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*"The Museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II"
In the Governor's House, Tobolsk*

The opening of the "Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" in the Governor House in Tobolsk

On April 26, 2018, the "Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" in the Governor House in Tobolsk, the place of captivity of the Imperial family from August 1917 to April 1918 was opened after 5 years of restoration.

100 years after the Imperial family left Tobolsk, taken to Yekaterinburg, the city opens the doors to the last house in which they actually stayed, that is still in existence!

But why now and what is the idea behind it? Let us hear some statements:



"The revival of public interest in the fate of the Tsar's family prompted us to create a memorial museum and decided to place the museum in the Governor's house in the lower village of Tobolsk where Nicholas II stayed in 1891 and then lived with his family in exile from August 1917 to April 1918," - said the Governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir Yakushev.

General director of the Tyumen Museum and Educational Association Svetlana Sidorova added that the museum will perform an enlightening mission and, most importantly, a missionary function. "It will allow us to take a fresh look at the long-known

facts, to uncover the new boundaries of private and public activities of the family of Emperor Nicholas II. After all, the Emperor and the Empress constantly cared for the enlightenment and welfare of the Russian state, gave examples of charity and philanthropy, and brought up their children in these traditions. For many years this was hushed up, and now we have the opportunity to find out what kind of personal piety and Christian holiness it was."

Vladislav Dronov, director of the Tobolsk Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve (TIAMZ), says: "The idea of the project is to open the inner culture of the Imperial family of Nicholas II to civil society as an example of moral, pious upbringing of children, service to God, the Fatherland, family and mutual respect in any life circumstances. The project is realized with the support of the Foundation "Elisavetinsky-Sergievskoe Enlightenment Society", and the museum will be one of the main places of visit within the framework of the Imperial Route."

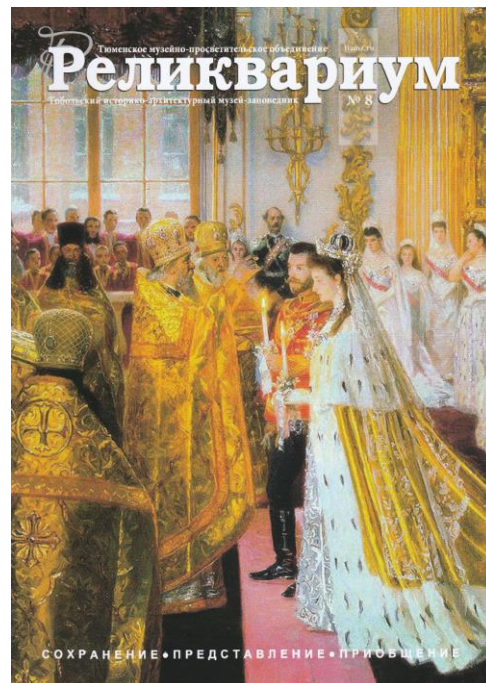


"The governor's house is first and foremost a memorial complex that is designed to convey the spirit of that time so that every visitor could be imbued with the events of the past era," explains TIAMZ chief research officer Eduard Burnashev. "And regardless of his attitude towards the Emperor, to understand who these people were - the Imperial Family, to imagine their life, everyday life, relations to each other, the attitude of the guards and the inhabitants of Tobolsk towards them."

In advance of the opening, the Museum published their annual magazine "Reliquarium", in which they called it "The opening of the year" - and indeed it looks so.

The magazine opens with greetings by the Governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir V. Yakushev; Paul E. Kulikovsky, great-grandson of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II; Anna V. Gromova, Chairman of the Elisabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society; and Svetlana Sidorova, General director of the Tyumen Museum and Educational Association, and Chief editor of the magazine.

The magazine then continues with articles about the interior of the Governor's house as a witness of the captivity of Emperor Nicholas II and his family; people who lived in Kornilov House; the people in Tobolsk; events and facts of Nicholas II stay in Tobolsk; Christmas in Tobolsk; artefacts in the museum; Gifts from San Francisco; how the nuns from John-Vvedensky monastery helped those in captivity; Tobolsk Museum; how the Imperial jewellery was hidden in Siberia; history of carpet from Tobolsk, etc.



"Dear friends,

Walking along the streets of Tobolsk, looking at the white walls of the Kremlin, crowned with the golden dome of the cathedral, I really enjoy this magnificent view. The restored old buildings gives me confidence about the future, not only of Tobolsk, but also of Russia. A rich culture is rich in that it takes care of its treasures, presents them for public viewing for all its citizens and tourists, which fill us with pride about what our ancestors could achieve, and inspire us to create even greater achievements for the sake of the future of our Motherland. We honor our heritage in memory of our ancestors, and to the glory of the living! Our cultural heritage is the basis of love for the Motherland.

In 2018, Tobolsk makes me think about what happened 100 years ago, when my relatives were here. From August 13, 1917 to April 13, 1918, Tsar Nicholas II and his family were held captive in the Governor's House. The townspeople were polite to them, expressed sympathy, often handed over fresh products and gifts and greeted them with respect. Now this treasure, the Governor's House has

been restored and turned into a museum dedicated to the stay of the imperial family.

I have respect for the fact that people in Tobolsk are not indifferent to the sad pages in our history. This historical treasure raises the status of Tobolsk as a historically important place and shows an honest attitude to our history, which gives great promises for the future.

Pavel Eduardovich Kulikovsky

Great-grandson of the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of the Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II"

The day before

Events related to the opening of the Museum started already the day before. On 25th of April a conference under the headline "The Last Tsar's Way" was arranged by the Tobolsk Metropolis in the Great Hall in the Bishop House, in Tobolsk Kremlin. It was headed by Metropolitan Dimitri of Tobolsk and Tyumen.

Welcoming words to the conference participants came from Natalia Shevchik, the first deputy governor of the Tyumen region, she greeted all participants of the conference on behalf of the Governor of the

Tyumen region Vladimir V. Yakushev; Hieromonk Tikhon (Gaifudinov), read a greeting from the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York; and Vladimir V. Mazur, the mayor of Tobolsk.

Then followed reports from Peter V. Multatuli - "Emperor Nicholas II. The Tragedy of the Unaccounted Autocrat"; Olga N. Kulikovskaya-Romanova - "The Holy Empress Alexandra Feodorovna"; Lyudmila Lykova - "The Century Long Investigation"; Alexander G Chuchalin - "Martyr Doctor Eugene (Dr. Botkin)"; Archpriest Mikhail Sinyuk - "About Life, Morality and the Sanctity of the Doctor Eugene Botkin. Distinctions of morality and holiness on the basis of Holy Scripture"; Anna V. Gromova - "Presentation of the national project "Imperial Route", and many others.

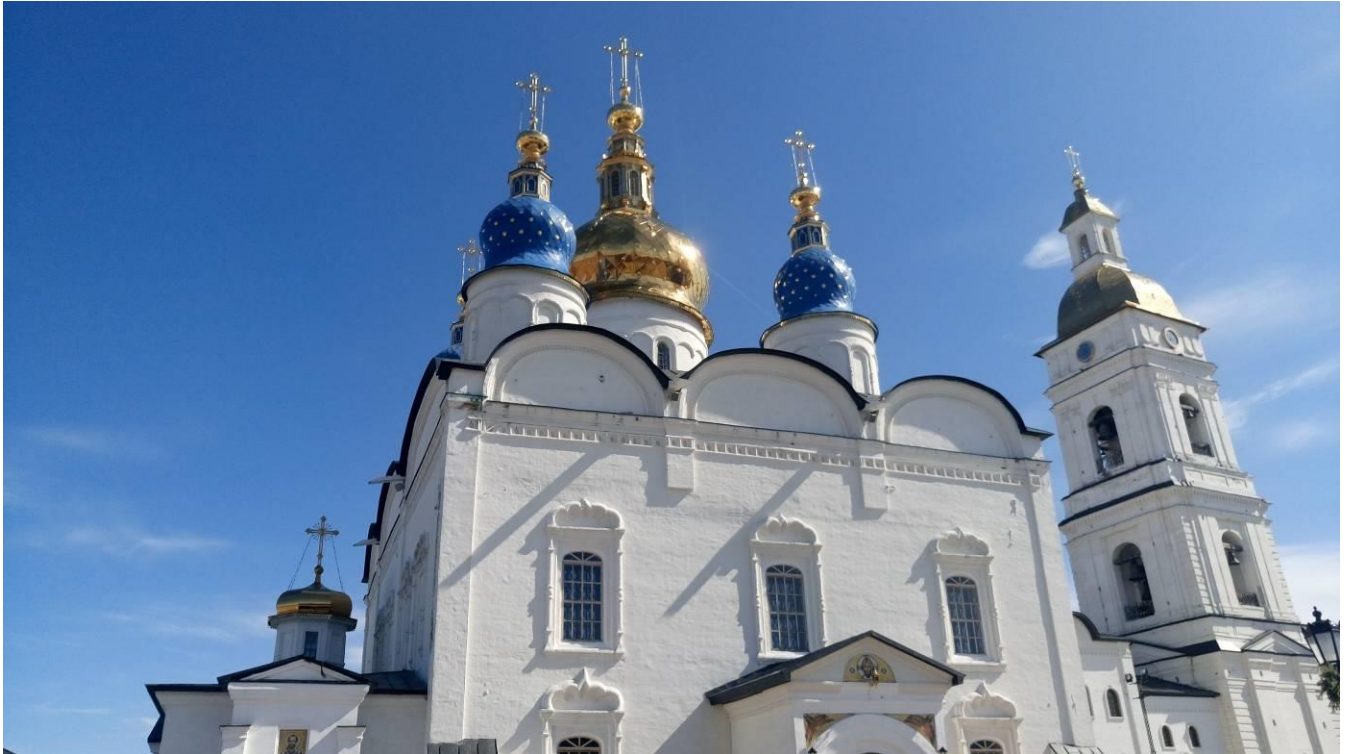
One of the key events during the conference was the unveiling of a bust of Emperor Nicholas II, on the grand staircase in the Bishop House.



In the evening, the play "The Bear" - a comedy in one act - was arranged in Tobolsk Drama Theater.

Based on the play of Anton Chekhov, this play was performed in the Governor's House, with the participation of Nicholas II and his two daughters on March 3, 1918. The Tobolsk Theatre offered an artistic version of fantasy, as it could be. Therefore, in addition to the Emperor and his daughter Olga, the teacher of the Tsar's children, K.M. Bitner, a resident of Tobolsk Staruch and Vasily Pankratov, a commissioner for the protection of the disgraced Tsar and his family, also participated in the production. The production was directed by the main director of the Tobolsk Drama Theatre Valery Medvedev, the art director - Honoured Worker of Culture of Russia Victor Moore.





Divine Liturgy

In the morning of April 26, 2018, the sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. The church bells in the Tobolsk Kremlin were sounding, loud and mighty. The Divine Liturgy in the Sofia-Assumption Cathedral was led by Metropolitan Dimitri of Tobolsk and Tyumen. His Eminence was joined by the vicar of the Western European Diocese (ROCOR) Archbishop Michael; Bishop Eugene, Vicar of the Yekaterinburg diocese; Bishop of Michurinsky and Morshansky Hermogenes; Bishop of Kostomushsky and Kem Ignatius; and Bishop of Ishim and Aromashovsky Tikhon.



Among those attending the service were Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, Olga N. Kulikovsky, Charles Sellers Gibbes, Pierre-Frederic Gilliard, Elizaveta Nikolaevna Ostelecka, Anna V. Gromova, Margerita Stegnyy, Peter Multatuli, and members of the Tyumen regional Duma and the Tobolsk city duma.



In front of the iconostas stood an icon of the Passion-Bearers, and the faithful could also enjoy an very good mural (fresco) showing the Passion-Bearers with Saint Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara, and other martyrs.

After the liturgy, Metropolitan Dimitri of Tobolsk and Tyumen invited Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, Olga N. Kulikovsky, and Peter Multatuli to trapeza in the Bishop House in the Tobolsk Kremlin.

St. Sofia-Assumption Cathedral is the oldest church in Siberia and the first stone building beyond the Ural Mountains. A wooden Saint Sophia Cathedral was first built in Tobolsk between 1621-1624, but a fire in 1643 burned it down. On August 13, 1648 was consecrated the second St. Sophia Cathedral. But in 1677 it also burned, so circumstances forced the next church to be built in stone. Emperor Feodor Alexeivich (brother of Peter the Great) gave the order on April 28, 1680 to the Tobolsk governor Shein: "The cathedral church of the Holy Wisdom of God's Word in Tobolsk to be built in stone, modelled on the Church of the Moscow Ascension."

But wisdom had not been with the architect - after only one year from its opening, on 26 July 1684, due to disproportional to the gravity of the internal pillars and arches, the top of the cathedral fell inside. The next cathedral was consecrated October 27, 1686, but now in the memory of the Assumption of the Mother of God.

The cross-procession to the Alexander Chapel

In the early afternoon, from the Sofia-Assumption Cathedral, in the Tobolsk Kremlin, a cross-procession went to the Chapel of Alexander Nevsky, created in commemoration of Tsarevich Alexander Nicholaevich's visit in Tobolsk in 1837 and in memory of his death in 1881.

Several hundred people, including Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky, Anna V. Gromova, Margerita Stegnyy, and Peter Multatuli, with icons in the hands, flowers and portraits of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas went down the cobblestone road surrounded by brick retaining walls up to 15 meters high, passing the tunnel, and

continued outside the Kremlin walls down the wooden staircase - 198 steps - to the lower village. Going down, one has a stunning view of the lower part of the city - The pearl of Siberia!
Along the streets the procession went for few kilometres. The event involved many children, and even mothers with small children in their arms and in strollers.



On the way the procession made a stop in front of the Governor's House, where Metropolitan Dimitri of Tobolsk and Tyumen blessed the "new" monument (the Museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II).



Then the procession continued across the square to the Alexander Chapel, where Metropolitan Dimitri of Tobolsk and Tyumen made a prayer, mentioning the Passion-Bearers. After the prayer, the priests were changing cloth inside the chapel, which allowed those curios with an opportunity to see the chapel interior - indeed a rare view.

On 2nd of June 1837 Tsarevich and Grand Duke Alexander Nicholaevich visited the city Tobolsk. During his first day in the city Alexander visited St. Sophia Cathedral of the Assumption in the Kremlin. The Heir spent two days in Tobolsk. City officials wanted to perpetuate this momentous event in the same year and announced the creation of a girls' school in Tobolsk. But in fact, the school was opened only in 1852. In 1865 Tobolsk guardianship orphanages was opened named after Alexander. Life of Emperor Alexander II ended tragically on March 1, 1881. Tobolsk city council allocated 1,000 rubles to build a church on the site of the murder of the Emperor in St. Petersburg.

In 1882, Tobolsk merchants decided to put on the square a stone chapel to commemorate the visit to the city of Alexander II. Turning to the authorities the merchants wrote the following: "1 March 1882 expired a year since the death of the Monarch Alexander Nicholaevich Tsar Liberator, who devoted himself entirely to the benefit of the kingdom of God entrusted to him and the people. All estates Russia - true sons of her, full of gratitude to the great and inestimable merit Emperor benefit and prosperity of the people, erected churches and chapels, erect monuments and busts. We, the inhabitants of Tobolsk also need something to perpetuate the anguished death March 1, 1881 of Emperor Alexander II and his stay in Tobolsk on 2nd June 1837."



The authorities decided to cede land for a stone chapel to be built on the donations of citizens. The construction of the chapel was completed in 1887. The chapel was consecrated during the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the city of Tobolsk. On the morning of June 2, 1887 to kick start the celebration rang the biggest bells of the cathedral. After the church service a festive procession was held to the chapel.



The opening of the Museum

Back across the square to the Governor's House, up a few steps, two young men opened the double doors for the guests, in the restored entrance, which now is according to the design which there was in 1918. Inside there are a wardrobe, facilities, ticket office and a long corridor with stairs up to 2nd floor on the left side and a door to the first floor's exhibition on the right - where the official opening took place.

Governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir Yakushev, Metropolitan of Tobolsk and Tyumen Dimitry, and the Chairman of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society Anna Gromova, were talking before cutting the ribbon together with the general director of the Tyumen Museum and Educational Association Director Svetlana Sidorova.



Attending the opening were Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy; Archbishop Michael of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Archbishop of Medon, vicar of the Geneva and Western European Diocese; Mayor of Tobolsk Vladimir Mazur, and others, while some guests went directly inside to look at the exposition.

Governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir Yakushev at the opening ceremony said - "We are participating in a historic event. The opening of the museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II is of great importance not only for our region but for the whole of Russia. We know what a tragic fate befell this family. Of course it is very important that today's and future generations also remember this page of the history of our state. I am sure the museum will be in demand. Inhabitants of Tobolsk and numerous guests of the ancient capital of Siberia will come here to get acquainted with very interesting facts of our history".

Metropolitan of Tobolsk and Tyumen Dmitry expressed his confidence that the museum of the Imperial Family in Tobolsk would help people to love our God-preserved Fatherland.

"From history we see that in our people's life there have been difficult periods, but in all cases the people came out of ruin and came to life spiritually. The opening of the museum indicates that the Siberians keep the memory of their history, whatever it is, and try to pass it to the descendants,"- said the head of the Tyumen-Tobolsk Metropolis.



Anna Gromova - "For our Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, the participation in the creation of the museum of the Imperial Family in Tobolsk has become a great honor. Our time needs bright moral guidelines, for which we all, adults and children, would follow in everyday life. I would like this museum to be a high spiritual example of the Royal Martyrs to remind all of us of a responsible attitude towards our Fatherland, our family, our faith, let this museum serve for the good and creativity."

The museum

The building of the Governor's House was originally erected as a merchant's mansion of I. Kuklin. From 1828 to 1917, the house was the residence of the West Siberian Governor-General, the Tobolsk Governor. During trips to Siberia, the building was visited by representatives of the Romanov family - the heir to the throne, Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaevich (1837), Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich (1868), and Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich (1873), and it is also said Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich stayed here in 1891.

After the February revolution in 1917, the last Tobolsk governor handed over power to the temporary commissar and the mansion was empty for a while. The Street Bolshaya Pyatnitskaya (Great Friday) was renamed into the "Street of Freedom", and together with it the building was named "House of Freedom".

From August 1917 to April 1918, the house became a place of imprisonment for the family of the Emperor Nicholas II. The Romanovs were placed on the second floor of the governor's house, and most of their approximate - in the house of merchants Kornilov, located nearby, in the hotel "Loskutnaya", as well as in the homes of Tobolsk officials and merchants.

The last 50 years the house on number 10, Peace Street (Ulitsa Mira) in Tobolsk was occupied by the district administration. In 1996, an exposition was made in one of the rooms - the office of Nikolai Alexandrovich. The memorial exposition aroused great interest of residents and visitors of the city, and the Governor's House became one of the main and mandatory objects of the display in the implementation of urban and interregional tourist routes. A number of factors: social demand, canonization of the Imperial Family, the history of the building, the implementation of the program "Creating a tourist center on the basis of the historical and cultural heritage of the city of Tobolsk" - all

served as the basis for planning the museumification of this object. The decision was finally made in 2013 and the employees were evicted, leaving the building ready for restoration work.

A lot of work was done on the restoration, renovation of the building and improvement of the adjacent territory. As the house was not used as a museum building, a complicated procedure for transferring the object took place, but, according to Svetlana Sidorova, the restoration of historical justice in this matter is the most important event for the city.

Scientific management of the project, including the development of the concept, the involvement of historians on the theme of the life of the Imperial Family, was entrusted to the Fund "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society". The curator group developed the museum project, recreating the atmosphere and interiors of the former Governor's House.

Facade and the main entrance with an extensive balcony area has been restored exactly. Restorers tried as much as possible to fully reproduce the internal appearance of the 13 rooms, using the preserved elements of parquet, stairs, stucco, wallpaper, doors.

There are many unique exhibits in the Museum, but at the opening there were not many captions or descriptions, so it was not easy identify everything. The pearls of the collection are: a plaque made of mammoth bone with the autograph of Tsarevich Nicholas in 1891, gifted by the Tsarevich to the Tobolsk Museum. The standards under which he travelled along the rivers of Siberia. A family photo album with amateur photos by the Imperial Family in Tobolsk. Accounts from the St. John Vvedensky Monastery for food, issued for residents of the Governor's House and the merchant's house Kornilov from August 12, 1917 to May 19, 1918. A silk shawl belonging to Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. A "Holy Gospel" with a stamp and autograph of the Empress."

Some of the objects will only stay for a short time in the exposition, due to museum limits of stay in light, etc. Such items are the Tsarevich Standards, now hanging on the ceiling. According to museum laws, they will stay here for no more than 30-40 days, then they will be replaced by copies.

Others due to private ownership, as some only lent their objects in reality for the opening - Like the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna items - a travelling suitcase with the monogram of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, her umbrellas and two self portraits -, which Olga Nicholaevna Kulikovsky apparently have not donated to the Museum, as many media were let to believe. A few objects will be exhibited in the museum until September this year, before returning to their own museums. In short, the exhibition will this year be ever changing and the hope/expectation is that new objects will come - even from abroad - now when the museum is opened.



Just below the Tsarevich Standards is a masterfully executed panoramic model of the territory around the Governor's house and the neighbouring Kornilov's house, where some of the Imperial Family's suite, servants, officers and commissars of a special guard detachment lived.



The dinning room is set with a big table, and at each seat is a photo of one of the captivities.



Visitors can walk around in 13 rooms on two floors, the main ones with stucco on the ceiling, and old stoves.

Of considerable interest is the staircase itself, leading from the first to the second floor, as the original steps were found under a newer layer of steps, and on the steps once walked members of the Emperor's Family.

Near the staircase is a glazed showcase. Here are the findings made by specialists in the restoration work in the Governor's House. These are nails, decor elements, bricks, and parts of the floor.

On the second floor one enters into the office of Emperor Nicholas II. Here there is a massive table, where the Emperor read newspapers and letters, and sometimes had breakfast with his daughters. Some might

remember the 1996-version of the office being in blue colour, but it is no longer so.

"We rejected the colour solution, which was originally here, which made it possible to strengthen the opportunity to see objects located in the room, where the blue colour prevailed." Coloured wallpapers should not be distracting attention" said Svetlana Sidorova.



From the cabinet of Nicholas II, visitors go into the big hall. Here services were held at the transportable iconostasis. There is a grand piano - the Empress and her daughters liked to play music. According to historians, in the evenings various amusements and theatrical performances were held in the hall. In the same room, the Imperial Family met its last Christmas.



In the Red Hall, which the Empress loved, visitors will see Alexandra Feodorovna's shawl, which she gave to the doctor who agreed to make free medicines for the Tsarevich in Yekaterinburg.

In Alexei's room, located opposite his parents' bedroom, there are two "magic lights", because he liked to watch filmstrips and slides.

"We bought two "magic lights". These are the cinematographic devices of that time, they were bought from a private collection, it's a small projector, we can say that it is the progenitor of modern multimedia projectors," Sidorova said, and added that they were purchased in the Tyumen region. "When we bought these "lights" we were told that they belonged personally to the Tsarevich Alexei, but we do not have the results of the examination, and we cannot say that they belonged directly to him," she added.



There is a genuine certificate about the completion of the courses of the nurse Grand Duchess Tatiana Nicholaevna. The favorite perfumes of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Several repertoire sheets from the home theater, in which the family members played roles.

The sculpture "The Girl with the Lizard", plates from the dinner set, towels, napkins touched by the Royal Passion-Bearers. Some of them were transferred by the security chief Y.S. Kobylinsky through the temporary commissioner V.N. Pignnati to the Tobolsk Province Museum.

At auctions coins and various signs of the Romanov era were purchased. A relic of Seraphim of Sarov was bought. Porcelain Easter eggs of 1912 with the monograms of Nicholas II and Alexandra

Feodorovna. A balalaika made in the studio of the court master Franz Paserbsky. "The Emperor's Family was very interested in folk music, and Tsarevich Alexei even took lessons.



In several rooms, history events related to the Imperial Family will be recreated using special equipment in the form of touch screens, an interactive wall, photo frames and a holographic screen.

A special feature of the museum will be the needlework room on the first floor, where young visitors will be able to show their talents in the favourite types of needlework of the Grand Duchesses: knitting, beading, embroidering, painting eggs, making simple souvenirs.
...And there is a souvenir shop - with books.



Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky with Svetlana Y. Sidorova on the steps to the entrance of the Governor's House



Solemn event in Kornilov House

Across the street from the Governor's House is the Kornilov house - now the house of "History of the Judiciary of Western Siberia".

The Kornilovs was a wealthy merchant family. They had started as fishermen, became owners of 11 river ships and then became merchants. They were known for charity and active participation in public life of Tobolsk. Ivan Kornilov was awarded the title "Honorary Citizen of Tobolsk."

The Kornilovs had a tragic fate. In 1914 the son Vsevolod contracted pneumonia and the doctors advised them to go to a better climate. They went to the south of Italy, and at the time of the October Revolution they are still abroad and could not return. They settle down in Paris, where they live on selling their jewellery. Ivan Kornilov wanted to return home, but was not allowed. He died in 1938 in Paris.

The stone mansion palatial built in the mid 19th century on Peace Street, near the Governor's House, and stands out among the surrounding buildings with its original architecture and intricate ornaments. It actually looks more "grand" than the Governor's house. After Kornilov left Tobolsk, in the house from 1913 to 1917 the Tobolsk district court operated.

Later there was housed a department of the State Agro-Industrial Bank. In 1994, the house passed to the city as a centre of Russian culture.

In 2010, the Museum of the History of the judiciary in Western Siberia opened in the renovated building.



A solemn event dedicated to the opening of the "Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" was arranged in Kornilov House. All the guests and media gathered in the big hall on the second floor.



From the idea of the creating of the museum to its implementation, a long way has been passed, Governor Vladimir Yakushev said, addressing the guests of honour.

"The realization of this unique project required considerable effort of restorers, historians and museum workers. The historical and cultural expertise confirmed the authenticity and belonging to the Imperial Family of rare relics, which became the pearl of the museum's exposition. We are pleased to welcome our honoured guests, descendants of the Imperial Family and its proxies. You that keep a living memory of the Emperor, family traditions, historical and cultural heritage of that time. This is very significant for the museum," - said the Governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir Yakushev.

Following the Governor, the Presidential representative, Metropolitan of Tobolsk and Tyumen Dmitry, the Chairman of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society Anna Gromova, and a representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, made speeches.

Governor Yakushev then started to hand out awards. Anna Gromova got a medal. The guests of honour got a plaque with a text of gratitude from the Governor, while other who had contributed to the project got diplomas.



The text on the plaque include the following - "Thank you for participation in the opening of Museum of Family of Emperor Nicholas II.....Let me express hope for future corporation in realization of high

destiny of Museum of Family of Emperor Nicholas II, on preservation of Russian statehood, realization of creative projects, on transferring to future generation of cultural and spiritual heritage....."

Then finally it was time for the guests to express their thoughts and one by one they were invited to address the audience.

With the advent of the museum of the Russian Imperial Family, Tobolsk acquires a completely new function in the history of Russia. Such an opinion was expressed by the vicar of the Western European Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, Archbishop Michael.

"When you enter the museum, all sorrows and doubts disappear, it becomes a place that embodies the unquestionable holiness of the Russian Imperial Family," said Archbishop Michael.

The chairman of the charity fund Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Olga N. Kulikovskaya-Romanova noted in her speech that the opening of the museum of the Russian imperial family in Tobolsk is a very significant event.

"The presence of the Holy Imperial Family is vividly felt in the museum, where the precious blood of the Emperor, the Empress, the Grand Duchesses and the Tsesarevitch has not yet been spilled. There was no atmosphere of hatred and anger in Tobolsk, many residents of the city sympathized with the Imperial family. It did not fade away, but it also grabs new hearts. Let the museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II become a place of nationwide pilgrimage," Olga Kulikovskaya-Romanova said.



The great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III, Pavel Kulikovsky, said:

"Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on this historical day. I am very happy to be in Tobolsk again, and it is great to be here sharing this experience with so many of our friends. Many thanks to Vladimir Vladimirovich for the invitation to come to Tobolsk, to participate in the opening of the 'Museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II'."

I have been waiting for this moment since the decision to create the museum was made in 2013 and is very happy now that it is done. In 2014 I saw the house inside, guided by Svetlana Yurievna, when it was standing naked, only with the bare walls and only occupied by dust. It is a tremendous work that have taken place and I am very satisfied with the result. I am particular pleased with the entrance part is brought back to how it looked in 1918.

As the bird Phoenix the house is born again in all its glory.

The captivity of Emperor Nicholas II and his family started in Alexander Palace, in Tsarskoye Selo. Then they were 8 months in the Governor's House. The townspeople were polite to them, expressed sympathy, often handed over fresh products and gifts and greeted them with respect. They could write and receive letters, and read newspapers.

For the Romanov descendants, and many others, this place has a special significance, as it was the last stay of the imperial family before they reached their place of martyrdom. It is from here we have the last photos of them alive. Some of the most famous are taken when they are sitting on the roof of the greenhouse.

For us, this is not just a restored building used as a museum. This is our family history. It is a monument. A sacred shrine.

The walls are the silent witness' to the Imperial Family's laughter and tears, on its floor walked God's anointed, soon to become martyr, on the balcony they enjoyed rays of sunlight, and on the stairs they walk down to the paradoxical named "Freedom Street", where they could cut firewood.

The spirit of the family is still in the house.

It is in fact the last house in which were living the Imperial Family, that is still in existence today!

The Bolsheviks tried as best they could to erase the memory of Emperor Nicholas II, so the fact that the house is preserved, is a miracle.



That the museum is opened in 2018, is also very special, as this year we are remembering the many family members that were killed in 1918. This tragedy that happened 100 years ago is still painful for us, so a joyful event like this is very much a welcome consolation.

Making this event even more important is the fact that here today are also relatives of the most loyal retinue of the Imperial family, who followed them to Tobolsk. From abroad we have here relatives of Pierre Gilliard, Charles Sidney Gibbs and Countess Hendrikova. Thank you for coming here today and sharing this wonderful moment with us.

I have a lot of respect for the fact that the leadership and people in Tobolsk and Tyumen are not indifferent to the sad pages in our history. The decision to open this museum, shows an honest attitude to our history.

The creation of the "Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II" is a landmark, not only for Tobolsk and Tyumen region, but for all of our great country, and also for all our orthodox brothers and sister abroad.

It is obvious that it will attract visitors interested in the fate of Emperor Nicholas II, his family and most loyal followers, particular here in 2018. But also those interested in the historical and cultural heritage of Tobolsk will appreciate the museum. I sincerely hope many Tobolsk citizens will visit and learn more about their own history.

And in the long run, there are plenty of opportunities to increase the interest of visitors, with a focus on enlightenment within family values, family education, love, spiritual strengths, loyalty, duty, service to the motherland, patriotism, etc.

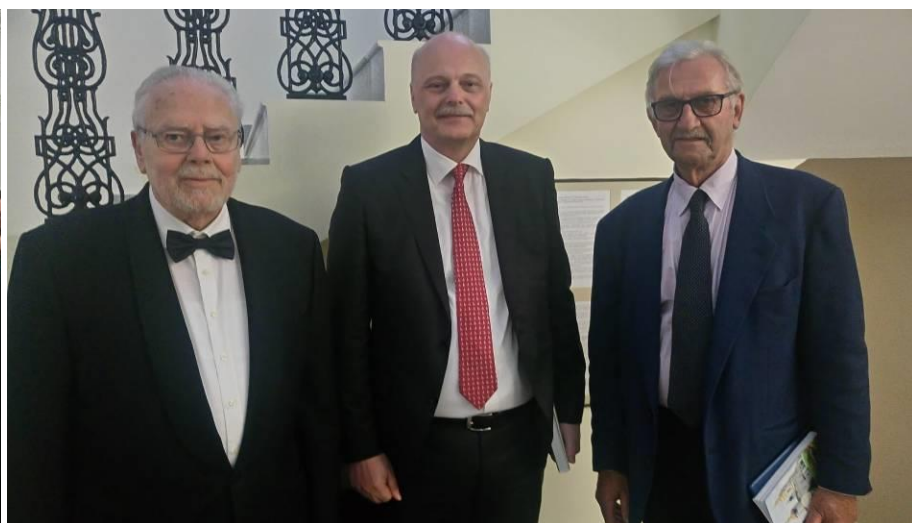
The opening of this museum is a wonderful start to the many commemorations of Emperor Nicholas II and his family - the Royal Martyrs, the Passions-Bearers - to come in this year.

But when the commemorations ends, the "Museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II" will still stand. As the only descendant of the Imperial Romanov family here today, I would like to express on behalf of all the Romanov descendants our gratitude for what has been accomplished here.

Thank you to all of those who have worked for the creation of the museum and I congratulate you with the remarkable result."



*Left: Charles Gibbes, grandson of Charles Sidney Gibbes (France), translated by Margerita Stegniy.
Right: Pierre-Frederic Gilliard, Nephew of Pierre Gilliard. Director of the Pierre Gilliard Foundation.
(Switzerland.)
Below: Nicole Elizabeth Osteletski Jetter, granddaughter of the cousin of Countess A.V. Hendrikov.*



Left - Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy with the Governor of the Tyumen region Vladimir Yakushev. Above - Pierre-Frederic Gilliard, Paul E. Kulikovskiy and Charles Gibbes in Kornilov House.

An unusual choir concert

In honor of the opening of the museum the choir of the Perm Opera and Ballet Theater "music Aeterna" under the leadership of Theodor Kurentzis performed in the early evening. The concert was held in the Church of the Holy Righteous Zacharias and Elizabeth and was dedicated to the memory of the Royal Family.



The choir performed works by Purcell, Schnittke, Rachmaninov, Sviridov, Stravinsky and other composers. "The concert's music program is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Romanov family, therefore it is deeply symbolic. This is a kind of spiritual journey through time on the most important milestones of the life of the Holy Family," the concert program says.

The performance of the choir was vivid and memorable. The choir artists appeared in the dimness of the church with lighted candles, which were later put one by one at the two icons placed between the choir and the audience. One of the songs was performed with active and emotional movements, not typical for an academic choir. It was a visual performance, during which the conductor retired and the artists came to the fore.



The program is very unusual and stylistically diverse. But, despite all the complexity of this music, it is quite harmonious. And although not all the works was performed are canonized spiritual music, it's wonderful when they are performed in the churches, the majestic interior and amazing acoustics enhance the sound and emotional effect of this music.



Gala Dinner in the Bishop's House

The long day ended with a festive Gala dinner in the Bishop's House, in the Tobolsk Kremlin.

Governor Vladimir Yakushev welcomed the guests and presented Anna Gromova with a gift. She in turn also handed out gifts to those who had helped her with this project.

The dinner was accompanied by music performed by different local artists.

Then the Governor gave the floor to some of the guest who had not earlier had the opportunity to talk. Mayor of Tobolsk Vladimir V. Mazur, Konstantin Karpov, Alexander Renzhin, and Peter Multatuli took the word.

Peter V. Multatuli noted that the opening of the museum is another step towards the return of Russian society to the ideals of Millennial Russia, exemplified by the Holy Royal Family. Multatuli reminded the audience that it was from Tobolsk that the covenant of the Holy Sovereign, transmitted by the Grand Duchess Olga Nicholaevna, was heard: "Father asks that those who remained faithful to him do not take revenge for him and do not take revenge for themselves. That evil in this world will be stronger, but evil will not defeat evil, only Love."

Videos - 1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-z-q_l0a14

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF2ukoeMvsg>

3) https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=wUZm-iKjEv4

4) <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2010521/>

To the opening of the Museum of the family of Emperor Nicholas II and the 100th anniversary of the Imperial family's stay on the Tyumen land was issued a memorable ticket-souvenir with a genuine postage stamp of the Russian Empire.

On the stamps of 1884-1918 are depicted the emblem of the Russian Empire and portraits of the Emperors Nicholas II, Alexander III, Alexander II and other representatives of the House of Romanov.



The following days...

The events dedicated to the opening of the Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II in Tobolsk continued on April 28. Representatives of government bodies, institutions and public organizations of the city, employees of the museum community of the region were invited to the presentation of the new museum.

At the opening greetings were made by: Natalya V. Sukovataya, Head of the Department for the Development of the Industry of the Department of Culture of the Tyumen Region; Svetlana Y. Sidorova, Director General of the Tyumen Museum and Educational Association; Director of the Tobolsky Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve, Vladislava V. Dronova; deputy of the Tyumen City Duma Igor R. Raksha; and chairman of the Committee on Culture and Tourism of the Administration of Tobolsk Anna Zinovievna Krivonosova.

The Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II was opened for the public on April 29 and was visited by 500 guests. In addition to Toboliaks, tourist groups from Yekaterinburg, Tyumen, Perm and Kurgan came to the Museum. Over the first three days, almost 1300 people visited the Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II and specialists of the Tobolsk Museum-Reserve conducted 43 excursions.

On to Yekaterinburg - the House Museum of Grigory Rasputin

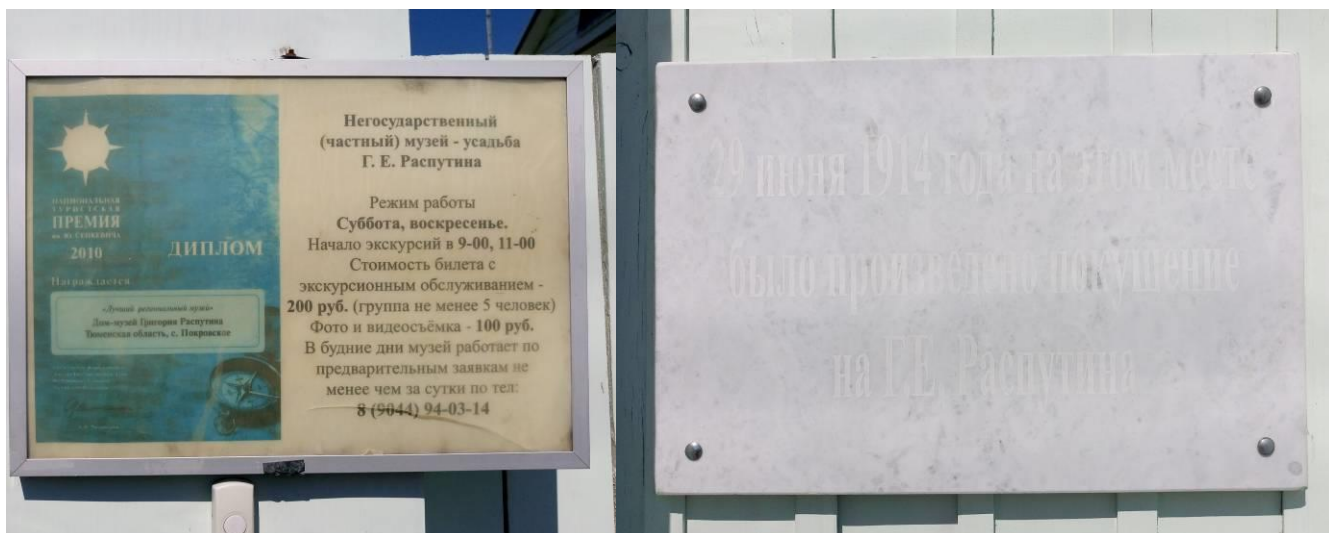
After the opening of the Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II in Tobolsk, Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy travelled by car (770 km) to Yekaterinburg. That gave them the opportunity to stop in the village of Pokrovskoe, (84 km from Tobolsk), known as the birthplace of Grigory Rasputin. Now there is a House Museum of Grigory Rasputin.

In 2009, the year of the 140th anniversary of the birth of Rasputin, the restoration of the house where Rasputin's parents lived on the first floor for several years began. In front of it was built a new building, based on photographs and drawings of Rasputin's house, demolished by the authorities in 1980. The old brown house can be seen behind the new one.

The exposition is based on the personal belongings of the Rasputin family: dishes, furniture, icons, unique photographs with dedicatory inscriptions, personal notes and letters of Rasputin, and authentic casing from the destroyed Rasputin house. In addition there are the overcoat of Nicholas II with epaulettes, a numbered bust of the Tsarevich in the work of Academician Mokrousov, a portrait of Rasputin by the famous Russian artist Igor Ryazantsev.

However, the museum was closed upon arrival.





Left - Opening Saturday and Sunday, for yours at 09:00 and at 11:00, 200 Rubles, photos are extra.
Right - A plaque on the fence saying "On June 29, 1914, an attempt was made on this place on G.E. Rasputin"



In the diary of Emperor Nicholas II there is an entry dated April 14, 1918 saying:
"In the village of Pokrovsky we changed horses. For a long time we stood directly across from the house of Gregory and watched his entire family looking out the window....".
This has been inscribed on a black stone, which stand just next to the entrance to the House Museum of Grigory Rasputin.
The Emperor, Empress and Maria was on their way from Tobolsk to Tyumen, on route for their final destination Yekaterinburg.

In the monastery of Royal Passion-Bearers a memorial service for Emperor Alexander II was held

April 29, 2018, in the fourth week of Pascha, Bishop Eugene of Sredneuralsky, Vicar of the Yekaterinburg diocese celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the church of the monastery Reigning in the name of the Royal Passion-Bearers in Ganina Yama, Yekaterinburg. His Eminence was supported by the monastery's brethren and the clergy of the Yekaterinburg Diocese.

After the liturgy Vladyka Eugene performed memorial service (Panikhida) in honour of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander Nicholaevich II Tsar-Liberator.

At the end of the service Bishop Eugene addressed the audience with an archpastoral word, and then invited "the divine" great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III Pavel E. Kulikovsky and his wife Lyudmila to say some words.

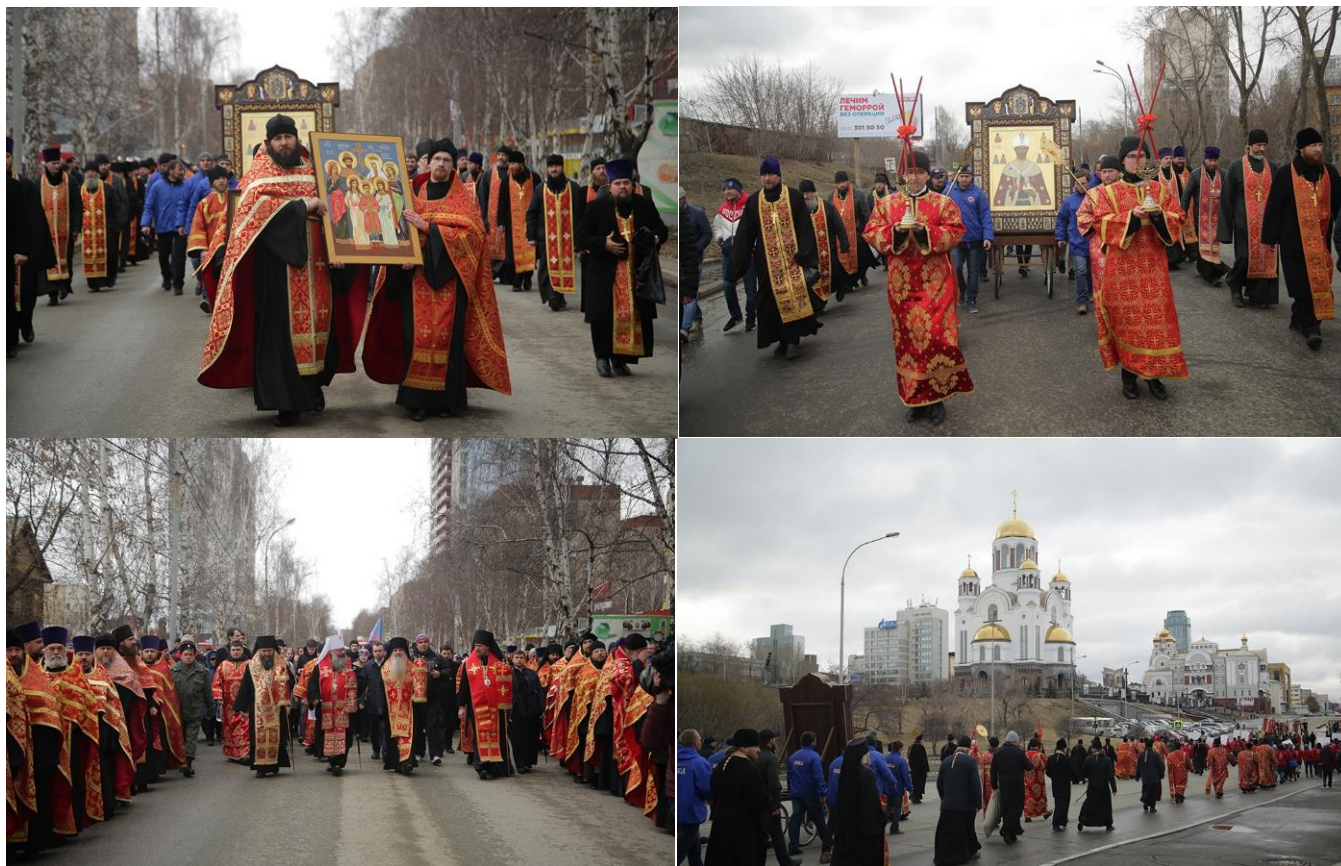
Paul Kulikovsky told about the many achievements of Emperor Alexander II: the great reforms, liberation of the Balkan people, and his many cultural projects. He then thank the Bishop for the liturgy and the memorial service.



Remembering the arrival of the Royal Martyrs in Yekaterinburg

A procession was held early morning April 30th in Yekaterinburg in honour of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II and his family from exile in Tobolsk. More than 1,500 took part in the procession from the memorial cross near Shartash Station to the Church on the Blood.

The procession was led by the bishops of the Yekaterinburg metropolia: Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, Bishop Methodius of Kamensk and Alapaevsk, Bishop Evgeny of Mid-Urals, and Bishop Alexei of Serov and Krasnoturyinsk. It was attended by numerous clergy, monastics, Cossacks, members of the diocesan movement “Believe. Act!”, students of the Yekaterinburg seminary, sisters of mercy, and volunteers and members of various other diocesan foundations and clubs, and parishioners and guests of the Yekaterinburg Diocese.



The participants bore banners and icons with icons of the Royal Family, thus emphasizing the importance of the Imperial theme in this year of the centenary of the martyrdom of the Tsar Nicholas and his family.

The faithful began their procession from the memorial cross and foundation stone of the future Valaam Icon of the Mother of God Church established near the Startash Train Station. The Valaam Icon was one of three wonderworking images revealed during the reign of Tsar Nicholas. The procession traveled along the streets of Yekaterinburg, stopping at the Churches of the Port Arthur Icon of the Mother of God and of the Reigning Icon of the Mother of God.

Many faithful joined in the procession along the way to the Church on the Blood, where the procession ended. After an archpastoral word from Metropolitan Kirill, the faithful entered the church, where the Divine Liturgy was served.

Video - <https://otr-online.ru/news/v-ekaterinburge-proshel-103128.html>

New murals in the Church on Blood in Yekaterinburg show the life of Emperor Nicholas II

April 29. Pravmir - From the anointing to the kingdom until the last days of the Romanovs - after the death of the icon painter, his widow and children completed the painting of the church at the place of the murder of the Imperial Family.

On the site of the tragic death of Emperor Nicholas II and his family in the late nineties a huge beautiful church was built - Church-Monument on Blood in the name of All Saints.

The main throne was then dedicated to all Russian saints. Only at the beginning of the two thousandth, the altar was consecrated in the side-chapel, built directly on the place of Ipatiev's house, dedicated to the Royal Martyrs. The church itself is painted in the traditions of modern church painting.

In the lower part of the church, special niches are made, in which eleven Russian saints are depicted, beginning with the apostles Vladimir and Olga, St. Peter and Fevronia, St. Sergius of Radonezh, including local Ural saints - Simeon of Verkhoturye, holy elder Feodor Kuzmich, St. Dalmat Isetsy.

All eleven large expressive images were painted by the icon painter Alexander Sokolov, the author of the miraculous icon of the Mother of God "The Inexhaustible Chalice", which is in Serpukhov.

In 2015, Alexander Sokolov died suddenly.

After his death, a year and a half metropolitan of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill sought out masters who could do the job - write a frieze about the life of the Emperor.

