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The mine in Lower Selimskaya, Alapaevsk

The "Elizabethan route in Moscow" and the pilgrimage "Moscow-Ural-Siberia" (Part 2)



On 23 of May, the Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society presented in the Moscow Mayor's building on Tverskaya street the IV International public forum "Elisabeth legacy today. 2016."

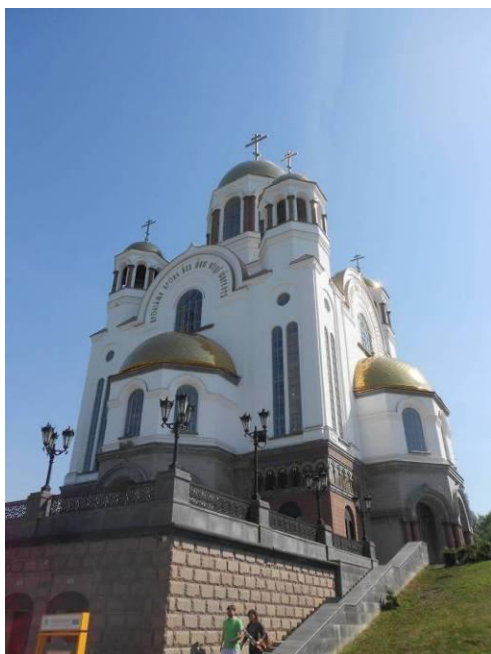
The main event was the presentation of a new tourist and pilgrim route - the "Elizabethan route in Moscow" and the route "Moscow-Ural-Siberia".

On May 24-29 the Forum continued its work in 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, Verkhoturys, Alapaevsk, and Tobolsk.

Yekaterinburg

On May 24, the day started with a prayer service in the lower church in the Church on Blood in Honor of All Saints Resplendent in the Russian Land, for a successful pilgrimage in Yekaterinburg. Then followed a tour of the lower church and - the upper (despite the upper church was closed for restoration).

From the former Governor's mansion in Tobolsk the Imperial Family was moved to the Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg. The Romanovs would be held as prisoners in their final residence for 78 days. In the early hours of July 17, 1918, Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, Alexandra Feodorovna, the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Tsarevich Alexei, with their most loyal servants, were taken to the basement of the Ipatiev House and were murdered by being shot and bayoneted.



In 1974, the mansion was designated a "national monument", but three years later on September 22, 1977, a team, under orders from the Soviet government, demolished the house.

On September 20, 1990, the Sverdlovsk Soviet handed the plot to the Russian Orthodox Church for construction of a memorial chapel. After the former Emperor and his family's canonization as Passion Bearers, the Church planned to build an impressive memorial complex dedicated to the Romanov family. A state commission was gathered and architectural as well as funding plans were developed. Construction began in 2000.

On June 16, 2003, 85 years after the execution of the former Imperial family, the main church was consecrated.

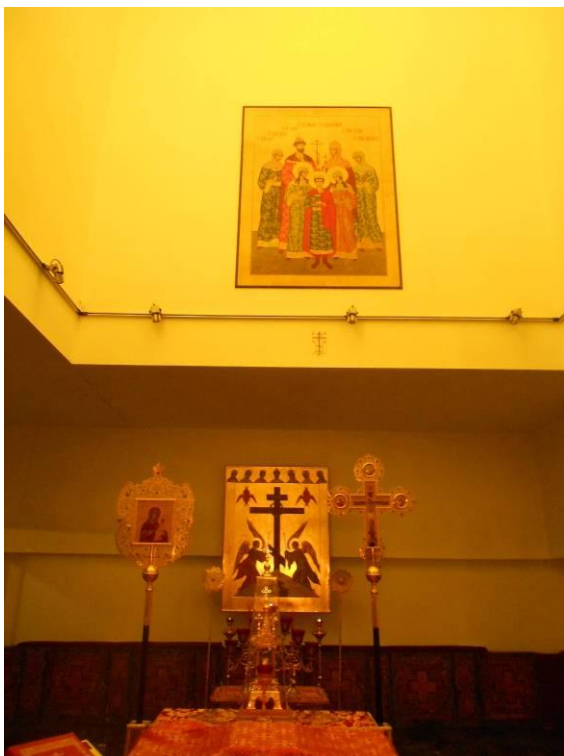
The completed complex comprises two churches, a belfry, a patriarchal annex, and a museum dedicated to the Imperial family. The altar of the main church is said to be directly over the site of the Romanovs' execution. In fact, the place of execution of the Royal family is outside the church near Karl Liebknecht Street.

The church is a five-domed building, 60 meters high and with a total area of 3,000 m², in a Russian-Byzantine style, as the vast majority of churches were built during the reign of Emperor Nicholas II. According to the architects it should symbolize the connection of times, the revival of the Orthodox tradition.

The upper church of All Saints - the golden-domed cathedral - symbolizes the ever-burning lamp, lighted in memory of the tragic events that occurred at this place. Inside there is the iconostasis of rare varieties of white marble, 30 meters long and 13 meters high. To the right of the iconostas is a large icon of the Royal Martyrs.



The lower church - in memory of the Romanovs - has an iconostas made of porcelain, which is unusual in Russian churches. On the right side there is the icon of the Mother of God "Three Hands", brought from Canada, by the widow of Tikhon Kulikovsky, nephew of Emperor Nicholas II. This icon is said has been miraculously saved from the Ipatiev house.



Further to the right there are several icons with the Royal Martyrs, and then comes stairs in green stone leading up to a "room" - a chapel - supposedly the place where was the basement room of Ipatiev house, the place of the horrible murder of emperor Nicholas II with family, and the most loyal servants on July 17, 1918.

Behind the unusual very low Royal doors, that allow you to see above it, is the so called "Altar on the site of the murder". On the floor is a red line which shows the perimeter of the basement room, where was spilled blood of innocent people.

This is as close ordinary faithful can get to this holy place, but it is said that the clergy can get even closer in the basement of the Church-on-Blood, and in the boiler room are prying, as it is even closer.

In the lower church, furthest to the right, at the end is like a memorial wall, with each member of the Imperial family having its own marble plaque with an inserted icon of them.



To the left, in the end of the lower church, is a similar place for the loyal servants - they have their photos in a frame.

The facades of the buildings of the church, up to nine meters high are trimmed with red burgundy colored granite. This is a reminder of the blood spilled here.



At the church is a monument to the Imperial family, showing them as they walk down the stairs to the basement in Ipatiev house - however it depicts Tsarevich Alexei in his boyish sailor suit and hence have a lack in historical accuracy.

Now, every year, about 50 thousand people commemorate the "Tsar Days". A special religious service begins at the Church on the Blood almost at midnight and lasts until 2 a.m. - the hour when the Romanovs and their servants were executed. Then crowds of people walk all the way (18 km) to the monastery Ganina Yama, which surrounds the mineshaft in the Koptiyaki forest, the place to which the dead bodies were taken and stayed for one day. The bodies was then moved one more time, to a place near the Porosenkov Log (Pig's Meadow), where they were buried under the road and where they stayed for more than 60 years, before being discovered.

All around the church there are large posters with pictures of the Imperial family and with quotes by them or about them.



The tour then took the pilgrims next door, to the museum with a number of exhibits dedicated to the last months of the life of Emperor Nicholas II and his family, and some souvenirs.



The murals on the walls was interesting. They are at the top of the staircase, showing the Royal Martyrs and the Alapaevsk Martyrs.



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

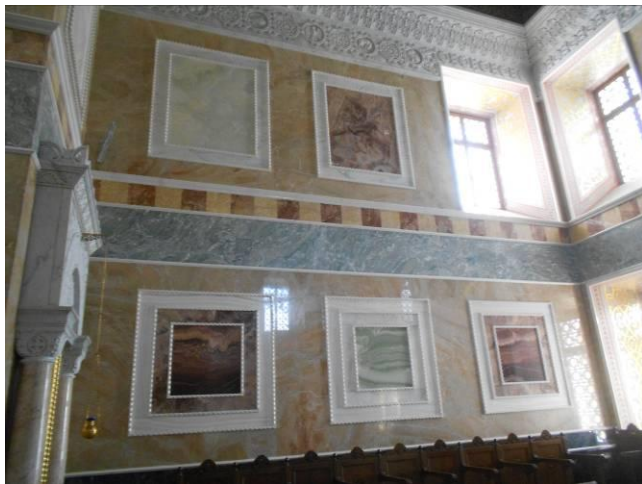
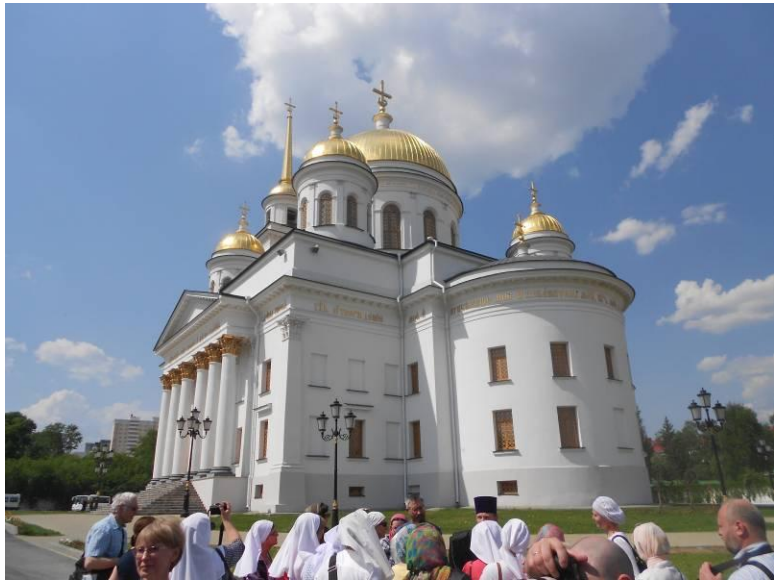
The Church of Alexander Nevsky was laid 26 June 1838. It is built in the style of classicism by architect M. Malakhov and was consecrated 21 September 1852. After the consecration, a decree of the Synod gave it status of a cathedral. The left side chapel, in the name of St. Nicholas, was consecrated on 8 June 1853. Less than a year later, 23 May 1854 was consecrated the right chapel in honor of the Resurrection.

It is said, that from here food was brought to Ipatiev house, while the Imperial Family was kept in captivity.

In 1930 the cathedral was closed. Same year the cemetery located around the cathedral was demolished. It was in use since the XVIII century. In 1942 the cathedral was reconstructed for use as a military warehouse. From 1961 the premises of the cathedral were used as a repository of local lore museum funds.

In 1991 the Orthodox community has demanded the return of the cathedral. The decision to transfer it was made on 10 of September 1991. In 1992 the cathedral was returned and the parish community has initiated worship. Currently, the cathedral is completely transferred to the Yekaterinburg diocese, and a complete reconstruction of the building was carried out. The cathedral was re-consecrated by the head of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill on 19 of May 2013.

The cathedral is very beautiful inside, made of different sorts of semi-precious stones from Ural. Even on the walls there are in many places "pictures" of the stones, rather than icons - very unusual.



Ganina Yama

The Monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in Ganina Yama is one of the youngest in Russia. It was created on the site of the Ganina mine (pit) - the first place of hiding the bodies of the Imperial family and their servants.

In the last decade of the twentieth century, pilgrims from all over Russia flocked to Ganina Yama. In 1991 the first worship cross was installed with the blessing of the Archbishop of Sverdlovsk and Kurgan Melchizedek at Ganina Yama. July 17, 1992 the first bishop's religious procession arrived at the site. Thus were born the modern "Tsar's Days" - days of commemoration of the Royal Martyrs.

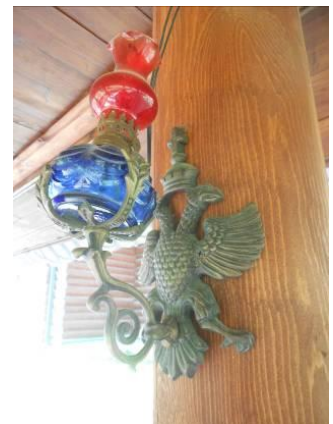
On the night of July 17, 1995 the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the cross at Ganina Yama. After that night liturgy in memory of the tragic day were committed there every year.

September 23, 2000 during his visit to the Ural land, His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II visited Ganina Yama. The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church said that the best perpetuation of memory in Russia has always been a building of God's church or monastery. Thus was obtained patriarchal blessing to the establishment of the monastic cloister at Ganina Yama. Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II put his signature on the master plan of the monastery. This document is now carefully preserved in the museum of the monastery. However, this first plan was not destined to be realized. The keen interest in the holy place was so great, that it was immediately clear - people cannot be in one church.

December 28, 2000 with the blessing of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II and the decision of the Holy Synod the Monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs was established on the site.



The core of the monastery, the holy place - the shaft number 7, in which had been torn the remains of members of the Imperial family. Now the mine is fenced with a special gallery around it and on both sides churches were erected. Along the galleries there are lamps, lit in the memory of Royal Passion-Bearers departed from here to eternity. In the evening they light the way for pilgrims, as well as the participants of the monastery nightly procession. A memorial stone is at the descent to the mine. It bears the phrase from the book of the prophet Amos: "I will not spare him, because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime" (Amos 2:1).





Walking in, one can see the monument to Emperor Nicholas II first (from 2008), then the one to Empress Alexandra (from July 2011) and finally, just before the mine, a monument of all the August children as Martyrs (from November 2011). One did

wonder why they are separated, why only the children shown as Martyrs, and also why there is no monument depicting the awful event which is the reason for this monastery.



The original layout of the Monastery of the Holy Royal Martyrs was a square with only one church next to the mine. The second layout is oval and with many churches inside. The guide at the entrance told us it was a design ala a Faberge Easter egg.....!?



1. Gate of the Church in honor of the Iverskaya Mother of God
2. Igumen house
3. Museum icon shop
4. Church of St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the miracle worker
5. Monument to "Tsar's children"
6. Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs
7. Open mine №7 and the worship cross
8. Church of righteous Job's Suffering
9. Communal refectory
10. The Church in honor of Our Lady Derzhavnaya
11. Monument to the Holy Martyr Empress Alexandra Feodorovna
12. Church of St. Seraphim of Sarov
13. Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh
14. Bell tower
15. Garden to relax, candle shop
16. Administrative building
17. Monument to Holy Martyr Emperor Nicholas II
18. "Dry Well"

In the basement of the Church in honor of Our Lady Derzhavnaya there is a museum, which shows various artifacts related to the Imperial Family, both old and new, and a lot of photos.



Verkhoturys

Verkhoturys is a historical city, founded in 1598, and once the gateway to and from Siberia. It is located in Sverdlovsk Oblast, in the middle of the Ural Mountains on the left bank of the Tura River, 306 kilometers to the north of Yekaterinburg.

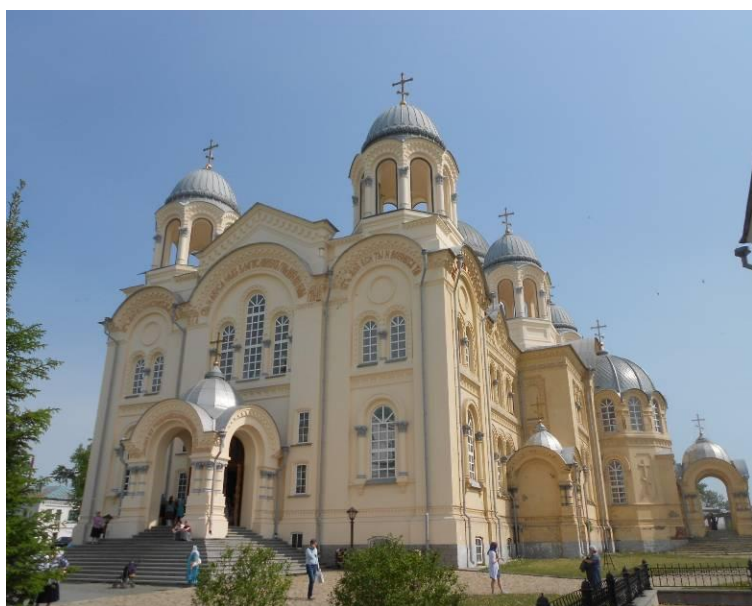
In 1914 St. Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna made a pilgrimage to the holy places of the Urals and visited St. Nicholas Monastery in Verkhoturys.

In contrast to the surrounding mining towns, Verkhoturys has been relatively untouched by industrialization and much of its historic appearance has been preserved. Being one of the oldest Russian settlements in the east of the Urals, and with forty churches in the area, Verkhoturys is considered one of the centers of Russian Christianity.

Famous churches include the Trinity Church (built in 1703-1712), Nicholas Monastery (established in 1604) with the Cathedral of Exaltation of the Holy Cross (1905-1913), and Transfiguration Church (1821). In addition, the town houses the oldest female monastery beyond Urals (established in 1621).

The relatively low middle Ural Mountains at the latitude of Verkhoturys form a natural gateway into Siberia from the west. With the Russian conquest of Siberia and the foundation of the trans-Ural Russian towns of Tyumen in 1586 and Tobolsk in 1587 the problem arose of finding the best route to them from European Russia. A fort was built at Verkhoturys in 1598 and a customs house - in 1600. Until about 1763 it was the main road into Siberia.

Verkhoturys declined from about 1763 when the Siberian Route was built through Yekaterinburg to the south. In the 1770s the toll for crossing into Siberia was abolished or reduced.



The Holy Cross Cathedral, built 1905-1913, on design of architect A. B. Turchevich, is the third largest Church in Russia, second only to the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow and St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg.

