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SECTION 15. Decorative and fine arts.

«VENUS» IN UZBEK STATE MUSEUM OF ART

Abstract: This article covers the life of the representative of the Romanov dynasty, Grand Duke Nikolai Konstantinovich, and his activities in Uzbekistan.

Key words: museum, art, Duke, Venus, Amu Darya, Khiva, exhibits.

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Introduction

The Uzbek State Museum of Art was established in 1918 on the basis of the personal collection of Duke Nikolay Romanovich Romanov. Who is Romanov Nikolay Konstantinovich? Why was he expelled from Russia? How did he end up in Tashkent? To answer this and other similar questions, we have to conduct research, due to the lack of any information about the person who was erased from history during tyranny.

The life, activities and destiny of historical personalities and famous people have always attracted universal attention, are the causes of many scandals. In this article

In this article, we study the life and work of Prince Nikolay Romanovich Romanov, who spent most of his life in our country and was buried here.

Materials and Methods

To this person during his lifetime and in historical sources he is treated as His Excellency, Grand Duke Nikolay Romanovich Romanov. Since 1989, various interesting articles devoted to his life and work have been published. The evidence and opinions given in the articles contradicted each other, which caused various debates and discussions on their topic. In spite of this, the prince in his time carried out many positive works, left a peculiar trace in history, and we can not deny this.

It is known that the Romanov dynasty ruled Russia for a period of more than 300 years since the appearance of the imperial government there. (1613-1917). The person we are talking about is the grandson of Emperor Nicholas the First (1), the son of Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolaevich and the

cousin of Emperor Alexander the Second (2), who ascended the throne in 1855.

In those days, in various congresses and points where representatives of the highest social stratum were present, one beautiful and graceful woman from America often appeared, but of French origin, which attracted the attention of young and older people. This cheerful woman who loved adventure, called Funny Leer. This woman, also did not remain without the attention of the prince himself. Soon their relationship became serious, and they decided to get married. Court nobles learned about this, began to look for ways to destroy this plan and sent the prince to Italy for a temporary trip, and Funny Leer was sent from Russia to France. The prince in Italy began to buy marble statues to decorate his residence in Pavlovsk, and at that moment Funny Leer went there too. Then the prince had an idea to make a statue of Funny Leer and with this request he turned to the sculptor Tomazo Solari. The sculptor creates the shape of a woman in the pose of the sculpture "Venus with apple" made by Antonio Kanov. The creation of the marble statue of Funny Leer was completed in 1874 and was sent to the duke. Then Funny Leer published her little book about her relationship with the prince and this book caused multiple scandals. There are also hypotheses that the prince was expelled from the palace precisely because of this woman.

Funny Leer was not interested in the prince's pure love, but most of all information about his family and his wealth. The prince who fell under the bait of this beautiful woman, stole two diamonds, which were considered sacred for the Romanov dynasty, and gave them to the woman. In addition,



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other small objects were lost in the palace. The courtiers began to suspect the young prince Nikolay Konstantinovich in the lost objects and arrested him, then the prince was questioned by the chief of the gendarmes Count P.A.Shuvalov. The prince denies all these accusations, and soon the medical doctor N.Zdekauer will assign the prince a diagnosis of a mental patient.

These rumors soon began to spread throughout the city. Some said that the representative of the imperial dynasty was a thief, while others said that all this was a conspiracy to prevent the prince from ascending the imperial throne.

Up to 1873 in Russia the idea to capture Khiva was already ripe. In 1874 the war began and this dangerous war, also the prince was sent in the forefront. Unfortunately, the prince returns from this war alive and well with several breastplates, a gold sword for valor shown during the war and the rank of colonel. Then the emperor, under various pretexts, began to send the prince to Orenburg and ordered to establish more strict control over him. The prince, who was sent to capture Khiva, returned from there with multiple impressions. He had a great interest in a rich historical heritage, high culture, peculiar national traditions and customs of the peoples of Central Asia. The possibility of obtaining a great economic benefit through the development of land, the effective use of water reserves, completely occupied his thoughts. He began to study bibliography and scientific references and books concerning Central Asia, especially Turkistan with great care. In 1877 he published several scientific articles devoted to the ideas of improving the irrigation system and the railway from Russia to Central Asia. In September-October, 1878 he organized the first expedition to Central Asia and involved scientists such as professor of Kazan University, botanist Sorokin, railway engineers Lyapunov and Sokolovskiy, topographer Kashirin etc.

However, before this trip, he again shocked his Orenburg and St. Petersburg bosses. This time he met the daughter of local police chief Nadezhda Alexanderovna Dreyer and secretly married her on February 15, 1878.

After the trip, the prince, on the orders of the emperor, was sent to Samara. A year later, while in Samara, he had the idea of organizing a second expedition to Central Asia. This time, in addition to the previous participants, he attracted to the expedition the doctor Valitskiy, the artists Karazin and Sumakov.

Following the results of the expedition, for 1878-1879 the Amu and Uzboy map was published, as well as such scientific articles and books as Central Asian rivers, Relation of Kora Kum to Central Asian railways, Turn of Amudarya to Uzboy, "Turkistan railways".

At this time between the various people controlling the prince there were disagreements, which conveyed to the palace various slanders about the prince. Under the pretext of stopping such disagreements, it was ordered to transfer the prince to the village of Pustinka near Petersburg City. The quiet life of Nikolay Konstantinovich in Pustinka Village will soon collapse. The reason for this was the death of Emperor Alexander the second (2) and the enthronement of Alexander the third (3), who disliked the prince. From that moment the control over the prince was strengthened, and he was transferred first to Pavlovsk and later in 1881 it was decided to drive him to the Turkistan land and to completely throw him out of the palace, for this purpose an instruction was compiled from 9 points, Approved by Alexander third (3) personally. All the paragraphs of this instruction were aimed at limiting the rights of the prince. For example, on the basis of the second paragraph of this instruction, it was written that the prince should be perceived not as a member of the imperial family, but as an ordinary citizen, and in the eighth paragraph it is stated that if the prince does not obey the local authorities, he must be immediately arrested. Only the third paragraph of the instruction became the reason for the prince's calm. On the basis of this paragraph, the prince was allowed to live with N.A. Dreyer.