He looked closely at local artists - in Yekaterinburg church painting was developed, by the famous Moscow icon painters. And yet again he came to the family of Alexander Sokolov, to the widow Maria Vishnyak, the famous portrait painter and to the children who had worked in the church with their father before.



"You metropolitan gave obedience - and you want to shift it"

- I was still on crutches, after a serious fracture, - Maria recalls. - And the words of the lord: "You will paint the church!" Have led to embarrassment for me, and the children. This confused me and my whole family. The only experience of painting a church I had more than twenty years ago, when, with the blessing of Father Anatoly Yakovin's confessor in the village of Pyatnitsa, Vladimir Region, I made with oil the Savior Almighty, Evangelists, Cherubim, the Holy Face on huge canvases, and then they were glued to the ceiling. Vladika was sure that this was God's will. And I did not have any faith in myself, nor experience.

Months after two, already making sketches, I confessed to confession to a priest: "The Metropolitan told me to make a painting. But I want to find other people so that they will do it with dignity." Father was surprised: "It's interesting your reason. You metropolitan gives obedience, but you want to shift it to other shoulders. " Then everything in my head fell into place. Then the work went with some incredible ease. Vladika approved the sketches I had made, and on March 5 of the last year my children, Nika and Vanya, started to work. On April 2 this year, to my great regret, the work is completed.



Maria and her assistants painted four walls, each about 6 meters in length and 4.6 meters in height. On them - five plots from the life of the Sovereign.

In the history of the church painting this is the first case of a narrative about the real events of the life of the Imperial Family.

And the author managed to find a good solution. Yes, it was easier - after all it was not about icon images, on the other hand - about the murals in a church space, and if you make the paintings exclusively in a realistic manner in which Mary usually works, then they will be discordant with the general atmosphere of the church, tearing down the realities of the Mountainous world with the realities of the local.

Maria made all the images realistically - recognizable, accurate, but at the same time - in some moments of her work, icon-flat, sometimes - conditional, and always - deeply symbolic. That is immediately clear - here we are talking about those who lived on our land, but now they are in the Kingdom of Heaven. And we, too, can look at the Divine light, looking at them.

When facts give way to Eternity

- We know that the ascent to the throne of Nicholas II was after the sorrowful, sudden death of his father Alexander III, - Maria says. - So everything was painted in solemnly sad tone. I wanted to convey the spirit and mood of the time through the silvery-blue colour of this scene.

It was important for me to show the triumph of the responsible entrance of the Tsarevich, the eldest son of Alexander III, into his new essence. I applied here a time of stopped time. Metropolitan Palladius should anoint the bosom of the sovereign, but the brush has not yet reached, and here is the moment after which - on the shoulders of one person the responsibility for a multi-million country is shifted. It was important for me that people not only saw the historical event, but also became its participants. Maria, on the one hand, preserves historical authenticity, on the other hand it combines temporal and spatial layers, which is typical for icon painting, the time in which is not linear, but as if compressed into one point - the point of Eternity.

Anointment for the Kingdom in the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin

Therefore, at the coronation there are shown people who really were at that time in the Kremlin, and next to them - people who then could not be there. It was important for Maria to show people who remained faithful to God, no matter what. In this scene, for example, there are all those who killed by the Bolsheviks in Alapaevsk, including the three sons of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich - Ivan Konstantinovich, Igor Konstantinovich and the younger Konstantin Konstantinovich. And they are depicted as young men, although in 1886 they were from eight to four years old. But here the main thing is not historical accuracy, but spiritual.

- 1903, the glorification of the relics of the Monk Seraphim of Sarov, on a hot summer day, the Grand Dukes led by the Tsar bear on their shoulders a shrine with relics, accompanied by Archimandrite Seraphim (Chichagov) and a crowd of thousands of people from all walks of life, says Maria. - The crowd is made very brightly. In order to portray a crowd of many thousands, I used the technique



when the people close to the viewer were drawn with all the details, and the next ones after them painted only heads and - dozens of banners - in the future. The crowd is multinational: there are Russians, Tatars, Bashkirs, Georgians in it ...

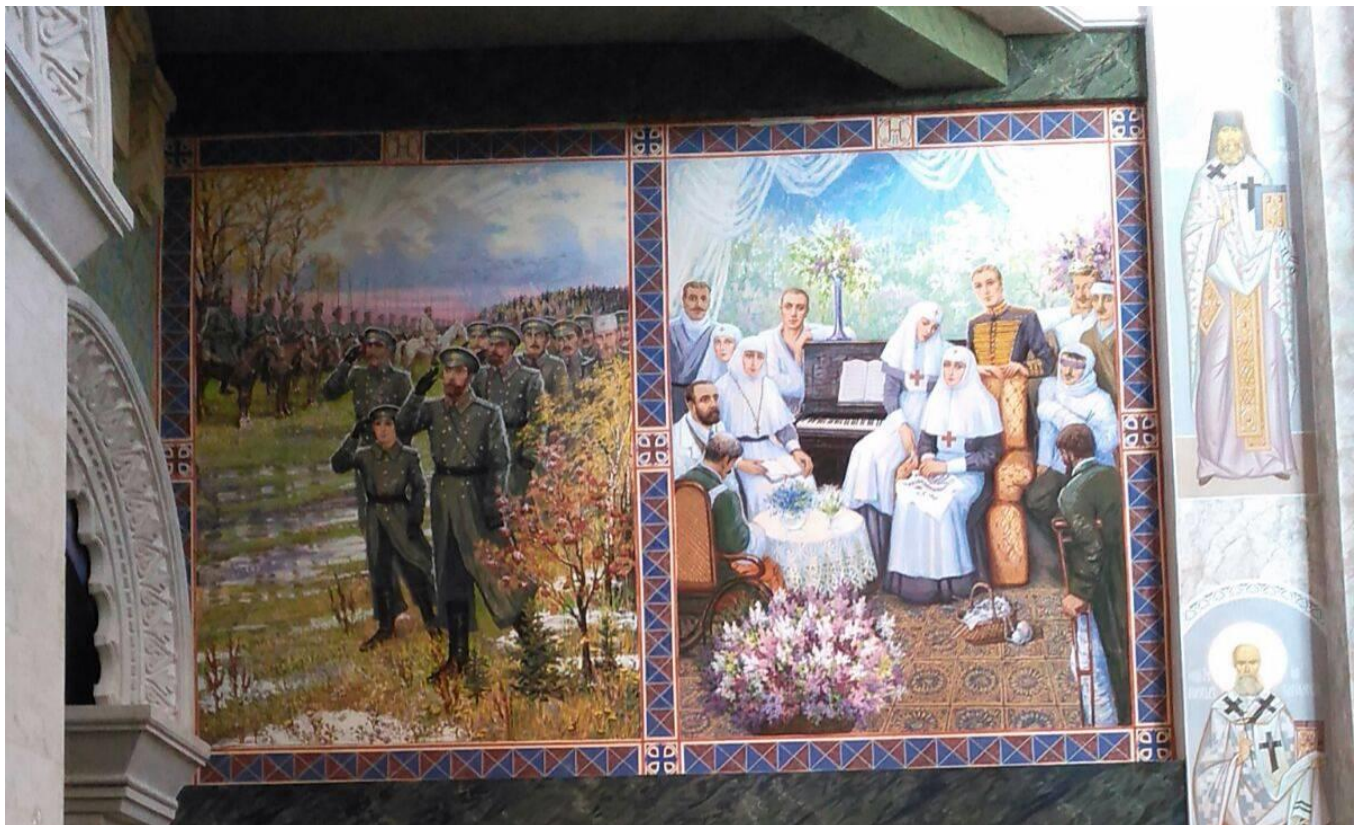
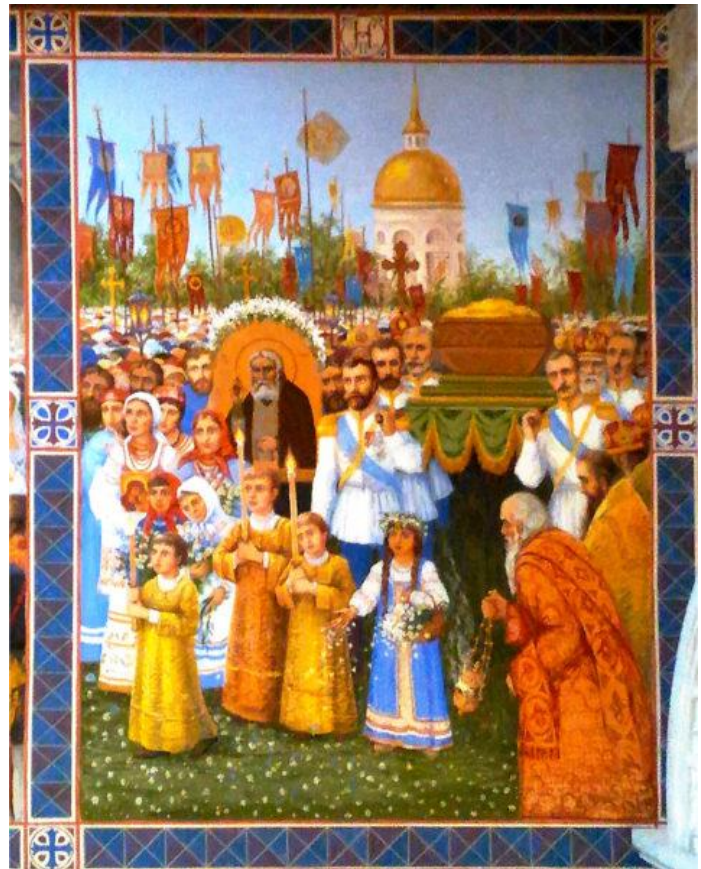
Transfer of the relics of the Monk Seraphim of Sarov

In the photographs of the relics of the Monk Seraphim are five Grand Dukes and the Sovereign. You can imagine: white tunics, blue trousers and 12 black boots. Naturally, it was impossible to depict such a scene with actual accuracy. Therefore, in the foreground I have three boys of different ages, in golden surrovers. This decision is dictated by the Gospel words: "... let the children go and do not prevent them from coming to Me, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

Tsar Nicholas II with the Tsarevich Alexei

For the composition, the moment was chosen when the Tsar together with the Tsarevich went before the cavalry troops of the Cossacks - special advanced units.

The historical chronology has been broken again, and for the Sovereign - not those generals who at that time were at GHQ, and all those who remained loyal to him until the very end, did not betray in the subsequent terrible years. Again spiritual truth proves to be more important than historical truth.



"All these generals come with stern faces, knowing very well what war is like," says Maria Vishnyak. "Only one, the Tsarevich with shining eyes, happy." Many photographs show how proud he was, happy that his father took him to the front line.

Here, in this picture, can be like nowhere, I was allowed through nature to show the tragedy of what is happening. Thick birches, partly already broken by shells, lose their last leaves in the gusts of the wind. The inspection of troops takes place at the cold sunrise, the last flock of departing birds. Strong wind waving the floors of greatcoats, tears off the last leaves. You can see that the first snow is coming. Nature seems to react with cold to the horror of the loss of the war, exacerbating the sense of tragedy.

Scene in Infirmary

On the one hand, the plot is close to the previous one, but the mood is different, bright. People went through the horror of the war and survived, and now the Empress, her daughters and the staff, carefully selected by Alexandra Feodorovna, take care of them. If you look at the plot from the point of view of the earth's history, then, it would seem, what to rejoice, for soon - the end of everything, and the victims of these soldiers are in the end vain. But it's about the church paintings, and therefore, about the Highland.

Therefore - here spring, blossoming apple trees outside the window, the triumph of life over death, echo of Easter joy, Divine light. Therefore - a lot of light, a lot of white colour - in the garb of the characters, as it should be with the sisters of mercy. But we know that the white colour in the icon is also light.

"This composition was more difficult than the rest," says Maria Vishnyak. "It was quite difficult to draw people with injuries in the infirmary, we needed a story." Working on this topic, I found a surprisingly beautiful story. Once the captain of the Life Guards of the Ulanskiy Her Imperial Majesty Alexandra Fedorovna regiment Dmitry Malam comes to the infirmary in Tsarskoye Selo. This 25-year-old handsome young man, who had a left leg fractured. He led his regiment into an attack and blew up on a mine.

The Empress, who knew him from childhood, wrote to the Emperor a letter to the front: "He has a blooming appearance, matured, though still a charming boy. I must admit that he would have been an excellent son-in-law - why are foreign Princes different from him?" She saw how Grand Duchess Tatiana, taking care of the other wounded, including Dmitri Malama, gets an unusually tender feeling for him and meets reciprocity. There is surprisingly gentle, beautiful love. On this plot, the whole composition is built around the touch of two fingers. Dmitry Malama is depicted already in military clothing - the only one. He goes back to the regiment, and everyone else remains in the hospital. In this touch of fingers - the quintessence of pure and true love.

This was the last meeting, because 1917 came ... Dmitri Malama was in Denikin's troops, and when he learned about the terrible news - the execution of the Imperial Family in 1918, he began to seek death. He died in 1919 at Tsaritsyn. But it will be later. And now it's spring, the nightingales sing, the piano. I so wanted to extend that time for the heroes ...

Mary really managed to extend this time, because earthly love appears here as an echo of Heaven, and therefore it is no wonder that, it would seem, such a scene appeared in the terrible place of the death of the Imperial Family.

"With the Holy Saints"

The last scene on the plot is the most tragic - July 14, 1918 in Ipatiev house, three days later the Imperial Family and all those who were with them - will be brutally killed. In the meantime, the Bolsheviks allowed to hold a divine service, a priest, Father John Storozhev, who had left his memories, was invited. Usually, when he served, on Sundays or on holidays, the Grand Duchesses sing along as they loved the services. No one sang that day. Everyone understood that the atmosphere was changing around. They served in the Liturgy, in which there are the words: "With the Saints of the Peace," in which all the members of the Imperial family kneeled.

But in the work of Maria Vishnyak - tragedy recedes, because here everything is already - about the Highland. And the light that flows from the window is not a hint, but a direct indication of the Divine light. And the attire of the Empress and the Grand Duchesses is white, ceremonial, although where do

they come from, then, in 1918, in Ipatiev house after all the wanderings? But how else can the saints already standing at the Throne of God be dressed?

- In the work - three light sources, - Maria Vishnyak tells. - The light pouring from the window, the light of the sconces and candles, which the heroes hold in their hands, and the inner light that transforms people's faces.



I wanted to show the inner transformation of each of the participants in the service. The priest is made realistically, with warm colours, he stands on this side of the streaming light from the window. All the others are united by the colour and light of the rays, which already capture them and transfer them to another dimension, into another space. The light that unites all worlds: the world is visible and the world invisible, and is the protagonist of this fresco.

From the documentary things that accompanied the Imperial Family, on the fresco the icon of the Mother of God "The Three Hands" is depicted. This icon travelled with the Imperial Family across Siberia, was in Yekaterinburg and after all the terrible events of the revolution was found recently. Now she is in this church.

In the room where the service was held, according to the description of Father John, there was a large flower that blossomed with red flowers. I transferred the flower to work. This is also a symbol ... Metropolitan Kirill asked to finish on this fresco the icon of the Saviour Not Made by Hands. Indeed, the surviving photograph reads that in the room was an icon. Vladyka proposed to finish it with the crown of thorns ...

"The sixth composition is all on a sparkling gold background," says Maria Vishnyak. - This is a huge, powerful tree of the Romanovs, which blossoms in a magnificent colour. I decided that this is a bright tree - a Russian apple tree. My husband and children managed to travel a lot in our life, to try apples in very many countries.

In huge buds portraits of all Romanovs, from Mikhail Fedorovich to the Emperor Nicholas II, are conceived. The whole tree is twisted and arranged around the icon of the Feodorovskaya Mother of

God. I am grateful to God for every day of work on these paintings, for the fact that Vladyka Kirill believed in me.



During the work, I remembered with gratitude my teacher Ilya Sergeevich Glazunov. Thirty years after the training, knowledge and skills were very useful for building the multi-figure compositions that Ilya Sergeevich taught us.

Chronicle of the World

"The compositional solution in the overall huge volume of the temple is dictated by bright local features," says Maria Vishnyak. - The Urals is the main source of precious stones in Russia. Ural stones are one of the best in the world! Uralic stones have long been adorned churches in Russia, for example, the green jasper decorates the Kazan Cathedral, the Church of the Saviour on Blood in St. Petersburg, the royal stone - lapis lazuli was generously donated by Alexander II to Rome for the Basilica of St. Paul.

This theme was embodied in the frame of the life cycle of the Imperial Family. The combination of lapis lazuli, green marbles and jasper emphasizes the significance of what is happening on the mural. As we know, on the stones is written the story of the Creation of the world, this is the hidden "Chronicle of the World".





"The Emperor Alexander II. Educating with enlightenment"

"Love and spread enlightenment; people without education are a people without dignity ... The Sovereign's power is not in the number of his soldiers, but in the well-being of the people " - V.A. Zhukovsky. From the instruction to the disciple - the future Emperor Alexander II.

April 24, in the Ivanovsky Hall of the Russian State Library in Moscow, the exhibition "Emperor Alexander II. Education with enlightenment" was opened. The exhibition tells about the important role of upbringing on the ideas of humanism and the formation of state views of the heir to the Russian throne, the future Emperor Alexander II, who exerted a great influence on his reign, as well as the personal contribution of the reforming Emperor to the development and prosperity of Russian culture. Curator of the exhibition is Olga Barkovets (Photo right) and the project manager is Natalia Samoilenko (Photo below).



Opening the exhibition, the deputy director general of the RSL for external relations and exhibition activities, project manager Natalia Samoilenko stressed: "The era of the reign of Alexander II was a time of truly remarkable creativity that was inspired by the reforms, since this air of liberation certainly influenced Russian culture. Alexander II, unlike his father, did not directly direct the artistic process, but he really made a very serious contribution to our culture, and we show the main actions of the Emperor, primarily connected with Moscow, where he was born and was crowned. "

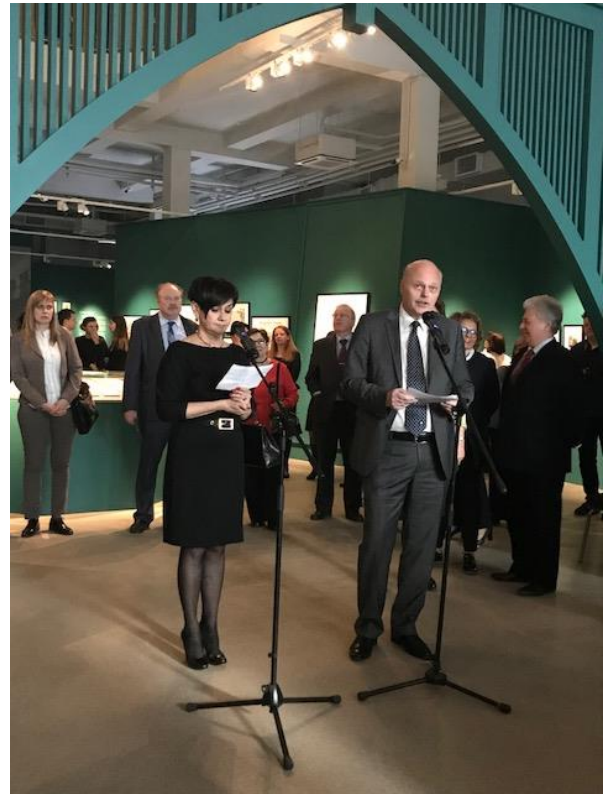
Attending the opening and making a greeting to the guests were Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky, great-great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander II.

Paul E. Kulikovsky - *"Thank you for the invitation and for the opportunity to say a few words. I am very please to attend this opening of "Emperor Alexander II. Education with Enlightenment", timed to the birth of my great-great-great-grandfather. I sound maybe like a distant descendant, but it is also his 200 years birthday anniversary we are celebrating.*

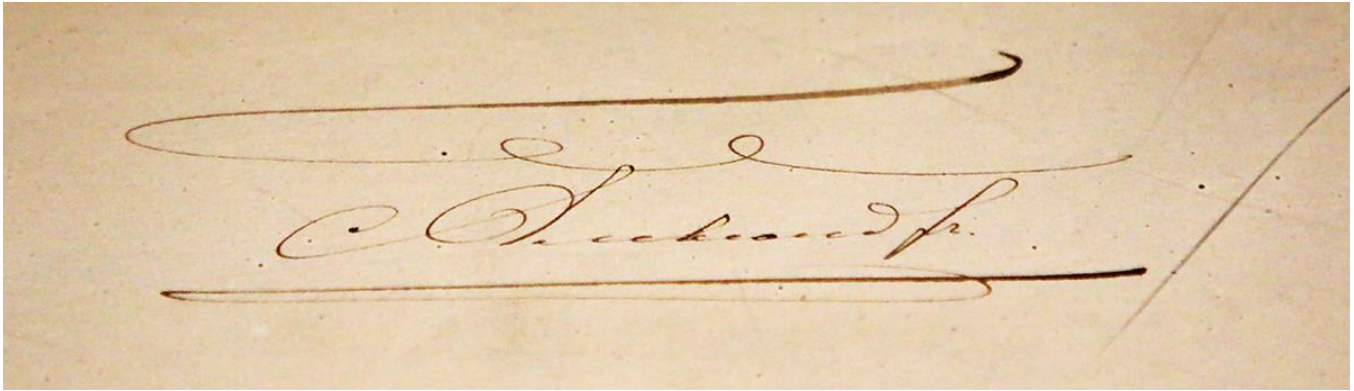
Also called the Tsar-Liberator, most people know Alexander Nicholaevich as the liberator of the serf in Russia and as the liberator of entire Bulgaria. Less people knows about his other reforms - Military, legal, the introduction of local self-government and educational reforms. Yes, his reforms are great, but they are not the only things he did in his 26 years of service to Russia.

My guess is, that very few people knows what impact Emperor Alexander II had on culture. Indirectly, the spirit of optimism encouraged by the 'Great Reforms', together with the relaxation of censorship and other restrictions unleashed an unprecedented creative energy in all spheres of culture. And directly, he initiated many projects, which can still be enjoyed, like the State Historical Museum. Other projects was so good, that even if closed during Soviet time, they have now been re-established, like the Russian Historical Society. So it is a great pleasure to see an exhibition that will enlighten us about some of these projects, and so to say, show a different side of the Tsar-Liberator, than what we usually are presented.

Enough said, I hope you are now curious to explorer the exhibition. Thank you all for coming to this celebration of one of Russia's greatest rulers - the Tsar-Liberator Alexander Nicholaevich."







The goal of the exhibition is to show as fully as possible the vivid cultural projects of the era of Alexander II. The most important of them are connected with Moscow.



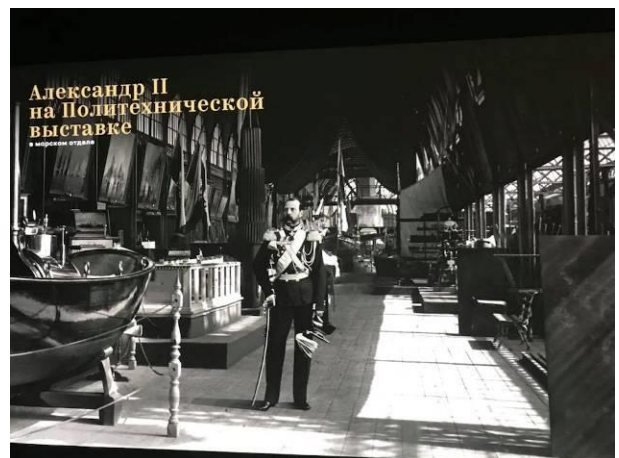
The main value of the enlightened man of the XIX century was his personal library. The exposition of the Ivanovo Hall display unique documents: original diaries, letters, notebooks, drawings, teaching aids of Grand Duke Alexander Nikolaevich, books from his personal libraries and his mother's library, the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. A separate section is devoted to military education, which has traditionally been given special attention in the Imperial families.

The exposition in the Ivanovsky Hall also tells about the opening of the Rumyantsev Museum in Moscow, and the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of Russia in Novgorod, and the founding of the Russian Historical Society by the Emperor in 1866, which played a huge role in the development of historical science and enlightenment in Russia.

The exposition features rarities from the Rumyantsev Museum collection, previously unknown watercolours of Novgorod churches and monasteries, commemorative signs and medals.