May 25, 2016, on the feast day of St. Simeon, Verkhoturys Wonderworker, in the Cathedral of Holy Cross at St. Nicholas Monastery in Verkhoturys Divine Liturgy was led by with Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturys, Bishop Methodius of Alapaevsky and Kamensky, and Bishop Matthew of Anadyr and Chukotka, assisted by assembly of clergy Ekaterinburgskoy archdiocese.

The Divine Liturgy ended with the traditional religious



procession around the Cathedral of Holy Cross. After the service, Metropolitan Kirill addressed a pastoral word to the clergy and the many pilgrims who arrived in these days at Verkhotursky monastery.



While standing there, we saw a very unusual round rainbow, just above the church. All were amazed over this unusual sight that gave a wonderful spiritual feelings. People were talking in the crowd, that it is a wonderful sign that prayers our were heard and it is one more miracle of St. Simeon Verkhotyrsky.

The Elisabeth route pilgrims then gathered in one of the monastery buildings for a cup of tea. Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye came to greet them. Anna Gromova presented the Metropolitan gifts related to the society.

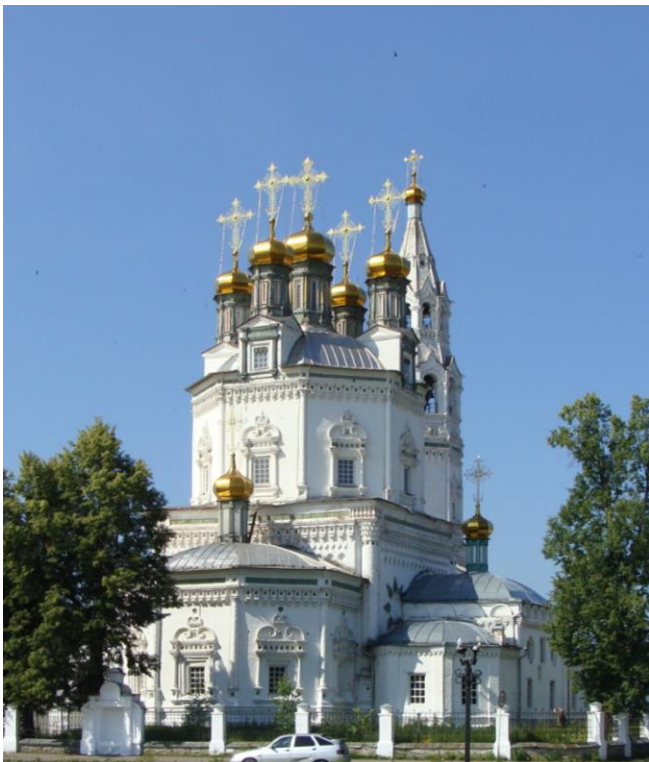
On the stairs to the entrance a group photo were made with Metropolitan Kirill.





Verkhoturye Kremlin

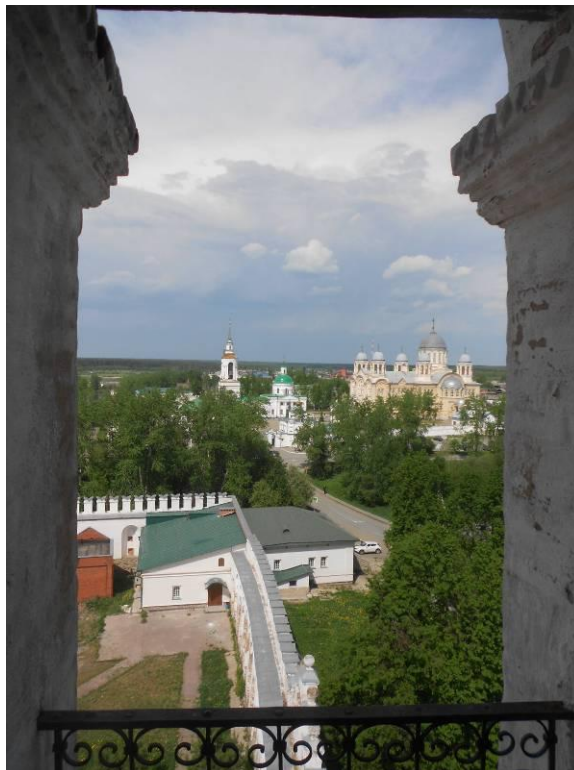
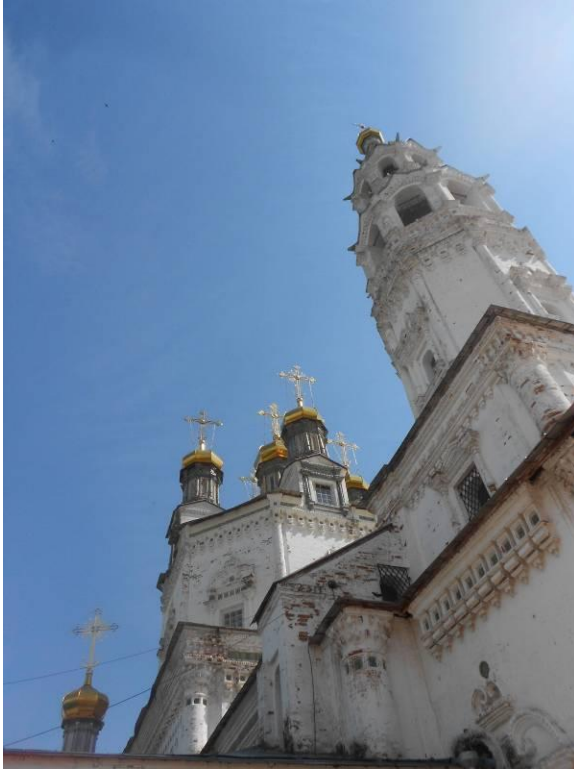
It is the only surviving Kremlin in the Urals, as well as the smallest Kremlin in the whole Russia (only 125 x 194 m). It was made upon decree of Peter the Great on the site of an old, dilapidated wooden fortress. It is also considered the last stone fortress built in Russia.



Verkhotursky stone Kremlin was built from 1698 to 1712. Previously, there was a manor house inside the perimeter of the fortification with several towers. Trinity Cathedral is part of Kremlin front wall.

Trinity Cathedral may deserve attention as a very outstanding monument of the entire church architecture of the Urals. It is a rare example of the church designed in Moscow baroque in Urals. On the tile on the belts is a text that tells the exact years of construction of the cathedral. The five-domed high structure gives the church a perfect artistic silhouette.

Inside the cathedral light fills the space of the church, penetrating into it through various openings, cutting through the wall from four tiers.



From the bell tower of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity can be seen a wonderful bird's-eye view of the entire ensemble of Verkhoturye Kremlin, over to the Holy Cross Cathedral, the beautiful natural scenery, the steep shore, pine forest and the river valley.

The Trinity Cathedral has been declared by UNESCO an architectural monument of world importance.



Paul Kulikovsky ringing the bells in the bell tower of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Verkhoturye

The Holy Virgin Convent in Verkhoturye

Holy Virgin Monastery is the first functioning Orthodox convent in the Urals, with the date of foundation of the monastery considered to be 1621. Some of the buildings in the monastery were built with funds allocated by Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich.

In 1740 the monastery becomes a temporary place of exile for the Tsar's brides – Maria Khlopova, bride of Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich and Princess Anne Alexeevna Dolgoruky, sister of unfortunate bride of Emperor Peter Catharine Alekseevna Dolgoruky.

The stone church was built at the expense of the parishioners and donations from a local breeder and patron of the monastery Maxim Pohodyashina.



According to oral testimony, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna during her pilgrimage to the Urals in 1914 visited the monastery

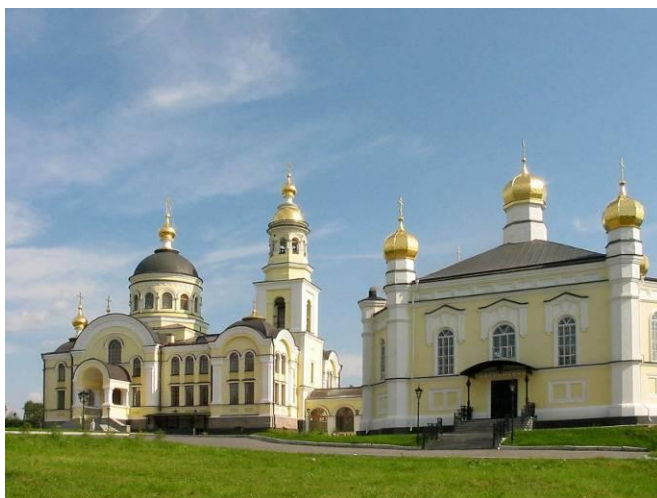
From 1926 the monastery was inactive and its buildings were used for placement of products of agricultural cooperatives "Hope". In 1991 the monastery was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church and is slowly recovering.

Upon leaving Verkhoturye the mayor Alexei Likhanov presented gift for good memories of the city - which the pilgrims surely have.

On the way back to Yekaterinburg a stop was made 50 kilometers east at the village Merkushino, where lived St. Simeon Verkhotursky.



Alexei Likhanov, the Mayor of Verkhoturie saying goodbye

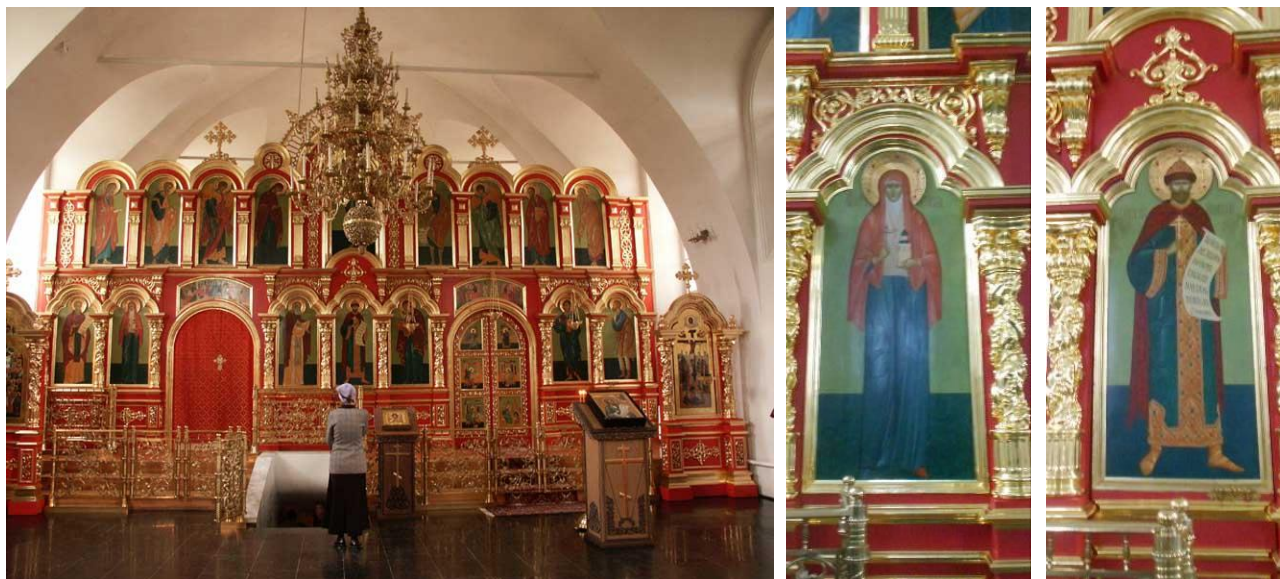


There are two churches connected via a gallery. The first of these churches, St. Simeon, was built in 1886 over the tomb of Saint Simeon, even if in 1704 was the relics of St. Simeon transferred from Merkushino to Verkhoturye, but it continued to be a holy place in which there came healing water. Water from the source still "shows its miraculous power and heals various ailments by the prayer of the faithful."

Next to it is the Church of Archangel Michael, built in 1911-1916 and restored in 2004. At the time of its restoration was found near the altar the

incorrupt relics of the Holy Martyr Constantine Epiphany - a priest who served in 1917-18 in the village Merkushino and suffered from the hands of the Bolsheviks. Today, the relics of the Holy Martyr Constantine rest in the Church of Archangel Michael.

The Church of St. Simeon has an unusual iconostas - made in red with gilding, and no royal door in the middle, but to the right side - and it is on top of the tomb of St. Simeon Verkhotursky - that is where he original were buried. The iconostas contains icons of both Tsar-Martyr Nicholas and St. Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



The iconostas in the Church of St. Simeon. Note the entrance going under it, into the tomb of St. Simeon Verkhotursky

Alapaevsk

On 26 May, the pilgrim tour continued to Alapaevsk, some 150 km north-east of Yekaterinburg, to honor the last place on earth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and her relatives now known as the Alapaevsk Martyrs.

The pilgrims was met at the city border by the city administrations and Bishop Methodius of Alapaevsky and Kamensky with bread and salt, welcome singing and flowers to Anna Gromova. The city monument had just been restored for the event.



In the center: Bishop Methodius of Alapaevsky and Kamensky; Galina I. Kanahina, chairman of Alapaevsk city дума; Anna V. Gromova; and Stanislav Shangin, Mayor Alapaevsk

Arriving in the city center, the first stop was at the "Field school", where the Alapaevsk Martyrs were kept in captivity. In the back of the school, in the room to the left, there is the room where lived Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara. Bishop Methodius made a prayer in memorial room and admonished all participants of the pilgrimage: "With this prayer service we open your pilgrimage. This room is a great asset and a shrine, Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna lived and prayed in it". Bishop Methodius reminded all: "Prayer is not dying, and today we have the opportunity to enter into the prayer of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. Her prayer is still alive, it sounds like."



Bishop Methodius stressed that seeing those items used by the people, we actually approach them: "The world, which is all around us, it becomes a part of us, so touching these subjects, we touch the person who is dear to us, and in the case of the saints, and it is important that these objects are touched by the grace of God, so that all what is here, must be stored not simply as a historical value, but as a shrine. This room is really unique, and the fact that we are visited by what we are praying sealed with a blessing and prayer of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and her companions, martyrs, famous and not yet famous church, but in any event celebrated by God in heaven, so Now here we start the journey to these places, which are imbued with the love of people to God and God's love to the people."

May 7, 1918, Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna was arrested in Moscow and sent to Perm, but was then moved to Yekaterinburg and placed in Novo-Tikhvin monastery. Grand Duchess was accompanied by her assistant Varvara (Yakovleva) and a nun Catherine (Yanyшева). 20 May 1918 they arrived in Alapaevsk, where they were housed in the local school.

At first time they were relatively free despite the confinement. All inmates had been given identity cards with the right to move "inside Alapaevsk". They were allowed to correspond, go to church, walking in a field near the school. Elisabeth Feodorovna prayed a lot, painted and embroidered. The prisoners had a small garden, where they sometimes drank tea in the fresh air.

The reason for the tightening of the regime of the Alapayevsk exiles became the announced "escape" of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, which occurred on the night of 12/13 June, 1918 - the event was used by local authorities to justify the transfer of all the Romanovs, exiled to the Urals, to a harder confinement. In Alapaevsk "all their belongings were confiscated - shoes, clothes, dress, pillows, gold, and money. They were allowed to have only underclothes, dress and shoes, and two changes of underwear...".

They were banned to walk around the city, make correspondence, as well received limited food rations.

Zemskaya School, or "Field" School, called due to the location - on the field, was opened in 1915. It was built for the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty, with the reform of primary education, when the Emperor issued a decree about the availability of free primary education for all. The following years in Russia 10 thousand schools were built, including the one in Alapaevsk.



The school is a stone building, with a corridor in the middle and four large and two small rooms on the sides. Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Prince Vladimir Paley and secretaries: F. M. Remez and Krukovskiy were in the first large room. Brothers Princes Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich placed in the next room. Grand Duchess Elizabeth with her sisters Barbara and Catherine lived in the back left corner room. Prince John K. and secretary Kalin lived in the back right corner.

Late at night on July 18, 1918, under the pretext of moving to a safer place, "to the country", they all were in peasant carts taken out of town to an abandoned mine at Lower Selim (12 km away on the road to the factory Upper Sinyachihinsky plant). Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and the other Alapayevsk prisoners were thrown alive into the deep pit, guards threw grenades down and burning firewood.



Memorial room in honor of Holy Martyr Elizabeth was opened in the Field School in 2003. However, from 2015 the memorial room was again used as a classroom, and the exposure was reduced (now there are only stands along one wall), and access to the room is limited due to the fact that school classes taking place there.



At the moment the administration of the city Alapaevsk cannot clear the building of the Field school and give it to the Russian Orthodox Church, due to lack of the required number of seats in educational institutions in the city and lack of funds in the city budget for the construction of a new school.

The building is recognized as an object of cultural heritage of regional importance, and to preserve it in its original form, it is also necessary to carry out restoration work. But to carry out these works, it is also necessary to vacate the building by the students, and then to transfer it into a museum status.

So today there are two tasks:

1. Make a political decision on building a new primary school for children in Alapaevsk and built it.
2. Restore the building of the school and open it in as a Museum in honor of Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna and the Alapaevsk Martyrs.

Funds for the restoration of the building of Field school can be sent to bank accounts as listed below, marked "for Field School in Alapaevsk":

1. Card of the Savings Bank of Russia	639002169018586632 Holder LYUBOV SAMARSKAYA
2. Or the account of Kamenka Diocese:	
Name of religious organization "Kamensky Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)"	Legal address: 623409, Sverdlovsk region, Kamensk - Ural Str. Revolutionary, d. 45
Actual address: 623418, Sverdlovsk region, Kamensk - Ural Str. Kirov, d. 18	TIN 6612037110
CAT 661201001	BIN 1116699000021
OKTMO 65740000	OKPO 30855992
Bank PJSC "Sberbank of Russia" in Yekaterinburg	Current account 40703810816180083386
Corresponding account 30101810500000000674	BIK 046577674



After seeing the school, we walked along the walls of the St. Elisabeth monastery, which had two large posters - one with the Alapaevsk Martyrs on and another with their new project - a church in honor of St. Elisabeth.

