

Israel Perlstein Collection Relating to Imperial Russia

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Collection Summary

Title: Israel Perlstein Collection Relating to Imperial Russia

Span Dates: 1613-1914

ID No.: MSS76175

Creator: Perlstein, Israel, 1897-1975

Extent: 75 items; 6 containers; 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material chiefly in Russian and French

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Rare book dealer. Russian land grant charters; Russian and Swedish imperial patents of nobility; Pal'menbach family papers; invitations, menus, programs, press passes, and other memorabilia of journalist Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev from the 1896 coronation of Emperor Nicholas II; and other certificates, documents, and printed material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia, 1868-1918--Coronation.

Pal'menbach family.

Perlstein, Israel, 1897-1975.

Zaguliaev, Mikhail Andreevich.

Subjects

Calligraphy--Russia.

Illumination of books and manuscripts--Russia.

Land grants--Russia.

Printing--Slavic countries.

Titles of honor and nobility--Russia.

Titles of honor and nobility--Sweden.

Locations

Russia--History.

Occupations

Booksellers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The Israel Perlstein Collection Relating to Imperial Russia was donated to the Library of Congress in 1931 by Perlstein, a rare book dealer in New York City.

Processing History:

The collection was in 1985 and reprocessed in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material:

Perlstein also sold a considerable number of books from various Imperial Russian collections to the Library during the 1930s. These volumes are now located in the Law Library and the Rare Book and Special Collections, Music, European, and other divisions of the Library.

Copyright Status:

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions:

The collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Israel Perlstein Collection Relating to Imperial Russia, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1897	Born in the Polish city of Kowel' in Volyina (now in Volynskaya, Ukraine)
1920	Emigrated to the United States and settled in New York, N.Y.
1924	Dealer, Hebrew and East European books, New York, N.Y.
1926-1936	Periodic trips to the USSR; purchased the Winter Palace, the Tsarskoye Selo, and the Grand Duke Vladimir Imperial Russian book collections from Soviet book and antiquarian agencies
1931	Sold large accumulation of Imperial Russian material to the Library of Congress Donated his personal collection of Imperial Russian manuscripts and memorabilia to the Library of Congress
1932	Sold second collection of Imperial Russian material to the Library of Congress
1932-1975	Continued to purchase Imperial Russian and East European materials and to sell them to the Library of Congress, Indiana, Harvard, Yale, and Columbia universities, the New York Public Library, and the Universities of Illinois and Michigan
1975, Mar. 23	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The Israel Perlstein (1897-1975) collection of manuscripts and memorabilia relating to Imperial Russia, 1613-1914, is almost as much a collection of Russian art, artifacts, and early Slavic printing and calligraphy as it is a manuscript assemblage. The provenance of the collection before Perlstein acquired it has not been fully established. However, an oval stamp bearing the inscription "iz sobranie S. N. Treinitskogo" (i.e., from the collection of S. N. Treinitskii) can be found on many of these items, indicating that the seventeenth-century and some of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century items belonged at one time to a Russian collector by the name of S. N. Treinitskii

Six seventeenth-century and one eighteenth-century [land grant](#) charters in the collection were issued by Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich and by his successors, Tsar Fedor Alekseevich and the Co-tsars Ioann and Peter Alekseevich (later Emperor Peter I). These early manuscripts are interesting not only as examples of court documents written in official Old Slavonic but also as graphic representations of the art, calligraphy, and printing of that period. The seventeenth-century items are printed on heavy white paper of different sizes, including one giant charter measuring one and a half by five feet, and contain a variety of inscriptions on the verso as well as calligraphic signatures typical of that period. In contrast, the eighteenth-century land grant charter issued by Empress Catherine II in 1774 to Iogan Hendrikh von Morenshil'd consists of two single parchment folios in a presentation case and decorated in color with imperial emblems and borders.

The two imperial patents of nobility, one issued in 1836 by Nicholas I to Semen Vol'skii who had served the court as a physician during the invasion of Russia by Napoleon in 1811, and the second issued by Alexander II to the de la Valle-Vel'k family in 1865, are examples of the court calligraphy and colorful hand-painted representations of coats of arms of the nineteenth century. A third patent of nobility issued by Charles XI, King of Sweden, in 1695 represents Swedish calligraphy, manuscript art, and the manufacture of seals and scippets utilized in patents of nobility by the late seventeenth-century Swedish court.