A separate section is devoted to the Polytechnic Exhibition in Moscow in 1872. This section, based on unique documents, tells about an exhibition that demonstrated the economic, technical, scientific and cultural achievements of the empire, amazing even in 21st century. Modern multimedia tools will allow you to see all the sections and pavilions of this exhibition.

In addition to documents from the RSL funds, the exposition presents items from the collections of the State Hermitage, the State Archives of the Russian Federation, the Polytechnic Museum, and the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve. The exhibition is supported by the Russian Historical Society.





The coronation books of Emperor Alexander II, more than a meter high and weights 25 kgs

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/246726/

The video reports the following: "Education with enlightenment." In the Russian State Library an exhibition dedicated to Alexander II was opened. How and what the heir to the Russian throne learned. Student's notebook of the Tsarevich Alexander Nikolaevich, future Emperor Alexander II. His pencil drawings of eyes and noses. Timetable of classes. And here is the characterization of heir of the throne drawn up by the educator: "A noble character, worthy of his rank, his parents and Russia. The purity of the heart, in which there is no shadow of evil."

The exhibition turned out to be both fascinating and relevant. It is devoted to the acute issue - education, however, only of one person. Nicholas I instructed the poet Vasily Zhukovsky to draw up a plan for teaching his son. The Emperor wanted to see his son, first of all, a military man, so he asked to focus on military discipline, but Zhukovsky feared that the heir would become accustomed to seeing the people as - the regiment, and the Fatherland as - the barracks. Therefore, the stake was made on humanitarian lessons, first of all, history.

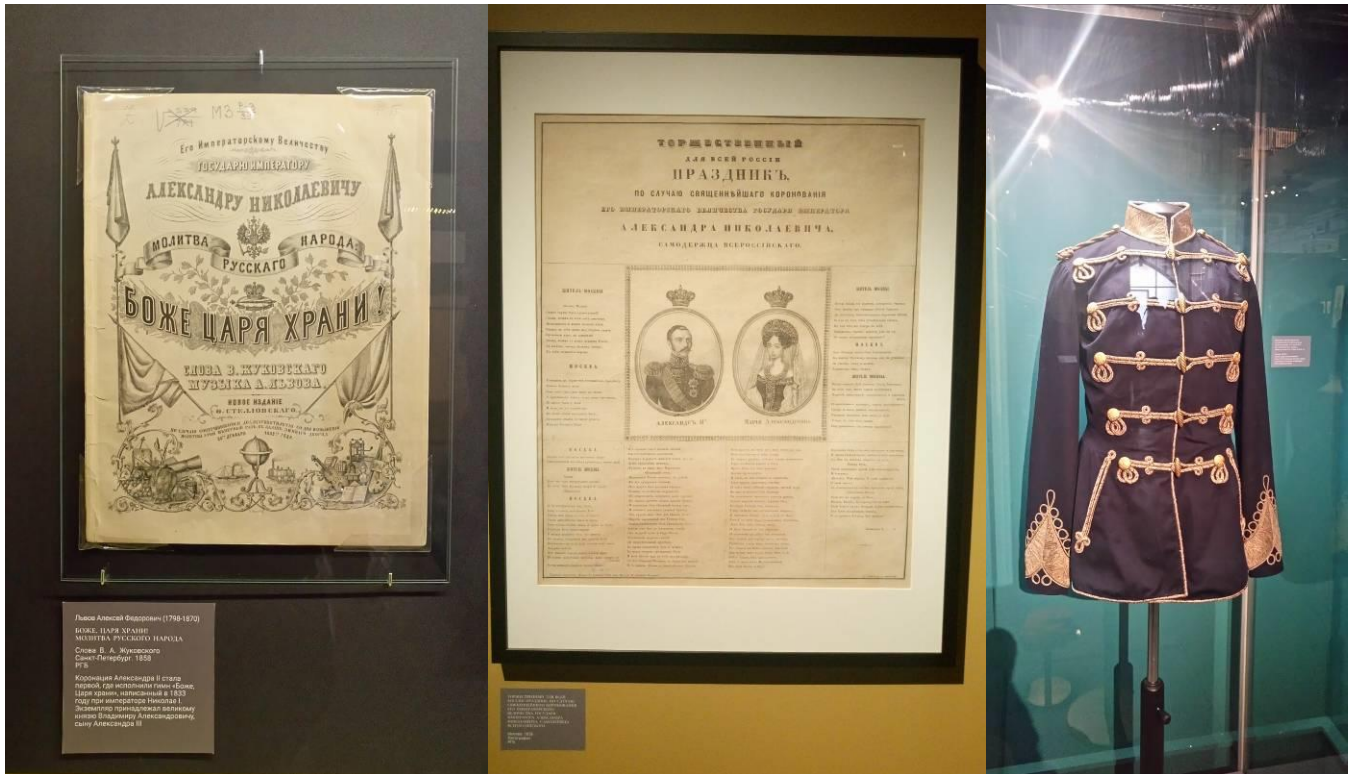
There is a unique exhibit. This is the testament of Nicholas I to his son, written by him in case of his sudden death. "Neglect the curses. Do not be afraid of your conscience. With foreign powers keep a good agreement. Be gentle, gentle and just," - he wrote.

"Alexander II can be considered one of the great Russian rulers, along with Peter I and Catherine the Great. He liberated 22 million peasants, liberated Bulgaria and other countries of the Balkan Peninsula from the Ottoman Empire. His achievements in the field of culture are very important. It must be remembered that it was by the decree of Alexander II that the Historical Museum, the Boyars of the Romanovs' Chambers, was founded," said the descendant of Alexander II, Paul Kulikovsky.

And this is the second part of the exhibition, which follows logically from the first. Fruits of reign. The abolition of serfdom, other reforms, the grandiose celebration of Russia's millennium, the creation of a monument in Novgorod dedicated to this event. Another contribution of Alexander II to culture is the opening in Moscow of the first public museum - Rumyantsevsky. Later, on its base, the largest library in the country was created, in which unique manuscripts are kept. Yes, and this Ivanovsky Hall, named after Alexander Ivanov, is another reminder of Alexander II. At the opening of the Rumyantsev Museum, the Emperor presented as a gift the painting "The Appearance of Christ to the People."

A trailer announcing the exhibition -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=60&v=AiuiT3m_ZnI



The scientific conference "Alexander II and his epoque"

Photos by Vadim D. Konev

20 April, in the Lecture Hall of the Historical Museum on Red Square, Moscow, the scientific conference "Alexander II and his epoque" was held.

Conducting the meeting were Alexander I. Shkurko, President of the Historical Museum, Andrei D. Yanovskiy, Deputy Director of the Historical Museum for Scientific Work, and Galina K. Shchutskaya, Head of the Department of the Historical Museum "The Romanov Boyars House".

The conference opened with greetings from Andrei Yanovsky, Alexander Shkurko and Paul Kulikovsky, great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III.



Paul Kulikovsky said - *"Let me start with expressing my gratitude to the Historical Museum for arranging today's conference called "Alexander II and his era".*

It is a part of the 200 years birthday celebrations of Emperor Alexander II the Tsar-Liberator, who's birthday it is on April 29.

This conference comes after the opening of the large-scale monographic exhibition in the Historical Museum - an exhibition which you can visit at the end of the conference.

Even if it is "an unfinished portrait" - it is so far the biggest and best exhibition in our time dedicated to Alexander II.

The theme "Alexander II and his era" is very large, covering 26 years of his glorious reign and 37 years as Grand Duke and Tsarevich, or in total 63 years of his life.

It was a life full of historical important events and achievements with far reaching impact, many until our days.

Even if we do have a very long day ahead of us, it will not be enough to give a full picture of Alexander Nicholaevich and all of his achievements.

Of course with most of you being historians or at least interested in history, you have already your own painting of Alexander II in your mind, but I guess, just like my "painting" it have several white spots. So I am hoping that some of the presentations here today can fill in some of the white spots or some of my "colors" might be challenged.

If to sum up the reign of the Tsar-Liberator, or to make a miniature "painting", it would be: Alexander II's achievements in his 26 years of service to Russia should make all Russians proud of him. Enough to mention: he liberated 22 million serfs in Russia, and 10 million people in the Balkans. He ranks among Russia's rulers on the level of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great.

Looking forward, to honor the memory of the Tsar-Liberator Alexander II, it would be fantastic if the Nikolevsky Palace in Kremlin, where Alexander Nicholaevich was born, would be recreated. There was a plan recently to do so, but now it seems to have been put into a drawer. Another project I would like to see, is the Memorial to Tsar Liberator Alexander II, which was opened in 1898 in Kremlin. It would be great to see it recreated. But maybe that will be a birthday gift on his 250 years birthday anniversary in year 2068.

Once again, thanks to the organizers, to all of you who will make a presentation here and to all of you for coming today."



Marina V. Sidorova, Head of the Exhibition Department of the State Archives of the Russian Federation, started with a presentation about "The Italian journey of the Tsarevich Alexander Nikolayevich in 1839" accompanied with photos. Then followed Anna V. Gromova, who talked about Empress Maria Alexandrovna, the wife of Emperor Alexander II and her role in establishing Institute of Sisters of Mercy and the Russian Red Cross.

Alexander P. Shevyrev, Associate Professor of the Department of Russian History of the XIX - early XX centuries, Faculty of History, Moscow State University.

M.V. Lomonosov, told about "Alexander II and the Great Reforms", and mentioned that Emperor Alexander II was disappointed with the reaction of the people to his reforms, which led him to be more conservative towards the end of his reign.

Yury A. Borisenko, Associate Professor of History Faculty of Moscow State University. M.V. Lomonosov, presented "Alexander II and his reforms in the depiction of the graduate of the Imperial University of Warsaw, Jan Kukhazhevsky (multi-volume edition) From white to red tsarism, 1923-1935)".

Andrei V. Mamonov, Senior Researcher, Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences, told about "Alexander II and the highest dignitaries of the Empire in the late 1870's"

Irina S. Shikanova, Senior Researcher, Numismatics Department, Historical Museum presented "Paper money in Finland during the reign of Alexander II".

Evgeny V. Pchelov, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of the Historical Archival Institute of the Russian State University for the Humanities - "Alexander II in the context of symbolic representations: names, titles and arms".

Sergey S. Levin, Senior Researcher of the Department numismatics of the Historical Museum - "Reform of the award system of the Russian Empire in 1855-1857".

Alexandra V. Kalashnikova, Senior Researcher, Numismatics Department, Historical Museum - "Awarded medals to the rescued Emperor"

Julia A. Safronova, dean of the history department of the European University in St. Petersburg - "Daily bread": correspondence between Alexander II and E.M. Dolgorukova "

Galina K. Shchutskaya, Head of the Department of the Historical Museum "The Romanovs Boyars House" - "Emperor Alexander II - the founder of the Museum "The Romanovs Boyars House".

Vera M. Bokova, chief research officer of the scientific-exposition department of the Historical Museum - "Alexander II and the foundation of the Russian Imperial Historical Museum".

Stella G. Morozova, Head of the Department of Scientific Work of the Polytechnic Museum - "Moscow Museum of Applied Knowledge: History of Creation".

Arsen A. Melitonyan, President of the Union of Russian Filokartists - "The Age of Emperor Alexander II on the illustrated postcards of the late XIX - early XX century".



At the end of the conference the participants were invited to an "Author's tour" of the exhibition "Alexander II Liberator" in Historical Museum, conducted by the curator A.D. Yanovsky.



In the Romanov necropolis a memorial service for Emperor Alexander II was held

In the morning of April 29, the 200 years birthday anniversary of Emperor Alexander was marked with memorial service (Panikhida) at his tomb in the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral.

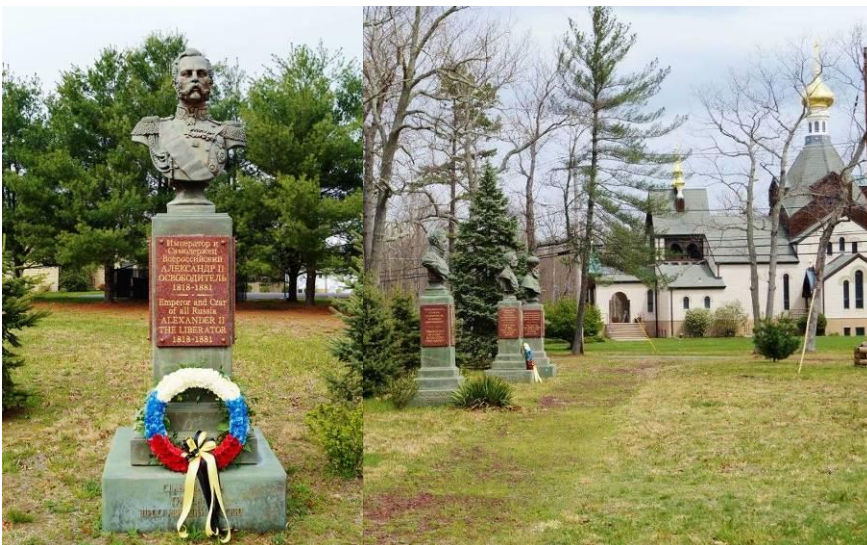
Archpriest Alexander (Fedorov), Dean of the Cathedral led the service. Then at the tomb of Alexander II many wreaths were laid.

In the afternoon, a memorial service for Emperor Alexander II was also held in the St. Isaac's Cathedral.



The birthday of the Tsar-Liberator was remembered in USA

April 29, 2018, the day of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander II (Liberator), representatives of RIS-O laid a wreath at the monument in the Park of Glory of the Russian House Rodina (USA, New Jersey).



The exhibition "Emperor Alexander II and Alexandrite" in the Urals Geological Museum

April 28, in the Urals Geological Museum of the Ural State Mining University, the exhibition "Emperor Alexander II and Alexandrite" was opened, at which a unique precious exhibit - Druse Alexandrite weighs 3,740 carats, named after Emperor Alexander II "Liberator".



In the Ural Geological Museum of the Mining University, among the samples of the ancient collection was found a unique druse - a cluster of large crystals - alexandrite, weighing 3740 carats (748 grams). Initially the alexandrite crystals were covered with mica and the sample was considered an ordinary one. Only after preparation (purification from mica) it became clear that this cluster of crystals is unique, told at the Mining University. This sample, already called by the staff of the museum "Liberator", became the main exhibit at the exhibition "Emperor Alexander II and Alexandrite", which is timed to the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Autocrat, who entered the domestic history with the epithet "Liberator".

- Alexandrite mystically predetermined the fate of the Emperor, after whom he was named: the "green" beginning of the reign, reforms, the abolition of serfdom, the end of the war and the tragic "red" ending - a series of assassinations, which ended in an explosion on the embankment of Catherine channel in 1881, which ended the life of Alexander II.

On the exhibition is presented both ancient descriptions and drawings of alexandrite crystals, as well as documents reflecting the main events of his reign. But the main exhibits are over 100 crystals and joints of alexandrite. The exhibition pays special attention to new data on the history of the discovery of this precious stone in the Emerald Mines of the Urals, which differs significantly from the official version, - said the museum director Dmitry Kleimenov.

Alexandrite is the most recent first-order jewel, which also includes diamond, ruby, sapphire and emerald. It was first discovered in the Urals. This is a chrome-containing version of the chrysoberyl mineral, which has a unique colour changing feature, depending on the nature of the lighting - a chameleon stone. In daylight, alexandrite has a deep green colour, sometimes with a slightly noticeable bluish tint. In the light of incandescent lamps or candles, the colour is replaced by a saturated dark red or red-purple. This effect is called reverse by experts. Under the lamp of ultraviolet light, the alexandrites, even those with a slight reverse, are lit in red, like the coals of a bonfire, told at the Ural State Mining University.

"We are doing what we can and then we must see what happens"

- Vera and Yury Voicehovsky-Kachaloff interviewed by Ludmila and Paul Kulikovskiy

Born outside of Russia, they are now back in the land of their ancestors and have managed to do a lot. Beside raising a family with 3 children, being married for 25 years, they have both made careers, have restored the ancestral estate of the Kachaloff family in Northern Russia, and recently have taken on more challenges in the restarting of a big textile factory in Vologda and the setting up a "Russian National Trust" to save and restore manor houses in Russia.

Their family history includes ancestors, who were with the Romanovs at various points in time, and who contributed to the history of Russia, just as they themselves do today.



Vera can you tell us a bit about yourself and your family?

Vera - "I was born in Riga, in those time it was a city in Soviet Union, now Latvia. I studied biology and Yury was in the Technical University. We met in the last year of my studies. We married and recently celebrated 25 year of marriage. Yury first job was in a local bank, in International Relations. We had two daughters - Anna and Sophia - and soon after went to London. First time for a year. Yury then joined HSBC (then Midland Bank) under Chancellor's Financial Sector Scheme managed by British Council and I was with the children. A little later Yury was offered a job at EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and we stayed there for 10 more years. In that period I changed my profession to finance and then joined Royal Dutch Shell. We both did a Master of Finance at London Business School. So we both had very interesting jobs, with a lot of travels, while the children attended school in London. In 2005 we decided to go to Moscow. It was actually Yury who said "it is time to go". And he went first. I joined a year later."

Yury - "It was not easy to quite our fantastic careers in London, but we had this urge or more like Spence of responsibility. It is difficult to describe it with words. I got infected by the EBRD mission, which was like my alma mater, and wanted to apply my knowledge and skills in Russia. We talked a lot about it and life just indicated it was the right thing to do at that moment."

Vera - "I told my employer that I wanted to go to Russia, and they offered me a job there, so I went like an expatriate. It was a very interesting job. As controller for the whole region, Russia and CIS countries.

Yury - "When our son Micha was born, we decided that Vera should take care of him and make a career break. Because when we had the girls, we were both working and had little time for kids."

Vera - "5 years ago I started to work again and got a job with the American company Ecolab, also in finance, where I am the manager of about 60 people now - in Moscow, Kazan, Western Siberia, Sakhalin and Kazakhstan.

The Kachaloffs....and Romanovs

Vera - "Family tradition and history was always important in our family. I grew up among family relics, old photos and many stories. However, having started our restoration, I discovered much more interesting information about my family history, especially through discovered memoirs of Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff.

Some years back I started to dig into the family history and found a lot of memories and documents about the estate. The main documents were written by Nicholas Kachaloff, the patriarch of the family. He was from Novgorod nobility. They had land and an estate in Belozersky district. All men in the family served in the navy. He was educated in the Moscow Corpus in St. Petersburg, which was the main navy school at the time. The director of the school was then the famous Kruzenstern."



Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff's was born on April 14, 1818 in the village Malyukovo, Belozersky district of Novgorod province and came from an old noble family.

Vera - "His grandfather Roman Yakovlevich was an adjutant of Emperor Peter III. He was present at the death of the Emperor Peter III in Ropsha and remained faithful to him. Which we thinks means a lot. He was punished during the time of Catherine the Great, by being appointed a commandant of Petrozavodsk, in the middle of Karelia, which was almost like being in exile. This is the first connection to the Romanovs, that we know.

Roman Yakovlevich was also a neighbor to Suvorov in Novgorodsky district. He was at some point managing all Suvorov estates of and there are letters of Suvorov to him, showing that they are very good friends. Then it is also know that during the time of Emperor Paul I, Suvorov was in exile in his estate Konchanskoe, and there was a man to watch him, which was the son of Roman Yakovlevich. He knew Suvorov from his childhood, so he was just a nice guy and not really spying on him.

Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff's brother died, so he had to resign from the navy in August 15, 1845 and go home to the estate to manage it. After a few years (in 1848) he married Alexandra Pavlovna, the daughter of his neighbor - the retired colonel Pavel Yakovlevich Dolgovo-Saburov. She was 10 years younger than him. With the new wife came a dowry of land and villages, and a few years after the wedding they decided to built a new house on this new land. Which is the house we now have restored.



Yury - "It is a very unique house for that area. It is the first stone building in the whole area, after the churches. He properly had inspirations from St. Petersburg or other cities he had visited in the Baltic's. It has rather thick walls for the time, which might be because he was conservative or from his military background. It looks like he has overdone it, as he writes they could not make a hole for the servants

bells through the inner walls. But it means the house is quite cool in the summer and stays warm in the winter after being warmed up.

They had 20 children. He was always very active, always wanted to do something. In 1854, Kachaloff was elected the leader of the nobility of the Belozersky district. After the peasant reform of 1861, in which Nicholas Alexandrovich as the leader of the Belozersky nobility took a very active part, it was impossible to live only at the expense of the estate. He expressed his attitude to the reform, considering it long overdue, but conducted ill-conceived, without proper preparation, and hasty.

In 1865 he became the chairman of the Novgorod provincial zemstvo council. Like a prime minister of the region. The entire family moved to Novgorod. He starts to make a lot of reforms there. Like the prisons were in a really bad state. So he got the prisoners to work, to produce food for themselves. They grew vegetables. He was then able to improve their conditions and the convicts respected him so much, that he could ask one of them to go to his office and bring him his cigars and he knew he has money lying on the table also, and they did so without taking any of his things."



One of the most interesting episodes of Kachaloff's activity during this period was his participation, as a part of the Novgorod government, in rendering assistance to the population of Novgorod and other northern provinces affected by the crop failure of 1867 and his participation in the secret commission established on this occasion under the chairmanship of Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich (future Emperor Alexander III). The commission met twice a week in the Anichkov Palace, in the library of the Tsarevich. The plan for the purchase of bread and its delivery to the starving area, compiled by the Tsarevich himself, somewhat modified by the advice of Kachaloff, was carried out with success. Bread were purchased cheaply and delivered in a timely manner, the population was spared the disaster.

Yury - "Prince Vladimir Petrovich Meshchersky told in his memories that Kachaloff was given this 1 million rubles, which is like 100 million dollars today, in a suitcase and was then walking with it back to his hotel. This show how much he

was trusted by Alexander Alexandrovich. And Kachaloff in turn gave the practical assignment to I.A. Milyutin, who made agreements with merchants, who sign the agreement just with a cross as signature. But all the merchants delivered as agreed and no money was lost. It was a secret operation. Nothing was to be leaked to the press. Nobody was to know that this commission was buying up grain for bread, as not to increase the price for the grain."

The last meeting of the commission was in August in Alexandria, in the Cottage palace, where, among other things, the whole benefit of the operation was clarified, and that a million was returned to the State Treasury completely. The Tsarevich sincerely thanked Kachaloff and Milyutin.

On the closure of the Committee, Kachaloff was made Secret State Councilor on November 15, 1868 and received a flattering rescript from His Highness.

Kachaloff went from the rank of lieutenant commander (Grade 9 in the Table of Ranks) to the Privy Councilor (4th of the Table of Ranks), which is an extremely rare occurrence for promotion in the Russian Empire. Such an ascent over 5 ranks usually would require at least service of not less than 15 years.

In May 1869 Kachaloff received an offer to take the post of the governor of Arkhangelsk. First Nicholas Alexandrovich flatly refused, but having learned that the proposal came from the Tsarevich he had to agree.

When presented to the Emperor Alexander II, he was told - "The Tsarevich proposes this summer to make a journey through Russia and wants you to accompany him, and after completing your journey, you will go to your province."

Then Kachaloff was traveling with the Tsarevich along the Volga and Don rivers, through Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Tsaritsyn and the Don region, to Livadia in the Crimea. Starting in July 1869, the travelling company of the Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich were also: Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna, Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich, K.N. Posyet, V.V. Zinoviev, Pobedonostsev, Babst, Ohom, Dr. Hirsch, artist Bogolyubov and adjutants Kozlov and Count Olsufiev. With the Grand Duchess were a maid of honor Princess Kurakina with her daughter.



Kachaloff's notes from the trip is very interesting reading, with many details and funny observation, also regarding the personalities of the Tsarevich Alexander Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Maria Feodorovna. Another observer in the company was the artist Alexei Petrovich Bogolyubov, who made drawings and caricatures, which was given to the Tsarevich later.

