HISTORIANS, archaeologists and the lay public thrill at the announcement of a find—an ancient buried treasurer just uncovered in far-off Africa. Photographs are taken, news reports go out over the wires, books are written and another chapter goes down in history. Certainly the fuss and furor is apropos, for a bit of civilization, long lost, has been recovered and placed in its chronological niche in the perpetual calendar where many another niche remains to be filled, perhaps tomorrow, or a century hence. Indeed, the restoration of culture, to whatever degree, is cause for celebration among thinking men and women.

Many, yes, most of these discovered treasures were not known to exist. Man did not know that something which existed centuries ago had been mislaid—and not knowing, he did not miss it. On the other hand, certain cultural bits had been fashioned and archaeologists seek them out—but not finding, they presume that history may have been recorded erroneously.
BUT not to have what we have never known is not so bad; losing that which we have had is keenly felt. When, in 1919, the Bolsheviks assassinated the Grand Duke George Mikhailovich of Russia, the world was deprived of the services of its greatest expert on the coins and medals of Russia. Politics aside, this was a great loss.

Grand Duke George Mikhailovich, first cousin of the Emperor Alexander III, was born in the Caucasus near Tiflis, its capital, in 1863. His father, the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaevitch, was Viceroy of that region, and his mother, the Grand Duchess Olga Feodorovna, had been born Princess of Baden. It was in the semi-Asiatic Tiflis that young George was drawn to the coins which made their appearance there. He began his now-famous collection when he was sixteen and kept adding to it right up to the time of the Revolution.

According to the Princess Xenia, a surviving daughter, in the early 1900's Mikhailovich was appointed Director of the Moscow Museum (Emperor Alexander III Museum) by the last of the Romanoffs, Czar Nicholas II. Here he developed into THE expert on Russian numismatics. In the meantime, the Grand Duke had been cataloguing his collection and caused to be published a definitive work of twelve large volumes. Unfortunately, the bullets which snuffed out his life also put an end to the series of catalogues, of which two more had been planned.

At the outset of the Revolution, Mikhailovich had transferred the collection from his home to the museum for safekeeping. Mysteriously, the collection disappeared. That was 1919. Twelve years passed without any clarification as to the whereabouts of the greatest collection of Russian coins and medals ever put together. Numismatists feared that never again would the great Mikhailovich Collection be seen intact. At best, perhaps, some of the coins and medals might show up in different parts of the world.

In 1931, with dramatic suddenness, "the collection seems to have been removed to Kiev in the south, and from there taken by one of the White Armies then fighting in that region. Eventually it turned up in Jugoslavia, whence it was returned to my mother and ourselves (Princess Xenia and her sister, Princess Nina), who had inherited it from the Grand Duke George."

"During World War II the collection remained in Italy through the vicissitudes of the fighting, the changes of government, the fortunes of war. Finally it was restored to us, as you now see it, in 1951."

That the collection itself contains so many rarities and that coins are in such excellent condition is no surprise. Certainly the Grand Duke was in a position to acquire the rarest and the finest. He did. That the collection has been kept intact is a most fortunate happening. It is hoped that a permanent home in the United States will be in store for this numismatic Goliath. But if the coin collection will amaze because of its condition and state of completeness, let us not discount the importance of the collection of medals.

In many respects, the medals are of even greater importance than the coins. This is not a mere accumulation of bronze and silver; this is a picture of the Tsarist Russia of the last two centuries.

As we examine the medals, we note the evolution of the Russian economy and its influence in Europe; we evaluate the importance of Siberia; the Tsarist political aspirations are spotlighted; and the relations of Russia to Turkey and Sweden, to Poland and Finland, became clearer.

The extent of the Russian agricultural program, which included even the breeding of horses and dogs for racing purposes, the amazing stress on education, the importance of transportation—these are revealed to us most pointedly. Religion and military emphasis, too, come to the fore.