After being greeted with the traditional bread and salt by the Abbess Olympia (Teterkina) at the entrance to the monastery, there was a small meeting with the local journalists. There Anna Gromova, Galina Igorevna Kanahina, Bishop Methodius of Alapaevsky and Kamensky and Paul E. Kulikovskiy each gave a short introduction about the importance of the pilgrimage and answered questions.

"The most important thing for us is to explore the state of the objects associated with the memory of the Alapayevsk martyrs and Reverend Martyr Elizabeth. And of course, we will give any assistance to the construction of a school in Alapayevsk, so that the building now used as a school, which house the Alapayevsk Martyrs can be turned into a museum. Alapayevsk can become a big tourist and pilgrim center, this place has great potential" - said Anna Gromova.

Great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Paul E. Kulikovsky told: "It was really a great pleasure to come here to Alapayevsk. For me, being a close relative of Elizabeth Feodorovna and the other Alapayevsky martyrs, who were killed here, it was not easy to come to this place of sorrow. But I was especially pleased that we were greeted so warmly and positively. At the time when we were in the "Field school" - it was a very special moment. I compare my feelings with a visit to Yekaterinburg, where there are no longer the Ipatiev house, and here I come to the building where they actual were, where you can feel the presence of those who lived here. What I experience here - it's both sadness and joy. It is understandable why this place is sad, but I want to explain why I'm here feel joy, because

in this place began the path of martyrdom, this place is its highest spiritual achievement.

Therefore this holy ground should be a memorable place. The school, which we have seen is a historic building, in which lived the Romanovs and certainly it seems to me logical and right to make it a memorial museum. It is a place imbued with quite extraordinary spirit - Christian, bright. It is a place of grace.

I would like this place to be known by other people. As a descendant of the Romanov family, their kinsman, I fully support the idea of making "Field school" a museum and hope that it will be implemented before July 2018."



A worship cross is in the garden of the St. Elisabeth monastery

Behind a fence could be seen the ongoing construction of the new St. Elisabeth church. Its walls are up, but the roof is still missing. This is a potential problem, as the project is running out of funds and a roof is needed before rain and winter sets in. Hence the following appeal from the monastery.



Urgent need of help!

The St. Elisabeth monastery (in Alapaevsk) needs help to continue the church construction

In the spring of 2015 Alapayevsk the St. Elisabeth monastery started to build a church in honor of Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna.

This church is located close to the Field school, where the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna spent the last months of her earthly life. Here she was walking along with her companions, was engaged in vegetable gardening and apple orchard.

In this church sisters of the monastery and many pilgrims from around the world pray.

Currently, the church building is erected to 4,5 meter high, but should be built up to the top 15,7 meter high, but needed a temporary roof device before the rainy season, that is, until the end of September 2016. Even with a slight suspension of work at the current time, the object of delivery times may increase significantly and cause a number of undesirable consequences.

Today there is an urgent need to finance the construction. To end of seasonal work and preserving buildings of the church in the winter requires 12 million Rubles.

Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in her lifetime was engaged in works of mercy and charity. She helped the needy. The wounded were treated in hospitals, organized sisterhood of mercy. Now we have to help Martyr Elizabeth to build in her abode a House of God.

We urge all those who honor the memory of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna Romanov to help to build the church.

Donations can be made on the account listed below with the note "For the construction of the church" Orthodox religious organization Convent in the name of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, city Alapayevsk, Sverdlovsk Region, Kamensky diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)

624600, Sverdlovsk region,
Alapaevsk Str. Lenina. 79
Tel \ fax (34346) 3-18-98.; 8919379 17 36
INN 6601011079, KPP 660101001
P \ with 40703810916040115773
Ural Bank of Sberbank of Russia, Yekaterinburg,
K / s 30101810500000000674, BIK 046577674
BIN 1069600013438.



Holy Trinity Cathedral

Construction of the church in Alapaevsk was started in 1702, under the direction of Alexei Kaletin, Verkhoturye magistrates. It is in honor of his patron saint - the Reverend Alexei, man of God - the church was first named.

In 1781 Alapaevsk Mining District was formed and Alapaevsk also acquires the status of county town. More and more parishioners came every year, and the church soon became too small for them, and began to expand with chapels. In 1816 the church survived a fire, but was reconstructed. It became the ultimate 3: mainly in honor of the Holy Trinity, the north chapel named after the Archangel Michael, and the south - in honor of St. Alexis the man of God.



In 1912, the Holy Synod assigned it the status of a cathedral.

After the Bolsheviks came to power, Russian Church came through hard times. In the Holy Trinity Cathedral, as before, there were prayers, weddings, baptizing, but then everything changed - priests were killed by the workmen. Martyrdom was adopted in 1918 by the rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral Dmitry Diev.

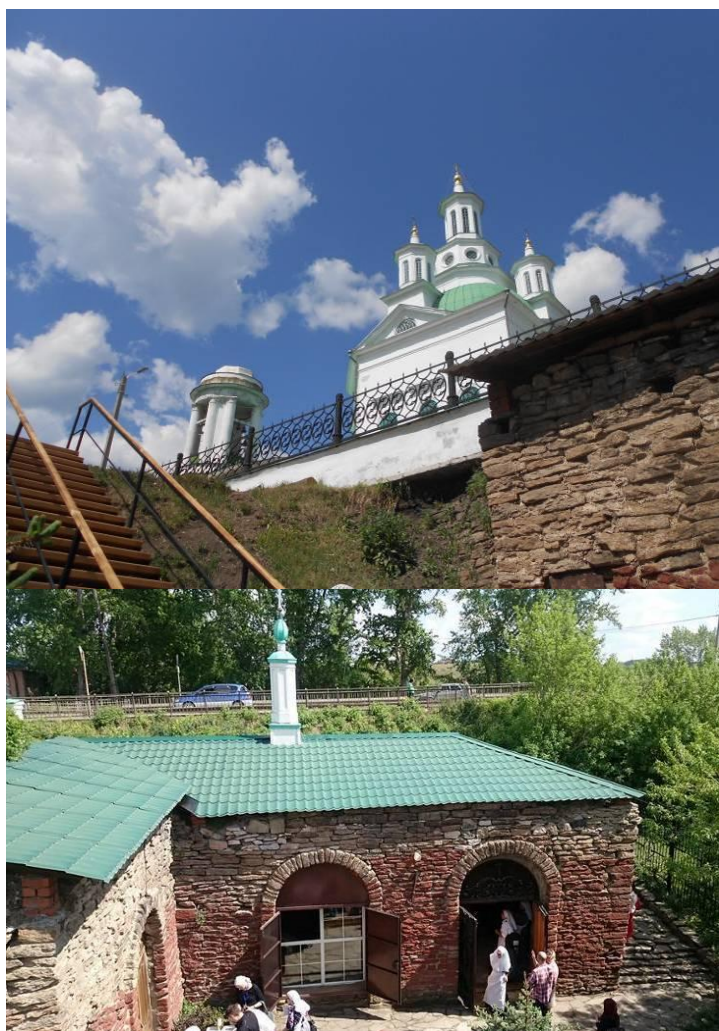
The Alapaevsk martyrs came to pray to the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Later it became the burial place of those killed by the Bolsheviks on July 18, 1918 - Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Nun Varvara Yakovleva, Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich and his secretary Fyodor Remez, Princes of Imperial Blood John, Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich, and Prince Vladimir Paley.



The partial restoration of the Holy Trinity Cathedral happened in 1992-1998, but much is still to be done. During the winter in March 2016, a storm broke off the spire on the bell tower and still there is not allocated fund for its restoration.

The main shrines are the ark with the relics of Saints Elizabeth and Varvara, the icon of the Holy Trinity, presented to the cathedral in 1905, and the Alapaevsk August icon of the Mother of God, which survived the closure of the church in the Soviet era.

In September 2000 the Holy Patriarch Alexy II visited cathedral. And since 2012 the church became the cathedral of the newly formed Diocese - Kamenka and Alapaevsk.



The crypt

After prayers in the Holy Trinity Cathedral all went down to the crypt, where the remains of the Alapaevsk Martyrs were kept for some time in 1918.

There, we prayed in front of an icon of Saints Elisabeth and Varvara.

September 28, 1918 Admiral Kolchak's army arrived in Alapaevsk.

They were told by one "comrade" about what had happened - according to his information Alapaevsk prisoners were thrown into a mine, which were destroyed by grenades. Senior policeman T. Malshikovu gave the order to find the dead bodies. He was able to find a witnesses who "on the night of 18 July on the road met a "train" of horses heading towards Upper Sinyachihinsky plant. A search was launched in the area. On October 19 a cap of one of them was found, and shortly after the bodies themselves, which during four days were removed from the shaft: October 21 - F. Remez; Oct 22 - Nun Varvara and Prince V.P. Paley; October 23 - Princes Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich and Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich; and October 24 - Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Prince John Konstantinovich.

Medical examination and forensic autopsy were conducted after removing the bodies from the mine. Then they were washed, dressed in pure white clothes and placed in wooden coffins, inside of which were cases of roofing iron. November 1st funeral liturgy was made at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapaevsk and the funeral of the deceased was held. Then, the bodies were placed in the crypt, arranged in the south side of the altar of the Holy Trinity Cathedral and then the entrance was walled up with bricks.



With the arrival of the Red Army in June 1919 it was decided to remove the remains from the city. July 14, 1919 the eight coffins were placed in a boxcar to be sent to Chita. Abbot Seraphim with two novices were escorted the coffins.

They arrived in Chita on August 30th. Coffins with the assistance of Ataman Grigory Semenov were moved to Virgin (Pokrovskiy) convent, where they were placed under the floor of the cell, where Abbot Seraphim stayed.



The 8 coffins in the crypt of the Church of All Holy Martyrs

On March 5, 1920, on the orders of General Diterikhs and support of Ataman Semenov the coffins were removed again and then sent to Harbin. April 8 the train left Harbin to Mukden, and from there on April 13 went to Beijing. April 16, 1920 at the station of Beijing the coffins were met by a procession and

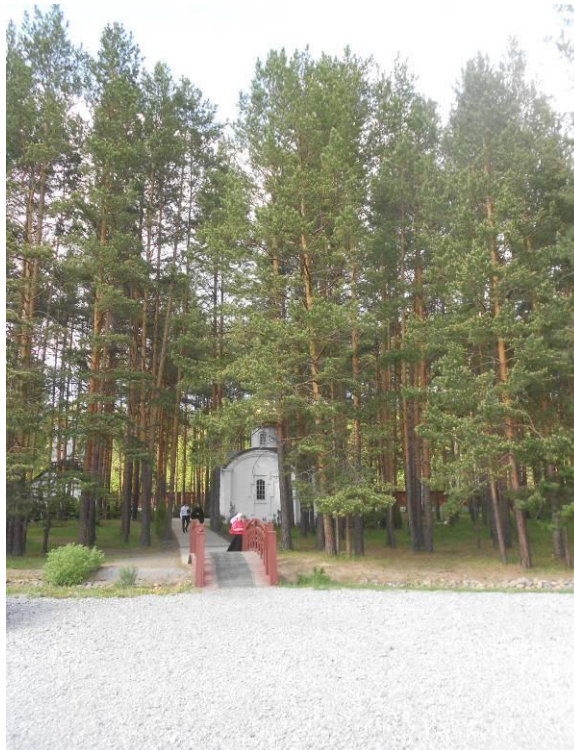
moved to the church of St. Seraphim of Sarov, which was located to the north of the territory of the Russian Spiritual Mission, in 2 km from the city. After memorial service, the 8 coffins were sealed and placed in one of the crypts at the cemetery. Soon under the pulpit of the church was constructed a vault, and Alapaevsk martyrs placed in it.

In November 1920, the body of Elizabeth Feodorovna and her assistant Varvara were one more time moved, this time to Jerusalem.

In the end of 1980s, the Russian Spiritual Mission was closed as China needed this place for further development of residential area. To some relief, the cemetery was transformed into a park and golf, leaving hope that the resting place of the remaining Alapaevsk Martyrs is still intact, even it is uncertain where precisely they are located.

The Alapaevsk Martyrs mine

A short drive out of the Alapaevsk city is the Monastery of Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church, located at the mine in Lower Selimskaya, in where the Alapaevsk Martyrs were thrown.



Walking from the parking lot, one goes over a small bridge and into the forest. A small white chapel is on the right side and then the mine comes on the left.

Bishop Methodius performed a prayer service, and then addressed the audience:

"We are on the spot, which is the home of God and a gate to heaven. This gate was opened by the holy Martyr Elizabeth and her companions, the holy martyrs, famous and not yet famous in the Holy Russian Church. It is from this place they went up to Heaven, and Heaven was united forever with the ground. We know that according to the legend of the mine, in which Alapayevsk martyrs were dropped was heard Cherubic Hymn. The martyrs, while in the bowels of the earth, experiencing the opening of the gates of heaven, and the singing of the Cherubic Hymn, in this case, at this point, more than symbolic. The place of the former mine, a pit in the ground, is the House of God.

It's not a rock, it is a mine, but it is the rock on which our faith rests. This is the place where I do not want to talk, but to be silent. In the important moments of significant men of the world is announced a minute's silence, we have a different tradition - prayer, so I think that it would be appropriate to make a minute of silence to all who come here, they might silently pray to the Grand Duchess in this holy place. And only then to take a walk around the monastery, get acquainted, because those who come from far away, it may be like to be alone with the Grand Duchess, so that they do not interfere with their innermost inner conversation".

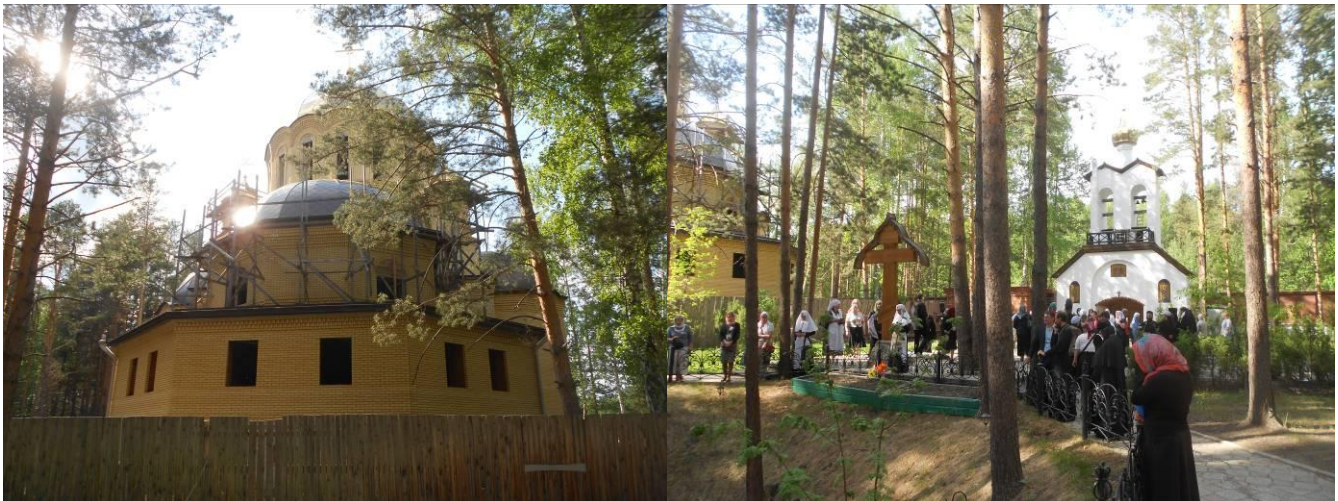


According to those involved in removing the bodies from the mine, only the body of Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich had a gunshot wound in the back of the head at the bottom of the nape; all others were thrown alive into the pit and died from injuries received in the fall, and from hunger. The body of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, despite the fact that all the bodies were in the mine for several months, was found completely incorruptible; on the face of the Grand Duchess was kept a smile expression. Prince John Konstantinovich body also succumbed only partial and rather insignificant (chest area) corruption, the rest of the body subjected to a greater or lesser degree of decomposition.



Following the silence with prayers, Bishop Methodius went around the mine, followed by the pilgrims, sprinkling holy water on all around it and all the pilgrims. Many then just stood in silence next to the fence surrounding the mine and looking at it, praying or thinking.

Next to the mine is a new church under construction. The yellow painted church building looked almost finished.



Video - From 1991: The service at St. Catherine church with the participation of Archbishop of Melchizedek. Interview with the director of the Upper Sinyachihinsky Museum Sergei Grigorievich Kaidalov. Consecration of the worship cross at the Lower Selimskaya mine, were Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nun Varvara, Grand Duke Sergei Michailovich and four princes, members of the imperial family were thrown.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M40tNqV5dpA>

Forum in Yekaterinburg

On 27th of May the IV International public forum "Elisabeth legacy today 2016" continued in Yekaterinburg. "Moscow-Ural-Siberia" pilgrims, local clergy, historians, politicians and administrative authority were in the Governor's residence, in a grand auditorium. Presidium of the Forum included Vladimir G. Tungusov, Vice-Governor of Sverdlovsk region; Anna V. Gromova, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of "Elisabeth Sergius educational society"; Ludmila V. Babushkina, the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Sverdlovsk region; Kirill, Metropolitan of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye; Methodius, Bishop of Kamensky and Alapayevsk; and Archpriest Dimitry Roshchin, Head of department on work with public associations and organizations of the Synodal Department for Church and Society Relations with the media; Vladimir V. Chernikov, director of the National Policy Department, Interregional Relations and Tourism of Moscow government; Olga S. Yarilova, Director of the Department of Tourism and Regional Russian policy of the Ministry of Culture; Pavel E. Kulikovskiy, Honorary member of "Romanov Family Association", great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, with spouse Ludmila.



