



The Russian Imperial House

№1 September - October 2016

In September of this year Her Imperial Highness paid a visit to Russia. Her agenda during this visit was filled with events and meetings of various kinds. She attended a number of public forums, and held a host of business meetings relating to the many projects that are supported by the Russian Imperial House



Meeting with Archpriest Alexander Tkachenko

In Moscow, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia met with Archpriest Alexander Tkachenko, the General Director of the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research, who gave a report on the Foundation's recent activities.

Here Imperial Highness was keenly interested in the challenges facing the Foundation and in the possible solutions being discussed to confront them. H.I.H. also asked Fr. Alexander in detail about the status of, and future plans for, the St. Petersburg Children's Hospice, which has become a vitally important building block in the nation's effort to provide palliative care for children. Archpriest Alexander Tkachenko is the founder and director of the St. Petersburg Children's Hospice. Similar institutions, patterned on the St. Petersburg Children's Hospice, are currently being established in other regions across Russia. Her Imperial Highness expressed her enormous appreciation for the work Archpriest Alexander Tkachenko is doing, and wished him God's help in his important and challenging work for the benefit of the children of Russia.

The Head of the House of Romanoff visits Kalmykia

Her Imperial Highness visited the Republic of Kalmykia at the invitation of the President of Kalmykia, Aleksei Maratovich Orlov. The Grand Duchess also spent several days afterward in Moscow.





On September 20, Her Imperial Highness arrived in the city of Elista. The Grand Duchess's visit is the first of any member of the Romanoff dynasty to Kalmykia since the time of Peter the Great. Her days in Kalmykia were filled with meetings with representatives of both the religious communities and government authorities. The Grand Duchess attended the Divine Liturgy on the feast day of the Nativity of the Most Pure Mother of God in the Kazan Cathedral, where she was greeted by Archbishop Justinian of Elista and Kalmykia. After the service, Archbishop Justinian served a moleben for the health of the Head of the Russian Imperial House and her heir, the Grand Duke George of Russia. The Grand Duchess then visited a number of other churches in Elista, as well as the construction site for the new Cathedral of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Cyril and Methodius.

During her visit, the Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, also visited the main spiritual center of Buddhism in Kalmykia - the Central Khurul of Kalmykia, the Burkhan Bakshin Altan Sume. The Grand Duchess then went to the State University of Kalmykia, where she gave a press conference and met with students and faculty at the university. The Grand Duchess was impressed by the level of interest among students in the Russian Imperial House.

The Grand Duchess also participated in an expanded meeting of the Inter-Confessional Council of the Republic of Kalmykia on the theme «Family—The Keeper of Traditions.» The meeting was chaired by the President of the Republic of Kalmykia, A. M. Orlov. All the speakers at the meeting emphasized that the traditional family functions as a kind of school for learning mercy and kindness and as a bulwark against extremism and terrorism among young people. It was further noted that the state of the family in the country directly influences the moral atmosphere of society at large.

During the meeting, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia gave a speech in which she stressed the need for regular dialogue between the various traditional religious confessions of Russia and to raise the younger generation with respect for those of other religious faiths and traditions.

For the Russian Imperial House, which promotes and embodies the ideal of the State-Family, the preservation of

family values is one of its most important tasks as a historical institution. Her Imperial Highness said, "I was born into a very happy family, where love and mutual understanding and respect pervaded everything we did together. My parents were for me a living model of how to live. A child in that kind of atmosphere grows up with optimism, which remains with him all his life. I am convinced that, with that kind of love—of parents for their children and children for their mothers and fathers—anything can be achieved. The family and its traditions are the greatest support any person can ever have in life, and a guarantor of success."

The Inter-Regional Conference then unanimously adopted a series of resolutions in support of the family and traditional values.

The Grand Duchess also took part in a number of ceremonies marking the local Day of the City of Elista holiday. The Grand Duchess offered her formal greetings to the residents of Elista, and on the evening before the holiday, attended a festival highlighting family values. On the Day of the City of Elista itself, the Grand Duchess visited the "Lone Poplar" monument, where she met with one of the main leaders of Tibetan Buddhism, Kundeling Rinpoche, along with his assistant Tubten-Lama and the Administrator of the Central Khurul, Sanan-Geliung. During their conversation, Kundeling Rinpoche and the Grand Duchess discussed the importance of preserving the national culture, and the continuity and preservation of the traditions, customs, and rituals, which Kalmyk people hold so dear.



In ancient times, the territory of present-day Kalmykia was occupied by many different tribes and peoples: Cimmericians, Scythians, Sarmatians, Huns, Pechenegs, and Polovtsy. It was also on the territory of present-day Kalmykia that there formed the very first state in eastern Europe--the Khazar Empire. In the 13th century, this entire territory was under the control of the Golden Horde, and later was ruled by the Nogais. The Kalmyks or Western Mongols (Oirats) came originally from Dzungaria, and settled in their present homeland between the Don and Volga Rivers in the middle 17th century, founding there the Kalmyk khanate. In 1608-1609, they pledged their loyalty to the Russian tsar.