Perhaps the artistic aspect of the collection of medals is the most impressive. The vast majority of the medals were executed by Russian artists whose works are practically unknown. Here are outstanding productions of scores of Russian medalists and sculptors whose creations compare favorably with contemporaries, and little is known of them or of their work!
A Brief Description

The Coins and Medals

The Mikhailovitch Collection

The Coins in the Collection are attributed to the catalogue prepared and published in twelve large volumes by the Grand Duke George Mikhailovitch. It is recognized as a standard and authoritative work. Thus when (G.M.164) appears following a listing or illustration it indicates that the coin in question is #164 of that series in the George Mikhailovitch Catalogue.

The collection starts with the Coinage of 1700, during the reign of Peter I, known as the founder of the Russian Empire.

As a matter of form and to crystallize the emphasis on Russian endeavors the medals have been broken down into various classifications. Commerce and Industry will be considered within the scope of the entire 2 century period from 1700 through the reign of Nicholas II. Military victories will be the subject of another group, Religion a third, Medicine still another, and so on.

Peter, born in Moscow, the son of Alexis I, in 1672, introduced many western-European scientific, technological, cultural, and political conceptions and practices. He created the Navy, travelled on diplomatic missions and brought forth a great European power in Russia, transforming the semi-Oriental society of Moscow to an Occidental society. His military victories are commemorated by the many medals struck by Peter. Dominance over Northern Europe brought with it a change in concept from the Byzantine Czar to the Latin Emperor and in 1721 Peter was formally proclaimed Emperor.
THE coins of Peter the First, called the Great, are rare. The Mikhailovitch collection of coins of this Czar and Emperor is beyond duplication. From the Dengar and ½ Polushka (G.M.164) of 1700, the Grivna and ½ Poltina through the Silver Roubles (G.M.431), the varieties and dates included in the collection make a numismatist's mouth water.

One of the significant coins of Peter’s reign was the Borodovaya, or Beard Money. In his attempt to bring Western European standards to Russia, Peter decreed that beards should not be worn. To encourage shaving he imposed a tax, varying in amount according to the social standing; the mercantile class paying the highest tax for the privilege of retaining the beards. The token was given as a receipt when the tax was paid. The round Beard Tokens were issued in 1705, the square ones in 1725.

By the terms of Peter’s Will, his second wife ascended the throne in 1725 as Catherine I. She died in 1727, having ruled less than two years. Noteworthy among her coinage are the extremely rare 2 Roubles in Silver (G.M.329) and the equally rare square Poltina in Copper of 1726 (G.M. 194).
AN extraordinary pair of coppers of 1726 are the 2 Half Poltinas illustrated. These are the only two specimens known.

Peter II, grandson of Peter I, succeeded to the throne in 1727 and his tenure, too, was short and his contributions negligible. His Rouble of 1727 is extremely rare as is a Polushka of the same date.

When Anna, a niece of Peter the Great, was elected empress in 1730, conditions were established reducing her powers as a sovereign. They had not calculated on Anna’s background as Duchess of Courland. She disposed of her council by exile and execution, a treatment accorded many thousands of her subjects. Her 1730 Rubles (GM3) with and without the lettered edges are extremely rare as is the half Poltina (GM22) of that date. There are also several very rare Grivna of 1739 (GM223, GM250) and of 1740 (GM252). In 1740, Anna’s eight weeks old grandnephew, Ivan VI, succeeded her but a palace conspiracy, in 1741, placed Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Peter the Great, on the throne. Ivan’s coinage is almost all rare with a 5 Kopeck (GM5) and a Rouble (GM6a) among the very rarest.

Under Elizabeth I, a national revival took place and a portion of Finland was taken from Sweden. An alliance with Austria and France pitted Russia against Prussia in the Seven Years War (1756-1763). She established the University of Moscow and the Academy of Fine Arts at St. Petersburg.

An unpublished Poltina of 1741 is among the rarest of Elizabeth’s coinage releases. Equally rare is a Dengar of 1742 which Mikhailovitch did not own until after that particular volume listing the coins of Elizabeth had been published.

