

RUSSIA'S TREASURE
OF
DIAMONDS
AND
PRECIOUS STONES

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PART I

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FINANCES
MOSCOW—1925

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The People's Commissariat of Finances

MOSCOW
1925

Published

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the People's Commissariat of Finances.

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RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

TEXT

THE ROMANOV HEIRLOOMS, PROPERTY OF THE SOVIETIC REPUBLICS

After months of stubborn fight for liberty and, dearly-paid-for-peace attained, it became necessary to rebuild the shattered national economy and gather the People's assets all over our country. Proeminent amongst these were the Romanov heirlooms: diamonds, precious stones, pearls and gold, Russia's property since the downfall of the dynasty.

But meantime, malignant supporters of the old regime, who could not openly resist the victorious tide had adopted a new policy and soon false rumors spread among our easy-minded peasantry: «Of course the bolchevik leaders—it was said—had stolen the «Treasure».. plunder and robbery being as second nature to usurpers..» and many such defamations to suit the purpose.

Although these underground manœuvres met but with little success, nevertheless unconditional faith in our unselfish aims being then a compelling necessity, we were endeavouring, by all the means in our power, to show the People how far they had been misled, when, on a sudden, epidemic diseases and famine savagely spread along the once so fertile valleys of the Volga. Of course these unexpected calamities were first to be fought against, inasmuch as substantial help was not forthcoming from abroad, and alas! in spite of organized efforts a great many of our poor peasants perished. However, after a year of exceptionally rich crop, prosperity was soon restored and our clear-sighted leaders took up at once the task of summing up national assets in all the regions of our vast and beloved land.

Out of the many palaces, residences of the aristocracy, houses and stores of the «ci-devant bourgeois», substantial results were speedily obtained. This, of course, is easily imagined, but when the Committee, appointed by Headquarters, began inventoriating the Treasure, (for centuries «private property» of the dynasty), what they did find far exceeded what could have been anticipated.

Nine huge strong-boxes crammed with gems (and strange to say, without a single inventory to them) were brought to light from the recesses of the Moscow «Armoury Hall» and placed at once in the Safe-Keeping of the People's Representatives.

The well-known Prof. A. E. Fersman, Member of the Academy of Sciences, appointed on the above-mentioned Committee, assumed the task—by no means an easy one—of registering and describing the contents of the imperial chests with the help of specialists, experts and jewellers. As a practical result of efforts, harmoniously combined, this Edition: «The Diamond Treasure» is now presented to the public at large, under the patronage of the Russian Government.

Heaps of precious articles, kept for the private use of the members of the imperial household, were discovered in various other boxes during operations; they all bear the imperial arms. Among precious watches, «breloques», «drageoirs», snuffboxes, etc., we discovered a gold cigarette-case, personal property of Alexander III which was filled with small photos of a very dubious sort. But what shocked even the few, who had secretly remained attached to the fallen dynasty, was the final discovery of jewelled «icones» bearing the features of the Romanovs (!); at the sight of the strange.. images (strange, to say the least) our workmen could not but express their disgust...

Among other items of the same «acabit», the Committee struck upon the diary of the ex-tsar begun in 1914 and accurately kept throughout the years of the war. In this book Nicolas II had reproduced with minute accuracy (in water-colours) cuff-links and trinkets that were daily presented to him by those who well knew his weakness in this respect. This childish and worthless task kept the shallow-minded «Commander-in-Chief» busy for at least 4 to 5 hours each day, while hundreds of thousands of his brave soldiers were perishing for the want of munition and food!..

Out of the personal belongings of the ex-grand-duke Andrew-Vladimirovitch, a member of our Committee dug up an odious document (be it remembered here that this Andrew is the son of the notorious man responsible for the slaughter of our poor workmen in 1905). This lengthy manuscript contains paragraphs which show this worthy scion's true nature. After a riotous night spent in the company of dancing-girls, our imperial carouser takes the pen and dwells upon the «splendid pluck of his faithful Preobragensky and Semenovsky officers who well know—he writes—how to knout-down and sabre the «canaille». In the same paragraph the number of rebels shot, on the previous afternoon, is accurately given with full particulars.

Other MS of the same stamp were discovered at a later stage but we shall not dwell any longer upon such an unsavory subject: History will in time disclose all these felonies.

Now, that our working-classes have taken possession of the «Treasure» and all the belongings of the autocrats, the veil that hid their contemptible schemes is torn asunder and these documents, that so well characterize the spirit of the Romanov'House, will be published in due time, for the benefit of those, who even now, have not yet learned to know their crowned and their uncrowned enemies...

G. Basilevitch.

PREFACE

Russia's Diamond Treasure is composed of the best portion of the State-Jewels and Regalia, formerly the property of the tsars.

Ever since the XVIII-th century, the Romanov strong-boxes had been stored in the «Palais d'Hiver»' vault, known as «the Diamond-Room», now a dependance of the National Art-Gallery.

Under official denomination of «Regalia and Crown Jewels» or, «Diamonds and Pearls of H. I. M. Private-Estate», the «Treasure», pride of our autocrats was entrusted to the care of the appointed keepers of «H. I. M. Wardrobe' Service», a «Section of the Cabinet of TT. II. MM.».-According to various documents now in our hands, not a single article of the Regalia or Crown-Jewels was ever allowed to be taken out of «the Diamond-Room» without «a written sealed-order and only in the presence of a trustee (or trustees) especially appointed by H. I. M.».

A scientific description of Russia's Diamond Treasure has recently been made with competence by the learned Academician A. E. Fersman and the object of this preface is to briefly relate the circonstances under which the Commissions, successively entrusted with its Safe-Keeping, carried on their arduous task.

Soon after the Great European War had begun, the Imperial Council decided to remove the «Treasure» to Moscow. This was done under the supervision of Mr. de Bentichev, Trustee of «H. I. M.' Wardrobe Service»; the precious chests being stored in the «Moscow-Palace's Headquarter-Offices». The removal of the strong-boxes was carried out in such an hasty manner that not a single memorandum (or even an itemized list) was drawn, on their leaving St. Petersburg; the precious articles, from their arrival at Headquarter-Offices to subsequent removal to the «Armoury-Hall», having been piled topsy-turvy with other heavy chests containing valuables, stored there, a short time before.

Under the strict regulations which were enforced during the ex-tsar's reign, the only persons who could obtain admission into the «Diamond-Room» were Mr. de Bentichev and Mme de Herringer, alone or assisted by an officer, bearer of a written-order sealed and signed by H. I. M.».

These two (or three) persons had to report on each occasion to the

«High-Keeper of H. I. M. Cabinet». — However, as soon as the great war began, the tsaritsa's authority prevailed in the management of all these private matters but, strange to note, she never gave any written order to her «Chambellan», the latter having but to obey her verbal instructions*. Soon after the Revolution (and in connexion with the hasty removal of «National Valuables» to Moscow) the Regalia and the Crown-Jewels' strong-boxes remained there (buried under tons of other chests) undisturbed but well guarded until 1922.

Official examination took place in March—April of the same year in the upper-storey chambers of the «Armoury Hall» in the presence of the Members of the Commission appointed by the new Government. Five Trustees signed the official inventory: M. Sergeïev, Head-Keeper of the Armoury, A. Orechnikov, Trustee for the History-Moscow-Museum, D. Ivanov, the well known historian, F. A. Weiss, representing the Valuable-Property Section and W. Nicolsky, Special Delegate for the People.—This important document duly registered, the «Treasure» was then taken into possession by the People's Government. However, the nine strong-boxes containing the Regalia and the Crown Jewels being emptied a few days later in the presence of G. Basilevich, Chairman of the new Committee, A. E. Fersman, Member of the Academy of Sciences and W. Sobolev, Secretary, were placed upon large table-boards and, by «Special Act» (April 10-th 1922) finally turned over to the Head-Representative of the High-Delegation, awaiting new inspection.

A few days afterwards a Committee composed of Professors and experts was appointed and on its first meeting emphasized the necessity of preserving «as National Property never to be sold or done away with» the Regalia and the Romanov Jewels. This proposition met with full approval from the Members of the Government and then, once again, the strong-boxes were transferred to the «National Deposit of State-Valuables», now the «National Fund-of-Metals and Precious Stones» where, to the present day, they are safely kept.

The importance of this peerless Collection, from an artistic as well as a scientific point of view (not considering its enormous market-value) made it necessary to combine its examination and valuation with historic researches «ad hoc». Following the Committee's decision, welcomed by all true fervents of our national folk-lore, Chairman A. E. Fersman undertook at once the direction of the operations.

He began his task with the technical description of all precious specimens already labelled, and this was done with the assistance of able jewellers and competent art-experts. The results thus obtained were at once recorded in an index-book; photographic reproductions of the most celebrated jewels being made at the same time. All these materials, carefully sorted, were then embodied in a «dummy» and now, the present Edition, «revue et corrigée», may be called unique of its kind: an history of the jeweller's art and «epitome» of hitherto ignored archives dealing with the finest collection of gems in the world. Needless to add that, this is for us, Russians, a valuable document.. a «brevet d'équité» so to speak, which we will oppose to the worthless reports circulated here and abroad at the beginning of our glorious Revolution.

The work of the Committee was carried on with true patriotic zeal and in spite of its complexity, achieved, in less than four months, thanks to the energy of all our Members and the financial support of Moscow.

* Documents found in the «Armoury Hall's» office prove that several pieces of jewellery were taken out of the coffers between the years 1914 and 1916.

The experts especially appointed, undertook the examination of each and every specimen labelled and kept a record of all documents and archives bearing upon the subject—the well-known expert-jewellers: A. Faberger, A. Kotler, B. Masseïv, A. Bock, A. Frantz and the skilful photographer I. N. Alexandrov performing their share of the work at the same time.

It may be remarked here that almost every piece of jewellery has been thus separately, measured, weighted and photographed, records obtained from old inventories and various interesting items carefully noted on fresh labels. The description of the whole Collection is the personal contribution of the mineralogist A. E. Fersman assisted by S. N. Troïnitzky, the active Director of the Ermitage-National Museum and A. N. Benois, well-known art-critic and painter.

The jewels of the «Treasure» being not all of one and the same class, our art-experts decided to divide them into three distinct categories; the first—by far the most important—including all the jewels of great value and historic fame, the second—specimens of minor interest, the third—old-fashioned jewels, loose stones and quaint jewelled trinkets. Our Treasure now includes only the first of these categories.

Attempts to reproduce in pen-drawing or water-colour some important pieces of the Regalia failed to give satisfaction, while our photographer's work, turned up as perfect as could be expected.

Let it be said here that the album of plates of this Edition must be considered of paramount interest to true amateurs,—our Tsars having never authorized pencil or photographic reproductions of the Regalia*.

We are indebted to S. Bogojevlevsky, Head-Keeper of the Foreign Affairs State-Archives Section for the greater part of the XVIII-th'century documents published in this and following tomes; historic items, bearing on the Regalia and Crown-Jewels have been obtained by D. V. Iuferov, Assistant in the Precious Stones of the Academy Department, and to S. N. Troïnitzky, Director of the Ermitage National Museum, we owe a large number of documents, which proved to be of considerable value for this and following tomes.

«The Diamond Treasure» in four parts contains 25 phototyped plates to each, the work of our Mint-Department's staff. It will include monographies signed: A. E. Fersman, S. N. Troïnitzky and D. V. Iuferov; items, concerning some historic gems, will appear in parts II and III.

This Edition published in Russian, English and French (separately) is strictly limited. Orders signed by responsible firms may be forwarded by mail to «The People's Commissariat of Finances—Moscow».—They will be promptly attended to.

* A quaint album containing sketches of a few of the Romanov jewels, the work of an old «dame d'atours» was kept, in former days, on Nicolas II' desk.

THE DIAMOND TREASURE INVENTORY ITEMS

Russia's «Treasure» is composed of four hundred and six separate pieces of jewellery, in all: 271 different articles, two hundred of them corresponding exactly to labels formerly attached by imperial trustees.

The Commission placed these specimens into five distinct categories, chronologically as follows:—

Reigns: Peter I (1689—1725) and Elisabeth (1741—1761)	52 items, about 20%
Reigns: Catherine II (1762—1796) and Paul I (1769—1801)	110 „ „ 40%
Reigns: Alexander I (1801—1825) and Nicolas I (1825—1855)	62 „ „ 25%
Reigns: Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicolas II (first period)	24 „ „ 10%
Reign: Nicolas II (XX-th cent.)	14 „ „ 5%

(N. B.: dates of seven items cannot be ascertained).

These 406 specimens are again divided into sixteen sections. However, we must admit that several specimens were thus been rather conventionally dealt with, no possible clue as to their use or destination having been obtained by our experts.

I. e:—Crowns	3
Globe, Sceptre and Chains	9
Stars, Crosses and Emblems	23
Diadems	12
Necklaces	16
«Rivières» (diamonds)	6
Brooches, claps, etc.	56
Locketts	9

Head-gears	10
Pins	74
Earrings, buckles	29
Buttons, rings	42
Court-ornaments	16
Gold snuff-boxes; other small boxes	19
Solitaires (loose stones)	7
Sundry gold trinkets	60

Precious stones and gems:—

Diamonds, total weight:—25.300 m. c.—This department shows the greatest variety, from rough crystals or partly—cut stones to brilliants and solitaires of all hues, «portrait-stones», etc.

Among these are found the finest brazilian specimens and the most elaborate indian-cut gems. If the 25.300 m. c. are divided into four classes, we obtain:—

- a) 1.500 m. c. of very large stones and solitaires of the highest degree.
- b) 800 m. c. of first-class specimens (over one hundred stones).
- c) 22.500 m. c. of smaller diamonds (each weighing less than 5 c.).
- d) 500 m. c. of «roses» and odd stones.

(N. B.—Our best diamonds are indian-natives. Many brazilians, but few south-african specimens).

Emeralds: 1000 m. c.; many quite large and very rare.—Minor specimens: 2.200 m. c. In all:—3.200 m. c.

Sapphires—over 1.700 m. c., specimens of great value (scientifically and historically). Total weight of minor sapphires:—over 2.600 m. c.

Rubies—the Treasure contains but few rubies, however all of A1 quality.—Our large size stones weigh (in all): 60 m. c.—Smaller stones: 200 m. c.

Fine spinels («balays») of large size: 600 m. c.—Minor specimens: over 700 m. c.

Pearls—the lot of our very best specimens weigh over 300 m. c.—Pearls of ordinary size: over 6.000 m. c.

There is also a remarkable collection of rose-coloured sherls, topazes, alexandrites, aquamarines, beryls, chrysolites, large turquoises, chrysoprases, smoked-topazes, fine amethysts and agates, bohemian grenats, labradors, almandines, exquisite mother-of-pearl, pegmatite, etc.

HISTORY OF THE DIAMOND TREASURE WITH ITEMS CONCERNING SOME CELEBRATED STONES

Precious stones have, from immemorial time, attracted the attention of men and in early history, the «quantum» of rare metals and gems, owned by families, communities, nations, gave the «modus» to compute importance of private or public wealth,—an «étalon de richesse» so to speak.

But the greed of the (then) lords of the land, soon accumulated in hiding places gold, silver and precious stones, conquerors and monarchs taking pride in the gems spread upon their robes and adorning their crown and weapons. But robbery or treachery they feared and as a consequence the value of their private coffers was seldom known by their courtiers and even by the members of their own family. Soon, of course, fanciful legends sprung from everywhere and surrounded the mysterious Treasure, «manants» witnessing royal pomp but on festive occasions.

Needless to say that in those days, men of learning were not allowed to study the rare crystals even for the benefit of Science, the king's «Treasure» being safely hidden in vaults where none but the «argentier» was ever admitted. The «man of science» of that dark epoch was but little thought of, his pursuits often despised, and so it happened that State-collections, have seldom been described «de visu» with the exception of the British Regalia which has, of late, been freely exhibited in the Cabinets of the Tower-of-London, a few of its largest diamonds (the «Cullinan», and the «Koh-i-Noor» for instance) known the world over.

Very little has ever been reported concerning the Austrian «Treasure», pride of the Habsburg-House and since the downfall of the dynasty, the revolution has scattered a considerable part of this once famous collection. It is to be feared that its finest specimens have long since disappeared.

Incomparable, we are told, were the «Joyaux de la Couronne de France» and well could the haughty Bourbons boast of their diamonds and precious stones. Amongst others of great merit, the french «Treasure» contained an enormous solitaire known as «Le Régent» (diamond weighing a little over 136 carats), various sets of important emeralds, a trio of marvellous rubies-balais (from 100 to 200 carats) and the famous blue diamond (67 carats) brought from India by french pioneers in the middle of the XVII-th century.

In 1792, when the Great-Revolution reached its climax, the Bourbon-jewels disappeared and but a small portion of the «Treasure» was afterwards recovered by the french authorities. However, even that precious small portion was disposed of in 1887, and to-day a few large specimens only, can be seen in the Louvre and in the Cabinet of the «Jardin des Plantes», the «Regent» one among them.

With exception to royal personages and State-Wardens few indeed have ever been allowed to view the Spanish and Portuguese «Treasures» but, one may well suppose that the former still contains a large number of peerless brazilian stones.

As for the fabulous gems, pride of maharadjahs, radjahs, and tutti quanti, who has indeed ever obtained a particle of truth from gossips of travellers? Ever since the XVII-th century sober-minded men have listened to Aladin-like reports of gigantic gems, emeralded thrones, ivoried walls, etc., as one does to idle childish tales.

The «Treasure» of the russian autocrats had also its legend but its importance was a true matter-of-fact.

Fascinated by Asia's barbarian splendour, and proud of their power, our early tsars were wont to parade in jewelled robes, wearing diamond-studded crowns, the accumulation of gems, in the vaults of the Kremlin, began in the middle of the XVI-th century and many specimens of that epoch are still kept in the «Armoury Hall».

However less than one hundred years later, Peter-the-Great's powerful will crushed this aimless extravagance. Having speedily established a mastery of all the scattered energies of his people, his penetrating mind foresaw his country's strength not in the hoarding of gems and gold but in wise economical reforms, and fighting alone against the tendency of his time, boldly steered his State-ship upon a new course.

In spite however of strict regulations, the craving for jewels and rich garments little abate and after the great ruler's death, fashions more extravagant than ever, soon prevailed in Court circles and among the «bourgeoisie».

Duly informed by diplomats and travellers as to the doings and «étiquette» of brilliant eastern and western Courts, tsars and noblemen were but too anxious to surpass all rivals.—At the same time the brazilian mines had been located, flotillas were returning from far-americas loaded with gold, silver and precious stones (it was reported, at the time, that one among the countless emeralds brought to Spain, was large enough to hold the mechanism of a small clock).

In old Moscow and fashionable Petersburg, revenues of whole provinces had sometimes been lavished on the «trousseau» of aristocratic brides and in palaces or country residences, prodigality had reached its climax. Court-ladies wore on «levers» jewelled bodices and «paniers» worth hundreds of thousand roubles and small wonder, when the pleasure-loving Catherine II sat upon the throne, that the splendour of our Court was famed the world over*.

Under the reign of this imperial spendthrift the Sterling Value of the «Treasure» was enforced by many important purchases. Fortunately the jeweller's art was then at its zenith; elegance of style and design (hitherto unknown) characterizing the «manière» of that epoch. In the «Treasure's» eighteenth century department, one notices that extreme «delicatesse» and harmony combined with the exquisite perfection of a craft no longer under restraint.

Soon however, broad «ensembles» of a quieter and larger style became «en vogue» and as a corollary, small stones neglected. Heaps of indian and brazilian solitaires, of a size until then unknown, were imported by opulent firms under Court's patronage and so it happened that smart and exquisite jewels, of the beginning of the reign, œuvres of true artists whose compositions had been carried out with inexpensive material, fell out of fashion.

Catherine II meantime, having commissioned agents abroad, was eagerly collecting huge diamonds and emeralds; vendors (knowing she would handsomely pay) were prompt to secure for her the finest specimens on the western and eastern markets. Shrewdly advised and

* P. Stolpiansky: «Jewels and gems in old St.-Petersburg» (1703—1825).

quick to grasp her opportunity she had already granted privileges to artists whose productions became her exclusive property, amongst them the famous frenchmen Posier and Duval. Although eager to please their Sovereign, aristocrats were slow to keep pace, precious stones being then hard to obtain. However they soon resolved to send, for this purpose, their «serfs» to the Ouralian mountains and far-away Siberia. Such was the extravagance of the time that millions of roubles were thus invested in these wild expeditions.

At the beginning of the XIX-th century old traditions began to die out but remembrances of the «great Reign» still upheld, for a while, that craving for pomp, gems and jewelled dresses. But alas! Art was declining and artists deprived of paying orders were fast becoming engaged in more profitable pursuits. Under the reigns of Paul I and Alexander I, the «Cabinet of TT. II. MM.» seldom purchased stones of great value and, all through our XIX-th century's department, one can observe the progressive decadence of the jeweller's art and increasing neglect for coloured stones. Moreover, the «Treasure» stood then in irretrievable danger of being ruthlessly ruined by the «manie» of alterations then prevailing. Many a rare specimen were parcelled out, fragments used to match (?) ornaments hastily needed for Court functions. Some of our finest XVIII-th century jewels were thus destroyed by the caprice of a tsaritsa who «wanted in an hurry» various «colifichets» for a masquerade-ball. On that nefarious evening, noble historic stones were torn out of their mountings and hastily bound together with silver threads; the poor mutilated «parures» thrown away! A few weeks later, many other ornaments were destroyed in this fashion and by the same pitiless hands! The costly jewels afterwards purchased never compensate that loss; «made in Germany» they bore the stamp of the clumsy teutonic style.

However our Collections of diamonds and gems as it stands at the present time, is, past question, the most important in the world, its variety nowhere excelled; the «Treasure» forming, so to speak, an «epitome» of Russia's history and the «Livre d'Or» of the Romanov dynasty. From «modern-style» pieces or pompous and massive emblems of the french empire-style to the exquisite trinkets and graceful «parures» of our glorious XVIII-th century, one can study and follow the stages of the jeweller's art for a period extending over two-hundred years.

Something ought to be said here in connection with our «own» native-stones. When and how disappeared from the «Treasure» the purple amethyst «gleaming at night like red fire» for the search of which Catherine II sent thousands of miners to the Ouralian borders? Where are now the bewitching cherry-coloured sherls, dark under artificial light (worn by our courtiers as Badges of Honour)? Also missing our iridescent emeralds and the celebrated «alexandrites», once so abundant in the imperial caskets! No explanation of this loss has ever been given although one may suppose that our last tsars, too ready to despise russian stones gave them away as «souvenirs». However the lack of taste of Nicolas II' whimsical spouse chiefly accounts for their wholesale disappearance during the last twenty years. Many of us still remember the fatal year 1906 when the «Section of TT. II. MM. Household» offered for sale a great quantity of very ancient gems, property of the tsaritsa. Bought by foreign lapidaries, a portion of the lot easily fetched over one million roubles-gold and, if truth be known, the stones thus disposed of, were specimens unique, large emeralds and all Catherine II' famous amethysts (not mentioning a serie of minor historic jewels).

Such is, briefly told, the eventful history of the Romanov «Treasure», now the People's Property since the glorious days of our Revolution.

The countless gems of our Collection as they throng the velvet-padded boards of the Inspection-Office's safe-room, give an impression one is not likely to forget; it gladdens the eye beyond telling, admiration failing to find here a fitting garment of words.

Here, there and everywhere swift shots of white, green, crimsoned, rainbowed fires, haphazardly stir as if by magic while the pearls, overcrowding their own province, shyly flush as if endowed with mysterious life.

«A tout Seigneur, tout honneur»... In the «Treasure» first place belongs by right to the lordly Diamond, its fires eclipsing the glitter of the coloured gems.

We read in Pliny's Encyclopedia: «Of all Nature's gifts, Diamond, in its small bulk, is the most precious; never found in abundance, this crystal may be reckoned higher than any product of the mineral world».

Russia's «Treasure» boasts several tens of thousands of carats of diamonds, ranging from small «roses» to majestic solitaires (weighing up to 200 m. c. — $\frac{1}{10}$ russian lb.). And what a diversity in colours and hues!.: white, bluish, greenish, rosy, exquisitely pale-orange, sky-blue, etc. All shapes, «contours» and forms in this incomparable gathering: rough specimens or, partly-cut («pointe-naïve»), stones of eastern workmanship, «roses», high brabantables, indian briolets, large brazilian brilliants of odd geometrical outline, stainless Cape diamonds: square, flat, thick, oblong, etc. All the mines of the world are here worthily represented (russian soil yielding but two small specimens discovered in 1838 on the banks of the Kouchayka River). However the greater part of our diamonds (among them the most celebrated ones) are indian-natives.

It is, of course, out of question attempting to give here a description of all the diamonds of the «Treasure» (recent catalogues bear references to over 22.000 m. c.; 2.900 in the Imperial Crown alone), but I am pleased to inform our readers that various technical informations will be published in following tomes while monographies including documents obtained from Archives will be printed at the same time in our «Scientific Journal» and cheerfully sent on application.

Our world-famed diamond, «Orlov» is supposed to be the most important specimen of the Regalia*. It is a large and remarkable stone, oddly cut and very clear, save for a slight greenish tint. In this stone one can observe also a tiny excavation (inward angle) known for a long time and which has ever puzzled the experts. Some believe this angle has been detached while the stone was being cut on the crossing of two small furrows running along the cleavage's edges.

Notwithstanding its renown, the giant «Orlov» is even excelled by the famous 47 carats blue diamond which tops the Imperial Globe, next place, in my opinion, belonging to the oblong «Shah» ($88\frac{7}{100}$ carats in its original bulk) partly polished only. A persian motto is engraved on the surface of this latter and a deep furrow runs through its whole length, giving passage to a silver thread.

The «Shah» found in India, was, up to the year 1592, the pride of the Achmednagaran rulers. During the Great-Moghul's raid, conveyed, with other prizes, to the palace of Aureng-Zeb, it was seen in 1665 «gently dangling from the canopy of the throne» by the french pioneer Tavernier then travelling in those parts. Less than a century later, (during the sack of Delhi) the greedy Nadir took possession of the much-coveted «talisman» which, in 1829 was carried «in state» over Asia's borders by a persian deputation and presented to the «White Tsar» as «a token of grief» for the murder of the famous russian author, Griboiedov.

In our Collection we have great many other solitaires of large size, each worthy of a description and amongst them, over seventy-five lordly specimens ranging from 25 to (over) 55 carats: $55\frac{23}{32}$, $41\frac{5}{10}$, $53\frac{12}{32}$, $40\frac{12}{32}$, $38\frac{75}{100}$, $40\frac{12}{32}$, 32, $26\frac{19}{32}$, 25, etc. Some of our

* The «Orlov» being solidly incased in its socket, our experts did not take it out, in order to weigh it anew.

rose-coloured diamonds (weighing each over 3 carats) are deep and most beautiful stones, among them our violet-tinted brilliants (from 6 to 10 carats) where one finds quality of the highest degree.

In this environment we notice also a lovely pinkish stone ($40^{12/32}$ carats), a wonderful rose-shaped brilliant ($17^{9/32}$ m. c.) and many others of equal merit, such as the celebrated «rose-diamond» ($13^{40/100}$ carats) often mentioned by russian novelists and for which 100.000 gold roubles were cheerfully paid by the ill-fated Paul I. This gem adorns now the tsaritsa's large diadem—the pick of our blue diamonds to be found in her «rivière», all deep-blue stones (7 m. c.); one, an amazingly sky-blue specimen, weighing $19^{20/32}$ m. c.

There is also wonderful violet-coloured brilliants (one in the Elisabethan nosegay, $15^{1/2}$ m. c.), briolets and several flat «portrait» stones, all matchless specimens.—One of the solitaires of the «Bouquet» weighs no less than $40^{1/2}$ carats; it is truly a remarkable stone. The purity and depth of our «portrait-stones» are nowhere excelled (4, 6, 8 m. c., etc.). One, radiant beyond words, has often been compared to the famous «Table» purchased in India (1642) by Tavernier; it weighs over 25 carats and measures: $4 \times 2^{3/4}$ centimetres.

But here ends my description which, of course, can but fail to convey an adequate impression of this assemblage of the noblest indian and brazilian diamonds in the world.

Moving around the tables, at different angles one perceives sudden changes in the general colour-scheme: rapierlike shafts of every conceivable lights, pink and blue here, rosy and white there... anon the mass's alive with new fires.. endless feast for the eyes!

In the «Treasure», second rank belongs to the Emerald, «fragrant Symbol of Love, Life and Spring» as our saying goes. To its mysterious glow, people gave the power of healing and securing... one's life-mate!

Beautiful indeed is that radiant heap of Green (3.500 carats) that sparkles upon the black velvet-cloth between the diamonds and the pearls. Under the spell of this magic, one begins to understand the reason why simple-minded humanities worshipped the fascinating «Green Eyes» and the greed which prompted XVI-th century'adventurers to carry off «à la pointe de l'épée» the «sinopled amulettes» from south-american shrines. Brought to Spain and France, the coveted gems soon were purchased at high price by our «grands-princes» who had already paid (not too courteous visits) to Tataran chieftains with a thought of... saving cash-payments.

Amongst our finest emerald-solitaires we perceive at once a fine group of stones, each weighing from 41 to 42 carats, also a giantly pair (174 m. c. each) and huge dark «cabochons» ranging from 23 to 65 and up to $153^{3/4}$ m. c. *. Various sorts of quaint stones are also in this compartment but the eye is quick to single out the flat emerald, so deep and clear, which bears an old persian motto (nett. 40 m. c.).—Among several bluish-green large colombian specimens one notices a few russian-natives brought from the historical Ouralian mines, (the finest, that large and oddly-shaped emerald weighing no less than 250 m. c., often mentioned by our russian authors).

But in a wreath of dainty leaflets surrounded by faultless brilliants, lays in state the great «Sinople Queen» a large emerald, flat and square ($136^{23/100}$ m. c.). Indian-cut, this deep and peerless stone has a very tiny side-crack, the result of an accident.

Who will tell the history of this regal gem? Old archives yield but little information on the subject outside of it having been found in South-America about the middle of the XVI-th century, once property of the Great-Moghul. Was it our giant «Queen» which Tavernier admired («une émeraude grandiose») in the palace of Aureng-Zeb? **.

* Full-size photos of remarkable specimens will be found in following parts.

** T. Hendley: Indian Jewellery (The Indian Arts). 1909. § VII, p. 137.

Dakka's «treasure-room» boasts fine and large «tables» but none, even the «Great-Moghul» (60 m. c.), or the british and austrian emeralds (from 100 to 150 carats) or the Sultan's wonderful «dômes», can compare with «The» emerald of our Collection. As for size: still larger stones are known to mineralogists, for instance the rough emerald belonging to the duke of Devonshire (1.350 m. c.) and the Viense «crystal», 2.205 carats, but these are mineralogical «curios», not gems, so to speak.

Leaving the rich sinople province we slip into the pleasant region of Sapphires where we discover the rare specimens of Cashmeer, Siam, Ceylan and the Hymalayas (over 1.700 m. c.) and also vividly-hued «cabochons», each weighing from 24, 34, 75, 131 up to 159 carats alongside with large sparkling square stones, indian-cut ($50\frac{7}{10}$, 65, 142 and up to 249 carats); their lord, a celebrated old sapphire, cardinal feature of the Imperial Globe (over 200 carats).

However, our «king-sapphire» is a flat-hexagonal cabochon (260 m. c.). Of unparalleled size, clearness and homogeneity, this honey-combed ceylanese specimen was sold in 1862 by a radjah at the London World's Fair to Alexander II who presented it to his spouse, blue being her favourite colour.—Nothing tarnishes the purity of this priceless gem.

If one compares our sapphires with those of any private or State-collection, Russia's preeminence must be admitted. The french (rough) «Rospoli» (Jardin des Plantes Museum) or the duke of Devonshire's sapphire and even the renowned «burmanese» cannot compare to ours, as to quality and as for size, suffice it to say that the three above mentioned specimens only weigh respectively: 132, 100 (a trifle over) and 80 carats*.

Rubies — «les Pierres de la Mort» — never took the fancy of our tsars. Did a superstitious fear prompt them to dislike the «blood-coloured stone»? Chi lo sa? As a fact, rubies were seldom bought for the imperial «écrins», especially under the reign of Nicholas II.

If the «Treasure» contains not over 200 carats of rubies (studding clasps and old emblems) their merit is nowhere excelled; our rare violet-crimson specimens ($18\frac{3}{100}$ m. c.) and our large «Burman» ($39\frac{19}{32}$ m. c.) the pick of the lot.