The forum opened with Easter greeting and prayers. Then followed speeches from the members of the Presidium of the Forum.

Olga Yarilova, the head of the Department of Tourism and Regional Policy, Ministry of Culture of Russia said: "Currently, more than 700 tour operators (15% of the total) include in their tourist program religious and pilgrimage routes. According to expert estimates, the flow of tourists and pilgrims visiting the holy places in our country, more than 1.5 million tourists a year and is growing by 3-4%. Many of the tourists coming to visit the holy places are really religious people, and later return to them as the pilgrims."

"We need cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Culture, Elisabeth society and the largest Russian tour operators - especially those who have experience in the field of religious tourism. The meaning of this work is to create a tourist package. These packages must be thought through: from what points the tourist travels from and to, and which objects he visits" - offered Olga Yarilova.

Paul Kulikovsky, in his address to the audience, said

"Metropolitan Kirill, Bishop Methodius, Ludmila Valentinova, Anna Vitalevna, participants of the forum.

The last 3 days we have been on a pilgrim tour from Moscow to Yekaterinburg, Alapaevsk and Verkhaturye, arranged by the Elisabeth-Sergius Educational Society. It has been very interesting, inspiring, and spiritual gratifying, but also an emotional difficult travel.

As a blood relative of the Royal Martyrs and the Alapaevsk Martyrs, it is not easy for me to go to the places of their brutal death. But they are sacred places, so with a mix of sadness and spiritual joy, I went. Sadness, as it is places where royal blood was spilled in the earth and joy as there they became Martyrs.



A lot has already been done in honor of the Martyrs in these places, and I know preparations are being done now to further improve the access to and the facilities in these sacred places, in advance of the 100 years since their martyrdom. I am sure it is needed, as it is expected a lot of people will be coming to Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk to honor the Martyrs in 2018.

When praying in Ganina Yama, I felt a pain in my heart. I understand the Royal Passion Bearers and Martyr Elisabeth are those Romanovs most faithful remembers today. For many other people, is what happened 100 years ago just a dark page in Russian history.

For the descendant of the Imperial Romanov family it is not so. We have also other relatives on our mind and the almost 100 year old page is far from turned.

In short, many Romanovs were arrested and later killed. But still today, not all of them are buried.

On 13 June 1918, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich was killed in Perm. He is not found and buried. The Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovich, Dimitri Konstantinovich, Nicholas Konstantinovich and George Mikhailovich were shot in the Peter and Paul Fortress, in St. Petersburg on 30 January 1919. They are not found.

Others have been found but are not put to their eternal place - Passion Bearer Tsarevich Alexei and Passion Bearer Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaievna killed on 17 July 1918. Still they are not united with their family.

Alapaevsk Martyrs killed on 18 of July 1918. Several of them are buried in a park in Beijing, China - Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich; Prince John Konstantinovich, Prince Konstantin Konstantinovich and Prince Igor Konstantinovich; Prince Vladimir Paley. Their graves are almost forgotten and are not marked.

The grave of Grand Duke Nicholas Konstantinovich, who died 26 of January 1918 in Tashkent, was buried, but his grave needs to be rediscovered.

And last, the grave of Prince Oleg Konstantinovich, a St. George hero of the First World War, who died on 12 of October 1914, after being mortal wounded in a heroic attack on the enemy. His grave has been demolished and all traces of it is gone.

The fact that these tragic cases are not closed is not only painful for me and my family, but it seems also for many people in our Russian world.

To all of you assembled here today, I do not ask you to stop your work in honor of Martyr Elisabeth - not at all, it is also important. But if you have a spare moment, think about these Romanovs, who are still in need of a Christian burial. Please help by praying about them, so we may be able together to turn this dark page in Russian history.

Thank God, Martyr Elisabeth found peace in Jerusalem in 1920. Martyr Elisabeth was an amazing woman, a blessed gift from heaven, with deep Christian spirit, moral nobility, an enlightened mind, and gentle heart. Her exemplary life, her sacrifice and forgiveness, her martyrdom, have inspired many people, in Russia and around the world, to do good deeds in her honor, and more are joining all the time.



The IV International public forum about Elisabeth's legacy is proof of this. From a humble, but happy heart I would like to say thank you to all of you for what you are doing.

There is no doubt that it is much needed and most important - it gives hope to my people.

As mentioned 2018 is approaching and I am concerned. What is going to happen in July 2018? Will the commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of the Martyrs drown in football mania? I see a need to attract attention to this issue in all of Russia, and particular in Yekaterinburg.

If plans are made, please consider the following suggestions:

*What seems like obvious is to rename Sverdlovsk region.
Renaming streets may also seem obvious, but is still important to mention.*

Yesterday we visited Alapaevsk and were in the Field School. There we prayed in the memorial room of Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna.

I take this opportunity to call on the representatives of the authorities with a request to organize a new school in Alapaevsk, so that the Field School may become a museum in memory of the Alapaevsk martyrs.

To invite all the descendants of the Imperial Romanov family might not sound modest, but I think such a gesture would be seen as positive in a reconciliation process.

I am sure anyone among the Romanov descendants would be happy to help in preparation to this anniversary. I just want to let you know - we are ready!

In the end of my greeting, I would like to express my gratitude Mr. Governor for hospitality, Metropolitan Kirill and Bishop Methodius for their much appreciated participation, Elisabeth-Sergei Educational Society, in particular Anna Vitalievna Gromova, for having brought us here, arranged out pilgrimage, which let us to see all these Orthodox sacred places of Ural."

Same day it was decided to rename a part of a street to "Tsarist"

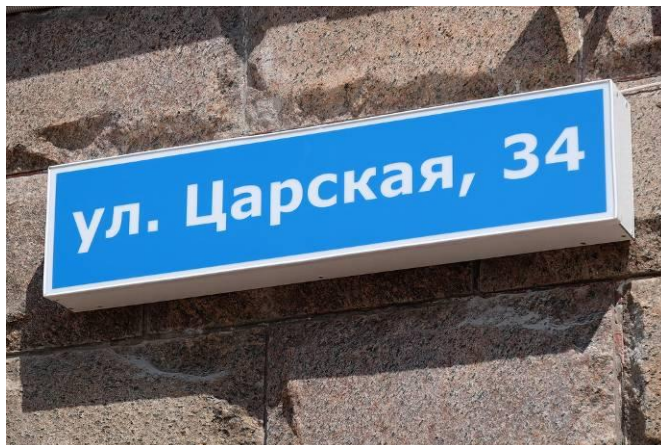
On 27 May, a part of the Tolmachev Street in the center of Yekaterinburg was renamed in honor of the family of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II.

"Tolmachev Street in the area from the street Pervomayskaya to street Nicholas Nikonov is renamed after decree by the head of the city administration," - reported the Kirov district of the city.

The issue of renaming the street the city authorities began to consider in the end of November 2015. Among the options were "Romanov", "Ipatiev" and "Nikolaev", but "Tsarist" was selected.

The name, according to city authorities and representatives of the clergy, will be a tribute to the family of Emperor Nicholas II, who met death in 1918 in the house of the engineer Ipatiev. At this site Church-on-Blood is located now.

According to a survey of local residents, many spoke out against renaming, so the street was renamed only in part - where there are no residential buildings.



In the break at the forum the media made some interviews. The speaker of the Regional Legislative Assembly Ludmila Babushkina said: "We highlight not only to a hiking trail in the Sverdlovsk region, but also the spiritual paths. This is Verkhoturys, Merkushino, Alapaevsk and Kamyshlov".

Middle Urals has a special place in the history of the House of Romanov. In Yekaterinburg, in the Ipatiev house the family of Nicholas II, the last Russian Emperor was shot. Every year in the memory of this, Yekaterinburg attracts thousands of pilgrims. Just last year about 60 thousand people participated. in the procession, from the Church on the Blood to Ganina Yama, to the place where the body had been destroyed.

Another tragic place for the House of Romanov is Alapaevsk. There the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna was in prison. She was killed by the Bolsheviks in 18 kilometers from the city."

Anna Gromova, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Fund "Elisabeth Sergius educational society said: "For us it was important to examine the state of the objects associated with memory of the Alapayevsk Martyrs and Reverend Martyr Elizabeth. And of course, we will give any assistance to the construction of a school in Alapaevsk, in order Field School, their place of detention can be turned into a museum."



Video - <http://www.obltv.ru/news/culture/sredniy-ural-prisoedinitnya-k-turistsko-palomnicheskomu-marshrutu-moskva-ural-sibir/>



The forum continued all afternoon, but Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy received an invitation make a brief visit to the "Romanov Memorial Hall" in the Museum of History and Archeology of the Urals. The Romanov Memorial Hall was opened in 2006. Its exposition tells about the Romanov dynasty on the Russian throne of Russia in the era of the reign of Nicholas II, the tragic events of 17 July 1918 and the secret burial of the remains of the Royal family.



The hall has unique exhibits of undoubted interest, several from Ipatiev house itself, as well as other objects of decoration and interior design. There are also the Mauser pistol that belonged to the murder P. Z. Yermakov; an original portrait of Princess of Hesse-Kassel Louise, grandmother of Emperor Nicholas II (via his mother Empress Maria Feodorovna), which is from the cabinet of Emperor Alexander III in Anichkov Palace.

The Kasly cast iron fireplace and the grills from the window to the "firing" room in Ipatiev house



The exposition also tells about the history of discovery of the remains and the investigation of the murder case of the Romanovs in the Urals, which lasted more than 100 years.



*Left - Ermakov's Mauser used to shoot Emperor Nicholas II. Right - Part of the coffin the carried St. Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna from Beijing to Jerusalem.
Below - General view of the exhibition*



Gala dinner in the Governor's residence

In the evening there was a gala dinner in the old part of the Governor's residence - the former Merchant Tarasov Mansion.

A few short speeches were made, and Anna Gromova announced that among the plans of the Elisabeth-Sergius Educational society are an exhibition in Darmstadt in November and later another exhibition in St. Petersburg.



Tobolsk

On May 28 the pilgrims arrived in Tobolsk, they met with representatives of secular and religious organizations, educational institutions, local historians, and museum workers in the Governor Palace.

Greetings were made by the Deputy Governor of the Tyumen region N.A. Shevchyk; head of the city of Tobolsk V.V. Mazur; Diocesan administration secretary of Tobolsk and Tyumen Diocese Alexey Petrov; and the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Elisabeth-Sergius educational society Anna Vitalevna Gromova.

"The last ten years Tobolsk has actively rebuilt the main shrine - the Tobolsk Kremlin, there is created an infrastructure for tourism and already a lot of pilgrims visiting the city, but the Elisabeth Sergius educational society can play a role in increasing the number of pilgrims and tourists.

Society, which is working on the historical routes that... for most the majority are unknown", - said Natalia Shevchyk.



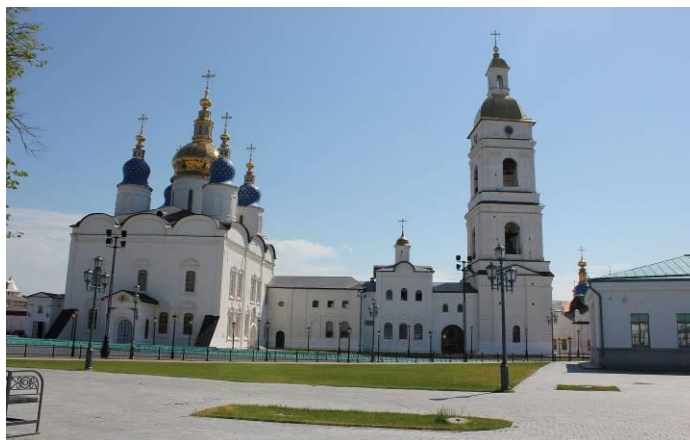
Anna Gromova told about the fund and noted the high level of preserving the memory of the Royal martyrs in Tobolsk. She then noted: "Together we must work hard over the Ural route, because we want it to get to this region very much. It is only through joint efforts, uniting church, community, government agencies, that we can reach our goals. It is important that as many people as possible get acquainted with the Russian history", - said Anna Gromova.

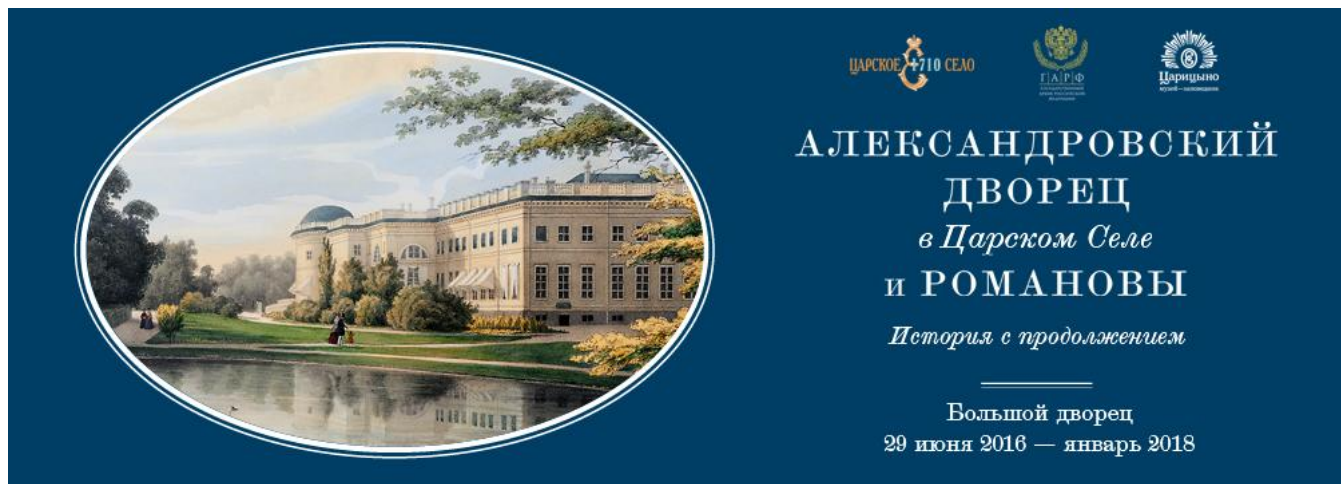


Mayor of Tobolsk Vladimir Mazur added that the city is honoring their memory, and hold annually activities related to the Romanov dynasty. "They will continue, and we will take part in the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the memory of the Royal martyrs", - assured the mayor.

At the meeting was reviewed and discussed the basic principles of missionary work in the study of the lives of the New Martyrs and Confessors Russian, the concept of a museum of history of the Romanov royal family in Tobolsk, and more.

Then the delegates visited the Sophia-Assumption Cathedral (where was made a prayer to St. John, Metropolitan of Tobolsk), the sacristy, the Museum of History of Orthodoxy in Siberia, the Vicar's Palace, the Governor-general's house, where lived the Royal family during the Tobolsk captivity, and last visit went to the Abalaksky Znamensky monastery.





The exhibition "Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo and the Romanovs. The story to be continued"

06/29/2016 - 01/31/2018

On June 28, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky participated in the opening of the exhibition "Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo and the Romanovs. The story to be continued" in the museum-reserve "Tsaritsyno".



After a pre-view of the exhibition for the media, the grand opening took place in the Catherine Hall to the sound of music. The director of Tsaritsyno museum Elisabeth Fokina welcomed the invited guests, and then followed speeches by director of Tsarskoye Selo Museum Olga V. Taratynova, Scientific director Sergei V. Mironenko, exhibition curator Olga Barkovets and great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Paul Kulikovsky.



Paul E. Kulikovskiy said:

*"Dear Elisabeth Borisovna, Olga Vladislavovna, Sergei Vladimirovich, Ladies and Gentlemen,
What a splendid idea it is to move artifacts from Alexander Palace during its restoration, instead of putting them into storage. It will allow them to stay in the spotlight and be viewed by many more people, instead of collecting dust in the dark.*

Living in Moscow, I am happy that this collection of master pieces came to Moscow - to Tsaritsyno. I remember the exhibition here

about Emperor Paul I in 2011. It was very well done - A fascinating story told with a lot of beautiful objects displayed in a beautiful design.

So my expectations to this new exhibition were very high, but after having seen it, I am thrilled - it is excellent.

It also made me think - that we see too few exhibitions from the big St. Petersburg museums in Moscow and vice versa. I do hope what we witness here today, is the beginning of a new trend.

As a descendant of Empress Catherine the Great, I am very pleased that these two palaces, both initiated upon Catherine's wishes, are working together as museums. Both palaces had difficult times - but came through them.

Tsaritsyno was never really used as planned and no Romanovs were ever living in it. But now it has raised as a Phoenix from the ashes thanks to the Moscow government.

Alexander Palace has a more glorious history as the home for several generations of Romanovs. But it suffered during the great patriotic war and the changes to it during the Soviet period.

As a descendant of the Romanov family, I am very happy that the Alexander Palace is finally being fully restored. The Alexander Palace was one of the favorite palaces for many members of my family. They all have wonderful memories from it - and so have I.

The Alexander Palace was more a private residence, than an official palace. Built for Alexander Pavlovich, he never the less preferred to live in the Grand Palace in Tsarskoye Selo. Instead, in it lived his brother Nicholas Pavlovich and his family, then came Alexander Nikolaivich and his family and then Alexander Alexandrovich and his family.

His wife Maria Feodorovna actually loved Alexander Palace a lot. And there was born both Nicholas Alexandrovich and his brother George Alexandrovich.

My great-grandmother Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna was born in Peterhof, but in her memories she writes, that she were often in the Alexander Palace.

