Odessa. However, this edifice was destroyed by 1882 conflagration, with only a marble rotunda remaining.



The next Emperor, Alexander II, moved the Royal residence to Livadia.

### ***Livadia Palace***

The Livadia estate became a summer residence of the Russian Imperial family in the 1860s, when architect Ippolito Monighetti built a large palace, a small palace, and a church there. The residence was frequented by Alexander II, while his successor Alexander III preferred to live in the smaller palace and also died there in 1894. It was perhaps disagreeable associations with the latter circumstance that led his son Emperor Nicholas II to have both palaces demolished and replaced with a larger structure.

In 1909 Nicholas and his wife, Alexandra, traveled to Italy, where they were captivated by Renaissance Palaces. Victor Emmanuel III demonstrated palaces to the Royal couple. Upon their return, they engaged Nikolai Petrovich Krasnov, Yalta's chief architect, responsible for other the grand ducal residences in Crimea, to prepare plans for a new Imperial palace.

The Emperor's diary indicates that the design was much discussed in the Imperial Family; it was decided that all four façades of the palace should look different. After only 17 months of construction, the new palace was inaugurated on 11 September 1911.

At the entrance to Livadia palace on 22 September 2013, in memory of the 150th anniversary of the construction of Holy Cross Church in Livadia and the 400 years anniversary of the Romanov Dynasty, a chapel was erected in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs, with a beautiful mosaic icon.







On 25 May, the media "South-Yalta" wrote:

***"A descendant of Emperor Nicholas II's sister first visit to Livadia palace"***

Paul E. Kulikovskiy and his wife Lyudmila Anatolevna, who is the great-grandson of the younger sister of Nicholas II, decided to visit places associated with the royal family. Guest was glad that he finally came to Livadia and personally could see the summer residence, which he had read a lot about and knew. He was very much interested in the monument to Nicholas II. Palace staff told him that it was dedicated to the Emperor's birthday May 19, 2015.

Great-grandson of Nicholas II's youngest sister was pleasantly surprised that the palace interiors are preserved and maintained in decent condition. Italian Courtyard delighted him with its magnificence and Paul admitted that it looks even more beautiful than he had expected. Guests wandered through its paths, admiring the snow-white design, and took a lot of pictures. With pleasure, he was photographed at the large fireplace in the grand dining room.

Going up to the second floor, Paul admitted that in these rooms he felt a sense of the presence of the family. According to him, the palace rooms have a feeling of comfort and happiness, which it was not possible to experience in other museums. He was glad to see the original objects belonging to the royal family. Many of the photos from the exhibition are familiar to him since childhood. He left a message in the guest book in English."







*The Moorish courtyard, fireplace in Nicholas II's office, Romanov photos on the walls, and the view to the Black sea from Nicholas II's office*





*The balcony to the Black Sea, between Nicholas II (to the right) and Alexandra's office (to the left), below the view of the palace from the sea, with the balcony on second floor, Nicholas II's office and small dining room.*





The location where Emperor Alexander III died (in the old small palace), is now a tennis court and an outdoor stage.





## **Dulber Palace**

The Dulber Palace in Miskhor, is built in 1895-1897 by the famous architect Krasnov in the Moorish style and its shape resembles an oriental palace. It is the first palace built by Krasnov, which was followed by 26 other palaces. Grand Duke Peter Nicholaievich (brother of the Supreme commander in the beginning of the First World War Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievich Jr., who bought another property next door) was ordering, participating in its design and owning Dulber palace. In 1897, Grand Duke Peter Nicholaievich, Grand Duchess Militsa Nicholaievna and their children - Princess Marina Petrovna, Princess Nadezhda Petrovna, and Prince Roman Petrovich were present at the consecration of the palace.



Above the entrance to the palace is an inscription in Farsei saying "Allah bless people staying here" seven times in a row. This inscription has become in some ways prophetic of the Romanovs.

After the February Revolution the Romanovs went to Crimea and stayed in their palaces on the Southern coast. Of course, neither the owners nor the creators of the palace could ever predict that within 20 years after its consecration, it will be turned into a fortified castle with roof mounted machine-gun nests and guard of the sailors of Sevastopol military garrison. It was here according to "special order" of the Soviet government Grand Dukes Peter Nicholaievich, Nicholas Nicholaievich, and Alexander Mikhailovich were kept with their families, as well as the mother of Emperor Nicholas II, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna.

Only the mighty walls of "Dulber" and the dedication of the Black Sea Fleet sailors who guarded the prisoners saved them in these troubled years from the terrible massacre of the Romanovs.

The October Revolution opened a new page in the history of Dulber. May 1, 1922 in Dulber was created one of the first Soviet health resorts, and received its first guests of political workers.

The palace is located in a magnificent park, which contains unique flora specimens from around the world - now used as a sanatorium, the peace and tranquility of the park, the splendor of the landscape complement the therapeutic effect.



On the arch, connected to the palace wall, on both sides are written in Farsi "Dulber" - a language Grand Duke Peter Nicholaievich mastered. In translation it means "The heart captured by beautiful woman".





In 1938, under the direction of architect Solyanik a second building was constructed in the same style as the palace. Two thoughts came to mind: they were apparently not able to invent something new or had enough sense of harmony to keep the style. Above the entrance to this building were written the words from the article of the Constitution of the USSR, "Citizens of the USSR have the right to rest " and the date 1938 - and so they did.....

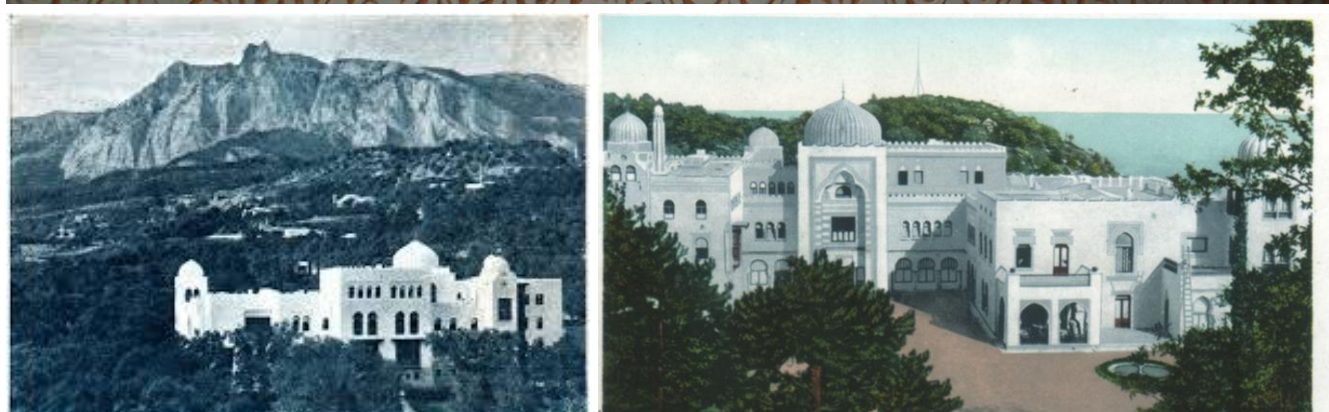
In 1941 during the Second World War, Dulber Palace was not spared and burned. Only the walls survived. It was restored from 1946 to 1949. The outside is restored according to the old drawings, but significant reconstruction was carried out inside the building and nothing original is left.





Most of the rare trees and plants has survived in the park and now more than 100 years old trees are quite tall, leaving big area of the park in its shadows. A small stone monument can be seen, which where Grand Duke Peter Nikolaievich buried his favorite dog, a dachshund.

Inside one can see several boards with the history of Dulber palace, with plenty of photos.



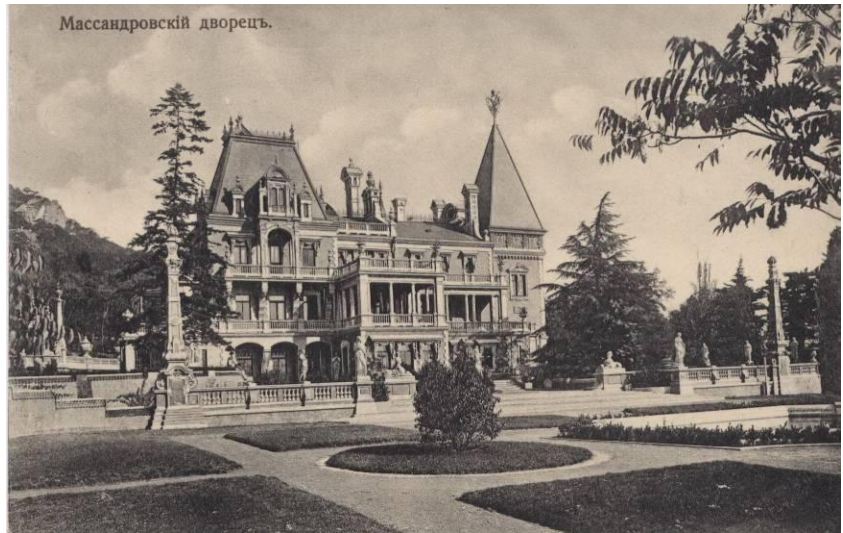


## Massandra Palace

Prince Simeon Mikhailovich Vorontsov in 1881 engaged a team of French architects to design for him a château in the Louis XIII style. However he died the following year and construction work was suspended until 1889, when the messuage was purchased by Emperor Alexander III. The Emperor asked architect Maximilian Egorovich Messmacher to finish the palace for his own use, but also he did not see it, as it was completed only in 1900. Emperor Nicholas II took over the responsibility to complete the palace and continued with Messmacher, who kept the size, structure and style, but used new decorative materials and techniques to change the face of it from an austere knight's castle to a fairytale palace. Emperor Nicholas II visited it frequently, but never stayed there overnight.

The palace was nationalized after the October revolution and between 1929 and 1941 it was used as a sanatorium called "Proletarian Health" for seriously ill with tuberculosis.

After the Second World War, the Institute of Viticulture and Wine "Magarach" settled in the palace, but not for long. From 1948 it became a state villa, known as "Stalin's" and there rested Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev - the leader of the proletariat was living as Tsars!







In 1992 the palace was opened for the public as a museum. After the return of Crimea to Russia in 2014, the palace passed under the administrative responsibility of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation.

Despite its different uses, the palace is almost as original constructed, and almost all its beautiful decoration has remained intact. Also the garden and park have survived, though 23 out of 29 monuments are missing.



Inside the palace there are a lot of the decorations in dark wood (mainly mahony), a fireplace from a single piece of brown marble, handmade chandeliers, a mirror of the original interior and in the eastern entrance a big rack to hold hats, coats, umbrellas and sticks. Among the paintings on the walls there are some from the private collection of Emperor Alexander III - "Crimean view near Alushta" by V.D. Orlovsky and "Underground gallery in Ellore" by V. V. Vereshschagin.

Big and colorful congratulations addresses from 1891, received on the silver wedding anniversary of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna, are exhibited in the bookcase in the "Emperor's room". In his "Majesty's study" stands a marble bust of Emperor Alexander II and on the wall can be seen a painting of Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich by S.K. Zaryanko, 1867. There are also plenty of copies of old photos and lithographs of Alexander III and his relatives.



In "her Majesty's study" there are paintings of Empress Maria Feodorovna by A. Roslin (copy), Grand Duke Nicholas Pavlovich by G. Dawe (original) and Grand Duchess Ekaterina Pavlovna by A-F. Riesener (original).



*Empress Alexandra Feodorovna at Massandra Palace (1900-1914)*

### **Massandra winery**

In 1828 Massandra becomes the property of Countess A.V. Branitskaya, mother of the wife of Prince S.M. Vorontsov and she later bequeaths it to her grandchildren. However after the death of S.M. Vorontsov in 1856, the estate went into a decline, and the heiress decided to sell it.

In 1888 Massandra was put up for sale. Prince Lev Sergeievich Golitsyn (1845-1916), who already from 1878 had been producing wine (Champagne) in nearby Novy Svet (Sudak), saw the possibilities in the area for large scale wine production and approached Emperor Alexander III with the idea. Golitsyn talked warmly about the potential to make it a center of wine production in the Russian Empire and the Emperor accepted on one condition, that Lev Golitsyn himself took upon him the management of the realization of the project.

In 1891, Golitsyn agreed to this position for two main reasons, in his view, it was a welcome challenge to raise the quality of wines and secondly to acquaint the general public with Russian wine.

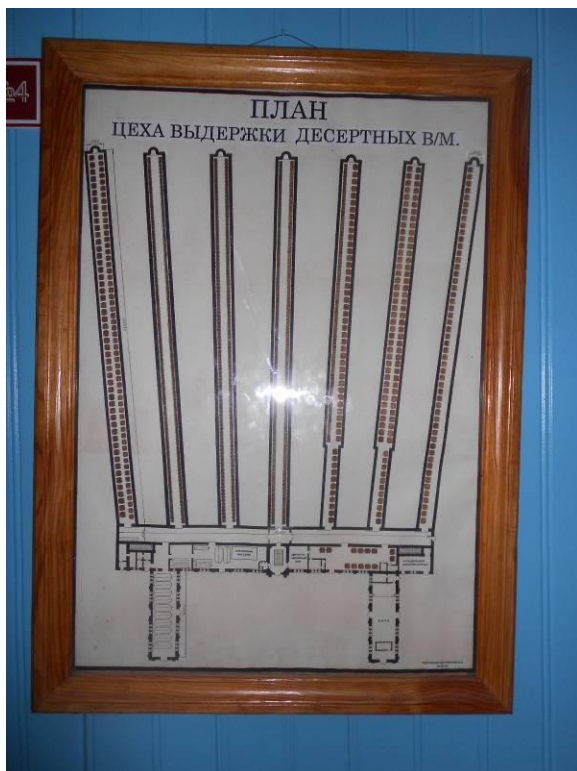


On order of Emperor Alexander III, in 1889 the area was purchased for 1.8 million rubles by the property department of the Ministry of the Court.

A big construction project (initiated by L.S. Golitsyn) started in Massandra in 1894, with digging out 7 tunnels, each at a diameter of 7 meter and 150 meters long into the mountain, with ventilation shaft at the ends, and building a winery plant on top of it. The construction of the whole complex took three years. It was completed in 1897, and is a one of the best in the world. The cost of more than 1 million rubles was fully justified by the grandeur and quality of the result.



The tunnels were used for maturation and aging of wines in oak barrels. And for aging bottles, there are 9 underground galleries with numerous carved tiled stone niches in the walls, which could fit a million bottles! All tunnels were electrified and equipped with special lifting machinery. The tunnels always maintain a constant air temperature of 10-12 ° C that is the best for aging wine.



The product from Massandra have become world famous and won many awards. Most outstanding is considered the Red Port "Livadia" (former №80) of Cabernet and Red Port "Massandra" (former №81) of varieties Mourvèdre. They are also called "royal" as they in the beginning were prepared in Livadia - in the basement of the estate of the Imperial family. Contemporaries claimed that these wines were among the favorites of Emperor Nicholas II. The wines could also be bought locally, but only in pharmacies as medical products, and they cost 8 rubles per bottle (for example, a cow was worth about 3 rubles at the time).