Experts and connoisseurs are aware that rubies of large size and altogether free of «tares» are but seldom found; such specimens as the «Shah» (175 carats) and the egg-shaped «Djekhanguir» (430 carats) so accurately described by Boëlius de Boot**. The thibetan and burmanese «crackled» rubies, weighing up to 2.000 carats (mere mineralogical curios) and the renowned Hindoustan radjahs' stones, but spinels (rare) or fine tourmalines.

The Spinel, we call «lal» (french «balais»), deserves here a special mention.—The «Treasure», besides 700 c. of minor specimens, boasts four solitaires ($16\frac{55}{100}$, 22, 56 and 100 m. c.) of regal quality.

Most of our spinels were brought from Ceylan; a few from Afghanistan and Bodakhshan («bodakhshan lals» of our Chronicles).

The most remarkable spinel in our Collection is the giant (rough) stone called «The Ruby» which adorns the imperial crown underneath the Cross***. This deep-red indian stone ($414\frac{60}{100}$ m. c.,

* The best sapphires of the «Treasure» were purchased in 1913 from Elisabeth-Mavrikiévna.

** The finest ruby of the «Joyaux de la Couronne de France» weighted $25\frac{11}{16}$ carats.—The largest ruby sold in 1862, at the London Fair did not exceed 38 engl. carats.

*** Several photos of «The Ruby» will be found in the following parts of this Edition.—

in its original bulk) is wonderfully clear but partly polished. The expert Ball speaks highly of two engraved «balays» (135 and 197 carats), it is the pair that was sold in London in 1862 (81 and 72 carats), mere dwarfs compared to «The Ruby»; even the french «Grand-Rubis» of Valois'fame cannot compare with it*.

According to Valouïev's Guide (§ 1, p. 36—1807) this «enormous gem» once sparkled on the Crown of Catherine I. «The archives I perused—he writes—describe a «lal» of uncommon size, depth and beauty, cardinal ornament of the Crown of the Tsaritsa Catherine and kept in the Private Cabinet of H. I. M. by Order of the Empress Anna-Ivanovna».—Bought in China (1676) for «an enormous price», it was brought to Russia by the ambassador Nicolas de Spafariy, and registered as «personal belonging of the tsar Alexis-Michailovitch».

Bordering this section we find some beautiful tourmalines; they are few but all famous specimens: one a burmanese grape-shaped rarity (250 carats) the gift of Gustav-of-Sweden to «la Semiramis du Nord», Catherine II (1777).

The pearls of the Treasure,—thousands of carats,—pride of our tsaritsas, «little sea-souls» they called them—should be described by ... poets—«Things of beauty», «une fête pour les yeux» as a rue-de-la-Paix'expert once exclaimed.—In daylight, snow and fragrant lilies unite in that perfect «gamme» of soft whites, catching in their «orient» and flinging back radiances, in a maze of the most delicate hues.

Some are set in regular «chapelets», others are bouton-shaped ($52^{10/100}$ m. c.) round, oval, long or oblong (up to 38 carats each), rose-tinted «pendants» (one 77 carats) and... how many others! Noble rows (20 to 30 side by side) of well matched units, evenly shaped, and of the loveliest «orient»... «Une féerie des mille et une nuits!» once wrote from Tsarskoë-Selo the enthusiastic duke of Morny.

Princesses amongst queens, sparkle in a medley of bright colours many other fine stones: pink brazilian topazs, deep-green Ceylan—alexandrites (red at night)—«morning's green, evening's red» said Leskov—aquamarines, south-american dark-blue beryls, golden-stones (found in 1786 in the Baikal district), olive-green chrysolites (Elisabethan stones) one of exquisite colour and uncommon size: $7 \times 4,7$ centimetres**, turquoises (adorning pieces wrought in 1885), chrysoprases, smoky-topazs, Uralian amethysts, british agates, mother-of-pearl, gigantic North-Russian pegmatites, malachites, serdolics, labradorites and a variety of purple, wine-red, pinks, royal blues, saffrons, opalescent specimens, all beautiful quaint stones.

I leave the enchanted room of Gems hoping my task may prove useful to students of the jeweller's craft and promote the interest of an Art which so harmoniously combines Nature's gifts with Man's genius.

Dr. A. E. Fersman.
Member of the Academy of Sciences.

* G. Pabst: «Histoire des Joyaux de la Couronne de France» — Paris, 1889.

** These chrysolites are picked-specimens found by Crusaders in the mysterious island of Zeberget (Red Sea).

DESCRIPTION
OF THE RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

DESCRIPTION OF THE RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS AND PRECIOUS STONES

Abbreviations: **m. c.** = metrical carat (200 milligrammes); **a. c.** and **anc. car.** = ancient carat (or 205—207 milligr.); **Inv.** = inventory; **cent.** = centimeter; **cent.²** = sq. centimeter; **appr.** = approximately; **br.** = brilliant; **d.** = diamond; **phot.** = phototypy.

N. B. The weights of the stones have been verified by our experts and compared with 1898 labels, attached to specimens. A few of the largest stones have been taken out of settings and weighted anew.—In each case, the letter «W» has been added in the new records.

Plate 1, phot. 1.

View of a section of the Jewels of the «Treasure» exhibited in the Offices of the Moscow «National-Metal-Fund» where expertises took place.

№ 1.

Pl. II, phot. 2 (full size)—front-view. Pl. III, phot. 3 (full size)—back-view. Pl. IV, phot. 4 (full size)—view from above (the great Spinel and Cross detached). Pl. V, phot. 5 (full size)—side-view. Pl. VI, phot. 6 (full size)—other side-view.

GREAT IMPERIAL CROWN.

Grand historic piece, the work of Posier (1762) Catherine II celebrated jeweller*. The whole surface of the solid silver (red velvet-lined) frame is covered with large and beautiful indian diamonds. Correct weight of the stones (not recorded in the 1898 Inv.) has been ascertained by our experts in 1922.

Dimensions of the Crown: height (including Cross) — 27½ cent.; cross detached — 18¾ cent. — Circumferences — 82 cent. (top), 66 cent. (base). Width — 26 cent.² (top), 18 × 21½ cent. (base)**.

Large solitaires in the middle garland:—

(Face: from base to top).

High octahedral bench-shaped stone (a trifle tinged) — 55²³/₃₂;*** br., very white but irregularly shaped — 41³/₁₆; br. quadrangular — 18³/₈; br. «pendant»

* Historic items concerning the Crown, collated by S. N. Troitzky, will be published in Part II.

** Technical description of the stones is given by 1898 labels (Inv. № 1). Weights (in ancient carats) and additional items have been added by experts in 1922. The imperial trustees had labelled 4963 stones (2858 carats in all).

*** This splendid gem was presented in 1754 to the tsaritsa Elisabeth by «Her town-people, as a token of gratitude for Her Motherly Solitude» when taxes on retail-shops and booths had been «abolished by Her order». This stone was supposed to weigh 56 carats; in fact it weighs only 55²³/₃₂. It has been called abroad «The Russian Table» (D. V. Iuferov).

rose-coloured — 21¹/₈; br. oblong — 17³/₁₆; br. oval (boat-shaped) bluish-white — 17¹/₁₆; br. long «pendant» (defect) — 14²³/₃₂; br. oblong-oval, yellow-tinted — 12¹/₄; br. (awry-quadrangular) pure-white — 16¹/₂; br. thick square — quadrangular, rosy — 12¹/₄.

Other brilliants:—

1 square br. — 12¹³/₁₆; 1 br. thick, long square — 12; 2 br. pendant-shaped — 22¹/₂ and 10⁷/₈; 1 br. square (blakish) — 9³/₃₂; 1 br. broad, pear-shaped — 10⁷/₁₆; 1 br. irregular — 9¹¹/₁₆; 1 br. round (dusky) — 4²³/₃₂; 3 br. pear-shaped — 11⁷/₁₆; 1 br. (oval) — 3¹³/₃₂; 2 other pear-shaped — 6; 1 br. — 4¹³/₁₆. Sundry br.: one — 2¹/₁₆; four — 6¹³/₃₂; three — 4; forty-nine — 95³/₁₆ car. (in all), and fifty — 104¹/₈ (in all); two pairs — 5²³/₃₂; 316 br. (in all) — 147¹/₄ c. and 940 br. — 109³/₃₂ (in all).

The six palms:—

1 br. pear-shaped, (indian-cut) — 7¹/₄; 1 br. — 5³/₈; 1 br. pear-shaped — 5¹³/₃₂; 1 br. oblong — 4⁵/₁₆; 1 br. oval — 3¹/₂; 1 br. round — 2¹¹/₃₂; 1 br. pear-shaped — 2³/₈; 1 br. round — 2¹¹/₃₂.—Other br.: 18 br. (in all) — 31¹/₃₂; 121 br. (in all) — 108¹¹/₁₆ + 756 br. (in all) — 236¹/₁₆ and 1056 br. (in all) — 152²⁷/₃₂ car.

The four Emblems:—

214 br. weighing (in all) — 286¹¹/₁₆; 112 br. — 113¹¹/₃₂; 440 br. — 331¹/₄; 108 br. — 65⁷/₁₆ and 140 smaller stones, weighing (in all) — 27²³/₃₂.

The Crown's lower-circle:—

1 br. Indian, pear-shaped — 12⁵/₈; 2 br. — 10⁵/₁₆; 6 br. — 40⁷/₁₆; 10 br. — 53⁷/₈; 9 br. — 35¹¹/₁₆; 48 br. (in all) — 124¹/₈. One hundred-and-two other diamonds weighing (in all) — 170¹/₂; 131 dito — 55 and 305 dito — 38¹/₁₆.

All these br. (even the smallest ones) of fine quality (few, rosy).

The Cross,

The Medallion under the Cross.

Brilliant of various colours— $38\frac{1}{4}$ c. Over 15 car. of minor stones and 75 pearls—763 car. (some of them slightly stained).

A fine irregular spinel-ruby—389 a. c. (experts have placed on the records the correct weight of this stone to which a small hook and two brilliants, closing an odd opening, are attached, i. e.: $414\frac{39}{100}$ m. c.; hook and the two brilliants, weighing about 10 to 12 m. c.). The ruby* itself weighs about 402 carats (already recorded in previous Inventories). Valouiev in his «Armoury-Hall General Guide» (1807) makes a special mention of this gem: «I discovered in the Armoury's Archives—he writes—a MS which proves that the Crown of Catherine I was adorned with a ruby of imposing size and great beauty. This gem was registered by order of the Tsaritsa Anna-Ivanovna as «Property of H. I. M.' Private Cabinet». Bought in Pekin, for a «load of gold ingots», the Tsar Alexis-Mikhailovitch received it «from the hands of his Ambassador Nicolas de Spafaryi in the year 1676»**.

№ 2.

Plate VII, phot. 7 (full size).

IMPERIAL GLOBE.

A large globe of solid red-gold encased in silver ornaments and surmounted by a cross adorned with a huge sapphire. The finely wrought «appliques», in the shape of interwoven twigs, are supposed to be portions of some other State-jewel (they do not evenly fit the surface of the globe).

From its general character, this piece ought to be dated 1784 (or thereabouts); although the characteristic «appliques» being Elisabethan. Somehow spoilt by the too red colour of the highly polished metal, the general impression is nevertheless strong and powerful.

Measures: Height (with the cross)—24 cent.

Circumference (with the ornaments)—48 cent.

The sapphire of the Globe measures: $3,7 \times 2,4 \times 2$ cent., the diamond: $2,4 \times 1,8 \times 1,2$ cent.

The former, a splendid ceylanese specimen weighs net 200 . c. (old Inv.). Egg-shaped, it shows a large groove, skilfully carved indian-fashion. Experts say it should have been a still finer stone had it not been cut in the wrong direction. An unpleasant feature is the light-greenish tint which one can observe whenever the light strikes the stone slantingly. However beauty and importance triumph here over minor imperfections.

The large diamond (exact weight— $46\frac{92}{100}$ car.; formerly said to weigh only $45\frac{1}{4}$ a. c.) is a remarkable indian specimen (Golconda?) with an almost flat octahedral basis skilfully cut, eastern-fashion. This deepblue stone is very pure but has a small «crack»

* «Remarkable objects-of-virtue belonging to russian connoisseurs.»—E. Karpovitch St. Petersburg, 1874.

** According to another source, this stone had been «the gift to Catherine I by the wealthy Menchikov who had bought, some time before, from the family Gagarine «a dazzling ruby as big as a thumb».

in which one perceives atoms of oxide-iron. The general outline of this huge diamond has caused it to be called «the Orlov's twin-brother»; this latter however is a trifle greenish. But a feature common to both is a strange inward-angle («angle rentrant») which in the former appears to be the result of three smaller triangular furrows parallelly drawn. The origin of this «angle», in both cases, is the same, i. e.: a fragment shot under the cutter's tool at the junction of the two «fissures». This opinion is corroborated by the presence of a peculiar yellowish groove running parallelly to three smaller grooves.

All the diamonds in the Cross are large indian stones, (a few brazilian, rather pinkish, even yellowish). The stones adorning the ornaments are faultless brazilian specimens.

Weight of the stones—inv. 1898 (anc. car.): 5 d.—20 car.; 4 d.—8; 23 d.—16; 2 d.—7; 3 d.— $1\frac{1}{2}$; 6 d.—14; 6 d.—9; 4 d.—3; 2 d.—3; 3 d.— $5\frac{1}{2}$; 3 d.—2; 1 d.—2; 1 d.—1; 3 d.—4; 3 d.—5; 2 d.— $2\frac{1}{2}$; 1 d.—1; 1 d.— $\frac{3}{4}$; 4 d.— $2\frac{1}{2}$; 2 d.— $2\frac{1}{2}$; 3 d.— $1\frac{1}{2}$; 1 d.—1; 3 d.— $2\frac{1}{2}$.—Smaller br.—100 a. c.

№ 3/3. Inv. 1898.—№ 478. Inv. 1922.

№ 3.

Plate VIII, phot. 8 (reduction). Phot. 9, side-view (upper—part, full size). Phot. 10. The «Orlov» (full size).

IMPERIAL SCEPTRE.

The Sceptre, of massive gold, holds the famous diamond «Orlov». The upper part is composed of eight separate circles, studded with brilliants (15 weighing 14 c.; smaller stones—30 c.—The «Orlov» is topped by a black enamelled detachable eagle (giving place to the Emblem of Poland whenever it was necessary so to do). The «Orlov» is solidly fixed in a sort of silver bowl framed in a wreath of fine diamonds.

Length of the Sceptre (with eagle)—59,5 cent. Circumference of the «baton»—7 cent.

According to old labels, the «Orlov» weighs 185 a. c. The jeweller A. K. Faberger remembers that in 1914 the «Orlov» fell out of its bowl and being then examined by the Trustees, its weight was found superior to 185 acc. (Unfortunately Faberger's records have been destroyed).

This noble stone is cut indian-fashion. Fragment of a very large octahedron, the «Orlov» is white with a slight bluish-green refraction. The direction of its ridges is indicated by an inward-angle which can be detected on all good reproductions. Besides, and at closer inspection the «Orlov» shows: 1° (right-hand side) a tiny shallow cleft. 2° (same side, below) two small slits. 3° (left, back) another tiny cleft. 4° (left, top) a small inward-angle. 5° a very small net of furrows, tinted with a yellow-reddish matter.—(Inv. 1898, № 2/2.—Inv. 1922, № 482*.)

* Particulars relating to the purchase of the «Orlov» (1791) will be given in the following tome. S. N. Troitskiy.—The scientific description of this celebrated gem has been published in the «Academy's Bulletins» and will be forwarded to our readers on application (A. Fersman).

№№ 4—5.

Plate IX, phot. 11 (full size).

GREAT IMPERIAL CHAIN
OF ST. ANDREW.

Historical Chain of the imperial Order of St. Andrew; the Star (№ 363) and parts of the same (№ 364).—Date—1795.

A. Chain.

The chain is composed of 20 detachable pieces, all different in aspect and design; in fact, each piece forms an independent jewel, not corresponding in size with its fellow (although well matched).

Measures: length—148 cent. Eagles—from 7×5 to 9×7,5 cent. Cross—from 6,5×6 to 8,25×7,75 cent. Emblems—from 7,75×7 to 8,25×7,25 cent.

Diamonds: beautiful old stones, «à jour» settings.

Weight of the stones (anc. car. as per old inv.):—176 br.—33¹⁵/₃₂; 115 br.—74¹/₃₂; 201 br.—34⁴/₃₂; 220 br.—50; 158 br.—110.—Other br.—36, 187 br.—33¹¹/₃₂; 112 br.—75¹/₂; 203 br.—36³/₈; 141 br.—26⁴/₃₂; 123 br.—20⁵/₈; 203 br.—36; 117 br.—79; 185 br.—33¹²/₃₂; 246 br.—40; 124 br.—124³/₃₂; 213 br.—55³⁰/₃₂; 205 br.—35¹/₂; 117 br.—33⁹/₃₂; 185 br.—34⁷/₃₂.

Epoch Paul I (inv. 1898, № 6/5. Inv. 1922, № 483).

B. Cross.

Above the Cross are seen the imperial Emblems enlivened by two sparkling pear-shaped diamonds and 51 brilliants.—A large gem of quiet leaden-blue tinge is set between the Crown and the Eagle, this latter liberally sprinkled with diamonds of various shapes and colours. The enamelled St. Andrew's cross sparkles on deep-blue background framed by small fine «roses».

Measures: Crown—6×4,25 cent. Star—9,5×8 cent.

Weight of the stones (anc. car.): 1 br.—9; 1 br.—8; 1 br.—5; 1 br.—4; 1 br.—3; 3 br.—6; 6 br.—9; 5 br.—5; 6 br.—4¹/₂+350 «roses», smaller stones—33 carats.—All settings rather heavy.

Inv. 1898, № 8/7.—Inv. 1922, № 483.

C. Star.

Splendid specimen of the jeweller's art.—«A jour» and covered with fine diamonds, it holds (in the centre) a black eagle on a cross azure. The Emblem is painted on enamelled ground surrounded with beautiful old stones. A circle of 18 large fine diamonds (somewhat flat) frames the whole composition.

The star measures: 14¹/₄ cent.²

Diamonds. Stainless old stones: 18 br.—58 a. c.; 325 br.—106 a. c.; 1 small br.—2 c. and 350 «roses» (weights obtained from inv. 1898, anc. car.).

Setting: Silver, «à jour».—Exquisite workmanship;—Reign of Paul I (1795—1800).—№ 363.

D. Detachable part.

(Same chain).

Bears the personal Emblem of Paul I (description above)—8×9 cent.

Diamonds: (inv. 1898; anc. car.) 3 br.—4¹/₄; 1 br.—2; 2 br.—2; 4 br.—3; 27 br.—10.—Other br.—(in all) 10 c. and 400 «roses».

Setting: silver, «à jour».—Reign of Paul I. Inv. 1898, № 13/12*.—Inv. 1922, № 364.

№ 6.

Plate X, phot. 12.

SMALL CHAIN OF ST. ANDREW.

Made of 23 parts covered with diamonds (in all over 180 m. c. and 5.000 «roses»).—Artistic workmanship of the first half of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: eagle=5×4,4 cent.—cross=3,4 cent.²—monogram=4,5×4,2 cent.

Setting: gold-lined silver, «à jour».

Inv. 1898, № 229.

№ 7.

Plate XI, phot. 13 and 14 (full size).

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS, STAR AND
OTHER EMBLEMS.

Seven ornaments of historic interest (mentioned in Archives). Below we give the records attached to the labels; they rather differ from 1898 labels.

№ 6. St. Andrew's Cross: «Presented by H. I. M. Tsar Alexander I, on the Christening day (blank), the 5-th of May 1818»—(to whom presented?)

The diamonds of the Cross are fine brazilian stones: 2 «pendants»—2¹/₄ a. c.; 2 br.—2¹/₄ a. c.; 3 br.—2 a. c.—Other br. and small «roses»—22 a. c.

Settings: silver, lined with red gold, «à jour». Genuine work-of-art.—Epoch Alexander I.

№ 7. Star of St. Alexander-Nevsky: «Conferred by H. I. M. Alexander I on the 5-th day of May, the Year 1818, to (erased)».

Blue enamel. 20 br.—14 m. c. (appr). Sundry br.—21 m. c.—Roses, ab. 1 c.

Setting «à jour», silver gold-lined.

№ 8. Cross, Order of St. Andrew: 3 br.—4 m. c.; 4 br.—2 c. and about 7 car. of sundry diamonds.

Heavy silver mountings. Date—1750.

The label bears the inscription: «Conferred by H. I. H. the grand-duke Nicolas-Pavlovitch to . . . (erased), on the fifth day of May, the Year 1818».

№ 9. Star, Order of St. Alexander-Nevsky.

Blue enamelled Star on massive silver. Reign of Catherine II.

Diamonds: 23 br.—9 m. c. and 22 m. c. Various br. of minor size.

№ 10. Cross, Order of St. Andrew (phot. 13 and 14). «Conferred by H. I. H. the Grand-Duke Nicolas-Pavlovitch on the . . . day of May 1818. Baptismal cerem . . . (erased) and (blank)».

Silver in engraved gold setting (phot. 14). Workmanship of the first order; very rare specimen.

Diamonds: 1 purplish br. (flat)—5¹/₂; 2 br.—9; 1 br.—5; 1 br.—1¹/₄; 4 br.—8; 1 br.—3; 3 br.—10; other smaller stones—14 c. (approx.). Total weight of the br.: 65 m. c. (approx.).

№ 11. Star, Order of St. Andrew. Diamonds: 18 c. br.—21 m. c.; 37 br.—23 «roses»—17 m. c. (stones of uneven quality, some of them yellow) and 13 small sapphires.

* In the Plates (following parts) will be found reproductions of the Chain (full size).

Silver setting, «à jour» gold-lined.—Date: 1805—1815 (Alexander I).

№ 25. Order of St. Anne, Badge. Silver setting gold-lined. Remarkable specimen; early period Catherine II (1760 ?).

Diamonds: 1—3 m. c. and 4 «pendants» of (approx.) 1½.—Other br. (in all)—5 a. c. and four rubies.

Inv. 1922, №№ 517, 518.

№ 8.

Plate XI, phot. 15 (full size).

STAR, ORDER OF ST. ANDREW.

This capital jewel (used for State-robos) can be called a «chef d'oeuvre». Each of the rays is studded with oriental pearls, sprinkled with small white indian-cut diamonds. On the outside run three circles of brilliants, elegantly framed by 107 pearls. Fine diamonds and three magnificent pearls adorn the crown. The motto «Faith and Loyalty» is on blue enamelled ground. Epoch Catherine II.

Dimensions: 11 cent.².

Pearls: 40 oriental pearls (inv. 1898) in all 25 car. and 140 smaller ones.

Diamonds: 29 br.—6 c.; 240 small br.—14 c. (all the stones are set on «or-paillon»).

Massive settings. Eight solid hooks fix the Star on the tunic.

Inv. 1898, № 12/9. Inv. 1922, № 427.

№ 9.

Plate XII, phot. 16 (full size).

IMPERIAL DIADEM, PEARLS AND DIAMONDS.

Regal assemblage of pearls and old diamonds. This diadem is, past question, one of the finest specimens of its kind.

Circumferences (base)—52 cent.; (top)—58¼ cent.; central width—12,7 cent.; width (back)—4,7 cent.

Pearls: ancient gems partly bored (some slightly damaged).—Weight (as per 1898 inv.): 13 pearls—35¼ anc. car.; 42; 29; 26; 25; 24; 23; 22¼; 22; 19; 17 and 14 (in this lot: one round pearl and one «pendant»). Other pearls—3 of 39 (anc. car.); 2—22; 2—20; 1—9¼; 1—8¼; 2—16; 6—47; 3—17; 9—47 and 71 round pearls. Total weight—160 anc. car.

Diamonds: fine brazilian specimens. Weight (old inv.) 1 br.—10¼ (specked); 2 br.—2¼; 4 br.—5¼; 49 br.—49; 52 br.—43; 60 br.—38; 172 br.—54. Sundry br.—84 and 500 «roses».

Silver setting gold-lined, «à jour».

This diadem has been purchased during the early decades of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1898, № 215/209. Inv. 1922, № 397.

№ 10.

Plate XIII, phot. 17 (reduction 0,9).

IMPERIAL DIADEM, LARGE PEARLS «EN PENDELOQUES».

Somptuous «parure» composed of 25 big pearls, gently hanging from a solid diamond frame, like large leaves from a branch. Although the pearls are heavy, the general composition of this piece is light and supple.

This specimen is typical of the perfection of russian workmanship in the beginning of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: length (top)—50 cent.; (below)—44 cent. Width (middle)—5,4 cent.; (sides)—2,8 cent.

The pearls are faultless and of uncommon size; their assortment perfect. Weights (inv. 1898) 6 p.—50¼; 6 p.—73¼; 3 p.—33¼; 5 p.—58¼; 1 p.—35¼; 1 p.—8¼; 1 p.—19¼; 1 p.—20¼ and 1 p.—10¼ (anc. car.).

Diamonds: brazilian gems, weighing (anc. car. as p. old inv.); 5 br.—7¼; 2 br.—2¼; 22 br.—17¼; 115 br.—45 and 40 car. of smaller br. + 900 «roses».

Silver setting gold-lined.

Date: (probably) 1815.

Inv. 1898, № 231/224. «From the Private Apartments of H. I. M. Maria-Feodorovna» (old label). Inv. 1922, № 290.

№ 11.

Plate XIV, phot. 18 (full size).

THE TSARITSA'S NECKLACE, LARGE PEARLS.

The pearls of this necklace are renowned not only on account of their unusual size but for their rare perfection and assortment (three or four, however may be considered of lesser merit).

Length of the string—48 cent.

Weight (string ends included)—506¼/100 m. c. In all—26 very large and 25 smaller pearls.

The clasp is studded with 2 br. set in silver, each weighing 1¼ car.

N. B. This precious necklace has never been mentioned in official inventories although the pearls are ancient.

Inv. 1922, № 181.

№ 12.

Plate XIV, phot. 18 (full size).

THE TSARITSA'S BIG ROSE-SHAPED BROOCH (GEMMED PETALS, LARGE PEARL IN THE CENTRE).

Splendid jewel whose cardinal feature is a wonderful pearl surrounded with flashing diamonds.

The brooch measures—5,2 × 4,2 cent.

Pearl: large «Bouton» (1,15 × 1,15 cent.) of regular shape and bright «orient»; it weighs exactly—52¼/100 m. c. (W).

Diamonds: 215 small white brazilians (a few of minor quality). Total weight—22 m. c. (appr.).

Setting: the pearl can be detached from its setting and used as dress-ornament.

(Not mentioned in old inventories).

Inv. 1898, № 176/145. Inv. 1922, № 176.

№ 13.

Plate XV, phot. 19 (full size), centre of the plate.

MANTELE-CLASP WITH A CHERRY-RED TOPAZ.

This ornament, often called «the finest jewel wrought in Russia» is supposed to belong to the reign of Paul I (or early Alexander I' period).

This rare and historic piece is quaintly studded with deep brazilian diamonds and a sparkling topaz. Dimensions—4,8×4,2 cent.

The topaz measures 2,5×1,9 cent.; its bright cherry-red colour and matchless beauty are renowned.

The 1898 inv. labels this gem: «a fine spinel». Weight—45½.

Diamonds: 16 first-class brazilian br. weighing (in all) 27 m. c. (23 a. c. as p. old labels).—Other stones: 4 br.—¼ m. c. and 330 fine «roses».*.

The setting (gold and silver) is artistically wrought.

The text of the labels 212/206 (Inv. 1898) runs as follows: «this spinel belongs to the Treasure in accordance to the Will of the late Empress Maria-Feodorovna» (Spouse of Paul I). Inv. 1922, № 256/a.

№№ 14—20.

Plate XV, phot. 19 (full size).

SEVEN BROOCHES, LARGE SPINELS AND DIAMONDS.

Seven pieces of the same type, adorned with fine spinels (in one of the brooches, a ruby instead of a spinel).

The crimsoned glitter of the gems is here enforced by red-varnished settings after the fashion of the first-half XIX-th century.

The diamonds in these brooches are set in silver sockets framed by gold circles.

Particulars and weights (anc. car.) as per 1898 Inv.*.
b) Dimensions: 4,9×4,1 cent. Stone—3,2×2,4 cent.

1 oval spinel irregularly-shaped—50 a. c. (appr.);
4 diamonds (beautiful solitaires) of 9 a. c.; 8 d.—9 a. c.

c) Dimensions: 4,6×4 cent. Stone—3×2,3 cm. Rhomboidal-shaped spinel—42 a. c. and 12 fine diamonds—20 m. c. (appr.).

d) Dimensions: 4,6×3,9 cent. Stone—2,8×2,4 cent.

Heart-shaped spinel—32 a. c., and 12 fine diamonds—20 m. c. (appr.).

e) Dimensions: 3,7×3,15 cent. Stone—2,2×1,5 cent.

1. Oblong-octangular spinel—23 a. c. and 11 d.—12 m. c. (or 11 a. c., appr.).

f) Dimensions: 3,5×3 cent. Stone—1,9×1,5 cm.;

Quadrangular ruby (said to be a spinel)—13 a. c. and 11 d.—10 m. c. appr. (or 9½ a. c.).

g) Dimensions: 3,4×2,9 cent. Stone—1,95×1,5 cent.;

Octangular spinel—22 a. c. and 11 diamonds—10 m. c. appr. or 9½ a. c.

h) Dimensions: 3,6×3,2 cent. Stone—2,1×1,5 cm.;

Awry-oval spinel weighing (appr.)—17 a. c. and 10 diamonds—13 m. c. (or 10 a. c.).

Mention of these brooches is made in 1898 Inv. as «Personal Property of H. M. the Tsaritsa

* The weights (indicated here in m. c.) have been ascertained by our experts (1922).

Maria-Feodorovna.—№№ 196, 198, 199, 201, 202, 203 and 204».—Inv. 1922., № 256/B.

All the settings, gold and silver «à jour» were wrought in the first-half XIX-th century (Nicolas I).

№ 21.

Plate XVI, phot. 20 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH TWIG-SHAPED, LARGE ROSE-SHAPED SOLITAIRE.

Precious specimen of art executed between 1820—1830. The general scheme is charming. One of our best indian stone is the solitaire representing a flower, in the centre of the brooch.

Dimensions: 11×8 cent.

Diamonds: a large indian solitaire (supposed to be of Golconda). According to connoisseurs, this flawless gem is a trifle cold.—Nett weight—38⁷⁵/₁₀₀ m. c. (W.).—Measures: 2,15×1,7×1,35 cent.

The petals and leaves are sprinkled with neatly assorted brazilian stones, weighing (in all) 120 m. c. (appr.).

Setting: Silver «à jour». Each leave is fixed upon a separate pin.—French experts declare this «ensemble»: «un peu froid».—Inv. 1922., № 242.

№ 22.

Plate XVI, phot. 21 (full size).

JEWELLED HAT-PINS.

Light and elegant hat-pins. Around each pin six cleverly twisted «banderolles» strewn with diamonds softly sparkling like dew drops.

Dimensions: whole length—20,5 cent. Length of the ornaments—5,7 cent. Width—2,3 cent.

Diamonds: fine old diamonds.—To each pin: 1 br.—2¼ and 2¾ c.; 6 br.—1¼ m. c. each and 24 «roses» in the upper-circle; below—3 bigger br. each weighing 3½ m. c. In the lower circle—20 «roses», 54 br. (weighing, in all) 26+29 m. c. and 500 «roses».

The old Inv. does not mention these two articles.—Inv. 1922., № 249.

№ 23.

Plate XVII, phot. 22 (full size).

DIAMOND EARRINGS.

A pair of earrings of exquisite taste and workmanship; specimens of the jeweller's art during the reign of Catherine II. Leave and fruit-effect is here obtained by means of large stones and brazilian solitaires, gracefully hanging from a broad oval stem. Seldom the use of such heavy materials yields a such a graceful effect; here no objectless incident of adornment.

Dimensions: 8×3,5 cent.

Diamonds: 2 br.—22 a. c.; 2 br.—12 a. c.; 2 br.—7 a. c.; 4 br.—14 a. c. (old Inv.). Other br. smaller and many «roses».

Setting, massive silver lined with gold.

The 1898 labels (№№ 169—171) bear the inscription: «A pair of earrings personal Property of the Empress Maria-Feodorovna».—Inv. 1922., № 254/a.

№ 24.

Plate XVII, phot. 23 (full size).

DIAMOND EARRINGS, PEARLS.

These earrings are but the upper-portions of older ornaments (Catherine II).—Several times done over and in every way altered by clumsy jewellers, these specimens have lost all artistic value.

Dimensions: 3,1×2,2 cent.

The pearls (six in number) australian: 40 m. c. in all.

The diamonds are set in massive silver gold-lined; weight 3 m. c. appr.

Not mentioned in old Inv.—Inv. 1922., № 254/b.

№ 25.

Plate XVII, phot. 24 (full size).