The two large copper 5 Kopeck Coins illustrated are of the greatest rarity. The first, GM305 is the Siberia issue, the second GM306, the St. Petersburg issue.
ANY rarities dot the coinage of Elizabeth 1. The 15 Kopeck 1760 (GM358), the Deng and 1, 2 and 4 Kopeck Military issues of 1760; all are extremely rare.

An optimistic outlook over the near-victory over Frederick of Prussia caused Elizabeth to issue some Prussian money in 1759-1760 and 1761 with an issue also in 1762 and the Mikhailovitch Collection includes many such coins.

Her nephew and successor, Peter III, squashed Elizabeth’s dream by concluding a peace with Frederick. This unpopular move caused a military revolt resulting in Peter III’s arrest and murder. Count Grigori Orlov had led the revolt together with his mistress, the Czarina Catherine, wife of the murdered Czar. It was most convenient for Catherine II to succeed to the throne.

Catherine The Great was the first to understand the policies formulated by Peter The Great and she carried out ambitious plans for Russian Expansion. A victory over Turkey gave her warm water Black Sea Ports as well as much of the Crimean territory.

Turning to Poland, Catherine gained some 180,000 square miles populated by six million inhabitants as a result of three partitions of that unhappy country.

Catherine had given close personal attention to the work of government. She spent liberally and was a patron of the arts making her court a most brilliant one.

Her immorality has been mentioned but Catherine’s actions deserve more than mere mention. Orlov was her first lover. After him came Vyscoki, Vassilishkov, Alexis Orlov, and then the most powerful of them all, Grigori Aleksandrovitch Potemkin. (Earlier she had had Poniatowski whom she had elected to the Polish throne, a great help when she sought partition of Poland).

For ten or twelve years Catherine’s reign was beneficent. Reorganization of laws for the adm-

istration of justice, inoculation for small pox and other sanitary measures, establishment of elementary schools and hospitals, new canals and fortresses—these were her pursuits.

Apparently Grigori Orlov was a sound influence for with his passing from favor, Catherine discarded her liberal views and actively persecuted the political thinkers whose views she had formerly professed to share.

The third ruler over Russia in 1762 (after Elizabeth I and Peter II) Catherine issued only Roubles and Poltina that year, none of exceptional rarity. In 1763 however we find a rare 5 Kopeck piece (GM20) and a rare Deng (GM31) and other rarities followed.

Most significant, however, of Catherine The Great’s coinages are the large copper roubles.

The large and heavy copper roubles are all very, very scarce. The illustration is of the 1771 rouble but of even greater importance numismatically is a similar rouble of 1770 which was unknown even to the Grand Duke when he prepared his catalogue. He did obtain the extreme rarity at a later date and it is now a high point in the Mikhailovitch Collection.
Of almost equal importance are the iron pieces of 1776, the Kopecka (GM354) and the Denga (GM355) illustrated above.

The coinage of Catherine II extending as it does to 1796 and covering a period of 35 years includes many varieties and rarities. The specimens of the coinage of this famous Czarina included in the Mikhailovitch Collection totals close to 1,000 pieces and can only be touched upon in this brief treatise. Catherine’s son, Paul I, succeeded her in 1796.

He was unbalanced and despotic arousing the nobles to a conspiracy resulting in his assassination in 1801. The illustration is of a rouble of 1796 (GM2) of extreme rarity. Below is illustrated a Pattern Rouble of 1798 also extremely rare (GM28).

Alexander I succeeded his father in 1801. He had been Catherine’s favorite grandson and was imbued with her early liberal policies. He granted amnesty to political prisoners, projected a constitution for the empire and repealed many restrictive measures decreed by Paul. But true to his heritage, Alexander turned to despotism. When his conquest over Napoleon gave him stature, he demanded the duchy of Warsaw, created a new kingdom of Poland with himself as King.

Secret Political Societies were created to overthrow Alexander but he died in 1825 before any insurrection had begun. Nicholas I, his brother had to put it down.