The [Pal'menbach Family Records](#), forming a collection of sixteen items dating from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, appear to have been assembled by Lieutenant General Lev Pavlovich Batiushkov around 1875. Batiushkov, a collateral descendant of the Pal'menbach family, was attempting to establish his lineage in order to append a noble family name to that of his own after the death of the last direct male Pal'menbach descendant, Estafii Ivanovich Pal'menbach. Included are patents of nobility, copies of military service records, certificates, and records of imperial orders granted to the family during this period, as well as genealogical tables, other family data, and official documents requesting the name change.

Part of the [imperial memorabilia](#) appears to have belonged to the journalist Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev, who represented the St. Petersburg newspaper, *Journal de Petersbourg*, at the 1896 coronation of Emperor Nicholas II and received invitations and other items addressed in his name. This group is a very diverse assemblage of colorful banquet menus, imperial manifestos, concert and opera programs, and other items such as tickets to coronation events and chauffeur's passes to the Kremlin compound. Among those who decorated the menus and programs were some of the primary artists of the period, including Appollonarii, Vasnetsov, Samokish, Grigoriev, Ignatsius, Pervuta, Lipgart', and Aleksandr Benois. After his emigration to the West Benois became the scene designer for Diaghilev's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and for various Paris theaters. Color printing of the menus and programs appears to have been done primarily by two printers: I. Ilyin in St. Petersburg and A.A. Levenson in Moscow. There are twelve items dealing with the coronation of Emperor Aleksandr III in 1883 and twenty-three items dealing with the coronation of Emperor Nicholas II in 1896. Among the opera programs is one for Glinka's opera, "A Life for the Tsar," given in 1913 on the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Romanov dynasty. Other items include copies of military service records, invitations to balls, and an eight by eight inch piece of heavy brocade similar to that used in the binding of official court documents in the seventeenth century but with no holes to indicate that it had ever been officially used.

Because the items in the Perlstein collection are of different sizes, they have been boxed in six containers specially constructed for them. As a result the material is not listed in chronological order. Two of the patents of nobility with large scippets containing seals and tassels have been encased in separate boxes.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Pal'menbach Family Records, 1695-1875](#)

- Land Grants and Patents of Nobility, 1613-1865
- Imperial Memorabilia, 1883-1914

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>Pal'menbach Family Records, 1695-1875</u> Patents of nobility, military records, land records, marriage agreements, petitions, and miscellaneous papers.
BOX 3-5	<u>Land Grants and Patents of Nobility, 1613-1865</u>
BOX 6	<u>Imperial Memorabilia, 1883-1914</u> Menus, programs, tickets, and other memorabilia, primarily relating to court life in Russia.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2	Pal'menbach Family Records, 1695-1875 Patents of nobility, military records, land records, marriage agreements, petitions, and miscellaneous papers.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	1695 <u><i>See Container 2 Folder 1</i></u>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	1725, appointment by Empress Catherine for Lieutenant Andrei Batiushkov to rank of adjutant (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	1755, copy of service record of Ivan Pal'menbach, Colonel of the Vyborgskii Infantry Regiment (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	1780, marriage agreement between Baroness Elizaveta Aleksandrovna Biron (Cherkasov) and Gustav (Efstafii) Ivanovich Pal'menbach, Major of the Guards, Grenadier Regiment (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	1789, Kushelev service record; mentions recognition "of bravery of all ranks in the face of enemy fire on 13 August" (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	1791, military service record of Efstafii Pal'menbach, Colonel of the Elizavetograd Cavalry Regiment; copy of record issued to Lieutenant General Lev Pavlovich Batiushkov by the imperial general staff on June 5, 1875 (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	1797, 11 Aug., imperial manifesto appointing Elizaveta A. Pal'menbach as head of the Council of the Imperial Society of Noble Maidens replacing the late Madame Delafond (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	1800, 25 Feb., certificate given to Sofia Efstafievna Pal'menbach on of her 12th birthday, her acceptance into the Imperial Society of Noble Maidens, and her presentation to the empress; printed on parchment with handwritten insertion of names and date; on back of certificate, oval stamp reads "from the collection of S. N. Treinitskii" (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	1802, manifesto by Emperor Aleksandr I granting tax exemption to the widow of Colonel Pal'menbach for an additional six years (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	1864, 12 Aug., résumé of imperial orders granted the Pal'menbach family: to Efstafii Ivanovich, the Order of St. George, 4th degree on Nov. 24, 1788; to Elizaveta Aleksandrovna, the Order of St. Catherine on June 20, 1797; and to Lieutenant General Pal'menbach, the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky on Sept. 22, 1762 (Russian)
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	1875 Translation from Swedish into Russian of the 1695 patent of nobility granted by Charles XI of Sweden to Christian Bernard Pal'menbach; original is located in Container 2 (Russian)
FOLDER 11	Copy of Pal'menbach family data translated into Russian from German heraldry book; not dated but circa 1875 (Russian)
FOLDER 12	Two copies (one with red seal) of service record of Gustav Moritz von Pal'menbach, also called Ivan Pal'menbach, who served in the Lifland Division and who replaced the commander of that division, General Field-Marshal Count Buturlin in 1767 (Russian)
FOLDER 13	Declaration of consent by Fedor Andreevich von Byuller, the only son of the late Baroness and Dame Aleksandra Efstafievna von Pal'menbach Byuller, wife of the secret councillor and senator Baron Andrei Ianovich von Byuller, to the incorporation of his family tree with that of his cousin,