DIAMOND EARRINGS, PEARLS AND «PENDENTIFS».

Fragments of two fine specimens; epoch Catherine II (four of the «pendentifs» lost).

Dimensions: 3,7×3,5 cent.

Pearls: 4 «pendentifs» only.—Total weight of the pearls—13 m. c. (appr.).

Diamonds: 2 br.—2 m. c.; 6 br.—2 m. c. and other minor br.—4 m. c. (appr.).

Silver setting lined with gold.

No mention of this № appears in old Inv.—Inv. 1922., № 254/c.

№ 26.

Plate XVIII, phot. 25 (full size).

THE MANTEL CLASP.

This solid-silver clasp (or «Fermoir») was wrought for the State-Mantel, fixed on the cloth by two heavy pins and ringlets.

This charming composition of interwoven twigs, its lightness and harmony so skillfully obtained by clever selection of gems have prompted S. N. Troinitzky to ascribe it to the french master Posier.

Dimensions: length—25 cent. Width—8,11 cent.

Diamonds: very old stones of various qualities (some yellow-specked brazilian specimens are found in the neighbourhood of flawless indians).

Inv. 1898 gives (in ancient car.) the weight of the stones as follows: 1 br.—6; 1 br.—5½; 8 br.—40; 2 br.—10; 4 br.—20; 1 br.—5; 4 br.—20; 2 br.—9; 1 br.—4½; 3 br.—12; 2 br.—6½; 4 br.—14; 5 br.—15; 11 br.—27½; 13 br.—26; 4 br.—7; 16 br.—24; 7 br.—8½; 14 br.—14 et 17 br.—12½. Other smaller br. weighing (in all)—62 carats + 33 carats of sundry stones.

The stones are set in silver. Date: 1750.

Inv. 1898, № 57/32. Inv. 1922, № 502.

№ 27.

Plate XIX, phot. 26 (full size).

THE «BOUQUET» («NOSEGAY»).

This «bouquet» has been called by a french connoisseur: «le plus merveilleux bijou du dix-huitième

siècle» and indeed one may truly say it has but few rivals in our Collection or elsewhere.

The perfect incidents of white and green, the originality of design so light and graceful are combined here with exquisite workmanship. Thin gold stems and leaves, liberally sprinkled with emeralds, set off shapely gemmed flowers; the whole forming a fragrant many-hued nosegay.

Each part, attached on plume-like supports, the bouquet swings haphazardly throwing forth countless fires at the slightest touch. This «nosegay» was worn as a bodice-ornament or fixed on a wide evening-scarf.

Although some details of the general scheme reminds one of the Elisabethan style (1760) this work is nevertheless characteristic of Duval's manière (S. N. Troinitzky's opinion).

Dimensions: 16×21 cent.

Emeralds: Colombian gems of all sizes and of the best quality (many are cut like diamonds).

Setting: massive gold. Weight (as per 1898 inv.) 50 carats (appr.).

Diamonds: fine brazilian stones very thick, set in coloured massive gold.—Uncommon effect is obtained here by the use of flat pear-shaped stones, violet-hued. One of them, set «à jour», is of exceptional beauty (although slightly flawed); perfections of Golconda's gems are here revealed. This remarkable specimen weighs 15½ car. Next to it, a fine steel-hued high diamond weighing 10 a. c. (1,4 cent.²) and an indian irregular stone (slightly coloured) weighing 4½ a. c.

Other diamonds: several irregularly-shaped, of various shades, surrounded by «roses» and six yellow brilliants weighing (in all): 15 a. c. The old Inv. gives the weight of the other stones as follows: 1 br.—2; 1 br. (yellow)—1¼; 2 br.—3; 2 br.—2; 19 br.—14; 10 br.—5 (twinstones)—17 carats and 50 anc. car. of small size br.

Inv. 1898, № 88/84.—Inv. 1922, № 417.

№ 28.

Plate XX, phot. 27 (full size).

DIAMOND RIVIERE.

This splendid «parure» is composed of 45 remarkable indian stones (in all—294 anc. car.) of exceptional brilliance and depth. The solitaire labelled «1» is the finest of them all, pale-blue, very deep.

Stones are labelled from № 1 to № 45:—

Weight (anc. car.): № 1—19²⁰/₃₂; № 2—18²⁰/₃₂; № 3—17²⁰/₃₂; № 4—10²⁰/₃₂; № 5—12²⁰/₃₂; № 6—12²⁰/₃₂; № 7—8²⁰/₃₂; № 8—9²⁰/₃₂; № 9—8²⁰/₃₂; № 10—7²⁰/₃₂; № 11—8²⁰/₃₂; № 12—9²⁰/₃₂; № 13—7²⁰/₃₂; № 14—7; № 15—6¹⁷/₃₂; № 16—6²⁰/₃₂; № 17—6¹⁴/₃₂; № 18—7; № 19—6¹⁴/₃₂; № 20—5¹⁹/₃₂; № 21—5¹⁴/₃₂; № 22—6²¹/₃₂; № 23—5²⁰/₃₂; № 24—4¹³/₃₂; № 25—4²⁰/₃₂; № 26—6¹⁴/₃₂; № 27—4²⁰/₃₂; № 28—4²¹/₃₂; № 29—4¹⁴/₃₂; № 30—4²⁰/₃₂; № 31—4²⁰/₃₂; № 32—4²²/₃₂; № 33—3²⁷/₃₂; № 34—4²⁰/₃₂; № 35—4²⁰/₃₂; № 36—4; № 37—3²²/₃₂; № 38—2²²/₃₂; № 39—3²⁰/₃₂; № 40—2¹²/₃₂; № 41—2²⁰/₃₂; № 42—2²²/₃₂; № 43—2¹⁸/₃₂; № 44—2¹⁴/₃₂; № 45—2²⁰/₃₂.

The br. are set in silver bezels attached on gold circles.

(No mention is made of this «riviere» in the old Inv.). Inv. 1922, № 305.

№ 29.

Plate XX, phot. 28 (full size).

NECKLACE, DIAMOND-SOLITAIRES.

A rope composed of 23 large indian solitaires; some, splendid Golconda specimens, others yellowish and even black-specked; nevertheless a very elegant piece of jewellery.

Length of the rope—39 cent.

Total weight of the stones—165½ m. c.

The diamonds are set in silver bezels attached on gold circles.—Early Inv. does not mention this necklace. Inv. 1922, № 179.

№№ 30—32.

Plate XX, phot. 29 (full size).

THREE SOLITAIRE EARRINGS AND BROOCH.

Three ancient solitaires, bought in India.

№ 1 is remarkable on account of its rosy tint, depth and perfect clearness. This choiced stone measures 1,8 × 1,4 cent. and weighs 20^{5/100} (W) m. c. (Earring).

№ 2: also indian, but of minor quality; it has a rather unpleasant cold bluish-grey tinge.

Dimensions: 1,82 × 1,57 cent. Weight 20^{15/100} m. c. (Brooch).

№ 3: speckled specimen measuring 1,8 × 1,45 cent. Weight: 19^{55/100} m. c.

These stones are set in silver «à jour» with gold circles.

(Not mentioned in old Inv.)—Inv. 1922, № 180.

№ 30.

Plate XXI, phot. 30 (full size).

DIAMOND «FRINGE».

Magnificent necklace which the french call «Collier russe» or «frange de pierreries». Simplicity and taste are the cardinal features of this beautiful piece. Sewed on velvet material, the brilliance of indian and brazilian diamonds is most effective.

No clue has been obtained as to the date of this necklace (probably early XIX-th century; Paul I perhaps).

Length (upper, inside rim)—40 cent. Central width—6,1 cent. Side-width—2,1 cent.

The Diamonds are pendant-shaped, old indian and brazilian specimens; the former placed at the nether-ends of the fringe.

Weights—1 indian «pendeloque»—5½ m. c.; 2 ditto—7 m. c.; 2 ditto—4 m. c.; 5 ditto—5½ m. c.; 3 ditto—1½ m. c. and 30 smaller ones—7½ car. in all 43 «pendants».—Large stones in all—65 m. c.; minor stones—80 m. c.

Settings: gold, lined with silver, «à jour». (Labels from № 1 to № 59 attached to the rays). Three threads join the stones and the set of ringlets fixes the fringe to the cloth.

No mention of this piece in our old Inv. (which is rather unaccountable).

1922 Inv.: № 260.

№ 34.

Plate XXII, phot. 31 (full size).

THREE STRINGS OF PEARLS WITH DIAMOND CLASP.

This artistic necklace (first half of the XIX-th century) is composed of 182 beautifully assorted pearls, its simplicity is very pleasing to connoisseurs.

The three rows measure—46,53 and 63 cent.

Pearls (as per anc. Inv.): 1-st row—54 pearls, weighing 199^{7/4} a. c.; 2-d row—60 pearls, weighing 270 a. c.; 3-d row—68 pearls, weighing 354^{3/4} a. c.

The well-known lapidary Koëchli described this piece: «a beautiful and rare assemblage of old australian pearls».

Diamonds. Fine brazilian specimens weighing respectively: 1 br. (pear-shaped)—6 a. c.; 1 ditto—5½; 1 br.—1^{25/32}; 1 br.—1¾; 6 br.—6^{7/32}; 3 br.—2¼; 7 br.—2½. Small br.: about 3 anc. car. and 36 «roses».

Settings: silver bezels in solid gold sockets.

The labels №№ 168—170 and 256—257, dated 1898, bear the inscription: «Cabinet Property of the Tsaritsa Maria-Feodorovna».

Inv. 1922., № 37.

№ 35.

Plate XXIII, phot. 32 (full size).

DIAMOND NECKLACE, CEYLAN SAPPHIRES.

This rich and important specimen (end XIX-th century) lacks taste and harmony.

Dimensions: length (inner line)—44 cent.; height (middle)—14 cent.

Sapphires: sixteen Ceylan specimens of uneven size, shape and quality: 14 of the set weigh (in all)—150 m. c. The large sapphire in the centre is an irregular and not very dark «cabochon», cornflower-hued; weighing exactly 159^{25/100} m. c. (W).

The sapphire № 16 is a beautiful deep-water gem, weighing 15^{50/100} m. c. (W).

The diamonds are brazilians, few of the very best quality: 1 br. (oval)—4 m. c.; 4 br.—8,5 m. c.; 15 br.—25 m. c.; 38 br.—40 m. c.; 192 br.—105 m. c.; 164 br.—22 m. c. and 1050 «roses» weighing (in all, appr.): 7 m. c. (The above figures, given by our experts, correspond exactly to 1898 records).

Setting: silver «à jour». All parts are detachable.

Inv. 1898 bears №№ 352—344 and the words: «From Private Casket of H. I. M. Maria-Feodorovna».—Inv. 1922., № 2.

№ 36.

Plates XXIV and XXV, phot. 33 and 34 (reduction 0,65).

JEWELLED FAN, ONCE THE PROPERTY OF CATHERINE II.

Golden fan of exquisite workmanship painted on both sides—S. N. Troinitzky and A. N. Benois, respectively Director and Conservator of the Ermitage

National-Gallery ascertained that this fan had been presented to the empress (1780—1790) with the special object of showing her «avant la lettre» the panorama of Poëlle'palace on the banks of the Neva (between St. Petersburg and Schlüsselburg).

The uppers of the blades are adorned with two antique chalcedonic cameos set in a wreath of fine brilliants.

Inv. 1898 gives the weight of the br. (in anc. car.): 2 br.—3; 2 br.—2¼; 4 br.—1¼. The double-faceted

stones weigh (in all) — 22 carats; also 8 carats of minor br. and 2.000 «roses».

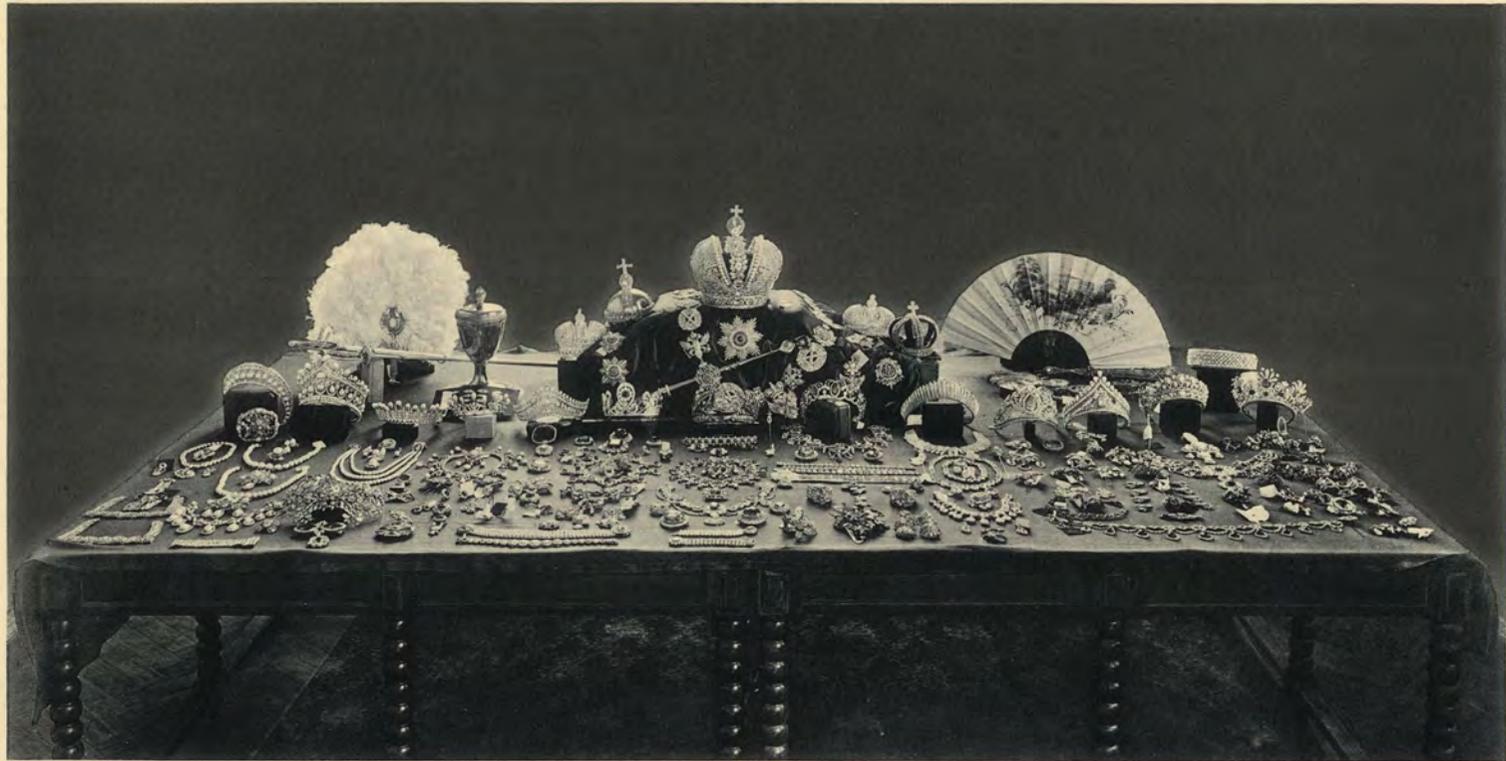
The diamonds are set in silver sockets.

Inv. 1898 №№ 271—266;—«Jewelled fan, private Property of the Empress Maria-Feodorovna».

Inv. 1922., № 272.

This historic fan (inscription in ink: № 85) has been, in accordance with a Decree, (November, 1922) turned over to the new Section of the Ermitage National-Museum.

(Texts translated and compiled by Mr. O-O'M.).



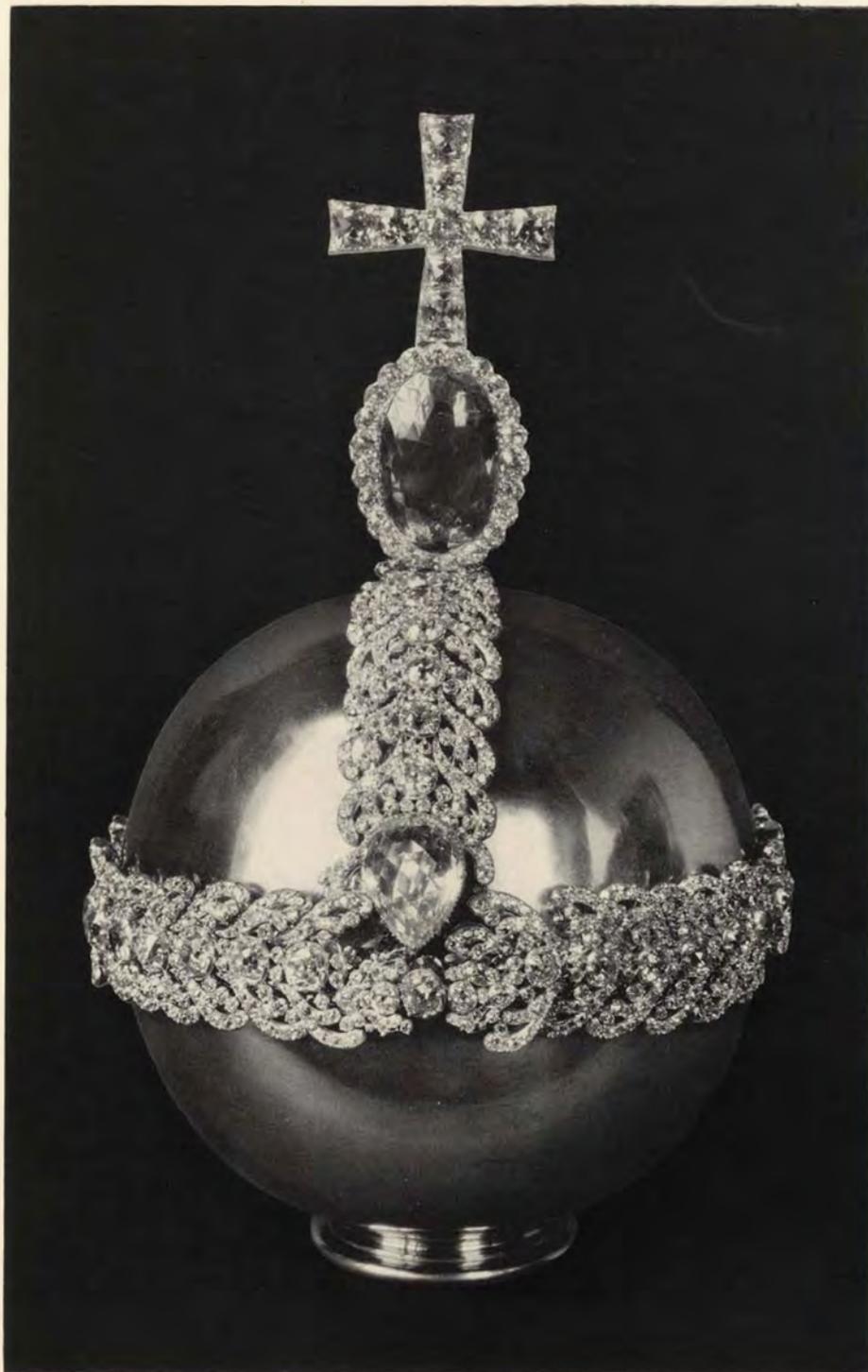


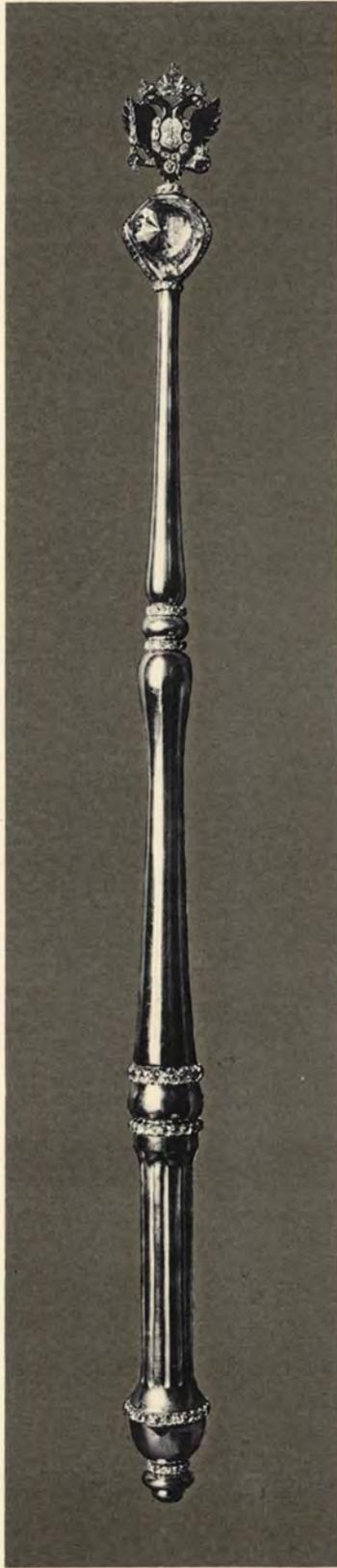










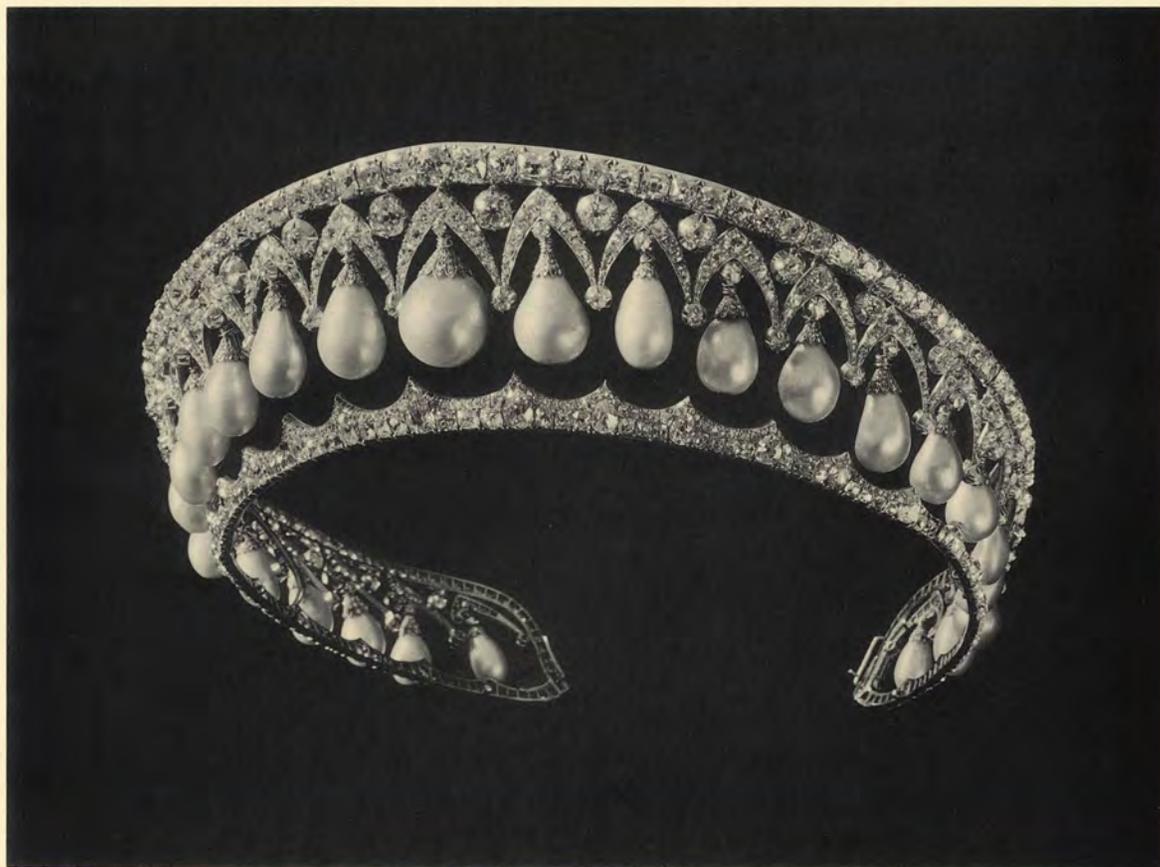




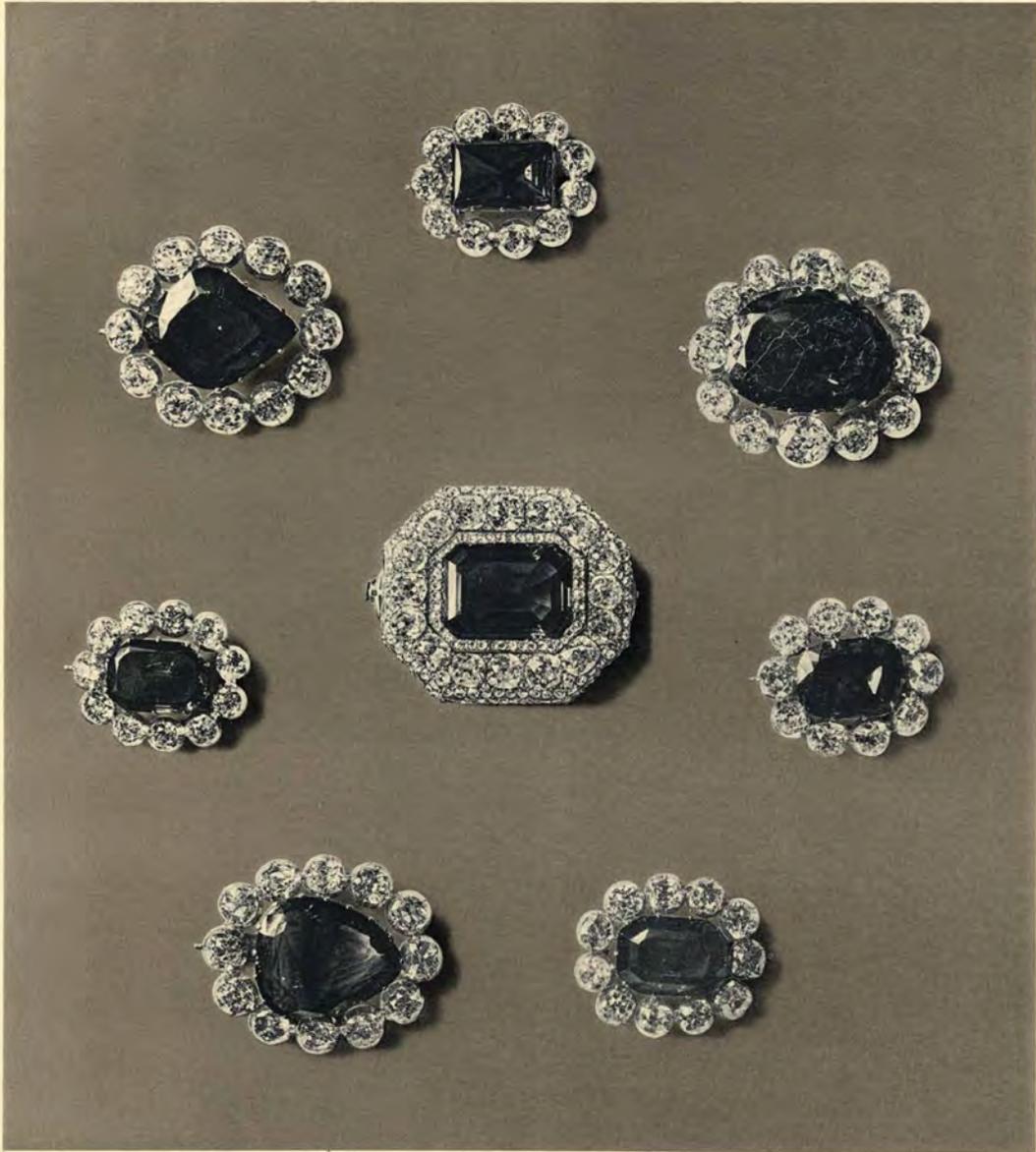


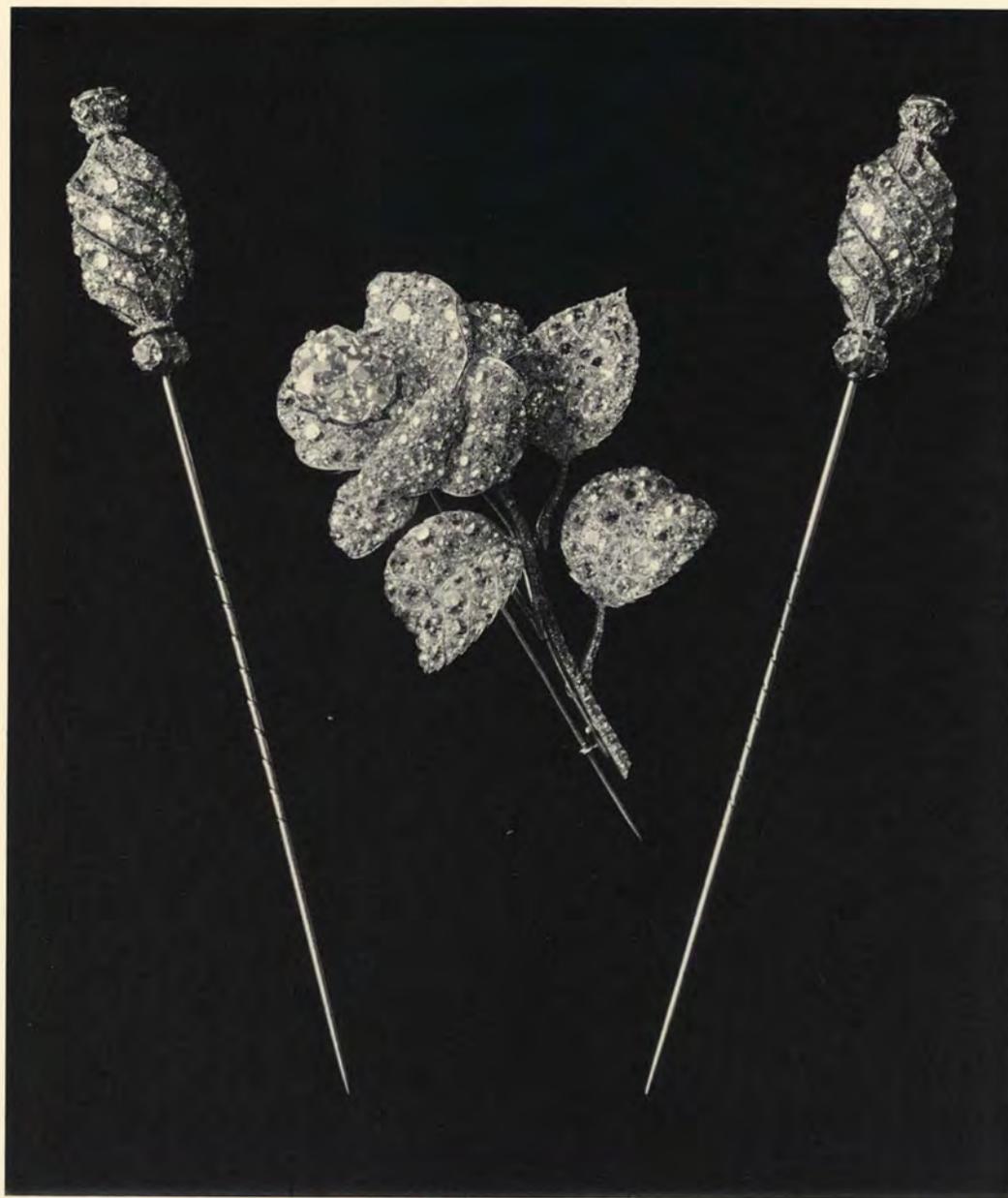












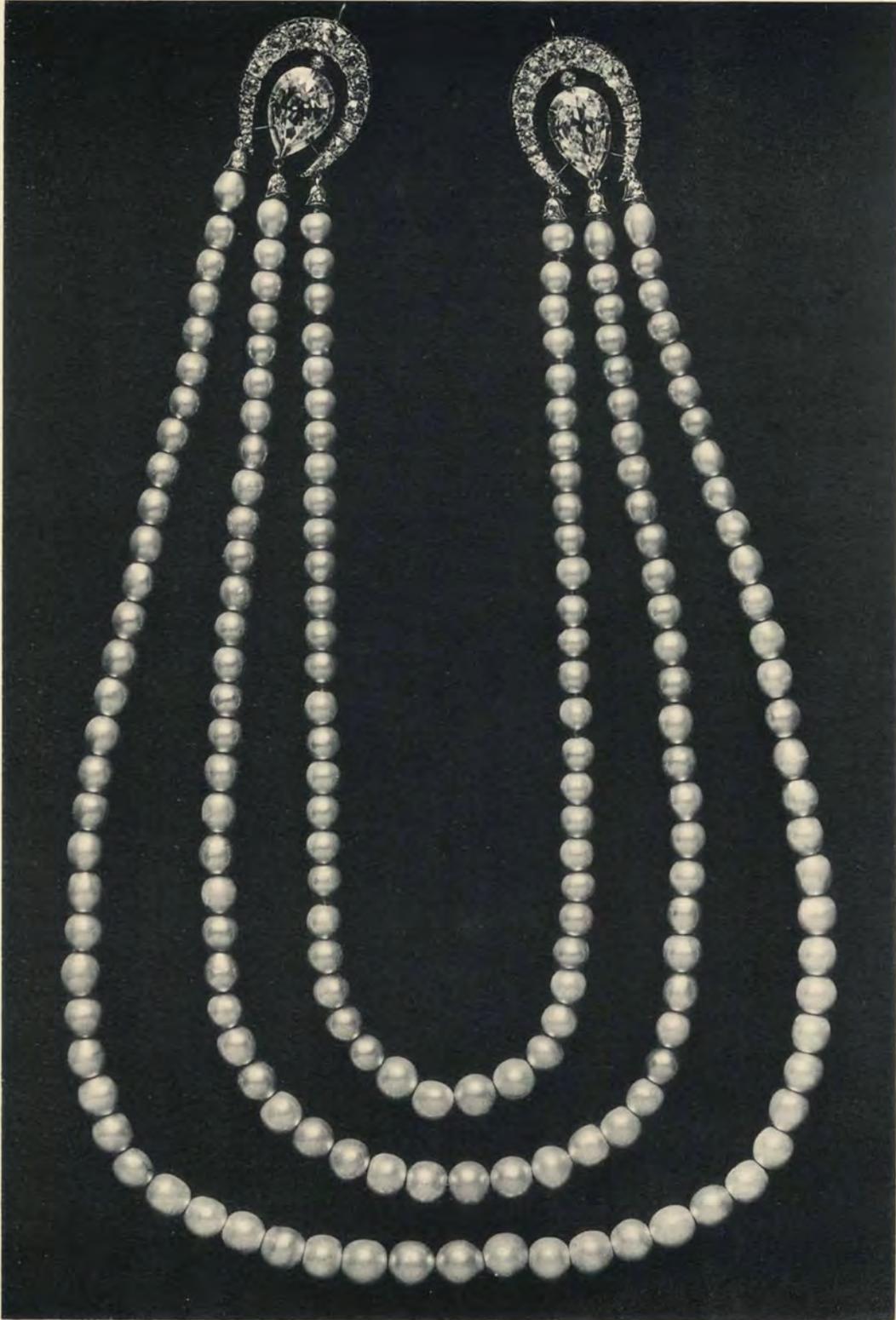




















RUSSIA'S TREASURE
OF
DIAMONDS
AND
PRECIOUS STONES

PART II

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FINANCES
MOSCOW—1925

RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES



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The People's Commissariat of Finance

MOSCOW
1926

Published

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RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

TEXT

CORONATION REGALIA.