In Massandra there is now a historical gallery with samples of all their own old wines, but also some were bought for the collection. The oldest is a "Jerez de la Frontera" from 1775 harvest - a Spanish sherry.

The oldest Massandra wines in the collection are the 1892 Muscat white "Livadia" (former №85), White Muscat Dessert (former №35), and the Muscat white and pink "Massandra".

The Massandra wines were so successful, that it almost replaced all the import of French wine in the Russian Empire before 1917.



After the tour of the winery, it was time for tasting. In the Leo Golitsyn hall the best of the best of the new young wines was served from The Federal State Unitary Enterprise "PJSC Massandra". After the visit, Massandra wrote on their website, that Paul Kulikovsky told "Massandra has chosen, in his view, the right way - to grow, creating new wine, while preserving the tried and tested by generations of winemakers, so that wine connoisseurs always can find something to their own taste". He then praised the "Madeira Massandra". According to him, this Madeira nowhere in the world is made better. He also liked the "White Muscat dry", "Muscat late harvest" and noted that the "White Muscat Red Stone" he often use as a gift.

### Kharaks

In 1869 Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich acquired a 100 hectares property in Gaspra, 10 km south-west of Yalta. For some time the land was empty due to lack of water on it.

In 1890, Mikhail's estate was divided among his sons Alexander and George. Most of the estate by the decision of his father went to Alexander, who called his part "Ai-Todor". The smaller part went to George Mikhailovich.

Grand Duke George Mikhailovich and his wife, Princess Marie of Greece asked the local architect N. P. Krasnov to build them a house there, next to the estate "Ai-Todor" of his brother Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich ("Sandro").



In 1904, the construction began on the rocky wasteland. Krasnov had to start by laying water pipes to the area. To do this he purchased a nearby spring, a "Hachamaliar", from some local Tartars. And then he had to please Marie who wanted "an English cottage". Krasnov described it as - "executed in a



modern Scottish taste of local limestone masonry with inset mosaic ornamental pieces, carved from the same stone and covered with tiles of the English."

The estate Kharaks is named after a Roman fortress, which was in this place until the middle of the 3rd century BC.



George, Marie and their children loved it and Krasnov had to also design a church, a chapel, staff quarters, a greenhouse, stables, a kitchen, garages, a farm and a warehouse, all using the stones from the grounds. The building was completed in 1908.



The church was named after St. Nina. Maybe it is connected with the first love of Grand Duke George Mikhailovich. In his youth he was in love with the Georgian Princess Nina Chavchavadze. But this marriage could not be permitted under the law of the Imperial family. The Grand Duke could disobey and marry morganatic, but would then be expelled from the country. Another version tells that the church was named after his eldest daughter Nina, who suffered a severe disease - diphtheria. The four-year girl was helped by physicians in Hamburg in Germany, making a successful operation. It was on August 6, 1905, in the old style on this day the Church celebrates one of its main

feast - Transfiguration of the Lord. George saw this as a miracle, the Lord God healed hopelessly sick child and in memory the church was consecrated in honor of St. Nina (patroness eldest daughter) and the Transfiguration of the Lord (the day of surgery).

In 1909 Emperor Nicholas II visited Kharaks and wrote in his diary - "At half past two we drove to the estate of George M. Visited the house, the garden, the little church, rooms for suites. Everything is beautiful, simple, tastefully arranged."







Kharaks became a witness of the final dramatic episode of the Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna's stay on Russian land - In the summer of 1918 Maria Feodorovna, mother of Nicholas II moved from Dulber Palace to Kharaks. When Crimea heard rumors of the death of the Royal family in Yekaterinburg and Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich's in Perm, all the churches of the peninsula served a liturgy in memory of the dead, all except the church in Kharaks. The Empress banned the memorial service, as she continued to believe that her son was alive. And the walls of the small church, probably still remember the last words of impassioned prayer of Maria Feodorovna to God before she sat down on a small boat at the pier in Kharaks going to Yalta to board the British cruiser "Marlboro" forever leaving her homeland.

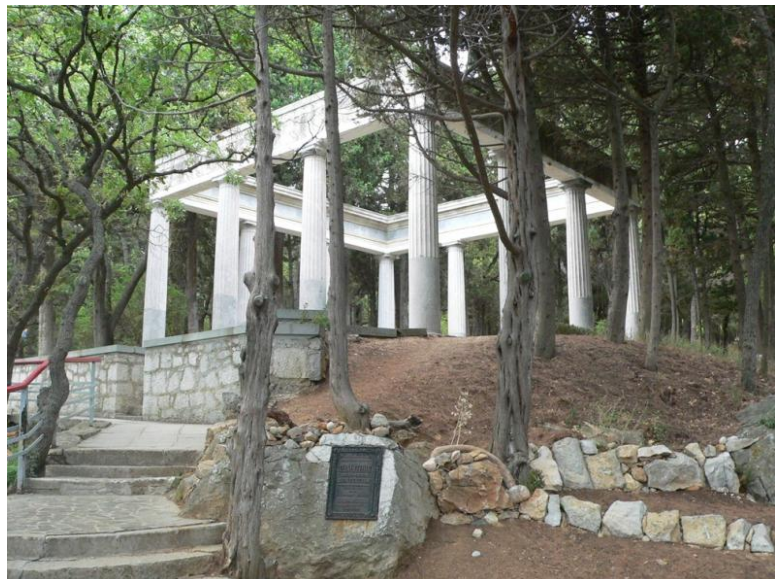
In 1922 Kharaks was turned into a sanatorium of the same name, but renamed "Dnepr" in 1955. In 1987 on the territory of the sanatorium was opened a historical and archaeological museum. The Second World War did not spare the building, as the palace was badly damaged during a bombing. Restoration has unfortunately not fully regained former appearance of the estate and only the exterior looks as the original. Nothing original preserved inside the building.

Kharaks is known for its lovely grounds, which Krasnov also designed. The church and chapel still stand as well, right next to each other. The church is in Georgian style with some local influences. The interior mosaics were done by Viennese craftsmen.

About the church Krasnov said - "The Church in the name of His Imperial Highness Grand Duke George Mikhailovich at Kharaks was built in 1908 and completely decorated in 1912, designed in the style of the Georgian and Armenian churches as in the Caucasus Haghpata and Gelati Cathedral. It is built of local limestone in the form of a piece of stone, with punching ornamental parts of the same stone. The roof of the church is made of stone slabs laid on reinforced concrete vaults. The iconostasis of the church is carved from red polished limestone. Tsar's Gate, the northern gateway and kyoto local icons are made of bronze in the same character."

And rather amazingly, in the grounds of the sanatorium, there is a museum about the history of Kharaks which contains some photos taken by Krasnov of his progress when building the property. Apparently, he always made a collection of photos of his projects but this is the only known one in existence."

In the park there is an arbor decorated with 12 marble columns, migrated here from the palace in Oreanda, which was destroyed by fire. There is a lighthouse and to the sea one can go down to by a staircase with 223 steps.





## Alushta

In October 1894 Emperor Alexander III was near his death in Livadia, and Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (later Emperor Nicholas II) hastily called his fiancée Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt to come to the dying Emperor so he could bless their marriage.

October 10, 1894 at the villa "Dove" in Alushta, more or less halfway between Livadia and Simferopol, Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich met his bride Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt. On that day, Nicholas wrote in his diary:

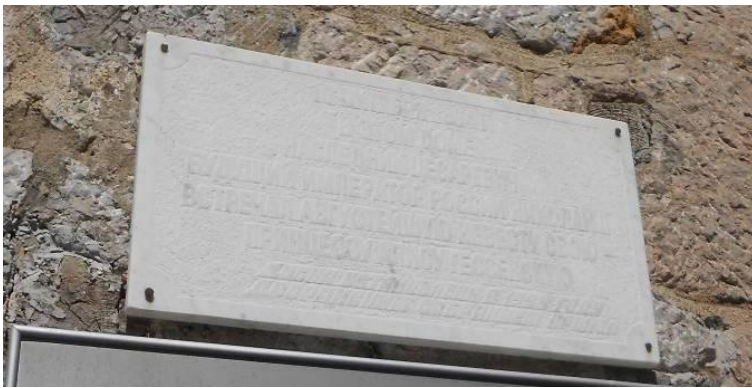
*"Woke up to a wonderful hot day ... At 9 ½ went with Sergey to Alushta, where we arrived at one o'clock. Ten minutes later, from Simferopol drove my beloved Alix with Ella. They sat down to lunch in the house of the retired General Golubev. After breakfast, I sat alone with Alix in the stroller, and we two went to Livadia. Oh my God! What a joy to see her at home and be close to me - half the worries and troubles like fell from the shoulders".*



The villa "Dove" - a big mansion - located in the center of Alushta (on Lenin Street, 20 - before the revolution - Kutuzov street), was built in 1827 from limestone and diorite. At the end of the XIX century it was bought and converted into a cottage (dacha) for the retired general Golubev (now also called "Dacha Golubeva").







To commemorate this significant event a plaque was unveiled on the building. This was however destroyed shortly after the revolution, and only at the initiative of the Nobility Assembly in Crimea it was restored in 1998. It is made in white with embossed white letter, located to the right of the entrance and about at two meters height, making it very difficult to read....

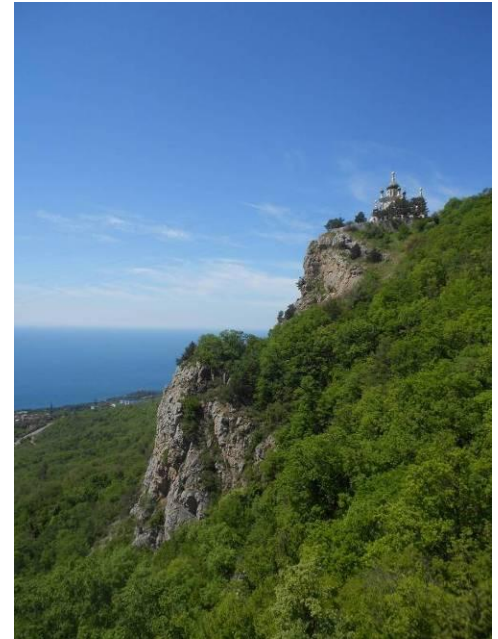


Today, the building houses the Central City Library. In its collection are two photos from the time, one showing the building and another the departure of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich and Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt in a horse carriage, with Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna being visible in the crowd of people. The building itself is now an architectural and historical landmark, and is protected by law.

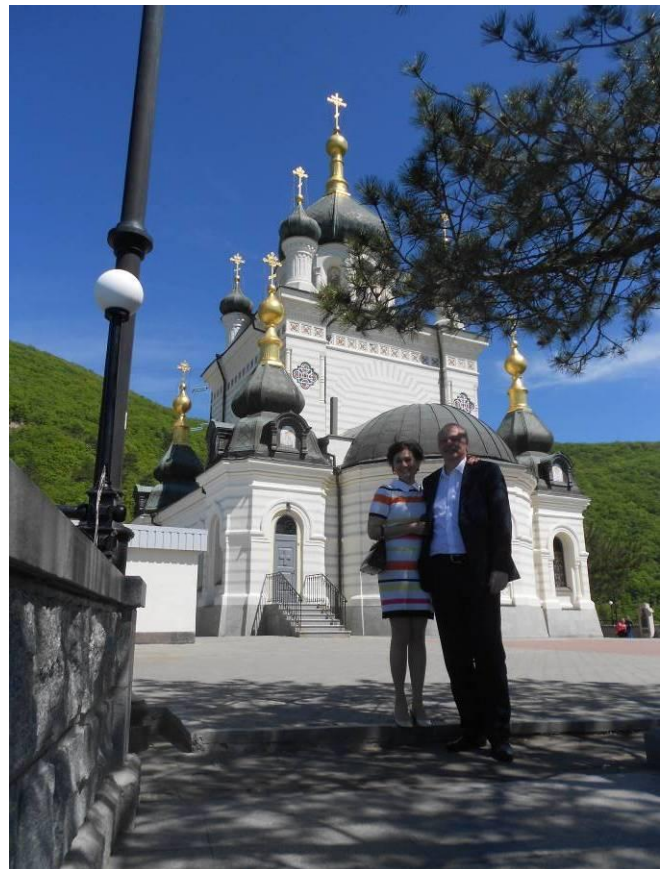
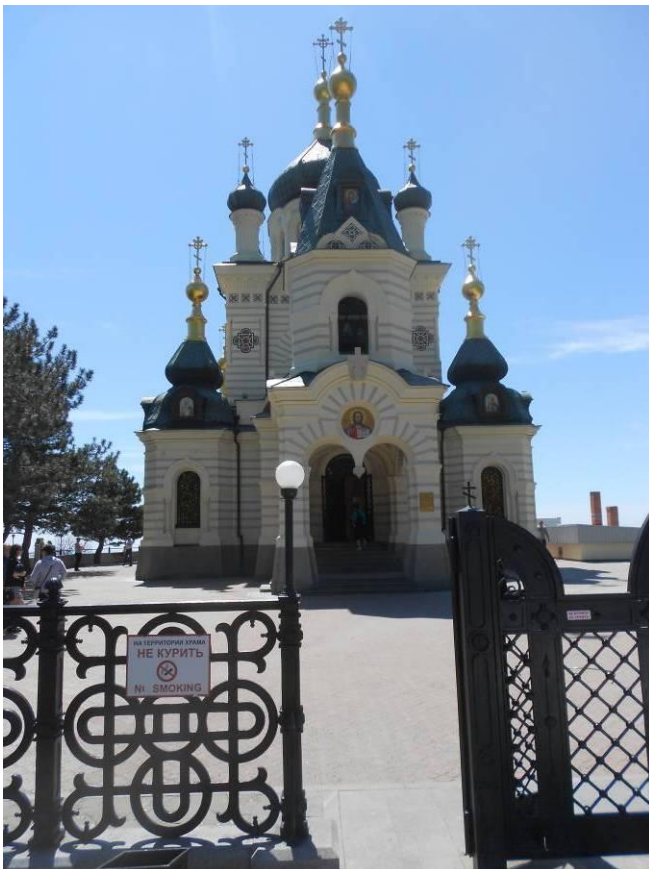


### ***Foros - the Church of the Resurrection of Christ***

Many legends are connected with the appearance of the church on the red mountain, but in the archival documents it is told the appearance of the church is associated with the miracle on October 17, 1888 (OS) at Borki on the Kharkov railway where crashed the Royal train. The Royal family, returning from Yalta to St. Petersburg, remained unharmed. In the memory of the miraculous salvation of Emperor Alexander III and his family was built the Church of the Resurrection of Christ.



The tea merchant from Moscow Alexander Grigorevich Kuznetsov (1855-1895) owned an estate at the coast of Foros, and decided built a church on a steep cliff overlooking his estate. There is 412 meters height above sea level.



