ИЗДАНІЕ ВЕЛИКАГО КНЯЗЯ

ГЕОРГІЯ МИХАЙЛОВИЧА.

This exhibit is to honor the centennial of the development of Corpus of Russian Coins and the Russian numismatists who envisioned, planned and created it.

New York, December 13-15, 1986

GRAND DUKE GEORGII MIKHAILOVICH

Born 1863 in Tiflis, killed 1919 in Petrograd. Third son of the Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich. Honorary Commander of the Third Battery of the Equestrian Artillery Brigade of the Imperial Guard and the Eighty-First Apsheronskii Infantry Regiment. Aide-de-camp to H.I.M. Director of the Alexander III Russian Museum in St.Petersburg. Honorary member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Collector of Russian coins and medals. Researcher in Russian numismatics.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The plan to publish a comprehensive work on Russian coinage from Peter the Great onward was first mentioned by the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich in the preface to his "Description and Illustration of Some Rare Coins in My Collection", St.Petersburg 1886. This project was to complement another ambitious undertaking layed out by Count I.I. Tolstoi earlier in 1884 to publish in some ten to twelve volumes all Russian pre-Petrine coinage, including bars.

The Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich project was begun with extraction from the "Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire" of all material related to coinage, medals and awards. It was prepared by M.G. Demmeni and published by the Grand Duke in 1887. This was then followed by the first volume of the basic Corpus - "Coins of the Reign of Alexander II" in 1888. By June 1914 another eleven volumes appeared covering Russian coins struck between 1725-1890 and 1682-1710. Due to the outbreak of World War I the projected additional volumes of the reign of Peter I (volumes I, III and IV) were never published. Only plates of volume III covering the period 1711-1719 survived, some only partially completed.

BOOK

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, "Description and Illustration of Some Rare Coins in My Collection", St.Petersburg 1886.

Lists and illustrates forty-four rare Russian coins including the Constantine rouble of 1825. The book was published in a limited edition of one hundred numbered copies. Copy shown is Nr 3 presented to author's father, Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich. Binding is by E. Rau of St.Petersburg.

THE ASSISTANTS

Over the span of thirty years, between 1884 and 1914, numerous Russian numismatists have made available to the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich their collections for research or have actively collaborated with him on the Corpus itself. Among the first and the most valuable assistants were C.C. Giel and M.G. Demmeni who were later joined by Count I.I. Tolstoi and A.A. Ilyin.

C.C. GIEL, b. 1837, d. 1908.

Pharmacist and collector of sea shells. Later tutor to Counts I.I. and D.I. Tolstois. Collector and researcher of ancient Greek coins. Author of popular "Tables of Russian Coins...". Responsible for systematization of coins and major varieties throughout the entire Corpus.

M.G. DEMMENI, b. ca 1860, d. 1920.

Official of the Imperial Ministry of Finance and part-time custodian of the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich coin and medal collections. Secretary of the Numismatic Section of the Imperial Russian Archaeological Society. Accomplished all research in official archives. Compiled and edited documentation portion of the Corpus.

COUNT I.I. TOLSTOI, b. 1858, d. 1916.

President of the Imperial Academy of Arts. Mayor of St.Petersburg. Minister of Education. Honorary member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Researcher of the pre-Petrine and Byzantine coinage. Assisted in preparing descriptive text for the last published Peter I volume - volume II.

A.A. ILYIN, b. 1857, d. 1942.

Carthographer, owner of Russia's largest carthographic firm. Businessman and civic leader. Along with Count I.I. Tolstoi assisted in preparing descriptive text for the last published Peter I volume - volume II.

SMALLER BOOK

M.G. Demmeni, "Collection of Laws on Coinage and Medals from the Complete Laws of the Russian Empire 1649 to 1881", St.Petersburg 1887. Published by the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich.

In three volumes. Copy shown is from the library of the Alexander III Historical Museum in Moscow. Binding by the Orphans' Trade School, Moscow.

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, "Coins of the Reign of Alexander II", St.Petersburg 1888.

First of the series of twelve volumes. Copy shown is Nr 4, presented by the author to his mother, Grand Duchess Olga Feodorovna, born Princess Cecilia of Baden.