Vera - "Bogolyubov's drawings was my finding. For two years I was searching the archives, making phone calls. Then one day, when I called the Pavlovsk Museum, one lady said - we have just had a conference about some newly discovered archives belonging to Alexander III, in which there were some albums. She said let me have a look. She did and phoned me back saying "that is it" - these albums are in the State Archives". I went there the next day and they showed me a huge album with 24 caricatures, in which N A was in many of them. "



Yury - "One of the caricatures describes all of the members of the expedition in the early morning. The explanation is that Alexander Alexandrovich was very punctual and up early in the morning. And he was very crossed that the other members were drinking a lot of wine in the evenings, as they were always late next morning. The members were all sleeping in the same wagon and one day Alexander said he would come early in the morning. Nicholas Alexandrovich said he was the only one up and ready when the Tsarevich came. And he said - "I cannot present the rest of us, I can only present their legs." And Bogolyubov made a caricatures of this situation, in which you can see who is who."

Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff writes - "Visiting the cities was quite monotonous: first in the cathedral for a brief prayer, and if the feast or the royal day, then to mass with a prayer service, then a church parade and reception of local authorities. After breakfast, to which the authorities were invited, an inspection of the establishments and generally the city's remarkable features, and usually the Tsarevich gave a big dinner, to which was invited the authorities and all the respectable townsfolk. The cities also arranged balls, festivities, or something like that, and all this took about 3 days in each city."

The company arrived in Livadia on August 6, 1869 and were all presented to the Emperor and Empress and the general composition of the Emperor's retinue.

The rest of 1869 and to January 1870, N.A. worked in Arkhangelsk, delving into all aspects of its life, especially economic, studying the possibility of improving the economic situation of the region.

Vera - "He was there less than a year, but he managed to establish the first shipping company there. It built some ships and the first was named "Kachaloff" in his honor."

Yury - "We traced it via Lloyd's ship register and the ship was sold to Norway, renamed "Ofoten" and was sailing until 1953 - almost a 100 years! Another ship was named "Grand Duke"."

Vera - "His idea was to serve Russia. He saw it as his duty. He was very modest, it was not about promoting himself. He only had enough money to support his family and maintain his estate. He never took anything extra for himself. In his memories he even says that sometimes there was not enough money in the budget, so he had to use his own money."

In February 1870 Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff presented to Alexander II a report on the situation in the Arkhangelsk province and proposals for improving its economic and social status.

In the summer of 1870 Kachaloff accompanied Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich on his trip from Vologda to Arkhangelsk and further along the White Sea and the North Ocean.

Vera - "He was then appointed Chief of



Custom of the whole Russian Empire, where he started November 11, 1870, and served 12 years, until April 1882. When I did research for my book, I went to the museum of Russian Custom here in Moscow and I was very surprised how well they treated me, but I understood that they respected Nicholas Alexandrovich very much. They have a lot of information about him and also his portrait." Yury - "As you can see from his memories, he was amazing, with a very lively mind, he was patriotic, and joyful, with a sense of humor."

He died on October 28, 1891. He was buried at the Smolensk Orthodox cemetery in St. Petersburg.

Vera - "Nicholas Alexandrovich's son Nicholas Nicholaevich is my great-grandfather. He was in the navy. At the end of life, Nicholas Alexandrovich decides that Khvalevskoye should not be divided among the children, but "left in common possession and share incomes". To raise the economy, they need to manage it, and "only a family member can manage it well." And he directs his son Nicholas to Khvalevskoye to deal with an estate that began to decline. So Nicholas Nicholaevich retired from the navy in 1890.

In 1895 Nicholas Nicholaevich was appointed to the post of director of the Electro Technical Institute in St. Petersburg and the family moved again.

Then he became Governor of Arkhangelsk in 1905 (to 1907). It was a bad experience for him in 1905, with all the riots going on. His son Lev is my grandfather. He was a lawyer in Minister of Internal Affairs. Having married in 1910, he had one son, born in Tsarskoye Selo.



Then he got sick - with appendicitis. Had an operation and nearly lost his life. Then the family decided they should go to Lausanne in Switzerland for recreation and health, and went in the summer of 1914. As WWI started bridges on the border were blown up and trains stopped running, so it was impossible to go back. They remain there during the war and their daughter Olga was born there. They lost everything in the revolution and could not go back to Russia. Grandmother, a wonderful pianist, entered the conservatory. They stayed in Switzerland until 1924, where he got a job with the Red Cross and then he was offered a position in Riga, Latvia. They got a Nansen passport and went there. They welcomed that fact that it was close to Russia and properly also thought it was only temporary, before they could continue to Russia. Also his wife's family was Baltic-German and lived in Estonia, so it was another reason to go to Riga. They had two more daughters in Riga, and the youngest - Varvara is my mother.

In 1940 Latvia was annexed by Soviet Union. My grandfather was the chief accountant at the former Kuznetsovsk Porcelain Factory (Riga Porcelain Factory). In 1948, my mother's uncle, a musician was arrested and sent for 10 years to Norilsk. His wife - with 4 children - was offered to collaborate, but she refused, and one night she was arrested and put on a train with small children to Tomsk in Siberia. She was Baroness Rosenschild von Paulin. Her mother went with them and died on the trip going there. But the others survived, they were released after Stalin's death and returned to Riga.

All together we are now a big family, the descendants of Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff. Some live in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Riga, Paris, New York, London. There are more than 100 relatives and we now have reunions at Hvalevskoe with more than 50 people at one time. The connection have always existed, but now with the estate we have a place where we can all meet at the same time. Of Nicholas Alexandrovich other children, it is worth mentioning Pavel, who was an officer on the Imperial yacht "Tsarevna". As we have a photo of him at Langinkoski, where he is together with Alexander III and Marie Feodorovna.

The third son Vladimir, was manager of the estates in Livadia and Massandra, and created the main wine cellars there. He lived long life and died of hunger during the blockade of Leningrad in WW2.

Nobility as such is not important to me, but the spirit, the ethics of that time, how people behaved, is important to me."

Voicehovsky, then and now

Yury Michailovich Voicehovsky have a diploma in "International economic relations" from Latvian University, a degree in International Business from University of Copenhagen (Denmark) and a Master's in Finance degree from London Business School. Yury has many years of experience in the field of foreign investments and international finance. More than 10 years he worked in London, first at the HSBC HQ, after this in the HQ of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). During 3 years (from 2007 to 2009), he was the President of Standard Bank in Russia (a subsidiary bank of Standard Bank Group, SA). After its merger with Troika Dialog, he was the Chairman, from 2009 to 2010, of the Board of Directors of the merged bank.



Yury initiated the establishment of the Russian Investment Agency "Invest in Russia" and served as its first CEO in 2013-2015. In 2013-2014 Yury was an Advisor to the Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation.

Yury currently serves as Chairman of the boards of Archangelsk Airport and Vologda Textile, a representative of Generali Group in Russia and board member of Trinfico, VCIOM and Independent Director's Association. Previously Yury was member of boards in: SUEK, BTA Bank (Kazakhstan), Dragon Oil (UK/UAE), Astor Capital, New Europe Real Estate Fund and DLB Bank.

Yury Voicehovsky was awarded with the "Director of the Year" (2013).

You was born in Riga, Latvia, but you are also of an old Russian family. Can you tell us about it?

Yury - "From my father's side, my family comes from St. Petersburg, but they also left it after the revolution. So Vera and I have similar background. My great-grandfather Vladislav Osipovich Voicehovsky (1833-1877) was a State Counselor and chief secretary of the Russian Senate. I have a big age difference to my father and he also has a big age difference to his father, as one generation is missing between each generation. I have a funny story, from when I went to school. They asked us to write a story about how our grandfather was fighting in the war, and my grandfather fought in the Russian-Japanese war and First World War, so I wrote about that. But the teacher gave me a bad mark as she said I was supposed to write about the Second World War.

My great-grandfather Vladislav Voicehovsky was actually born in Warsaw, when it was a part of the Russian Empire. He came to St. Petersburg and entered university. Entered civil service and was given nobility for his service. He married Maria Feodorovna Haas. Had a son and a daughter. He was awarded orders and medals of the Russian Empire - the Order of St. Anne, the Order of St. Stanislaus, etc. His career was interrupted by a sudden death in 1877, at the age of 44. He was buried in the Vyborg cemetery in St. Petersburg, but the grave was destroyed along with the cemetery during the Soviet era.

His son Nicholas Vladislavich was baptized in the Winter Palace, in the small church, because his godfather was the military commandant of the Palace. (It is recorded in the church book, as No. 19). He graduated from military medical academy in St. Petersburg in 1899. He worked in Vienna and Berlin

and quite young became an obstetrician-gynecologist professor. He worked for Professor Ott in St. Petersburg, who was very famous and the personal obstetrician for the Romanov family. So in our family we have the understanding that he participated in the delivery of the imperial babies. He was in the rank of Colonel and the head of a front-hospital in the Russian-Japanese war and got the rank of General in the First World War.

The daughter Alexandra, was married to a very famous railway engineer Sviyagin. He was the one who headed the expedition to decide where the Russian-Chinese railroad was to be laid and he wrote a book about this expedition. It ended with his proposal, among several, was approved and used, which meant he became the head of its construction. He did very well and had a house on Kamenstroy Island in St. Petersburg and a dacha in Crimea.

They emigrated in 1919 from Crimea to Dubrovnik, then to Napoli, before finally going - to Harbin in China, where he died. We do not know where she died or is buried, as we lost track of her after Dubrovnik. We went to Harbin several years ago to search for their graves, but the cemetery was destroyed.

My grandmother was from Rostov region, of Cossack family. So after the revolution my grandfather and grandmother went south. They ended up in Krasnodar, and with Professor Ott they founded the medical university there. My grandfather died in 1933.

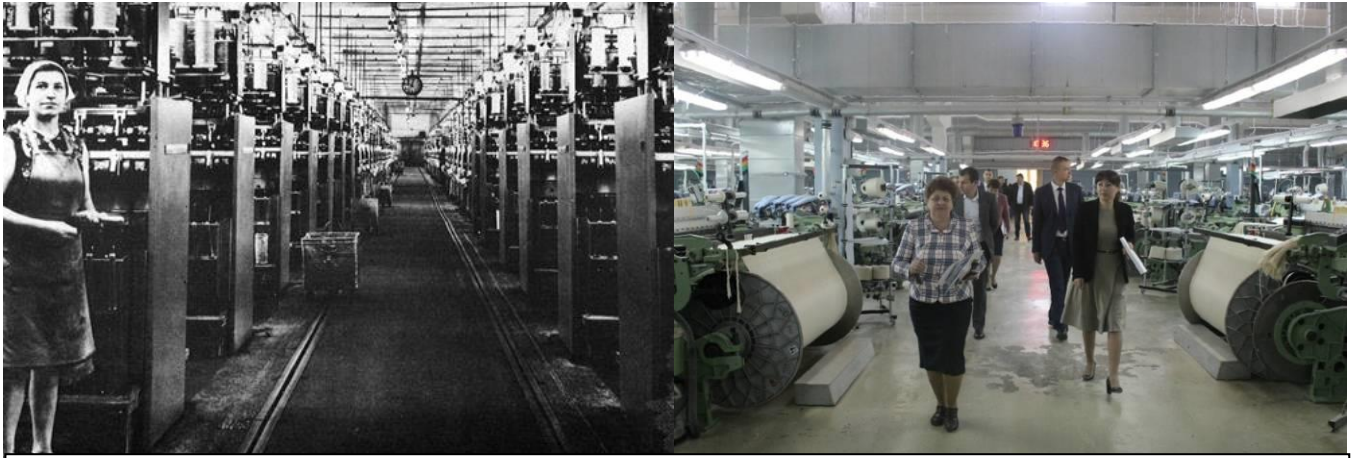
My father was born 1926 in Krasnodar and he graduated in the school of his father, becoming a doctor as well, being educated by his fathers' colleagues or pupils, so they showed him a lot of respect. He was 16 years old, when he and his entire class was sent to the Stalingrad battle and during a bombardment was hit. He woke up among dead bodies and found out he was the sole survivor among his entire class. His legs were frozen, so later in life he could not stand for a long time, and when he had to operate (as a surgeon) he had a special chair made for him.

After the war, in 1951 he was sent to Riga as a doctor. He met my mother there, who was a Latvian and a doctor as well. He lived there until he died in 2000.

My aunts, uncles and sister are also doctors. I was more dreaming about becoming a Captain in the navy and actually applied to the St. Petersburg marine school, the same school where many generations of Kachaloff family went, but was not accepted. It became instead a hobby and I like to sail both motor and sail boats.

When we came to Moscow I entered some boards, and then I was offered to become head of Standard Bank of Russia, which was a subsidiary of South African bank. It went very well, with doubling of revenue in a few years, but it all stopped in 2008 with the financial crises. Then I set up an investment company, focusing on cross-border investments. I had the idea that Russia needed an investment agency and lobbied that idea, even to Putin. It was done under the Minister of Regional Development, and I was appointed as head of that agency and councilor to that minister. In 2014 a new crises unfolded, the Ministry of Regional Development was liquidated, and someone else was to take over the agency, so I decided it was time to do something else.

At our estate in Hvalevskoe, in the summer of 2014, when we had finished the restoration, the Governor came and told about this textile factory that was standing idle. I agreed to look at it and found out that they had bought new equipment for 50 million euro not so long time ago and now it just stood there. It was a big factory, built in soviet times, 1930s, which in the past made 1/3 of linen textile in Russia and had 5000 employees. Many of the former employees are still live in the area, so the manpower and the knowledge were there. I founded a consortium of several companies and bought the factory. We started operation at the end of 2015 and is up to 70% of capacity now, which means we are at breakeven already, but still have more potential. We are continuing to invest and develop within home textile and work wear.



The factory then and now

Have you always known about this estate?

Vera - "At that time I knew very little. I knew there was an estate somewhere. I did not know where geographically it was. But I heard about it from my grandfather. My grandfather also left a draft of memories, like a table of content and in it where little preface where he talk about the estate - Khvalevskoye. He tells how important it was to him, and it was his favourite place. But all of this I only discovered when he was passed away.

In the village there is a local museum and one room is dedicated the Khvalevskoye, with furniture and photos from the estate. Then in 2006, the village wanted to celebrate the 380th anniversary of Borisovo-Sudskoye, which coincided with the 150th anniversary of the house, and started to search for descendants. They found my 2nd cousin, in St. Petersburg. He is like the historian of the family. He knows a lot about the estate. He was invited and brought another cousin with him.



The Khvalevskoye manor house then and now

We visited him in St. Petersburg in 2007 and he showed us a photograph of the house. We liked it and got curious. The estate was nationalized after the revolution, and used by the Soviet authorities. But it is located on the outskirts of the village, so it was inconvenient for them. It was turned into a school, which existed until 1990s, except during the war where it was used as a hospital. And then it was abanded. When we saw it, there was boards over the windows, no glass.

First time I saw it, I thought it is a place of real Russia. This is the place on earth where I feel connected with Russia as I see Russia. Beautiful nature, open and honest, friendly people, in a northern way. It was a special feeling."

Yuri - "It is located on the high banks of the River Suda (Volga basin), with a very nice view. You can see kilometers away. But first time we saw the place, it was overgrown, with trees and bushes, covering the view. There are some very old trees, from the 1850s - oak, pine trees, linden, maple, larch, birch, mountain ash, juniper, rosehip, honeysuckle, and many other species grow in the park, some of them are very big now.

It is in the village Borisovo-Sudskoye, Babaevsky district, Vologda region. Historically, these lands were part of Belozersky district in Novgorod province. The total area of the Khvalevskoye manor was 40 hectares, which included a manor park, and an orchard.



Can you describe the house?

The house is about 1.000 sqm. Two floors. In the center of the house there are arched cellars, so in fact three levels. On the ground floor the ceiling is very high, like 4,5 meters. What I like about the rooms, is that there are not too big and not too small - just the right size. The plan of the house is made very thoughtfully. Historically the kitchen was outside, in a next door wooden building, which no longer exist. There was a dining room and next to it a buffet room, for preparing the food before serving. Now we have a kitchen inside. One part of the house was for servants and you can see on the interior decorations that the rooms there are more modest. In the time when the house was a school, they added a lot of partition walls and new doors. They had not ruin any walls and the old doors was just blocked and covered up. So we could easily return it to the original layout.

On the ground floor most of the doors are original. Upstairs we have 10 bedrooms and one suite. The enfilade rooms, the museum room - is telling about the Kachaloff family - and a home chapel are accessible to visitors on certain open days. Also on the first floor there are a study/library, a dining room, kitchen and other rooms. We now have about a dozen original pieces, that came from the people in the village, that originally belong to the house. Plus some of our relatives donated family relics to the estate - historic grand-piano, portraits, sculptures, candlesticks, etc.

The house is near the village, where now live about 2000 people. The nearest city with a railway station is 60 km away.



How did the idea come to you, buying the estate and restore it?

Yury - "It was the locals who planted the idea in our head to do something with the house. They talk about how they liked the building and wanted to see it used. We talked about it going back to Moscow, but once back in our daily life, we got busy with other things. "

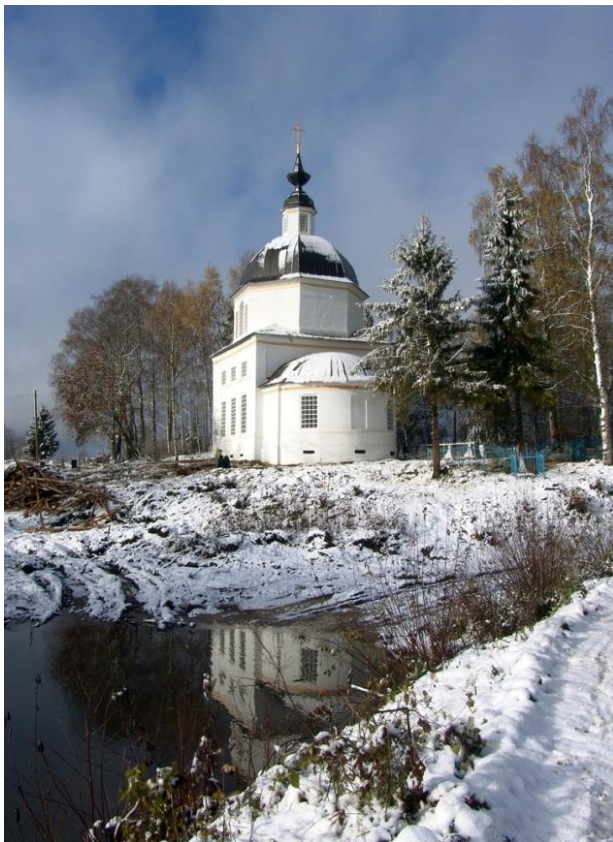
Vera - "A few weeks later N.A. Kachaloffs "Notes" (Memoirs) was discovered. We knew they existed, but did not know where they were. The magazine "Golos Minuvshego" ("The Voice of the Past") had printed the first 4 chapters in 1916-1917, about his childhood, but in March 1917 the magazine was closed. It was then assumed the "Notes" were lost, but then Nikolai Vasilievich Tutolmin - a relative - discovered that there is a complete archive of the journal "The Voice of the Past" in the archive of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. My mother and I went to see them. It was 5 books, handwritten, and in it was even a chapter on how he managed to construct the house. We had a transcript made, which took a few months."

Yury - "What took time was all the commentaries, because he make so many references, and this took over a year to make. It is such a historically interesting book, that it should be translated into English."

In July 2013, N.A. Kachaloff's memoirs "Notes of the Privy Councilor" was published as a book - a 900-page volume. In 2016 the second edition was released, revised and supplemented.

Yury - "We started to discuss with our relatives what to do with the house, weather to buy it or not. The only way to acquire it was through a public auction arranged by the local administration as the seller. There were meetings, with the locals in the village, where was discussed this option, and they asked what we were planning to do with the estate if we got it - like; was there going to be a big fence around it, will there be a restaurant, etc. We explain it will be a social cultural place with events and they accepted it.

In 2009 the auction was arranged, where our main competitor was a hunting society of large energy firm, who wanted to organize a hunting place there. The bids started and went up and up, but luckily they stopped just before it reached our limit, so we got it."



The only surviving church in the area, the Church of the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin is near Borisovo-Sudskoye on the bank of the River Lower Chuzheboyka, near the place where it flows into the Suda River.

Why did you start with the restoration of the church?

Vera - "We started with the nearby Church, as it was like a symbol. It was important to my ancestors, so it meant a lot for us to do it and it was a signal to the villagers.

Yury - "It is such a privilege to restore a church. It is from 1824, soon 200 years old, so older than the estate. We saw it could be done in one year and the budget was manageable.

Vera - "We also discovered tombs of our relatives in the cemetery near it - the children of Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff and the members of Dolgovo-Saburovu family are buried there. Our ancestors supported the construction of this church, and then went there for services."

In the Soviet years, the Church of the Intercession was closed. There was placed a warehouse, an insulator, even a canteen for pilots during the war. Our history and life are reflected in the church as in a mirror. Desecration, oblivion, restoration and hope.

Yury - "Many of the old babushkas came and asked us to give them their church back, and for the locals it meant a lot, so we had to react to it. "

The roof was destroyed, there were no doors, windows, or floor. Plaster in many places was fallen down and the bricks had started to collapse. A couple more years and the church would have turned into ruins. But when the walls began to dry out, many frescoes began to appear and become brighter. Also completely preserved are the beautiful old forged bars on the windows and the chain for the main chandelier.

On October 15, 2010, a day surprisingly sunny and festive, the re-consecration took place. The day before snow fell, so the white walls shone and the golden cross reflected in the clear water. The descendants of Nicholas Alexandrovich Kachaloff - Kachaloffs, Tutolminys and Golovkins participated.

Yury - "The restoration of the house took 5 years. The building was in an emergency condition, cracks appeared in the walls, the foundation suffered badly, the roof leaked, the ceilings were rotting in many places. We stripped the house to the bare walls. Took windows and doors to Moscow to be cleaned and restored. We had to change about 20% of the beams in the roof. There were many chimneys and we didn't restore all of them, but used the shafts for ventilation."

In April 2014, Vera and Yury became laureates of the National Prize "Cultural Heritage" in the nomination "Owner" - as owners of the Khvalevskoye estate. They have also a Diploma of the Governor of the Vologda Region (2014) and a Diploma of Gratitude from the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation (2015).



You mentioned your ideas for activities in the house, but which ones have you managed to start by now?

Vera - "Even more than we thought originally. We now have two classes for the local art school in the house. Everyday, after school, children come and makes drawings. So the house is used every day.

We have excursion in the house for tourists and quite a lot of people come. We have sometimes open day for the locals and there comes hundreds of people at the same time.

Several times a year we have some events, like giving

diplomas to students, or hosting some famous person visiting the area. In the summer we organize a classical music festival. There is a folk festival organized by the local authorities. We have a craft fair, were 2000 people come from the nearby areas and sell their folk art and craft."

What are your plans in the near future?

The big project now, is that we have bought some timber buildings and want to restore them and turn them into a hotel or guest houses during the summer.

An in the long run, what do you like to see?

Yuri - "In general we are thinking about what should happen with estates in Russia, like ours, but not specifically ours, in the future. There was about 20-30 thousand estates (usadba) before the revolution, only about one tenth survived to our days. Of these maybe 1.000 could be restored. This is a very important layer of the cultural heritage, the most beautiful places in the country. We studied experience of UK National Trust. We think Russia needs a similar initiative, but a lot depends on people's will. We have now started to discuss this in our national organization of owners, which counts only 40 members. It is a small organization, like compared with Latvia, with a population of 2 mill people and it still have 300 members. We are thinking about setting up a national trust and it could then maybe help to save 50 estates over the next 10 years. With sponsors and some government support it could happen and it would be nice. We are doing what we can and then we must see what happens".



The Tsarevich Alexei and Grand Duchess Maria burial-case continues

No real news

During April some attention was given in the media to an alternative study of the so-called "Yekaterinburg remains". It was conducted by Emil G. Aghajanian (dentist, vice president of the Stomatological Association of St. Petersburg); Alexei A. Obolensky (historian) and Leonid E. Bolotin (historian) on the basis of the appeal of the Russian Cultural and Educational Foundation named after Saint Basil the Great.

They studied material related to the dental care of the Emperor Nicholas II and "Skull No.4" and came to the conclusion, it could not be the skull of the Emperor. Given that these persons have been against the recognition of the Imperial remains ever since 1998, it was not a surprise conclusion, but some media never the less tried to make it into a sensation.

"The Tsar's train to Lyubino arrived on schedule"

April 29, 2018, Leonid Yevseyev - The consecration of the Memorial Plate in honour of the Royal Passion-Bearers and their faithful servants.