Pal'menbach Family Records, 1695-1875

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	Lieutenant General Lev Pavlovich Batiushkov; all the latter's descendants to carry the name of von Pal'menbach on the basis of primogeniture, as the direct line of von Pal'menbach's had become extinct with the death of the common grandfather, Colonel Efstafii Ivanovich von Pal'menbach (Russian)
FOLDER 14	1875 Draft copy of above declaration (Russian)
FOLDER 15	Biron and Pal'menbach genealogical table; on the left is the lineage of the Biron family beginning with Ioann Ernest Biron, Count of Karlsbad and Regent of Russia, and on the right is the lineage of the von Pal'menbach family; compiled by Lev Pavlovich Batiushkov possibly in 1875 during his research on the von Pal'menbach family (Russian)
FOLDER 16	Five drafts of petitions and supplementary material, including draft translation from Swedish of Charles XI's patent of nobility to Christian Bernard Bierbach, draft copy of Biron and Pal'menbach genealogical table, and three drafts of petitions, and two official documents dealing with the attempt by Lieutenant General Lev Pavlovich Batiushkov to incorporate his name with that of von Pal'menbach (Russian)
BOX 2 FOLDER 1	1695, patent of nobility issued by Charles XI, King of Sweden, to Christian Bernard Bierbach in name of Pal'menbach; presentation case binding, brown wooden scippet containing royal Swedish seal; handwritten in ink with drawing of coat of arms in color (Swedish)
BOX 3-5 BOX 3 FOLDER 1 FOLDER 1	Land Grants and Patents of Nobility, 1613-1865 1613-1619 <u><i>See Container 5, Folder 1</i></u> 1682-1691 <u><i>See Container 4</i></u> 1836, 7 Feb. Emperor Nicholas I: patent of nobility issued to Semen Volskii who had entered the Imperial Service on July 1811 as a court physician during Napoleon's invasion of Russia; signed "Nicholas;" presentation binding in gold-colored silk with white silk paste down front and back; headpiece has Imperial coat of arms in color and border design of first page decorated with forty-nine hand-painted miniature coat of arms; other pages have geometric border designs in blue, silver and gold; Volskii coat of arms illustrated in color on Page 7, written inscriptions on Page 8, and oval stamp reading "from the collection of S. N. Treinitskii" (Russian)
BOX 4 FOLDER 1	1682, Tsar Fedor Alekseevich: Charter for land grant issued to Fedor Afanas'evich Karakhin for "services against the Turkish sultan and the Crimean khan who attacked our Little Russian cities ... served yet our father Aleksei Mikhailovich. He is awarded for generation upon generation an estate (description follows). ...They may sell, convey ...but if sold and one of his descendants wishes to claim it, he will be allowed to buy it back;" text printed in Old Slavonic hand-written inserts of names and description of property (Russian)
FOLDER 2	1683, Co-tsars Ioann Alekseevich and Petr Alekseevich: charter for land grant issued to Fedor Afanas'evich Karakhin for faithful service; text printed in Old Slavonic with handwritten inserts for names and description of property; printed by the Verkhnaia tipografiia in Moscow (Russian)
FOLDER 3	1688, Co-tsars Ioann Alekseevich and Petr Alekseevich and Tsarina Sofiia (as regent): charter for land grant issued to Fedor Mikhailovich Korobanov in "recognition of service during the war with the Turkish sultan and the