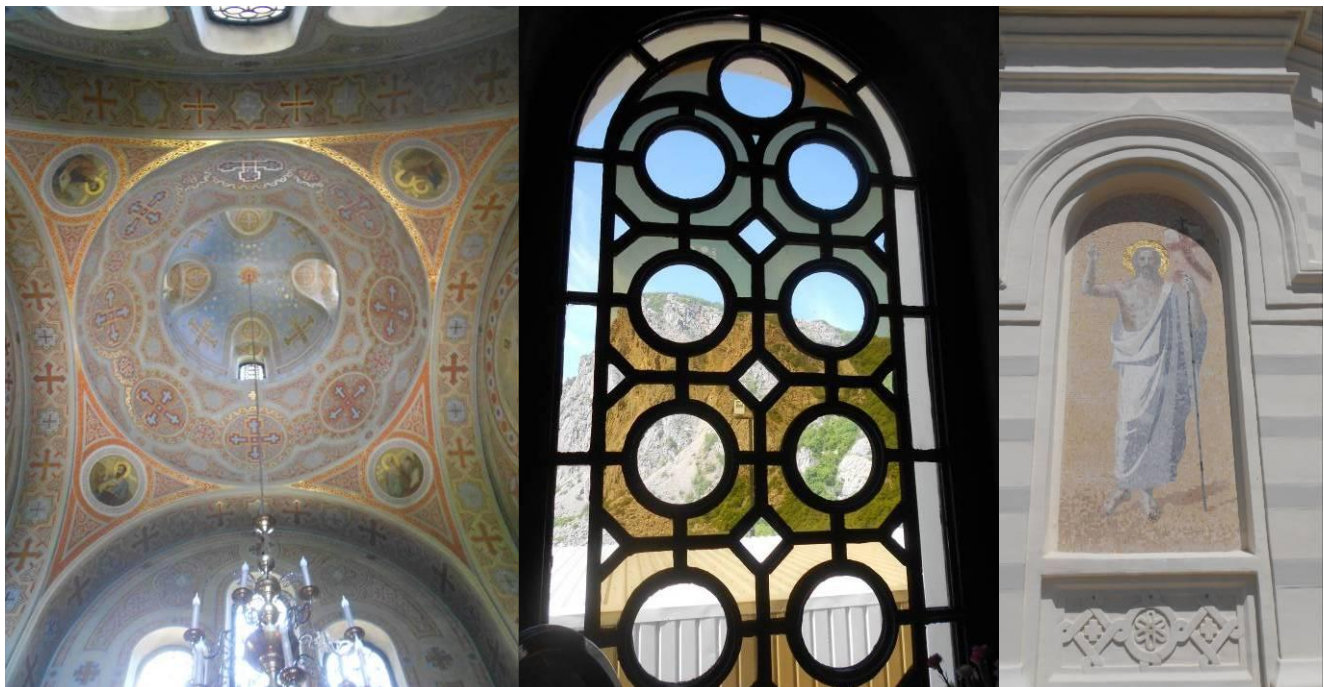


The project was designed by Russian architect N. M. Chagin in 1888 in the Russian style in two tiers at the sides and in the center with nine domes of different sizes. In 1892 the church was consecrated by Bishop of Tauride Martinian to the glory of the Resurrection of Christ. The service was attended by the chief procurator of the Holy Synod K.P. Pobedonostsev.

Six years later, on the tenth anniversary of the miraculous saving of Emperor Alexander III the church was visited by Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.



*Monument to Alexander Grirorevich Kuznetsov. The iconostas. Small icon of Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. The dome. Window to the mountain. Mosaic of Christ.*





## ***Monument to Empress Catherine the Great in Simferopol***

On 9<sup>th</sup> of May, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky visited the construction site for the coming re-created monument to Empress Catherine the Great in Simferopol. Originally it was erected in 1890. In 1921 by Bolsheviks demolished it. The new monument is expected to be opened in June 2016. However the planned landscaping around it will take further time and funds.





## Prince and Countess Romanovs discovered the secret of love

15 May. VESTI. Authors: *Dmitry Kiselev and Asya Emelyanova* - May 17 marks the 90th anniversary of the Romanov Royal family elder Prince Dmitry Romanovich Romanov. A descendant of Emperor Nicholas I in a straight line, Dmitry Romanov was born in France after the revolution of 1917, but the memory and kinship forever tied him up with the homeland.

Dmitry Romanovich was in the Crimea in August last year. On the peninsula the Royal family and the Prince personally are connected. For example, Dulber Palace built in the late XIX century was owned by grandfather of Dmitry Romanov - Grand Duke Peter Nikolaevich Romanov. In Crimea, Prince Dmitry Romanov did not hide his emotions and said that he was glad that the peninsula again became Russian.



Dmitry Romanovich prefers strong black coffee and a short greeting. Even on his jubilee birthday in the house of Romanov he will be brief - a couple of phone calls by nieces from Italy. On that day he will be together with his wife Theodora Alexeievna. That is important - 50 minutes passed of this interview, and Dmitry Romanovich never let go of her hand.

**- It she your right hand, support? You constantly keep her hand?**

- She is even more Romanov than I, - says Dmitry Romanovich.

"The secret of our love is very simple - all these years that we are together, we simply share every moment", - says Theodora Alexeievna.

These "moments" that they share, for Russia are the most important and tragic pages of history, because the story of the Romanovs - the history of Russia, the history of the great losses and returns, such as the Crimea, which the family never ceased to call "our."

**- And you were welcomed. How was this meeting?**

- It was phenomenal!

About Dulber great-grandson of Nicholas I knew everything, could describe it with his eyes closed - the entrance, halls, garden. Last time he saw the palace was from onboard the cruiser "Marlboro" in 1919 - sailed from Yalta with "God Save the Tsar" without any hope of return. The dream of his father and the whole family Dmitry Romanovich made only in August 2015.



"I felt suddenly orphaned" - said Dmitry Romanovich at the funeral of his brother. Now he is the senior of the Romanovs in "Romanov Family Association." Great things are behind. He returned home Dagmar - the remains of the Empress moved to St. Petersburg by the Association. Uncle Nikolasha - the commander in chief - was returned to Bratskoe cemetery in Moscow. Peace of the Royal family - in 1998 the remains were accompanied by Dmitry Romanov Romanov from Yekaterinburg.

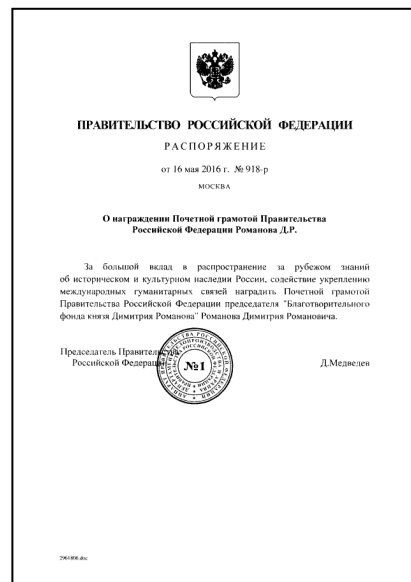
But Dmitry Romanovich and Theodora have no rest as long as in the fortress near the parents are not buried all of the Imperial children - Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria - their remains was found in 2007. The examination confirmed that it is them. To set the date quickly and personally to attend - this is the only gift, which Romanov dreams on his birthday.

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## Medvedev has awarded Dimitri Romanov diploma of the Russian government

18 May. TASS - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree awarding chairman "of the Foundation of Prince Dimitri Romanov" Dimitri Romanov a diploma of the Russian government. The corresponding document is available on the official portal of legal information.

"For his contribution to spread abroad the knowledge of the historical and cultural heritage of Russia, and to promote the strengthening of international humanitarian ties is awarded an honorary diploma of the Russian government the chairman "of the Foundation of Prince Dimitri Romanov" Dimitri Romanovich Romanov," - said the document.



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## The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

### DNA test shows match between remains of Nicholas II and Alexander III, and Alexander II

29 May - According to Peter Saradinaki, the DNA studies recently made on Emperor Alexander II and Alexander III MATCHED those of Nicholas II, whose remains were found on the Koptayakovsky Road and were buried in St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in 1998.

It is also said that all the relics of Emperor Nicholas II, his family and Faithful servants were removed from the Peter and Paul Fortress' St. Catherine Chapel for further "anthropological studies".

This means the Russian Orthodox Church is now in possession of all the Ekaterinburg relics and that in turn must mean they are soon ready to announce their acceptance of them as the Imperial Family.

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## Commemoration of the 190 years anniversary of the repose of Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna in Belev

On May 4, at the city park in the town Belev, located in some 300 km to the south of Moscow, was held a memorial event dedicated to the 190th anniversary of the death of Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna, wife of Emperor Alexander I. In the city park stands a large oak, beneath which are buried (after embalming) the internal organs of the Empress. She died in a nearby house on the night from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 1826.

Bishop Belevsky and Alexinsky His Eminence Seraphim (Kuzminov) celebrated the memory of the Empress.



At the Panihida participated the Head of Administration Belyovsky District Oleg O. Soloviev, Chairman of the Women's Orthodox-patriotic society Galina Ananina, Great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III Paul E. Kulikovsky, first vice-president of Russian Nobility Assembly Alexander Y. Pereleshin, responsible secretary-factional parliamentary group of the State Duma of the Russian Federation for the protection of Christian values Oleg Yefimov, chairman of the Society "Descendants of the participants of the Patriotic war of 1812" Vissarion I. Alyavdin, and the chairman of the Foundation in memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich Dmitry Borisovich Grishin. A large group of Muscovites and visitors from other regions also arrived in Belev.



After the service, Bishop Seraphim said a few words, followed by Galina V. Ananina.



Paul E. Kulikovsky said in his address to the audience:

*"Bishop! Brothers and Sisters! Ladies and Gentlemen,  
I am very happy to be here, participating in the commemoration of the 190 years anniversary of the repose of Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna. She died here, and is partly buried here, making this sacred land for her family, monarchists and all interested in Russian history.  
As it is my first visit here, I am of course curious to see where she died and where was put the monument in her honor.*



*Some of you might be wondering who I am. So I will make a short introduction of myself.  
I am a great-great grandson of Emperor Alexander III, which make Emperor Alexander I my great-great-great-grandfather's uncle.  
I have a similar relationship to Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna. Emperor Alexander III's mother, Empress Maria Alexandrovna was born princess Marie of Hesse. Her mother was Princess Wilhelmine of Baden, who's sister was Louise of Baden or as we know her Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna. This making her my great-great-great grandmother's aunty.*

*190 years ago Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna died here in May 1826. In 1837 was established a memorial, but unfortunately it have not survive to our days. I'm pleased that the local administration is supporting the initiative to have a new memorial made and I am sure with the help of the church, the project managed by Galina Vasilevna Ananina will be achieved.  
It would be wonderful if the new monument could be in place before the 200 years anniversary!*

*Thank you to all of you who came here today to participate, showing that Empress Elisabeth Alexeievna is not forgotten. Honored be her memory!"*



*To the left, the old monument and to the right the new project.*



## On the plight of Russian tsars in exile told Olga Nicholaievna

Arriving April 29, the widow of the nephew of Emperor Nicholas II was over the Easter week in Ekaterinburg.

At a meeting with students of the Ural Mining University Olga N. Kulikovsky said - "Life abroad was very difficult: everybody missed Russia, all dreaming to return to Russia. I want to emphasize one more thing: sometimes we are called enemies of the people. This is not true, it's wrong. It is necessary to separate the politics and the people."



Olga during 25 years visited Ekaterinburg on the Easter week. She attends church services, and monitors the work of the Fund "Program to help Russia", which is engaged in cultural and educational activities. In addition, the representative of the Royal dynasty wrote the book "A quarter-century of service to Russia" on the post-Soviet charity of Romanov descendants. She told students about her fate - first her family emigrated to Serbia, and then to Venezuela.



### 250th anniversary of the Gatchina Palace

May 30, on the day of the 250th anniversary of the Gatchina Palace, on the Jordanian facade was installed a founding board "Founded 1766 May 30. Completed in 1781".

On the day, "Gatchina" solemnly opened after restoration facilities in the eastern part of the Palace and the Greek Gallery.

The chairman of the State Duma of Russia Sergei Naryshkin, the governor of St. Petersburg Georgy Poltavchenko, Governor of Leningrad region Alexander Drozdenko, Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, and leaders of St. Petersburg museums, historians, scientists, attended the opening and the meeting of the Russian Historical Society in the Palace.

"Gatchina is one of the most beautiful residences of Russian Emperors. It had a difficult fate, including in the post-war period. Fortunately, today we have the opportunity not only to preserve but also to put in order our unique monuments" - said Georgy Poltavchenko. The governor appealed to the Russian State Duma Chairman Sergei Naryshkin with a request to further develop legislation for restoration. Georgy Poltavchenko noted the tremendous work that for many years have been done by the employees of the Gatchina Museum. He stressed the need for a thorough and complete restoration of the palace complex. "We





should leave the legacy we received from our ancestors to our children and grandchildren" - said the governor.

Sergey Naryshkin thanked the Government of St. Petersburg for participation in the restoration of the palace.



On the day of the 250th anniversary of the Gatchina Palace, in the White Hall there was a ceremonial gala evening concert: the performance of the Symphony Orchestra of St. Petersburg (artistic director and chief conductor - People's Artist of Russia Sergei Stadler) with works by V.A. Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Boccherini, N.A. Rimsky-Korsakov, A.F. Lviv, and K. Shverttsiga. Guests were met by "The ladies of the Court of Her Imperial Majesty". In the Antechamber of the palace every guest could enjoy a glass of wine on the occasion of the anniversary.

In November 1993 the State Historical-Artistic Palace and Park Museum-Reserve "Gatchina" was established, and in February 1995, all property belonging to the architectural ensemble of Gatchina, was attributed to the historical and cultural monuments of federal significance.

The order of the Russian Federation from December 31, 2008 legalized the right of St. Petersburg real estate objects on the territory of the Museum-Reserve. Currently, all 70 objects are transferred to the ownership of the city. Target financing from the budget of St. Petersburg allowed the museum to resume large-scale repair and restoration work in all



parts of the Gatchina palace and park ensemble. From 2008 to 2015 from the city budget for the restoration of facilities GMZ "Gatchina" has been allocated 1 billion 929 million rubles.

Video - 1) [http://tykultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/152496](http://tykultura.ru/article/show/article_id/152496)

2) [http://mir24.tv/video\\_news/14481628/14481290](http://mir24.tv/video_news/14481628/14481290)

3) <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1285930/>

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## Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



### ***The court's clothing***

May 18, International Museum Day, the first antechambers of Catherine Palace hosted an exhibition of costumes XIX-early and XX century from the collection of Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo". It presented mostly things from ladies' clothes - everyday dress and authentic samples of court dress, which restorers returned to its former glory.

Courtier's woman's dress and dress uniform Chamberlain of the beginning of the XX century were donated by the representative of the famous noble family living in London, Vincent George Poklevsky-Kozell in 2014. Crimson velvet dress belonged to his mother, maid of honor of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. It was produced in 1913 - to the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty - in the studio of the fashion house famous couturier Charles Frederick Worth, clothed three Russian Empresses - Maria Alexandrovna, Maria Feodorovna and Alexandra Feodorovna.



Among the restored items - a small set of items of women's wardrobe belonging to the 1820-1890. The museum acquired them in 2014 at auction in England (sophisticated pink color dress with high waist and sleeves "Gigot" 1820s and later silver dress in purple stripes).

Visitors could also see the dress and bonnet beginning of XX century, restored in 2009: a green dress with a train of 1900, rose carded dress, embroidered, hood and ecru color with a complex form of sleeves.