The morning of April 28 turned out to be gloomy and rainy, but this did not stop hundreds of people from gathering on the platform of the Lyubinskaya station. Many have icons and portraits of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers in their hands. We are waiting for the "Imperial" train, which comes from Omsk.

100 years ago, in 1918, a train stopped at this station, in which were prisoners: the former Sovereign - Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexander Feodorovna and their elder daughter Maria accompanied by servants who shared a sad fate with the crowned prisoners.

On the same paths, with a difference of 100 years. The train arrives to the sounds of the Yekaterinburg military orchestra under the baton of artistic director-conductor, Honoured Art Worker of Russia, Colonel Alexander Pavlov. The orchestra in concert uniform, stylized as the uniform of the Yekaterinburg Infantry Regiment of the model of the Patriotic War of 1812 (green tailcoat with gold decorative elements and scarlet lining, gray with edging trousers, green shakos with white sultan). The orchestra was organized in September 2006.



The composition of seven new passenger cars was leased by the Isilkul diocese of RZhD and transformed into a "Imperial" Train. On each of the carriages in the windows there are portraits of the Imperial Family and ten other people who shared all the hardships and deprivations of freedom: the cook Ivan Kharitonov, the valet Alexei Trupp, the court teacher Ekaterina Schneider, the Countess Anastasia Hendrikova, the teacher of the Imperial children Charles Gibbs, Adjutant General Ilya

Tatishchev, maid Anna Demidova, non-commissioned officer Ivan Sednev, marshal, Prince Vasily Dolgoruky, physician Yevgeny Botkin. For all, except for Charles Gibbs, the date of death is 1918. Gibbs was born in 1863, having lived 87 years. Faithful servants of the executioners were shot "for company", so as not to leave witnesses. But the cross and the crown of glory are divided by them to the end, and moreover quite consciously and voluntarily.



The Imperial train brought to Lyubino special shrines: an exact copy of the Tsar's cross-relic with 40 pieces of the relics of the holy saints of God and the myrrh-streaming icon of St. Nicholas, who visited the cosmos, "thanks to the zeal of Russian patriotic cosmonauts," as reported in the Isilkul diocese.

The consecration of a commemorative plate made in Yekaterinburg by the sculptor Igor Yakimov begins. The plaque is installed on the building of the Lyubinsky railway station. The canon is read out to the Royal Passion-Bearers. On the plate, bronze letters read: "On April 28, 1918, Lubinskaya Station for a few hours became a modest haven for holy Royal prisoners". The memorial plate was installed and consecrated by His Eminence Theodosius, Bishop Isilkulsky.



The former governor of the Omsk region, Leonid Konstantinovich Polezhaev, honoured with his presence the memorable event. They shook hands. I ask him to

speak. He readily agrees. "I, a person interested in history," says Leonid Konstantinovich, "especially if historical events and research concern the Omsk region." Strictly speaking, this is the activity of the foundation, which I am heading. (the "Spiritual Heritage" foundation, author's note). The events that took place 100 years ago at this station are well known to me. These are tragic pages in the history of our country and in the history of the Romanov dynasty. Here Nicholas II did not just stop, but was sent to Yekaterinburg. Here, this station decided on the fate of the Imperial Family. When the train was not allowed to Omsk and turned back, the logic of further events became clear. The tragic outcome was predetermined. I remember this place. I've been here many times. Reconstructing the railway stations

of the Omsk region, we did not specifically touch this station, it remained so, how it was built in 1914. This station saw Nicholas II, members of his family, his servants. The first church, which we built in the region was in Lyubin." (Named St. Seraphim of Sarov.)



On the wall of the chapel facing the station, an icon of the Royal Martyrs are in mosaic. Inside the chapel there is a granite board with a portrait of the Emperor. During the prayer commemoration at the chapel, at the moment of communion, the sun finally peered out from behind the clouds and even began to burn. People are coming to worship the revered icon of Nicholas II and the Cross - a relic. After the end of the Liturgy, Bishop Theodosius addressed the parishioners with a great sermon. He once again reminded everyone of the extravagant, villainous reprisal of members of the August family and servants, said how bad it is to live "Without a Tsar in my head," how important it is to remember and honour your history. With their words, bishops Savvatiy and Peter addressed the parishioners. All of them thanked the heads of the districts present and separately for their joint service.

The word bishop. We leave for a meal in the Emperor's train. Volunteers from the All-Russian movement "For Life" (Movement Against Abortion and Protection of Family Values) from the Isilkul Diocese have already set the tables. Entrance to the Imperial Train by special tickets. The meal is modest and satisfying. After the meal, in Lubinsky House of Culture readings begin: "For Faith, the Tsar and the Fatherland" Famous historians and local historians from Moscow, Kostroma and Omsk will make reports.

Completion of all was the All-night vigil in the Church of the Monk Seraphim of Sarov. The one who predicted the martyrdom of the Emperor and his family.



This year the Omsk region joined the federal project "The Imperial Route". The project has united several regions: St. Petersburg, Moscow Region, Perm Territory, Sverdlovsk and Tyumen Regions. According to the Omsk region website, the regional ministry of culture plans to resort to historical reconstruction by installing a railroad car next to the station corresponding to that era. Agreements have already been reached with the leadership of the West Siberian Railway. At the Lyubinskaya station in July, a first-class car will be installed from the museum of the West Siberian Railway.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKXOEiKLEd8>

In Yekaterinburg was shown portraits of the owners of the Order of St. Catherine

The exhibition of reproductions of paintings "Portrait Gallery - Cavaliers of the Order of St. Catherine" was opened in the Legislative Assembly of the Sverdlovsk Region on April 25, 2018.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Lyudmila Babushkina, Deputy Head of the Administration of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Vadim Dubichev, Executive Secretary of the Inter-Factional Group for the Protection of Christian Values of the State Duma, member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Oleg Efimov, one of the founders of the St. Catherine Fund, "Sima-lend" Andrey Simanovsky, Vice-President for Personnel Policy and Social Responsibility of the RMC Anna Shabrova.

The exhibition is a series of paintings which depicts the great women of the Russian Empire, awarded the Order of St. Catherine the Great Martyr. Yekaterinburg became the first city in which the project was realized. The exhibition was organized by St. Catherine's Fund.



"We brought this exhibition when you celebrate 295 years since the foundation of Yekaterinburg. Not just Yekaterinburg, but in honour of a woman, in honour of the Empress Catherine. The one who received this order first. Peter I established this order in memory of the Prussian campaign against the Turks in 1714 and was called then the Order of Liberation. He wanted to make it so that only a woman - Catherine - should have this order. But it was changed and became the Order of St. Catherine. It existed until 1917 and during this time was awarded 734 ladies. This was the second award in the Russian Empire," said the initiator of the project, the chairman of the Women's Orthodox-Patriotic Society, co-chairman of the Union of Orthodox Women of Russia, candidate of historical sciences Galina Ananina.

Lyudmila Babushkina, the chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Sverdlovsk Region: "We have outstanding achievements and awards for the governor and the Legislative Assembly, but how many great things must be done to receive this order."

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Galina V. personally, as well as to the Director of the St. Catherine Fund, Alexander Sergeevich Andreev, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-factional Deputy Group for the Protection of Christian Values of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, the member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Oleg Vladimirovich Efimov, and to Bishop Evgeny of Sredneursky, for bringing this exhibition to us. It is very symbolic that the exhibition opens in the city, which bears the name of Empress Catherine the First and is under the auspices of St. Catherine. Our history is amazing, peaceful, and women play a huge role in the history of our state,

It should be noted that for the general public the exhibition will be available from May 15 in the museum "Russia is my history".

Video - 1) <http://www.obltv.ru/news/culture/v-ekaterinburge-predstavili-portrety-obladatelits-ordena-svyatoy-ekateriny/> 2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=11&v=Jv698UgrdE4

A monument of the Imperial family is set in the city of Biysk, Altai territory

April 20 under the personal guidance of the sculptor Sergei Isakov the sculptural ensemble "The Royal Family" was installed in Biysk, in the Alexander Park.

All the members of the Imperial Family are depicted here in full height, who died, both during the years of the revolution, and earlier by bombers.



The famous sculptor Sergei Mikhailovich met the head of the city Alexander Studenikin and made a small excursion for the mayor in the Alexander Park.

"I am happy to participate in this project", - the sculptor emphasized, - "there are no such monuments in Russia. There is one sculptural composition in one city, but small in size."

The official opening of the "memorable sculptural composition" will take place in July this year, and for now people can simply go and see our "history".

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=RN1-umAls1o

The main events of the Tsar's Days presented at the Forum "Big Ural-2018"

April 20, 2018 at the VI International Tourism Forum "Big Ural-2018" in the IEC "Yekaterinburg-Expo" was presented the calendar of the Tsar's Days with the main events of the year of the century of the feat of the Imperial Family.

The presentation of the project of the Tsar's Days was conducted by Bishop Eugene Sredneursky, vicar of the Yekaterinburg diocese. His Eminence presented the program of the main events of the royal year.



According to the Bishop, it is gratifying that today more attention is paid to the topic of rethinking the attitude towards the last Russian Emperor, the return of the former greatness of the name of Emperor Nicholas II as an outstanding statesman, in which Russia made an amazing breakthrough in its development.

"This is facilitated by the Tsar's days, attracting hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and tourists to our region for more than a decade, but also new tourist and pilgrimage routes presented today at the forum", the Bishop emphasized.

Vladyka Evgeny stressed that in 2018 two main dates are celebrated: May 19 - the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II and July 16-17 - the 100th anniversary of the feat of the Holy Royal Family.

Talking about the events of the first date, the vicar noted that on May 18 in Yekaterinburg there will be a public forum on preserving the heritage of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II. The same day the "Imperial Ball" of the best graduates of schools of the region will take place.

The next day, May 19, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on the birthday of Emperor Nicholas II.

The culminating event of the Royal year will be the Tsar's Days - July 16 and 17. Bishop Eugene noted that these days the arrival in the Urals capital of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia is expected.

On July 16, there will be a day-long procession on the Yekaterinburg Ways of Sorrow - in commemoration of the arrival of Royal Passion-Bearers in Yekaterinburg - from Shartash Station to the Church on Blood. Then there will be a small vespers with an akathist to the holy Royal Passion-bearers and a night service will be performed on the site of the Church on Blood. The Divine Liturgy will end on the night of July 17, after which the Tsar's religious procession will begin from the Church on Blood to the monastery of Royal Passion-Bearers on Ganina Yama.

July 18 will traditionally be the Divine Liturgy in Alapaevsk and a prayer service at the mine at the site of the murder of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nun Varvara and their co-travelers.

Note that in the period from July 12 to July 20, another key event of the Tsar's year will take place in Yekaterinburg - XVII Festival of Orthodox Culture "Tsar's Days", in which Russian and foreign bands will take part; there will be a bell ringing festival "The Gospel, the Ural Land!", concerts and meetings with historians, writers, local historians.

Also, the key objects of the Yekaterinburg Royal Route, the pilgrim route "Yekaterinburg Way of Sorrow", the routes dedicated to the memory of the Tsar's family and the museums of the memory of the Imperial Family were presented in the framework of the round table: the museum of the Holy Royal Family in the spiritual and educational center "Tsarsky" and the museum center of the monastery The Royal Martyrs on Ganina Yama, the Alapaev shrines.

In addition, as part of the presentation of the Tsar's Days, representatives of the Ekaterinburg Diocese told the guests about the development of tourist and pilgrimage routes dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the feat of the Tsar's family in the Tomsk, Omsk, Tyumen regions and the Perm region.

Photo exhibition about Nicholas II opened in Yekaterinburg

April 20, TASS - The exhibition dedicated to Nicholas II and the development of tourism and transport in the early XX century, opened in the international exhibition centre "Expo" in Yekaterinburg. The opening of the exhibition took place in the framework of the international tourist forum "Big Ural".



"Today, in the framework of the Great Ural forum, we are opening an exhibition dedicated to the Imperial Days. In the exposition we focus on transportation, we show the travels of the Imperial Family. There are absolutely unique pictures from private collections, the State Archives, the FSO archive and of course from the TASS archive"- said the head of the Ural Regional Information Centre TASS Maria Kartuz opening the exhibition. In total, the visitors will see about 50 photos.

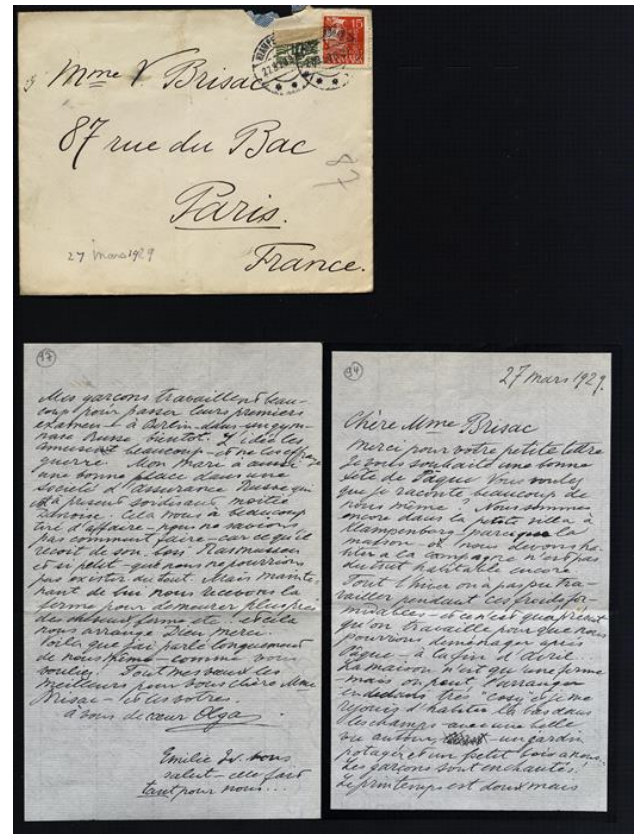


She added that within the framework of the TASS project three blocks of exhibitions are planned. The first exposition "Yekaterinburg Imperial Route" was opened on April 19 in conjunction with the Yekaterinburg diocese and the Tourism Development Centre with the support of the governor of the Sverdlovsk region. The collection includes photographs of holy places, churches and monasteries of the region that tourists can visit. Another block of exhibitions will be presented during the World Cup football games, it will deal with the role of sport in the life of the Imperial Family," - Kartuz stressed.



Letters of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna handed over to Pushkin Museum in St. Petersburg

April 17, 2018 a solemn transfer of the collection of letters of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna from the family archive of Princess Nadezhda Vladimirovna Volkonskaya as a gift to the All-Russian Museum of Alexander Pushkin took place.



The ceremony was attended by Sergei Nekrasov, director of the All-Russian Pushkin Museum, Princess Nadezhda Volkonskaya, the owner of the archive, and Svetlana Politsiemako, translator of letters to the Russian language.

Welcoming the guests, Sergei Nekrasov noted that "this archive is of undoubted interest. And, of course, Pushkin's epoch is the most important for our museum, but having ascertained the enormous significance of the great poet and his work at the beginning of the 20th century, we decided to extend the time frame. So there was a new theme - Pushkin and the twentieth century."

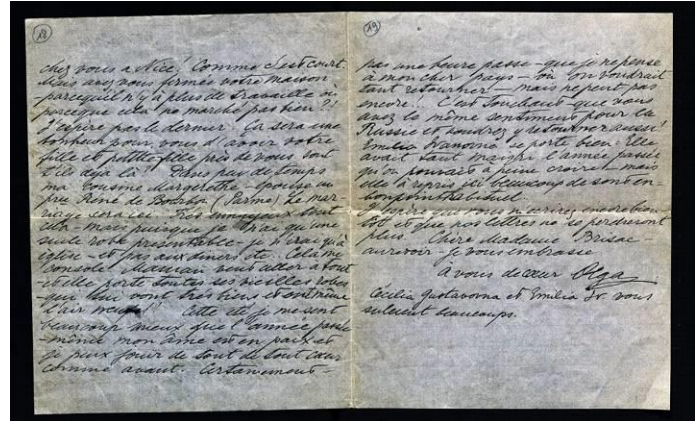
The archive, transferred to the museum funds, is unique. It was not published anywhere and was not translated into Russian. It is based on 65 letters written by Grand Duchess Olga Aleksandrovna and addressed to Madam Brizak from the 1920s to the 1930s during the period of emigration to Denmark.



The owner of the archive is Princess Nadezhda Volkonskaya, the great-granddaughter of Madame Brizak on her maternal side. Her great-grandmother was friend of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna,

they together chose models of toilets and kept secrets, because both spoke excellent English. "I am very glad that I am sending these letters to the All-Russian Museum of A.S.Pushkin. I planned to return them to my homeland, to Russia, for several years already. And now my soul is calm," said the Princess.

The correspondence of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna and Madame Brizak was of a systemic nature and was interrupted due to the demise of the latter. At first glance, the letters are personal: Olga Alexandrovna describes everyday life, talks with special tenderness about children, her beloved husband, shares family joys and sorrows, and worries about friends in Russia. However, the persons and events mentioned in them go beyond the private, because they are connected with history, culture, public and political life - with the life of Russians in emigration. Among the characters of the letters are numerous relatives - representatives of the Romanov dynasty, Princess Margaret of Denmark, Countess Maria Vorontsova-Dashkova, King of Great Britain George V, as well as artists, musicians, literary publishers and theatre figures.



From the letter of the Grand Duchess of April 1920: "In the end, we had to leave our homeland. We absolutely could not live there anymore. But it was very painful to break away from what we loved all my life, so many friends remained. Here in Denmark you can calm down a bit Olga Kulikovskaya."

"Dear Madam Brizak! I always rejoice at your handwriting on the envelope" - Olga Aleksandrovna writes, and tells how, because of delivery problems, she had to stop sending parcels to friends in Russia. "It's scary to think how they will be without them now?" They are starving."

With bitterness the Grand Duchess speaks of the circumstances that compel them to leave Denmark even further: "We have to leave here, to leave all the happiness that lived here with us."

Tells her friend about meetings with the Cossacks, about how they were rejoiced by the Russian exiles. "Our people are so poor, they are exploited, they travel from Bulgaria, where they worked in mines, in various terrible places. Dear, poor Russians, what a difficult life they have! "

"In other respects, everything is in order. My garden - vegetables, fruits, lots of flowers, our two dogs and two cats, chickens and ducks feel good. Today I got up at 5.30 in the morning and collected a lot of mushrooms for dinner. Russians always comes to us on Sundays and spend the day with us."

"Russians came to dinner, she works in a factory, and he is engaged in farming. I wish you all the best, health and peace of the soul. Heart with you. Olga. August 24, 1930. "

Olga writes bitterly about the Russian general kidnapped by NKVD officers in Paris in January 1930: "How terrible this is, what happened in Paris! Poor General Kutepov! Who could have thought that this could happen in our day, in a civilized world, in broad daylight! "

A gift of the Baroness von Rintelen

On April 14, in the Farm Palace of Alexandria Park, a ceremonial transfer to the State Museum "Peterhof" of memorial items from the collection of Baroness Clotilde von Rintelen, the great-great-granddaughter of A.S. Pushkin took place. She handed over to the museum family relics: a portrait of Alexander II and a snuffbox, which is supposed to belong to the Emperor.

But the most valuable gift - published in 1861, a report on the royal hunting organized on the initiative of Russia in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha as an unofficial meeting of the heads of European states and Russia's first step towards seclusion from the isolation in which it found itself after the Crimean War.

The unique album "Chasses dans la forêt de Białowieża" ("Hunting in Bialowieza forest"), tells about one of the important events that took place during the reign of Emperor Alexander II in October 1860.



Honorary academician of the Russian Academy of Arts, court painter M. A. Zichy during the open-air in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha created watercolours, which, after the approval of Alexander II, decorated the album. The album in Russian, published in only 50 copies, was intended exclusively for gifts to the participants of the hunt. But even more rare type of publication was the album in French, issued specifically for diplomatic gifts.

It was this album, which has a high degree of bibliographic rarity, that was brought to the Peterhof by Baroness Rintelen. In addition to the album "Chasses dans la forêt de Białowieża", a picture of Alexander II and a brass snuff-box were transferred to the museum-reserve.

According to the Baroness, the photograph of the Emperor-Liberator up to the last days adorned the bedside table of her grandmother, the daughter of A.S. Pushkin - Natalia Alexandrovna, in the marriage of Countess von Merenberg (1836-1913). The photo and the brass snuff-box with a medallion image of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa (1717-1780), will be attributed by the specialists of the State Museum "Peterhof" and occupy a worthy place in the exposition.



According to the baroness, the memorial items "have finally returned home to Russia, where they will be studied, preserved and shown."

T.N. Nosovich, Deputy Director General of the State Museum "Peterhof", welcoming Clotilde von Rintelen and thanking her on behalf of all employees of the museum, noted that this is not her first gift to Peterhof. In 2005, to the 60th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the museum

received 60 specimens of ancient varieties of roses for the garden on Tsaritsyn Island, while another 15 rose bushes were planted by Peterhof gardeners and Clotilda von Rintelen in the garden of the Farm Palace in 2010.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/244125/

"Far from Russia: The Church-Tomb of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna in Wiesbaden"

April 10. "Living Water" - The exhibition "Far from Russia: The Church-Tomb of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna in Wiesbaden" opened on April 10 in the Grand-Tomb of the Peter and Paul Cathedral.

The organizers are the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg and the public organization HERUS (Wiesbaden, Germany), whose activities are aimed at the development of cultural ties and humanitarian cooperation between Germany and Russia.

The co-chairman of the HERUS Society, the great-great-grandson of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and the great-granddaughter of Emperor Alexander II Clotilde von Rintelen, the director of the Wiesbaden City Archives, Dr. Brigitte Streich, the architect-restorer Wilhelm Würz and the consul of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in St. Petersburg, Pietro Merlot.

The basis of the exposition - photos of Mikhail Lebed, depicting the church of the holy righteous Elizabeth in Wiesbaden - the tomb of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna, the wife of the Duke Adolf Nassau. These photos were taken for the album "Die Russische Kirche in Wiesbaden, Wahrzeichen der Verbundenheit." The Russian Church in Wiesbaden," published in Russian and German. Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Germany participated in editing the texts of the album.



In the photographs, the church is shown both outside and inside; there are images of fragments of decorative decoration, iconostasis, a marble tombstone of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna. Photographs that captured the last restoration of the church are complementing the exposition. They are provided by the restoration manager, architect Wilhelm Würz.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Clotilde von Rintelen named the album and the exhibition "a bridge between Wiesbaden and St. Petersburg."

There was a ceremony of laying flowers at the Peter and Paul Cathedral to the tombs of the parents and sisters of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna, as well as to the Emperor Alexander II, who's 200th anniversary of his birth is celebrated in April.

The curator of the exhibition and the author of the

album texts, senior researcher of the St. Petersburg State Medical Institute Marina Viershevskaya, said that in Wiesbaden, in the old days, the church of the righteous Elisabeth was called the Greek chapel - not because it had anything to do with Greece, but because Orthodoxy was considered "Greek faith", and to this day on German indices in brackets this name is present. Once the church was built, it became the main attraction of Wiesbaden, its image is present on all postcards with views of the city.

Marina Vershevskaya mentioned numerous people and events that connected Wiesbaden with St. Petersburg. For example, the elder sister of the Duke of Adolf Nassau Theresa married Prince Oldenburg and lived on the Neva embankment in the mansion of the princes of Oldenburg, where the St. Petersburg University of Culture and Arts is now located. And the youngest brother of the Duke of Nassau, Prince Nikolaus, subsequently married Natalia's younger daughter Alexander Pushkin; she was a parishioner of the church of the holy righteous Elizabeth, and her older daughter from her first marriage was married there.

In addition to the widower, the initiator of the construction of the church was the mother of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna, Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna. It was at her insistence that the church in Wiesbaden was built in the Russian style, she was the initiator of the trip of the architect Philip Hoffman to Russia to get acquainted with Russian church architecture.

"St. Petersburg did not impress Hoffmann, because there he did not find, for obvious reasons, the ancient Russian churches, but he was delighted with Moscow, and wrote about his impressions in superlatives." Nevertheless, the final construction in many ways resembles not the pre-Petrine churches, but the works of Constantine Ton," - said Marina Vershevskaya.