Land Grants and Patents of Nobility, 1613-1865

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- Khan of Crimea...;" text printed in Old Slavonic with handwritten inserts of names and description of property; on back side, three lines of handwriting, calligraphic signature, and oval stamp reading "from the collection of S. N. Treinitskii" (Russian)
- FOLDER 4 1691, Co-tsars Ioann Alekseevich and Petr Alekseevich: charter for land grant to Fedor Mikhailovich Korobanov in "recognition for his services in effecting the peace with our brother the King of Poland;" the charter also served as diplomatic credentials and outlined the conflict between Russia and Poland and its settlement; text printed with handwritten inserts of names, description of property and other data (Russian)
- FOLDER 4 1774 *See Container 5, Folder 3*
- FOLDER 4 1865 *See Container 5, Folder 4*
- BOX 5 1613, Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich: charter for land grant issued to Ivan Grigor'evich Korobanov "in recognition for his service in dealing with the King of Poland, Sygmont," text is printed with handwritten inserts of names and description of land; oval stamp reads "iz sobranie S. N. Treinitskogo" (from the collection of S. N. Treinitskii) (Russian)
- FOLDER 2 1619, Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich: charter for land grant issued to the son of Ivan Grigor'evich Korobanov; text printed in Old Slavonic with handwritten inserts of name and description of property (Russian)
- FOLDER 3 1774, Empress Catherine II: charter for land grant issued to Iogan Hendrikh von Morenshil'd confirming his possession of the "Orgamets" estate bought from the descendants of Andrey Leshern, who was granted this estate by Charles Gustav, King of Sweden, on Dec. 7, 1656, and confirmed by royal resolutions of 1662, 1667, and 1680 which granted him and his heirs the right to sell the estate at will; oval stamp on last page of parchment which reads "from the collection of S. N. Treinitskii;" signed "Ekaterina" (Russian)
- FOLDER 4 1865, Emperor Aleksandr II: patent of nobility issued to the family of de la Valle-Vel'k which was accepted into the nobility by the senate on Oct. 8, 1852; signed "Aleksandr" and dated Apr. 2, 1865 (Russian)
- FOLDER 5 Undated, piece of heavy brocade in red, gold, and silver colored threads cut in scalloped design measuring 8 x 8-½ inches; date unknown but possibly seventeenth or eighteenth century since the fragment closely resembles brocade used for binding the item in Container 4, Folder 2 that is dated 1683
- BOX 6 Imperial Memorabilia, 1883-1914
Menus, programs, tickets, and other memorabilia, primarily relating to court life in Russia.
- BOX 6 Emperor Aleksandr III, coronation, 1883, two programs of the opera performance of Glinka's "Life for the Tsar" and the ballet "Night and Day" given during coronation week in May 1883 at the Moscow Art Theater; art work by Grigoriev (Russian and French)
- FOLDER 1
- FOLDER 2 Emperor Nicholas II, coronation, 1896
Dinner menu on occasion of the imperial coronation; art work by Victor Vasentsov and printing by A. A. Levenson (Russian)
- FOLDER 3 Concert program for May 15, 1883, in honor of the coronation of Nicholas II and Aleksandra; poster program with multicolored scenes and borders; two copies; art design by K. Pervuta; printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)

Imperial Memorabilia, 1883-1914

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
FOLDER 4	Menu for dinner given for Cossack Starshina (Leadership) on May 18, 1896; art work by Apollinariii Vasnetsov; printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)
FOLDER 5	Menu for dinner, May 26, 1896; multicolor with scenes of Kremlin and Kiev by Apollinariii Vasnetsov (Russian)
FOLDER 6	Poster announcing entertainment during coronation week to include "Ruslan and Ludmila," "Konek-Gorbunok" ("The Hump-Backed Pony"), "Yermak, or the Conquest of Siberia," the Brothers Nikitin Circus, and the Durov Trained Animals (Russian)
FOLDER 7	Emperor Aleksandr III, coronation, 1883 Proclamation of coronation of Empress Maria Fedorovna; printed in ornate red and black script (Russian)
FOLDER 8	Menu for dinner commemorating the coronation of Empress Maria Fedorovna; printed on poster paper with scene on first page depicting the carrying of the Royal Regalia from the Armory to the Uspenskii Sobor in the Kremlin; scene on second page depicts Orthodox priest offering bread and salt with government official, peasant and three women surrounding him; art by Victor Vasnetsov; printed by I. Il'yin in St. Petersburg (Russian)
FOLDER 9	Menu (same as top part of the item in Container 6, Folder 8 with lower part missing (Russian)
FOLDER 10	Menu on occasion of coronation of Empress Maria Fedorovna, May 19, 1883 (Russian)
FOLDER 11	Menu on occasion of coronation of Empress Maria Fedorovna, May 20, 1883; artist V. Vasnetsov (Russian)
FOLDER 12	Menu for the Cossack Starshina (Leadership) on occasion of coronation of Empress Maria Fedorovna, May 21, 1883; art work by A. Karazin (Russian)
FOLDER 13	Emperor Aleksandr III, Coronation, 1883 Menu, May 23, 1883, during coronation week (Russian)
FOLDER 14	Menu, May 24, 1883, on occasion of coronation of Empress Maria Fedorovna; artist: V. Vasnetsov (French)
FOLDER 15	Menu, May 27, 1883, on occasion of imperial coronation; artist: V. Vasnetsov (Russian)
FOLDER 16	Menu, July 25, 1883, occasion not given; artwork by V. Ignatsius (French)
FOLDER 17	Emperor Nicholas II Coronation, 1896 Manifesto announcing that Aleksandra Fedorovna, wife of Nicholas II, would be crowned Empress during the imperial coronation; design by A. Petrov-Ronet (Russian)
FOLDER 18	Program for coronation week folk entertainment described in the item in Container 6, Folder 6 (Russian)
FOLDER 19	Program for concert given May 8, 1896, at Petrovskiy Palace, St. Petersburg (French)
FOLDER 20	Poster dinner menus for May 15, 1896; art work (pictures of Kremlin cathedrals) by Aleksandr Benois; printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)
FOLDER 21	Poster dinner menu, May 19, 1896; art by Aleksandr Benois; printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)