The Coronation has always been the favourite way to confirm a Monarch's right. This solemn ceremony, bearing chiefly a mystical character, was considered a definite acknowledgment of the divineness of the Sovereign's power.

The whole rite of the festivity—according to that mystic idea, the principle of Consecration, was mainly encouraged by the Catholic and the Orthodox nations, whilst the Germanic countries, owing to the influence of the Reformation, were more sober-minded, and, often dispensed with the old traditions.

Only two kings of Prussia recurred to the custom of their predecessors: Frederic I in 1771, who, most probably, intended to consolidate his new royal dignity, and William I in 1861. The last monarch was evidently obliged to disguise, by solemnity, his want of popularity. Thus in 1871, after the successful war, which of course sufficiently affirmed his prestige, he no longer adhered to the sacred ceremony, even to confirm his new imperial dignity.

We see in general, that in times when a monarch's power was firmly based upon military force, there was no need of coronation. Acclaimed by his armies, the sovereign was no longer obliged to take recourse to any mystical proceeding.

Generally, the ceremony was admitted in a place agreed on by tradition. Thus, the kings of France (from the XII century up to Louis XVI) received the sacred unction at Rheims. (Charles X too was coronated in this town). German sovereigns were consecrated at Aix-la-Chapelle and later on, in Frankfort on the Maine. As for our tsars—Moscow has always been the sacred place of their coronation.

The chrismation or the unction of a prince was the utmost solemn moment of the whole ceremony. This proceeding is a very ancient custom often mentioned in the Bible. The usual expression «chrismed by God» renders exactly the idea of the whole ceremony: the sovereign receives his power and right not through juridical law, or the people's will, but only by Divine Grace.

Invested by such an eminent power, the Monarch became not only the unlimited possessor of his domains, but also the irresponsible supreme ruler of his subjects. Therefore, the first gesture of the French Revolution was to subdue the king's power by a change of his title: he was no longer «King of France» but only «King of the French». The principle of arbitrariness was discarded, the King becoming only the ruler of his territory. Nearly at the same time, the significant words «by the people's will» were added to the traditional expression «by God's Grace», lifting up the will of the nation to the level of divine blessing.

In Russia, the first coronation of a prince took place in February 1498. The Grand-Duke Ivan III, wishing to set aside his son Basile (whose mother was Sophie Paleolog), blessed with the Grand-Duke's crown his grand son Dmitry, son of Duke Ivan (deceased in 1490)

and of Marie Borissovna Twerskaia. The adherents of Dmitry called him «elected by God» but, notwithstanding this fact, Ivan III did not shrink back to bereave Dmitry of his heritage and to bless with the crown his son Basile.

The next coronation of the tsar Ivan IV took place in 1547. His consecration was followed by those of Feodor Ivanovitsch, Boris Godounov, False-Dmitry, Marina Mnishek, Basil Shouisky, Michael Feodorowitch (first Romanov), Alexei Mihailovitch, Feodor Alexeievitch and, finally, by the simultaneous coronation of two tsars—Ivan and Peter Alexeievitch.

Thus, we see that in Moscovian Russia, the unction of the tsars became a custom only since Ivan IV. Its aim certainly was to raise the prestige of the Moscovian tsar and to consolidate his dignity in sight of the perpetual change, not only of single rulers, but also of whole dynasties. The rite of all the coronations was almost similar, and differed only in some details, the sacred unction always being its chief and supreme proceeding.

Peter the Great, who in 1721 adopted the title of Emperor, did not require a repetition of the solemnities, because the lawfulness and the «divinity» of his power remained imperturbable. Quite contrary was the position of his wife, Catherine I, who had become Empress of Russia, being a simple Esthonian captive. After the execution of the tsars's eldest son Alexei, the question of the succession to the throne grew critical. The right of Catherine and her descendants had to be impressed with lawfulness, overlooking the legal heir, the deceased prince's son. The whole atmosphere of brusque transformations seemed to give an opportunity to celebrate the Coronation of the Empress in St.-Petersburg, the new fashionable capital founded by Peter I. Yet, the ceremony took place, with utmost pomp, in the Uspensky Cathedral of Moscow as heretofore, during a period of 150 years. It was doubtlessly decided to impress this coronation with special dignity, in order to secure the power of the intrigues. If the proceeding would have taken place in the new capital, it would certainly have missed its importance, sacred by old tradition.

The consecration of Catherine I was the first «imperial» coronation and, at the same time, the first one of a woman. The ceremony was solemnized on May 7-th 1724 with yet unseen pomp. The «Regalia» (crown, sceptre, globe and imperial mantle) were specially ordered and executed with the greatest luxury.

The Records of the Senate give us a precise description of the Crown:

«The Imperial Crown was wrought in diamonds and brilliants, a great number of them being of remarkable size. The diadem was set off with oriental pearls all of equal water and extraordinary dimensions. In the whole Crown, there was but one coloured stone, a ruby or spinel of peerless purity and of greater size than a pigeon's egg. It certainly was the most remarkable ruby known up to that time. This stone was placed on the top of the diadem in the middle of the Crown and was surmounted by a cross of brilliants....»

The gilded frame of this crown is deposited in the «Armoury-Hall» in Moscow, but numerous illustrations of it can be seen on different portraits of Catherine I, for instance, on the big portrait by the famous painter Adolsky.

The Sceptre and Globe of Catherine I date from the XVII-th century, and are still exhibited in the Armoury-Hall. As for the mantle, it was made out of a heavy gilded texture, lined with ermine and richly embroidered with two-headed eagles. Yet, the most striking part was the clasp of diamonds for which, according to the notes of the chamberlain Bergholtz, 100.000 roubles were paid, an enormous sum, considering the value of money at this period. This remarkable clasp was executed in St.-Petersburg, by the German jeweller Rockentin, who, being in want of money, simulated the theft of the jewel. Suspected and exposed to trial, he avowed his deceit, and was banished to Siberia, whence he never returned.

Peter II was, most likely, crowned with the Regalia of Catherine I; at any event, the Crown and Sceptre on the portrait of this emperor by Loudden are equivalent to those of

the deceased empress. The Globe represented on this painting is quite plain, of blue colour, with golden rings girdling the globule.

On January 19-th, 1730, Peter II died quite unexpectedly, and, three months after his decease, on April 28-th, the coronation of Anna Ivanovna took place. In this short space of time, a new Crown was ordered, set off with gems extracted from the old one. The Globe and Sceptre remained the same, i. e. those for great occasions at Court.

The clasp on the mantle, judging by portraits was a new one. Besides the large Crown, a smaller one was ordered for festive occasions. The large Crown of Anna Ivanovna is to be seen in the «Armoury-Hall» (Moscow); detailed representations of it, as well as of the Regalia are given in a special «Description», dating from that epoch. Besides, we have engravings done by Wortmann from portraits of Caravac. On the «full-size» portrait, the Crown adorns the head of the empress, on the other one «en buste»—the Crown is painted above the coat-of-arms. There exist, apart from these, several portraits of Anna Ivanovna bearing the so-called «small» Crown.

On Amiconi's big portrait (engraved by Wagner) the Sceptre and Globe are identical with those of the «Description»; on the painting of Caravac they are different. The Globe is of plain gold with a small girdle of stones and a cross; the Sceptre, as well, is decorated with diamonds. On the portrait in the «Gallery of the Romanovs» the Globe is plain gold without any stones; the Sceptre—surmounted by a spherical sapphire and a cross in diamonds on the top.

We are unaware of the jeweller who executed the coronation attributes of Anna Ivanovna, perhaps it was Gottlieb William Dunkel, with whose name we often meet in documents of this epoch, in connection with jewellery orders given by the Court.

The minor tsar Ivan Antonovitch, who reigned but 13 months and who was deprived of the throne at the age of fifteen months—was never crowned.

Elisabeth Petrovna, daughter of Peter I, succeeded the throne on November 25-th, 1741; her coronation was solemnized with unparalleled pomp on April 25-th, 1742.

An official edition, including a detailed description of the ceremony and numerous engravings of the Regalia, have been retained. The large Crown is very like that of Catherine I, and Anna Ivanovna, ornamented with diamonds and, most likely, the same huge spinel surmounts the top of the diadem. The Sceptre is that of the «full-dress», the Globe—plain gold, with a girdle of coloured stones. The small crown, as well, is enriched with diamonds. The Sceptre we see on the portraits of the Empress is a new one, carved in gold, in some places with diamond ornaments, in others—quite plain.

Peter III did not seize the moment for his coronation during his ephemeral reign. Frederic II of Prussia, more than once, advised him to adhere to the solemn ceremony, in order to produce an effect on the people, and to strengthen his position. But the Russian Emperor, entirely occupied with preparations for the war against Denmark, did not agree to hasten the great proceeding which he wished to impress with matchless pomp. On a portrait which we owe to the pencil of Antropov, and which is exhibited in the Senate (St.-Petersburg) Peter III is represented with the Crown, Sceptre and Globe of Elisabeth, the Regalia lying on a cushion.

As for his wife, Catherine II, who dethroned her unworthy consort, she knew perfectly well how to accelerate the indispensable preparations for the traditional ceremony: the coronation took place three months after the «coup d'état». Already four days after the accession to the throne, all the necessary dispositions were given, for Catherine completely realized of what importance the sacred proceeding was, to confirm her dignity. She was but an insignificant German princess who, apart from her modest origin, had set aside her own son, the legal successor to the Russian throne.

A new, exceedingly rich Crown was ordered. It was artistically wrought by the court-jeweller Jérémie Posier, who, in his «memoirs», thus describes this occasion. «A few

days after Her accession to the throne, H. M. bade me appear and informed me that she had entrusted to Her chamberlain, Mr. de Betsky, the examination of the court treasures. H. M. engaged me to join him and to destroy everything that proved not to be in accordance with modern taste. The extracted materials were to be used for a new crown H. M. wished to have for her coronation. H. M. bade me consult with Mr. Betsky about everything. I was very pleased with this order because it relieved me of any responsibility and troubles which I might have had from persons administering the Treasure. I made up my mind to agree in all with Mr. Betsky (who only longed to satisfy his ambition) and I contented myself by helping him in all that concerned my task. I recommended to him a very clever and qualified mounter, a Frenchman called Aurolé, who performed his work splendidly. I chose among the objects everything that was suitable, and, as the Empress wished the Crown to remain unchanged after the Coronation, I picked out the biggest stones, diamonds as well as coloured gems, not suitable for modern mounting, and I thus obtained the richest object that ever existed in Europe. In spite of my greatest care to make the crown as light as possible, by using the strictly indispensable materials to fasten the stones, it yet proved to have a weight of five pounds».....

We are ignorant of the whole sum expended for that Crown (the precious stones belonged to the «Treasure»); yet we know, Posier's note for all his work connected with the execution of the «chef-d'œuvre» amounted to 50.000 roubles, being at any rate, a considerable sum, especially considering the fact that the expenses for the whole ceremony did not surpass that amount. Besides the precious stones, one pound of gold and 20 pounds of silver were expended, the whole account of charges amounting to 86.000 roubles.

The Sceptre, judging by an existing illustration of the Regalia, seems to be that of the XVII-th century. The Globe, of plain gold girdled with diamonds, is very much like the one still existing. As for the Globe, a rather anecdotal misunderstanding occurred in connection with that important part. It evidently was quite forgotten, and only brought to recollection a fortnight before the festivities. The empress ordered to be used for this purpose, the Globe of Elisabeth Petrovna. Yet, Voschinsky, chamberlain in charge of the deceased empress' treasures, testified that, by Highest order, the stones had been broken out, and the gold used for other objects. Therefore, a new Globe was to be made in the greatest haste. Perhaps it was, as well, executed by Posier, though there is little possibility of this: Posier arrived in Moscow, accompanied by six experts, only a week before the coronation, and he certainly would have mentioned such an important and urgent task in his detailed memoirs.

We possess a series of portraits of Catherine II, which so exactly represent the Regalia, that nearly every stone can be recognized on them. Thus, we are enabled to establish, that the big Imperial Crown, executed by Posier in 1762, was transmitted to us nearly without any alterations, and was used by the Romanov dynasty up to the last time. The same can be proved of the Globe, excepting one big diamond, and one sapphire added at the end of the XVIII-th century.

The most documental drawing of the Regalia by Develly, is still to be seen in the Ermitage-Gallery, and was performed in Moscow during the Coronation.

About the same time, a «full-size» portrait was painted by Torelli, which was formerly kept in the Senate, and, after the Revolution removed to the Russian Museum. The large portrait by Eriksen, in the Romanov-Gallery, refers to the same epoch.

On Develly's drawing and on both portraits, the Crown exactly corresponds with the jewel we possess. The Globe differs only by the absence of the sapphire, the Sceptre is the old one we mentioned above. On the painting by Rokotov, which can be seen in the Palace of Gatchina, the Sceptre is a different one—plain gold—the Globe quite corresponding with those on the other portraits; the Crown is the small one, used for court-festivities.

The big Crown and the Globe are represented with great exactness on Roslyn's portrait of 1774 (Romanov-Gallery). We also distinguish on it, the famous clasp in diamonds,

fastening the mantle. This jewel now belongs to the «Treasure of Diamonds». The same painting, as well as another portrait of Catherine, by Lampi, prove a certain alteration of the Sceptre which occurred after 1774.

In this year, prince G. G. Orlov presented to the Empress on her saint's-day, an enormous diamond weighing about 195 carats, known since then as the «Orlov».

The Prussian ambassador of the Russian court, count Solms, wrote a few days later to his government, describing the festivity that took place at Tsarskoie Sielo: «The celebrated huge diamond imported from Persia, then deposited in the Amsterdam Bank, and recently brought to the Russian Court, was exhibited on this day. Prince Orlov acquired this jewel from the Armenian merchant Lasarev, at the price of 400.000 roubles, and presented it to H. M. instead of a «bouquet» on her saint's-day. H. M. deigned to accept this present».

Somewhat legendary information tells us that this beautiful stone, together with another gem of equal value, served as the eyes of an idol at Seringam, whence the diamond was stolen by a French soldier, at the beginning of the XVIII-th century. We are unaware of the stone's following experiences, till we find it in the possession of Shah-Nadir of Persia.

After this prince's death, the gem, evidently once more stolen, passed at last into the hands of Lasarev, a simple merchant from Julfa. There is kept a document of the merchant Guilianchev, addressed to Jacobi, governor of Astrachan, and dated 1768, from which we learn that Guilianchev's father-in-law, the Armenian merchant Safras, from Julfa, possessed «a rare treasure, a diamond of great value». Yet, the prudent Armenian carried his priceless jewel to Amsterdam, where he deposited it in the bank. A few years later, in 1771, Safras in his «last will» applies to his heirs, the court-jeweller Ivan Lasarev and his brother Iachim—«to remove from the bank the East-Indian diamond of 770 Dutch grains». In the year after, Safras, still alive, sold «half» of the stone for the sum of 125.000 roubles to Ivan Lasarev.

The diamond of which Lasarev was now in real possession, was sold to Prince Orlov in 1774, at the price of 400.000, already mentioned above, to be paid in the course of 7 years. Among documents kept up to to-day, there is a petition of Lasarev respecting claims of inheritance, where he reports that 11.800 roubles have already been spent during the last five years for the «troubles of selling the stone». What kind of expenses these were, is now difficult to ascertain. Most probably, a part of them was connected with the execution of a model of the stone sent to the Empress in 1773. A document of the court-office, dated March 6-th 1773, proves the likelihood of this supposition: «.... paid to the banker Frederichs for a diamond, lost afterwards, and received together with the model of Safras' big stone».

In any event, in 1774, the peerless gem entered into the Treasure of the Russian Court, and since then, it decorates the top of the Sceptre. Henceforth, the three chief Regalia remained unchanged.

Still a few words about the huge ruby-spinel, that adorns the imperial Crown. Two big rubis-balais exist now in the possession of the Russian people: one of them enriching the Crown of Anna Ivanovna, kept in the Armoury-Hall in Moscow; the second—the marvellous stone in the Crown of Catherine II, that now belongs to our «Treasure». Historical items prove that a remarkable ruby was acquired in 1676, in Peking, by the Russian ambassador Spafariy, for the very modest sum of 2672 roubles. We know also, that a splendid spinel was presented to Catherine I by Menchikov, who got the jewel from the Siberian governor Gagarine, executed afterwards for bribery. Which of the two red stones is the beautiful spinel adorning the Crown of Catherine II, we possess in the «Treasure of Diamonds»? Most likely, the stone bought in Peking, whilst the gem of the earlier Crown must be the one presented by Menchikov to Catherine I.

S. N. Troinitsky.

DESCRIPTION
OF THE RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

DESCRIPTION OF THE RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS AND PRECIOUS STONES

CONTINUATION

Abbreviations: **m. c.** = metrical carat (200 milligrammes); **a. c.** and **anc. car.** = ancient carat (205—207 milligr.); **cent.** = centimeter; **cent.**² = sq. centimeter; **m. m.** = millimeter; **appr.** = approximately; **br.** = brilliant; **d.** = diamond; **phot.** = phototype; **Inv.** = inventory. N. B. The weight of the stones has been verified by our experts and compared with 1898 lists, attached to specimens. A few of the largest stones have been taken out of settings and weighed anew.—In each case, the letter «W» has been added in the new records.

№ 37.

Plate XXVI, phot. 35 (full size).

IMPERIAL NUPTIAL CROWN.

The crown was wrought with haste of old «trimmings» of the epoch of Catherine II. For this purpose, apparently, one half of the brilliant girdle was made use of.

The designation of this crown, as well as its historical meaning are unknown. Yet, as it is included in a special étui signed by the jewellers Nickols & Plinke, 1840, it can be referred to the second part of the reign of Nicolai I. The brilliant trimmings and several solitaires are sewn on crimson velvet and fastened very superficially with silver threads. The «parure» consists of 80 pieces of which each bears 4 larger diamonds (320 stones—182 a. c.), and about 1200 small ones (weight—80 a. c.). On the top, just under the cross, are 3 solitaires of average size, set in silver and weighing appr. 6 a. c. The cross is set with six diamonds (about 15 a. c.). The enchasement of the cross is more or less new, dating from the middle of the XIX-th century. In general—it is not a very artistical object.

Dimensions: height—15 cent.; circumferences: top—42 cent.; base—34 cent

Inv. 1898—№ 356/348. Inv. 1922—№ 481.

№ 38.

Plate XXVII, phot. 36 (full size).

ORDER OF ST. CATHERINE (WHEEL); DECORATION FOR A TOQUE.

The order is ornamented by a half-circle in brilliants, six large stones and 8 smaller ones. The

big exterior circle is set with 13 diamonds, flat and of a white shade, all of inferior quality and with numerous «roses». The interior circle is set with 34 light-shaded rubies enchased in gold.

The two circles are united by «rays» and other ornaments.

Dimensions: 8,5×8,5 cent.

Rubies: 34 pale stones, weighing appr. 5 car.

Brilliants: according to the ancient inventory of 1898—1 br.—3½ a. c.; 3 br.—8 a. c.; 15—30; 1—1; 7—5; 12—8; 129 small stones—3 a. c. and 30 roses.

Setting: rubies—in gold, brilliants—in silver soldered in gold «à jour». Exquisite workmanship of the reign of Paul I. Most likely, an object of historical value worn by Maria Feodorovna, the wife of Paul, or Elisabeth Alexeievna, the wife of Alexander I.

Inv. 1898—№ 32/31. Inv. 1922—№ 438.

№ 39.

Plate XXVII, phot. 37 (full size).

THE CROSS OF THE ORDER OF ALEXANDER NEVSKY.

This cross is of ruby-glass, the upper ornament copied from a flower and studded with brilliants. It is an interesting object, worthy of being placed in a museum. S. N. Troinitsky refers it to the second half of the XVIII-th century. Dimensions of the flowers—6×6 cent., of the whole order—8×8 cent. The brilliants are of ancient cutting and white water, set in silver and soldered in gold. The centre of the order is enamel painted. According to the ancient inventory (ancient carats)—1 br. (yellowish doublet)—6; 4 br.—7; 9 br.—

13½; 4 br.—5; 13 br.—13; 7 br.—5¼; 67 br.—33½;
58 br.—11 and eleven small stones.
Inv. 1898—№ 21/20. Inv. 1922—№ 416.

№ 40.

Plate XXVIII, phot. 38 and 39. (full size).

ORDER OF ST. ANDREW; EPOCH PETER I.

The order is exquisitely wrought out of massive gold, the cross and figure of St. Andrew beautifully set off on the black enamelled background. On the reverse, is an enamelled white ribbon on which are impressed the words «Faith and loyalty» in black letters.

The cross is supported by an eagle engraved in gold with great mastership. The whole composition is enriched with ancient roses of Hindu-cutting; in the orbits of the eagle are small brilliants. Most likely, this is the famous order worn by Peter the Great, a fact which still more augments its historical value.

Dimensions: 8×5,2 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 14/13 (roses—10 c.). Inv. 1922—№ 433.

№ 41.

Plate XXVIII, phot. 40 and 41 (full size).

ORDER OF ST. ANDREW; SMOKY TOPAZ.

A precious production of Russian art, characterizing the brilliant epoch of Catherine II; cut by Berger about 1767.

The eagle is of a dark smoky topaz (quartz) composed of 5 pieces joined together with a blackish mass. The cross, as well as the back of the whole order, are in Bokdachanian lazulite. On the top is a golden crown set off with brilliants. 1 brilliant—1½ a. c.; 1 br.—1¼ a. c.; minor stones—2½ a. c. and 40 roses. Dimensions: height (the crown included)—10 cent.; without the crown—5,7 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 15/14. Inv. 1922—№ 431/15.

№ 42.

Plate XXIX, phot. 42 (full size).

GOLDEN BRACELET WITH A HUGE FLAT DIAMOND.

Enamelled bracelet of gothic style, with an enormous diamond «table» representing a looking-glass. This rather thick portrait-diamond is of peerless purity and quite exceptional size. It is sufficient to give the stone's dimensions—4,0×2,9 cent. and its weight—25 m. c. (appr.). The exact weight cannot be established, because minute irregularities on the border of the plate are covered with gold.

This is the largest portrait-diamond in the world. Under the stone the words «to the blessed Emperor Alexander I» are engraved.

The jewel is masterly executed and may probably be referred to 1820. Length of the bracelet—20 cent. The ancient Inventory does not mention this bracelet separately. It is registered among other jewels under № 219. Inv. 1922—№ 219.

NB. Scientific description of the stone—A. Fersman «Russia's treasure of diamonds and precious stones». Bull. Ac. Sc. 1925.

№ 43.

Plate XXIX, phot. 43 (reduced size—0,75).

NECKLACE, DIAMONDS AND PEARLS;
«FERMOIRS» WITH AN EMERALD
AND A RUBY.

Most elegant «collier» of first-rate stones with two different «fermoirs» to be worn either with a green or a red stone. Excellent work of the first half of the XIX-th century, though not of high artistical value.

Dimensions: length of the strings—29—31 cent. Size of the emerald clasp—4,2×4,75 cent.; of the ruby-clasp—4,2×4 cent. Two strings of 76 spherical pearls, ancient ones but varied in size. Total weight—210 m. c.

Two strings of Brazilian diamonds, pretty gems though not quite first-class. Weight of 121 stones—135 m. c.

Natural-Coloured stones: 1) Ruby of a very pleasant violet-reddish shade and old Indian cutting. A gem of great value. Weight—18,05 m. c. (w.). 2) A good though not very dark emerald, most likely of Uralian origin, slightly cracked. Weight—18,10 m. c. (w.).

Brilliants: in the fermoir, surrounding the ruby—8 br. appr.—15 m. c.; roses—about 1,5 m. c. In the other clasp—12 diamonds—19 m. c. and roses about 1,5 m. c. appr.

This ornament is not mentioned in the ancient lists. Inv. 1922—№ 36.

№ 44.

Plate XXX, phot. 44 (full size).

DIAMOND RIVIERE, THE SO-CALLED
«COLLIER D'ESCLAVE».

This beautiful ornament consists of two rows formed by 36 large diamonds, showing a total weight of 475 ⁹⁹/₃₂ m. c., so that each stone averages more than 13 m. c.—quite an exceptional choice of diamonds! They are joined by silk strings fastening with great pliancy the silver «chatons» with golden galleries at the base. The upper row, consisting of 21 solitaires, forms the «rivière» itself, the other 15 diamonds and a number of smaller brilliants are beautifully suspended as pendeloques.

The beauty of the single stones, as well as the general impression produced by this quite matchless necklace, is simply striking. Some of the ancient Indian diamonds are slightly defaced by speckles. However, these are compensated by others of charmingly bluish and pink water. The various shades form a harmonious brilliant scale, enchanting the eye by its richness.

Fascinating, too, is the beautiful Indian cutting which dates probably from the XVII-th—XVIII-th century.

Length of the collier—36 cent. Width (in the centre, including the pendeloque)—6,4 cent.

In the inventory of 1898, we have a precise description of the necklace (№ 41/41) which exactly corresponds with the ciphers engraved in the setting of the solitaires. This interesting description, which agrees perfectly with the items of our experts, is presented almost completely as follows:

(The weight is kept in ancient carats).

In the «rivière»:

1 br. — four-cornered solitaire, good water — $32^{15/32}$ c.;

1 br. — oblong, obtuse-angled, exquisite water — $23^{29/32}$ c.;

1 br. — oblong, refrangible, of white water — $17^{9/32}$ c.;

1 br. large solitaire — speckled in the middle — $19^{19/32}$ c.;

1 br. — oblong solitaire, white, very refrangible — $16^{5/8}$ c.

The weight of 16 stones follows: $16^{4/32}$; $13^{27/32}$; $12^{14/32}$; $12^{2/32}$; $11^{11/32}$; $10^{1/32}$; $8^{24/32}$; $8^{22/32}$; $8^{15/32}$; $7^{20/32}$; $6^{9/32}$; $16^{4/32}$.

Regarding the report on the last of these, the ancient lists mention that it has been « rendered December 8-th 1831 after the decease of tsarevitch Constantin Pavlovitch » (41/54).

Pendeloques (15 stones):

1 br. — refrangible, dark — $26^{19/32}$ c.; 1 br. — of regular shape, somewhat yellowish — 25 c.; 1 br. — equal qualities — $20^{19/32}$; 1 br. — excellent water, irregular form — $17^{20/32}$; 1 br. — equal to the preceding — $16^{26/32}$; 1 br. — oval, white, refrangible — $12^{15/32}$; 1 br. — $14^{24/32}$; 1 br. — light-pink shade — $14^{22/32}$; 1 br. — oblong obtuse-angled, flat — $4^{14/32}$. The weight of 6 more stones is as follows: $14^{13/32}$; $7^{12/32}$; $7^{28/32}$; $7^{2/32}$; $6^{12/32}$; $6^{11/32}$.

Besides, 15 more diamonds are mentioned which form an intermedial row and weigh altogether $12^{2/32}$ c.

Inv. 1922—№ 222.

№ 45.

Plate XXXI, phot. 45 (full size).

A FULL-EARED DIAMOND DIADEM WITH A LEUCO-SAPPHIRE.

This piece of exceptional originality is a beautiful specimen of the art of jewellery. Six brilliant ears of rye, gracefully arise from the transparent leuco-sapphire in the centre. The exquisite lightness of composition, combined with great beauty of details and harmony of the borders, allows us to forget a certain emptiness in the front part.

Dimensions: 34×11 cent.

The leuco-sapphire — very pure, yet somewhat cold-shaded of a yellow-wine tint, probably of Ceylon origin.

Weight (according to the ancient Inv.) — 37 a. c.

Dimensions: 2,1×1,7×1,15 cent.

Among the diamonds, 37 quite peerless Indian briolets are distinguishable by special beauty. They are of wonderful water, and of very original cutting, with two pointed ends and some facets slightly rounded. Part of the briolets are not perforated and had to be incased from both sides.

Brilliants: excellent Brazilian specimens weighing (after the anc. Inv.) — 6 br. — 9 c.; 5 — $6^{1/4}$; 8 — 8; 15 — 11; 24 — $13^{1/2}$. 12 stones of medium size and 103 a. c. of small brilliants; 800 roses.

Setting: silver and gold à jour. At the base — a circle of golden culms; work of the beginning of the XIX-th century (epoch Alexander I).

In the Inv. 1898 (№ 125/123) it is said that the diadem was included in 1829, after the decease of Maria Fedorovna, the wife of Paul I.

Inv. 1922—№ 388.

№ 46.

Plate XXXII, phot. 46 (full size).

DIAMOND HAIR-PIN IN THE FORM OF HORN OF PLENTY.

This jewel shows, besides its charming composition, a great ability of use of comparatively poor material. Signed « Duval—St.-Petersburg » on the reverse-side, it proves the authorship of the great jeweller of Catherine II, and it really is worthy of being placed in a museum.

Dimensions: 7,5×7,5 cent.

Brilliants: Brazilian specimens of good quality; two pendeloques, especially, are quite first-rate and of a beautiful bluish water.

The early Inv. (№ 72/68) mentions the weight as follows: 2 br. pearshaped — 7 a. c.; 1 br. — $1^{1/3}$ a. c.; 4 br. — 4 a. c.; 8 br. — 6 a. c.; smaller stones — 23 c. The diamonds are set in silver, soldered in gold. About 1780.

Inv. 1922—№ 247.

№ 47.

Plate XXXII, phot. 47 (full size).

DIAMOND HAIR-PINS REPRESENTING FLOWER BASKETS.

Two « aigrettes » characterizing that period of Catherine's reign, when severe and symmetrical lines were not yet in vogue. These charming specimens, which remind us of the jewel described above, are ascribed to the same master, the famous Duval.

Dimensions: 4,5×3,8 cent.

Brilliants: excellent Brazilian stones applied with great taste and art. 4 br. — 6 m. c.; 4 br. — 4 m. c. (appr.); other stones and roses — 16 m. c.