In the design of the interiors the best German masters took part. The only Russian artist invited for this work was the artist Timothy Neff, the author of most of the icons of St. Isaac's Cathedral. Petersburgers easily see the similarity of the images of the holy apostles Peter and Paul in the church of Wiesbaden and in St. Isaac's Cathedral: for Wiesbaden Timothy Neff created author's repetitions. He repeated the composition in St. Isaac's Cathedral in the altar stained-glass window with the image of the Saviour, but it has not survived until our days.



Of particular interest is the marble tombstone of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mikhailovna, created by Emil Hopfgarten, and not only because of its artistic merits, but also because of its links with Russian culture: the memories of writer Nikolai Grech, who saw the tombstone in the sculptor's workshop, are preserved.

The church was consecrated in 1855 by Archpriest John Janishev, later - the confessor of the Royal Family. The next day, the coffins of Elizabeth Mikhailovna and her child were transferred to the crypt of the church. The consecration was attended by the famous Russian poet Prince Peter Vyazemsky, who dedicated a poem to this event. The Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna could not come to Wiesbaden at that time, but for her, was specially made-a replica of the gravestone; now it is kept in the Hermitage. In the church there is a room called "The Duke's Office". This is the room where the Duke could come to grieve, remember the deceased spouse.

One of the chapters of the album is devoted to the former and present church life of the church of the righteous Elizabeth. It is interesting that in the XIX century, when the parish was not numerous, it was necessary, with the blessing of Emperor Nicholas I, to attract German singers for singing in the choir; preserved notes with "transcription" for them texts of hymns: these are words in Church Slavonic, written in Latin letters. One of the archival photographs depicts Archpriest Pavel Adamantov, who lived a long life: he died at the age of 90.

Elizaveta Mikhailovna (1826-1845) - the daughter of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich and Grand Duchess Elena Pavlovna, the granddaughter of Emperor Paul I, the niece of Emperor Nicholas I - in 1844 married the Duke of Adolf-Wilhelm of Nassau. At the age of 18 she died during childbirth together with her newborn daughter. Over their grave, by the decision of the Duke of Nassau, an Orthodox church was erected. The church of the holy righteous Elizabeth was built on Mount Neroberg in Wiesbaden in 1855.

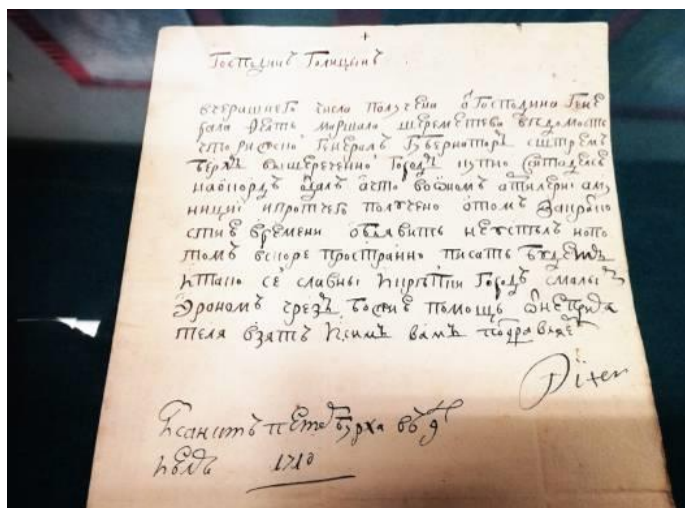
The exhibition will last until July 1.

Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=TfrYMDHYfuA

Unique artefacts of Tsarist Russia are represented in St. Petersburg for the bicentenary of Alexander II

11.04.18, Yevgeny Haknazarov, Internet magazine "Interest" - The Department of Manuscripts of the Russian National Library has prepared an exhibition for the 200th anniversary of Emperor Alexander II, which will bring a lot of joy to lovers of Russian history. The exhibition, entitled "The Legacy of the Romanovs' House in Manuscripts", presents an unprecedented number of historical documents and artefacts collected in one place dedicated to the Imperial Family.

From the letter of the first Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich to objects witnessing the dramatic fate of the last of the Romanovs, Nicholas II - all three hundred years of the Imperial Family pass before the eyes of visitors to the exhibition.



Peter's letter about the capture of Riga during the Northern War

"Everyday" autographs are supplemented with documents, timed to this or that celebration. The general picture is supplemented by objects of picturesque and decorative-applied art.

The exhibits, which have the greatest historical value, are by no means always the most conspicuous. The pride of the organizers of the exhibition is Mikhail Fedorovich's statutory certificate to Kuzma Fedorovich Minin, referring to 1615. The Tsar thanked him for his help in the struggle against the "Polish and Lithuanian people" by the village of Bogoroditsky in the Nizhny Novgorod district.

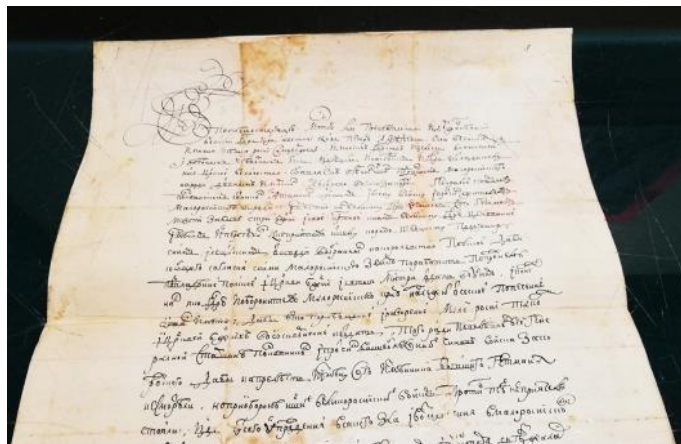
One more document, presented in the exposition, refers to the golden age of Catherine the Great. The autocrat certifies with this document the granting of the noble title to the "seven-year-old Alexander Danilov to the son of Ospenny" - from him material was taken to inculcate Catherine from smallpox. The diploma, according to the custom of that time, was accompanied by an impressive seal with decorative brushes, which occupies a good half of the display case.

Examining the exhibition, you do not get tired of being astonished by the art of calligraphy in official documents. However, the truth of life is observed: before the eyes appear and notes, orders with a large number of edits and deletions, which gives the seen the spirit of a certain intimacy.

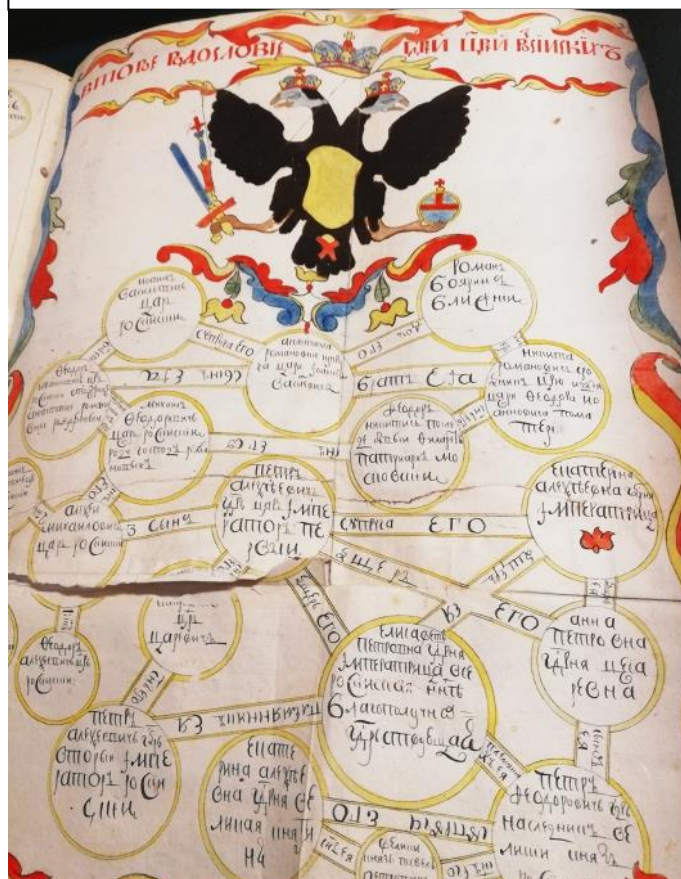
It is possible to see absolutely amazingly clear, the graphical letter of Peter to the Kiev governor Prince Dmitry Golitsyn with the notice about the capture of Riga during the Northern War. But the letter signed by the future Emperor, in which he informs the Little Russian people and the Zaporozhye army about the treason of Hetman Mazepa, does not look so neat. It is understandable: the paper was written in the "convoy under the Desna" on October 28, 1708.

Absolutely another impression left colourful, pompous, demanding huge skill on a background of imperfect technologies of XVII - XIX centuries, offerings to royal people on special occasions. The boundless splendour of the court of Catherine II demanded from the subordinates new and original methods of material communication with the Empress. Most likely, the Empress was amused by the map of Tambov, Tula and Ryazan provinces, made in the form of a fan with a gilded bone foundation and presented in 1789.

In the form of luxurious landscape engraving, a copy of the pedigree of the Russian Imperial Family was created - this was the New Year's gift of 1801 to Pavel I from the Department of Udelov. (Regional Department). Alas, a few months later, poor Pavel was killed by conspirators.



Peter's message to Zaporozhye army about the treason of Hetman Mazepa



A pedigree of the Russian imperial family, Paul I received it as a New Year's gift from the Department of Udelov a few months before his death

And the subsequent coronation of Alexander I was noted by a picturesque work on porcelain by Ferdinand de Mays. Allegorical figure was called "Blessing on the throne of Emperor Alexander I" and represented Peter I and Catherine II in the form of ancient celestials.

Perhaps, the most vivid and impressive exhibit of the exhibition we owe to the Jewish community, which by all means won the favour of the ruling Emperor, trying to break through into the capitals and the higher business circles of the Russian Empire. To the coronation of Alexander II, which took place on August 26, 1856, in the oldest jewellery firm of Russia - the House of Sazikovs, which was the supplier of the highest court since 1837, the jewellery cover of the solemn address "from Jewish subjects" was ordered. Attributes of the highest imperial power were whimsically combined on it with a precious inscription in Yiddish. However, this all did not help. But we got an eloquent historical artefact.

The exhibition in the NLB will run until the end of May.

Video - <https://topspb.tv/news/2018/04/11/v-peterburge-vpervye-na-odnoj-vystavke-sobrali-avtografiy-vseh-rossijskih-carej-i-imperatorov/>



The map of Tambov, Tula and Ryazan provinces, made in the form of a fan with a gilded bone foundation, was presented to Catherine in 1789



To the coronation of Alexander II, a jewellery cover of the solemn address "from Jewish subjects" was ordered. Attributes of the highest imperial authority were whimsically combined on it with a precious inscription in Yiddish

243 Treasures From the Peterhof State Museum Reserve Exhibited in Beijing

April 10, Chinanews - A new exhibition titled the "Story of the Peterhof Palace Treasures" which gives a peek into the lives of Russia's old elite has opened at China Millennium Monument and runs until Jun 10.

The collection showcases 243 treasures from Saint Petersburg's Peterhof Palace, which was built by Peter the Great in 1714 as a counterpart of Versailles, and served as a summer palace for Russian Monarchs for 200 years. In 1990, the palace became a UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its sprawling gardens, extensive waterways and fountains, and exquisite design and decoration.

It is the first time that these treasures from Peterhof State Museum Reserve have been shown in China, and have been curated in order to provide a snapshot into the lives of the Romanov dynasty, which ruled between 1613 and 1917. The items on show include everyday objects, furniture, glassware, metal ware, coins, oil paintings, porcelain, sculptures, and pieces of clothing.

Highlights include "Peter the Great Interrogating the Tsarevich Alexei Petrovich in Peterhof" (1871), one of painter Nikolai Ge's most famous pieces, and "Portrait of Catherine II in front of a Mirror" by Danish painter Vigilius Eriksen, in which he captures the wife of the assassinated Emperor Peter III. Following the death of her husband, Catherine II went on to become Russia's longest-ruling female leader (1762-1796), garnering her the name Catherine the Great, and is credited historically with establishing a golden period for the country.



Her throne, dating back to the 1760s, is also part of the collection and features red velvet, lace, and gilding. Other treasures include a royal bicycle, clock, mirror, fan, and tennis racket, demonstrating the luxurious and leisurely lives that Russia's Rulers once enjoyed at Peterhof Palace.



Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/240846/

Icons of the Royal Martyrs was brought to Tambov

April 5. BlognotTambov. - Today in the regional center a unique project "Russian Spas" was opened. For Tambov this is the first large-scale exposition of the international project. It is realized by the Second Polenov Art School, the association of Tambov icon painters and the regional art gallery.



The whole exhibition is designed in the style of Russian iconography. There are nuances that define specifically the Tambov iconography direction. Everything is collected in one exhibition space, in one exhibition logic.

Mikhail Nikolsky, director of the School of Art No.2 - "The idea is to show the Russian people exactly those accents that arise. Here are icons of Christ the Saviour in different qualities. The main, in my opinion, 10 qualities of a Saviour, which are obvious and developed in the Russian iconography. Starting from the prophecy of Christ and ending with the second coming, that is, it was not, but we can already imagine."

In 2018, one hundred years have passed since the murder of the Imperial Family. And the Art School named after V.D. Polenov at this event made a special accent, having executed at once three icons of the Royal Martyrs, but in different artistic decisions.

The holiness and martyrdom of the Romanovs are still not accepted by many. Nevertheless, this is a fait accompli, which is reflected in the iconography. In the Romanov iconography there is no single canon of making. Everyone makes as he sees fit.



Dominant of the "Russian Savior" was the icon of the Holy Martyrs of the Imperial Family, over 180 cm in size. The idea of the work is as follows.

Mikhail Nikolsky, director of the School of Art No.2 named after V.D. Polenov - "Making a sacrifice for the Russian world, for the Russian church, for the possibility of salvation and the main thing as a result, is that indeed the whole family has the throne of God, on the same day at the same time."

Icon painting has its own pictorial laws. On the icon, as a rule, there is no outward space. Each gesture has a symbolic meaning, each colour and line reflect the spiritual patterns of icon painting. And every work of the exhibition hall is a confirmation.



Before the main Christian holiday, the Resurrection of Christ (Easter), those who left a mark on the development of icon painting, said a few words to all readers of Notepad.

In Tambov opened an exhibition dedicated to Nicholas II

April 5. TVTambov - In the Tambov Regional Duma, the exhibition "A Trace in History, Nicholas II" was opened. It was organized by the International Association of Collectors.



At the opening, more than 40 unique exhibits, one way or another connected with the Romanovs' house, were exhibited. Some of the things Nicholas II even held in his hands. Here is presented a gold cigarette case with diamonds, made in the workshop of Carl Faberge and presented by the Tsar to the German general in honor of the three hundredth anniversary of the Romanovs' house. He was kept in the family for a long time and was recently acquired by a collector.

The exhibition presents dishes from the Imperial palaces, miraculously survived during the Revolution and the Civil War. You can also get acquainted with unique documents, photographs, prerevolutionary prizes.

It is noteworthy that the whole collection is collected by the forces of five people living in Moscow, Voronezh and Michurinsk.

The exhibition will run until April 28. You can visit it for free.

Video - <http://vtambov.ru/news/v-tambove-pokazali-ikonu-carskoj-semi-romanovyh/2018/04/05/>

Activities in Tsarskoye Selo



During the restoration of the Church of the Resurrection of Christ in the Catherine Palace, the masters found neatly folded details of the gilded decor (182 fragments) behind the lining of the iconostasis. Most likely, in the postwar years it was done by the museum staff in the hope that sooner or later they will start reviving the architectural masterpiece of the XVIII century.

In this "treasure" there were also two angels who once adorned the dome of the altar (in the historical dome decoration. There were eight of them). These war-torn angels have waited for their time for many years. When they were rescued and attached to the details preserved on the canopy of the Seine, it turned out that everything had coincided. Now restorers of the Tsarskoye Selo Amber Workshop will unite what the war once destroyed. And the two angels will return to their historical place. If they were not found, then on the canopy of Senya would not be after the restoration of any of the eight angels - their images are not preserved. Only 18 angels will return to the walls of the Holy See after the restoration.



There is a plan to open a museum of Imperial Russia in Nice. The Imperial Russia Museum is planned to open by mid-summer at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Nice (France). This was reported by the rector of the church, Protopriest Andrei Yelisseyev.

"We are completing the preparatory work for the museum to be located in worthy conditions, I very much hope that the first exhibitions will be by the summer of this year, to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Alexander II. Every year in this cathedral comes his descendant Prince George Yuryevsky, I really hope by the middle of June, when he will be here, the first exposition will be opened," - Yelisseyev said.

The most important exhibits of the new museum should be things related to Alexander II, in particular his pendant with a photograph and a lock of hair of his eldest son and heir of Nicholas, who died in Nice during a trip abroad during the Tsar's lifetime.

The rector hoped that the museums of St. Petersburg and Moscow could help the new assembly by transferring copies of their documents and items.

He recalled that earlier at the cathedral there was a museum of Russian emigration and the White Movement, but some of the items from his collection at the end of the last century were taken from Nice. The parish expects that some of the exhibits will be found and returned to St. Nicholas Cathedral.



Cartographic works in the book collections of the Romanov dynasty are shown in the reading room of the cartographic publications department of the Russian State Library, Pashkov House from 23 March to 26 May 2018.

The extensive cartography fund of the Russian State Library holds a remarkable collection of atlases and maps that were part of the personal libraries of Russian Emperors and their family members. These unique cartographic documents were included in the library collection in various ways: some of them as "gifts" from the members of the Imperial Family that oversaw the activities of the library of the Rumyantsev Museum; some of the documents were sent to the State Library of the USSR named after Lenin in the process of nationalizing book collections of the Romanovs Dynasty in the 1920s.

The exhibition presents maps and atlases from the personal libraries of Emperors Alexander II and Nicholas II, who were in the Winter Palace, as well as hand-written maps from the library of Strelna Palace, which belonged to the Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich and his wife.

With deep knowledge, a collection of military maps was formed in the personal library of Emperor Alexander II: maps of military manoeuvres, maps of military operations, plans for fortresses. The exhibition also includes cartographic publications reflecting a wide range of interests of its owner: geographical atlases of the world, marine atlases and maps, maps of railways, as well as tray editions, published for the 25th anniversary of the reign of the Emperor (1855-1880). On the fly-covers and cuffs of card cases is pasted the ex-libris of the personal library of Emperor Alexander II.

The cartographic collection of Emperor Nicholas II is even richer in subjects: general geographic, geological, mining maps, maps of railways and waterways, maps of military operations, reviews and manoeuvres. On the editions the ex-libris of the personal library of Emperor Nicholas II is placed. The exposition includes publications from His Imperial Majesty's Own Library in the Winter Palace. They are marked by the ex-libris of the library, made by the artist Armini Evgenievich Felkerz.

Visitors to the exhibition will see other publications that were part of the personal libraries of the Romanov dynasty.



Paintings by Pavel Ryzhenko presented in Moscow. The exhibition "The Exodus of the Great Empire" is held in Moscow. The exposition includes historical paintings by the honored artist of Russia Pavel Ryzhenko, dedicated to the events of the beginning of the 20th century.

In the works of Pavel Ryzhenko - a reflection of human destinies, which abruptly was changed by the events of the beginning of the century.

"He turned over huge volumes of historical material, studied the opinions of different scientists on various events of our history. And processed it all through himself, to the idea of the painting was born in him", - says the curator of the exhibition Tatiana Panich.

A whole series - reflections on the last years of Emperor Nicholas II. Here is a "picture for memory" - the Imperial Family with Cossacks on the Borodino field - in honor of the century of the battle. Five years later, there will be no empire. There will be white and red, revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries. And the tragedy in the Ipatiev house.

Anastasia Ryzhenko is the widow of the artist, who died in 2014 at the age of 44 - "He often said that the artist confesses on canvas".

Pavel Ryzhenko tried to manage as much as possible. His artistic heritage - more than two hundred paintings. But the main problem - how to preserve his huge historical paintings for descendants - has not yet been solved.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/239590/



The Easter concert "The Royal Path to the Saints" was held on April 10 in the concert hall of the Mariinsky Theater. The evening was dedicated to the Holy Family of Emperor Nicholas II and timed to the 100th anniversary of their tragic death. It was organized by the Diocesan Council for Culture and the City Committee for Culture.

"We try to tell in the language of music, poetry, the epistolary genre, video installations - all available acoustic and audiovisual means - about important spiritual milestones of Russian history, the most important topics without which it is impossible for a modern person to live." We very much want the language of art to get as close as possible to the hearts of the audience" , - said before the beginning of the concert the chairman of the diocesan council for the culture of priest Iliia Makarov.

It is symbolic that the concert dedicated to the Holy Royal Family was conducted by a couple - the People's Artist of Russia Alexander Galibin and the laureate of the Golden Sofit Award Irina Savitskova. The actors read excerpts from the correspondence of the holy couple of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

On the screen, a video with unique archive photos, icons, drawings and excerpts from letters were shown.



April 12, 2018 starts the first stage of the Olympics of children's creativity, dedicated to the memory of the Holy Royal Martyrs "Sketch from the life of the last Romanovs" started in Yekaterinburg. The founders and organizers of the event are the Synodal Department of Religious Education and Catechesis and the ANO Center for Educational and Cultural Initiatives "Generation".

The Olympics are held in the field of literature and fine arts. The event is aimed at spiritual enlightenment of youth, moral and patriotic education of the younger generation, familiarizing young people with Orthodox culture and world culture in general, revealing young talents, and creating an environment for creative communication between children and youth.

The terms of the first (diocesan) stage are from 12 April to 29 June. The final second stage will be held from July 2 to August 2.

The Olympics are held among students of Sunday schools and Orthodox gymnasiums of the Russian Federation. Children from 12-17 can take part in it. Nominations of the competition: drawing, story and research work.

Themes in the field of fine arts: The imperial family is an example of a pious Orthodox family; The Imperial Family on vacation; The daily life of the family of the last Russian Emperor; Children of Emperor Nicholas II; Emperor and Empress; Childhood and youth of Emperor Nicholas II; The fall of the Russian monarchy.

Topics in the field of literary creativity (story, research work): Raising children in the Imperial Family; The Imperial Family is an example of a small Church; The last Russian Empress; Martyrdom of the Imperial Family; Ministry of charity in the Imperial Family; Children of the Romanovs; Free theme.



The exhibition "Porcelain and the Throne" will be held at the State Museum of the History of St. Petersburg (Peter and Paul Fortress) from May 18 to August 12, 2018.

The exhibition, organized jointly by the State Museum of History of St. Petersburg and the Heritage Foundation of the Imperial Porcelain

Factory, tells the story of the oldest European porcelain factory, the Imperial Porcelain Factory in St. Petersburg.

Founded in 1744, the plant for more than two and a half centuries was the supplier of the Russian Imperial Court. IPF produced porcelain products of the highest artistic level, which performed an important image function: they decorated the residences of the Imperial Family and the first persons of the state, they were used as valuable diplomatic gifts.

At the exhibition you can see the best IPF products of different time. Among them, items from the first domestic ("Own") service, items from famous services, commissioned by the Empress Catherine II - "Arabesque", "Yakhtinsky", "Kabinetsky"; things from the "Guriev" ("Russian") service of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, figures from the sculptural series "for the collection of nationalities inhabiting the Russian Empire", executed at the direction of Emperor Nicholas II and others.



In the Church of Our Saviour on Blood, an exhibition was opened for the 200th anniversary of Alexander II "The Tsar Liberator". For all visitors sheets of the coronation album of the Emperor and his portraits and engravings will be presented. And also it will be possible to see the Manifesto on the abolition of serfdom and the commemorative medal of the Emperor in honour of the liberation of the peasants from serfdom.

The exhibition will last until May 15.



A rare mineral is discovered in the fountains of Peterhof. Scientists of St. Petersburg University, who discovered it, have already started research. But in the park the discovery is not welcome. "Russian Versailles", a pearl of architecture, a tourist Mecca of St. Petersburg...and now it is also a unique place from the point of view of geology. Here, even the mud is special! Rust, which is painstakingly wiped by restorers, is with an unusual composition. In the lime scientists of St. Petersburg State University found a rare mineral – monohydrocalcite. The geography of the deposits is just a few points on the planet.