Just as his reign started out well—so did his coinage (from our standpoint). A series of eight 1 rouble pieces, all dated 1801, is among the first of Alexander’s monies. It is almost impossible to imagine that this set in the Mikhailovitch Cabinet can be duplicated.
WHEN Alexander I died, the next in line, Constantine abdicated because of a non-royal marriage and Nicholas I, a younger brother, took the throne. Although Constantine did not rule, a silver rouble had been prepared in 1825 and a few specimens struck. The three illustrations of the Constantine rouble represent: 1) a specimen acquired by the Grand Duke from the Ministry of Finance (GM680). An uneven striking with a lettered edge. 2) A specimen acquired from Count Tolstoi and said to have been the one sent to Constantine after the riots of 1830. This is an even strike with smooth edge. (See GM680). 3) A fabrication made of two shells (See GM683). The numismatic importance of this group cannot be over-estimated. It certainly cannot be duplicated.
THE coinage of 1802 includes rare roubles and a series of rare 2 Kopeck pieces. A rouble believed to have been struck in 1806 is very rare. Note the date 180—in the illustration below (GM61).

As has been mentioned, Nicholas I succeeded his brother and almost at once had to quell a revolt. Significant as an immature, organized revolt, this action gave Nicholas cause to reflect. He created a new secret police, instituted strict censorship and expunged everything he considered politically dangerous from school curricula.

He was autocratic at home and aggressive abroad. Hewarred against Persia and Turkey, crushed two Polish revolts and abrogated the Polish Constitution. He helped Austria suppress Hungarian uprisings and tried to take Constantinople. The Iron Czar died in 1855 in the midst of the Crimean War.

In the meantime he had abolished university chairs of history and philosophy; student bodies were limited to 300 in each university; writers were executed, exiled or arrested.

The coinage of Nicholas I starts in 1826 although the Constantine (1825) pieces are frequently listed under his reign. Outstanding is the Family Rouble of 1835 (GM182) of extreme rarity.

A similar rouble and equally rare was struck in 1836.

With the death of Nicholas I and the loss of prestige resulting from the Crimean War, Alexander II inaugurated an era of reform. Serfdom was abolished, the judicial system revised and other reforms instituted. These were considered insufficient, however, to solve the fundamental weaknesses of the Russian State. Alexander would not countenance a constitution or a representative assembly.

Here undoubtedly was the beginning of what has come to be the Soviet Union. Revolutionary move-

ments began, the theories of Karl Mark found many supporters. A terrorist movement was advocated by one group, a peasant uprising by another. Poland was a prominent breeding ground for Revolutionaries and in 1863 the Poles rose in a second major rebellion against Russia. In defeat, the Poles were deprived of all autonomy.

Important to us is the fact that in 1867 the territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States by Alexander II. The hectic period could end only in violence. Alexander was assassinated in 1881, when a bomb exploded in his carriage.

The coinage of Alexander offers a set of coins of 1858 (GM61-66 inclusive) which may well be the only complete set of its kind. The superlative "extremely rare" is mild.
Probably a unique numismatic item is the square silver ingot marked 1/8 on one side, and inscribed on the other. Equivalent to 3/25ths roubles, this was intended for use in China. It was acquired after the Mikhailovitch Catalogue was published.

In the reaction following the assassination of his father, Alexander III restored much of the absolutism of Nicholas I and sternly repressed all revolutionary agitation. Rigid censorship was re-imposed, intellectual activities were police supervised, Jewish Ghettos were established. Many of minority races were killed in pogroms fomented by the government. Working conditions in Moscow and St. Petersburg became notorious, living conditions miserable.

Factory workers eagerly accepted Revolutionary propaganda, an underground movement developed. These were the accomplishments of Alexander III whose coins we examine.

Numismatically important is a set of eight pattern roubles of 1886, in silver (See GM84-89 and varieties). Six are illustrated below:
THIS was the heritage when Nicholas II, eldest son of Alexander III destined to be the last head of the House of Romanoff, became Czar of all Russia in 1894.

Weak, easily dominated, apparently well-intentioned, Nicholas was still a firm believer in the autocratic principles taught him by his father. Autocracy, oppression and police control increased and in turn were met by terroristic acts. High government officials were assassinated.