These and other historical costumes inspired by the St. Petersburg designers to create models for the first season of the "Association" project (theatrical fashion shows at the Catherine and Alexander Parks), which takes place every year in June. The exhibition was until May 25.

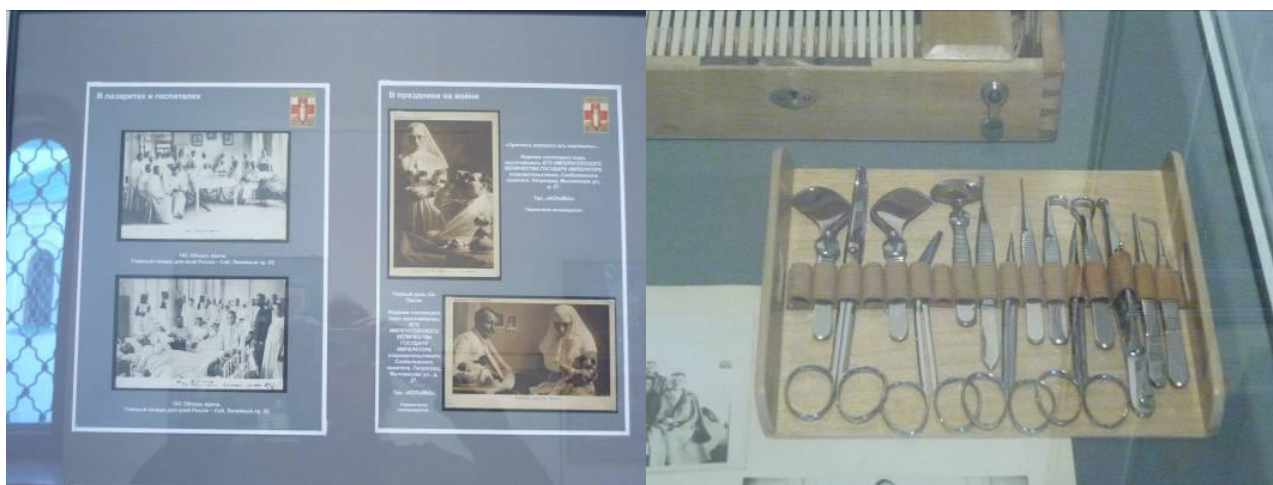


### ***The exhibition "Sisters of Mercy in the First World War"***

On 5<sup>th</sup> of May the Martial Chamber Museum opened the exhibition "Sister of mercy in the First World War". It shows photos and postcards from 1914-1918 from the collection of a member of the St. Petersburg club Victor Palagnyuk, and from the collection of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo".

The exhibition is opened until 5 September 2016.





### ***Tsarskoye Selo received gifts of patrons***

Museum-Preserve "Tsarskoye Selo" has received a card with a picture of the pavilion "Hermitage" and a mark with view of the Catherine Palace.

The items passed Ron and Lyudmila Mosher (USA) to the Museum. This is the second visit of the spouses in Tsarskoye Selo. A year ago, they presented two plates of the famous Korbievsky service, which they bought at auction exclusively for the Museum-Reserve. Today, as before the war, things from the Korbievsky service adorn the lift tables in the pavilion "Hermitage". The postcard depicts one of these tables the Tsarskoselsky Hermitage. It is released by the Community of St. Eugene, which emerged from the community of sisters of the Red Cross. Its patron was Princess Eugenie Maksimilianovna Oldenburg.



In 1896 a publishing house was created to fund the charitable activities of the community of St. Eugene. It started to produce illustrated open letters (postcards) one of the first in Russia. During 20 years company manufactured 6,500 kinds of cards with a total circulation of more than 30 million copies. The publishing house made a series of postcards with views of St. Petersburg suburbs, including Tsarskoye Selo.

The second subject is a postage stamp with the image of the Catherine Palace. In the lower right corner of the stamp there are words in Swedish: Baltiska utställning Malmö 1914 (Baltic Malmö Exhibition 1914).

From 15 May to 4 October 1914 in the Swedish city of Malmö was an exhibition of industrial achievements, arts and crafts of the Baltic countries - Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Russia participated.

It was the first in the XX century large foreign exhibition, which presented works by Russian artists from private collections. Masterpieces of Russian art of XX century were presented in Malmö: 39 paintings,



sketches and drawings by Valentin Serov, five paintings by Wassily Kandinsky and 7 paintings by Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin, and 28 works by Nicholas Roerich.

The exhibition program was not yet completed when the First World War started. The exhibition was closed, but the paintings were left in Malmö in anticipation of the end of the war. But then there was a revolution in Russia, and the pictures for a long time remained in Sweden. Over time many paintings disappeared and only a few works returned to Russia.



### The Imperial Family in St. Isaac's cathedral

On 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 the exhibition "Imperial Russia" by Greek sculptor Nikos Floros opens in St. Isaac's Cathedral in the framework of cross-cultural year "Russia - Greece 2016".

The exhibition is dedicated to the Imperial Romanov family, and presents 7 Royal family portraits of Empress Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra and their children, made in the author's unique technology. The author's technique, which has no analogues in the world, is using colored aluminum. The mosaic relief portraits convey the emotions of people, each of whom became the tragic victim of a regime change. Emphasis is placed on the eye-catching facial expressions. They carry with them the memories of the past, reflecting the sad last moments of their life and the sadness of the upcoming events in their native land. At the same time, they are looking at the viewer with a quiet serenity, as if turning to him from heaven.



In addition Nikos Floros has made 7 mini-sculptures created in the style of Faberge eggs, a symbol of the Imperial house and pre-revolutionary Russia. The "Heart of the Romanovs" is a collection of seven three-dimensional human hearts, emerging from the "Faberge eggs" and embodying the hearts of members of the Romanov family - delicate fine heart and noble people who were brought up with the mission of service to the Motherland. Each egg is associated with a portrait of the Royal family.

By combining in a single exhibition portraits of Nicholas' II family and mini-sculptures "Faberge eggs", the artist expresses respect for the history of the Romanov dynasty in particular, and to the Russian history in general.

The exhibition runs from June 9 to August 31, 2016





## Plaque inaugurated on 200th anniversary of Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia's visit to Moffat



The Consul General of the Russian Federation in Edinburgh, Mr. Andrey Pritsepov was present at the Annandale Arms Hotel in Moffat on Tuesday 24 May at the inauguration of a plaque and information board commemorating the 200th anniversary of the visit and overnight stay of the 20 year-old Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia to the hotel, then called 'The King's Arms', and the town in 1816.

Begins a spokesperson: "Nicholas, later Tsar Nicholas I, Emperor of Russia 1825-1855, apparently enjoyed his stay, remarking that it was the only time that he and his all-male retinue had not had to share beds during their visit around Scotland. He gave the inn-keeper a tip equivalent to the whole bill.

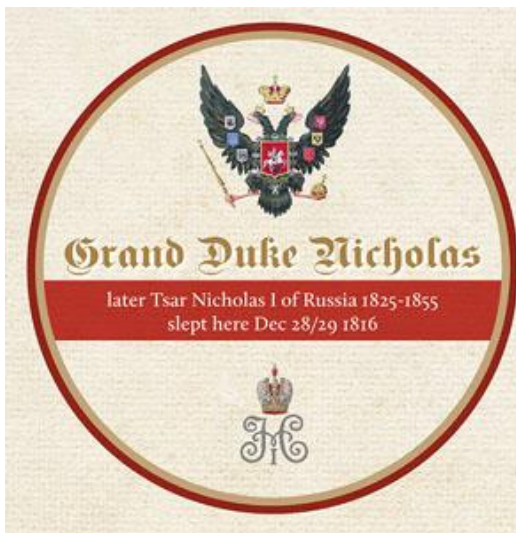
"The Edinburgh leg of the Grand Duke's UK tour – the first official royal visit to Scotland for over 100 years – was stage managed by Sir Walter Scott who, six years later, was able to use the hastily-invented template to welcome George IV to the capital.

"The tour was designed by the Grand Duke's mother, the Empress Maria Fedorovna and her advisers, to acquaint the Grand Duke with all aspects of British life.

"Relations were thereby cemented between the four members of the so-called 'Concert of Europe' comprising the powers of Austria, Prussia, the Russian Empire and the United Kingdom, members of the Quadruple Alliance that defeated Napoleon and his First French Empire.

"The Grand Duke's 'educational tour' followed one year after the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, which ended 23 years of recurrent warfare between France and the other powers of Europe."

The spokesperson continued: "Local legend has it that the Grand Duke was supposed to have taken, or (more likely) been given as a souvenir of his stay, an engraving by Robert Burns of a poem on a window pane of Moffat's Black Bull Inn (est. 1568)."



The plaque installation was organised by local cultural charity, GYRE (pronounced 'GAIA'), one of a number of events taking place across the year which celebrate Scottish and Russian connections, including a specially-commissioned one-act play, 'Grand Duke Nick's Night Out', by Shropshire-based playwright, Peter Roberts.



It will feature as part of the autumn season, 28 Sept to 1st Oct, at Moffat's Old Well Theatre and performed by UADS.



A special performance will be given on Thurs 20th Oct before the official opening of the fifth Moffat Russian Conference held in association with the State Library for Foreign Literature Moscow and the Institute of Translation, Moscow, this year on 'Poets and Power' at Moffat House hotel 21-23 October.

The Consul General addressed guests at a reception in the hotel before short talks by historian Professor Andrew Wheatcroft and Archie McConnel, of Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (D.A.M.P).

Elizabeth Roberts, chair of GYRE, has been involved for 50 years in official and unofficial cultural relations between Great Britain and Russia.

She points out the many connections between Scotland and the Grand Duke: "His Nanny Miss Janet Lyon (known as 'the lioness') and Doctor John Rogerson – who had carried the Grand Duke, aged five, to safety on the night of the assassination of his father Tsar Paul I – retired to Dumcrieff House near Moffat – were Scots.

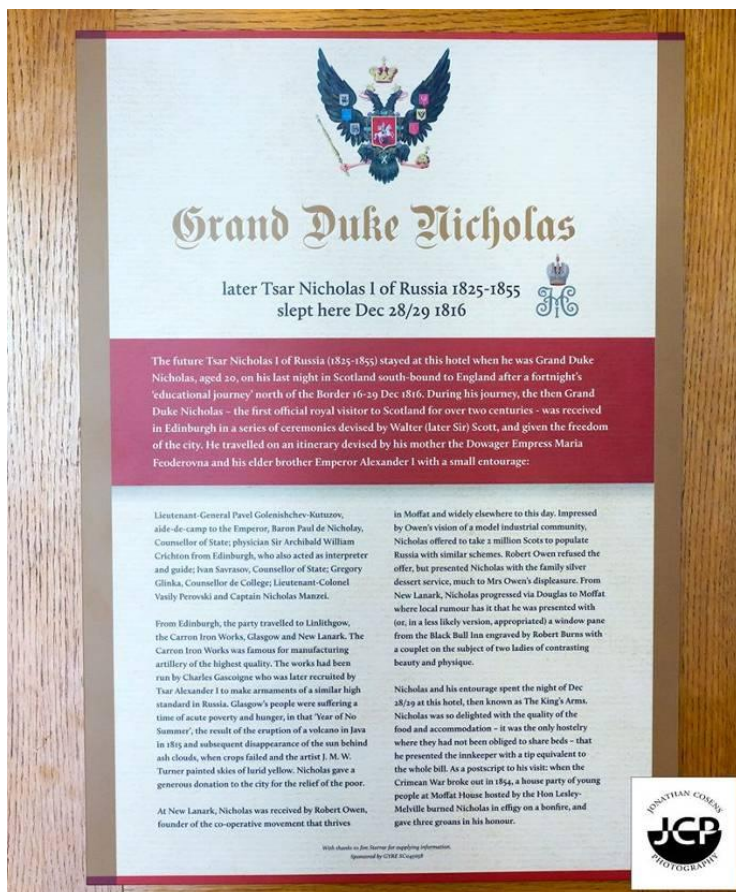
"From private correspondence, it is believed that the Grand Duke spoke English with a Scottish accent.

"On his tour, the Grand Duke received the freedom of the city of Edinburgh and made a generous donation to relieve the suffering of the poor of Glasgow, many of whom had flocked there from the countryside following the 'year without a summer', when crops failed.

"He also visited the manufacturers of the innovative 'carronade' gun at the Carron Iron Works in West Lothian, and spent the night with Robert Owen in New Lanark before entertaining Dr. Rogerson to dinner in Moffat on his way south."

Elizabeth continued: "Trade and tourism between this country and Russia have a long tradition, going back many centuries. We hope that by showcasing Moffat and Dumfries & Galloway that we can continue to develop these valuable cultural links."

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1284806/>





## A monument to Lenin at the polytechnic institute was replaced by a bust of Peter I

On 25<sup>th</sup> of May a bust of Peter I was installed in front of the main building of the Polytechnic Institute at the Polytechnic Street, 29, in St. Petersburg, where a monument to Lenin previously was standing. The main building of the Polytechnic Institute is a federal protected cultural heritage site since May 17, 1917, as Lenin spoke in the auditorium. Since 1932, at the institute in front of facade facing toward the park, there was a monument to Ilyich. But it was dismantled after restructuring.



Instead, directly opposite the main entrance another sculpture - Peter I was established. It is not the first such case: earlier a monument to the leader of the world proletariat was replaced by a bust of the Tsar at the Moscow station.

The bronze bust made by sculptor Boris Petrov, together with architects Igor Reginsky and Tatiana Miloradovich. The height of the pedestal is about 4 meters, and the height of the bust about 1.3 meters. If a white Ilyich was the same Polytech color, the "Chocolate" Peter contrasts sharply with it.



The monument is placed on the initiative of the Polytechnic University - the heir to the eponymous institute and manager of its property. At this institution, Peter is revered as the founder of engineering education in Russia.

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## A Swiss collector gave Vologda museum items associated with Emperor Alexander III



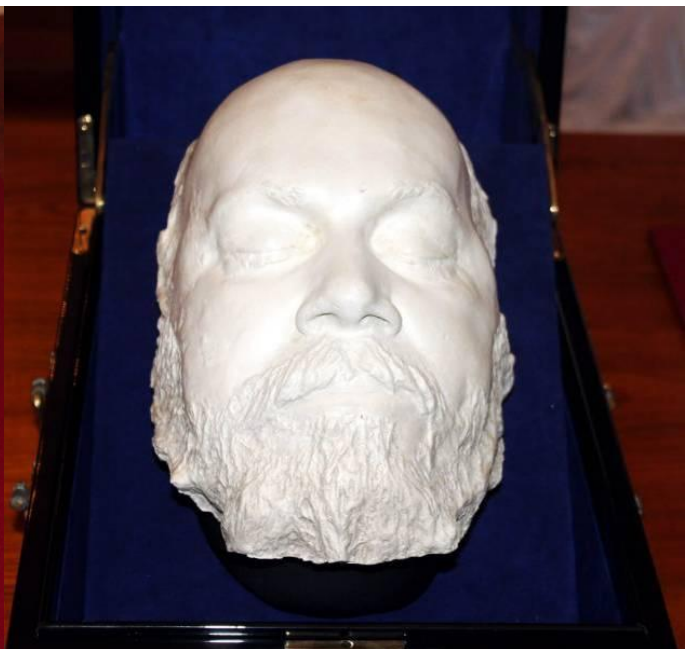
May 18, on the International Museum Day, Vologda Kremlin hosted a presentation of a portrait of Emperor Alexander III.