"We found it at the bottom of the lakes, then there were a few finds in the caves. But these are always conditions that can not be imagined in the urban environment,"- says Oleg Vereshchagin, assistant professor of the Department of Mineralogy of the Institute of Earth Sciences of St. Petersburg State University.

The bowls of the Peterhof fountains turned into chemical tanks and now the minerals are growing quickly and badly.

Now, restorers need to come up with a way to fight with this annoying mineral guest. Now he is expelled from the marble surface for a long time and painfully. And the next day after cleaning he comes again.

The harmful carbonate is selective. It likes marble and from metals - gold. It bypasses less noble - cast iron and lead.

Video - https://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/244905/



In Paris, an exhibition dedicated to Orthodox New Martyrs and Confessors was opened. The exposition is multimedia. Visitors are told about the life of priests in pre-revolutionary Russia, about the murder of the family of Nicholas II and the persecution of the church that began after.

As a result of repression, tens of thousands of clergymen and parishioners suffered. Many were forced to flee abroad, including in Paris. George Sheshko, clergyman: "For the



first time here in France, we are speaking so broadly and loudly about the exploits of those people who were victims of the 1917 coup. This exhibition tells us not only about the heroism of those people, about that courage, about that love for the Fatherland, which was taken from them by the Bolsheviks. This exhibition is also important because there are still people who suffer for their faith. "

The exhibition is open until 6 May. Then it will be transported to the Vatican Museum of History.

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2010401/>



A nice video from the exhibition in State Historical Museum dedicated to Emperor Alexander II

Video - <https://russian.rt.com/nopolitics/video/507971-aleksandr-ii-vystavka>



The first tourists were let to the lower dacha of Nicholas II. The participants of the "Open City" project managed to see the process of restoration of the Imperial Residence in the park "Alexandria" seven years earlier than tourists, which is part of the "Peterhof" State Museum.

Participants of the "Open City" project, which promotes cognitive walks around the sights of St. Petersburg, which are inaccessible to the general public, were allowed to visit the unique restorative site - Alexandria's Lower Dacha in Peterhof.

The architectural monument, under the roof of which the only son of Nicholas II, Tsarevich Alexei, was born, and a manifesto was signed on Russia's entry into the First World War, from the middle of the last century it was rapidly collapsing. Only two years ago, the management of GMZ "Peterhof" approved a reconstruction project. It is extremely important for specialists to preserve the preserved original elements of the structures.

The Farmer's Palace, the most visited in Alexandria, was also shown to the "Open City" at an inopportune time. Only from June excursions to the summer residence of Alexander II will be held daily. Meanwhile, the selected visitors with green emblems on their chests without fuss enjoyed the atmosphere of the past country life on the thematic exposition "Peterhof summer residents".

Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2010623/>



The palace and park ensemble of Pavlovsk is preparing for large-scale restoration work.

According to the multi-million-dollar applications published on the site of state purchases, in the near future the most "neglected" part of the park will be brought into the proper view.

Due to the fact that the park ensemble is in remote access for tourists, no one has restored it for a long time. Now the former "Hall on the Red Valley" the once grand antique building turned into ruins.

Until the end of the year, the contractor, who won the competition for conducting preparatory work, will have to conduct state expertise of scientific research, survey and design documentation. To this end, a little more than 2.3 million roubles were allocated from the federal budget.

Also, by the end of the year, project documentation for restoration and adaptation to the modern use of the mausoleum "Spouse-benefactress" of the XIX century will be developed. The amount of preparatory work is also allocated a considerable amount - 4.8 million roubles.

The architectural monument was installed by the order of Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna in tribute to her husband Paul I, who died on March 11, 1801. According to the design of the architect Tom de Tomon, the building was built in the form of an ancient Roman temple. Eight years later, at the walls opposite the entrance there was a tombstone: a high pedestal decorated with a relief depicting



the orphaned and grieving family of the deceased, on the pedestal kneeling mourner in the crown - personifying the Empress. Also in the mausoleum there is a granite pyramid with a marble medallion on which a portrait of Paul I is engraved.

The structure is located in the remote part of the park and "hides" behind the centuries-old firs. The mausoleum also requires urgent restoration.

The restorers have to work on two piers near the Visconti bridge. Now, for 4.8 million roubles, research, survey and design documentation is to be developed. It will also provide for the re-creation of the ferry crossing by a "ferry under the Creek" that has not been preserved since the middle of the 19th century to the present day.

It should be noted that at present Pavlovsk Park is already working on the reconstruction of the crossing at the Rose Pavilion Pond. In total there were five ferry crossings in the park, which sooner or later will be restored.

A masterpiece of classical park architecture, the dominant area of the Slavyanka River Valley - created in 1782, "Temple of Friendship" will also return the former magnificence. Before the winner of the competition the same task is set - the development of project documentation and how to adapt it to modern usage. For this work, GMZ is ready to pay no more than 5.6 million roubles.

During tsarist Russia, the Temple of Friendship hosted small concerts and dinners. Especially for this in the wooden pavilion, near it, on the bank of the river was built "Kitchen-ruin", not preserved until our time.

One of the most poetic constructions of the Pavlovsk park - the Rose Pavilion - located in a picturesque location on the border of three districts: Old Silvia, White Birch and Parade Field, surrounded by ponds, will also be restored. This is one of the most expensive projects for which the contractor has already been selected. The winner of the competition who has received no more than 19 million roubles is already obliged to provide all the necessary tender documentation. Let's note, until the Great Patriotic War the pavilion was a museum,

and in the summer time a lecture hall. The architectural monument did not survive the years of occupation by the Nazi invaders, so in the 90s of the last century it was revived in its original form. After almost 30 years, the pavilion needs a serious restoration work.

As for the Pavlovsky Palace itself, restoration works will not bypass it either. So, its attic rooms and a dome over the central building will be adapted for visiting tourists.

The State Museum-Reserve (GMZ) "Pavlovsk", created in the heyday of Russian classicism at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries, is in our time a monument of cultural heritage protected by UNESCO.

Initially, the lands of Pavlovsk were donated by Catherine II to her son and heir Grand Duke Pavel Petrovich and his wife Maria Feodorovna.





Shooting of a play about the family of Emperor Nicholas II took place in "Tsarsky" Centre in Yekaterinburg.

The Spiritual and educational Centre for one day became a film set. In the refined interiors of the Centre, the artistic sketches from the life of the family of Emperor Nicholas II were reproduced and filmed. After the editing, the video will be part of the play "The Tsar's Children", the premiere of which will be held on the birthday of the Emperor.



The play tells about Nikolai Alexandrovich's childhood through the prism of his memories with his family. It was prepared specifically for the 150th anniversary of the Emperor Nicholas II, which is celebrated on May 18.

The organizer of the play is a gymnasium in the name of holy Royal Passion-bearers, and the artists are students of the gymnasium. The script is based on the memories of a childhood friend of the future Sovereign, Vladimir Allengren. The author is a laureate of a number of theatre awards, actress of the Yekaterinburg Young Spectators Theatre Marina Getze.

- The decision to create a play about the life of the Emperor Nicholas II was not easy for us - we understood the entire responsibility of this choice, because this is a play about people ranked as saints. We would not dare to involve adult artists. But children are different. Let them be amateurs, but this is compensated for by their purity, and therefore to whom, how not to play the Tsar's family, - Elena Khomenko, deputy director for culture and development of gymnasium projects told.

For the visitors of the spiritual and educational Centre it was absolutely unexpected to see actors in a professional make-up and costumes, they told in "Tsarskoye". Fifteen-year-old boy, who plays the role of Nicholas II, with his outward resemblance so impressed the guests that many of the witnesses of the shooting were lost and literally froze in surprise, and then asked to be photographed.

- It was so amazing, having appeared in the "Tsarsky" Centre to collide face to face with the Sovereign. We went on an excursion - we met with "Nicholas II" himself! - shared their spouses Eugene and Maria, visitors to the center.

- We are waiting very much for the performance "The Tsar's Children" by the gymnasium students will be shown," said Elena Vladimirovna Redkosheva, the head of the Derzhavnaya Library. - Students of the gymnasium in the name of the Holy Royal Martyrs have already shown their work dedicated to the remarkable poet-sixties Evgeni Evtushenko, and this audience was impressed by the sincerity and sincerity of the literary composition. Therefore, we do not doubt that the guys from the gymnasium are also enthusiastically and sincerely preparing a new play dedicated to the Imperial Family.



The summer season officially opened in Peterhof. Under the Hymn to the great city, the fountains of the Grand Cascade solemnly launched, the highest fountain of Peterhof - Samson - rushed to the sky. At the same time, the flag of Russia was raised on the standard at the Great Peterhof Palace.

On the eve the director of the museum-reserve Elena Kalnitskaya gave an interview, in which she mentioned the fate of the Lower Dacha of Nicholas II and her view of Chinese tourists,



"The Lower Dacha. Favourite place of Nicholas II. A lot is connected with this. When will the restoration begin? "

Elena Kalnitskaya: "The project is already there, it was created with difficulties, now it is a financial issue. It seems to me that it is our sacred duty to bring the palace in order, to create a museum there, expositions. Although there will be a memorial exposition, but there will not be a one-room reconstruction, because there are very few things left. The artistic value of the Lower Dacha is not as high as, perhaps, of the earlier palaces. It's just a family home. I think about this a lot. The history of the last Romanovs is so coloured by the illness of the child. So long waited. At this Lower Dacha a boy was born, and this tragedy is connected with him. So of course the life of the family was special. But the Lower Dacha, I believe, will revive sooner or later. And this restoration will complete the restoration of the park "Alexandria".

"How do you feel about Chinese tourists? They are treated differently in the museum community. In short, they are different. Do you like them? "

Elena Kalnitskaya: "No, I do not like them. I do not like two things. First, the fact that they come to us completely unprepared. It seems to me, when going on a tourist trip, a person, regardless of level of income and upbringing, should represent where he went. And here there are monstrous things. They come to the Upper Garden, and it's free, they are told: here is Samson. And here's the fountain. And they do not know, they did not look, they were not prepared. This gives great opportunities for unfair work of the staff. This is the first thing I do not like. Well, the second, I do not like that they are not always clean in their behaviour.

Of course, tourists from China give us certain income, we understand this. Nevertheless, it seems to me that the situation will change. For example, this year, tourists from Asia will not be the same as in the past. "

Video - <https://topspb.tv/news/2018/04/28/direktor-gmz-petergof-o-planah-na-sezon-i-vospitanii-chuvstva-prekrasnogo-u-turistov-iz-podnebesnoj/>



The building where Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich lived in Perm will soon become a museum.

"Korolevsky Numbers" is a building on Sibirskaya Street, 5 where the brother of Emperor Nicholas II, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich spent the last days of his life. According to our information, the idea was already supported by the governor of the Perm region Maxim Reshetnikov.

Video - <https://vetta.tv/news/culture/zdanie-gde-zhil-mikhail-romanov-v-permi-stanet-muzeem/>



The exhibition "Alapayevsk Martyrs" opened in the Center for Orthodox Culture at the Northern Arctic Federal University.

The exposition is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the members of the Romanovs' house and people close to them, executed by the Bolsheviks on the night of July 18, 1918, 18 km from the city of Alapaevsk near the Lower Selimskaya mine. The bodies were dropped into one of the mines. The first stand of the exhibition tells about the childhood of the Martyr Elisabeth Fedorovna, her acquaintance



with the Grand Duke Sergei Aleksandrovich, the move to Russia and the adoption of Orthodoxy. The second stand - about the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, the third - about the Marfo-Mariinsky monastery and its abbess. Materials of the fourth stand tell about the city of Alapaevsk, the tragedy that occurred there and the fate of the remains of the Martyrs. Also on the stands are materials about the Princes of the Imperial Blood, John Konstantinovich, Konstantin Konstantinovich and Igor Konstantinovich, as well as Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Prince Vladimir Pavlovich Paley and sister of the Marfo-Mariinsky monastery the Martyr Varvara (Yakovleva).

As the organizer of the project, the founder of the charity fund "Russian Soul" Elizaveta Ayrapetova told, now exhibition stands are being printed to send them to Alapaevsk. They plan to open a museum on the first floor of the bell tower being built. One more copy of the stands will be sent to Moscow, to the Marfo-Mariinsky monastery, which was founded by the Grand Duchess Elisaveta Fedorovna. The manufacturer of the exhibition is the Publishing House "VD" (Arkhangelsk).



On April 30, 2018, on the 100th anniversary of the arrival of members of the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg, the information and educational campaign "Achievements of Russia in the era of Nicholas II reign" started in the capital of the Urals.

On the air of regional TV channels will be broadcast videos of the achievements that the Russian empire made during the reign of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich.

Subjects of video clips will be selected on the basis of the main achievements in the late XIX - early XX centuries. The rollers will be dedicated to the successes in such spheres of life of the Russian Empire as industry, economy, military science, education, health, agriculture, transport, sports. It will also talk about social life, including about qualitative changes in such areas as patronage and peacemaking. In addition to television broadcasts, commercials about the achievements of the Russian Empire will be placed at enterprises, in public organizations, in business structures. The videos will be broadcast on social networks.

It is also planned that the achievements of the epoch of the reign of Nicholas II will be told from advertising carriers: posters, banners, multimedia screens. Information will be present at various areas of the city space: on the streets, public transport, in the buildings of organizations, the Internet.

Note that the information and educational campaign "Achievements of Russia in the era of the reign of Nicholas II" is traditionally implemented with the active support of city and regional authorities, public organizations, socially responsible businesses, parishioners of city churches.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4XLBXRj6CU>





Boiars Romanovs. On the way to power

The history of the Romanov dynasty is generally accepted beginning with the first Tsar of the dynasty, Michael Fedorovich. In the same book for the first time it is told about the 250-year history of the boyar family of the Romanovs. The reader will learn how and why in such a difficult and cruel time the Koshkin-Zakharin-Romanov family has risen and through what complex multi-way intrigues the Romanov clan managed to found a new dynasty.

The history of the Romanov family is inseparably linked with the history of Russia. But if in the textbooks we see the history of Russia as a whole from the outside, then the biography of one family shows us Russia of the 14th-17th centuries from the inside.

Hard cover. Pages 480. ISBN 978-5-4444-6706-0

The Imperial family in the Tobolsk



The author Yuri. A. Zhuk: "On the pages of this album, I tried to trace the main chronicle of events directly related to the Emperor's family, kept under guard in Tobolsk from August 1917 to May 1918. The book makes extensive use of photographic materials of the teachers of the August children, Pierre Gilliard and Sidney Gibbs, who were with the Emperor's Family, as well as other documentary sources of Russian and foreign archives."

On the 100 pages there are many photos, all of the main characters and in addition to the well known photos from Tobolsk are also several less known.

A souvenir book to be sold at the new museum in Tobolsk.

Publisher: Direct-Media. Isbn: 978-5-4475-9621-7



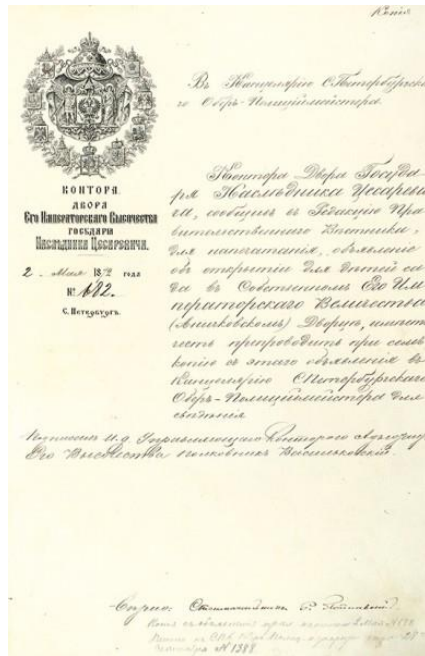
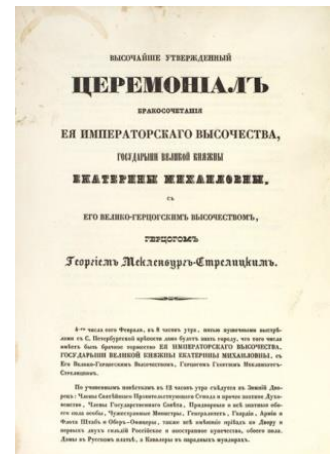
Under the hammer...

Romanov related items in Auctions



Auction House "Litfond", Moscow, Russia, April 25

The highest approved ceremony for the marriage of Her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Ekaterina Mikhailovna, with His Grand Ducal Highness, Duke George Mecklenburg-Strelitzky. [St. Petersburg, 1851]. 28.5 x 20 cm. Estimate: 8 000 - 8 500 roubles.



Document of the Office of the Court of His Imperial Majesty on the opening of a garden for children in the Anichkov Palace. 2 May 1872. 31.5 x 20.5 cm.

"The office of the court of the Tsarevich, having informed the editorial office of the Government Gazette, for publication, the announcement of the opening of a garden for children in his own Imperial Majesty (Anichkov) Palace, has the honour to forward herewith a copy from this announcement to the Office of the St. Petersburg Chief Officer for intelligence".

In the XIX century, the Anichkov Palace garden was a favourite place for walking and entertaining children. Since 1875, access there has been opened and for walks of non-titled children with parents or with nannies. Gradually Anichkov garden firmly entrenched the children. In August 1917, the City Duma took it into the jurisdiction of the city on the condition that the garden would be provided "only for visiting children."

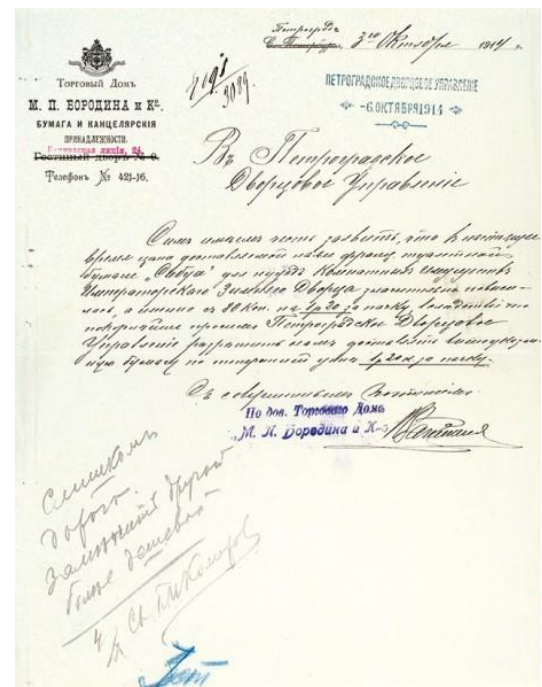
Estimate: 18 000 - 20 000 roubles.

Toilet paper for the Winter Palace - Document on the form of the trading house M.P. Borodin and Co., addressed to the Petrograd Palace Administration, about toilet paper. 1914. 27.5 x 21.5 cm. On paper with watermarks: "Postpapier Ligatmuhle".

"We have the honour to state that at the present time the price of the French toilet paper "Shibua" we deliver for the needs of the Room Property of the Imperial Winter Palace has increased significantly, namely from 80 kopecks to 1 rouble 20 kop. for a pack, so we humbly ask the Petrograd Palace Administration to allow us to deliver the above-mentioned paper at the present price of 1 rub. 20 kop. for a pack."

In the lower left corner the resolution: "Too expensive. Replace with another, cheaper. 4 / X St. M. Komarov."

Estimate: 28 000 - 30 000 rub.





A sample of the cover of the "Universal Russian Calendar" for 1902, not approved by the censorship. Chromolithograph. SPb. Made by Sytin, 30 x 22 cm.

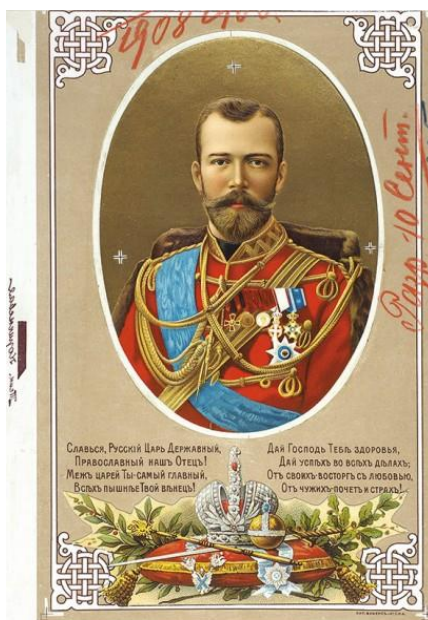
On the back the handwritten inscription: "Not allowed" and the trade stamp of I.D. Sytin. Estimate: 18 000 - 20 000 roubles.



A trial chrome-lithographed impression of the cover of the All-Russian Public Calendar for 1905. On the cover are portraits of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. On the cover, the monogram is crossed out and "Not allowed" is signed with a pencil. 32 x 24 cm. On the back there is a stamp "Typo-lithograph of Koryosnov".

A unique copy of an uncensored cover. It represents historical and artistic value. Estimate: 18 000 - 20 000 roubles.

A sample of the portrait of Emperor Nicholas II with censorship marks. Chromolithograph. St. Petersburg: Lit. Wefers and Co., 20.5 x 14.5 cm. On the front side handwritten pencil litters "Razr. 10 Sept. 1905". On the front side there are two quatrains "Be glorious, the Russian Tsar of Power", on the back - "There can be no Russia without a Tsar!". Estimate: 18 000 - 20 000 roubles.





Permission to print the calendar from the Chancellery H.I.H Empress Maria Feodorovna. 1912. Two sheets of a detachment calendar with portraits of Emperor Alexander III and Empress Maria Feodorovna pasted on a sheet of paper 35 x 22.2 cm with the stamp of the Chancery and the inscription "Printing of the attached pictures depicting Her Highness the Empress Maria Feodorovna and in the bosom of the resting Emperor Alexander III, is allowed, provided that there are no obstacles to this from the Office of the Ministry of the Imperial Court. September 25 day of 1912." Signed: Temporarily head of the Office of Her Majesty Empress Maria Feodorovna Curious document on the history of censorship in Russia.
Estimate: 32 000 - 35 000 rub.

A reproduction portrait of Nicholas II on the balcony of the Winter Palace. 11 x 6.7 cm. Attached to a cardboard.
Estimate: 14 000 - 15 000 rub.



Sotheby's, London, UK, June 5th

A Fabergé gold, enamel and purpurine egg pendant
Egg in the colours of the Russian flag, enamelled in bands of translucent white and blue over hatched surfaces divided by gold bands above the purpurine base, struck with workmaster's initials Feodor Afanassiev, 56 standard, St. Petersburg, 1908-1917.
Est: £4,000 - £6,000

An imperial presentation Fabergé jewelled gold and enamel box

Enamel box of rounded rectangular form, the lid centered with the diamond-set crowned cypher of Emperor Nicholas II on a ground of translucent white enamel over sunburst engine-turning within a diamond frame, within an openwork panel chased with two opposing griffins rampant bearing swords, their shields set with large circular-cut diamonds, within band work and foliate scrolls and volutes, the ground of translucent red enamel over banded wavy engine-turning, the lid border of pink and green gold husks and beads, the corners set with diamonds, the sides reeded horizontally, the base and lid borders of chased green gold leaf trails, struck with workmaster's initials (his early mark on the flange, his later mark on the base and lid) and Fabergé in Cyrillic, 56 standard. Dimensions: width 10.6cm, 4 1/4 in. Est: £150,000 - £200,000



Presented by Emperor Nicholas II to Lieutenant-General Theodor Feldmann, Head of the Imperial Alexander Lyceum, 3 December 1897. Returned to the Imperial Cabinet by Lieutenant-General Feldmann, 16 December 1897.

Presented by Emperor Nicholas II to Baron Maximilian von Lyncker, Marshall of the Household of the German Emperor, 15 November 1899.

Acquired by François Dupré in the 1930s or 1940s. Thence by descent.

A Fabergé silver-gilt, enamel and wood frame, showing the Grand Duchesses

A rectangular frame, the bound reed bezel within translucent green enamel over moiré engine-turning applied with laurel swags and rosettes below a tied ribbon, birch wood surround, back and strut, struck (on an interior folding tab) with workmaster's initials, 88 standard, containing a postcard image of the four Grand Duchesses.

Est: £12,000 - £18,000