"The southern borders of our Empire were staunchly defended by the Kalmyk people, and our Kalmyk soldiers were among the bravest defenders of our country during the War of 1812 and the Second World War. The Kalymk people are a kind and faithful people, the constant mainstay of the Russian State," said the Grand Duchess.

Her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia Spends Several Days in Moscow

On **September 26**, Her Imperial Highness heard a report from the Master of Heraldry, Stanislav Vladimirovich Dumin, and received in audience a delegation from Nizhnii Novgorod headed by Archimandrite Tikhon (Zatiokin) of the Ascension Monastery of the Caves. She also received a delegation of members of the Imperial Military Order of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker headed by the Secretary of the Knights' Council of the Order, Colonel-General Oleg Vyacheslavich Kuznetsov, a knight of the Order in the First Class, and also the Head of the Office for the Commemoration of Those Who have Given Their Lives for the Nation, Major-General Vladimir Vasilievich Popov. She also met the artist and sculptor Vladimir Ivanov.

That same day, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia went to the Emperor Nicholas II Moscow State University of Railway Engineering, where she participated in ceremonies marking the 120th anniversary of the founding of this institution, including the unveiling of a monument to the founder of the university, the Holy Passion-Bearer Emperor Nicholas II.



On **September 27**, the feast day of the Elevation of the Honourable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord, the Head of the Russian Imperial House attended the Divine Liturgy in the Church of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God in Kolomenskoe, served by its rector, His Grace Bishop Guri, along with the Dean of the Danilov Deanery and rector of the Patriarchal Mission Church of the Life-Creating Trinity in Orekhovo-Borisovo, Archpriest Oleg Vorobieva, along with other clergy. During the service, the Grand Duchess venerated the miracle-working Icon of the Mother of God “The Sovereign” (Derzhavnaia).

On **September 28**, the Head of the Russian Imperial House visited the Patriarchal Mission the Office of the Belorussian Exarchate in Moscow—the Church of the Holy Great Martyr Irene in Pokrovskoe, founded by the first tsar of the House of Romanoff, Mikhail Feodorovich, in honour of the patron saint of his first-born child, Tsarevna Irina Mikhailovna.



The Head of the Russian Imperial House also went to the Central House of Writers for the presentation of the “Heritage” Prize, which was founded by the Russian Union of Writers and which is under the patronage of the Grand Duchess. The “Heritage” Prize was established in 2012 to mark the 400th anniversary of the House of Romanoff. The Prize celebrates the revival of interest among the broader public in the fascinating and dramatic history of Russia. There were 75 finalists for the prize this year. Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia personally presented certificates to the finalists, congratulating each for their artistic successes.

The Head of the Russian Imperial House and the Heir Attend the wedding of the Head of the Royal House of Albania in Tirana

On October 8, 2016, there took place the wedding of the head of the Albanian Royal House, H.R.H. Prince Leka (de jure, King Leka II) and his bride, H.R.H. Princess Elia. Attending the wedding in Tirana were the the members and heads of many of Europe's royal families.

The wedding was attended by the Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, and by the Heir, Tsesarevich, and Grand Duke George of Russia, who served as the groom's best man.

The Head of the House of Romanoff sends her condolences to Queen Sirikit of Thailand on the death of her husband, King Rama IX the Great

The letter of the Grand Duchess Maria reads, in part: "The Russian people living both in Russia and around the world will always remember and appreciate King Rama IX's genuine affection for our country and for its cultural heritage, his support for the development of diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between our two countries, and his protection and support of the Orthodox Christian community in Thailand."

Memory Eternal!

On October 16, 2016, a requiem service was held in the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Yelokhovo for Emperor-in-Exile Kirill Vladimirovich and his spouse, Empress-in-Exile Viktoria Feodorovna.

The service was held to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of the Emperor-in-Exile Kirill I on September 30 / October 13 and the approaching 140th anniversary of the birth of Empress Victoria Feodorovna (on 13/26 November). The requiem service was officiated by the rector of the Epiphany Cathedral, Archpriest Alexander Ageikin, by Hieromonk Nikon (Levachev-Belavenets), and by Deacon Roman Lapin, who serves at the Church of St. Philip Metropolitan of Moscow in Meshchanskaya Sloboda.



The Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchesses Maria of Russia, asks all her countrymen to pray for the repose of the souls of her Imperial grandfather and grandmother, and requests all those who might wish to make a charitable donation in their memory to give to the construction of the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in the city of Elitsa, in Kalmykia.