The Swiss collector Hermann Alexander Beyeler gave Vologda Museum-Reserve Fund a portrait of the Emperor, as well as a whole range of items from the family collection.



Among them, there is an album with 15 photos "Views of the collapse of the imperial train. October 17, 1888," depicted the railway accident at the site Borki (route Kursk - Kharkov - Azov). The Royal family returned from the Crimea to St. Petersburg, but due to excessive speed and defects in the construction of the railway train it was derailed. 20 people were killed, mostly workers, but the Royal family remained safe - according to eyewitnesses, Alexander III kept with his own hands the car roof to save his wife and children.

The guest also gave a porcelain plate with the monogram of Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich and the death mask of Alexander III.





The exhibits are transferred to the museum-reserve for a period of 20 years with a note on the extension of the term to "indefinitely".

Collector sincerely happy that he was able to convey the items stored in his family to Vologda museum-reserve, because he considers them to be the property of Russia and the Russian people.

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## **"Flowers of joy: preparation for the wedding of Tsarevich Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich and Danish Princess Maria Sophia Frederica Dagmar"**

"Everywhere in the way of life of their Majesties and Highnesses grow flowers of joy. Walking on these flowers let them sooner see the full flowering of Russia!"

May 17, 2016 the exhibition "Flowers of Joy: Preparation for the wedding Tsarevich Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich and Danish Princess Maria Sophia Frederica Dagmar" opened in the Small and Central exhibition halls in house named after S.M. Kirov.

2016 marks 150 years since the momentous events in the history of the royal family: wedding of Tsarevich Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich and Danish Princess Marie Sophia Frederica Dagmar. In the exhibition is set out not only the chronology of events at the wedding, from the bride's arrival in Petersburg and later ceremonies, but is also presented the complex process of preparation for the wedding.



Tsarevich Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovich wedding to the Danish Princess Marie Sophia-Frederica-Dagmar became an important event for the Imperial family. June 2, 1866 was officially announced their engagement. The wedding, scheduled for autumn 1866 in St. Petersburg, assumed a series of preparatory activities, an important component of which was the magnificent ceremonial decoration of flowers grown in greenhouses, under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty.

In preparation for the upcoming wedding party the Court of His Imperial Majesty's Bureau has paid great attention to the flower decoration, not only in the palace but also public interiors, designed for the Highest Sightseeing, lunch and dinner, festive theatrical performances - everywhere, where there was "the need to make the decoration of flowers".

In addition, the visitors will learn about the nuances of the packaging and transportation of plants and to prepare flowers from greenhouses, the secrets of flowers layout rules covering of imperial tables and politically verified guest distribution scheme at the table during the gala dinner and supper.

The exhibition is open to 11 July.

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## **The exhibition "The Last Knight of the Empire: Nicholas I and the Russian army" in the Museum of Artillery**

20 May to 31 December, St. Petersburg

The exhibition offers a new look at the personality of the Emperor Nicholas I, whose image is strongly distorted by Soviet historiography.

The future Emperor Nicholas I was born on June 25 (July 6) in 1796. His first teacher was the director of the 1st Cadet Corps Lieutenant General M.I. Lamzdorf. Despite the fact that the Empress Maria Feodorovna was trying to ward off the younger sons of the total military, Nicholas propensity for military exercises began charm of forbidden fruit. From the first days of life the little Grand Duke was surrounded mostly by military toys, he was very passionate about drawing and the construction of fortresses. Thus, from early childhood passion for everything military has become a fundamental feature of his nature.



The reign of Nicholas I was the golden age of Russian culture, and, according to some researchers, "front facade of the Russian Empire has never been so great." At the same time the internal contradiction affects: the first railways, the systematization of laws, a number of important reforms in various areas of society - and the defeat of the Decembrists movement, the persecution of dissent, the dominance of bureaucratic routine.

Contemporaries evaluated ambiguously the personality and deeds of Nicholas I. His private life and public activities, character, habits, relationships with different people reflected in numerous diaries and memoirs.

The visitors have an opportunity to get acquainted with the brightest extracts from them and make up their own opinion about the last knight of the Empire and Europe.

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## The movie "Matilda" is blasphemy

20 May. Portal Credo. - "It is terrible blasphemy against the Holy Tsar Nicholas II and the whole Royal house of the Romanovs!" - With this headline about the coming Alexei Uchitel film "Matilda" starts the message of the ultra-Orthodox-monarchist site "Moscow Rome III".



The official trailer of the film "Matilda", made by the artistic director Alexei Uchitel, appeared online in April 2016. It is dedicated to the relations of Emperor Nicholas II with ballerina Kshesinskaia. The premiere screening of the film in Russia is scheduled for 2017. According to the editorial office of "Moscow III Rome", headed by well-known monarchist, a representative of the extreme wing of the anti-globalization and anti-ecumenical opposition to ROC leadership, Alexei Dobychin says the trailer makes the movie idea "as a conscious mockery and slander of the last Emperor of All-Russia Nicholas II, his wife Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, ranked as a Saints by the Church".

"The director turns the film into a dirty half-pornography story with sex scenes, which tells about the false sinful connection of Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich (the future Nicholas II) with ballerina Mathilde Kshesinskaia".

Especially Dobychin resents the fact that, on a plan by Alexei Uchitel, the "romance" of the Emperor with the ballerina has been going on after his wedding to Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt (Empress Alexandra Feodorovna). "It is known that the last Tsar and Tsarina were united by most profound and pure love".

"The Emperor Nicholas II is recognized even by his enemies as a great family man, faithful husband and father of five children. The trailer in front of us draw an image of cruel vengeful libertine and an adulterer, what is the dirtiest slander of Nicholas II, the so-adultery, according to the teaching Orthodox Church is one of the most serious sins addition. Russia of the Nicholas' II era is shown as a country of gallows, drunkenness and sexual immorality, in which actively participates Emperor".



According to their opinion, defamation is subjected not only to Nicholas II, but virtually to all the Emperors of the Romanov dynasty - "Alexander III, performed by S. Garmash, said that "the only one of all the Russian Tsars did not live with a dancer - it's me."

This statement is a deliberate lie, because history has not recorded a single fact of cohabitation of Russian rulers with dancers".

The Orthodox monarchists have already given overall film by Alexei Uchitel "Matilda", which is not finished yet. The film "is a conscious historical forgery designed to discredit, slander and mock one of the most venerated saints of our Church - the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II" - they say.

"The movie "Matilda" on a wide screen will cause a profound insult to the religious feelings of Orthodox believers, bring into the consciousness of young people a distorted image of Russia at that time, which



in turn will contribute to the peculiar justification of the revolution of 1917, and Bolshevik's murder of the Royal Family in Ekaterinburg".

The movie "clearly constitutes a crime under Article 282 (inciting hatred or hostility, and humiliation of human dignity) and Article 148 paragraph 1 (Public actions expressing clear disrespect for society and committed in order to insult the religious feelings of believers)."

Authors of the statement demand to immediately stop the shooting of the movie, and to prohibit access to its rental to avoid conflict with the faithful.

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## Exhibition "Karadjordjevic and Romanov dynasties – historical ties" opened

20/05/2016. - An exhibition that shows all historical ties between the two Royal dynasties - Karadjordjevic and Romanov, was officially opened tonight at the White Palace in Belgrade.



The author of the exhibition is Mr. Dusan Babac. Besides Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander, Crown Princess Katherine, Prince Serge, Princess Eleonora and Mrs Betty Roumeliotis, the sister of Crown Princess Katherine, the opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Defence HE Mr. Zoran Djordjevic, Mr. Petar Valentinovich Multatuli, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of RISI from Moscow, the chief of

analysis and assessment sector, members of the Advisory Bodies of the Crown, the representatives of the Serbian Army and the Serbian Orthodox Church, as well as many representatives of cultural and public life. The program was enriched with the performance by Slavic Choir from Belgrade, who performed the original version of the Serbian national anthem and the anthem of Imperial Russia.



Welcoming the guests His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander said: "It is very nice that the exhibition "The Karadjordjevic and Romanov Dynasties – Historical Ties" is set in the Palace of my grandfather, King Alexander I. From my great ancestor Karadjordje, to my father, King Peter II, and until today, the ties between the Imperial Romanov family and my family have always reflected the traditional friendship between Serbia and Russia" – said Crown Prince Alexander who thanked the Military and Historical museums of Serbia, the "Dunav Osiguranje" insurance company and the historian Petar Multatuli from the Moscow institute "RISI" for the support in the organization of this exhibition.



Beside His Royal Highness Mr. Dragomir Acovic, chairman of the Crown Council and Mr. Petar Valentinovich Multatuli also addressed guests at the opening ceremony.



The exhibition is set up in the dining room and the Grand and Small Salons of the White Palace, and visitors will be able to see how Tsar Alexander I Romanov supported Supreme Leader Karadjordje, the photos of Princes George and Alexander in Russian military services, visit of King Peter I to Russia in 1910 and 1911, the wedding of Princess Helen and the Grand Duke Ioan Konstantinovich Romanov, and the support of the Emperor Nicholas II to Serbia in 1914 and 1915.

The evening before, the exhibition "Karadjordjevic and Romanov Dynasties –Historical Ties" was presented to His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia and the Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church who were the guests of HRH Crown Prince Alexander at the Royal Palace at the dinner on the occasion of the regular session of the Holy Assembly of Bishops.





## Bronze bust of Nicholas II opened in Crimea

A bronze bust of the last Russian Emperor opened on Monday in Evpatoriya on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Emperor Nicholas' II and his family visit to this city.

Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna with children (Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia) visited Evpatoriya on 16<sup>th</sup> (29) of May 1916. The Royal family visited the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, the Juma Mosque, Jami, Karaite kenassa, and Evpatoria main synagogue. The Emperor also visited the "Seaside resort" and opened a hospital named after Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

The bust of Emperor Nicholas II made by the Russian sculptor, Honored Artist of Russia Alexander Apollo and was given to Evpatoria city by the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.



## Bust of Nicholas II opened in Rostov-on-Don

Bust of the Emperor Nicholas II opened in the Don capital on 19<sup>th</sup> of May. The opening of the bust, installed at the entrance to the Emperor Nicholas II Second Don Cadet Corps, was timed to the birthday of the last Russian Tsar.

The money allocated for the installation of the sculpture came from the management of the university and the parents of the cadets.







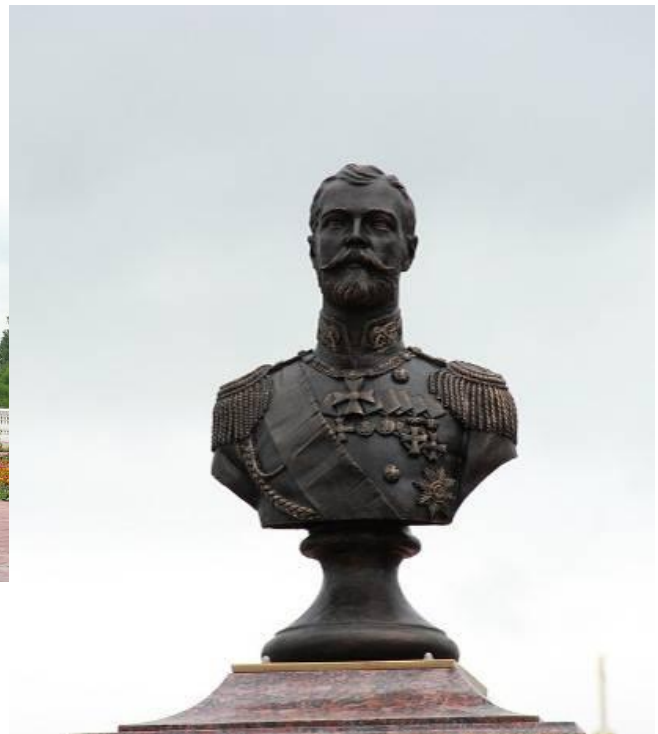
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### **A bronze bust of Emperor Nicholas II installed in Tambov**

On 17<sup>th</sup> of May a bronze bust of Emperor Nicholas II was installed on the territory of the Transfiguration Cathedral in Tambov. The monument has found its place at the chapel of Saint Pitirim. Metropolitan Theodosius of Rasskazovsky and Tambov blessed the bust. The bust is set in the framework of the reconstruction of high-grade architectural ensemble of Holy Transfiguration Cathedral and the revival of the alley leading to the chapel.



It is known that on this avenue Emperor Nicholas II marched from the cathedral to the Pitirim well where he drank water in December 1914 during his brief visit to Tambov.



There is even an entry in the Emperor's diary... "At 10 o'clock arrived in Tambov. After meeting went to the cathedral, familiar to me since 1904 Metropolitan Kirill perfectly and soon celebrated a liturgy to venerate the relics of St. Pitirim and went to his well."

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## Memorial evening devoted to the birthday of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich

On May 12, in Sergius palace (Beloselsky-Belozersky) in St. Petersburg, was held a memorial evening devoted to the birthday of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. It was organized by the Memorial Foundation of Grand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich, conducting this year's commemorative events to mark the 125th anniversary of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna converting to the Orthodox Church.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> of April the celebration started at the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow. Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna passed into Orthodoxy on 26<sup>th</sup>

(13) of April 1891, in the same day, on the eve of Palm Sunday, in the chapel of Sergius Palace. And therefore a logical continuation of the anniversary events was a holiday in this historic building.

It was called "The Joy of Missus," and gathered a lot of guests, was filled with the light of the Paschal pores, solemn and yet joyful mood. Evening started with a short prayer and celebrated lithium was made in the memory of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

The participants received greetings from St. Petersburg Governor G.S. Poltavchenko. Then Abbess of Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy Elizabeth (Pozdnyakova), chairman of the Memorial Foundation of Gand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich, member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society D.B. Grishin, Secretary SOMF historian I.V. Plotnikova, the leader of the St. Petersburg Nobility A.P. Grigorov-Rudykovsky, coordinator of Youth Center of St. Petersburg Red Cross E.V. Belyankina, Associate Professor of St. Petersburg University Deacon B. Vasylyk spoke from the stage of Mirrow Hall.



They particularly stressed the importance of the momentous act of Elizabeth Feodorovna, which became her spiritual birth in the Russian land and the first step in its asceticism. And fragments from the correspondence of the Grand Duchess have allowed get a better idea of her search of faith, her belief in her choice and gratitude to her husband, who played of the key roles in her decision. The performance of children's and youth choir of St. John of Damascus (St. Petersburg), led by a member of Memorial Foundation I.V. Boldysheva was a real present to all participants.

Representatives of the Russian Imperial Union-Order, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, St. Petersburg Nobility, members of the Russian Academy of Arts, the Alexander Historical Society and others also attended the evening.

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## "Fabergé – The Tsar's jeweller and the connections to the Danish Royal family"

On Thursday, 12 May H.R.H. Princess Benedikte opened the Fabergé exhibition at the Museum Koldinghus in Jutland, Denmark.