From outside Russia, Nikolai Lenin directed a socialist movement. Russo-Japanese conflicts over Manchuria led to war in 1904 and a defeat for Nicholas. Demonstrations at home led to the slaughter of hundreds on Bloody Sunday, January 22, 1905.

This massacre was a signal for a revolution. Strikes and riots began, assassinations increased — Nicholas made concessions. It was give and take until the war of 1914 began. Russian reverses in 1915, lack of supplies, inefficiency of leaders and disheartened troops—all led to desertions and the increasing unpopularity of the war.

Nicholas’ wife Alexandra was German and mistrusted the Russians. Dominated by the Siberian monk, Rasputin, who attempted a cure of a royal hemophilian, Alexandra influenced military decisions at Rasputin’s behest. Finally, in 1916, a group of aristocrats including members of the imperial family murdered Rasputin. Revolutionary agitation increased. Troops were ordered to fire on rioters but joined them instead.

On March 15, 1917, Nicholas and his son abdicated in favor of his brother Michael. Michael abdicated a day later, ending the reign of the House of Romanoff and the czarist Empire.

The Coinage of Nicholas II begins in 1894 with two copper pieces, the Coronation rouble was struck in 1896 and many coins were released annually for a number of years. Our Collection has choice specimens throughout. As this story must remain unfinished, so must the collection for in the strong crates which housed these coins we find none after 1909.

Historically we must note the release of coins for Poland from 1813 through 1841, for Finland from 1864 through 1902, for Georgia from 1804 through 1833 and Oriental specimens of varied dates. Note is not quite correct—these coins, part of the Mikhailovitch Collection, are an integral part of Russian history. The rare 2 zlotie piece of 1813, the set of 1818 and the extremely rare 10 zlotie of 1827 are most noteworthy in the Polish Series. Of the Finnish coins, we must make mention of the 1876 set. As for the coinage of Georgia, the 5 Pouli 1804 and the 1 Abas of 1811 are both very rare.
An Extraordinary Addenda

For some reason known only to the Grand Duke, a most important collection of Russian Silver Bars was acquired by him and forms a valuable part of Mikhailovitch Collection. The rarity of such bars is at once evident when one is informed that the many leading numismatic museums have none: The American Numismatic Society has three specimens of which they are most proud.

There are 67 bars in this collection, a most amazing numismatic holding! These rare bars must have fascinated Mikhailovitch, dated as they are in the early sixteenth century and thus somewhat early for a collection of Russian Coins. It goes without saying that no similar collection could possibly be put together.
The Medals

The Medals are cataloged by number, metal, date, medalist, language, purpose. The obverse and reverse descriptions, size in millimeters are also included. Finally each Medal is placed in a classification of which we have twelve.

1. HISTORICAL EVENTS
2. PERSONAL MEDALS of RUSSIAN IMPERIAL FAMILY
3. PERSONAL MEDALS other than of RUSSIAN IMPERIAL FAMILY
4. MILITARY MEDALS
5. ARTS AND SCIENCES
6. COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, TRADE, TRANSPORTATION
7. AGRICULTURE
8. EXPOSITIONS
9. RELIGIOUS MEDALS
10. MEDALS related to COUNTRIES, NATIONALITIES or PERSONS other than RUSSIAN
11. MEDICAL
12. BUILDINGS

Military decorations are similarly classified.

Here, again, it would be impossible to give more than a brief, rambling insight into the Mikhailovitch Collection without preparing a most voluminous work. This brochure can only hint at it.
Historical Events

A DRAMATIC opening would be depicted by the Coronation of Nicholas I during the turbulent days of 1829, then quickly to 1831 and the capture of Warsaw or a flash-back to the Persian War in 1828, the Turkish War in 1829.

We might look back at the Holy Alliance against Bonaparte in 1813, or still further to the Peace with Sweden in 1790—yes, even to 1705 when Peter’s forces captured Riga (#64) and Narva (#65).