Setting: solid silver, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 73/69 (registered weight corresponds with the items of our experts). Inv. 1922—№ 253.

№ 48.

Plate XXXII, phot. 48 (full size).

TWO GOLDEN BRACELETS DECORATED WITH DIAMONDS.

Both bracelets are in solid gold, beautifully designed in Louis XVI style. Wonderfully wrought about 1780.

Brilliants: beautiful Brazilian specimens solidly cased in silver; 2 br. — 8 m. c.; 8 br. — 8 m. c.; 16 br. — 12 m. c.; 22 br. — $13^{1/2}$ m. c. and 60 small stones.

Inv. 1898—№ 68/64. Inv. 1922—№ 409.

№ 49.

Plate XXXIII, phot. 49 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH REPRESENTING A ROSE WITH LEAVES.

This brooch successfully reproduces an ancient model, and shows a great improvement in the jeweller's art of our century. The jewel is executed by the firm Faberger, and proves great taste and ability.

The flowers are made of beautiful yellow diamonds, and pretty white ones sprinkle the leaves.

Dimensions: 11,5×7,5 cent.

Brilliants: about 500 diamonds, and roses of a total weight of 80 m. c.

In the rose, is a light-yellow diamond of good water, in the bud—one of a darker shade. Weight of both—22 m. c. (appr.).

Total weight of the diamonds—100 m. c.

Setting: pale gold à-jour.

Inv. 1922—№ 292.

№ 50.

Plat. XXXIII, phot. 50 (full size).

AIGRETTE SET WITH EMERALDS.

This beautiful jewel registered as «ornement de coiffure», represents a smart branch decorated with small emeralds. Pretty diamonds, lightly suspended here and there, give the charming impression of dew-drops ready to fall.

This jewel was wrought in about 1800.

Dimensions: 8×3,6 cent. (without the pin).

Emeralds: pretty stones weighing 10 carats (appr.) set in gold à-jour.

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens of good quality, weighing (in conformity with the early inventory): 1 br. (pendeloque)—2¼ a. c.; 3 pendeloques—3¼; 5 pendeloques—5; 2 br.—1¼; 5 br.—3¼; 6 br.—2 and 2¼ a. c. of small stones.

Very light and pretty mounting in silver à-jour.

Inv. 1898—№ 130/128. Inv. 1922—№.

№ 51.

Plat. XXXIV, phot. 51 (full size).

DIAMOND DIADEM WITH PENDELOQUES.

A piece of exceptional beauty, decorated with old Brazilian stones, made about 1820—1830.

Dimensions: circumference (in the centre)—32 cent.; height in the centre—9 cent.; height on the borders—4 cent.

Brilliants: excellent specimens, general weight—275 m. c. (appr.). One heart-shaped white stone in the centre—10½ m. c.; below it—an almost round stone of remarkable purity—11 m. c. In the upper part are 26 diamonds—30 m. c.; 116 round br.—85 m. c.; 30 large br.—18 m. c.; 3 beautiful pendeloques in the centre—20 m. c.; 12 pendeloques—17 m. c.; 16 pendeloques—16 m. c.; 406 small stones—60 m. c. (appr.); 2 pendeloques—5 m. c.

Setting: silver à-jour, soldered in gold.

Not mentioned in the old inventory. Inv. 1922—№ 293.

№ 52.

Plat. XXXIV, phot. 52 (full size).

BRACELET OF FOUR ROWS OF DIAMONDS.

This effective jewel, is almost exclusively composed of diamonds, and enriched by a beautiful clasp consisting of three big stones. It was executed about the middle of the XIX-th century by the firm Keibel.

Dimensions: length of the bracelet—17,5 cent.; width of the four rows—3,8 cent.; width of the fermoir—4,4 cent.

Brilliants: in the clasp—3 large diamonds somewhat dull; total weight—15,25 m. c. (r. w.) besides these—26 diamonds—10 m. c. (appr.).

In the bracelet—58 brilliants—87 a. c. (Inv. 1898) and 14 brilliants—28 a. c. Stones of different qualities.

Setting: silver à-jour, the links joined together by silk strings: golden galleries at the base. The letter K is engraved on the reverse of the links being, most probably, the sign of the firm.

Inv. 1898—№ 45/46. Inv. 1922—№ 243.

№ 53.

Plat. XXXV, phot. 53 (full size).

FLOWER-STEMS IN SAPPHIRES.

This set of ornaments consists of 20 flower-stems, used as dress-garnishment, carried out in massive silver and charming as an idea, as well as in. They belong to the Elisabethan epoch which was always distinguished by the ability of creating beautiful specimens out of relatively insignificant workmanship material.

Dimensions: of each stem—6×3 cent.

Sapphires: round and pear-shaped stones of Ceylon origin, on a golden foil. 180 sapphires—110 a. c.

Diamonds: small stones of average quality, mounted in silver.

Workmanship—about 1750.

Inv. 1898—№ 117/113. Inv. 1922—№ 373.

№ 54.

Plat. XXXV, phot. 54 (full size).

DIAMOND AIGRETTE REPRESENTING A FOUNTAIN.

One of the most artistic jewels of the Treasure, belonging to the Elisabethan epoch (about 1760).

Never surpassed by originality nor by elegance—it gives us the illusion of a corner of some park; a smart column, a branchy tree and a fountain all of diamonds, each water-spout deliquating into a beautiful sapphire, which gracefully vibrates by the slightest movement.

Dimensions: 7,5×7,5 cent.

Sapphires: 11 old stones of Ceylon; two of them set in gold on a foil, one weighing 30 a. c. but showing a rather light blue, the other—a lovely dark-coloured sapphire weighing 10—12 m. c. (anc. items—8 a. c.), 9 «pendants», pear-shaped—50 m. c. (appr.), the best and the largest one weighing 15,45 m. c. (w.).

Brilliants: old Brazilian stones; 4 br.—1½ a. c.; smaller stones—17 a. c.

Setting: wonderful workmanship in solid silver, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898 (№ 111/108) mentions that this little chef-d'œuvre was the private property of Elisabeth Petrovna. Inv. 1922—№ 255.

№ 55.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 55 (full size).

EARRINGS IN THE FORM OF A CASCADE OF DIAMONDS AND SAPPHIRES.

A pair of earrings of rare beauty forming a sparkling cascade of diamonds with heavy, loosely hanging drops of sapphires. These earrings together with the Aigrette № 54, form a marvellous set of jewels of the Elisabethan epoch (about 1750).

Dimensions: 9,5×3,8 cent.

Sapphires: 2 briolets of original Hindu cutting mounted in gold, and 8 pear-shaped pendants—60 m. c. (appr.); 14 small sapphires. In the upper part—square deep-coloured specimens weighing altogether—17 a. c.

Beautiful setting in solid silver, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№№ 115/111, 116/112. Inv. 1922—№ 371.

№ 56.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 56 (full size).

LARGE SQUARE EMERALD MOUNTED AS A BROOCH.

One of the most striking specimens of the collection. This peerless emerald, renowned by right as one of the best specimens in the world, is encircled by beautiful diamond solitaires cut in the form of wine-leaves. In spite of its great size, the jewel does not produce an impression of heaviness.

Dimensions: of the brooch—6,5×3,6. Emerald: 3,6×3,25 cent.

The emerald is a rare Columbian specimen, dating probably from the XVI-th century. It is of a marvellous deep-green, and of an almost faultless purity excepting a few «inclusions». The cutting in the form of steps, successfully disguises a certain flatness of the stone. A little scratch is to be seen on the polishing. Weight—136,25 m. c. (r. w.).

Diamonds: six large and white Brazilian solitaires weighing 25 m. c. (appr.); 60 small stones—10 m. c. (appr.); 150 roses.

Setting: emerald in gold, diamonds in silver à-jour.

Workmanship of the time of Nicolas I.

Not mentioned in the ancient inventory, taken up by the Cabinet in 1913 from the Grand-Duchess Alexandra Iossifovna.

Inv. 1922—№ 174.

№ 57.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 57 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A SQUARE EMERALD.

The great value of the stones, the large and clear emerald and the excellent Brazilian solitaires, allows us to forget the plainness of the whole composition. This brooch was executed in the middle of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: 2,1×2,2 cent. (emerald).

Emerald: an ancient stone, evidently of Columbian origin, cut in steps and weighing 41,50 m. c.

Diamonds: 4 large Brazilian brilliants, general weight 17,46 m. c. (r. w.) (3,95; 4,25; 4,25; 4,58; 4,68 m. c.); 12 brilliants of average quality—10 m. c.

Setting: gold à-jour.

Not mentioned in the old lists. Inv. 1922—№ 194/201.

№ 58.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 58 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A LARGE SAPPHIRE.

A wonderful piece, of great value, bearing an ancient oriental stone. The jeweller's work shows much taste and flexibility, and is to be referred to the middle of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: of the brooch—6×5,6 cent.; of the stone—4×3,6 cent.

Sapphire: a very old Ceylon cabochon, almost round, yet not very even in colour, and with a pretty, silky gleam on one part of the surface; slightly scratched. Weight—197 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: 23 large Brazilian specimens—50 m. c. (appr.). Small stones and roses—4 m. c.

Setting: à-jour, diamonds—in silver, sapphire—in gold; gold galleries. On the lock is engraved—«Sap. Cab.» (probably—Sapphire—Cabinet).

Workmanship about 1850.

The ancient inventory does not mention this brooch. Inv. 1922—№ 177. Acquired in 1913 from the grand-Duchess Alexandra Iossifovna.

№ 59.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 59 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A CEYLON SAPPHIRE.

This pretty jewel is an excellent specimen of the jeweller's art of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions of the brooch—5×3,9 cent.; sapphire—2,8×2 cent.

The sapphire, of Ceylon origin is very even in tone; weight—65,18 m. c.

Diamonds: 20 large Brazilian gems—total weight about 20 m. c.; 6 smaller diamonds and roses—1½ m. c.

Setting: diamonds in silver with golden gallery, bearing the date 1856.

Not mentioned in the ancient lists. Once, the property of the same Grand-Duchess as the preceding jewels. Inv. 1922—№ 175.

№ 60.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 60 (full size).

BROOCH-FERMOIR; DIAMONDS AND A LARGE EMERALD CABOCHON.

This beautiful piece shows an ancient emerald-cabochon of Columbia of a charming deep tone. Its beauty would probably be still more increased, if the cutting were somewhat altered.

Dimensions of the brooch—4,5×3,8 cent.; of the emerald—1,95×2,4×1,1 cent. (the last cipher refers to the thickness).

Emerald—most beautiful, ancient stone. Weight—42,35 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: 16 large stones of Brazil; total weight—32 m. c.; roses—1 m. c.

Setting—diamonds in silver à-jour with golden galleries. There is a separate bracelet-like chain for the fermoir.

Workmanship—middle of the XIX-th century.

Not mentioned in the old Inventory. Inv. 1922—№ 201/100.

№ 61.

Plate XXXVI, phot. 61 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A SAPPHIRE CABOCHON.

Most beautiful brooch-fermoir wrought in the middle of the last century.

Dimensions: brooch—6,1×4,5; sapphire—2,5×3,6 cent.

Sapphire: large Ceylon cabochon, of irregular shape, and uneven colouring. Weight—121 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: beautiful old Brazilian specimens—35 m. c. (appr.); small gems and roses—3 m. c.

Setting: silver à-jour, golden gallery.

Not registered in early Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 178.

№ 62.

Plate XXXVII, phot. 62 (full size).

AIGRETTE—PORTE - BOUQUET; SAPPHIRES.

Excellent design and artistic execution, dating most probably from the reign of Paul I (about 1800).

Dimensions—10×17 cent.

Sapphires: a big Ceylon stone of average quality, measuring 2,3×2,5 cent. and weighing (early Inventory)—65 a. c.; 1 sapphire—30 a. c. (dim. 1,7×2,3 cent.); 4 sapphires—18 a. c.; 75 small ones—5 a. c.

The diamonds are on the whole of a good quality, in silver à-jour, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 110/107. Inv. 1922—№ 407. In private use of the last tsaritsa.

№ 63.

Plate XXXVIII, phot. 63 (full size).

LOCKET WITH A BRAZILIAN AQUAMARINE.

«A large Brazilian aquamarine of rare beauty and bluish fire»—thus is described this gem in the Inventory of 1898, which is generally very dry in tone.

Dimensions: 4,6×4 cent.

Aquamarine: exceedingly pure stone of deep blue, yet somewhat cold shade.

Dimensions: 4×4,2 cent. Weight—231,65 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: 7 big Brazilian specimens surrounding the coloured gem, weigh about 10 c. (not 7 a. c. as said in the old register); small diamonds—16 c.

Setting: light à-jour in gold and silver.

Executed during the reign of Alexander I.

Inv. 1898—№ 97/93. Inv. 1922—№ 378.

№ 64.

Plate XXXVIII, phot. 64 (full size).

BROOCH BEARING A YELLOWISH- GREEN BERYL.

A pretty brooch with a yellowish beryl from Siberia, charmingly enchased, and encircled with diamonds.

Workmanship—beginning of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: 5,6×5,6 cent.

The beryl (a green aquamarine) most probably found in the Transbaikal, about the end of the XVIII-th century. A large stone of great purity and good water, though somewhat cold and wanting fire.

Diamonds: 8 big specimens (4 of them pear-shaped, 4—quadrangular) of a total weight of 10 m. c., 200 roses and smalls.

Setting: à-jour, silver with golden gallery.

Workmanship 1800—1815, very pleasant in composition and design.

Inv. 1898—№ 289/280; the private property of the Empress Maria Feodorovna, included in the Treasure according to her last will in 1829. Inv. 1922—№ 379.

№ 65.

Plate XXXVIII, phot. 65 (full size).

PINK TOURMALINE, REPRESENTING A FRUIT MOUNTED IN A PIN.

This pink stone was presented to Catherine II, in 1777, by the king of Sweden. The peculiar cutting, evidently done in the Orient, gives the gem the form of a fruit. The tone is a pleasant deep one; native place—probably Birma. Weight—about 255 m. c. Golden leaves in green enamel, and stalks in black and white, surmount the beautiful gem, which is of great historical value. In literature, this tourmaline is generally referred to as a ruby.

Dimensions of the jewel—4×2,7×2,3 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 107/105. Inv. 1922—№ 442.

№ 66.

Plate XXXVIII, phot. 66 (full size).

TWO BIG SPINELS ENCHASED IN GOLD.

The two spinels, both exceptional for beauty and size, are set in gold. One of them, weighing 100 a. c., shows a crack lengthwise, is perforated at the base and has several small cavities; the surface is slightly scratched.

Dimensions: 2,3×2,8 cent.

The second spinel of smaller size (56 a. c.) is a faultless stone of lovely deep colouring and perfect purity, an ideal specimen of a «ruby-balais».

Dimensions: 2,5×2,2 cent.

Inv. 1898—№№ 197/197 and 200/198 (it is said both stones were covered underneath with a coloured varnish).

Inv. 1922—№ 463.

№ 67.

Plate XXXVIII, phot. 67 (full size).

LOCKET WITH A LARGE CHRYSOLITE.

This stone's size, as well as its purity, are quite exceptional. Chrysolites were brought over to Europe

during the crusades. Their native place was unknown until the year 1900, when it was revealed on the isle of Zeberget, in the Red Sea.

Dimensions of the locket—7,0×4,7 cent.
Dimensions of the chrysolite—5,2×3,5×1,1 cent.
Weight—192,75 m. c.

The stone is of an olive tone, and perfect purity, with the exception of three microscopical cracks. In the upper part, the cutting is like that of a brilliant, at the base it becomes irregular.

Diamonds: pretty specimens in silver setting à-jour, soldered in gold. 30 br.—24 a. c. The enchasement belongs to the first half of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 101/199. Inv. 1922—№ 374.

№ 68.

Plate XXXVIII, phot. 68 (full size).

LOCKET WITH A BIG ALMANDINE.

An excellent almandine (dim.—5,5×4,3) from India, of rare water and purity. It is polished in the form of a cabochon, and 35 beautiful Brazilian diamonds still more increase the large gem's radiance. The «médaillon» is in silver, lined with gold.

Dimensions: 6,5×5,2 cent.
Workmanship—first half of the XIX-th century.
Inv. 1898—№ 102/100. Inv. 1922—№ 409.

№ 69.

Plate XXXIX, phot. 69 (full size).

DIAMOND NECKLACE WITH EMERALD PENDANTS.

Most elegant «parure» wrought in the second half of the XIX-th century and procured, as the expert A. Faberger is sure to recollect, from the Grand-Duchess Alexandra Iossifovna, wife of the Grand-Duke Constantin Nicolaevitch. Beautiful ornament, with some excellent stones.

Dimensions: length—64 cent.; width (the pendeloque included)—5,6 to 8,5 cent.

Emeralds: in golden settings studded with roses.

Specimens of different value, but all from the Ural. 3 of the stones are of quite first-rate quality.

In all—11 emeralds, 9 cabochons, 2 cabochons with facets, 7 stones are perforated. Total weight—260 m. c. (appr.).

Diamonds: medium quality; 11 large ones—16 m. c., 765 smaller stones—150 m. c.

Setting: silver à-jour, soldered in gold.

Not registered in the early lists.

Inv. 1922—№ 485.

№ 70.

Plate XL, phot. 70 (full size).

DIAMOND NECKLACE; PEARL PENDANTS.

The brooch № 227 belongs to this splendid rivièrè, both jewels proving together a great value not only as beautiful stones, but also as fine specimens of the jeweller's art of the middle of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: of the rivièrè—length—51 cent.; width—with pendeloques—5,3—7,1 cent.

Pearls: 15 pear-shaped pendentifs, 14 of them are perforated—250 m. c., 29 round pearls—about 70 m. c. Excellent specimens.

Diamonds—15 pear-shaped pendentifs—11 m. c., other diamonds and roses—120 m. c.

Setting: diamonds in silver à-jour, soldered in gold.
Inv. 1922—№ 223.

№ 71.

Plate XLI, phot. 71 (reduction 0,9).

DIAMOND NECKLACE WITH PEARL PENDENTIFS.

This necklace forms an «ensemble» with other pieces of the collection (diadem № 3 and brooch № 941). These jewels represent a rich and beautiful set, though they are not of very high artistical value. Relatively modern work (end of the XIX-th century). The pearls are ancient specimens from the Reserve of the Cabinet.

Dimensions: length (inward line)—50 cent.; width—7 cent.

The necklace consists of 9 separate links with pearl pendentifs, and 10 diamond ones between the links.

Pearls: 19 pear-shaped, weighing—about 260 m. c., among them, some remarkable specimens beautifully matched.

Diamonds: new Brazilian stones of average quality. 19 large stones, one of them in the centre of the pendant weight 20 m. c. (appr.); 9 large diamonds in the upper setting—about 15 m. c.; 60 diamonds—65 m. c.; 568 small brilliants—75 m. c.; 468 roses.

Setting: silver à-jour, soldered in gold.

Not mentioned in the early Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 940.

№ 72.

Plate XLII, phot. 72 (reduction 0,75).

«KOKOSHNIK»; LARGE DIAMONDS AND PEARLS.

This is an interesting example of the carelessness with which precious stones were used during the reign of the last Romanovs. This «kokoshnik» (a sort of bonnet, generally richly embroidered, and sometimes taking the form of a diadem; historical Russian head-dress), was executed in great haste, evidently for some fancy-dress ball, and decorated with beautiful ancient solitaires and pearls. The stones were taken for this purpose from old important specimens which were thus spoilt. Still, this is a proof of the last tsar's bad taste: quite cheap, artificial pearls were alternated with the old beautiful gems.

Dimensions: length (central line)—60 cent. Width (centre)—6,2 cent.; on the borders—4,2 cent.

Pearls:—9 pendeloques (7 perforated ones); total weight—about 150 m. c.

Diamonds: 6 ancient stones set in silver à-jour with golden galleries. On the reverse side, the weight of each stone is engraved in ancient carats: 7⁹/₃₂; 6⁵/₃₂; (speckled); 9¹¹/₃₂; 6¹⁰/₃₂; 5²⁵/₃₂; 14²⁰/₃₂—total weight—49²⁶/₃₂. All these stones are of excellent quality. 24 diamonds in the middle of the bonnet (total weight—18 m. c.) are of inferior value.

Different diamonds and roses in the circle and round the pearls—about 35 m. c.

Inv. 1922—№ 261.

№ 73.

Plate XLIII, phot. 73 (full size).

NECKLACE CALLED «D'ESCLAVE»; DIAMONDS, PEARLS AND EMERALDS.

This rich and prettily composed ornament consisting of old stones of the Cabinet, was rather hastily executed by the lapidary Faberger, for a Russian costume court-ball in 1897 or 1898. Design, composition and choice of stones are very successful, though the work is somewhat neglectful: the stones are joined together with very flexible silver wire, in order to fasten the whole parure on the dress.

Another rich jewel, a brooch «en pendentif» called «Sévigéné» completes this elegant suit.

Emerald: very good old stones, nearly all of Russian origin. 39 stones in golden chatons: 18 square ones, weighing together 70 m. c.; 4 hexagonal ones—36 m. c.; 2 pendeloques—27 m. c.; 4 stones (1 square, 2 round and 1 obtuse-angled)—67 m. c.; 2 oblong—6 m. c.; 1 octagonal and 1 obtuse pendeloque—18 m. c.; 1 quadrangular—25 m. c.; 1 ditto—15 m. c.; 2 ditto—20 m. c.; 1 trapeziform of excellent quality—5½ m. c.; 1 oval—30 m. c.; 1 hexagonal—32 m. c.

In all, 39 emeralds with a total weight of 344½ m. c. (in the early inventory—243 a. c.).

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens of average value—225 m. c.

Pearls: 125 pearls of average quality—225 m. c. and small pearls.

Settings: emeralds in gold, diamonds in silver.

In the Inventory of 1898 (№ 368/360) this piece of jewellery is noted as the private property of the last empress and said to be «unfinished». This fact apparently explains the divergency of the old items and of the new definitions. Complimental numbers—130, 153—159, 256—259.

Inv. 1922—№ 412.

№ 74.

Plate XLIV, phot. 74 (full size).

A PINK DIAMOND PIN.

An incomparable stone, most surely one of the best specimens of old India. The rare purity and softness of tone, harmonize beautifully with the charming pink, reminding us somewhat of the colour of a burnt topaz. The gem is set in silver and gold, with a narrow stripe of black enamel. Workmanship—end of the XVIII-th century.

Dimensions: of the pin—1,5×1,9; of the diamond—1,35×0,85. Weight of the stone after the old inventory—3⅝ a. c.

Inv. 1898—№ 171 and № 172. The pin was included in the Cabinet according to the last will of the Empress Maria Feodorovna, the wife of Paul I.

Inv. 1922—№ 385.

№ 75.

Plate XLIV, phot. 75 (full size).

A BLUE DIAMOND PIN.

A beautiful stone of almost perfect pureness; its intensive blue tone reminds us of the colour of a Ceylon

sapphire. It is of an irregular rhomboidal shape, top and base cut in steps.

Dimensions of the diamond—1,15×1,7 cent. Weight—7 a. c.

Setting about 1800. Very subtile work, made out of a ring. The roses are mounted in gold.

The whole pin measures 2,6×1,8 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 170 to 172; taken up, according to the last will of the Empress Maria Feodorovna.

Inv. 1922—№ 386.

№ 76.

Plate XLIV, phot. 76 (full size).

AN INDIAN BRIOLET PIN.

A most beautiful old Indian diamond of light yellowish colouring, partly cut «en briolette». A specimen of rare perfection and water.

Dimensions of the pin—3 cent., of the diamond—1,9×1×0,6 cent.

Weight (according to the early lists)—11⅓ a. c.

The stone is surmounted by a pretty crown with 11 small diamonds.

Setting: gold and silver.

Inv. 1922—№ 17.

№ 77.

Plate XLIV, phot. 77 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH - FERMOIR BEARING A PINK SOLITAIRE.

A wonderful piece of jewellery made about 1830. Ancient Indian diamonds of the best quality, beautifully set off the pink solitaire in the centre. In regard to material, design and choice of stones, this jewel is one of the best specimens of the epoch, showing a great artistical taste, and a charming harmony of colours.

Dimensions: 8,4×5 cent.

Diamonds: in the centre—an oval solitaire of delicate rosy water, its weight being engraved on the setting—17⅞ a. c.; 1 diamond, pear-shaped of Hindu origin and flat Hindu cutting, weight engraved—28⅞ a. c.; 2 pear-shaped specimens of the same type—8⅓ a. c. and 8⅓ a. c.; 12 oval brilliants—about 24 a. c. Smalls and roses besides. The four large solitaires remind us, by their shade and purity, of the old Golconda stones.

Setting: silver with golden galleries.

Not mentioned in the old inventory. However, archival items note the purchase of a solitaire of 28¼ c. in 1834 from the Vienna merchant Bittermann.

Inv. 1922—№ 303.

№ 78.

Plate XLIV, phot. 78 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH; NATURAL COLOURED STONES AND PEARL PENDELOQUES.

A beautiful specimen, perhaps somewhat heavy, but still giving the impression of a regal jewel. It is composed of numerous parts, some of them dating from the end of the XVIII-th century. Unfortunately, the brooch has been altered several times.

Dimensions: 8×10 cent.

Natural coloured stones: on the top—an excellent emerald, almost perfectly pure, octangular, weighing about 6 m. c.; on the borders—two Ceylon sapphires of oblong form and good water weighing about 16 m. c.; a square spinel of pretty light colouring is placed in the centre; weight—22 m. c.

Diamonds: in the central pendeloque—a solitaire of rare beauty, probably of Indian origin, weighing 4,5 m. c.; 7 brilliants—appr. 7 m. c.; small diamonds—about 2 m. c.

Pearls: 3 specimens (two perforated ones) of ancient origin and excellent quality—about 50 m. c.

Not mentioned in old lists.

Inv. 1922—№ 27.

№ 79.

Plate XLV, phot. 79 (full size).

DIAMOND - GIRDLE WITH TWO TASSELS.

Unfortunately, this beautiful ornament was spoilt by the use of one part for the nuptial diadem described heretofore. The remaining part, with two diamond tassels, is of such beautiful work and masterly taste that our experts attribute it to the famous Duval. The charming design of plants in the centre, as well as the flexible lines of the bow, are worthy of this master's art. The whole ornament is composed of separate parts joined together with silver wire; it evidently was used as dress-garnishment.

Dimensions: (half of the girdle)—32,4×6,1 cent. Length of the trinkets—30 cent. and 31,7 cent.; width—4,2 cent.

Tassels—6,2×3,6 cent.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones but of uneven colouring; 2 speckled ones.

Solidly set in massive silver.

The numbers of the old inventory differ from the weight of the stones. Inv. 1922—№ 376 and № 499.

№ 80.

Plate XLVI, phot. 80 and 81 (full size).

DIAMOND SNUFF-BOX.

A lovely piece of jewellery-art in pure Louis XV style, wrought in the reign of Elisabeth. Beautiful old diamonds are encased in gold on sanguin-coloured jasper. A flower-basket, butterflies and different attribu-

tes of horticulture are gracefully depicted on the lid, in gold and silver of various tints.

Dimensions: 10,5×8,5×5 cent.

Diamonds: old Brazilian specimens: 1 white brilliant—3 m. c.; 4 br.—7,10 m. c.; 5 square br.—3½ m. c.; 10 br.—5 m. c.; 2071 roses—55 m. c., total weight—75 m. c. The stones are put on a coloured foil.

This beautiful object is not mentioned in the old lists. Inv. 1922—№ 530.

№ 81.

Plate XLVII, XLVIII, XLIX, I (phot. 82—88).

FRAGMENTS OF PAINTINGS (SOME OF THE ORIGINALS IN REDUCED SIZE).

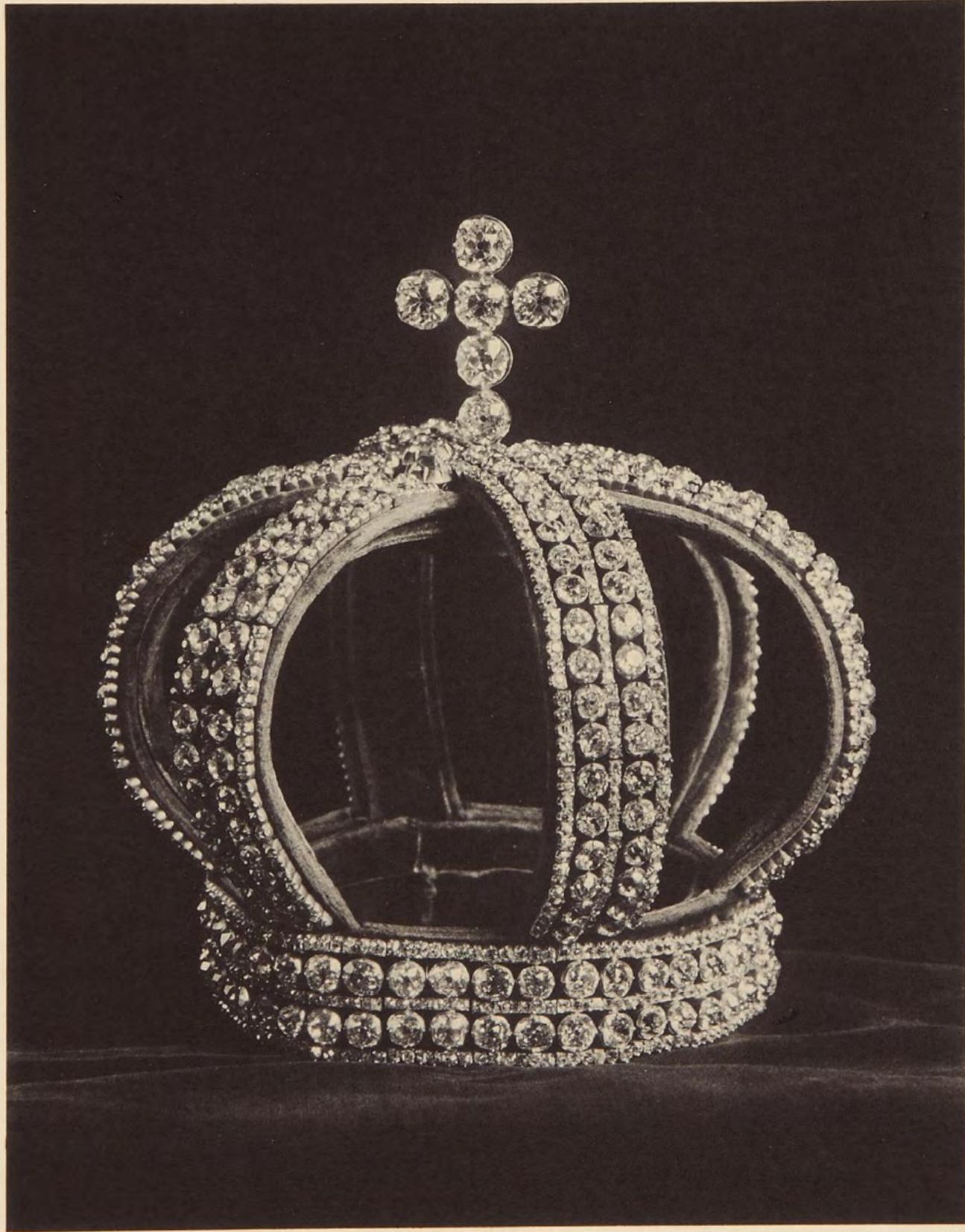
The detailed description of the Imperial Regalia by S. N. Troinitsky gives us the possibility to make brief the explanations of the plates XLVII—L. The interesting essay, published at the beginning of this volume, reveals the circumstances under which the execution of the different Regalia proceeded up to the last tsars. Our plates only give illustrations to this article.

For instance, on plate XLVII, we see the coronation attributes (Crown, Sceptre, Globe and Imperial Mantle) forming a most artistical group which we owe to the famous Develly (1762). The same emblems are represented on the next plate (XLVIII) where Catherine II is painted by Roslyn. The empress appears decorated with the white chain of St. Andrew's order, and the celebrated clasp is beautifully set off on the mantle.

The other half of the same plate shows the Imperial Sceptre enriched with the world-famed «Orlov», the Crown and the Globe lying on a cushion. This excellent portrait belongs to Lampi and refers to a later period of Catherine's reign (1794).