"Fabergé - The Tsar's jeweller and the connections to the Danish Royal family" - is the first time, the objects belonging to the Danish Royal family is put on display side by side in a single exhibition. Carl Fabergé (1846-1920) was court jeweller to the Russian Tsar and best known for the extravagant, diamond-encrusted Easter eggs he created for the Tsar and his family from 1885 until the Russian revolution in 1917. Fabergé's first imperial egg was inspired by an older gold egg, a gift from the Russian Tsar to his wife, Danish Princess Dagmar.



The exhibition at Koldinghus presents 100 items borrowed from members of the Danish Royal family, who have inherited numerous Fabergé objects via their family ties to the Russian Tsar. The exhibits include bejewelled eggs, letter openers and large champagne coolers but none of the imperial eggs. The exhibits have only rarely been put on public display, because they are in private ownership and are still used by the members of the Danish Royal family.

The exhibition falls into three sections. One focuses on Fabergé's jeweller's art, featuring utilitarian objects and works of art, including little boxes, cigarette cases and pen trays decorated with precious and semi-precious gemstones and gold-mounted rubies and diamonds. The second section presents large official works by Fabergé presented to members of the Danish Royal family in connection with



coronations, anniversaries or royal weddings. This includes large gilt champagne cooler, a gold wedding anniversary for King Christian IX and Queen Louise in 1892 that was also in use a hundred years later at the silver wedding anniversary of Denmark's current Royal couple. The third section focuses on close relations and private gifts, such as jewellery and picture frames. With a family photo, the frames made a highly personal gift for storing shared memories. An introductory film and an animated genealogical table tell the story of the close personal ties between the two families, and visitors can mount their own portrait or a family photo in a Fabergé frame.

The exhibits are kindly lent to the exhibition by H.M. Queen Margrethe II, H.R.H. Prince Henrik, H.R.H. Princess Benedikte, H.M. Queen Anne-Marie, H.H. Princess Elisabeth, Count Ingolf and Countess Sussie of Rosenberg, Det Kongelige Løsørefideikommis, Den Kongelige Livgardes Officerskorps Fond, The Royal Danish Collection Amalienborg and The Cartier Collection.











On May 9, the Prosecutor of the Crimea Natalia Poklonskaya brought to the "Immortal regiment" in Simferopol, an icon of Emperor Nicholas II. She explained that in such way she fulfilled a wish of one of the veterans.



On the territory of the City Hospital №40 in Autazavadsкая, Nizhny Novgorod, the first stone was laid and made consecration of the first church in honor of the Holy Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna. Metropolitan of Nizhny Novgorod and Arzamas made sanctification. Big churches there are around, in Monchegorsk or Dyakonova, but it is the first new church to be built on the hospital grounds. Patients and doctors asked for this. If the construction work will go on schedule, then in a year the church in honor of Elizabeth Feodorovna on the hospital grounds will be opened for the parishioners.



Video - <http://nntv.tv/?id=126472&template=main>



The exhibition "The Imperial Family: the way of love" opened in the crypt of St. Alexander Nevsky cathedral. The exhibition - in Nizhny Novgorod - shows photographs and reproductions of paintings, diaries, documents, eyewitness accounts, related to the life of Emperor Nicholas II and his family.

The organizers acknowledged that visitors are more interested in just those photos where the Royal ladies are shown as ordinary people. Here are just a daughter, parents, someone's friend - said Sergey Somov, Head of the spiritual and educational center "Mogilev Eparchy of the Belarusian Orthodox Church. In Nizhny Novgorod the exhibition "Imperial family" was opened until June 5th.

Video - <http://nntv.tv/?id=126556&template=main>



A Romanov museum will open in Nizhny Novgorod in the ground floor of the Assumption Church in Pechersky Ascension Monastery. This was reported by the press service of the Nizhny Novgorod archdiocese on 19<sup>th</sup> of May. The opening of the museum is timed to the 100th anniversary since the year of execution of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family, which will be in 2018. At present there is a search for materials for exposure. According to the project in the museum will be a reconstruction of the basement in Ipatiev house, from Yekaterinburg, where in 1918, was shot by the royal family.



The exhibition "Old Petersburg in the collection of Prince Argutinsky-Dolgoruky" opened in the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. The collection of one of the founders of the Northern capital's history museum with more than three hundred species of the city and its surroundings - and they formed the basis of the museum in the early years of its existence. About 120 works of original and printed graphics, a series of engravings and lithographs, and pictures of interiors were brought to Moscow from St. Petersburg. At the exhibition at the Pushkin Museum, you can not only enjoy the city sights, such as the time of Pushkin, but also to trace the history of many famous monuments.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/151845/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/151845/)





On museum night in Ramon Palace guests spent the evening on a tour and saw movies about the Romanovs. This year historical and cultural center "Palace Complex Oldenburg" for the first time participated in the "Night of Museums", which is becoming increasingly popular. Evening tours were scheduled for visitors on May 21 with start at 18:00, 19:00 and 20:00. In addition, in the run-up to the 120th anniversary of the coronation of Nicholas II, at 21:00 guests could see the film "The Emperor, who knew their fate" (directed by Roman Ershov). A film screening also started at 22:00 of the documentary "The Last Russian Grand Duchess," dedicated to the 115th anniversary of the arrival of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Romanov in Ramon (director Sonia Vesterholt).



The exhibition "Desert of Prince Yusupov" opened 18 May in Arkhangelskoe Museum. It shows the works of confectionary art style piece montee (literal translation from French - "Assembled from parts") from the era of Catherine the Great to the time of the Tsar-Liberator Alexander II, and a little known facet of life in a noble estate - the way to welcome and treat of guests. In Arkhangelskoe was repeatedly arranged official receptions - Yusupov was visited by Emperor Alexander I, Grand Duke Nikolai Pavlovich, and in 1826 the estate was included in the program of the coronation of Emperor Nicholas I. Repeated guests in the Yusupov estate were Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II. At the beginning of the XX century from the neighboring estate Ilinskoe to Zinaida Yusupova came Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and his wife Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. Among private guests of Yusupov in Arkhangelskoe were figures of Russian culture: musicians, artists, writers.



Dessert - not just the final, but the most spectacular, the brilliant part of the feast. This tradition came to Russia from Europe in the XVIII century. Feeding sweets and fruit was dazzling and enchanting. Their diversity and the manner of serving were a measure of respect, the master showed his guests and on presentation of the dishes tried everything in the whole event. Ten magnificent works of pastry art created by Aldis Brichevskiy for "Arkhangelsk" Museum-Estate, evoke a kind of "sweet memories" about the unique time of parade dessert, about the era of Russian manor flourished in the XIX century, the owners and guests of the famous Moscow Region, on the centenary stay the noble princes Yusupov family in their glorious Arkhangelskoe.



"Nicholas II and his family in Yalta: the 100th anniversary of the highest visit". Large-scale celebrations held in Yalta in honor of the 100th anniversary of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas' II and his family visit. Exactly a century ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> of May 1916, the Emperor and his wife Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia arrived in Evpatoria and spent a single day filled with bright meetings and impressions.

The Central Library took an active part in the celebration of this unique anniversary, significant not only for Yalta and Crimea, but also for the whole of Russia. In May 1916 the building of Evpatoria public library, from then on bore the name of the Emperor Alexander II the Liberator. In the "the church book" could well be "witnessed" the Tsar's motorcade route which ran into the street Duvanovskaya to Primorye, at Her Imperial Majesty Empress Alexandra Feodorovna sanatorium for wounded warriors. After Royal family' visit Evpatoria Mayor Duvan Simon held the official opening of the library, which received its first readers on July 14.



On the anniversary Central library staff arranged a book exposition illustrating a bibliographical essay dedicated to the August family's visit to Evpatoriya. Local History Evening was prepared for young students. It was devoted to the last stages of the autocrat and his administration and the Royal family stay in our city. Poet Sergey Ovcharenko beautifully summed up this story, introducing students to the urban legend of "the Royal pier" and reading his poem in memory of Tsarevich Alexei Romanov.



In "New Moscow" a "Park of the Romanovs" will be created. In a "Heroes Park" in the "New Moscow" two thematic areas will be created - "Park of Ruriks" and "Park of the Romanovs," said the Department of Competition Policy in Moscow.

The works on arrangement of "Heroes Park", an area of 283 hectares in the "new Moscow", estimated at 1 billion rubles. The winner must develop an investment project of landscaping in accordance with the preliminary draft. After agreeing with the prefecture the developer can proceed to its implementation.

In the park 108.8 kilometers of tracks with dedicated bandwidth for cyclists is to be laid. It is expected that the park will be decorated with 37 fountains, more than 800 lights, and 240 architectural installations. It provides themed alleys of heroes, a special place will be allocated for the reconstruction of historical events. In addition a children's Orthodox camp and a horse riding club will operate in the park.

Currently, the city authorities conducted a contest for the 15-year contract to implement the project of the park.



A photo exhibition dedicated to the work of an outstanding Russian architect Nikolai Krasnov opened in MIKTS "Nosov House" in Moscow on May 17.

Coming from a peasant family, he achieved a high position in the Royal court, built palaces for the Royal Romanov family, churches and secular buildings, hotels and shopping malls, and was the founder of the appearance of the Big Yalta, being able to work in many styles and combine them. The most famous buildings of Krasnov are the Livadia, Dulber and Kharaks Palaces. Of particular interest to architecture enthusiasts may be pictures of facades and interiors of the villa "Murad Avur" because now the building is in private ownership and access to it is closed.

On the opening day of the exhibition it was possible to participate in a tour of the exhibition with the creator Margarita Fedina and hear the story about all buildings of Nikolai Krasnov.

Close on 30 June.



In Transnistria, on Sunday May 22, a memorial sign was laid in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the visit of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II in Bendery, where he was accompanied by General Alexei Brusilov. Archbishop Tiraspol and Dubossary Savva, MPs, Ministers of the unrecognized republic, and representatives of public organizations attended the ceremony, which began with the Divine Liturgy in the Church of Alexander Nevsky located in the in Bendery fortress.



"During the First World War a military hospital operated in Bendery. Nicholas II handed over a donation of 40 thousand Rubles to help the wounded. After that he had a meeting with the military and local officials on the territory of the Alexander Nevsky Church. On that historical place the memorial sign was laid today" - told Rector Anatoly Kalmyk. According to him, during the visit the Emperor and his family stayed in the house of the commandant of the fortress of Bendery.

Participants went in a procession to the place where the Russian military hospital was located. There was a memorial plaque and the organizers presented them a series of stamps and postcards with pictures of historical events issued in honor of the anniversary.



"The day of Peter the Great" celebrated on 28 May in Kolomenskoye, Moscow. The name of Peter I is closely linked to Kolomenskoye. The celebration of his birthday was resumed back in the eighties of the twentieth century. Tradition has named the XVIII century Kolomenskoye "Russian Bethlehem", defining it as the birthplace of the future Emperor. Here Peter I spent his childhood, learning to read and write in an oak grove at the Tsar's court. It is located next the house of Peter I, built in 1702 on the Markov island at the mouth of the Northern Dvina and brought to Kolomenskoye due to the efforts of the first director of the museum-reserve P.D. Baranovsky in 1934. In November 2013, the House of Peter I was acquired from Dutch counterpart - an exact replica of the House of Peter I of Zaandam, donated by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to mark the 400th anniversary of the establishment of friendly relations between our states.



The IX International Festival "The Imperial Gardens of Russia" will take place from June 10 – to June 19 in the Mikhailovsky Garden, St. Petersburg. For a few days the historic garden will turn into a magical kingdom of floral arrangements and green art objects - all this splendor can be seen in the framework of the festival, the leitmotif of which this year will be the theme of childhood. The main event, of course, will be an exhibition-contest of live art objects "Flowers of life". Florists in 25 green areas of the park will create a complete fantasy and bold ideas gaming space and landscape compositions, inspired by children (and not only) fairy tales from "The Little Prince" to "Treasure Island". Guests will surely see a garden of children's toys, magic installation in a pond full of mysteries and secret garden - at least, organizers of the festival give these to the floral masters.



A ball dedicated to the saint of the Romanov Royal family was held in Sestroretsk on May 22, the name day of the Emperor Nicholas II. It was organized by the Orthodox family house "Cornflowers", with the support of the municipal council and the parish church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Guests gathered in the spacious hall of the sports complex "Dubki". Ball began with a slide show dedicated to the Royal family. Organizers put the main task of recreating the atmosphere of balls in Tsarist times. Audience was touched by dancing couples of smart kids and their diligently and executable ball movements.



May 25, in the Livadia Palace and Park Museum-Reserve opened the jubilee X Scientific-practical conference "The Romanovs and the Crimea", dedicated this time to the theme of 155 years of the acquisition of the estate "Livadia" by Royal family. The conference, which lasted two days, was attended by scientists from the Crimea and the different regions of Russia.

Organizers emphasize that the topic of the meeting was not local in nature, because for many years Livadia was the favorite holiday

place of the Romanov family and it played a huge role in the development of both the Crimean region, and affected the destiny of the country as a whole.



Soon the Yekaterinburg Museum of Fine Arts will publish digital version of the coronation albums of the last of the Russian Tsars. The books contain detailed descriptions of all process of the coronation of Emperors Nicholas II and Alexander II, the description of the Royal interiors, clothing, as well as the speech of speakers at the coronation. Also, it contains a description and the Tsar's dinner dishes on the occasion of coronations, including lobster, wild goat, Russian pies, boiled trout...

According to the head of the sector of Russian Art Museum of Yekaterinburg Ekaterina Korneeva, "the coronation album of Alexander II was released in 1856, and two volumes of the coronation of the last Emperor Nicholas II - in 1899. This is a real bibliographic rarity, they do not try to open the pages as binding are very fragile. So for the visitors to be able to see the content of the albums, we plan to digitize them in a good quality." To capture these rare albums it is necessary to use a unique technology, as the books are large - 90 x 60 cm.



The village Lokot are preparing for the festival "Under the canopy of Brasov" dedicated to the House of Romanov. The festival will begin on June 10 and will end two days later with a Cross procession.

The founders of the festival are the Department of Culture of the Bryansk region, the administration of Brasovsky district, cultural and recreational center, and the Russian Nobility Association.

Organizing Committee approved an extensive holiday program. June 10 the III International Festival-Competition of Russian Romances "Lokot marvelous alleys" will be held.

Next day "malls" will be held at the historic site - the site of the palace ensemble (from the late 19th century where was the estate of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, brother of Nicholas II), where is held the Romanov ball. There will be a gala concert of the finalists and awarding ceremony of





participants of the festival of romance. In the evening, guests and residents of the village are promised a concert program with the participation of artists from Moscow, Kursk region and fireworks. June 12 will conclude the celebration with a procession and prayer service for the holy memory of Nicholas II and his family.



The feast of fountains in Peterhof dedicated to historical anniversary. The traditional spring festival of fountains this year is devoted to a special anniversary - 70 years ago, began the restoration of the fountains destroyed during the Second World War. In the summer of 1946, the first post-war fountains started to work. This event has become a symbol of the revival of St. Petersburg.

Video - [http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article\\_id/151659/](http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/151659/)



The documentary "The Romanovs. Personal chronicle of the century" was shown May 23 +24 +25 +26 on TV Kultura (Russia, 2016). Written and directed by Vitaly Yakushev.