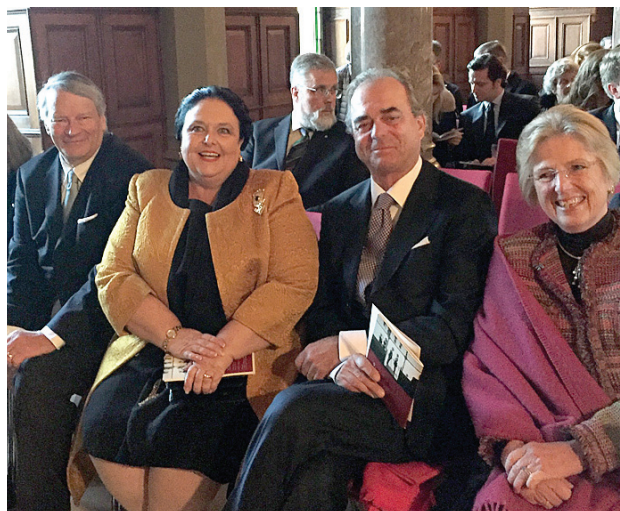
The Tsesarevich George of Russia Participates in Celebrations Marking the 250th Birthday of General Victor von Prendel in Leipzig

On October 20, 2016, H.I.H. the Heir, Tsesarevich, and Grand Duke George of Russia participated in celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Russian General Victor von Prendel, held in the city of Leipzig in Germany.

His Imperial Highness gave a speech at during the ceremonies, in which he said, in part: "General von Prendel's name stands as a symbol of the friendship that exists between Russia and Germany. The history of the relations between our two countries is filled with pages that are illustrious and heroic, to be sure, but also tragic. But it is the memory of remarkable figures like General Victor von Prendel that helps us find the path toward a better understanding of each other, and toward cooperation."

The Exhibit "Kinship by Choice: The Romanoffs and Hohenzollerns--200 Years Together

On October 22, 2016, an exhibit entitled "Kinship by Choice: The Romanoffs and Hohenzollerns – 200 Years Together" opened in the Hohenzollern Castle near Stuttgart (in the State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany). The opening was timed to coincide with the anniversary (in 1817) of the marriage of Grand Duke Nicholas Pavlovich, the future Emperor Nicholas I, and Her Royal Highness Princess Friederike-Luise-Charlotte-Wilhelmine of Prussia, the future Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.



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H.I. and R.H. Prince Georg-Friedrich personally invited his aunt, the Head of the Russian Imperial House, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, to attend the opening of the exhibit. The exhibition was formally opened by the Head of the German Imperial and Prussian Royal House, His Imperial and Royal Highness Prince Georg-Friedrich, by the Russian Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, V. M. Grinin, and by the Executive Director of the St. Gregory the Theologian Charitable Foundation, L. M. Svastianov. Approximately two hundred guests attended the opening, including the Minister-President of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, Winfried Kretschmann; the Heads and members of several royal houses (of Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Baden, Württemberg, Oldenburg, Hanover, and others); by Prince G. A. Iurievskii and his wife; by the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of St. Andrew the First-Called, Vladimir Yakunin; and by the presidents of Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, BMW, Audi, Volkswagen, BASF, and



20 Years as Vicar Bishop: His Grace, Bishop Nazarii

The Head of the Russian Imperial House congratulates His Grace, Bishop Nazarii of Kronstadt, on his 20th anniversary as Vicar Bishop and Abbot of Holy Trinity-St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra. Bishop Nazarii was present at the rebirth of this holy house and has achieved much during his two decades at the helm.

"With all my heart," the Grand Duchess wrote in her letter to His Grace, "I pray that God will bless all your holy endeavors and grant you success in your efforts to restore the church on the territory of the Lavra to all its former magnificent glory."

The House of Romanoff will Co-Sponsor a Conference on the Topic: "Legal Culture--The Foundation for the Harmonious Development of the Individual and Society"

For more information on the conference, see: <http://www.imperialhouse.ru/rus/allnews/news/2016/4537.html>

Dublin, Ireland Hosts the Russian Imperial Charity Ball

The Russian Imperial Charity Ball has become an important social and philanthropic event over recent years. This year, the Ball was attended by more than one hundred and twenty guests. The Ball featured an auction with all proceeds going to the To Children With Love Foundation, the founder and managing director of which is Debbie Deegan.

Her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, sent her personal greetings to all those attending the Ball. She wrote: "My son and heir, Grand Duke George of Russia, also sends his warm greetings to you all. He is especially grateful that this year the organizers of the Ball have announced their intention to support the activities of the Imperial Foundation for Cancer Research, which he founded in 2013.

"May the Lord send down his rich blessings upon you all as pursue your noble and philanthropic work."



For More Information on the Russian Imperial House, see
<http://www.imperialhouse.ru/>