They come to Tashkent in summer, 1881 and until the end of their days lived there. Upon arrival in Tashkent, the prince built a luxurious residence on the basis of the project of architect V.S. Geyselman in the center of Tashkent and created a garden around this building (now this building is the house of reception of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan). And he decorated the interior of the building with rare carpets, paintings, statues and samples of folk applied art brought from Central Asia, all of these belonged to his collection.

They took me to Tashkent together. Elizaveta - a young niece of N.A. Dreyer. Over time, by age, this girl married a noble representative of the Belgian royal family and after her marriage left for Belgium.

In Tashkent, the prince changed his name to Iskandar. He received guests in his residence in national clothes, putting a turban on his head. And sometimes he had a habit of walking around the city in such a dress.

After his arrival in Tashkent, he began to directly implement the cases that he planned to do in Orenburg. For his money, he organized a scientific expedition along the channel of Amudarya river up to Aral Sea and reported on the results to the Turkistan General-Governorship.

In 1885 he began work on the creation of water canals from Amudarya to Uzboy. Also, in order to develop the land, will persuade Khan of Khiva to dig a channel to Mirza Ravosh. Khonim channel also was created during that times. After a short while he



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began to earn well from the developed lands. He also finds time and money for city improvement and charity. In particular, he built a zoo, the winter cinema Eski Khiva ("Old Khiva") (on the site of the current Museum of the History of Peoples of Uzbekistan), a summer and winter building called Yangi Khiva (New Khiva) (on the site of the new building of City Hall - khokimiyat) two nursing homes and a disabled house, puts paving stones on the streets, installs lighting poles and electrifies the streets for lighting.

From a joint marriage with N.A. Dreyer they had two sons - Artemiy and Alexander Iskander. To 1895 the prince decides to create another family and married to Ms. Darya is a 16-year-old daughter of Kazak Elisey Chasovit and will build a house for her on the outskirts of the city (the building of the current embassy of India). Despite the fact that they lived without legal marriage, they had three children. His daughter's name was Darya, sons' names were Svyatoslav and Nikolay.

Over time, the prince's passions go out and in difficult times his illegitimate daughter Darya supports him. From a young age she was interested in a violin, the prince noticed it and sends it to Norway to the famous professor-violinist Auer. The prince himself loved Darya in a different way.

The number of visitors to the residence of Prince N.K.Romanov will increase. Every noble visitor of the city of Tashkent has visited his house, and art lovers were fond of watching and discussing rare exhibits for a long time. Then the prince began to think to create an exhibition of works of art in a separate room and specially built for N.A. Dreyer a chic mansion and places all the rare objects there. Soon this exhibition turned into a museum, and it became for N.A. Dreyer a job and a hobby. Since she had full information about each subject of the museum, and enthusiastically told all visitors to the museum about them. (This museum was demolished because of the bad condition as a result of the earthquake in 1966, and the building of the present museum will be constructed on the personal initiative of Sh. R. Rashidov). Glorification of the museum, attracted an increase in the number of its exhibits.

By the end of 1916 the prince's health was deteriorating and he had an inflammation of the respiratory tract. The well-known doctor Borovskiy made a great contribution to his sanitation and soon the prince returned to active life.

On January 14, 1918 the prince's daughter died at the hands of Darya Chasovitina, which came from Norway to visit her father at the age of 68 years old. The funeral of the prince was held as a magnificent ceremony, his ashes were placed in the church of Georgiev in the center of the city of Tashkent.

His will must be of interest to the students. He bequeaths a hundred thousand rubles from the annual income from Gold Orda, which was the basic source of his profits, to N.A. Iskander (Dreyer). The rest of the income is divided into 10 parts, 5 of them are sent to help the disabled veterans of the Russian army, repair and maintenance of the city power station and power grids, assistance to the Tashkent Polytechnic Institute and the Tashkent Pedagogical Institute, construction of new schools, repair and maintenance of irrigation facilities.

The remaining 5 parts he equally bequeathed to Artemiy and Alexander Iskander, Svyatoslar, Nikolay and Darya Chasovitina. However, over time, the strength of his will also lost its force.

And the wife of Prince Nadejda Alexandrovna remained in Tashkent, and worked as a leader, and later as chief curator of the Art Museum, where she lived also. In 1921 she was dismissed, and she was provided with housing from the watchman's room. This left its mark on her psyche. N.A. Dreyer-Iskander spent her last days in poverty, consoled herself by feeding stray dogs. In 1929, she became very ill because of a dog bite, as a result of which she died, then was buried in a cemetery on the outskirts of the city (current Botkina).

Conclusion

So, the life of the representative of the Romanov dynasty - Grand Duke Nikolay Konstantinovich Romanov, rich in contradictions and difficulties, ended in our country. By the way, in the 1920s as a result of the demolition of the St. George Church, the grave of the prince also turned into a ruin.

The current building of the Uzbek State Museum of Art was built in 1974 in the form of a glass cube in the "modern" style. In 1997 the building of the museum was thoroughly renovated. At the end of 2018, due to the reconstruction of the facade part of the museum building in the national style, corresponding to modern architectural design, perfect repair of exhibition halls, equipping with a modern air-conditioning system to provide a moderate climate and strengthen the museum's material and technical base, it was closed for 2 years.

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