Even during winter time, almost every Saturday, in the early morning, she took the train and then in a sledge to the Alexander Palace, where she visited her brother and his family, and then took the 11 clock train back to St. Petersburg.

And as we all know, Emperor Nicholas II became the last of the Romanovs to live in Alexander Palace - but more about that in the following exhibition.

Now the 700 exhibits from Tsarskoye Selo, and other museums and archives, will allows the visitors to get closer to their life, almost to step into their world.

But this exhibition is not just about a palace, or just about the Romanovs - it is also very much about Russian history, Russian architecture, Russian fashion, Russian culture, Russian politics....

Whatever your interest is, I am sure you will find something that will catch your attention and make you appreciate the glory of Russia!

Finally, let me express my gratitude to all of you who have contributed to this exhibition. You have done a tremendous work and created a wonderful exhibition. I wish Tsaritsyno and Tsarskoye Selo congratulations with this success. May you have a very long queue in the coming days and soon run out of catalogues!"

After the speeches the red ribbon was cut to the entrance of the exhibition halls.

The exhibition in the seven halls of Tsaritsyno, leads you in chronological order through the history, starting with Catherine II, then Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II and ends with Alexander III and at little bit related to Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich's travel to the East in 1890-1891.





For those who have been to the Alexander Palace within the last years many objects will be familiar, but not all, as there are four paintings from the Novgorod Museum Reserve. Two of them - a 1830s Basin and a Lebedev - belonged to Emperor Alexander III, and there are two - of the historical genre by Vasnetsov and Lebedev from the personal collection of Emperor Nicholas II. The "St. Basil" by Lebedev used to hang next to Serov's portrait of Alexander III - which is also in the exhibition.



Then there are also watercolors, letters and diaries from the Russian State Archives, which adds insight on the personalities.

A 64 pages catalogue is made for the exhibition and it seems to cover the later coming second part of the exhibition also, as the period of Emperor Nicholas II is included. The second part of the project is called "Alexander Palace in 1917", and will be devoted to Emperor Nicholas II, his family and the last days of Alexander Palace as a royal residence. It is set to open in December 2016, and run into 2017.



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

There are absolutely nothing to report regarding the burial-case, and it can only makes one wonder if anything at all is going on or an announcement is being planned to a specific time.



Sobyenin proposed to vote again on the name Voikovskaya

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin during a straight line on the TV channel "TV Center" requested a vote on the portal "Active Citizen" of the name of the platform of the Moscow Ring Railway (CIT), which is under construction, in the vicinity of Moscow metro station Voikovskaya.

"Let's check out the desire of Muscovites, there are no objections. Let's vote separately if we will call the CIT platform near the metro station "Voikovskaya". As Muscovites tells, so be it" - said Sergey Sobyenin.

Voting on the name of the station CIT "Voikovskaya" started in Moscow

23 June. Ria Novosti. - Voting on the name of the station on the Small Ring Railway (CIT) in Moscow, in the vicinity of the metro station "Voikovskaya", was launched on the portal "Active Citizen", tells the press service of the portal.

Earlier, the Public Chamber appealed to Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin with a request to hold an additional vote in the "active citizen" on the naming of the new CIT platform. Sobyenin supported this idea.

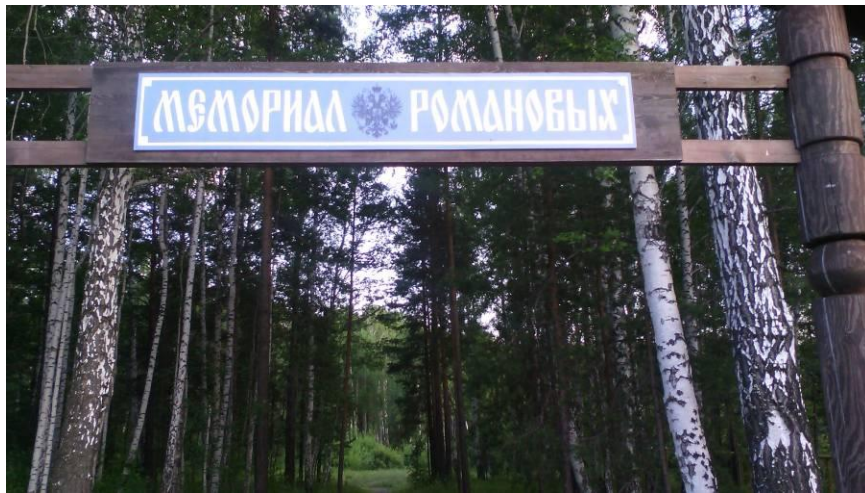


"On this project, "Active Citizen" will start an additional voting, initiated by the Public Chamber of the City of Moscow as famous public figures believe that the issues of the name of the existing metro station under construction and CIT platform should be considered separately," - said a statement.

At the Porosenkov Log (Pig's Meadow),

The birthday of Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna, on June 26, was commemorated at the Porosenkov Log, at the cross on the site where her relics and those of Tsarevich Alexei were found, and flowers were attached to the cross.

The "Memorial Romanovs" is 17 km from Yekaterinburg, 7.5 km from Ganina Yama (the monastery in honor of the Holy Royal Martyrs) at the place named Porosenkov Log. In 1991 at this place the remains were found, which are recognized as belonging to the Imperial family. The sign on the gate into the "Memorial Romanov" has just been renewed. Now it is readable again.



The production of the metal Worship Cross is full swing at the Ural smithy. It will be installed on the site of discovery of the relics of Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria on the 17 July. Hopefully it will reduce the vandalism of the cross.



Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich was remembered in Perm

13 June. Perm Nesekretno. Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich Romanov was killed in Perm in 1918. Commemorating this, a penitential procession went from the Holy Trinity Monastery Stefanov in Motovilikha to the chapel of St. Michael of Tver. This saint is revered as the patron saint of Mikhail Romanov.



There was held a memorial service and a small temporary exhibition devoted to the Romanov dynasty, and the New Martyrs, a thematic exhibition of books, and documentaries were shown. In the evening, the ceremony of laying flowers at the memorial plaque to Michael Romanov on the building of the former hotel "Korolyevskiy rooms" on the Siberian street 5 took place. He lived in this building in May and June 1918. From this hotel he was taken late in the evening on June 12, into the forest in the east of Perm and shot.

Celebrations devoted to the House of Romanov in Bryansk region

June 12, 2016. Press-service of the Governor and Bryansk Regional Government - June 11 in the village of Lokets in Brasovsky area, at the place where was the estate of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, son of Emperor Alexander III, a celebration dedicated to the House of Romanov was held.



The event was attended by director of the Department of Culture of the Bryansk region Elena Krivtsov, deputy of the State Duma Viktor Malashenko, Head of Administration Brasovsky district Sergey Lavokin, chairman of the charity fund named after Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - Olga Kulikovskiy, head of the regional executive committee of the party "United Russia" Vitaly Svintsov, CEO of regional Foundation overhaul Viktor Gorin,

Bryansk dean of deanery, Archpriest Vladimir Safronov, as well as special guests and residents of the area.

Elena Krivtsov welcomed participants on behalf of the Governor of the Bryansk region Alexander Bogomazov. She noted that the event, held in memory of the Romanov family, is of great importance not only for the residents of Brasovsky, but the entire region.

"These places are historically connected with the great representatives of the Royal dynasty. It was they who laid the foundations of Russian statehood. People in village Loket cherish the memory of Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich Romanov. Here, amid the wonderful countryside, we can feel the spirit of the era and learn interesting historical facts and events", - said Elena Krivtsov.

Addressing the participants, Olga Kulikovskiy-Romanov told that her husband was a nephew of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, and said that she felt particularly happy, since her dream come true - to visit the Brasovo estate.

"Our family has preserved the memory of a bright image of the Grand Duke. Like its older brother, the last legitimate Tsar Nicholas II Alexandrovich, Mikhail was a man of duty, honor, loyalty to Christ and to the Motherland, creator and commander, prayer and defender of the faith, family man and an athlete,

connoisseur and patron of the arts and crafts. That was our dear Uncle Misha in the family and the people's memory" - she said.



On the same day, in the evening, a concert was organized for the guests and residents of the village.

Next day Loket residents could see the recently restored fountain that adorned the square in front of the palace of Mikhail Romanov - brother of Emperor Nicholas II – was destroyed.

Especially for the celebrations the district authorities and local residents had decided to at least partially restore the fountain standing in the garden of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich estate. The head of administration Sergei Lavokin and other residents during the spring had cleaned the

fountain and partially restored it. Everything was done for the money of philanthropists and with the work of many villagers. For the celebrations, was even installed a sparkling water jet to the joy to visitors and residents of Loket. It was another symbol of life revival.

It was later reported, that it was due to someone being drunk and wanted to stand on top of the fountain, which then cracked and was destroyed.

Bust of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich coming to Orel



Moscow sculptor Salavat Alexandrovich Scherbakov has prepared a bust of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, which is to be placed in Orel, where the Grand Duke was the commander of the 17th Hussars of the Chernigov Regiment for a short period.



New monument to Tsarevich Alexei Nicholaievich to open in July

June 24, 2016 in St. Nicholas Berlyukovsky Monastery was delivered a monument of the Holy Passion-Heir Tsarevich and Grand Duke Alexei Nikolayevich.

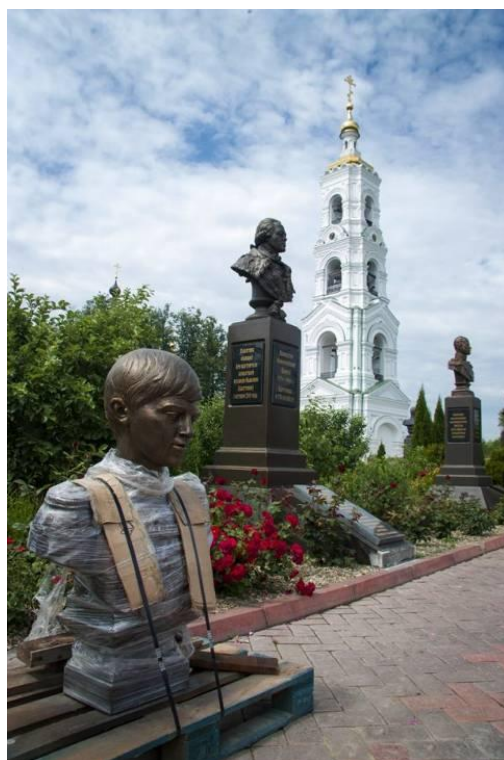
On July 7, 2016 at the "Romanov Walk of Fame" the opening ceremony and consecration of the new monument will be held.

Over six years in the territory of the monastery has been installed and consecrated seven monuments: Emperor Alexander I, Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicholas I, Nicholas II, Paul I and Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich.

The author of all the monuments on the "Walk of Fame Romanov" is a sculptor, Honored Artist of Russia, a graduate of the Faculty of Sculpture of the Moscow State Art Institute Alexander A. Apollonov.

At the beginning of 2016 A. A. Apollonov specifically for Nicholas Berlyukovsky monastery made a new monument to the holy passion Heir Tsarevich and Grand Duke Alexei Nikolayevich.

The monument was made and brought to the monastery on the funds raised by benefactors. A special word of thanks to S. S. Antipov, V. A. Dvoryankov, V. V. Dorkin, A. A. Klěsov, V. P. Poteruhin, G. N. Grishin and M. L. Serdyukov.



Commemorative activities in Yalta related to the 100th anniversary of the tragic events in Russia and the death of the Royal family

24 June. Press service of Yalta City Council - A complex of commemorative activities related to the 100th anniversary of the tragic events in Russia and the death of the Royal family, is to be held in Yalta in 2016 - 2018 as part of the spiritual and educational program "Royal Symphony". The decision was taken during a meeting in the Yalta city council under the leadership of the chairman of the city Valery Kosarev. City the council members Irina Alekseeva, Alexander Bolhovitov and Helen Nadel, chief of the department of culture and education in Yalta administration Larisa Kovalchuk and Renard Kutkovsky, chairman of the Public Chamber and the Public Council of the municipality Yuri Andrushchenko and Alexander Kashkarov, rector of the Holy Cross church at Livadia palace Archpriest Dmitry Gotskalyuk, adviser to the City Council chairman Nicholas Kropin, and representatives of the Livadia Palace museum and spa complex attended the meeting.

"Orthodox Church initiated to commemorate the anniversary of the tragic events of the last century. And now we need to develop a plan, including actions related to the restoration of monuments and cultural heritage" - said Valery Kosarev, adding that among other things to do will be to identify places and objects on the southern coast of Crimea, related to the Romanov family in addition to the well-known.

According to him, on the order of the chairman of the City Council a commission will be set up, which will attract historians of the Crimean Federal University and the Livadia Palace Museum. "We will determine those responsible for each area of work and looking forward to prepare a preliminary plan for the project "Royal Symphony" by the first meeting", - said the head of the municipality, also proposing to invite the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Crimea Arina Novoselsky.



The head of the municipality said that a number of objects related to the members of the Royal family, are located on the territory of resorts, now part of the State Unitary Enterprise of the RK "Solar Tavrika", and said that with the leadership of this union has been reached a tentative agreement on the support of archival and historical research and assist in the restoration of memorials of the Royal family in the framework of the project. Valery Kosarev offered that work in the municipality to be lead by the chief of the Department of Culture Larisa Kovalchuk involving Yalta deanery and museum staff. Head of the Education Department Renard Kutkovsky will coordinate training and education. "The plan must be enabled

to carry out additional extracurricular activities and classroom hours dedicated to the history of the Romanov dynasty, to invite priests, guides and museum specialists", - said Valeriy Kosarev. He appealed to the leadership of TV and radio company "Yalta" to prepare information materials to familiarize residents and visitors with the little-known or forgotten events and objects on the southern coast of Crimea, connected with the Royal family and the history of Russia pre-revolutionary period.

Yuri Andrushchenko, head of TRC "Yalta", made a counter-initiative to create a feature-length documentary made by invited specialists with extensive experience. "The finished product can be run on the regional and federal TV channels, and the film should be the hallmark of Yalta, as a cultural and historical capital of the Fatherland", - he stressed.

Deputy Alexander Bolhovitov proposed to generalize and to use materials of the anthology "old Yalta" for the anniversary edition, dedicated to the memorable dates 2017-18's. He expressed his willingness

to lead a working group that will develop a concept, determine the technical requirements for it to attract journalists and ethnographers specializing in the history of that period.

Head of Education Department Renard Kutkovsky called to include the project provisions as the goals and objectives of the two upcoming school years. "During extracurricular activities will need to consider proposals on the development of exciting educational programs, as well as activities devoted to 100 anniversary of the tragic events, including the excursion program", - he said.

Rector of Holy Cross church of Romanovs in Livadia Palace Father Dmitry said that in May 2017 - for the next birthday of the Emperor is planned to hold a representative international scientific-practical conference "Livadia reading". "I wish that this event will contribute to a better coverage of the causes and consequences of the tragic events of a century ago and helped remove the experience of what happened," - he said. "Not all the people today have the perception of the Fatherland in its entirety and contradictions of its long history."



Father Dmitry expressed confidence that leading historians will summarize and give unbiased and objective assessment of the events occurring 100 years ago. "It is still tense debate on what have been lost and what gained, what was the prospect of development and dignity or not, we abandoned," - he explained.

According to the cleric, 2017 will be celebrated all over the country. "First of all it will affect Livadia and Yalta –because Royal family lived in Livadia," - said Father Dmitry, and expressed confidence that planned activities should be divided into two components - in memory of the events of 1917 and the anniversary the execution of the Imperial family. "In 2017 we have an idea to develop and publish high-quality pilgrim tourist guide with route development, which would have marked the place of stay, not only of the Royal family, but the people who wrote and created the Yalta's history," - he said explaining: "We offer to make this guide "in the people" - not just with photos of palaces, but with the story of those who lived here, the contribution they made to the story."

According to Father Dmitry, this edition will give people the opportunity to gain significant knowledge about the history of the southern coast. "Especially now Yalta perceived, unfortunately, more and more as a trading city, and less we say about its historical, cultural and political greatness," - he stated and also asked to consider separately the question of the return of historical names of Yalta streets, now bearing the names of Sverdlov and Voikov, which are directly related to the murder of the Romanov family.

The priest recalled that Livadia - this is the place where the Royal family spent time happily. "So we want from the commemorative events to give good impression, and this, in our view, in our opinion, would contribute to the restoration of the beautiful, built in the Byzantine style of the Church of the Lord's Ascension, which was once created here by the Emperor's grandmother. And this would be a wonderful monument to the 100th anniversary of the death of the Romanovs" - summed Father Dmitry.

Advisor to the Chairman of the City Council Nikolai Kropin supported the idea of the division of plan in two parts - individually dedicated to the events of 1917 and 1918, and noted the need for a preliminary consideration of the question of renaming streets by the Public Council and the Public Chamber of the

city. And Valery Kosarev said: "We need to examine carefully all the material related to the return of Sverdlov and Voikov streets historical names, including the study of public opinion, the legal framework, the financial side of the issue, and with the mandatory public hearings!"

Summing up the meeting, the head of the municipality expressed confidence that the planned activities will play a significant role in the restoration of historical justice. "The next meeting, I think, should be held in the Livadia Palace with invited scientists of Federal University, local historians, the Ministry of Culture of the Crimea, the diocese, as well as historians from Moscow and St. Petersburg", - concluded Valery Kosarev.

Empress Catherine the Great monument arrived in Simferopol, Crimea

June 12, sculptures of Catherine II and the statesman, who participated in the annexation of the Crimea to Russia, Prince Grigory Potemkin, Vasily Dolgoruky, commander Alexander Suvorov and the Russian ambassador to Turkey James Bulgakov came to Simferopol .