As though the Genie were ours, we could attend the opening of the Kiel Canal in 1895, when Frances II of Austria, Alexander I of Russia and Frederick Wilhelm III of Prussia agreed on unity in war—we were there. (138)

We saw Paris captured in 1814, we were besieged at Sevastopol in 1855 and saw the end of the Crimean War in 1856.

Do you recall the victory at Leipzig in 1813 (226) or the Capture of Elbing over a century earlier, in 1705? (227)

We are reminded of the Friendship Pact with Prussia in a Medal by Loos in 1805 (#384) and the First Partition of Poland in 1775 becomes vivid in a handsome bronze medal by an unknown artist.
A

extremely rare silver medal by Abramson of the Acquisition of Crimea and Kuban depicts Catherine II and an allegorical scene of submission (#1041).

Volumes could be written about the Abolition of Serfdom in 1861 by Alexander III (#1065).

A picturesque box—medal by Stettner in 1813, (#1184), houses 12 colored battlescene pictures of the Napoleonic War.

We could go on—and on—and on. Smolensk, Poltava, Kiev, Moscow—our Genie would take us to the scene. The millenium of Russia—indeed steeped in historical significance. Pomp and ceremony, poverty and serfdom—this is the contradiction that is Russia.
GENIE, let us meet some of these Royal People. This is Nicholas I (#2) on his coronation in Warsaw in 1829.

We see a monument to Alexander I in 1834, we attend the funeral of Alexander III in 1894.

Now we are at the marriage of Paul and Maria in 1782 (#194).

or at the erection of a monument to Catherine the Great by Alexander II (230). A handsome medal depicts Nicholas II and Prince George of Crete (#208).

Another wedding, let’s go—it’s the Grand Duke Alexander (later Alexander III) and Maria Feodorowna (#368-558).
HALL we go with Alexander I to visit Maximillian Joseph of Bavaria (1815)? A silver medal by Losch stimulates our imagination, sends us on our way.

And the German Medalist, Brandt, tells us of Alexander's death in 1825 (#458).

The Great Catherine's death is memorialized in a handsome medal by Lyalin in 1796 (#630) and Klepikov designed Alexander I's death medal (#631).

We are reminded of Alexander's Inauguration of the Academy of Commerce at Moscow in 1804 and of his visit to the London Mint in 1814 (#634 by Wyon.)

An interesting medal struck in 1896 for the Coronation of Nicholas II depicts the heads of Alexander III and his Tsarina (#867)—perhaps the result of an error at the mint.

And perhaps the correction depicting Nicholas II and Alexandra is a similarly attractive item (868). Both reverses are identical.

So, as we handle these bits of Russian Imperial remains do we come into contact with these leaders. We share their joyous occasions, their moments of sorrow—their accomplishments and their misdeeds.
BUT not all of Russia revolved around the Imperial Family—noteworthy events are recalled which involved others. Numismatists particularly recall Count Hutten-Czapski whose silver wedding is commemorated (#172).

Chemists remember Ignacy Fonberg (#366), Archaeologists A. S. Uvarov (#364). The famous composer Anton Rubinstein’s death in 1894 is the subject of a handsome silver medal (#390) and a beautiful plaque honors the author Gorki (388). Haydn’s death is remembered (#751).

Homage to a painter Lebrun (#391), the poet Karpinski, (#399), the Naval Capt. Simonov (#424) and the Mathematician Lobashevski (#462)—all are honored.

Their contributions to the cultural standards are rewarded, their memories kept alive.

Visits of foreign monarchs and dignitaries are immortalized in metal. When Frederick Wilhelm III and Louise visited the mint at St. Petersburg a bronze medal commemorated the event.

Sir James Wylie’s medical contributions are remembered (#1116). A medal by Wiener in 1863 in English, Russian and Latin honors Alexander Herzen on the 10th anniversary of the Free Russian Press in London (#1430).

Medalists Nikonov and Kushkin collaborated to produce a large silver medal honoring Count Orlov (#2414).

and Count Leon Tolstoi was the subject of a handsome work. His works are listed on the reverse side.