Display Case Three

THE SIGNIFICANCE

As the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich states in the introduction to one of his volumes, the objective of the Corpus was to gather and publish all available material related to the history of Russian coinage, rather than to write one. Thus, the archival material published for the first time in the Corpus forms its most valuable part. Therefore the Corpus may be considered to be one of the primary historical sources on the subject.

The coin collector, on the other hand, considers the Corpus as a valuable reference of pictorial and descriptive numismatic material showing both genuine and restruck coins known at the time of publication, listing major varieties and providing mintage from official sources.

The numismatic bibliophile sees in the Corpus a lavishly printed publication demonstrating the level of artistic taste and the technological state-of-the-art in the Imperial Russia at the turn of the century.

25 February 1836

154. Draft of Senate Ukaze

On issuing for circulation rouble coins with Alexander column.

8 June 1836

159. Memorandum of the Director of Mining... to the General Manager of the St.Petersburg Mint...

On striking 5,000 silver roubles with the Alexander column.

20 June 1836

160. Memorandum of the Director of Mining... to the General Manager of the St.Petersburg Mint...

On striking 10,000 silver roubles with the Alexander column.

4 December 1836

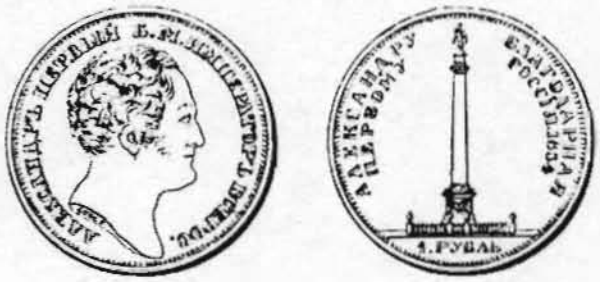
162. Memorandum of the Director of Mining... to the General Manager of the St.Petersburg Mint...

On maintaining at the Mint of up to 5,000 roubles with Alexander column to meet the demand of the private citizens.

26 December 1836

163. Memorandum of the Director of Mining... to the General Manager of the St.Petersburg Mint...

On additional instructions regarding the roubles with Alexander column as stated by the Finance Minister.



BOOK

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, "Coins of the Reign of Nicolas I", St.Petersburg 1890.

Copy shown is Nr 4, presented by the author to his mother, Grand Duchess Olga Feodorovna, born Princess Cecilia of Baden. Binding by E. Rau of St.Petersburg.

Display Case Four

SMALLER BOOK

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, "Coins Wanting in My Collection", St.Petersburg 1902.

This want list was sent to collectors known to the Grand Duke. It contains 715 coins of which 27 are gold, 220 are silver, and 468 are copper. Of the latter 301 are of the Peter I period.

THE AWARD

The documentary material presented in the first five issues of the Corpus covering, primarily, the XIXth century was not considered to be historically important by the Grand Duke's contemporaries. However, with publication of the "Coins of the Reign of Catherine II" "...the August author has entered the historically significant period..." wrote one observer. Count I.I. Tolstoi reviewed for the Imperial Russian Archaeological Society this new publication. On his recommendation the Society awarded the author the Count A.S. Uvarov memorial large gold medal which was instituted by the Society to mark significant contributions in the field of Russian archaeology.

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, "Coins of the Reign of Catherine II", in two volumes, St.Petersburg 1894.

Copy shown is Nr 50, volume II, as issued.

STATISTICS

1. The basic Corpus of twelve volumes consists of

   o twelve frontispieces of the reigning monarchs, Peter I to Alexander II

   o two hundred and ninety-nine plates of coins showing 6365 gold, platinum, silver, nickel and copper coins struck for Russia, Siberia, East Prussia, Livonia, Esthonia, Poland, Moldavia, Georgia and Finland

   o 2775 total number of pages

   o 1687 pages, or 61%, are listing 2249 official documents related to coinage

2. Published in a limited edition of 200 numbered copies. Copy Nr 1 was presented to the ruling Emperor, copy Nr 2 - author's copy, copy Nr 3 was, probably, initially presented to author's father. Copy Nr 4 - to author's mother. Copy Nr 5 - to author's uncle, Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich. Copy Nr 6 - to author's daughter, Princess Xenia.

3. Number of unpublished plates: forty finished and ten unfinished. They depict an additional 1508 gold, silver and copper coins of Peter I, 1711 to 1719 inclusive.

