The Scene Beyond Milton

By Hilda M. Morrill


The extraordinary set of Russian Orthodox liturgical implements was made in 1877 as part of the imperial dowry of Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna Romanova (1853–1920), the only surviving daughter of Russian Emperor Alexander II, who married Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1874. She used the opulent silver set in her private chapel in the Clarence House British Royal Residence in London.

The first public showing in more than 50 years, the upcoming exhibition coincides with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Alexander II, the 165th anniversary of the birth of his daughter, the Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, and will take place exactly 140 years since the set was installed in London’s Clarence House in 1878.

After World War II, the set was acquired by American collector Pavel Fekula (1905–1982), who had it exhibited in the Orthodox Room at the Interchurch Center in New York in the 1960s. After his death, the set was broken up and sold to private collectors in the United States. This will be the first time the set has been reunited since it was dispersed in the 1960s.

Due to the special significance of this exhibition, his Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, a bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church, will give remarks at the opening reception of the exhibition on Friday, Oct. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. Guess will enjoy wine and hors d’oeuvres. Tickets for non-members are $15 and museum members have free admission. Registrations are due by Oct. 15 by calling 978-598-5000, ext. 121.

The museum is the only museum in the United States dedicated to Russian icons and holds the larg-
States dedicated to Russian icons and notable the largest collection of icons outside of Russia. For more information and details about upcoming exhibitions, call 978-598-5000 or visit www.museumofrussianicons.org.

Incidentally, we are told that starting on Friday, November 2, Lynn. Will exhibit at the Museum of Russian Icons. (Photo courtesy of Frank Polska and the Museum of Russian Icons)

than 150 Soviet-era ornaments displayed alongside various-sized and decorated "New Year's Trees," together with holiday toys, books, and cards.

The majority of the ornaments have been donated to the Museum by the annual "Make a Wish" event. Their exhibition marks the end of the holiday season.

Admission is $10 for advance tickets and $12 at the door. Forest Hills Cemetery is located at 95 Forest Hills Ave. in Jamaica Plain. For more information, call 617-524-0128 or visit www.foresthillscemetery.com.