Indeed, we could wander through the political forests and scientific mazes; we could thrill to military victories or architectural accomplishments. We need but give reign to our imagination as it is spurred by the material reminders which are these medals.
Military

Let us pause for a moment and review a bit of military History of Russia. We have noted the Japanese War (#149) and the Siege of Sevastopol (#154).

A proud 200 years of the 38th regiment was celebrated in 1901 (Peter I to Nicholas II #335).

Pride in Generals Lanski (#725), Leer (#980), Alexeef and Kaabukoff (#1418) is depicted.

Noteworthy is a large silver medal by Alexeyev in 1869 commemorating the centenary of the founding of the order of St. George. The jugated busts are of Catherine II and Alexander II (#2077).

Arts and Science

Wars were not for the brave alone. Nicholas I gave medals for success in studies (#15), Alexander II awarded prize medals in the School for Drawing (#18) and in the Geographical Society (#22).

Agricultural proficiency (#28) and engineering masters (#29) were recognized.

The Music Conservatory at St. Petersburg awarded a handsome medal (#132) and an award for navigation was highly prized (#212).

For Poetry or Painting, Chemistry, Forestry, Law and Handicraft—recognition for all was an incentive. For those whose accomplishments should be immortalized—further homage. Peter Ilyatch Tchaikowski, Pushkin, Rubinstein, Gorki—the list is long and impressive.
Specially interesting to us is the silver medal by Scharff given to distinguished visitors to the George Mikhailovitch Cabinet (#2281).

**Commerce and Industry**

We note the first shipment of zinc from Poland to Calcutta (#17) and the opening of the Kiel Canal (#85). Artistic is the word for a medal by the Society of Economy of Kuban (#286).

The opening of Academies of Commerce and Mining were many. Industrial and Commercial expositions were plentiful. Railroad shows were numerous. We begin to see that this great country has not been asleep these past 2½ centuries.

**Agriculture**

Here, certainly, is an important phase of Russia's background for we have always thought of the Russian peasant as a farmer, correctly or not.

Ljalin produced a silver medal in 1869 for the Horticultural Exhibition at St. Petersburg (#1).

Numerous medals were awarded for agriculture (#94, 96, 106, 121, 133 etc.)

Horsemanship (#98, 113, 130, 134 etc.) Forestry (#100). Fishery (#112). Hunting (#114, 116, 117 etc.)

A handsome silver medal dated 1865 was issued by the Agricultural Society of Poltawa and depicts a farmer teaching his son (#213).

The building of the road from Warsaw to Brest called for a medal (#483).
Expositions

MEDALS struck for Expositions are commonplace and those of Russia are no exception.

The collection includes many such medals. Horticultural Exhibitions, Exposition of Hunting Societies, Agricultural Shows, Hygiene Expositions, Industrial Expositions, Art Exhibitions, Photography Exhibitions—medals, medals, medals—all interesting and beautiful, but the subject is too vast for this brief treatment.

Religion

RELIGIOUS devices appear on medals such as the one commemorating the help in the Crimean War by the Community of Nurses from Krestovozdvizheni, a Patriarchal Cross over rays on the reverse (#25).

A cross on a crescent appears on a War Medal of 1878 (#91). The Madonna with child design is used frequently. A biblical quotation appears on a medal of 1812 (#250) and Mary's Assumption is the subject of a silver medal of 1793 (#249).

A church at Chipka is erected (#301).

The Virgin is the central theme on a 50th Wedding Anniversary of Bronislawa and Karoliny Skarzynskick (#396).

We find a Jubilee Medal for 1826 for the Catholic Bishop at Kemenetz-Podolsk. A bust of a Rabbi and a picture of the Synagogue is on a medalet.

A superb silver medal by Makarov in 1866 depicts Alexander II on obverse, and on reverse, the head of Christ (#565) on a mantle.

An earlier medal by Utkin in 1839 also had the Christ head on mantle, a cross on reverse (2055).
The collection includes many medals in German, French, Latin and other languages referring to persons or incidents primarily pertaining to those countries or those persons but usually involving Russia in one fashion or another.