In Crimea, the final preparations are underway before the important event - Inauguration of the monument scheduled for end of July , timed to the Day of the Navy.



The bronze statue of the Empress was casted in Zhukovsky workshop of near Moscow. Before going on the road, the bronze was treated with a burner at a temperature of 200 degrees to remove all the moisture and then covered with special wax, it will protect the monuments from the environment, and the characteristic green bronze tint will only appear after ten years.

This "lady" in full length, weighing three tons, needed a "heavy" carriage for transportation. She was accompanied by the Princes Potemkin and Dolgorukov - in full length, and two busts - of Bulgakov and Suvorov.

They look very much like the originals, which were on the monument created on the orders of Emperor Alexander III and erected in 1890. Master spent nearly 15 years spent to re-create the monument of the XIX century. The only thing remained from that

original compositions is a bas-relief. It depicted handling of the Crimean Tatars the regalia to Catherine. But it was decided to leave the original in the museum in Armavir. Masters made instead an exact copy of the bas-relief.

For the creation of a "second" Catherine II the residents of Crimea collected money all over the world - and gathered at present 46 million rubles. More lights in cast iron, as it was in the XIX century, will be installed next to the main composition.

Design of the sculptures is made by artist Alexander Chekunov and Dmitry Startsev, relying for its design on the surviving descriptions and photos of the monument. Also involved in the restoration of the monument are Moscow sculptors Konstantin Kubyshev and Igor Jaworski, and the general contractor is Production Complex "Lit Art" from the city of Zhukovsky.



Elena Aksenov on the occasion of the delivery of the monument posted pictures of the monument on the unloading site and accompanied them with the words that "late last night, on the Day of Russia, Catherine the Great is "back" in the Crimea, I believe that is FOREVER! This morning sculptures were brought to the construction site."



Video - http://tvzvezda.ru/news/vstrane_i_mire/content/201606151806-d53x.htm

"Charity in history. The contribution of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in the Red Cross activities of the Russian Society" in Geneva

June 20, 2016 the exhibition "Charity in history. The contribution of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in the activities of the Russian Red Cross Society" organized by the Elisabeth Sergius educational society with the support of the permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the UN Office in Geneva and other international organizations and the International Red Cross Committee, was opened at the United Nations Office in Geneva.



Opening the ceremony, A. N. Wartkin a Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN Office in Geneva and other international organizations noted that the exposition devoted to the history of charity and philanthropy in Russia. Based on Christian traditions and national culture, the Russian Tsars, the Russian Emperors, nobles made a significant contribution to the development of humanitarian activities of a large number of medical, social and other institutions. In 1867, the Russian society for "care for the sick and wounded soldiers" was transformed into the Russian Red Cross Society (ROKK) and was included in the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC)".

Then A.N. Wartkin noted the contribution of the Elisabeth Sergius Educational society in the preparation of this exhibition and gave the floor to Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC, who spoke about the Russian contribution to the creation of the International Red Cross and the role of the Royal family, including the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and the development of the movement. He mentioned Henry Dunant, who, when all other had forgotten him, was invited to Russia where he was appreciated for his services to the International Red Cross movement, was noted for his work with an award and at the request of Empress Maria Feodorovna, was appointed a lifetime pension.



Archbishop Mikhail of Geneva and Western Europe drew attention to what contemporaries called the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. Her Imperial Highness embodied the image of a mother to all who needed her care. Experience charitable activities of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna are

in demand even today. Thousands of people across Russia, in the CIS countries, Germany and England are devoted to the mercy of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and go in her footsteps.

Closing the ceremony, Anna V. Gromova, chairman of the Supervisory Board of Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society was honored to open in the historic walls of the United Nations an exhibition devoted to charitable activities of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, who in her social work went much further than required by the International Red Cross Committee instructions.

In addition to solving the statutory objectives, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna organized assistance during epidemics, natural disasters and crop failure. She paid attention to all categories of people in need of charity, regardless of age, sex and religion.

Then Anna V. Gromov invited guests to see the exhibition and exchange views over a glass of champagne.

The exposition has caused genuine interest among the visitors, noting its wealth of factual material and a large number of rare and little-known photographs.

The exhibition was opened from June 20 to July 1, 2016

Videos - 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6Lf7u0ryk>

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXr30KblUvs>



Wall painting of Emperor Nicholas II and family in Evpatoria, Crimea

In the beginning of June an unusual graffiti appeared on a wall of a house in the "old town" - the most interesting and original area of Evpatoriya, in Crimea. It shows an episode of the arrival of the Imperial family to Evpatoria in May 1916.



"Catherine the great - self-polished diamond of the Hermitage"

Hermitage Amsterdam Unravels myths surrounding Europe's greatest Empress and her life.

Two hundred and fifty years after Catherine the Great founded the Hermitage, the Hermitage Amsterdam presents her life story in a sumptuous exhibition on Europe's longest-reigning Empress. Her name has always been surrounded with stories and superlatives, often about her private life and court intrigues. Some of these stories belong to the realm of myth, but others are perfectly true.



At the age of fourteen, Catherine (1729–1796) was a German Princess married off to the Russian Tsarevich. She later overthrew her husband, Peter III, and claimed the throne for herself. Catherine would become the greatest Tsarina of all times. She had ambitious plans to reform the whole empire and acted with great foresight. Although she encountered setbacks, her achievements were astounding.



Catherine had a tremendous passion for art and contributed more than anyone else to the world's greatest art collection. She was an enlightened despot, corresponding with Voltaire and Diderot. She added a new territory to her empire as large as France, and including Crimea. And in all her endeavors, she had a sharp eye for talented people who could help her, such as the Orlov brothers and her most influential lover, Potemkin. She was a diamond of her own making.

After her death, Catherine was hero to hundreds of books, films, and plays, and she inspired great actresses like Marlene Dietrich, Bette Davis, Hildegard Knef, Catherine Deneuve, and Julia Ormond.

Aided by her memoirs and those of her contemporaries, Hermitage Amsterdam presented more than 300 objects from the Hermitage in St Petersburg, which invited visitors into Catherine's world. The exhibition unravels her life story and sketches her personality. It is also an exhibition like a jewellery box, with magnificent personal possessions such as dresses, bijoux, cameos, and snuff boxes, as well the finest art works from her vast collection: paintings, sculptures, exquisite crafts, and portraits of her friends and loved ones.



On June 17, 2016 at the grand opening of the exhibition in the exhibition center "Hermitage - Amsterdam," Mikhail Piotrovsky said that the exhibition is "a masterpiece of design and beautifully told story, the story of a great personality. Catherine not just loved art. She knew that the art is very important. And we can learn a lot from her. Catherine was a sly and clever German Princess. She became a tough and charming Russian Empress. She continued the work of Peter the Great and turned Russia into a European country. But not according to the way the Dutch like it, but to the French model. She admired Voltaire, and he - her. She admired Frederick the Great, and competed with

him. Thus was born the Hermitage. She loved theater and was able to transform the theater life around. And she turns the theater into reality. Friends and enemies were admired that reality. All of this is the story of her in the exhibition in the Hermitage Amsterdam and in our catalog to her."

From 18 June 2016 to 15 January 2017



"Faberge - Gifts of the Imperial family" - exhibition in Germany

Special exhibition presented from June 25 to October 16, 2016 in Schloss Fasanerie, Eichenzell (near Fulda), near Frankfurt, Germany.

The work of the Russian jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé fascinates with precision craftsmanship, originality of the design and the gloss of the processed materials. The special exhibition "Faberge - Gifts of the Imperial family" shows a selection of these masterpieces of European arts and crafts.

Princesses entered the Tsar's family through marriage, received Fabergé work as gifts, which they sent home to family members. In the collection of the Hessian House Foundation there are numerous of these impressive works of art. They came as gifts of Darmstadt Princess Alix, who was married to the last Russian Tsar, Nicholas II.

For the first time the collection of the Fasanerie Foundation made available to the public and at the Museum Schloss. The exhibition focuses on the personal gifts from Russia as well as on the life of the giver and recipient.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Hessian Cultural Foundation, the Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen-Thüringen and the Foundation of Sparkasse Fulda.



"Faberge. Power of Love"

On June 18 a private charity auction and multimedia show

"Faberge. Power of Love" to mark the 170th anniversary of the birth of Carl Faberge held in Moscow. The charity event was attended by People's Artist of Russia Yuri Rozum, soloist of La Scala and La Fenice Federico Lepre, the Bologna Opera soloist Xenia Titovchenko-Bomarsi, soloist of the New Opera Vienna Sava Tikhonov and show ballerina Irina Knyazeva.



Since the first minutes guests were plunged into the atmosphere of the jeweler Carl Faberge heritage and grandeur of Imperial Russia. In the lobby there was an exhibition of the world's leading fashion brands.

In the hall "Dolgoruky" was the auction of the "Literary Fund", which provided 170 exclusive lots. Among them - the rare books that represent a unique historical and cultural value, autographs, old pictures, posters and objects of decorative art.

After the auction, the guests moved to the hall "Tchaikovsky", where started the gala dinner and the multimedia literary-musical performance "Faberge. Power of Love" based on Tchaikovsky's works.



One jewelry house presented a unique golden egg, created in the single copy and decorated with 428 diamonds, 248 rubies, 33 sapphires and 48 white pearls.

An autograph of Prince Felix Yusupov went for 70,000 rubles. However the real furor made a "Medal for drunkenness" weighing 7 kg from 1914 - made as a copy of Emperor Peter the Great version from 1714 - it was sold for 350,000 rubles.



The funds raised during the auction goes to grants to outstanding students of professional educational institutions of the city of Moscow "College of arts and crafts of the Karl Faberge" and CGBPOU "Art and professional lyceum of St. Petersburg Karl Faberge."

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



Items from the Raphael Service joined the Tsarskoye Selo museum collection

State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" bought at Bonhams auction a cup and saucer from the famous Raphael service - the most significant ceremonial ensemble of the late XIX - early XX century, made at the St. Petersburg porcelain factory. Tsarskoye Selo replenished its collection with funding from the Club of Friends of the Museum.

"We have dreamed of this for many years. The service, originally made for Tsarskoye Selo, was not represented in our collection by any product. Items from the Raphael service are rarely put up for auction, they are very expensive. In this case, the price issue - about six thousand pounds. We are happy that, thanks to the support of the Club, were able to participate in the auction and are immensely grateful to friends of the museum for the opportunity to buy a cup and saucer. Symbolically, the rarest items replenished our porcelain collection in the year of the 10th anniversary of the Friends Club. The best gift you can imagine", - said the deputy director for scientific work of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" Iraida Bott.



Raphael service was made at the Imperial Porcelain Factory specifically for the Tsarskoye Selo commissioned by Emperor Alexander III. Masters started to work in 1883, and the ensemble project was developed under the leadership of head painter Leonard Schaufelberger. Work on the service took 20 years. In 1903, the ensemble for 50 persons was fully prepared and kept in the storerooms for services of the Imperial Palace in the Palace Administration. A year later it was transferred to Anichkov Palace at the disposal of Empress Maria Feodorovna.

Colorful scenic piece with ornamental and allegorical compositions was created based on the paintings of Raphael Loggias and completely covers the surface of the porcelain. At the bottom of the items are made with gold paint "H II 1900." - on the plate, and "H II 1899" - on the cup, on top of the under glaze are marks from the time of Alexander III).

- Such double mark indicates that painting objects is often used porcelain from inventories of storerooms. Tea pair sign during the reign of Emperor Nicholas II, while the so-called "underwear" (unpainted porcelain), created under Alexander III, - explains the custodian of the "Porcelain" GMZ "Tsarskoe Selo" Elena Ereemeeva.

Now the museum porcelain collection will be presented with samples of this unique ceremonial ensemble destined for receptions in Tsarskoye Selo.



Theatrical fashion show "Tsarskoye Selo. Russian style"

On June 25, for the eighth time "Tsarskoye Selo" Museum-Reserve has offered leading designers of St. Petersburg to create collections dedicated to the summer residence of Russian Emperors. This place has inspired architects, painters, masters of art and crafts, and poets. It is literally sated beauty. Therefore, designers of clothes happily embraced the idea of Director of the State Museum "Tsarskoye Selo" Olga Taratynova to show their collections at fashion shows in a theatrical scenic in the Park.

Thus was born the "Association" - a unique museum project that brings together history and modernity, classical and avant-garde art. Every year since 2009, known Petersburg designers created collections of haute couture on a given theme. Inspired by Tsarskoye Selo and its unique atmosphere, they are

represented in different parts of the Catherine Park collection "War and Peace", "baroque", "Game of antiquity", "Anglomania", and "Ambassadorial gifts: countries and styles."

The main theme of this year is "Tsarskoye Selo. Russian style". It allows designers to refer to national traditions, which formally are embodied in the monuments of architecture and art in the imperial summer residence.

In 2016 designers present their collections on these sites

Catherine Park: Leonid Alexeev - Central Alley at the pavilion "Hermitage"; Lily Kisselenko - Mirror Pond at the pavilion "Upper bath"; Stas Lopatkin - At the pavilion "Grotto"; Tatiana Parfenov - Freylinsky Garden; and Janis Chamalidy - Grand Staircase Cameron Gallery.

"Russian style" in Tsarskoye Selo - In 1834, Nicholas I decreed the creation of the ceremonial dress for the ladies "in the Russian manner." This document strictly regulated the cut of the dress, color, fabric and character decorations: velvet color, drawing gold and silver embroidery, and loop length match the social status of the owner. Kokoshnik with a veil for married women and dressing (as with a veil) - for girls complemented the outfit. The established Nicholas I type full dress "in the Russian spirit" in general was maintained until 1917, changing according to the fashion features only in the details.

At the turn of the XIX and XX centuries Tsarskoye Selo became one of the distribution and promotion centers of Russian style. There were collected and studied the old days, erect a complex of buildings in the neo-Russian style. A striking example - the building of the sovereign's Martial Chamber, which served as a model for the "old ward samples Pskov-Novgorod architecture."



The celebration of the Russian cathedral in Nice

On 9 of June 2016, a celebration of the opening of the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral took place at the Hotel Le Negresco in Nice, France, with a charitable gala dinner and auction.

Mr. Pierre de Fermor, President of the ACRN; HE Mr. Alexander Orlov, Russian Ambassador to France and Monaco; Mr. Christian Estrosi, President of the Metropolis Nice (Côte d'Azur), participated and welcomed the guests to the Gala evening. Among the guest could also be seen Prince George Yurievsky with spouse, Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy with spouse, Prince Constantin Mourousy and spouse, Count Peter Sheremetev with spouse, Princess Camilla of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duchess of Castro, Princess Karina Bagration-Moukhransky and Guéorgui Chichkine.



Top, left - His Reverence Nestor with the marchioness Roberta Gilardi and her husband Dr. Sestito. Top, right - Prince George Yurievsky speaking, and next to him Russian Ambassador Alexander Orlov and Mr. Pierre de Fermor.

Above, left - Guéorgui Chichkine, and Prince Alexander Troubetzkoy with spouse. Above, right - Princess Camilla of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duchess of Castro and Princess Karina Bagration-Moukhransky.

The distinguished guests at the Charitable Gala Dinner in the Royal Hall, enjoyed the live performance of Natalia Ermilova and David Bubani, opera singer and violinist, accompanied by pianist Genc Tukiçi and other Russian artists. The charitable auction successfully raised funds for the further support of the Cathedral and development of culture.



"Empress Maria Feodorovna. Love story"

June 3 - September 18

The exhibition "Empress Maria Feodorovna. A Love Story" was opened on June 3, 2016 at the Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Karelia.

Empress Maria Feodorovna, wife of Emperor Alexander III, and the mother of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, was one of the most prominent women on the Russian throne.

The life of this great woman was fanned by love. She loved the country in which she lived more than half a century and her husband ruled for thirteen years. She loved art and she studied painting. She was a loving wife, and a gentle, caring mother and grandmother.

Empress Maria Feodorovna was a patriot of Russia, champion of orthodoxy, protector of the weak and disadvantaged. For her tireless charity work she has acquired a sincere love and respect from the Russian people.

Art played a big role in the Imperial court. It was part of the education system of the Royal family. Maria Feodorovna and her husband got painting lessons from the Russian artist Alexei Petrovich Bogolyubov, who later became friend of her entire family. He was a brilliant master of battle scenes, gorgeous seascapes, and made a great contribution to the development of Russian plein-air painting.

The exhibition features two of still life works by Maria Feodorovna: one oil painting, and watercolor - "Miser" (possible a copy of the original French painter Jean-Louis Masson). As well as paintings by Russian artists of the XIX century: seascape of Ivan Aivazovsky and K. Ya. Kryzhitskogo, landscape of A. A. Pisemsky, A. I. Meschersky, G. F. Yartsev and paintings of one of the founders of the Estonian School of Painting I. Kõlera "Portrait of an Italian girl", and a charming female portrait by the famous at the time M. P. Botkin. The exhibition is complemented by a collection of porcelain items from the Anitchkov Palace in St. Petersburg.



03.06 - 18.09 2016

ВЫСТАВКА
уникальных работ
"Императрица Мария Федоровна. История любви"

EXHIBITION
Empress
Maria Feodorovna
(Dagmar of Denmark)
exhibition of unique works

Музей изобразительных искусств РК
Адрес: пр. К. Маркса, 8,
Тел.: 78-37-13, 78-40-03
<http://artmuseum.karelia.ru>
info@artmuseum.karelia.ru

The Museum of Fine Arts of Karelia
Karl Marx avenue, 8
Tu-Su 10.00-18.00
Th 12.00-20.00
Mo - closed
<http://artmuseum.karelia.ru>

Режим работы: с 10:00 до 18:00
Четверг - с 12:00 до 20:00
Понедельник - выходной





June 9, on the birthday of Emperor Peter the Great in St. Petersburg people were bringing flowers to the grave of the Emperor.