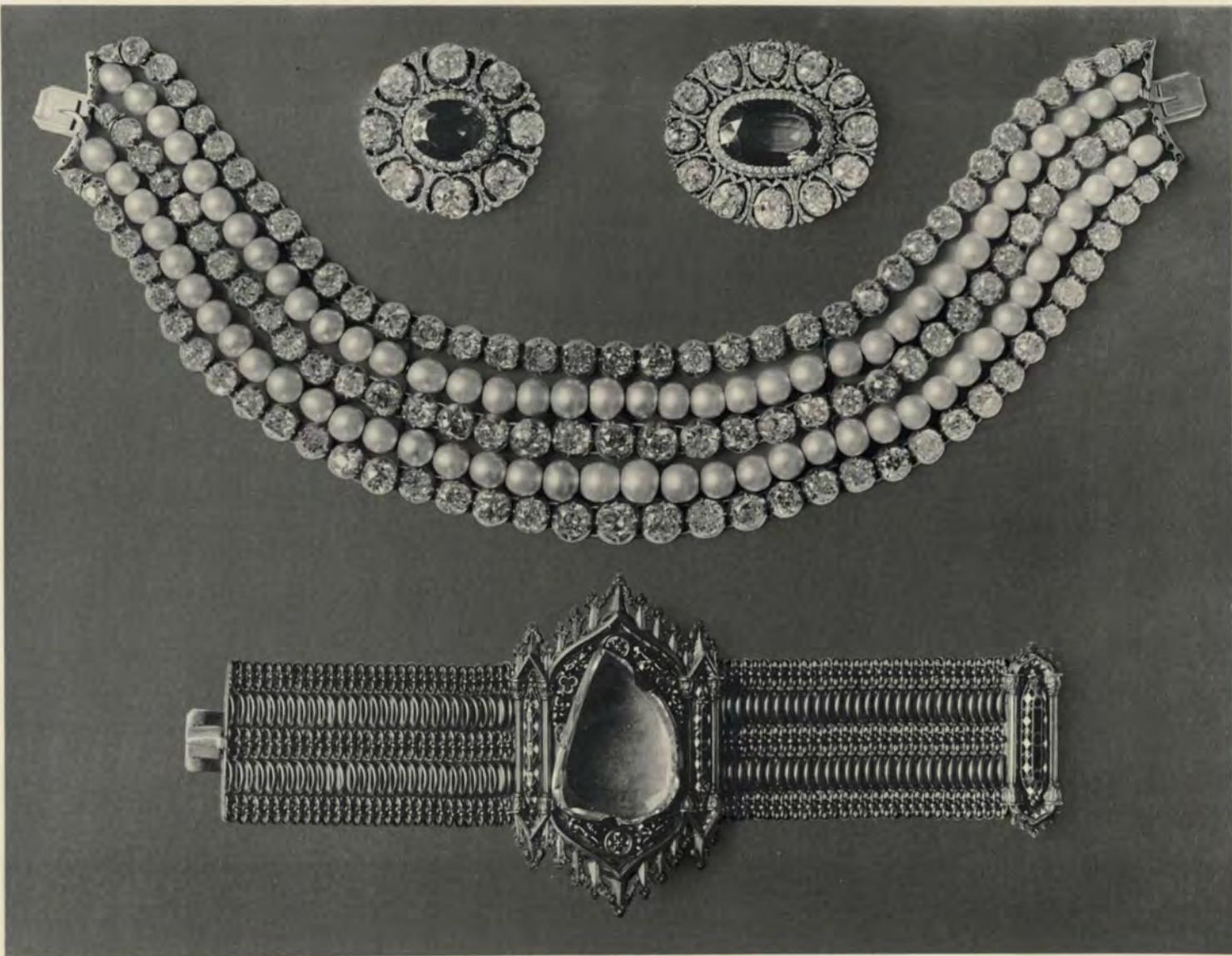
On plate XLIX, we see the Sceptre without the famous diamond. This beautiful painting by Eriksen (about 1762—1763) represents also the Globe and both Crowns. Below, on the same plate, is the portrait of Paul I by Borovikovskiy, 1796. The splendid chain and the star of St. Andrew's order, as well as the Imperial Mantle, are beautifully represented on it.

On plate I we have, on the left side, the portrait of Catherine II, on the right—that of Paul I. These portraits were chosen by S. N. Troinitsky in order to show the alteration in the big crown which was found necessary for the coronation of this emperor, owing to the peculiar shape of his skull.