At the core of the documentary is Nicholas Romanovich Romanov (1922-2014) - great-grandson of Emperor Nicholas I, historian, writer and public figure. Nicholas Romanov tells the story of his family, about family traditions, about what in the ancestral memory etched momentous events of the first decades of the twentieth century. Filming took place in Switzerland during the life of Nicholas Romanov. Previously unpublished photographs from the personal archive of Nicholas Romanov were used, as well as materials from the collection of the Russian State Archive of Cinema.

Videos - Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H6jlfRYlp0>

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLr6T-oOZpQ>

Part 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHmiChLk4t8>

Part 4 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxWwvpsDEW8>



On May 27, 2016, on St. Petersburg city day the ceremony took place of laying flowers to the monument to Emperor Peter the Great. St. Petersburg celebrated its 313 years. Celebrations began in the Senate Square with laying flowers to the monument to Peter I. It was attended by the Governor of St. Petersburg Georgy Poltavchenko, the chairman of the Legislative Assembly Vyacheslav Makarov, Speaker of Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko and plenipotentiary representative of the President in the Northwestern Federal District Vladimir Bulavin.

The ceremony was accompanied by classical music pieces performed by the choir and orchestra. At the end the guard of honor passed a solemn march.

Video - <http://www.topspb.tv/programs/p424/>



"Carl Faberge presents Ice egg to Emperor Nicholas II". This unusual sight received Irkutsk Regional Art Museum as a gift.

The regional Union of stone-cutters and jewelers and St. Petersburg Memorial Foundation thanked Irkutsk citizens for "Days of Faberge", which took place in the spring at the museum. The painting, oil on canvas, by artist Anatoly Perevyshko, depicted a scene where the famous jeweler presents the unique Ice egg - a gift to the Emperor's wife at Easter 1913 in the Winter Palace.

Video - <http://vesti.irk.ru/news/culture/181740/>



## Emperor Nicholas II. Man and Monarch



Emperor Nicholas II today continues to be misunderstood, both as a man and as a statesman. Meanwhile, for the understanding of his personality, activity and martyrdom these issues must be considered not in isolation but only in the same vein.

In this book, P.V. Multatuli examines the reign of the Emperor until 1907, a detailed analysis of the Monarch's accession to the throne, Nicholas II's personal qualities as a politician and a family man, his attitude to the reforms, events at the 1905 revolution and the Russian-Japanese war.

Presented to readers this work is by far the most complete biography of the Holy Tsar-Martyr. In addition P.V. Multatuli has also published the book "The Emperor Nicholas II. Martyr".

*Publisher: Veche, Moscow. Hard cover. Format: 145 x 215 mm. 736 pages. Isbn 978-5-4444-1021-9*

## Emperor Nicholas II. Martyr



Even for the modern reader Emperor Nicholas II's figure remains a mystery. What was the Holy Tsar-Martyr as a man and as a statesman? These questions are answered in the work of known researcher of the life of Nicholas II historian P.V. Multatuli. In this book, a biographical project (continues the book "The Emperor Nicholas II. Man and Monarch ") the author examines the reign of Nicholas II from 1906-1907 and before the collapse of the Russian Empire. Much attention is paid to the role of the Emperor in the reform of Russian society and its relations with Stolypin, a complex assembly of the Balkan problems and Russia's participation in the First World War. Separately, the author examines the circumstances of the martyrdom of Nicholas II and his family.

*Publisher: Veche, Moscow. Hard cover. Format: 145 x 215 mm. 680 pages. Isbn 978-5-4444-4425-2*



Under the hammer...

**Romanov related items in Auctions**



**Bruun Rasmussen Auction, Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 2**

*Russian silver bust of Tsarina Maria Feodorovna of Russia (1847-1928).*

The Empress is portrayed with hairdos, low-cut bodice and free-standing collar, garnished with laces, bows and a flower bouquet, on a round laurel wreath base. Workmaster Valentin Ignatevich Sasikov, signed and dated M. Chighov 1877 (in Cyrillic), marked with the Imperial Warrant as purveyor to the Imperial Russian Court, marked with a female head as purveyor to an Imperial Russian Grand Ducal Court, St. Petersburg town mark, 84 standard. Weight: 1,954 gr. H.: 30 cm.

Tsarina Maria Feodorovna is a well known Royal personality - daughter of Christian IX and Queen Louise of Denmark. She married in 1866 Tsarevich Alexander, later Tsar Alexander III of Russia. She was known for her beauty, kindness, humanitarian interests and initiatives to support Danish-Russian business. After the Russian revolution 1917 the Tsarina left for Denmark, where she lived in exile until her death. Sasikov was one of the most famous silver companies in Russia, and purveyor to the Imperial Russian Court from 1837. The company was founded in 1793 by Pavel Feodorovich Sasikov. After his death c. 1830, his son Ignati Pavlovich Sasikov (1793-1868) overtook the business and also opened a branch in St. Petersburg in 1842. His son, Valentin Ignatevich Sasikov, became responsible for this branch after his father's death, and the bust of Tsarina Maria Feodorovna is executed in his time of leadership. It is truly an exclusive and rare work from Sasikov. Estimated Price: DKR 250,000-300,000 / € 33,500-40,500



*Silver-gilt brooch in memory of the 20th regent jubilee 1894-1914 of Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia.*

Set with the Russian Crown and the Imperial Warrant, surrounded by an oak wreath; when open, the brooch consists of the Tsar's and Tsarina's monograms and photography.

Apparently no maker's mark, Skt.

Petersborg 1908-1917, 84 standard, French import mark.

H.: 5.5 cm.

Estimated Price: DKR 8,000-10,000 / € 1,100-1,350



*Fabergé Rococo revival  
dark velvet and silver frame*  
Cast with rocailles and  
scrolls, with a photograph of  
Tsar Nicholas II and  
Tsarina Alexandra

Feodorovna of Russia and  
their firstborn, Grand  
Duchess Olga Nicolaevna,  
blindstamped A. Pasetti (St.  
Petersburg, c. 1896-1897).  
Passepartout with silk and  
the Russian Warrant. Silver  
mounting stamped with the  
Russian Warrant as  
purveyor to the Imperial  
Russian Court, assayer  
Jacob Liapunov in Moscow  
1896-1903, 84 standard.

On the reverse of the frame  
a mark with text: "Der  
Obersthofmeister I.K.H.D.  
Grossherzogin von Baden".  
H. 29 cm. W. 20 cm.

Estimated Price: DKR  
30,000-40,000 / € 4,050-  
5,400



*A Russian Imperial St. George dagger for the navy with the monogram of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia (1894-1917) on the pommel and the white St. George cross of the saint on the top.*

The S-formed quillion marked "for bravery" (in Cyrillic), the blade is c. 24.3 cm long in a metal scabbard covered in black leather with three gilded mounts decorated with leaves in high relief. With the dagger a porte epee. L.: c. 37 cm.

Estimated Price: DKR 60,000-80,000 / € 8,050-11,000



*A pair of Russian partiel silver-gilt double salt cellars.*

Cast with rocailles, flowers and foliage, each with two shields engraved with respectively Cyrillic monogram for Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaievna of Russia and the Russian Warrant. Samuel Arndt, assayer Alexander Nikolajevich Mitin 1857 and Eduard Feodorovich Brandenburg 1857, St. Petersburg town mark, 84 standard, scratched inventory no. 30651. Weight: 614 gr. H: 10 cm. L. 16 cm.

Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaievna of Russia (1819-1876) was daughter of Tsar Nicholas I of Russia. She first married Duke Maximilian of Leuchtenberg (1817-1852) and later in 1854 she married Count Gregori Stroganov (1824-1879). Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaievna became grandmother to Prince Peter of Oldenburg (1868-1924), married to Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna of Russia (1882-1960).

Estimated Price: DKR 30,000 / € 4,050

*Fabergé silver-gilt and cloisonné enamel kovsh*

Workmaster Feodor Rückert, marked with the Imperial Warrant as purveyor to the Imperial Russian Court, Moscow 1908-1917, 88 standard.

Weight: 164 gr.

H.: 7.5 cm. L.: 14 cm.

Feodor Rückert was workmaster at Fabergé from 1887.

Estimated Price: DKR 30,000-40,000 / € 4,050-5,400



***Bruun Rasmussen Auction,  
Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 6***

*Bust of Tsar Alexander III*

Cast iron bust depicting Tsar Alexander III of Russia (1845-1894). Marked in Cyrillic for Mikhail Kanaev (1830-1880), Kasli Factory. 19th century. H. 17 cm.

Estimated Price: DKR 2,000 / € 270





*Painting by Grand Duchess  
Olga Alexandrovna.*

The tea table is set with Blue  
Fluted porcelain and a  
Russian samovar at  
Knudsminde in Ballerup.  
Signed Olga. Watercolour on  
cardboard. Sheet size 27.5 x  
33 cm. Unframed.

Estimated Price: DKR 10,000-  
15,000/ € 1,350-2,000



*Paintings by Grand Duchess  
Olga Alexandrovna.*

At a Russian wooden church.  
Two mourning women at a  
Russian Church. Children and  
pigs in a Russian village  
street and Russian autumn  
landscape. Signed Olga and  
one dated 1923. Watercolour  
on paper. Visible size from 11  
x 15 to 18 x 25 cm. (4).

Estimated Price: kr 10,000-15,000 / € 1,350-2,000







*Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna. Interior with flowers in a bay window. Signed Olga. Watercolour on paper. Sheet size 31.5 x 29 cm. Estimated Price: DKR 6,000 / € 805*

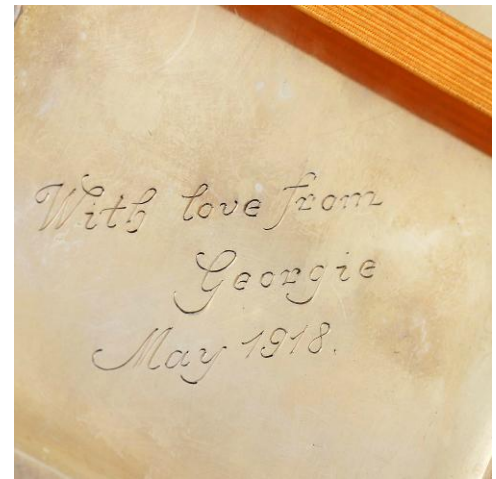
*Gift from Count George Brassov (son of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich)*

Count Brassov's 14k gold case, ribbed design with foliage, lock with cabochoncut sapphire. Inside inscription "With love from Georgie May 1918". Indistinct maker's mark. Presumably Denmark. Weight c. 103 gr. L. 9 cm. W. 8 cm.

Provenance: According to seller's information the case comes from a Mrs. Sørensen, whose father helped a Russian prince "Georgie" escaping St. Petersburg during the Russian revolution. "Georgie" gave the case to the father with thanks.

"Georgie" has to be George Mikhailovich, Count Brassov (1910-1931), son of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich and his wife, Natalia Sergeievna Brassova. In March 1918 George and his mother lived in St. Petersburg with the Danish embassy as neighbours. The Danes agreed to help the young Count George to flee, first to the Danish embassy in Berlin and afterwards further on to Copenhagen. According to Rosemary Crawford and Donald Crawford's book "Michael and Natasha: The Life and Love of the Last Tsar of Russia" (1997, p. 345), a Danish officer named Captain Sørensen, accompanied and helped Count George during the escape.

Estimated Price: DKR 20,000 / € 2,700





### ***Sotheby's, London, UK, on June 7***

A rare and magnificent Imperial Presentation Fabergé jewelled gold and enamel cigarette case made for the Romanov Tercentenary, Moscow, 1913.

Rectangular, the lid chased and repoussé with an Imperial eagle, its crown and shield set with circular- and pear-cut rubies within rose-cut diamonds, above a cartouche painted en plein with a view of the Moscow Kremlin, within styled flowers and scrolling leaves, the lower register with dates 1613-1913, the ground of matte finish green enamel, cabochon ruby thumb piece, polished gold sides and base, struck KF and K.Fabergé in Cyrillic beneath the Imperial Warrant, 56 standard, scratched inventory number 4389. Length 9.5cm, 3 3/4 in.

Estimated Price: 180,000 — 250,000 GBP

As noted in the ledgers of the Imperial Cabinet and the Fabergé invoice, this object entered the Cabinet's stock as item number 467 on 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1913, the cost recorded as 650 rubles. It was released on 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1913 "on the occasion of Their Imperial Majesties' travels around Russia" and thereafter presented to Lieutenant-General Miliy Milievich Anichkov, probably in Moscow on 24-27<sup>th</sup> of May 1913. The recipient returned the object to the Cabinet for its cash value on 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1913, the payment authorized on 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1913.



The Imperial Cabinet's meticulous planning for the 300th anniversary of Romanov rule in 1913 began three years prior and included placing orders for commemorative objects with court suppliers Tillander, Hahn, Bolin and of course Fabergé. Intended to be given to courtiers and other officials, foreign dignitaries, members of the clergy, and ordinary citizens, these objects consisted mostly of small pieces of jewellery. The Tercentenary objects produced by Fabergé included most famously the Imperial Egg inset with portrait miniatures of all eighteen Romanov sovereigns, which Emperor Nicholas II gave to his wife for Easter that year, now at the Kremlin Armoury.

The culmination of the 1913 Tercentenary celebrations occurred in Moscow in May, following visits by the Imperial Family to Nizhny Novgorod and Kostroma. The formal procession into Moscow was led by the Emperor riding alone, sixty feet ahead of his Cossack escort. He dismounted in Red Square and walked through the gates of the Kremlin. The Empress and Tsarevich rode in an open car; the eight-year-old boy was ill and had to be carried by a Cossack into the Kremlin. The present lot was presumably given to General Anichkov during this visit to Moscow, given that it was released from stock the day before the Imperial journey began, and of course given its decoration. (Anichkov is also recorded as having also received a silver inkwell by Grachev). His decision to return the object to the Cabinet for its cash value is in keeping with his sensible and economical approach to his professional life detailed below. There was no sense of affront attached to the selling-back of Imperial gifts, the system having been set up as a tasteful way for the Emperor to remunerate people for their service to the State.



Lieutenant-General Miliy Milievich Anichkov (1848-after 1917) was born into an old Russian family, formerly called Onichkovy, with strong ties to the Court, the military, and the city of St Petersburg. After serving in the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-1878, he ran the palace and park at Tsarskoye Selo from 1882 to 1883. A contemporary remembered him from this time as “small, puny, smart, has undeniable comic talent and a large Russian shrewdness” and praised his manner of working: “In a short time Anichkov became acquainted with the running of the Tsarskoye Selo palace, he visited everywhere, climbing on roofs and

basements, and made friends with all the staff. Once settled into his position of Little Captain he began to rule the roost, he delved into every little thing.... He did not hesitate to openly ask the advice of the experienced, intelligent subordinates, be it even a park guard or an upholsterer. The lively, energetic activity of the cheerful manager fell on the souls of his staff, and talk of him spread.”