Video - http://www.rtr.spb.ru/vesti/vesti_2014/upload/9-6-2016/Petr.mp4



In the capital, in Pokrovsky Streshnevo will be a monument of Saint Elizabeth. Creative competition to create a sculpture of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna is announced in Moscow.

In the Patriarchal monastery metropolitan church of St. Elizabeth in the Intercession-Streshnevo Igor Ashurbeyli announced the opening of a creative competition to create a sculpture of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. The sculpture will be installed in the Church of Martyr Elizabeth in Pokrovsky-Streshnevo.

The competition jury includes chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Sergey Stepashin, scientist, entrepreneur Igor Ashurbeyli, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and public organizations.

Applications will be accepted until November 1, 2016 and the winner will be announced before July 18, 2017.



A memorial plaque to Carl Mannerheim opened in St. Petersburg. 16 June, on Zakharyevskaya Street of St. Petersburg a memorial plaque to Carl Mannerheim was opened initiated by the Russian military-historical society.

The ceremony, which was attended by head of the Presidential Administration of Russia Sergei Ivanov and Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky, was held under the sounds of an orchestra and with the participation of the honorary guard.

According to the RVIO the plaque was opened in memory of Mannerheim's service in the Russian army and the participation in the Russian-Japanese war and the First World War.

During the Russian-Japanese war, he voluntarily went to the front in the rank of lieutenant colonel, where he took part in the attack on Yingkou. In the World War Mannerheim was already in the rank of general, chief of separate Cavalry Brigade. In the first months, he distinguished himself in the Battle of Galicia, in which the main forces of the Austro-Hungarian army were defeated. For this he was awarded the Order of St. George IV degree.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1290029/>



Hermitage Amsterdam has announced an upcoming exhibition - "1917: From Romanov to revolution" to take place between 11 February 2017 – 17 September 2017. The year 1917 was a turning point in Russian history. Film footage, photographs, paintings and applied art sketch the life of the last Tsar and Tsaritsa Nicholas II and Alexandra, and political and social life during and after their

reign. The exhibition explores what happened to the art collections of the Tsars after the Winter Palace was captured and how artists responded to the political upheavals of 1917 and beyond.



In the coin series of architectural monuments of Russia has been issued one showing the grand Peterhof palace. The 25-Ruble in .925 fine sterling silver proof coin is weighing 155,5 g, with a diameter of 60.0 mm and has been issued with a mintage limit of 1,500 pieces. "The Grand Peterhof Palace" has raised rims on both sides and a corrugated edge.

The obverse side of the coin has a relief image of the State Coat of Arms of the Russian Federation. There are inscriptions: "Российская Федерация" (Russian Federation), "Банк России" (Bank of Russia), the denomination of the coin – "25 Рублей" (25 Rubles) and the year – "2016", an indication of the metal according to the D.I. Mendeleev Periodic System of Elements, purity, trade mark of the Saint Petersburg Mint and fine precious metal content.

The reverse side of the coin depicts a relief image of the Grand Peterhof Palace and a monogram of Peter the Great on top. There is an inscription in three lines at the bottom: "Большой Петергофский дворец" (the Grand Peterhof palace).



At Peterhof Palace, the favorite place of Peter the Great, "Monplaisir" has been re-opened after restoration. The history of this building, located directly on the bay, is rich with events. The restoration works were carried out during the year.

The palace overlooks the expanse of the Gulf of Finland, Peter I called it "Mon Plaisir" - "my pleasure". He loved this place and did receive sincere pleasure from it. Within these walls, Peter reproduced the likeness of a Dutch home of the XVIII century. He made a collection of Chinese porcelain, earthenware and Dutch, and of course, personally selected the paintings for the gallery. In the exposure little has changed after the restoration: a bedroom with a brazier, where is put the hot stones, and next to the bed a nightcap of the Tsar. Another rarity is a Damask Wine, which may have been touched by the hand of Peter the Great. It was found in the attic in 2005, where it lay from the XVIII century.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/152915/



The next "The Tsars' Cabinet: Two Hundred Years of Russian Decorative Arts under the Romanovs" will open at the Jepson Center, Savannah, GA, USA, on Sept. 30, 2016, and run until Jan. 6, 2017. It shows decorative arts under the Romanovs, from the time of Peter the Great in the early 18th century to that of Nicholas II in the early 20th century. The exhibition is drawn from one of the finest private collections of Imperial Russian porcelain and decorative arts in the United States.





On June 9th, 37 rare icons were transferred to the Hermitage by the Federal Security Service. The staff of the St. Petersburg department of the Federal Security Service transferred to its collection old icons of the Mother of God, the Savior, the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, Nicholas and other Saints - Including St. Seraphim of Sarov. This is one of the earliest icons of him, as it was made immediately after the canonization of the Venerable in 1903.

Icons of XVIII - XX centuries are interesting from the point of view of art, and history. Rare round shaped icon, obviously, were part of an iconostasis. Another unusual - next to the saints are depicted bulls and even dragons - the motive, it is extremely rare for Orthodox icons.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/152890/



In Kaluga installation of monument to Emperor Nicholas II began. In the park of culture and rest, work began on preparing the foundation for a monument to Emperor Nicholas II. A bronze bust of the last Russian Tsar on a granite pedestal is to be installed close to the observation deck. From there, on May 20, 1904 Nicholas II, who had come on this day in Kaluga to carry out review of the troops going to war with Japan, admired Oka River.

The idea of the monument belongs to the Union of Patriotic Forces named after the Archangel Michael. Metropolitan Kliment of Kaluga and Borovsk supported it. The bust was exhibited this spring at the exhibition "Imperial Family. The Way of Love" is a gift to Kaluga.

It was planned that this would happen in May, for the anniversary of the visit to Kaluga of the last Russian Tsar, but the opening of the monument had to be postponed - probably until mid-summer. Bust of Nicholas II will be the third monument in the park.

Video - <http://kaluga24.tv/v-kaluge-nachalas-ustanovka-pamyatnika-nikolayu-ii/>



In Moscow, the House of Russian Abroad received from the United States a unique archive. It includes personal belongings, documents, photographs, diaries, rare books and works of art belonging to the Russian immigrants. A container with 350 boxes arrived in Russia by sea, is the tenth in a row, gathered by a great friend of the House of Russian abroad, the Committee "Books for Russia". It's creator - writer Lyudmila Flam, granddaughter of jurist and poet Peter Jacobi, who has lived in the United States. She, along with like-minded people works with the families of Russian emigrants, collecting and saving what is of little value or the children who speak another language. But for the Russian experts - a true treasure of information.

"It is this selfless work, absolutely unselfish, it has been going on for almost 20 years, and because of this we have received from the United States the most valuable materials," - says the director of the House of Russian Abroad Viktor Moskvina.

Part of the archive will enter the permanent exhibition of the Museum, which is currently under construction in Moscow. It is planned to open in 2018.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153130/



NTV commentator Vladimir Kondratyev in his new documentary "Secrets of Faberge" tells about amazing destiny which had many exciting and sometimes truly detective pages to the 170-th anniversary of the famous master.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h72_VMVSE60



The museum-reserve "Kolomenskoye" in Moscow opened the exhibition "Fedoskino. The art of lacquer miniature painting". For the first time at the same site there are products created by the most famous centers of lacquer painting all over the world - from China to Japan and Europe. But the main part, of course, are the masterpieces created in the village of Fedoskino.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153185/



In Faberge's footsteps, a retrospective exhibition of jeweler Basil Konovalenko.

"Power of the stone" is an exhibition devoted to the painter, sculptor, goldsmith and stone-cutters Vasily Konovalenko, which opened in the Moscow Kremlin Museums. He was the only applied artist, who in Soviet times was awarded the personal exposure in one of the most important museums in the country - at the Russian Museum. This exhibition in 1973 became one of the events stimulated a lot of talks in the world of culture. Does the success of the new exposition repeat that?

"We need to understand the stone to be able to show its essence, and then it will open to people their extraordinary beauty" - said Vasily Konovalenko. Having experienced the phenomenon of minerals, the sculptor created a whole gallery of images - from historical figures to the popular types.

Fisherman catches fish near a house, painter and balalaika. Such bright and original characters in the show are about a hundred - it is almost a complete retrospective of the work of Basil Konovalenko. Masonry compositions, bronze sculptures, graphics and theatrical sketches of the artist brought from several museums in Russia and the United States. Today the name of Basil Konovalenko is almost as famous as the name of Faberge.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/152498/



"The Heir to the throne in Transbaikalia".

In 1890 Nikolai Alexandrovich Romanov was 22 years old. By this time, the heir to the Russian throne was completing the education befitting and necessary for the future Emperor and Autocrat of all Russia. The education program included also a trip to various provinces of Russia, which he did with his father. And on top of the education, Alexander III put at his son's disposal a cruiser for a trip to the Far East.

In the first nine months Nicholas Alexandrovich visited Austria-Hungary, Greece, Egypt, India, Thailand, China and Japan. And then, first by boat along the Amur and Shilka, and then by land he returned to the Russian capital. Typically, the Heirs to the throne of Russia make a big trip abroad to be presented at the courts of monarchical Europe. However in October 1890 Alexander III sent Tsarevich Nicholas to an exotic journey to the East. Together with the Tsarevich Nicholas traveled young heirs of European



monarchies - Sweden, Denmark, and German duchies. The route ran around Asia through several oceans and seas. This trip allowed Nicholas to experience all the difficulties of naval affairs. But the idea through the East was only part of the mission entrusted by the Emperor to his Heir. More emphasis was placed on his journey through the eastern edge of Russia, where there had not been any representative of the ruling dynasty.

video - <http://qtrkchita.ru/news/?id=6278>



16 June, "Livadia Palace and Park Museum-Reserve" with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Crimea, opened the exhibition "Through the prism of the lens: Emperors and Russia" from the Foundation of historical photos of Karl Bulla, St. Petersburg.



17 June, in Kostroma a cabinet-museum of Boris Korobov was opened in Kostroma. He is an ex-mayor and passionate local historian. Much of his collection, which included vintage photos, documents, books, paintings and objects dedicated to the Romanovs, will now be stored in the Kostroma Museum-Reserve and will be available to all visitors.

One can see a painting of 15-year-old Mikhail Fedorovich captured on the background of Makarievo-Unzhensky monastery. A unique "Kostroma" icon, which tells about the historical events: the acquisition of Fedorov, feat Susanin, the Royal family's visit in 1913, the monument in honor of the 300th anniversary of Romanov dynasty. And dozens of unique photos, pictures, documents, books.



In Nebraska Grand Duke Alexis historical marker is to get a facelift. Since the 1960s, the Nebraska State Historical Society has marked various historical sites across the state. But some of the markers are showing the effects of age, weather and vandalism.

As Nebraska's 150th birthday approaches next year, the Nebraska State Historical Society is giving its own birthday gift - redoing more than 100 of the state's historical markers, said Leslie Fattig, executive director of the historical society's foundation.

Members of the foundation hope to raise \$80,000 for its efforts. Donations can be made online at <http://nshsf.org/the-nebraska-marker-project/>.

There are more than 500 markers throughout the state. Five of Lincoln County's nine markers are set to be restored, among them one for the famous buffalo hunt with Grand Duke Alexis.

The marker in Hayes County that commemorates a United States visit and Nebraska buffalo hunt by the Grand Duke Alexis, fourth son of Tsar Alexander II of Russia. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody led the hunt, and military officials and civilians ran the hunt's camp site. Gen. Phil Sheridan arranged the hunt with the help of Generals George Custer and George Forsyth.





Gatchina Palace has repeatedly served as a stage for dramas and tragedies of Russian history, but for the first time it became the backdrop for a musical comedy. The gray walls coped with this role quite successfully. Actors of the Theatre of Musical Comedy performed under the magic charm of the palace. The musical was part of the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the palace, but the organizers hope that further action could escalate into an open air festival.

Video - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/153413/



Russia will join forces with France and Austria to re-create Peter the Great's journey, told Deputy Culture Minister Alla Manilova at the 8th International Peter the Great Congress in St. Petersburg.

The tour will be called Peter's Path, or the Austrian imprint of Peter the Great, and will be launched in 2017 as part of the Russian-Austrian cultural exchange year.

According to Manilova, the idea is to have round trips from Russia to Austria, France and the Netherlands. Peter the Great visited France in 1717 travelling to Paris, where he met with King Louis XV. There he studied the royal residences of Versailles and Marly, and went on to borrow those architectural styles for his palaces, Peterhof and Strelna. Twenty years earlier, in 1698, he had visited Austria and the Netherlands, as part of his Great Embassy project. That trip had a great impact on Russian architectural styles, which can clearly be seen in St. Petersburg.

The new tourist programs, says Manilova, could get the support of the Council of Europe. "The Council has eyed putting Russia on its map of Europe's cultural routes. At present, tourism is developing in Russia and the Council of Europe is closely watching how we move forward. Moreover, they believe that we need to step up our participation," she said.





Life guards of Empress Elizabeth



On the night of November 25, 1741 there was a coup in Russia, and Elizabeth came to the throne. After five weeks, she issued a decree on the establishment of the Life companies - bodyguard of the Empress formed grenadiers of the Preobrazhensky Regiment. The rank and file of this unique unit equal to the rank of army lieutenant, a second lieutenant and above - army generals. Ennobled and place in an instant, made a spectacular career Grenadiers were in the midst of court life. People from different classes, courageous, tough, mostly illiterate, sometimes prone to gloomy-drinking, they were introduced into the life of the imperial capital inexplicable flavor. Book of Andrew Demkin saturated with service details, everyday life and everyday life of Life companies, based on the new sources discovered by the author in Russian archives.

Andrew Dyomkin - Leading Researcher, Institute of Russian History, Doctor of History

Publisher: Lomonosov, Stp. Hard cover. 208 pages. Isbn: 978-5-91678-184-7

Three waves of emigration. Chronicle of Russian abroad: age-long odyssey



The October Revolution pushed beyond Russia millions of people. Great exodus began - as a large-scale Russian scattering all over the world, that this phenomenon is not unique and unprecedented in history. The best of the best have left abroad, the spiritual elite of the country and their absence could not but have a negative effect on the gene pool of the nation. And abroad with their tributaries, on the other hand, only he has won, having caught the choice, the highest standard, the human material. Successive waves of Russian emigration accounted for during the Second World War, in the 1970-1980-ies (of détente with Leonid Brezhnev to the restructuring) and for the present time.

The book is devoted to the dramatic history of the Russian emigration from the post revolutionary years to the present day. It gives an idea of Russian humanitarian world outside Russia - in fact, the whole continent of national culture, amazing, full of secrets, mysteries and romance space of Russian thought and the Russian spirit.

For those who are left at home for a long time looked askance, indiscriminately adhesive label them traitors. Meanwhile, as the author shows, most of them were no less patriotic than those who remained, and they have kept for us, more valuable from the Russia, which took away in their hearts. The author has tried to deploy before the reader a comprehensive picture of the fate, life and activity (life, manners, class, church, the relationship with the government and the indigenous population, contribution to the culture of the host country) of our fellow citizens.

Publisher: Lenand, Moscow. Soft cover. Format: 145 x 215 mm. 200 pages. Isbn 978-5-9710-3085-0

Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Bruun Rasmussen Auction, Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 20

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: A rhododendron bush in the garden of Hvidøre Palace. Signed and dated "Olga Hvidøre 1926". Watercolour on paper.

Visible size 16 x 23 cm.

Estimated Price: Dkr 8,000 / € 1,100



Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: A forest clearing. Signed "Olga". On the reverse a dedication from the Grand Duchess. Watercolour on paper.

Visible size 27 x 34 cm.

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



Bruun Rasmussen Auction, Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 27

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: "An old house in Ballerup". Signed Olga. Oil on cardboard. Size: 40.5 x 50.5 cm.

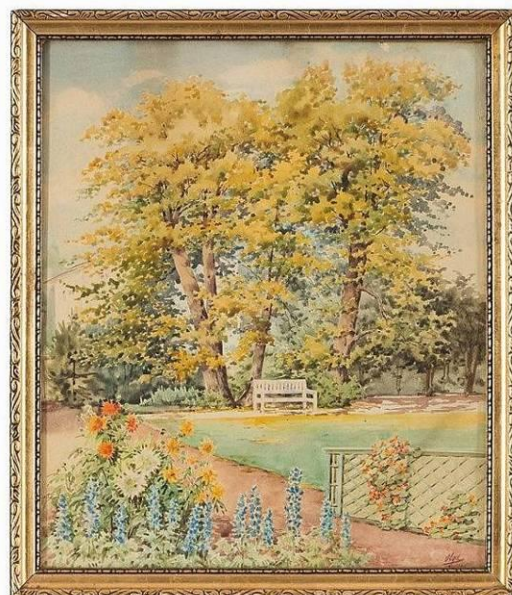
Estimated Price: Dkr 15,000-20,000 / € 2,000-2,700

Auctionata AG, Berlin, Germany, on June 29

Painting by Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna: "Bench in a Park". Watercolor on light cardboard.

Signed 'Olga' lower right. Sheet dimensions: 34.5 x 29.5 cm / Frame: 38 x 32.5 cm

Estimated Price: €1,400 - €1,820



Kuncker, Osnabrück, Germany, on June 21- 23



Emperor Alexander I (1801-1825). Gold medal designed by Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, of her son, Emperor Alexander I. Bust of Tsar with laureate // Altar with two lines characters - Alexander I the Blessed -, on the altar crown, scepter and orb on a cushion, on the steps three interlocking rings, top triangle with God's eye in bright ring. Size: 65.61 mm. 168.42 g.