Imperial Memorabilia, 1883-1914

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FOLDER 22	Poster supper menu, May 20, 1896, with scene depicting a royal couple at table and ornate border art; art work by Aleksandr Benois; printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)
FOLDER 23	Poster supper Menu for May 23, 1896, with scene of Kremlin, bridge, and mounted imperial troops in foreground; art by Lipgart, printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)
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FOLDER 26	Emperor Aleksandr III, Miscellany 1884, 15 Apr., announcement of the forthcoming marriage of the Grand Duke Konstantin and the Princess Elizaveta Saxon-Altenburg (Russian)
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FOLDER 30	Miscellany 1899, imperial manifesto outlining rules for governing the Grand Duchy of Finland (Russian)
FOLDER 31	1913, program for Glinka's opera "A Life for the Tsar" in honor of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Romanov Dynasty, February 22, 1913; printed by A. A. Levenson (Russian)
FOLDER 32	Emperor Aleksandr III Coronation, 1883, dinner invitation to the troops of Moscow from the city of Moscow at Sokolniki on May 23, 1883, during coronation week (Russian)
FOLDER 33	Miscellany 1887, 26 Feb., luncheon menu with imperial crest (French)
FOLDER 34	1890, 8 June, City of St. Petersburg banquet menu for the IVth International Congress of Penitents; picture of statue of Peter the Great; elaborate colored border (French)
FOLDER 35	1894, 28 July, Peterhof Palace; program for opera "Romeo and Juliet" (Russian)
FOLDER 36	Emperor Nicholas II Coronation, 1896 Pass No. 714 issued to Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev, correspondent for the <i>Journal de St. Petersbourg</i> , to enter the Kremlin Palace to attend the coronation of Nicholas II and Aleksandra; dated May 17, 1896 (Russian)
FOLDER 37	Aide-memoire for individuals in the military escort of the grand dukes during the coronation, May 1896 (Russian)
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FOLDER 39	Ticket to the Bolshoi Opera presentation of Glinka's "A Life for the Tsar" and the ballet "Pearl," May 17, 1896 (Russian)
FOLDER 40	Pass No. 633 to enter the Uspenskii Sobor in the Kremlin to attend the coronation of Nicholas II and Aleksandra on May 14, 1896; issued to Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev, special correspondent for the St. Petersburg <i>Journal de Petersbourg</i> (Russian)
FOLDER 41	Pass No. 979 to enter the Kremlin Palace for coronation of Nicholas II and Aleksandra, May 17, 1896 (Russian)
FOLDER 42	Pass to Moscow Duma Building issued to Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev for May 23, 1896, on occasion of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Aleksandra's visit to the Moscow Duma (Russian)
FOLDER 43	Press carriage tag and carriage driver's identification ticket for May 23, 1896 (Russian)
FOLDER 44	Invitation issued to Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev as correspondent of the <i>Journal de St. Petersbourg</i> for the coronation ball, May 23, 1896 (Russian)
FOLDER 45	Miscellany 1898, 16 Jan., supper menu with Imperial Crest (French)
FOLDER 46	1914, concert program of opera excerpts and music (French)
FOLDER 47	Undated, invitation by the French ambassador to Mikhail Andreevich Zaguliaev for a ball at which the emperor and empress would be present (French)