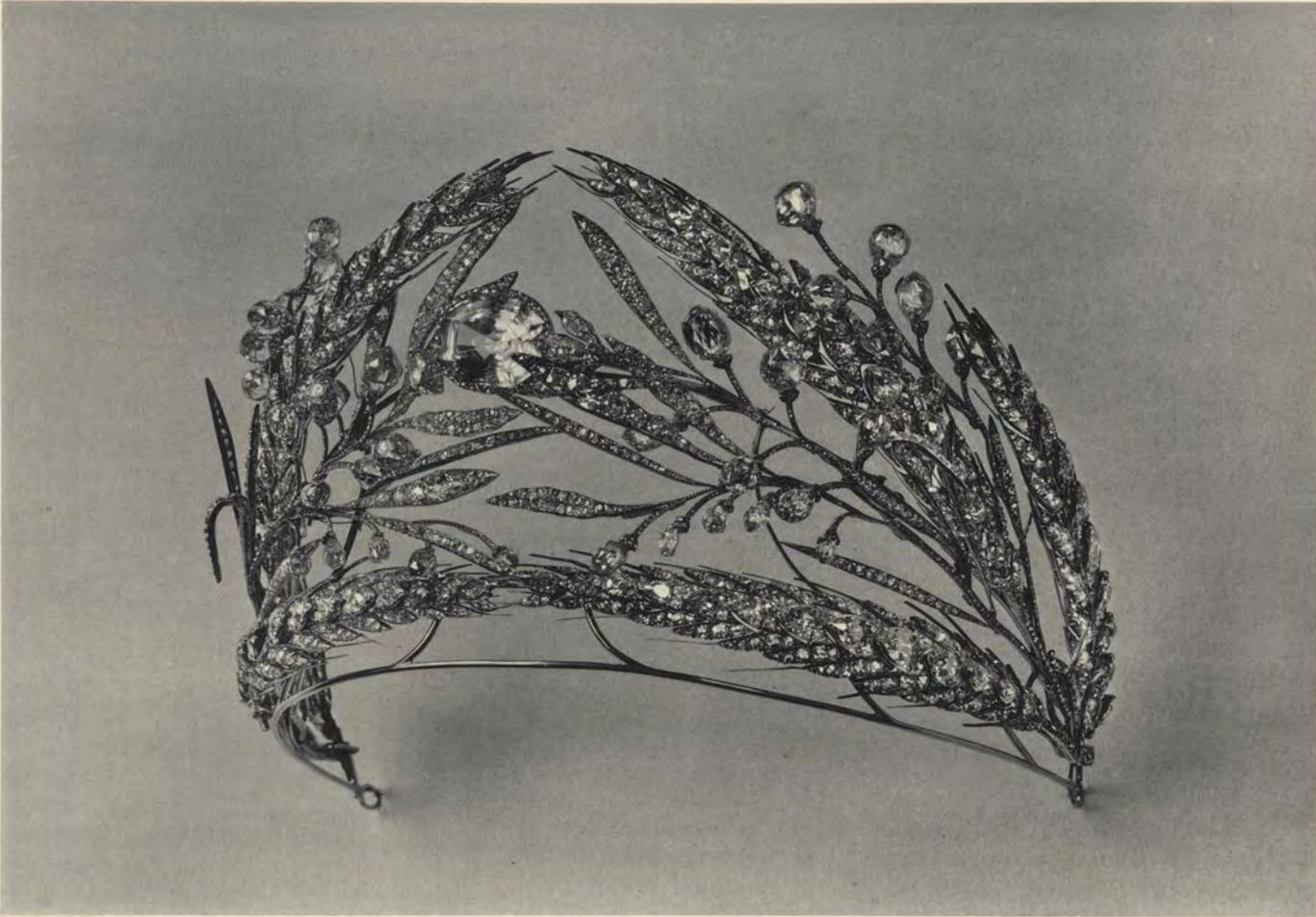




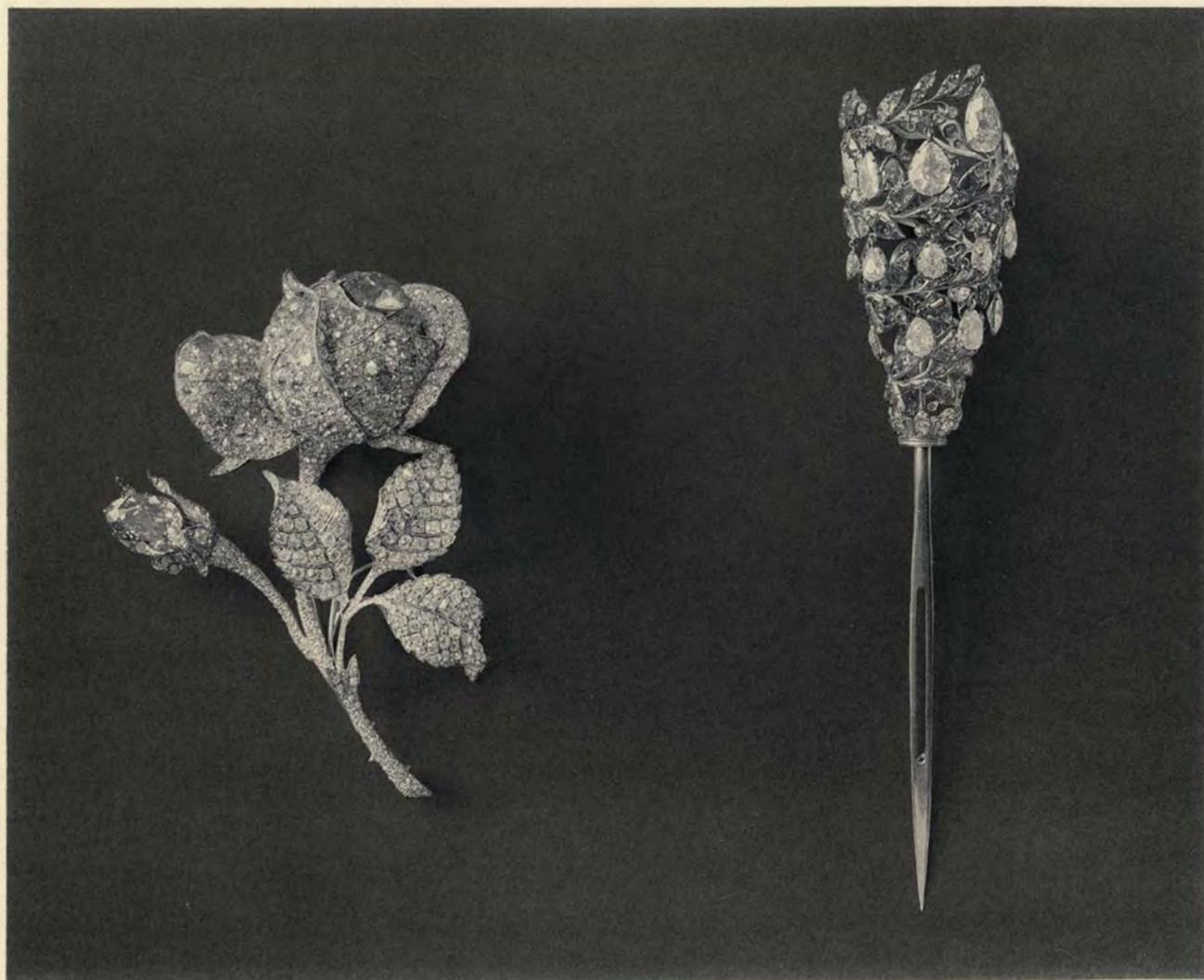




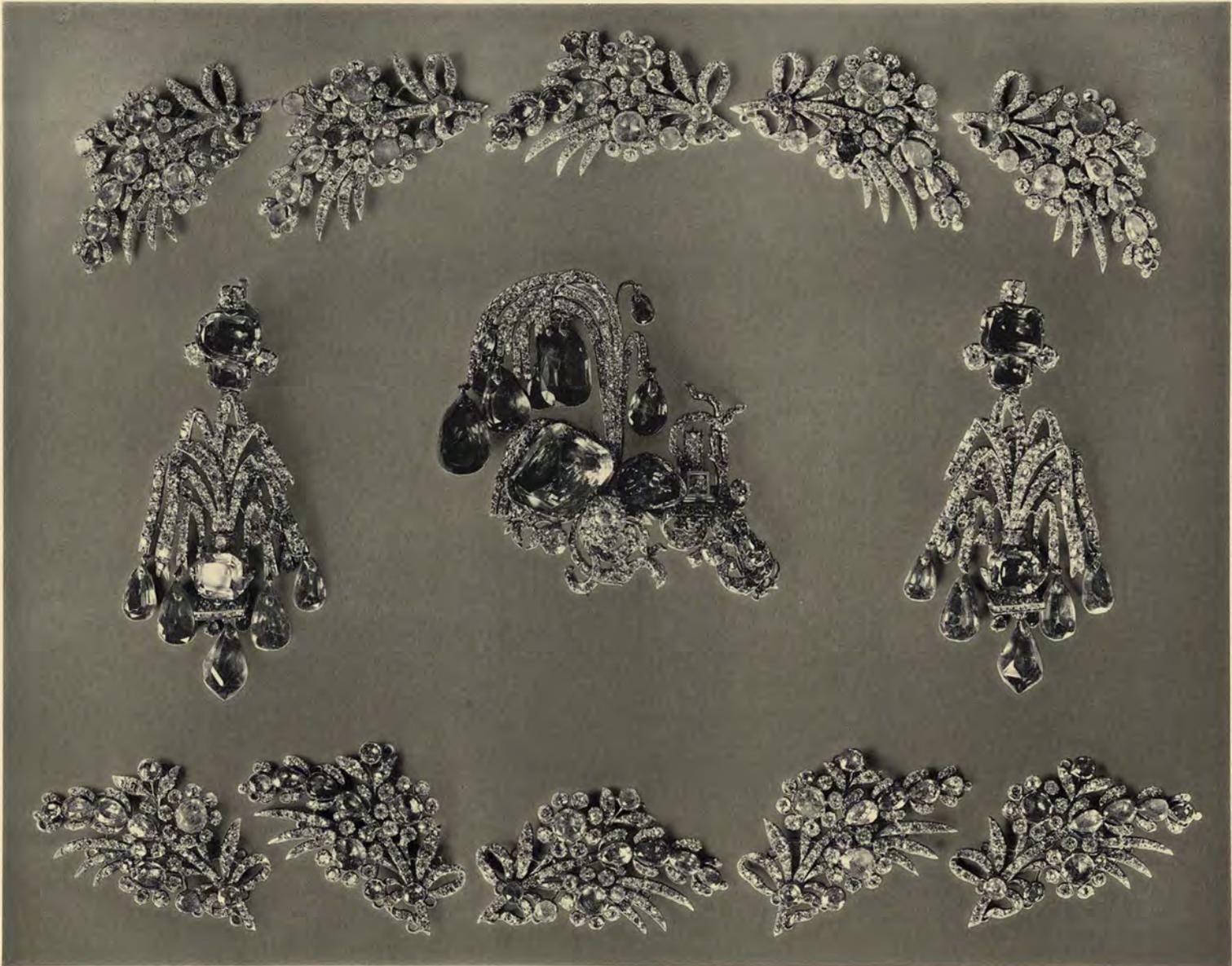


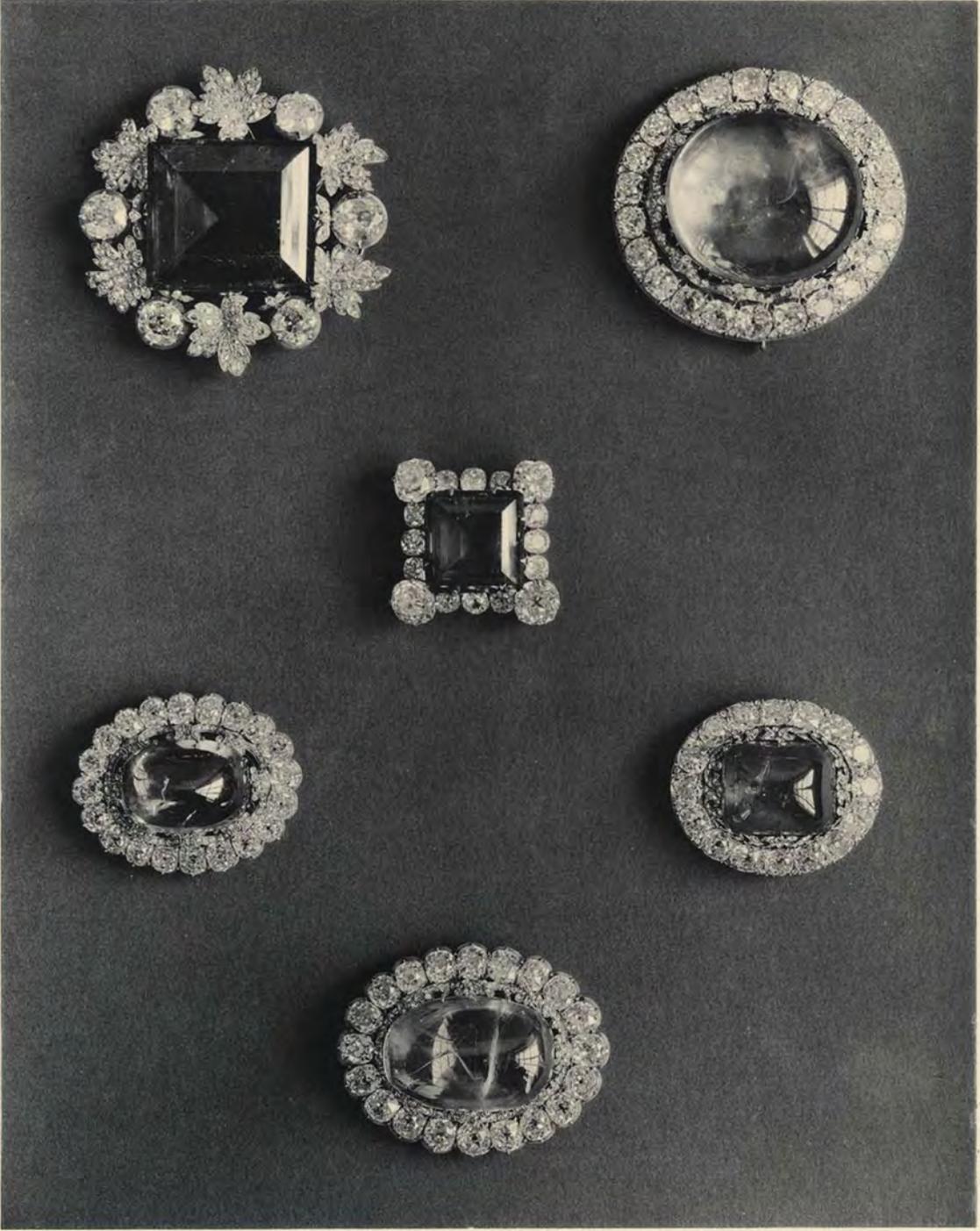






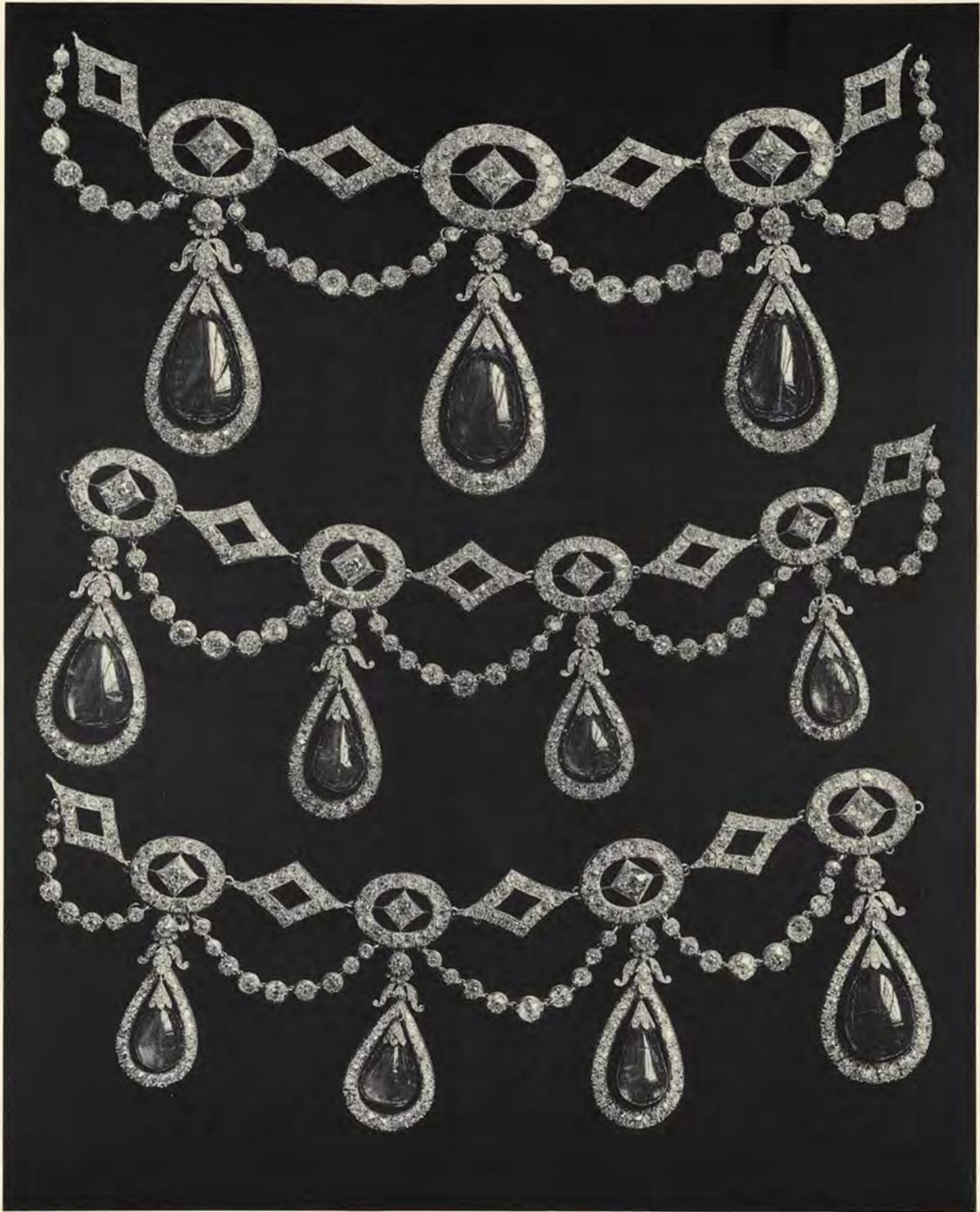


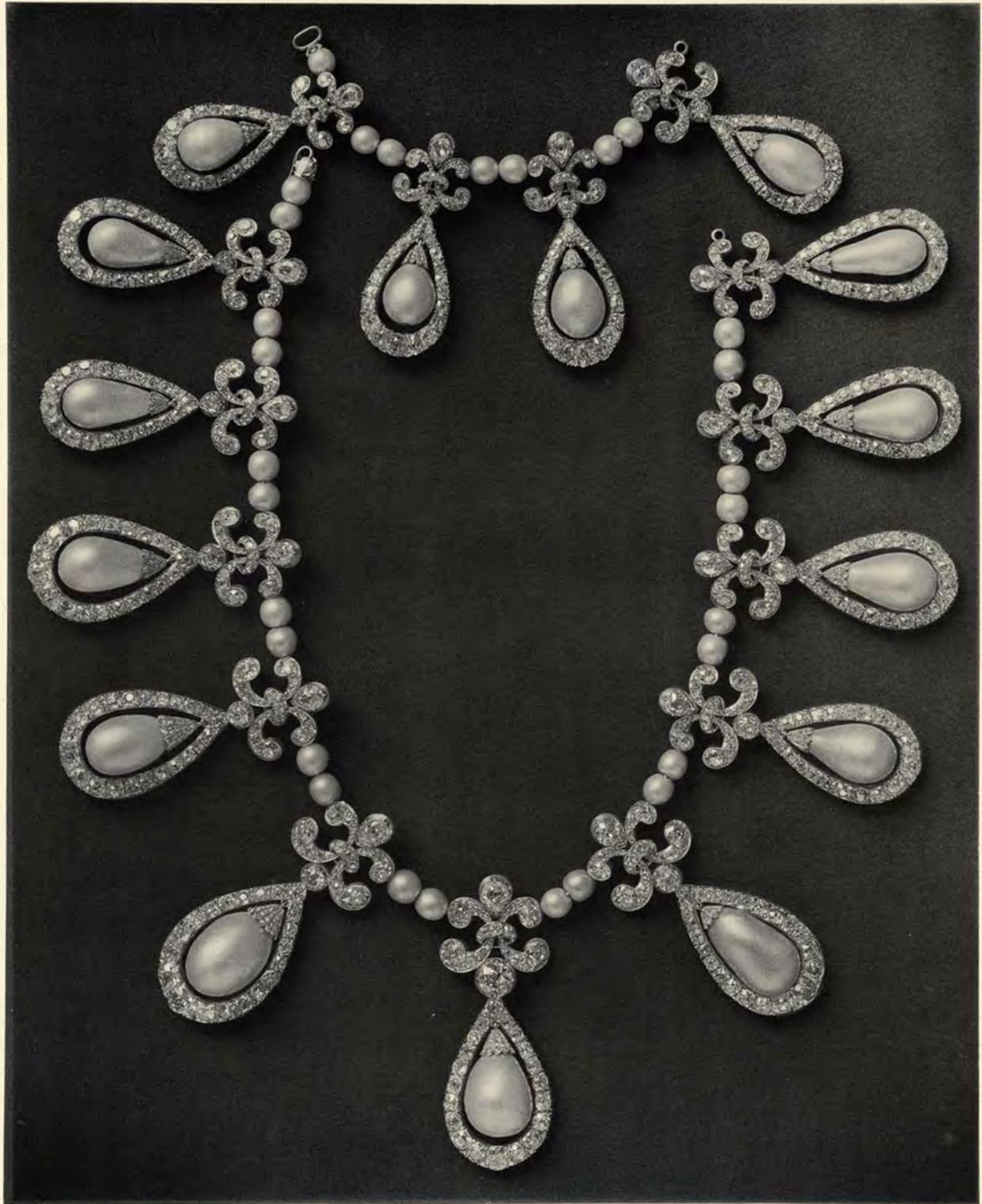


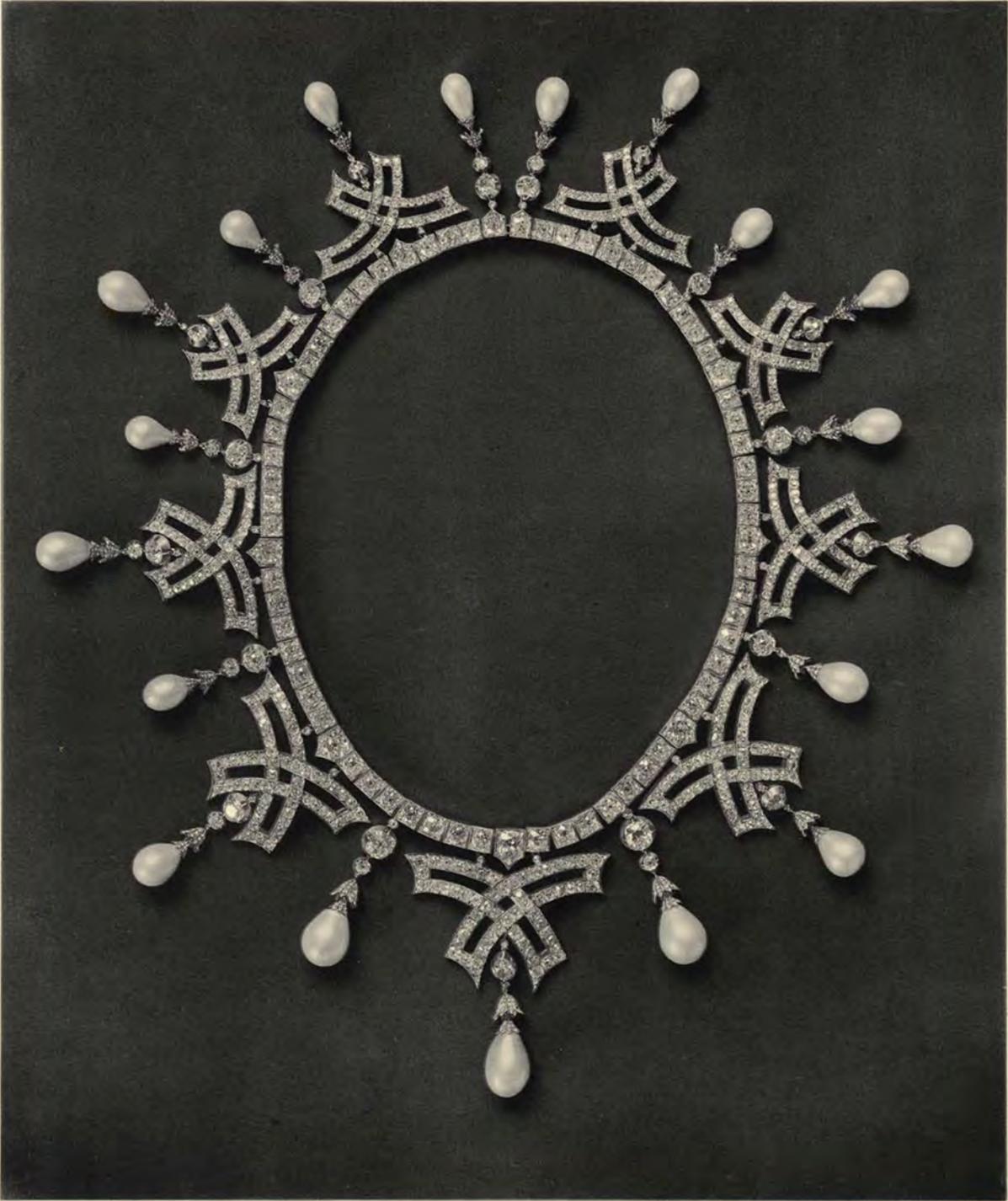


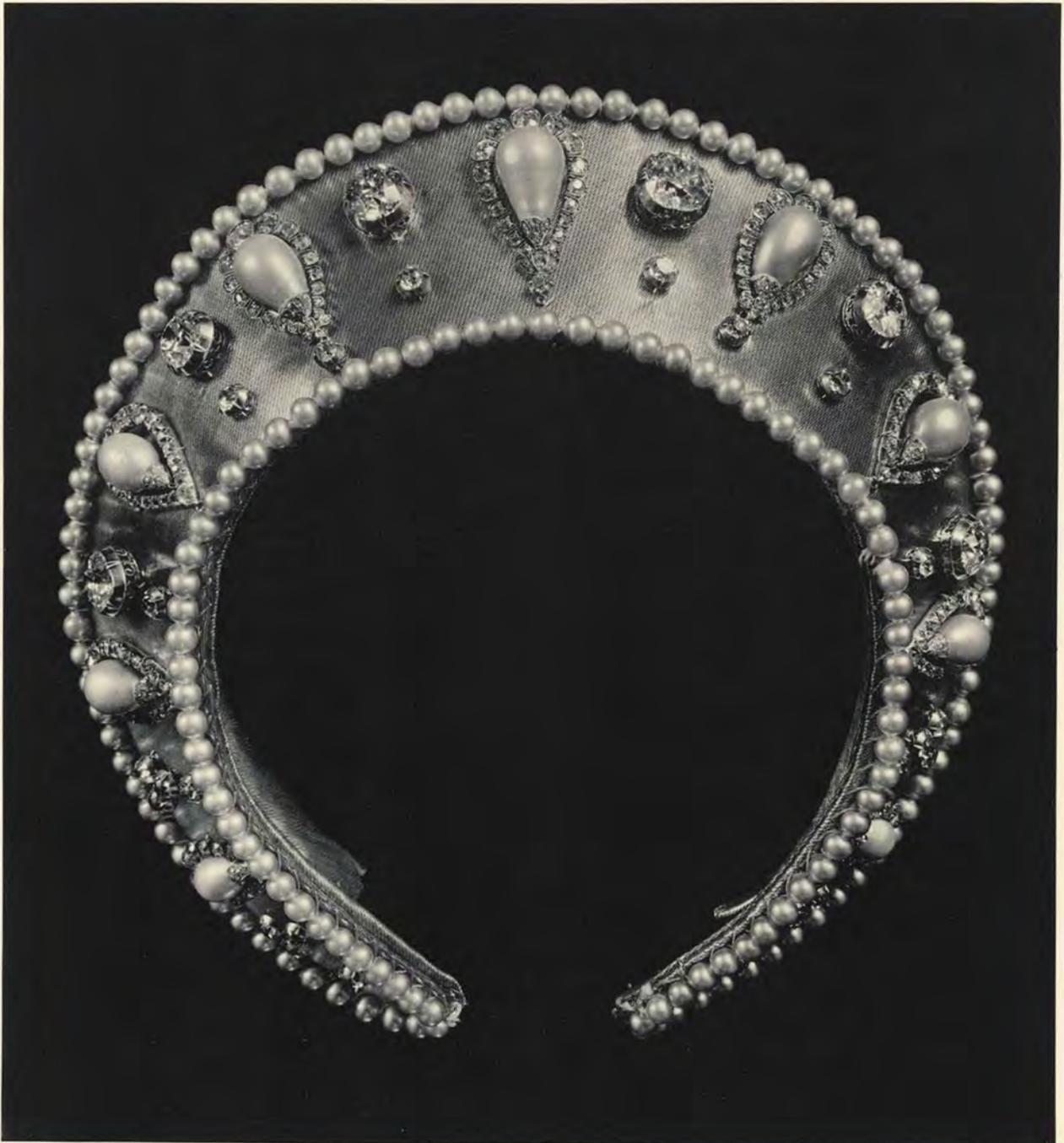


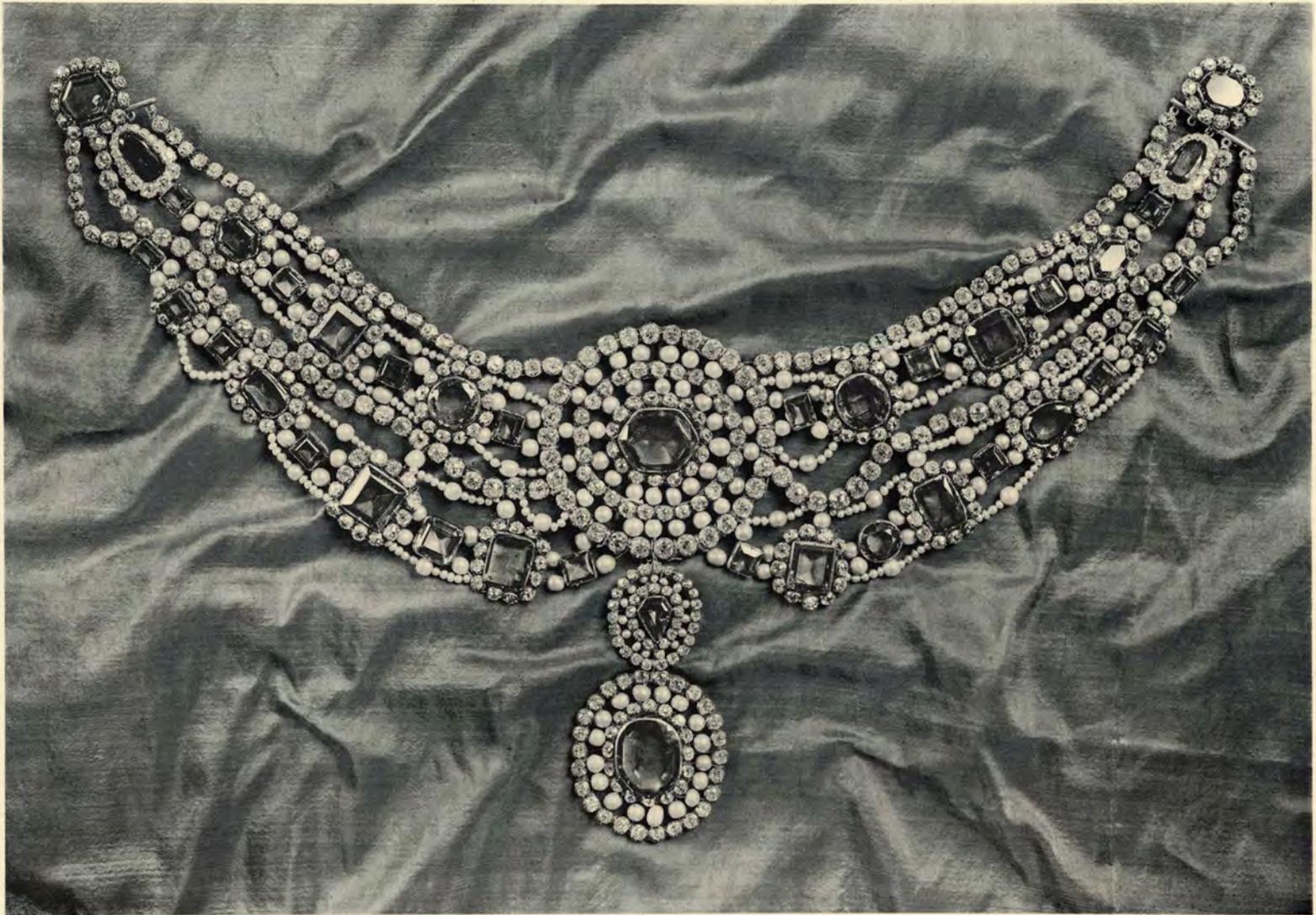




























RUSSIA'S TREASURE
OF
DIAMONDS
AND
PRECIOUS STONES

PART III

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FINANCES
MOSCOW—1925

RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES



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OF
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PART III

The People's Commissariat of Finance

MOSCOW
1926

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RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

TEXT

HISTORY OF THE «CROWN-DIAMONDS».

Before we enter upon a detailed, historical investigation of the official organ, recently in charge of the late tsar's treasure,—it is necessary first of all, to give some attention to the «essential fibre», the so-called «Cabinet of His Majesty», founded by Peter I, in 1704.

This Cabinet too, we must agree, was not quite a new formation, being only the restoration of an older establishment already existing, during the reign of tsar Alexei, under the name of «Seal-Office of Private Affairs». The functions of both institutions were very similar, and chiefly concerned the court management.

Thus, the new Cabinet did not represent, at the beginning, any special organization, and Makarov, the functionary appointed to the new office, was only engaged to take charge of all the so-called «Cabinet affairs». During the first decennaries of its existence, the Cabinet bore this rather vague and general character. Yet, some documents dating even from the reign of Peter I, allow us to distinguish in the activity of the Cabinet, the beginning of the future «Chamber-department»,—specially appointed to superintend over the precious stones, to provide presents, and to keep accounts.

After the death of Peter I, and up to the accession to the throne, of his daughter Elisabeth, the Cabinet, and other institutions connected with it, were subjected to numerous alterations. However, in 1741, the original Cabinet was restored and charged with its former functions, this reform being edicted on December 12-th of that year. Unfortunately, we possess no documents that would enable us to prove the similarity of this Cabinet with that of the subsequent «Chamber-department». Yet, without doubt, precious objects continued to be purchased, kept and expended, and more or less valuable presents—to be bestowed. Thus, our further mission shall be to define the activity of the Cabinet.

During the ephemeral reign of Peter III, the Cabinet's activity rather decreased, and consisted nearly exclusively in the issue of decrees for the payment of various sums of money. Thus, on January 10-th, the British merchant Fredericks, was paid 5000 roubles for a diamond bouquet, and on January 16-th, the jeweller Eckard received 2500 roubles for a brilliant ring.

Catherine II succeeded the throne on June 28-th 1762, and very soon the new empress began to completely reform the various state-departments. The Cabinet too, was subjected to numerous alterations, which released it of many of its functions, thus considerably limiting its influence. On July 16-th 1786, a special edict was published, strictly determining

the sphere of its competence. The different paragraphs of that «ukase» exactly establish the rules of keeping, registering and purchasing «precious objects», i. e. those intended for presents.

The crown treasure is not mentioned in any of the clauses of the edict. This can be explained by the fact, that the essential treasures were not yet submitted to the Cabinet, but were kept in the so-called «chamber» in the care of trusted maids of honour. A list attached to the edict shows that the Cabinet consisted of the following sections: office, 2 accounting departments, department of the Kolyvan mills, record-office and department of furs, peltry and fiscal-goods, this division being the real prototype of the future «Chamber-department», A jeweller and a peltry-expert are noted among the functionaries.

Besides, a special diamond work-shop was established under the supervision of the Cabinet. From a series of registers however, we can see, that this organization existed already since the very first years of Elisabeth's reign. It was placed at the disposition of the Cabinet for cases of repair, affinage and for new orders.

The same items prove that most of the expenses were charged to the account of the Salt-work administration. Thus, we see that necessary sums for the purchase of treasures, were not provided out of the monarch's private means, but were charged to the account of the state. Registers show that in that period (from 1744 up to 1753) precious stones, mainly diamonds (among them one solitaire of 15 $\frac{7}{8}$ carats) were purchased for the sum of 47.153 roubles. Some of the jewels were kept by the personal attendant of the empress, but these objects were also submitted for revision by the Cabinet.

Let us now make a survey of the first century of the Cabinet's existence. We see that its integral part, called the «Chamber-department» was not yet founded. However, we are able to trace, though rather indistinctly, the functions of this department during the whole of this period.

There can be no doubt that the necessity of keeping and registering precious objects already arose since the reign of Peter-the-Great, as also the tendency of the tsars to emphasize their benevolence by bestowing lordly presents. In view of this, it was necessary that corresponding material for gifts should be acquired and kept, and a special personnel appointed, in order to preserve the growing collections and to keep them in a suitable condition.

The tsars and especially, the tsaritsas, generously bestowed their «good graces» in the form of valuable gifts, their distribution being without any system. Only Catherine II somewhat regulated this extravagant custom, by enlarging the rights of control of the Cabinet.

Thus, during this whole period, often priceless treasures were collected and looked upon as the private property of the monarch. In course of time, however, it was realized that this was not the property of the monarch, and the so-called Chamber-department was founded, some of the principal objects, acknowledged to be of state value, being submitted to this new administration. Among these, the so-called «crown-diamonds»,—were, partly the Imperial Regalia, i. e. emblems of royal dignity, partly the most valuable jewels worn only by tsaritsas.

Our first information of the Imperial Regalia begins with the year 1719. In § 20 of the «Statute» of the «Chamber-Collegium»-organized by Peter-the-Great, we find an exact enumeration of the Regalia and the order in which it was to be kept. We cite the corresponding extract of that interesting document: «H. I. M.'s most gracious appointment of the Chamber-Collegium indicating the functions of this institution St.-Petersburg, 1719 . . . § 20, concerning the state property:—Objects belonging to the State i. e. Imperial Crown, Globe, Sceptre, Key and Sword are to be kept in the «Rent-office» (State Treasury, Chamber of finance) in a large coffer, locked and sealed up. A Chamber-president, a Chamber-councillor and a custodian are each to keep one of the keys. In the event of solemn proceedings, the president together with two councillors, are to enter the rent-office, to open the coffer, extract the necessary objects and remove them to the court. The ceremony having taken place—the same objects

are to be returned to the office and carefully preserved». This conception of Peter I regarding «State properties» was later on transferred on to other treasures as well; and the organization of a special Chamber-Department crowned the historical process, by which the Regalia and the treasures privately owned by the tsars, became the lawful possession of the State.

No essential changes occurred in regard to the Cabinet during the next reign, which was that of Paul I (November 1796—March 1801), except for a series of contradictory «ukases» (edicts) emitted by the extravagant Monarch, and concerning different divisions of the Cabinet. However, the order of keeping and expending the precious gifts remained unaltered.

Since 1796, the almost monopolized provision of precious gifts was transferred to the famous jeweller Duval (Duval et Fils). This master not only made the various presents, but also enlisted them, noting accurately to whom and when a present was bestowed. These lists, presented to the tsar, and paid for according to «supreme order», give the following data:

In 1796 (since November)	10.643 roubles.
„ 1797	844.232 „
„ 1798	788.879 „
„ 1799	1.206.586 „
„ 1800	506.386 „
„ 1801 (up to March 11-th)	331.355 „
<hr/>	
Total sum	3.683.081 roubles.

A large part of this sum refers to gifts presented to members of the royal family, especially to the Grand-Duchesses Alexandra and Hélène on the occasion of their marriage.

Considering the general state-budget of this period, the above-mentioned sum is, of course, an enormous one.

Naturally the finances of the Cabinet were considerably affected, and it was necessary to recur to state funds.

Paul I absolutely prohibited the delivery of any money on verbal command. We still possess a curious document representing a report of the director of the Cabinet, count Tiesenhäusen, wherein the question was «humbly» raised, as to «who had the right to receive sums on oral command?» and where-upon the wilful tsar wrote the single word: «nobody».

This tsar had also to enlarge the big imperial crown for his coronation, owing to the peculiar shape of his skull. He ordered too, a new sceptre and a new globe. The necessary materials were to be provided, and some of the precious objects used for the purpose, were removed to Moscow. The «master of the wardrobe» Koufaïssov was appointed to keep in a book «a debit and credit account» of jewels he was in charge of. In 1796 Paul I ordered two more crowns to the jeweller Terenin (for 2760 r. and 2440 r.). The designation of these crowns is unknown.

Further, we perceive that the financial state of the Cabinet was rather critical when Alexander I succeeded the throne, in 1801. A government loan had to be raised, for the sum of 2 millions, and already in the following year (March, 1802), the Department of the Domains had to deliver one more million. On October 15-th of the same year, a sum of 650.000 roubles was borrowed from the Foundling Hospital, in order to cover large expenses connected with the construction of the Michailovsky Castle, and to sink considerable debts. The latter amounted to the sum of 5.307.000 roubles, so that the Cabinet was not yet able to satisfy its creditors. The state funds had once more to supply the insolvent organization; besides, one million roubles were borrowed from the Assignment-Bank, the debt to be paid only in 1804. In this way, the emperor could «dispose, during a year, of the sum of 1.794.276 roubles».

A few days after the accession to the throne of the new monarch, the categorical prohibition by Paul I, regarding verbal orders, was annulled, and the state-secretary Troshchinsky

was authorised to issue verbal orders for necessary sums, provided they did not surpass 10.000 roubles.

Within a short time, a new personnel was formed for the Cabinet on January 18-th 1802. Conformably to the «ukase», the diamond work-shop was completely subordinated to the Cabinet, and the following functionaries were appointed to the once more reformed institution: a director, 2 members, a manager of the office, 3 clerks, a record-keeper and one translator. Four functionaries were employed in the treasury department, one—in the peltry division, and two (manager and expert)—in the diamond work-shop. Thus, the latter lost the independency it had under the direction of I. I. Betsky, and was adjoined to the Cabinet. In this way, the functions of both institutions could be correlated. The following paragraph of the edict, proves the new subordinate conditions of the work-shop: «The manager still remains in charge of all diamond, gold, silver and other precious pieces, as well as of brilliants, and other precious stones which are to be stored, sealed and enlisted; all expenses are to be accurately registered and presented to H. I. M.'s Chamber, only by special order of the Cabinet. Objects presented to the Chamber are to be carefully noted in corded books; one of them to be kept in the Cabinet, the other—in the Chamber. Equally, objects presented by private people are to be inspected by the experts, in the presence of the Cabinet, and then entered in the corded book both in the Cabinet and in the Chamber. Monthly verifications of the treasures are to be carried out. The jeweller and his apprentice have to take care of the objects, to clean and to repair them. The functionaries of the work-shop are to be controlled by the members of the Cabinet...».

On March 28-th in 1819, a new statute somewhat altered these conditions, as follows: a director and two members, three different departments and one mining-department were established. The second of these departments had two subdivisions—one of «peltry and furs», the other of «valuable presents». Two special experts (Mertz and Ianyshitsch) were appointed to them besides the clerks. Thus was laid the foundation of the Chamber-Department, which had in its charge all the correspondence and accounting concerning peltry, jewels and «precious gifts».

In 1825, on the accession to the throne of Nicolai I, further essential changes took place; even though they did not directly touch the Chamber-Department, yet they still more deprived the Cabinet of its independency: the Court-Ministry was founded in 1826, and the Cabinet entered this new organization as its integral part. The court-minister was charged with the Cabinet's chief administration, whilst its immediate management was entrusted to the vice-president. In 1827 an edict was issued, and a new statute given to the Cabinet in 1839, exactly regulating the functions of the reformed institution, particularly that of the Chamber-Department. This epoch may doubtlessly be looked upon as a period in which the activity of the Cabinet greatly developed. But, of course, the expenses were increased parallelly, owing to an imprudent extravagance in the distribution of gifts. In regard to the new reign, the principle of the bestowal of precious gifts remained unchanged but, since 1830 it altered notably. The order of bestowal was somewhat regulated on the one hand, on the other hand, the personal influence of the tsar was lost, and the presents assumed the character of alternative rewards. A bureaucratic regulation fixed limits that excluded every possibility of surpassing them. The chief of the corresponding department, would make a report to H. I. M. regarding gifts, and having obtained the tsar's consent, he would address himself to the Cabinet with the request that the gift be sent, the charge very often being for account of the department. This bureaucratic system was even applied to such presents as those given to mothers of the tsar's numerous godchildren. Besides, special medals were introduced as rewards for «service» and for «saving the perishing». Numerous presents (precious furs, jewels, decorated arms etc.) were offered to the envassaled oriental, and to foreign princes,

to officers of foreign armies, diplomats and even to writers and translators as a token of the monarch's good graces.

The figures mentioned below, will prove to the reader the enormous sums that were expended in presents:

In 1826	2.550.602 roubles.
„ 1834	2.097.355 „
„ 1845	514.106 „
„ 1854	382.664 „

We quote, besides, still more striking data, recorded during the reign of Nicolas I, which characterize the matchless sums expended for presents to members of the royal family:

In 1825	90.620 roubles.	In 1840	654.967 roubles.
„ 1826	241.596 „	„ 1841	94.098 „
„ 1827	53.744 „	„ 1842	138.923 „
„ 1828	32.869 „	„ 1843	34.311 „
„ 1829	no information.	„ 1844	387.784 „
„ 1830	„	„ 1845	no information.
„ 1831	230.648 roubles.	„ 1846	401.567 roubles.
„ 1832	246.260 „	„ 1847	162.088 „
„ 1833	52.045 „	„ 1848	345.200 „
„ 1834	65.390 „	„ 1849	74.355 „
„ 1835	17.208 „	„ 1850	191.338 „
„ 1836	62.223 „	„ 1851	183.131 „
„ 1837	107.474 „	„ 1852	132.231 „
„ 1838	37.314 „	„ 1853	75.683 „
„ 1839	195.109 „	„ 1854	76.055 „

There may perhaps, be some inaccuracy, in these figures but only in respect to their incompleteness. They, however, precisely characterize the extravagance of the tsar and the members of the imperial family.

Soon after the fire in the Winter-Palace (1837), the treasures which were kept in this residence, were removed to the Cabinet, and placed under lock and key in its store-houses. This proceeded in the presence of the maid of honour *Pilnykova*, the chamberlain *Picard*, and the chief of the Chamber-Department *Peťouhov*. The objects were placed in eleven gilded wooden boxes, and two special sentinels were appointed to their guard. On February 19-th 1838, the above-mentioned persons inspected the treasures, which appeared in order, with the exception of 10 extra brilliants. However, *Peťouhov* found that the ancient books were wanting in clearness, and a new book was thereupon introduced. Two years later, the new book was found to be identical with the first one. It shows 649 pieces; 623 of them are signed for by the vice-president of the Cabinet prince *Gagarine*, by prince *Grousinsky* and *Peťouhov*. The credit-notes date from 1840. After № 635 the debit-notes bear the year 1856. № 642 bears the date February 16-th 1861.

Then, evidently, once more this book was substituted by a new one. In any event, the book of 1840 is the first documental inventory of the crown-diamonds. No prices are denoted, only short pencil notes indicating the values were added later.

On November 9-th 1838, the regalia was removed to the *Anitchkov-Palace* and entrusted to the lady *Rohrbeck*. On June 30-th 1839, it was removed again to the Winter-Palace, and once more entrusted to the care of Lady *Pilnykova*. The sentinels also were transferred to the Winter-Palace. The other crown treasures, too, were brought to the same place, with the exception of the jewels left for the personal use of the empress. In the same

year, the crown solitaires were re-weighed, and new encasements, signed with the letter «K» were ordered for them. Thus, since 1839, we are in possession of an exact inventory of the crown treasures and know that they were guarded in a special room of the Winter-Palace.

The next period, which was that of the reign of Alexander II (1855—1881), did not bring any essential change in the activity of the Chamber-Department. However, the functions of the Cabinet were touched indirectly by a reform introduced during this period, which, it must be agreed, considerably regulated them. The principal feature of this period, is the tendency towards a more economical expenditure of the Cabinet funds. The reform was connected with the restoration of the Court-ministry in its previous form. A few years prior to this, the ministry was divided into two departments, count Adlerberg being the minister of the Court and count Perovsky—the administrator of the Cabinet and the domains. Now, however, Adlerberg alone was appointed Court-minister. In spite of all measures directed against the irrational expenditure of the Cabinet's property, the results achieved, were inconsiderable. Specially in cases of marriages, the enormous charges were a heavy burden to the state funds. As a rule, princesses of the imperial family, as well as the fiancées of the grand-dukes, received, as a dowry, jewels worth about 350.000 roubles; whilst the fiancée of the crown prince received diamonds worth at least double that amount. Some considerable purchases were made at that period to supplement the Treasure Reserve.

The activity of Adlerberg affected, as well, another domain of the Cabinet. He ordered, in 1863, a new valuation of the crown diamonds. All brilliants and pearls deposited in the Winter-Palace, and entrusted to the lady Ellis, were ordered to be valued. The experts of the Cabinet were engaged to carry out this task, and enter the prices in a corded book, two copies being retained.

The valuation of the treasures was postponed to October 1864, and took place only after the death of the lady Ellis, under the chairmanship of Petouhov, of the commandant of the Winter-Palace, the military-engineer Coubé, the manager of the Chamber-Department Danilevsky and of three jewellery experts—Bolin, Breitfuss and Saefftigen. The results of this inspection showed the absence of objects worth 125 roubles, at the same time showing a surplus of 7713 r.

Alexander III, who succeeded the throne in 1881, destroyed the collegiate elements of the Cabinet. Its three members were replaced by three assistants of the chief-manager, who became the only administrator of the institution.

On April 24-th 1888 the departments of the Cabinet were transformed into Sections. A manager, a custodian and two assistants of the latter were appointed to the re-organized Chamber-Section. At the same time, it was charged with a new function: to carry on the genealogical table of the Romanovs, and to keep the different acts and documents concerning the imperial family. In the previous year, the same section was charged with the supplementary management of the stone objects, produced at the polishing mills. These objects amounted to 1911 pieces (vases, cups, pedestals, ink-stands, snuff-boxes, seals etc.), for the sum of 500.548 roubles.

Later, in 1893, the Chamber-Section once more was transformed into a department—1 manager and 2 assistants, without any essential change in its functions.

The presents were divided into two groups: official and ordinary. To the first group belonged all the precious objects ornamented with the portraits and monograms of «their Majesties», orders, marshal-maces, precious arms in gold, badges for court-ladies, mitres, crosses, images of saints decorated with gems, diamond medals etc.; to the second group belonged porte-cigars, snuff-boxes, rings, bracelets, necklaces, ear-rings, brooches, and other ladies jewels, cuff-buttons, watches, etc.

When the tsar intended to manifest to anybody his benevolence, he fixed the sum that was to be expended, and the respective chief informed the Cabinet of the monarch's wish. The present usually depended on the rank of the receiver. Presents bestowed as special rewards for state-service, were often paid for by the administration itself.

The stocks of stones and jewels were supplemented out of the reserves of the Cabinet, or procured by special purveyors. Thus, the Chamber-Department disposed of a series of credits, and of a capital which founded in 1874, was completely expended in 1883.

On August 22-nd 1884, the chamber-lady of the empress was released from her duties of keeper of the crown-brilliant, and they were transferred to the administration of the Chamber-Department. A special commission was appointed to re-value the treasures, and once again list them in a corded book. The room destined for the collection was locked, sealed and entrusted to the guard of two sentinels. Nobody was allowed to enter it without a special authorization of the court-minister. Some of the jewels selected by the empress for her personal use, were left in charge of the maid of honour.

Thus, in 1884, the crown treasure, after having been for so many years in charge of confidants, was completely transferred to the direction of an institution, and subjected to state control. Doubtless, this fact is the result of a growing sense, that these treasures were the property of the whole state, and required to be strictly accounted for. Thus, nearly two centuries passed, before this primary idea of Peter I was realized. The reader certainly will recollect that, already in 1719 this tsar had been anxious that the «State treasure» should be entrusted to the State Treasury.

The functions of the Cabinet were subjected to no essential change in the first years of the next reign, that of the last Romanov, Nicolas II.

In 1894, precautionary measures were taken, the seals being changed both in the storehouse of the Cabinet, and in the room of the Winter Palace, where the collections were stored. In 1895 (July 18-th), the treasures were removed to another room in the same residence, which received the special name of the «Diamond-Room».

In the same year, the treasures were re-valued and placed under lock and key anew.

In 1897, the Cabinet, which was rather over-burdened with its various functions, was deprived of its administrative section, forming anew an office of the Court-Ministry.

In 1906, radical measures were found necessary in order to strengthen the funds of the Cabinet. The precious stones, which belonged to the reserves, and which were out of use for the last ten years, were re-valued anew. It was decided to sell this rich collection in order to obtain the necessary sum for a new capital fund. On August 14-th, 15-th and 16-th an auction took place. Yet, the resulting sum of one million roubles was not accepted, and the price was raised to 1.075.500 r., on the next occasion, the jeweller Sachs acquiring the priceless collection. The purchaser received, among other beautiful gems, a remarkable emerald of Russian origin, which was included in the collection in 1841, its price being 773 r. 6½ kop. In 1906 it was entered in the inventory under № 9, and valued at Rs. 6781. This hexagonal stone of rare water, and splendid colour, was presented in the same year to the tsaritsa, with the request of the experts to retain it in the Cabinet.

However, this was not sanctioned by the Empress, and the rare gem was sold for a trifle. From 1894 up to 1915 (inclusive) the bestowal of presents was continued every year, a considerable part of them being offered to the members of the imperial family.

A few more words about the Regalia and the crown-treasures:

In 1896 the regalia was set in order for the occasion of the late tsar's coronation. We quote an interesting passage out of a report of the chief-manager of the chamber-department: »..... apart from inspecting and setting the regalia in order, a new imperial crown had to be made for the empress Alexandra Feodorovna«. In view of a wound in the

head, a special velvet cap had to be ordered for Nicolas II, to be worn under the crown, which was made by the manufacturer Skossyrev.

Regarding the crown of the tsaritsa, it was made according to the model of the Empress dowager's crown, without the crown diamonds. It was wrought by the jeweller Hahn, with modern solitaires. The workmanship proved to be very successful, and the stones were beautifully matched.

Besides, a new imperial standard was ordered and woven by the manufactory of Sapognikov. Its ribbons of St. Andrew's order, were richly embroidered by the sisters of the Novodievitchy nunnery, in Moscow. The total price of the standard amounted to 5016 roubles.

In general, the expenses connected with the coronation of Nicolas II, amounted to the sum of 899.000 roubles, i. e. surpassing the charges of the coronation of his predecessor by almost 244.414 roubles.

Once again the regalia (crown, sceptre, globe, standard, imperial sword and seal) * were used. This occurred, on April 27-th 1906, on the occasion of the solemn inauguration of the «Douma» and the ceremonial procession to the throne-hall of St. George in the Winter Palace. The emblems of imperial power were grouped around the throne. The standard, sword, seal and imperial purple mantle were specially brought from Moscow, where they were kept in the Armoury-Hall.

What conclusions can be drawn from the above historical facts? «The Diamond-Treasure of Russia» was founded by Peter I. It always was closely connected with the fund of presents, which the tsars so generously bestowed on their intimates, their favourites and especially their own relations. However, since Peter I, we notice the ever growing conception that the crown brilliants were the property of the State. Only the fund for presents was to be looked upon as a source of personal rewards, the latter being gradually tied down by official limitations.

The history of the Diamond-Treasure, reflects the history of the Romanovs, during the last two centuries, with their exceeding lavishness in some cases, and their extreme avarice in others. Hundreds of millions of gold roubles were spent on presents, which were repeatedly purchased back again; beautiful collections were sold for trifles, and ancient objects of marvellous work and historical value were, at the slightest whim, re-made during the course of one night.

Yet, the fundamental idea of the State keeping the property of the State, was that of Peter I. And, it was this idea that saved for the Russian people, the riches belonging to them.

D. V. Juferov.

* The state seal, refers to the reign of Isar Fedor Alexeivitch, and represents a silver circle of 3 vershoks in the diameter, with a two-headed eagle surmounted by three crowns.

DESCRIPTION
OF RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

DESCRIPTION OF RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS AND PRECIOUS STONES

Abbreviations: **m. c.** = metrical carat (200 milligrammes); **a. c.** and **anc. car.** = ancient carat (205—207 milligr.); **cent.** = centimeter; **cent.²** = sq. centimeter; **m. m.** = millimeter; **appr.** = approximately; **br.** = brilliant; **d.** = diamond; **phot.** = phototype; **Inv.** = inventory. N. B. The weight of the stones has been verified by our experts and compared with 1898 lists, attached to specimens. A few of the largest stones have been taken out of settings and weighed anew.—In each case, the letter «W» has been added in the new records.

№ 82.

Plate LI, phot. 89 (full size).

THE SMALL IMPERIAL CROWN.

The small imperial crown can almost rival with the large one, in workmanship and beauty of the stones. However, from an artistic point of view, it does not equal the crown of the tsars. When the coronation of the last emperor took place, one more crown was required for the tsaritsa, the ancient crown was left to the empress dowager. The firm Hahn was engaged to make the new crown, which was to be an exact reproduction of the ancient specimen. Beautiful solitaires from South-Africa were used for this purpose, some of them being of considerable size (13 a. c.). The ancient crown refers to the reign of Paul I. It was made in 1801. We find this date in a document of the late Cabinet, which reads as follows: «to remit to the jeweller Duval 2052 diamond stones for the sum of 37,854 rbls and 12½ cop. for the decoration of the crown of H. M. the Empress Elisaveta Alexievna».

Dimensions: (inner diameter)—12×11 cent.; width on the top—11,5×14,5 cent.; height, the cross included—13 cent.; without the cross—9,2 cent.

The diamonds are of Indian and Brazilian origin. The smaller stones are all very good ones, the

large specimens being somewhat varied in their qualities.

According to the Inventory of 1898, the weights in ancient carats are as follows: 1 br.—8½; 1 br.—6⅞; 1 br.—6¼; 1 br.—6; 1 br.—4⅞; 7 br.—23⅞; 4 br.—10⅞; 3 br.—6½; 13 br.—26⅞; 14 br.—21¼; 65 br.—64⅞; 33 br.—24⅞; 181 br.—90½; 1042 br.—168 a. c.; Roses—2200.

In the circle of the crown are 25 solitaires of the following weight: 6⅞; 7⅞; 6⅞; 5¼; 6⅞; 5⅞; 5⅞; 7¼; 4⅞; 5⅞; 5⅞; 5⅞; 6⅞; 5⅞; 2⅞; 6⅞; 4⅞; 4⅞; 3¼; 3¼; 4⅞; 6¼; 6⅞; 5¼; 2⅞.

Setting, silver à-jour, not soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 4/4 (the new crown is noted in the Inventory under the number 5/363). Inv. 1922—№ 479.

№ 83.

Plate LI, phot. 90—92 (full size).

THE CROSS AND THE SPINEL OF THE LARGE IMPERIAL CROWN.

A historical stone of which 3 sides were photographed, described in detail in Part I, page 25, plate II, phot. 2 and 3.

№ 84.

Plate LII, phot. 93 (full size).

IMPERIAL SCEPTRE WITH THE «ORLOV»
DIAMOND.Detailed description in Part I, page 26, plate VIII,
phot. 9 and 10.

№ 85.

Plate LII, phot. 94—95 (full size).

INDIAN SOLITAIRES SET IN BROOCHES.

Two rich brooches with large Indian solitaires. One of the stones is a most beautiful, rosy-shaded, first-class, sparkling gem of perfect purity, though a little too long and oval. The second solitaire, beautifully shaped like the celebrated French «Regent» diamond, is of pure white water, but has some black speckles.

Dimensions of the pink coloured gem: $3 \times 2,3$ cent.; its weight— $40^{12}/32$ a. c.—is engraved on the setting. The old Inventory (№ 40/39) indicates the price of the diamond as 115,000 roubles.

Dimensions of the white stone: $2,35 \times 2,25$ cent.; weight— $53^{12}/32$ a. c. The value of this diamond according to the early Inventory is 200,000 rbl.

Setting: both stones in silver à-jour with a golden gallery.

Inv. 1922—№ 258.

№ 86.

Plate LII, phot. 96—99 (full size).

THE DIAMOND «SHAH».