4. All plates were printed at the Imperial Bureau of Engraving, Commercial Department, St.Petersburg.

5. Issue cost for the twelve volumes: 200 roubles or $100 at pre 1914 exchange rate.

6. Total weight, unbound - ca 130 lbs

7. Estimated cost to underwrite a similar 30 year project today: ca $1,000,000.

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, (Coins of the Reign of Peter I, volume III)

Shown is all that was printed - forty finished and ten unfinished plates covering 1711-1719.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich

Вел. Кн. Георгій Михаиловичъ

ОПИСАНІЕ И ИЗОБРАЖЕНІЕ

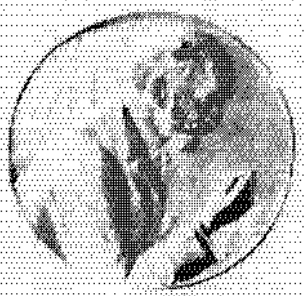
НѢКОТОРЫХЪ

РѢДКИХЪ МОНЕТЪ

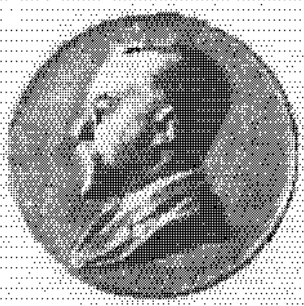
МОЕГО СОБРАНІЯ.

С.-ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ.
1886.

C.C. Giel



M.G. Demeni



Count I.I. Tolstoi

A.A. Ilyin

202 67 11

СБОРНИКЪ УКАЗОВЪ

ПО

МОНЕТНОМУ И МЕДАЛЬНОМУ ДѢЛУ

ВЪ РОССІИ

ПОМѢЩЕННЫХЪ

ВЪ ПОЛНОМЪ СОБРАНІИ ЗАКОНОВЪ

СЪ 1649 ПО 1881 Г.

БИБЛІОТЕКА НУМИЗМ. РЕСП. ИСТ. МУЗЕЯ

СОСТАВЛЕНО

М. ДЕММЕНИ.

Изданіе Вел. Кн. Георгія Михаиловича.

Выпускъ I.

С.-ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ.

1887.

МОНЕТЫ ИМПЕРАТОРА АЛЕКСАНДРА II

ИЗДАНІЕ ВЕЛИКАГО КНЯЗЯ

Георгія Михаиловича.