The head of Napoleon III on a medal in French struck in 1855 commemorates the Crimean War. A series of Satirical medals on the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 struck in Germany have the head of Alexander III on one side, on the other various persons such as Frederick III, Wilhelm II, Franz Joseph I.

Friendship pacts with France, Germany and Austria, peace treaties with Sweden, Turkey, etc., all were subjects fit for medallic commemoration. The Congress at Erfurt inspired a bronze medal by Facius, depicts Napoleon and Alexander I vis-à-vis. The reverse, allegorical scene shows age and youth both inscribing on a rock (#423).

An heroic silver medal in high relief was executed by Count Tolstoi in 1828 to commemorate the University at Vilna. Nicholas I appears on one side, on the other the jugated heads of Alexander I and Stephan Bathory (#1900).

A large silver medal of 1894 commemorated the Commercial 10 years treaty between Germany and Russia and depicts Chancellor Von Caprivi (#1924).

A satirical German Medal in 1897 ridicules the political overtures between Russia and France (#2649). Note cupid wearing a fool’s cap.
Medical

A SMALL medal of 1829 shows Alsculap with an owl; the inscription refers to Cholera in Warsaw (#16).
Wyon executed a medal in 1814 for the new hospital at St. Petersburg.

Medals were awarded at Hygienic Expositions (#165).
Florence Nightingale is commemorated by a bronze medal (#615), as is Dr. Wylie (#1116) and Dr. Von Ruehl (#1132).
The collection includes a number of medals honoring the Red Cross. Here is one at work (#1305).

Buildings

Churches, Monuments, Mints, Palaces, Museums, Factories, Commercial Buildings, Exchanges—all are made visible to us on medals.

A Monument on the inauguration of Alexander I was struck in 1834 (#34), another to Alexander II was erected in 1893 (#41, 284), and one to Catherine II in 1873 (#184, 230).

The Bourse at Riga is depicted handsomely on a silver medal by Loos and Kullrich (#425).
The Palace at St. Petersburg is depicted (#820), the Ouspenski Cathedral at Moscow appears (#873), we see the Summer Residence of Alexander I at Belogona (1272).

Here is the Academy of Commerce (#1484), here a statue to the Composer, Glinka (#1493). Now we see a Cathedral at Kronstadt (#1942), there is the Observatory at Pulkovo (#2054). We see Museums, fountains, towers—because we have the medals.

Many of these buildings are gone, statues have been torn down, churches closed.

The collection includes many items not classified—a miscellaneous group. There are also many decorations, and crosses. A large number of pieces have ribbons of which eight different types appear.

1. St. Andrew 5. St. Stanislas
4. St. Anne 8. Romanoff Colours

A number of pieces have the Counterstamp of the Grand Duke George Mikhailovitch.
HERE is a little part of time, a part so changed by man and circumstance that it can be recaptured only by an imagination inspired by something material belonging to that little part.

Here we have a history of Russia covering more than two centuries, here we meet the people, the people who were Russia, the people who danced and fought, who farmed and toiled, the people who ruled, the people who slaved. Here we see the schemers, here the peacemakers. These people laugh, others sneer. These are born to rule, some to invent, some to dictate, many to follow. Here we see battles fought, countries expand—others shrink and disappear. Science seeks, Arts create, Commerce flourishes, Industry expands. Here are the farmers, the laborers.

We listen to new music, we read new books. Philosophies are expounded, theories developed.

We see the doctor and his workshop, the priest and his Church, the teacher and his school.

Pomp and Ceremony, Czars and Empresses.

Then suddenly war and destruction, chaos and anarchy. A bloody day, the end of the Imperial Family as rulers of all Russia. The Bolsheviki rule. Here is the end of a little part of time. A new era is upon us.

The efforts of Mr. Edward Gans of Berkeley, California in connection with the cataloguing of the coins and medals are acknowledged with grateful appreciation.

Mr. Sol Kaplan of Cincinnati, Ohio commands recognition for his many and continuing contributions towards making this collection available as well as towards the preparation of this brochure.

A. Kosoff, Editor

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