Emperor Alexander I Pavlovich (1801-1825) was the son of Emperor Paul I (1796-1801) and his second wife Maria Feodorovna, born Sophia Dorothea Augusta Luisa von Württemberg. His mother Maria loved the arts and painted watercolor paintings, designed gems and jewelry made of ivory, which she gladly gave away to friends and guests. In addition, she was interested in music, literature and horticulture. Nevertheless, she still found enough time to work for the expansion of educational and charitable organizations in the Russian Empire, which later became the so-called "Institutions of Empress Maria".

Estimated Price: 125,000.00 €



Emperor Nicholas I. (1825-1855). Gold Medal 1838 by P. Utkin, for the construction of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. Shining God's eye // view of the Church. Size 77.83 mm; 249.78 g. The reason for the construction of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior was the Russian victory over Napoleon Bonaparte in the so-called Patriotic War of 1812. The foundation stone for the Russian Orthodox Church took place in September 1839. The inauguration was originally scheduled for 1881, as the cathedral was already largely completed, however, it was delayed due to the assassination of Emperor Alexander II in March. Finally, the inauguration took place with a fireworks display and bells of all the Moscow churches along with the coronation of Alexander III on 26 May 1883. Estimated Price: 125,000.00 €



Emperor Alexander II. (1855-1881). Gold Medal in 1860, by I. Chukmasov and V. Alexeev. On the death of his mother Alexandra Feodorovna, wife of Emperor Nicholas I. Portrait of the deceased with tiara and veil // An angel with cross at the grave of the Empress, a kneeling female figure with child and a kneeling genius who holds a torch in a snake ring, the symbol of eternity, above shining God's eye. Size 68.16 mm. 222.05 g. The Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna was born on July 13, 1798 in Berlin as Princess Friederike Charlotte Wilhelmina of Prussia. Charlotte was the third child and the eldest daughter of King Frederick William III and Queen Louise. On July 13, 1817 she was married on her 19th birthday with Nicholas, the younger brother of Emperor Alexander I and later Emperor Nicholas I. Although the wedding was threaded as a political measure to reaffirm the Russo-Prussian alliance, the marriage was happy and brought forth 7 children. Charlotte converted to the Russian Orthodox Church and was named as Grand Duchess Alexandra Feodorovna. She remained all her life connected with her Prussian homeland, regularly visited her family and gave the Russian colony in Potsdam the name Alexandrovka. After 1855 when her husband Tsar Nicholas I died, she retired to Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo where she died on 02.07.1860, 61 years old. Estimated Price: 50,000.00 €



Emperor Alexander II. (1855-1881). Gold Medal 1878, from workshop Drentwett. For the victory over the Turks in the Russo-Turkish War 1877-78. Bust of Emperor Alexander II in uniform // Viktoria with wreath in her right hand hovering on clouds, in the foreground are fallen on the ground, in the background troops.

Size 47.34 mm; 50.92 g.

Estimated Price: 15,000.00 €



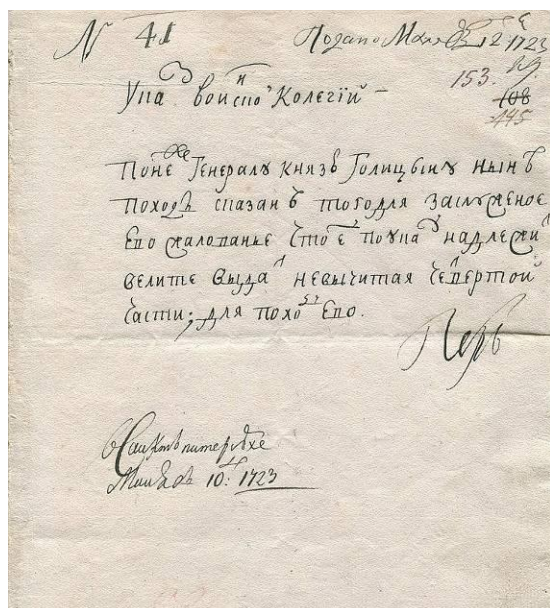
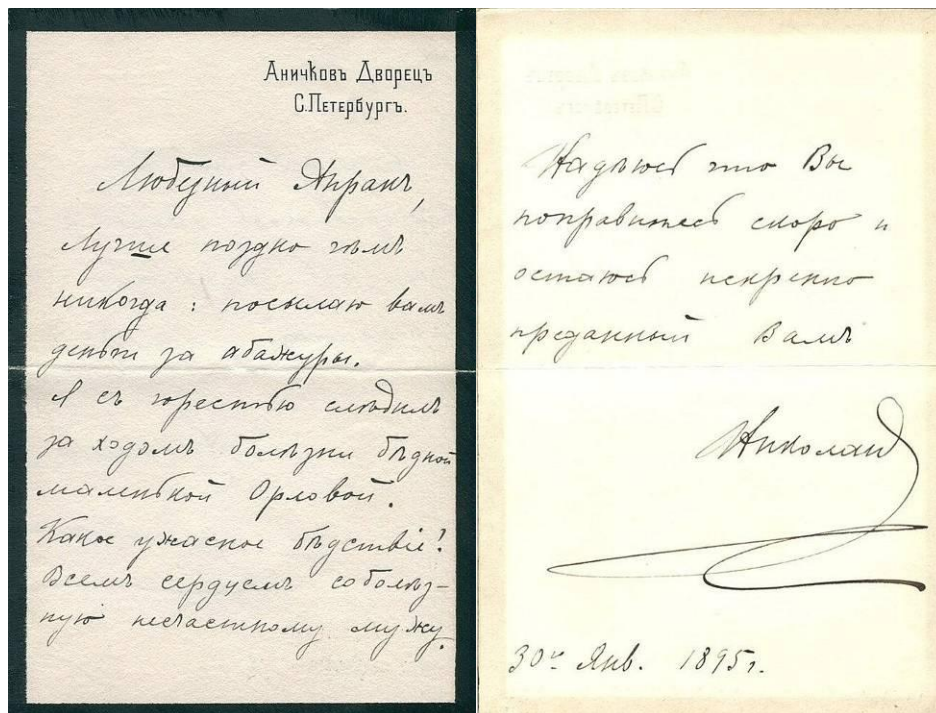
Emperor Nicholas II. (1894-1917). Silver Medal 1895 by L. Leonard. For the visit of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich in the Paris mint. View of the building of the Paris Mint on the banks of the Seine // Nine lines characters mentioning the visit on 7 of October 1895.

Estimated Price: 750.00 €

International Autograph Auctions, Nottingham, United Kingdom, on July 9

Letter from Nicholas II: (1868-1918) Emperor of Russia 1894-1917. A.L.S., Nicholas, in Cyrillic, as Emperor, two pages, 8vo, Anichkov Palace, Saint Petersburg, to Apran, on mourning stationery, in Cyrillic. The Tsar announces 'Better late than never: I send you the money I owed you for the lampshades' and continues 'With great sorrow I followed the run of the disease of the poor little Orlova. What a terrible misfortune! I feel sorry with all my heart for the wretched husband.' With blank integral leaf.

Estimate: £1,000 - £1,200



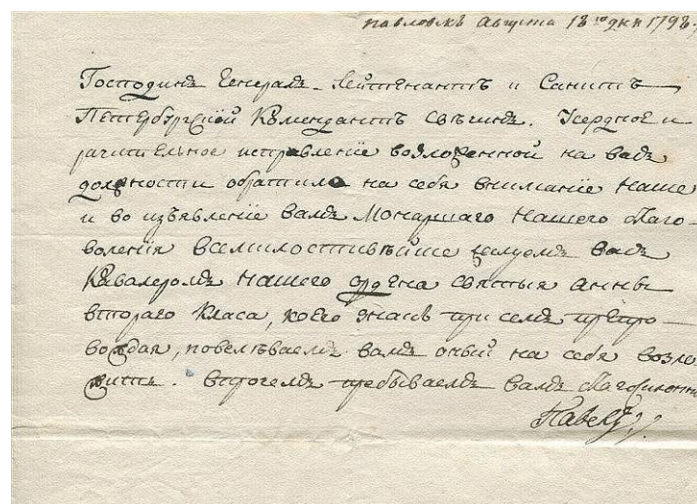
Letter from Peter I: (1672-1725), Peter the Great. Emperor of Russia 1721-25. A fine D.S., Peter, in Cyrillic, as Emperor, one page, small 4to, Saint Petersburg, 10th May 1723. The boldly penned manuscript document, in Cyrillic, is an Edict to the College of War (numbered 41) and is an order to pay the salary of General Prince Golitsyn who is appointed to the campaign, instructing that the salary is 'to be paid according to the ordinance, without deducting a quarter, for his campaign'.

Mikhail Mikhailovich Golitsyn (1675-1730) Russian Prince and Field Marshal, Commander-in-Chief of the occupation forces in Finland during the Great Northern War 1714-21.

Estimate: £4,000 - £6,000

Letter from Paul I: (1754-1801) Emperor of Russia 1796-1801. L.S., Pavel, in Cyrillic, one page, 4to, 1796, to Lieutenant General Svechin, Commandant of Saint Petersburg, in Cyrillic. The manuscript letter states, in full, 'Your diligent and firm fulfillment of the duty has drawn Our attention, and as a sign of Our Monarchal benevolence We most graciously appoint you holder of the second class order of Saint Anna, and forward the insignia which We order you to carry'. With blank integral leaf.

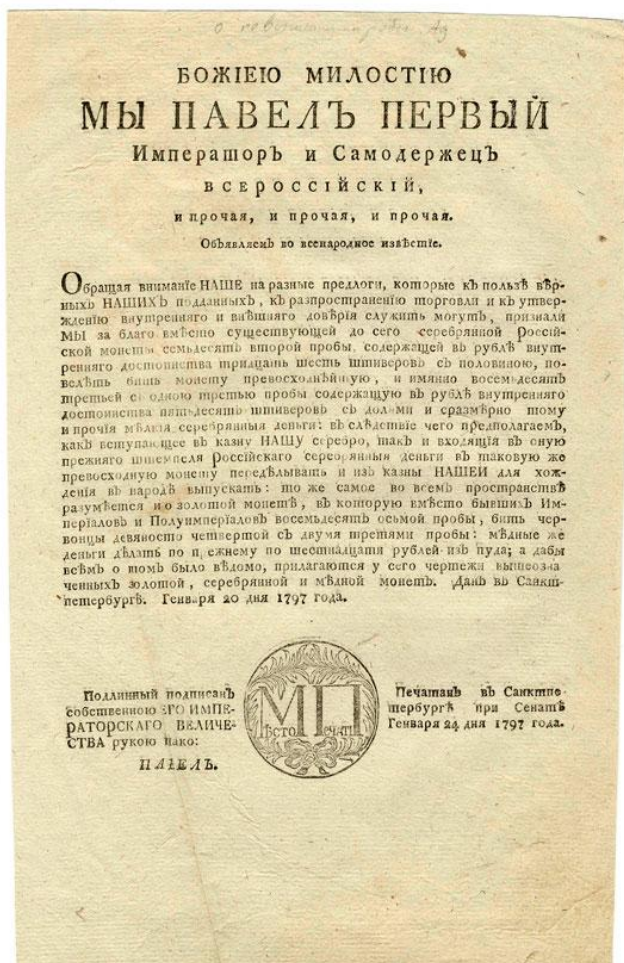
Estimate: £800 - £1,000



Forum Auctions, London, United Kingdom, on July 14

A pictorial handkerchief commemorating the Coronation of Tsar Nicholas II, printed in red on cotton, 71 x 66 cm. (28 x 26in.), 1896.

Estimate: £300 - £400



Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles, Los Angeles, CA, USA, on July 23

Announcement by Paul I of Russia, Paul Petrovich Romanov (1754-1801). Emperor of Russia (1796-1801). Son of Grand Duchess Catherine (later, Empress Catherine The Great) and Peter III. Vintage original broadside on laid paper, 12 x 7 1/2", announcing for the benefit of his "loyal subjects" the overhaul of currency for gold, silver, and copper exclusively from the Russian treasury to strengthen trade and internal and external trust. Nationwide proclamation given in St. Petersburg, January 20, 1797, by His Imperial Majesty Pavel. Estimate: \$1,000 - \$1,500

Did you know....



... That the "Father of the American Navy" - John Paul Jones was a Rear-Admiral in the Russian navy

John Paul Jones (July 6, 1747 – July 18, 1792) , was a naval commander and privateer, helping found the United States navy in 1775, and later serving as a rear-admiral in the Russian Navy under Catherine II in the Russo-Turkish war of 1787-1792. A forceful and successful captain, his impact on the history of the United States and Russia is still felt today, leaving behind the reputation of a stubborn and powerful commander, ready to face great danger in the pursuit of victory.

Early career, and journey to the Americas

Jones was originally born in Scotland, UK, and began his career as a cabin boy on smaller merchant and slave ships that were used to transport slaves from Africa to the Americas. He progressed through the ranks quickly, but, disgusted with the slave trade, eventually gave up his command in Africa and sailed to the colony of Virginia. It was there that in 1775, with revolution ripe in America, he offered his services as a captain to the Continental Congress, which at that time had no naval forces of which to speak. As they desperately tried to assemble a rag-tag fleet with which to engage the British forces at sea, Jones was highly recommended by several members of the Congress, and was given command of a small vessel (the USS Alfred) to engage the British in the newly formed Continental Fleet.

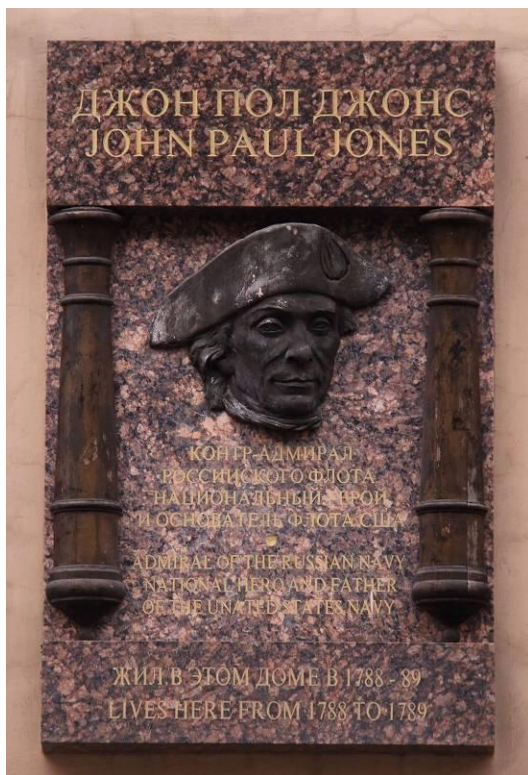
American Revolutionary War

Jones' engagements in the Continental Fleet during the revolutionary war met with varying degrees of success, however, he was well known in England for his successful disruptions of shipping lines in the Irish Sea and constant raids along the coastline, sowing mayhem and panic among the English. Jones' reputation grew to such a point where his capture would have meant certain and immediate death at the hands of the British. However, due to Jones' daring tactics, he ensured that he himself was never captured, while at the same time managing to capture a number of British vessels. Jones' position as a feared force upon the seas was secure.



Post-revolution and invitation from Catherine II

In 1785, the United States foreign minister Benjamin Franklin announced a ban on privateering, and John Paul Jones returned to his home in Paris, where (as an Enemy of England) he was loved and vaunted. In a strange turn of events, at the end of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress of the United States decided not to promote Jones to the rank of Admiral. Jones, being a well-known careerist, was hurt. At the same time, preparing for the forthcoming Russo-Turkish war and not having a significant fleet on the Black Sea, Empress Catherine II turned her attention to John Paul Jones. The Russian ambassador received an urgent order to recruit Jones to the Russian Navy. 'This man,' she said "will enter Constantinople". Catherine II had strict rules concerning foreigners in her armed services. Contrary to previous rulers, she discouraged foreign involvement, even going as far as to establish discriminatory rules for foreign officers – if they were to be transferred to Russia, they were immediately reduced in rank. However, Jones' extraordinary reputation and ability forced Catherine II to break her own rules, instead promoting him to the rank of Rear-Admiral and giving him command of the flagship Vladimir.



Russo-Turkish War, intrigue, and departure from Russia

On April 23rd, 1788, John Paul Jones arrived in St. Petersburg, receiving the rank of Rear-Admiral from Catherine II herself under the name Pavel Jones. Under this name he arrived in Kherson in May of 1788, and was placed under the command of Grigory Potemkin, along with Sidor Bely and Anton Golovaty. The American successfully threatened the Turkish navy near Ochakov, providing cover fire for the invading forces of Alexander Suvorov to land at Kinbern and lay siege to Ochakov. However, being a foreigner, he was constantly surrounded by suspicion, jealousy, and intrigues in which he refused to participate. As such, he found himself quickly out of favor with Potemkin, who lobbied for his removal behind the scenes. In one personal letter to the Empress, Potemkin wrote "Paul Jones let three Turkish vessels get by right under his nose. I ordered him to burn them, but he returned twice, afraid of the Turkish cannons. I then gave him the order to cease, and in turn gave the task to the Cossacks. Colonel Golovaty with 50 Kazakhs immediately succeeded in burning them." Jones was eventually recalled to St. Petersburg under the ruse of being transferred to the Baltic Fleet. However, his career stagnated as accusations and attacks on his character continued from

rival officers. Jones was awarded the Order of St. Anne on June 8, 1788, but was afterwards relieved of duty in the Russian Navy. He returned to Paris a changed man with deep feelings of betrayal.

Death in Paris

Back in Paris, Jones was offered command of the Revolutionary Fleet, but was unable to accept. He died unexpectedly at the age of 45 in 1792. He was buried in Paris, but his body was moved to America in 1905 onboard the USS Brooklyn, which was escorted by a processional fleet. His life later became the subject of adventure novels by the famous authors James Fenimore Cooper and Alexandre Dumas.