Special Title Page, Coins of Alexander II

Вел. Кн. Георгій Михаиловичъ

МОНЕТЫ

ЦАРСТВОВАНІЯ

ИМПЕРАТОРА АЛЕКСАНДРА II

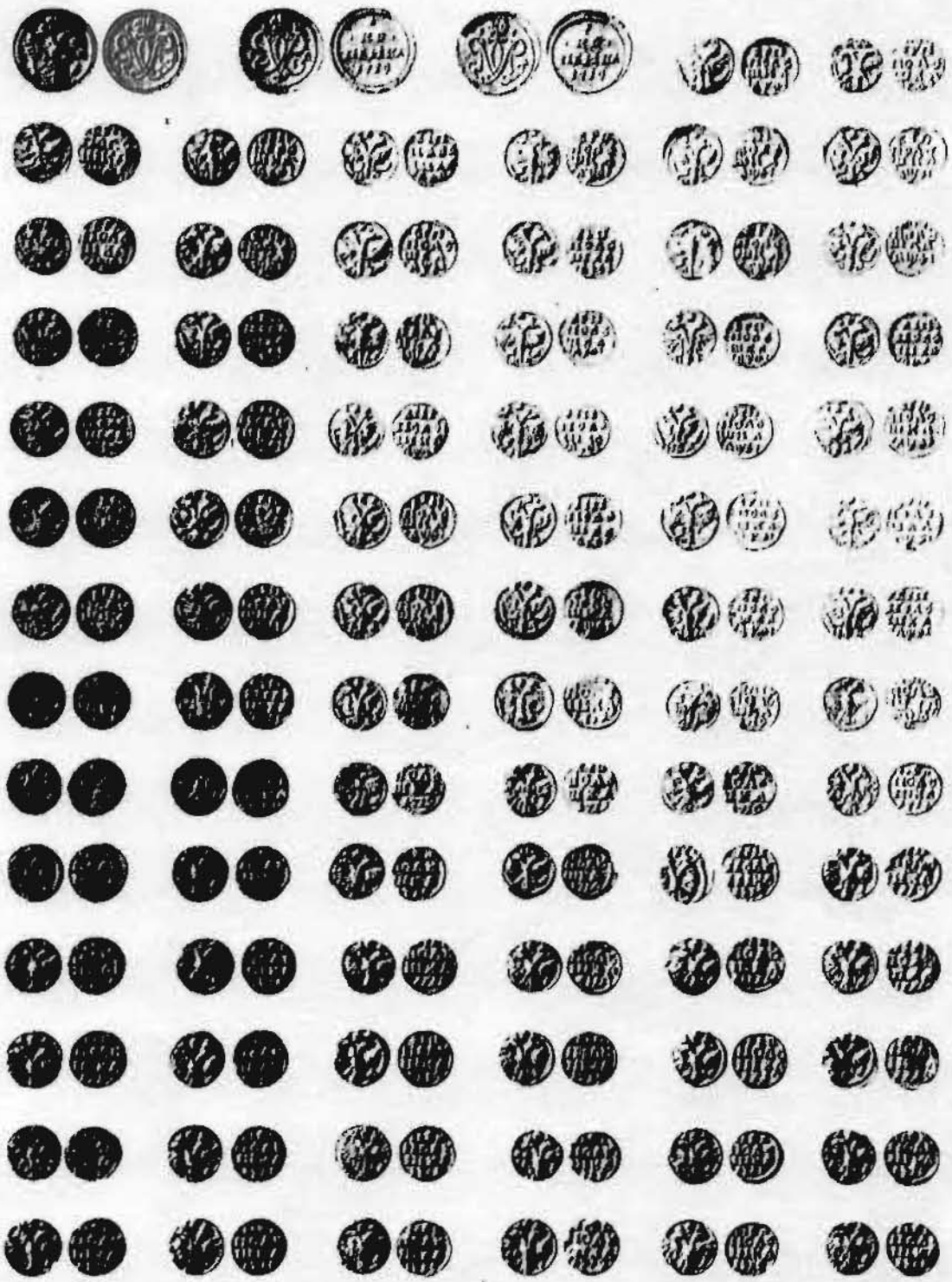
№ 4

С. ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ
Типографія Министерства путей сообщенія (А. Бенке), Фонтанка 99
1888

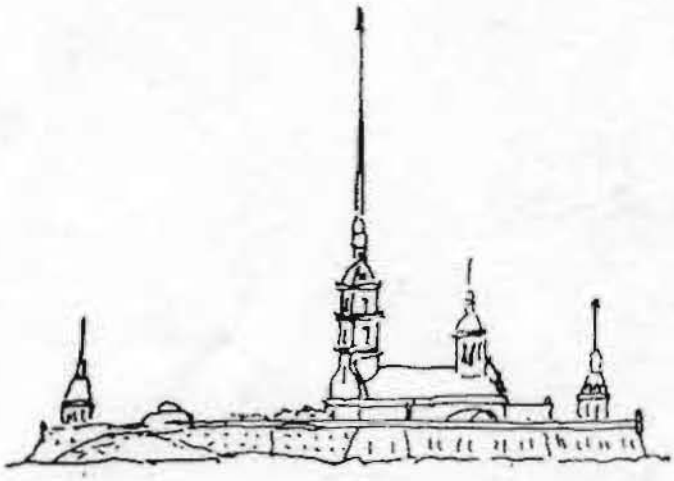
Вел. Кн.
Георгій Михаиловичъ.

Списокъ монетъ недостающихъ въ моемъ собраніи.

С.-Петербургъ.
1902.