He was appointed Assistant Chief of Palace Administration in 1883, and the following year promoted to Head of the Imperial Residence at Gatchina, Emperor Alexander III's primary residence. Another contemporary recalled: “Alexander III, who was fond of Gatchina and his palace, could not miss how everything came to life, smartened, and yet was done economically, domestically. The Emperor invited Anichkov to see him and thanked him.” His loyal and valued service continued into the next reign, as Head of the Gofmarshalsky department for Nicholas II. As a Lieutenant-General, a rank he attained in 1906, Anichkov was Level III on the Table of Ranks and therefore received one of the most expensive Tercentenary cigarette cases; individuals of Levels I and II were given objects with the sovereign's portrait which were not strictly speaking Tercentenary in design.

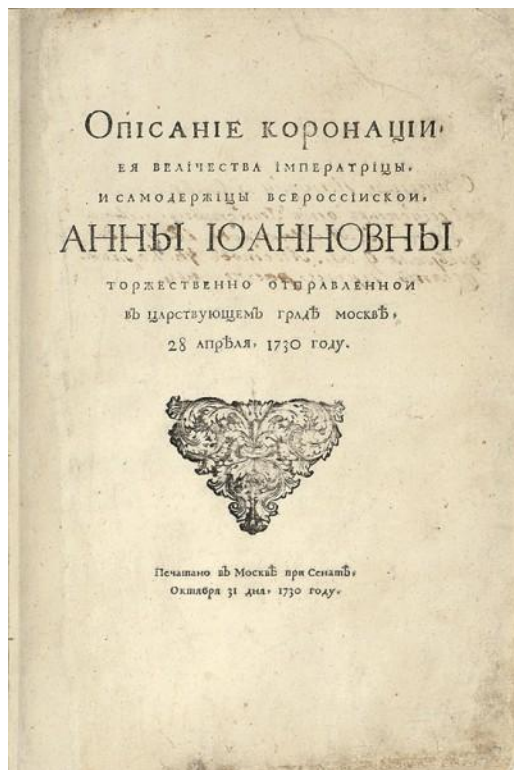
Writing years later of the Tercentenary, Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna stated, “Nobody seeing those enthusiastic crowds could have imagined that in less than four years, Nicky's very name would be splattered with mud and hatred.” General Anichkov was there to witness the downfall, one of a handful of loyal generals struggling to protect the Imperial Family during the final days of the dynasty. During the February Revolution of 1917, with chaos raging in the streets of Petrograd, amid cries of “Down with the Tsar!”, Count Paul Benckendorff recalled, “During the night of the 27th-28th February, General Khabalov... telephoned to me that he was holding the Winter Palace



with such troops as had remained faithful, that these troops were dying of hunger, and he implored me to help them in providing him with Court provisions which he thought were at the Palace.... I rang up General Komarov on the telephone in order to tell him to give General Khabalov and General Anichkov all the provisions that they could collect.” In fact, there was almost nothing left to give. Three days later, on 2 March, Emperor Nicholas II abdicated, ending 304 years of Romanov rule.



**Nikitsky, Moscow, Russia, on May 19**



Description of the coronation of Her Majesty the Empress and Autocrat-Russian, Anna Ivanovna solemnly sent to the reigning city of Moscow, April 28, 1730.

In the Senate, 1730. 31.5 x 20.6 cm. On the flyleaf bookplate of "Imperial Society of Russian History and Antiquities." On the back of the title page in ink: "the Society of History and Antiquities / Russian from Full member M.N. Makarov 1824 / February 9.

Mikhail Makarov (1785 (or 1789) -1847) - folklorist, writer and lexicographer, a member of the "Imperial Society of Russian History and Antiquities."



Coronation of Anna Ioanovna took place in the Assumption Cathedral in Moscow April 28, 1730. Immediately after the celebrations began work on the coronation album, observation of which was entrusted to V.N. Tatishchev. The drawings were executed in Moscow and were sent to St. Petersburg. The accompanying text was printed in 1730, but the work on the engravings were delayed and the entire album was released only in May 1732. In total, 15 engravings have been prepared depicting various attributes ceremony, plans of the Assumption Cathedral, table arrangement, and fireworks. There was also prepared edition of the album in German. Some tables were revised in the German edition.  
Estimated Price: 650,000 - 700,000 rubles.

***His Imperial Majesty Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich in the army. January-June 1915***

Compiled by Major P.B. Dubno. Publication of the Ministry of the Imperial Court, 1915. 196 pages. 26 x 19.5 cm.  
Estimated Price: 40 000 - 42 000 rubles.



**Centurion Auctions, Tallahassee, FL, USA, on May 29**

Archive of Princess Maria Romanov, wife of Prince Nikita Alexandrovich, nephew of Tsar Nicholas II. It includes a signed 8" bronze bust of Tsar Alexander III, 1902; a 7" icon dedicated to Maria, 1922; 9" leather framed photo; 1922 mourning letter to Maria from the Empress of Russia; 22 books and manuscripts; 33 photos; personal papers.  
Estimated Price: \$400 - \$600







***Jackson's, Cedar Falls, IA USA, on May 24-25***



*Icon belonged to Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich, circa 1914.*

In this icon is depicted the name saint of the Tsarevich, Saint Alexei Metropolitan of Moscow. Here the 14th century saint is depicted in the distinctive dress of his office including an elaborate klobuk, vestments and panagia. With his right hand St. Alexei delivers a blessing and his left hand holds a crozier. The entire icon overlaid with an extravagant frame (riza) comprised of intricately woven silver-gilt thread. The klobuk covered with a profusion of seed pearls and displaying a cross set with cut amethyst. The vestments further decorated with paste stones and the panagia being of carved mother of pearl depicting a bust of the Virgin. The head of St. Alexei encircled with a sunburst style halo consisting of alternating silver and gilt rays and the upper corners with inscribed title plaques framed in a border of seed pearls and sequins identifying him as "The Holy Alexei Metropolitan of Moscow". The lower margin with substantial applied silver-gilt engraved dedicatory plaque set with the Imperial crown which reads, "To his

Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Tsarevich and Grand Duke Alexei Nikolaevich, The God-protected on his tenth birthday, 30th July 1914". The verso of icon also with an engraved silver gilt plaque displaying a heartfelt poetic prayer to the Tsarevich, "The humble one is guarded by the Lord, in whom he is greatly delighted. May the Angel of the Lord be with him always on his way, wherever he wishes to go. May your youth blossom by the hand of the Almighty Creator, and may your wisdom strengthen with the prayers of your loyal subjects. A heartfelt, prayerful offering from the loyal nuns of the



Kholmogorsk Dormition Convent of the Archangelsk Diocese, from the head Abbess Angelina and the other sisters. 30th of July, 1914". Each plaque hallmarked St. Petersburg, circa 1908-1917, maker's mark A.K., likely for Alexander Karpov, and with 84 silver standard. 12.5 inches x 10 inches (31.4 x 25.5 cm).

Estimated Price: \$12,000 - 18,000 € 10,560 - 15,840



Provenance: Abbess Angelina and the Sisters of the Kholmogorisk Dormition Convent, July 30, 1914, to Tsarevich Alexei Nikolaevich Romanov (1904-1918) as depicted amongst his personal icons displayed in his bedroom (see illustration). Possibly with Mosgostorg and probably with Armand Hammer where it was likely acquired by an American collector from whom acquired by the present owner.



It is of course well documented that many members of the Russian Imperial family regularly received gifts for a variety of occasions including their birthday. However, the Tsarevich, the heir to the throne, was known to have received a multitude of ornate icons over his short lifetime depicting a variety of subjects including quite frequently, as in the offered icon, those of his name saint – Alexei of Moscow. Photographic evidence (circa 1918) verify that the Tsarevich had in his bedroom a substantial cabinet consisting of six arched niches each holding a vast amount of icons gifted to him. The offered lot is clearly depicted in this photograph on the lower shelf at the base of the third niche from the right immediately below another icon of St. Alexei (see illustration).



The Kholmogorisk Dormition Convent was founded in the 18th century built on the hills overlooking the Northern Dvina River about 125 miles south of the port city of Arkhangelsk on the White Sea. As described in "The Historical Description of the Kholmogor Dormition Women's Monastery" (printed in 1911), the monastery (convent) operated an icon painting workshop which employed 12 painters at that time. Additionally, the monastery also housed a gold and silver embroidery workshop which specialized in finely woven icon covers (rizas) such as the type covering the offered lot. It also mentions that the monastery had the good fortune to present their works to "Supreme Individuals" including, according to their archives, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna (1904) and in 1885, His Highness Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich.

Abbess Angelina was born into the world as Matron Alekseevna Spehina in the year 1854. She was the daughter of peasants and at the age of nine in 1863 was admitted to the orphanage school for girls located in the monastery. At age 33, she became a novice and about a year later a nun. Not long after she was given the responsibility of treasurer. On the 19th of July, 1906, Abbess Evparaksiya died. A little over a month later Angelina was voted abbess (the 18th in the history of the monastery). In 1909 she was awarded the pectoral cross of the Holy Synod and in 1916 the gold pectoral cross from the Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty. She remained abbess up until 1920 when the monastery was eventually closed by the Soviets and converted into a prison. After that there appears to be no record of Abbess Angelina. However, there is a legend amongst many locals that one of the abbesses was walled up in one of the niches within the monastery.

Sadly, less than one month shy of his 14th birthday, in the early hours of July 17, 1918, Alexi, along with his Father the Tsar, his mother and all his sisters, was brutally slain by Bolshevik Secret Police.

*Imperial Russian presentation silver gilt chalice,  
Moscow, 1863*

The round base repoussé with strap work and the inward sloping four sides engraved with images of the Four Evangelists above which sprouts the central stem with bulbous central node supporting a slightly flared cup engraved with the Diesis image and implements of the Passion. The lip of the chalice engraved with the standard text as found on chalices, "Receive the body of Christ, taste the Fountain of Immortality." At the base of the bowl is a dated engraved dedicatory inscription which reads; "Donation of their True-believing Imperial Highnesses Grand Dukes Alexander, Vladimir, Alexei, Sergei, and Paul Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, the year 1863." While the recipient of this chalice is yet unknown, the gift was presented by the children of Tsar Alexander II. The chalice is further hallmarked Moscow, dated 1863 and with Cyrillic marker's mark ЛФ, and 84 silver standard. Height 8.5 inches (21.6 cm).

Estimated Price: \$3,000 - 5,000 € 2,640 - 4,400





*An imperial Russian gilded silver and repousse seal case, reign of Tsar Paul I, St. Petersburg, 1797.*

The two piece circular case with fitted lid repousséd with the Imperial double headed eagle and with acanthus border, together with original silver and silk brocade tassels, the interior also brightly gilded. Hallmarked St. Petersburg, dated 1797 and Cyrillic mark A.Z. Diameter 5.4 inches (14 cm).

Estimated Price: \$600 - 900 € 528 - 792

**Czerny's International Auction House, Sarzana (SP), Italy, on June 11**



*A shasqua made by Eliarov Geurk, armourer to His Emperor's Majesty*

Slightly curved, single-and false-edged blade, made of damask, the base finely engraved with laurel oak branches on gilt, micro-granulated ground; the first part of the back part features the signature "His Emperor's Majesty Armorer Geurk" among floral motifs, on a black ground, then finely grooved and outlined.

Massive, iron hilt decorated en suite, the grip framed with bands. Eliyarov Sarkisovich Geurk (Circa 1790-1855) was an illustrious armorer specialized in cold weapons featuring damask blades. He used to work in Tbilisi, Georgia. On May the 31st 1830 a set of damask arms were delivered to Saint Petersburg in order to be shown to the Tsar Nicholas I, who was so enraptured by their quality that he ordered to buy them for 160 ducats, a very conspicuous amount. After long negotiations, Geurk agreed to

employ several masters from Zlatoust. On February 1831, the director of the Zlatoust arms factory sent the masters Basilio Yuzhakov, Karl Volferts, Dyatlov Ivanov to Tbilisi. Geurk was formerly cited in a letter written by the Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich, who personally thanked the Colonel Yermolov for giving him a beautiful shasqua made by Geurk. Geurk is also cited in the poem "The Poet", written by Lermontov in 1838. Nowadays, Geurk's arms are kept in important Russian museums such as the Hermitage, that houses two swords (3650 and 3108) and two daggers (3354 and 3300). Another sword is kept in the Dagestan Museum.

Second quarter of the 19th Century. Provenance: Tiflis. A noble, Russian family. Dimensions: length 92 cm.

Estimated Price: €35,000 - €45,000





### Joan Rivers and her passion for Fabergé

On 22 of June in New York, Christie's will offer The Private Collection of Joan Rivers at auction. It includes what Helen Culver Smith, Head of the Russian Works of Art department at Christie's, describes as a collection of Fabergé with a strong exhibition history 'that represents the superb craftsmanship that made the firm renowned.'

In terms of rarity and importance, the collection is led by a jewelled, gold-mounted Fabergé lily of the valley leaf. It relates to a number of lily of the valley studies by Fabergé with imperial provenance, but is apparently one of only two extant examples of a leaf study, the other being in the Geddings Gray Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Read more here -

<http://www.christies.com/features/How-Joan-Rivers-collected-Faberge-7297-1.aspx>





## Did you know....



... That before St. Petersburg was constructed at the mouth of the River Neva, there was a Swedish fortress and city there?

Nyenschantz fortress situated at the confluence of Okhta river with Neva river, was built by Swedes in 1611 to control Izhora lands and the waterways along Neva. With the lapse of time around the fortress walls had grown a trade town of two hundred houses, a shipyard and a moorage for big ships. Nyenschantz merchants hoping to keep this commercially advantageous territory provided the Swedish king Karl XII with a significant sum of money to fight a war against Russia.

The Northern War began in 1700. In order for Peter I to reach Neva banks and the Gulf of Finland he had to occupy two fortresses: Noteborg situated at the head of Neva river and Nyenschantz that controlled its mouth. Having seized the fortress of Noteborg on October 25 (14), 1702 (the former Novgorod fortress Oreshek/Nutlet) which protected the access to Neva from the lake of Ladoga, Nyenschantz remained the single Swedish fortress blocking the access to the Gulf of Finland from Neva.



On 5-6 of May (24-26 of April), 1703 the Russian army commanded by Field Marshal General B. P. Sheremetev approached the fortress and started the siege. The fortress' garrison included 600 men with 76 cannons and 3 mortars.

On 11 of May (30 of April), when the fortress commandant had refused to surrender, at 7:00 p.m. the artillery fire began: 20 cannons fired 9 volleys; 12 mortars had been firing the fortress during the whole night. After the explosion of powder magazine the fortress could not resist any more.

On 12 (1) of May, 1703 the fortress capitulated. Having captured Nyenschantz, the Russians gained the control over the entire Neva, from source to mouth. The access to the Gulf of Finland was opened.

After its fall Nyenschantz was renamed to Slotburg (Lock town). Under the capitulation agreement the Swedish garrison was sent by ships to Vyborg. To mark the capture of Nyenschantz was established a memorable medal with Emperor's image engraved on it. A.





Shkhonebek created a gravure picturing the assault of the fortress by the Russian troops.

On 27 (16) of May, 1703 down the stream of Neva, a new Russian fortress of Peter and Paul was founded. Soon it was decided to demolish the Swedish fortifications.



On 15 of June 2000 on the site of one of fortress' bastions a granite monument 'Nyenschantz fortress' was opened.

In the end of May 2003, on the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, the museum named '700 years – Landskrona, Neva mouth, Nyenschantz' was opened.

Web site - <http://www.museum700.org/>