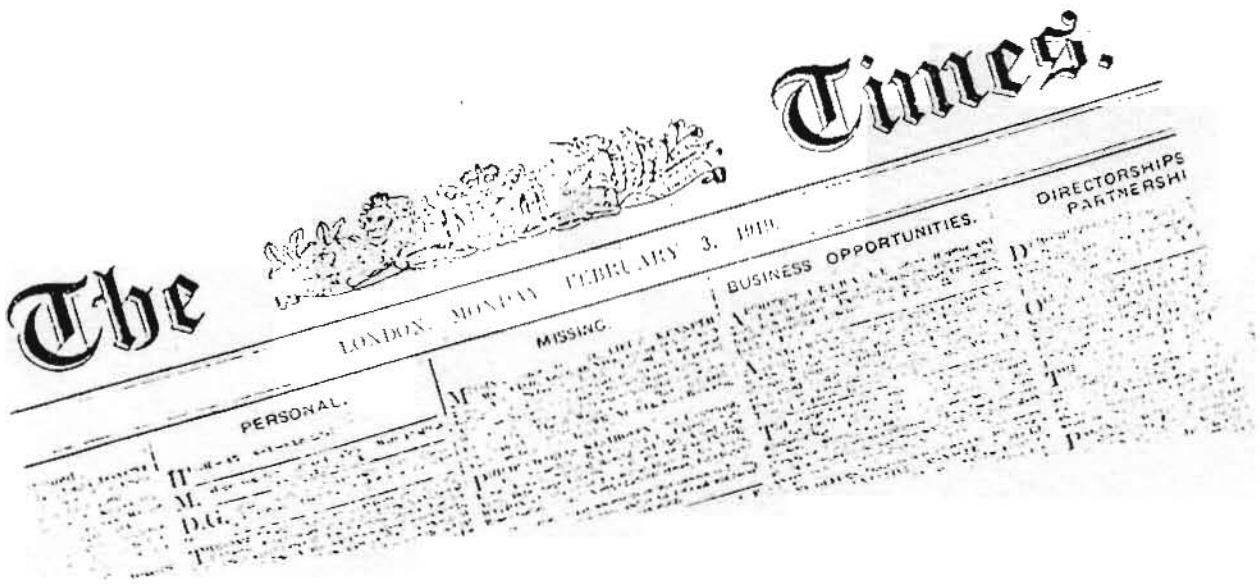


The last of the unfinished ten plates to volume III,
Coins of Peter I



THE EXECUTION

РАЗСТРЕЛЪ


The Times.

LONDON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1919.

PERSONAL.

MISSING.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

DIRECTORSHIPS PARTNERSHI

This decisi... effect on ...
ciliatory effect ... been pro...
Union, which has ...
against the arrest of one of their officials ...
military law for ordering a one-minute strike
on P.L.M. Railway a week ago.

GRAND DUKES REPORTED SHOT

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, FEB. 1.

A Bolshevist *communiqué* issued at Petrograd states that following the decision of a Special Commission the Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovitch (uncle of the ex-Tsar), Nicholas Mikhailovitch (cousin), Dmitri Constantinovitch (great-uncle), and George Mikhailovitch (brother of Grand Duke Alexander, who married the ex-Tsar's sister), have been shot.

*** Many eminent Russians, including some Grand Dukes, have been falsely reported shot in messages of Bolshevist origin.

THE TIMES 7 FEB 1919 - 8e

A. Munro Sutherland, ...
director of the Sutherland Steamship Company (Limited), Lord Mayor of Newcastle. The price paid by him is stated to have been about £500,000.

GRAND DUKES' EXECUTION.

MASSACRE AT PETROGRAD PRISON.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, FEB. 5.

The first details received of the execution of four Russian Grand Dukes show that it took place on January 28, in the courtyard of the prison of Deriabinsk, in a suburb of Petrograd. Together with the Grand Dukes, 172 other persons were shot, 144 men and 28 women, who were accused by the Bolshevists of having taken part in a so-called Anglo-French organization. The majority of them, however, were among the large number of hostages arrested in October of last year.

The Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovitch was arrested at the end of December and kept, with four other persons, in a small cell in the Kresty prison. Being a historian, a collector, and an editor of works of art, who had taken no part in political or military affairs, he was accused by the Bolshevist authorities of having recently favoured the Cadet Party. The Grand Duke Paul Alexandroviteh, uncle of the Tsar, was detained until January at Vologda, then transferred to the Petrograd prison, where, during his examination by the Commission, he learned that his son, Pálei, had been shot at Alapaievsk, in the Urals. Another son, Dimitri Pavlovitch, is at the moment in England. To add to the sufferings of imprisonment, the Bolshevists last December removed the Grand Duke to the place of execution, but after he had witnessed the spectacle there, at the last moment they returned him to his cell.

The Grand Duke George Mikhailovitch, who was arrested in September, had been kept the whole time in prison with criminals, and only in the last few days before the execution was he transferred to the Deriabinsk prison, the scene of execution.

A reliable report from Petrograd states that all the four Grand Dukes died with dignity. The Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovitch, being ill and exhausted by starvation, had to be carried into the courtyard for execution on a handbarrow, and in this position he was shot. The execution was carried out in the early morning, with the thermometer standing at 17deg. below zero F., by a detachment of sailors and Chinese, in the presence of delegates of the Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-revolution.

THE TIMES 11 FEB 1919

... regions and the rest of the Netherlands, was held in the Hall of Fine Arts at the Hague yesterday. It was attended by Queen Wilhelmina, the Prince Consort, the Princess Juliana, and all the Ministers.

GRAND DUKES SHOT AS REPRISAL.

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 10.—An Agency message from Petrograd states that Russian Bolshevist newspapers confirm the rumour that the four Grand Dukes, Nicholas Mikhailovitch, Dmitri Constantinovitch, George Mikhailovitch, and Paul Alexandrovitch, were shot by order of the Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution.

The Grand Dukes, the message adds, were executed as a reprisal for the execution of Krylenko, the late Commander-in-Chief of the Bolshevist Army, who succeeded in entering the Cossack Army with the object of making propaganda.—*Reuter.*

THE TIMES 12 FEB 1919

MURDER OF THE GRAND DUKES.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, FEB. 10.

Princess Palei, wife of the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch, who was shot on January 30, arrived here to-day after an adventurous flight from Petrograd. The Princess confirms the shooting of her husband and the three other Grand Dukes, Nicholas Mikhailovitch, Dmitri Constantinovitch, and George Mikhailovitch. She relates that on the eve of the execution she was informed by the notorious Extraordinary Commission that on the next day all four Grand Dukes would be liberated from prison. They were shot with pistols by two men of the Red Guard—Bagovidoff, who formerly belonged to the police, and Solowjeff. The bodies of the Grand Dukes were buried together the same night, with the bodies of other executed persons, in the yard of the prison.

MORE BOLSHEVISTS FOR PRINKIPO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, FEB. 10.

The new Bolshevist Government at Kieff on Saturday sent two envoys to the Allies at Odessa to communicate the Government's acceptance of the invitation to the proposed

MEMORIES OF RUSSIA

1916-1919

BY

PRINCESS PALEY

HERBERT JENKINS LIMITED
3 YORK STREET · ST. JAMES'S
LONDON S.W.1 ✠ ✠ MCMXXIV

The Bolshevists had selected their new victims—the few Grand Dukes who still remained in Russia. The Grand Duke Nicholas Michaïlovitch was brought back from Vologda with his faithful aide-de-camp, General de Brummer. His brother, the Grand Duke George Michaïlovitch, who was awaiting in Finland, at Helsingfors, the moment when he should embark for England, where his wife and two daughters were already, was handed over by the Red Finns and taken back to Petrograd.

Although it was not until later that I learned the details of the crime, from a Dr. Maltzoff, who was imprisoned in the hospital with the

Grand Duke*) and who gave them to me in Finland, I shall, with a trembling hand, try to reproduce them here.

When the soldiers arrived with the automobile on Tuesday, January 15th/28th, to fetch my husband, the Commissaries made Dr. Maltzoff come with them. They gave him the order to announce to the "prisoner, Paul Romanoff," that he was to get ready to leave. Dr. Maltzoff entered the cell which the Grand Duke*) shared with Colonel K——.

On the Wednesday evening at the Tché-Ka, the Grand Duke*) addressed himself to a Georgian whom they were liberating, begging him to telephone to me that they had taken him to the

Gorochovaïa...

They took him in an automobile to the fortress of Saints Peter and Paul; the other Grand Dukes were taken there direct from the Schpalernaïa. They were shut up in the black dungeons of the Troubetzkoy Bastion. At three o'clock in the morning, two soldiers named Blagovidoff and Solovieff made them go out, naked to the waist, and led them on to the Place de la Monnaie within the enceinte of the fortress, in front of the Cathedral. They saw an immense, deep common grave in which thirteen bodies lay already. These soldiers made them stand in line near the grave and the abominable crime was accomplished. Some moments before, the old servant heard the Grand Duke*) utter out loud the words:

"God forgive them, they know not what they do. . . ."

*) Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, younger brother of Alexander III.