This celebrated historical gem, weighing 88,70 m. c. (in old lists— $86^{7}/16$ a. c.) is of yellowish water, reminding one of the colour of a very clear phenacite, but of great purity and with a few yellow cracks. The stone is, probably, from Golconda, and must have been discovered in the second half of the XVI-th century. It is bordered with eight radiant, slightly rounded octangular facets, which are partly polished. Three ancient Persian inscriptions cover the gem, which has a small furrow, evidently intended for a thread. The inscriptions deciphered by Professor Oldenburg, Member of the Academy, have the following meaning:

1) Bourhan-Nizam II, Shah, in the year 1000,

(Ruler of the Province Achmednazar in 1591 a. c.).

2) Son of Jehangir-Shah, Jehan-Shah, 1051 (the eternal Mogol, grand son of Akbar—1641 a. c.).

3) Kadzar-tatch-Ali-Shah, Sultan 1242 (Shah of Persia in the year—1824) a. c.

This stone was mentioned by the famous French traveller Tavernier, who saw the diamond in 1665 in the palace of Aureng-Zab, the son of Jehan-Shah. The beautiful gem adorned the throne of the Shah, having been, probably, seized at Delhi, among other treasures, after the conquest of the latter by the Great Mogols. In 1829 the stone was presented to the Russian Court by the Persian Prince Chozrev-Mirza in order to redeem the murder of the famous writer Gribojedov, who was the Russian diplomatic agent at the Persian court.*

Inv. 1898—№ 38/37; Inv. 1922—№ 443.

* See detailed description of the diamond in «The Diamond Shah» by A. E. Fersman (Bull. de l'Acad. d. Sciences, 1922).

№ 87.

Plate LII, phot. 100 (full size).

BROOCH WITH A LARGE SOLITAIRE.

An interesting jewel set with an ancient solitaire, apparently of Hindu origin. On the setting is engraved: «April 16-th, 1841» and lower down: «22 c. 16/32».

Dimensions: of the brooch— $3,4 \times 2,2$ cent.; of the stone— $2,2 \times 1,8$.

The diamond is of an interesting light greenish water, with black speckles. 6 small diamonds and 14 roses are in the leaves of the setting.

Setting: of the solitaire—silver à-jour. The brooch is in gold à-jour.

Not mentioned in early lists.

Inv. 1922—№ 985.

№ 88.

Plate LII, phot. 101—103 (full size).

THE INDIAN SOLITAIRE OF THE
IMPERIAL GLOBE.

This beautiful stone is described in detail in the description of the Imperial Globe, Part I, page 26, plate VII, phot. 7.

№ 89.

Plate LIII, phot. 104 (full size).

DIAMOND NECKLACE WITH RUBIES
AND SPINELS.

This beautiful ornament consists of 21 chatons, set with red stones artistically matched, though not of high value. The beautiful scale of various reds is formed by pink and dark rubies, red Birma titanites and noble spinels of brownish coloured tints. The stones are strung on a silk string, and covered from underneath with red varnish, according to the fashion of the XIX-th century.

The weight of the coloured gems is engraved on their settings, as well as the weight and quantity of the stones encircling them. Besides, the letter «K» is engraved on the border. The weights referred to above, correspond with those in ancient carats given by the old Inventory, which, however, indicates 28 stones instead of 21.

The weights of the stones are as follows:

1) titanite . . .	$13^{15}/32$ and 16 brilliants . . .	$7^{14}/32$
2) spinel . . .	$10^{20}/32$ " 14 " . . .	$5^{25}/32$
3) " . . .	$9^{22}/32$ " 16 " . . .	$5^{1}/32$
4) ruby . . .	$7^{21}/32$ " 16 " . . .	$2^{23}/32$
5) " . . .	4 — " 12 " . . .	$1^{17}/32$
6) " . . .	$3^{18}/32$ " 14 " . . .	$1^{25}/32$
7) " . . .	$5^{12}/32$ " 13 " . . .	$1^{13}/32$
8) " . . .	$2^{7}/32$ " 14 " . . .	$1^{9}/32$
9) " . . .	$2^{12}/32$ " 13 " . . .	$1^{11}/32$
10) " . . .	$3^{20}/32$ " 13 " . . .	$1^{2}/32$
11) " . . .	indistinct, about $1^{14}/32$, 14 br. weight $2^{1}/32$	
12) spinel . . .	$12^{10}/32$ and 14 brilliants . . .	$5^{4}/32$
13) " . . .	$12^{21}/32$ " 16 " . . .	$4^{31}/32$
14) ruby . . .	$4^{22}/32$ " 12 " . . .	$2^{23}/32$
15) spinel . . .	$2^{20}/32$ " 14 " . . .	$2^{1}/32$

- 16) ruby 4 $\frac{1}{32}$ and 12 brilliants 1 $\frac{24}{32}$
 17) " 2 $\frac{1}{32}$ " 14 " 1 $\frac{19}{32}$
 18) " 2 $\frac{9}{32}$ " 14 " 1 $\frac{9}{32}$
 19) " 1 $\frac{25}{32}$ " 15 " $\frac{29}{32}$
 20) " 3 $\frac{9}{32}$ " 13 " 1 $\frac{5}{32}$
 21) " indistinct, about
 1 $\frac{16}{32}$ and 22 roses.

№ 90.

Plate LIII, phot. 105 (full size).

DIAMOND BOW WITH RED SPINELS.

This wonderful piece of jewellery dates from about 1760, being the critical period between the pompous epoch of Elisabeth and the rich parades of Catherine II.

Clasps № 231, bows № 967 and earrings № 453, form this wonderful set, in red tones, in a frame sparkling with brilliants. The bow represented on our plate bears the inscription: «Pfisterer, April 10-th 1764». Besides this, the following is engraved in the centre of the reverse-side: «B. 521. W. K. 98 $\frac{21}{32}$. R. 33. W. K. 234 $\frac{19}{32}$ ». These inscriptions, giving the quantity and the weight of the stones, prove that some other ornament must have belonged to the jewel, as the figures are all higher than the real weights.

Spinel: light-coloured specimens placed on a foil in solid golden settings. 21 stones weighing about 150 m. c.

Inv. 1922—№ 493/191.

№ 91.

Plate LIII, phot. 106—107 (full size).

EARRINGS WITH SPINEL EAR-DROPS.

These splendid earrings are dated: «Pfisterer, May 27-th 1764. R. 18. K. 29 $\frac{13}{32}$. B. 224. K. 51 $\frac{16}{32}$ ». The importance of this inscription (giving the name of the jeweller, the date the work was accomplished, the quantity of the rubies and diamonds, and their weight) is still more increased by the fact that a series of other ornaments completes this rich spinel «parure», i. e. the large clasp № 493, the small bows № 231, some rounded brooches—№ 967, and some smaller clasps—№ 461.

These numbers are taken from the Inventory of 1922.

The earrings set with light-coloured spinels on a foil, and enriched by three loosely hanging ear-drops, are of excellent workmanship.

Dimensions: 6,7×5 cent.

Spinel: 18 specimens of 29 a. c.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones; 10 br.—8 a. c.; 28 br.—17 a. c.; 40 br.—16 a. c.; 146 br.—10 a. c.

Setting: solid silver, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 193/193; Inv. 1922—№ 459.

№ 92.

Plate LIV, phot. 108 (full size).

**ORDER OF THE CROSS OF ST. CATHERINE
(first class).**

This order is of interesting workmanship, on enamel, with old jewellery settings of Brazilian diamonds.

Dimensions: 8,4×5,0 cent.

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens; 5 br.—3 a. c.; 73 br.—8 a. c.

Setting—silver, soldered in gold. The work of the jewel refers to 1770—1780.

Inv. 1898—№ 359/351; Inv. 1922—№ 441.

№ 93.

Plate LIV, phot. 109 (full size).

ENSIGN ORDER.

Ensign order № 25 described in detail in Part 1, page .

Inv. 1922—№ 517/25.

№ 94.

Plate LIV, phot. 110 (full size).

**BADGE OF A MAID OF HONOUR WITH
THE MONOGRAM OF CATHERINE II.**

This badge is in the form of a pendant joined to a crown, of beautiful à-jour work. The crown contains two large diamonds, one pear-shaped, six average-sized brilliants, and 25 small stones. The monogram of the empress is studded with 70 small one-cuts.

Dimensions: 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens with a total weight of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. c. The stones are set on a massive silver foil, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 358/350; Inv. 1922—№ 423.

№ 95.

Plate LIV, phot. 111 (full size).

STAR OF THE ORDER OF ST. ANDREW.

This star, which decorates the great chain of St. Andrew's order, is studded with diamonds and roses, and is of very good à-jour workmanship. In the centre of the star, a black eagle is represented, holding a blue cross, encircled by diamonds of average size. The large circle is made of 18 somewhat flat diamonds, which, however, are of good and pure water.

Dimensions: 14,25×14,25 cent.

Diamonds: good old specimens; 18 br.—50 a. c.; 325 br.—106 a. c.; one-cuts—2 a. c. and 350 roses.

The weights are according to the Inventory of 1898—№ 7/6.

The workmanship refers to the reign of Paul I, between 1795—1800.

№ 96.

Plate LIV, phot. 112 (full size).

**DIAMOND BROOCH WITH TWO LARGE
PEARLS AND A PINK DIAMOND.**

A beautiful piece of great artistic value. The stones and pearls are not only beautiful in themselves, but are very cleverly matched. The pink gem in the centre is beautifully set off by the perfect white diamond in the upper part of the jewel, and the light yellowish stones of the pendant. This brooch belongs to the first half of the XIX-th century, and is of great value from a historical, artistic and material point of view.

Dimensions: of the whole jewel—10,5×4,5 cent.; of the pink diamond—14 m. m.×14 m. m.; of the upper pearl—20×20×15 m. m.; of the pearl in the pendant—26×20 m. m.

Pearls: 2 large pearls; one of them a perforated specimen of a pretty lustre, though not perfectly pure, weighs—38 a. c. (according to the early lists); the other, an oval, perforated pearl of a rosy tint, weighs 77 a. c. and is a specimen of rare beauty.

Diamonds: 1 round, pink stone, probably of Brazilian origin, an excellent specimen weighing 9¹¹/₁₆ a. c.; 10 white Brazilian stones weighing altogether 24¹⁵/₁₆ a. c.; 14 diamonds, somewhat yellowish, of good quality—15 a. c. (appr.) and 90 roses.

Setting—gold and silver à-jour.

Inv. 1898—№ 216/210; Inv. 1922—№ 5.

№ 97.

Plate LV, phot. 113 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH PEARLS.

This beautiful brooch together with the diadem № 3, and the necklace № 940 (old Inv.) forms a complete set, being the most successful piece of the whole parure. It is set with rare ancient pearls of great beauty, and it was completed in the second half of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: of the brooch, height—10,5 cent.; width—4,8 cent.; length of the big round pearl—2,4 cent.; of the two side pearls—1,8 cent.

Pearls: in the centre—a slightly veiled pearl of 25 m. c. (appr.); three excellent ancient pendants of a total weight of 64,10 m. c.

Diamonds: five large specimens of about 7¹/₂ m. c.; 32 of average size—14 m. c. (appr.); 53 small stones—2¹/₂ m. c. and 192 roses of about 1 m. c.

All the stones are very good Brazilian specimens.

Not mentioned in the old Inventory.

Inv. 1922—№ 941.

№ 98.

Plate LV, phot. 114 (full size).

PEARL BRACELET WITH A DIAMOND CLASP-FERMOIR ORNAMENTED WITH A SAPPHIRE.

A splendid piece, with beautiful old pearls, filed on three strings. The pretty fermoir is set with a large oblong sapphire encircled by diamonds. Length of the strings—13-14 cent.

Pearls: very good ancient oriental pearls, weighing about 175 m. c.

Natural-coloured stones: an oblong, dark, Ceylon sapphire, somewhat scratched, weight—23⁹⁰/₁₀₀ m. c.

Diamonds: 10 large stones with a total weight of about 18 carats; pure white Brazilian gems. Besides, in the small eyelets of the strings, there are 6 small diamonds.

Setting: gold à-jour, the stones in silver.

This bracelet is not mentioned in the old Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 950.

№ 99.

Plate LVI, phot. 115 (full size).

A DIAMOND LOCKET WITH THE PORTRAIT OF NICOLAS I.

A locket pendant, wrought about 1840, with a large solitaire on the top, and a miniature, set with a large portrait-stone, and different diamonds. A beautiful object, dating from the epoch of Nicolas I.

Dimensions of the locket (without the stone on the top): 5,2×4,2 cent.

Diamonds: good, white old Brazilians with the exception of one flat, oval diamond of yellowish water, weighing about 7 m. c.; 12 good diamonds—about 50 m. c.; 37 small diamonds—1¹/₄ m. c. Roses. A good portrait-stone of about 6 m. c.

Setting: silver, with a small golden gallery and soldered in gold.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 304.

№ 100.

Plate LVI, phot. 116 (slightly reduced size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A LARGE RUBY-BALAIS AND A DIAMOND PENDANT.

A most beautiful old brooch with a blood-red stone, workmanship belonging to the first half of the XIX-th century. At a later period, to this brooch was added a miniature of Alexander II, ornamented with pearls and diamonds. The workmanship of this part does not quite agree with the artistical and careful work of the whole jewel. However, it is an interesting piece from a historical point of view.

Dimensions: width of the upper brooch—3,3 cent.; total height—9 cent.

Natural-coloured stones: an excellent spinel of rare beauty and very pretty tint, with a slight defect. Weight 11⁵⁵/₁₀₀ m. c.

Diamonds: good Brazilians; 9 stones about 17 m. c.; different diamonds about 8 m. c.; the portrait-stone about—2 m. c.

Pearls: 4 round perforated specimens—about 7 m. c.; 1 good pendant—about 5 m. c.

Setting: the upper part of the brooch is golden and à-jour silver; the lower part golden, roughly made.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 944.

№ 101.

Plate LVI, phot. 117 (full size).

ORDER WITH A PORTRAIT IN ENAMEL OF PETER I.

S. Troinitsky ascribes this jewel to Chr. Boist. The portrait of the tsar is encircled by 12 diamonds of good water, weighing about 31 a. c. (4 br.—15 a. c. and 8 br.—16 a. c.). A large yellow diamond is in the eyelet for a ribbon, weighing 12 carats, of quadrangular form and encircled by roses in gold.

The setting is of the epoch of Nicolas I (about 1840); the miniature not of high artistic value.

Dimensions of the order: 4,75×4,75 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 425.

№ 102.

Plate LVI, phot. 118 (full size).

BRACELET WITH LARGE DIAMONDS AND A PORTRAIT IN THE CLASP.

This bracelet consists of three rows of very large and excellent diamonds. In the clasp is a portrait of Nicolas Alexandrovitch, brother of Alexander III, decorated with a beautiful table-diamond. This pretty jewel belongs to the beginning of the second half of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: length of the bracelet—17 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.; width—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.; the locket-fermoir—3×3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cent.

Diamonds: first class Brazilian stones: 51 diamonds—about 85 m. c.; 12 diamonds—about 26 m. c.; small diamonds and roses—about 1 m. c. An excellent portrait-stone of about 8 m. c. weight.

Setting: the stones in silver chatons soldered in gold. The chatons are strung on a silk string.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 945.

№ 103.

Plate LVII, phot. 119 (full size).

DIAMOND STRINGS WITH TASSELS.

Two strings of wonderful workmanship, completed with the refined accomplishment of the latter years of the XVIII-th century. According to S. Troinitsky, this splendid piece can be ascribed to the famous jeweller Duc, of St.-Petersbourg. Both strings consist of somewhat drawn out rounded links, divided by perforated spherical pearls, and of very pretty tassels ornamented with sparkling pendants. All the links are of different sizes, between 14 to 16 mm. length, and between 7 to 9 mm. width, their size gradually increasing towards the base. The diamonds are in silver settings, partly of Brazilian origin, partly one-cuts of good quality.

Length of the string—9,5 cent., width of the tassels—2,5 cent.

The Inventory of 1898 (№ 235/228) indicates that these jewels were worn by the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and gives the following weights: 24 pearls—45 a. c.; 28 diamonds—23 a. c.; 84 diamonds—8 a. c.; 1580 one-cuts—66 a. c.

Inv. 1922—№ 377.

№ 104.

Plate LVII, phot. 120 (full size).

AMETHYST ORNAMENTS.

The early Inventory mentions these ornaments as an «Amethyst set for a dress coat: 4 bows, 2 tassels, 14 loops, 1 button with a button-hole». The whole set is of a very delicate and neat workmanship, and consists of amethysts and diamonds. The ornaments are set in silver on a foil, and bear the traces of the workmanship of the end of the Elisabethan epoch, about 1760. The 14 flat bows, formed of five circles lean upon the button-like centre, from which strings of pear-shaped amethysts gracefully fall. The Inventory of 1898 notes: 60 br.—6 $\frac{1}{4}$ a. c., 800 br.—40 a. c., 880 amethysts and 4 false stones.

Dimensions: 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ —14 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.

16 flat button-holes consisting of separate chatons (230 br.—14 c., 248 amethysts), 2 tassels with 198 br. (7 a. c.) and amethysts.

1 amethyst button with a button-hole (17 br.—4 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., amethysts).

A very interesting, original piece, worthy to be exhibited in a museum.

Inv. 1898—№ 281/272; Inv. 1922—№ 413.

№ 105.

Plate LVIII, phot. 121 (full size).

DIAMOND BUTTONS.

Twelve diamond buttons, or silver trimmings of the epoch of Catherine II, with good, old Brazilian stones. On the reverse side, the following inscriptions are engraved: № 7—13, K 16 $\frac{12}{32}$ E 1764; № 8—25 $\frac{20}{32}$ c. E 1764; № 9—25 c. 10 $\frac{22}{32}$ E 1764; № 10—31 c. 9 $\frac{17}{32}$ E 1764; № 11—25 c. 11 $\frac{25}{32}$ E 1764; № 12—25 c. 11 $\frac{1}{32}$ E 1764.

All these items, with the date and weights of the diamonds, are correct. 1—6 are engraved, with the following weights of the diamonds determined by our experts: 1—15 m. c.; 2—14 m. c.; 3—14 m. c.; 4—13 m. c.; 5—13 m. c.; 6—12 m. c.

Dimensions: of the diameter of the buttons: between 2,3—2,6 cent. Excellent pieces, of great artistic beauty, of the middle of the XVIII-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 67/73; Inv. 1922—№ 235/a.

№ 106.

Plate LVIII, phot. 122 (full size).

DIAMOND TRIMMINGS OF DIFFERENT DESIGNS.

These 65 trimmings of different design, may be divided into 4 types: pretty silver tassels with four heavy diamond stripes, and three kinds of flowers: a) flowers in full bloom, b) half-opened flowers, c) closed buds. These three motives resemble in workmanship, some of the pieces of the famous jeweller Duval (epoch of Catherine II), who, in the year 1780, was working on diamond jewels of this particular type. Not only the design, but the whole character of these pieces, in their originality, allows us to attribute them to this great artist.

a) Flowers in bloom with two leaves and a small bow. Dimensions: 4,2×2,4 cent.

Diamonds: Brazilians, with about 5 m. c. on each trimming.

b) Half-opened flowers with the same leaves and bow. Dimensions: 4×2,2 cent.

Diamonds: about 4 m. c. on each trimming.

c) Closed buds with the same supplements.

Dimensions: 3,4×1,8 cent.

d) The tassels, set with large and good diamonds. Dimensions: 4,5×2,3 cent. About 10—11 m. c. in each tassel.

In the old Inventory we find a description of the 32 tassels (№ 61/57). According to these items, about 11 m. c. diamonds were used for each tassel, which perfectly agrees with the definition of our experts in 1922. To the same set belongs № 63/59 with 54 oblong leaves and small flowers (54 br.—25 c., one-cuts—162 a. c.; on each trimming about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ a. c.).

Inv. 1922—№ 268.

№ 107.

Plate LVIII, phot. 123, 124 (full size).

SAPPHIRE BUCKLES FOR SHOES OF THE ELISABETHAN EPOCH.

Two pairs of silver buckles (lady's and gentleman's) decorated with sapphires and diamonds, of excellent à-jour workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch (about 1750). The two large buckles are decorated with 16 light Ceylon sapphires (about 20 c.) on a foil, and with good Brazilian diamonds of ordinary cut, (about 20 c.) in solid silver à-jour, with a steel clasp bearing the stamp «Clover» on it. The smaller buckles are set very similarly with 16 sapphires about 9 m. c. and diamonds about 7 m. c.

Dimensions: 5,6×4,7 cent. and 4,2×3,7 cent.

Fine and very neat workmanship.

Inv. 1898—Nos. 119/115 and 118/114; Inv. 1922—Nos. 475/118 and 119.

№ 108.

Plate LVIII, phot. 125, 126 (full size).

DIAMOND HAIR-PIN IN THE FORM OF BOWS.

Three superb productions of the epoch of Catherine II, with all the beauty and exquisiteness of the old jewellery art, displaying freedom of lines, at the same time, being matched and grouped without symmetry. They are excellent examples of the vanishing grandeur of jewellery work, and are of great interest for a large State museum. The workmanship, Louis XVI, style may be perhaps attributed to the jeweller Posier. (on plate LVIII two bows only are represented).

The bows a) and b) are almost alike.

Dimensions: 8×6½ cent.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones, 2 br.—5½ a. c. (in the centre); 20 br.—7 a. c.; ordinary br.—about 24 a. c.

The fastening in silver bears the traces of the restoration. The bows may be screwed on the hair-pins, but can also be used as clasps. One of the bows, of older workmanship, is of greater value and more artistical than the others.

Dimensions: 9×6,5 cent.

Diamonds: on the whole, good Brazilians: 1 obtuse-angled, old, white stone with a black spot—3⅓ a. c.; 4 old flat stones, some of them of irregular shape—6 a. c.; 2 old diamonds, one of them particularly good—2½ a. c.; 2 br.—1½ a. c.; 38 br.—11 a. c.; ordinary diamonds about 20 a. c.

Setting in silver.

Inv. 1898—Nos. 76, 72, 70/66 (the weights are taken from this Inventory); Inv. 1922—№ 11.

№ 109.

Plate LIX, phot. 127 (full size).

A GOLDEN PORTE-BOUQUET IN GREEN ENAMEL WITH DIAMONDS.

«A golden porte-bouquet in green enamel, tied with bows and interlaced with a diamond ribbon»—as is said in the inventory of 1898. It is a very pretty

piece, in Louis XVI style, reminding one in design and workmanship, of the splendid diamond parure on coloured foil (Nos. 417, 436, 439, 471, partly also № 440).

This jewel was probably completed in about 1770.

Diamonds: good Brazilians, in silver setting, in the Inventory of 1898 the following weights are noted: 1 br.—6 a. c.; 2 br.—4½ a. c.; 4 br.—6 a. c.; 16 br.—20 a. c.; 21 br.—20 a. c.; one-cuts—32 a. c.

Dimensions: 13,5×8 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 81/77; Inv. 1922—№ 437.

№ 110.

Plate LIX, phot. 128 (full size).

AMETHYST EARRINGS.

A pair of earrings in the form of girandoles, with loosely hanging light amethysts of Ural origin. Above, are two genuine light amethysts; in the ear-drops on a silver foil, are rosy amethyst-doublets.

Dimensions: 5,3×4,0 cent.

Amethysts: 8 stones, evidently among the first procured in the Ural, about 1750—1760.

Diamonds: good specimens in silver setting (6 br.—2 c., 82 br.—6 c.). The earrings are golden and are made suitable for wearing in unpierced ears.

Inv. 1898—№ 279/270; Inv. 1922—№ 464.

№ 111.

Plate LIX, phot. 129 (full size).

AMETHYST EARRINGS WITH EAR-DROPS.

A pair of earrings with three ear-drops, consisting of 10 amethysts on a foil, in a compact silver setting. A splendid jewel of the last years of the Elisabethan epoch, or the beginning of the reign of Catherine II, about 1760.

Dimensions: 7,3×5,5 cent.

Amethysts:—light, evidently among the first to be procured in the Ural. 2 quadrangular amethysts; 2 small round ones; 6 pear-shaped, having a total weight of about 50 c.

Diamonds: chiefly one-cuts.

Inv. 1898—№ 278/269; Inv. 1922—№ 472/278.

№ 112.

Plate LX, phot. 130 (full size).

GOLDEN EARRINGS WITH AQUAMARINES.

A very pretty pair of earrings, very much similar to Nos. 391, 402 and 403. The aquamarines are of a peculiar greenish-blue colour, probably among the first procured in the Transbaical (about 1780). The four larger stones are set à-jour, whilst the two in the centre are encased in solid gold, on a foil.

Diamonds: good Brazilians, set in gold, 126—one-cuts weighing 11 a. c. Very pretty and neat workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II about 1780.

Dimensions: of the earrings themselves 5,5×2,3 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 288/279; Inv. 1922—№ 399.

№ 113.

Plate LX, phot. 131 (full size).

SILVER AND GOLDEN EAR-RINGS WITH AQUAMARINES.

Two pairs of ear-rings with aquamarines, one pair in a compact gold setting with diamonds, the other pair in a similar silver setting. The aquamarines are of greenish tint, pure, and in à-jour settings. In the golden ear-rings are 2 round and 2 pear-shaped stones; the silver ones contain 2 round, 2 small round, and 2 pear-shaped gems, probably Transbaicalian stones from Nerchinsk, perhaps belonging to the first stones found at Koukouserik about 1770—1780.

Diamonds: Brazilians in the golden ear-rings 2 br.—1 1/4 a. c.; 98 br.—18 a. c.; 18—2 a. c. and 60 roses; in the silver ones—130 one-cuts—14 a. c. Ideally fine jewels of the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: 5,6×2,8 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 285/276 and № 286/277. The jewels are said to have been personally kept by the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna; Inv. 1922—№ 402 and № 403.

№ 114.

Plate LX, phot. 132 (full size).

SILVER EAR-RINGS WITH AQUAMARINES.

Most beautiful ear-rings, of a very fine design and equally successful blending of colours. They are similar in type to ear-rings 402 and 403.

Dimensions: 5,6×2,8 cent.

Aquamarines: light, greenish stones, very pure but of cold tone, evidently among the first to be found at Nerchinsk (about 1775—1785).

Diamonds: 144 br.—about 13 c., in compact silver settings.

Workmanship about 1780, epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 287/278; Inv. 1922—№ 391.

№ 115.

Plate LX, phot. 133 (full size).

DIAMOND BOW-TRIMMINGS.

These trimmings to be sewn on a dress, are of solid silver. Four of them have the form of small bows, and, evidently, constitute only a part of some other ornament.

Dimensions: of the bows—2,6×2,1 cent.; of the trimmings—2,0×2,6 cent.

Diamonds: good Brazilians, partly one-cuts.

The setting is in solid silver, and belongs to the epoch of Catherine II. The design of the bows is such, as to make us suspect them to be the workmanship of Duval.

On the setting the following incomprehensible ciphers are engraved, one on each of the pieces: «A, B, C. E. Z. 11, 3,5».

The Inv. 1898—№ 78/74 gives the weights in ancient carats: 3 br.—6, 2 br.—3, 3 br.—3, 16 br.—9, one-cuts—28 a. c.

Inv. 1922—№ 396.

№ 116.

Plate LX, phot. 134 (reduced size 0,9).

DIAMOND EAR-RINGS.

«A pair of ear-rings with three ear-drops»—thus are these jewels noted. They represent a beautiful production of jewellery of the second half of the XVIII-th century rich in idea, and of an artistic workmanship. They remind one somewhat of similar ear-rings with ruby ear-drops (№ 969). However, they are more valuable, owing to the first rate quality of the stones. They are on the whole, worthy to be included in the collections of a museum.

Dimensions: height—7 cent., width—5 cent.

Diamonds: 6 ancient briolets of beautiful water and very original cutting, weighing totally 18 a. c.; 2 good, oblong diamonds—about 9 a. c.; 2 br.—3 a. c.; 4 br.—3 a. c., small diamonds and one-cuts—about 32 a. c.

Setting: silver à-jour, some parts in gold, of very fine workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 71/67; Inv. 1922—№ 984.

№ 117.

Plate LXI, phot. 135 (full size).

HAIR-PIN IN THE FORM OF A BOW.

See description of this bow on page 24 together with two similar bows represented on plate LVIII.

№ 118.

Plate LXI, phot. 136 (full size).

SIX SILVER CLASPS WITH DIAMONDS.

These somewhat curved, silver clasp-trimmings of a pretty à-jour design, with buds and flowers, resemble those already described, and which we ascribe to the celebrated jeweller of the epoch of Catherine II—Duval. These pieces are of a really artistic old design, not at all commonplace, but a living and new creation of the author's art.

Dimensions: 4×3,5 cent.

Diamonds: old Brazilian stones of a very good quality. Each clasp contains one large diamond, 11 of average size and 76 small ones. 2 of the large diamonds are of an obtuse, oval shape and flat, 2 pear-shaped of excellent quality, 2 pear-shaped slightly coloured. Weight of the 6 large stones—11 a. c.: besides these are 3 br.—3 a. c.; 6 br.—4 1/2 a. c.; 20 br.—10 a. c.; 32 br.—7 a. c. and one-cuts—36 a. c. (weights of the old Inventory).

Setting: solid silver. Workmanship about 1780.

Inv. 1898—№ 77/73; Inv. 1922—№ 380.

№ 119.

Plate LXI, phot. 137 (full size).

DIAMOND BOW WITH RAYS.

A wonderful bow through which a ribbon can be run, with good Brazilian diamonds in a solid silver setting. On the top is a table-diamond of Indian cutting. Workmanship—epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: 6,3×4,2 cent.
Diamonds: 12 br.—8 c.; one-cuts—18 c.
Inv. 1898—№ 79/75; Inv. 1922—№ 476/79.

№ 120.

Plate LXII, phot. 138 (reduced size 0,75).

DIAMOND GIRDLE.

See description in Part II, plate XLV, phot. 79.

№ 121.

Plate LXIII, phot. 139 (reduced size).

FEATHER-AIGRETTE WITH PEARLS.

This aigrette is made of very rare bird feathers with 4 pearls (weighing about 28—30 m. c.). It belongs probably, to the Elisabethan epoch, though its historical character is unknown.

Inv. 1898—№ 242/235; Inv. 1922—№ 472/242.

№ 122.

Plate LXIV, phot. 140 (full size).

DIAMOND NOSEGAY OF THE
ELISABETHAN EPOCH.

This small nosegay refers to the same epoch and workmanship as № 417. It is of solid gold, the small leaves being covered with green enamel. The diamonds placed on a coloured foil, are set in gold and silver.

This piece belongs to the excellent series of articles N-os 417, 436, 439, 440 and 471, dating from the years 1750—1770.

Dimensions: 15×6 cent.

Diamonds: (according to the early Inventory in ancient carats): 1 yellowish pendant—3½ c., 1 rose-coloured pendant—2 c., 1 quadrangular yellow br.—2½ c., 1 quadrangular br.—2 c., 1 white pendant—1½ c., 2 yellow br.—3 c., 2 br.—2½ c., 4 br.—4 c., 6 br.—4½ c., 21 yellow br.—73 c., small stones—28 c.

Inv. 1898—№ 89/85; Inv. 1922—№ 439.

№ 123.

Plate LXIV, phot. 141 (full size).

DIAMOND EAR-RINGS ON A COLOURED
FOIL.

These ear-rings are of the same type of workmanship and of the same epoch as № 439 and № 436, being a famous series of jewels of the end of the Elisabethan epoch, about 1750 and 1770. (See preceding and following descriptions).

The ear-rings have the form of roses with a bee on the flower. They are set with 2 large oval and 6 pear-shaped diamonds on a coloured foil.

Dimensions: 6,25×4 cent.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones and, according to the Inventory of 1898: 8 br.—20 c.; 2 br.—3 c.; 2 br.—1¼ c.; 4 br.—2½ c.; different ones—18 a. c.

Setting: in solid silver, with the exception of the bees, which are fastened in pale gold. The leaves are golden with dark green enamel.

These jewels are of excellent and highly artistic workmanship.

Inv. 1898—№ 93/89; Inv. 1922—№ 471/93.

№ 124.

Plate LXIV, phot. 142 (full size).

DIADEM-BANDEAU IN THE FORM
OF A GARLAND.

This coloured bandeau, in the shape of a garland is of a wonderful beauty, and forms with N-os 417, 439 and 471 an exquisite parure. We find it difficult to determine the exact period to which this beautiful historical jewel belongs, but the year 1760 is more or less accurate, being between the Elisabethan epoch and that of Catherine II.

The flowers and the fly are made of diamonds on a coloured foil, in a compact golden and silver setting; the leaves are of green enamel on solid gold.

Dimensions: 26×4,2 cent.

Diamonds: according to the Inventory of 1898: 1 br.—3¼ a. c.; 1 br.—2¼ a. c. (decomposed); 1 yellow br.—2 a. c.; 3 yellow br.—4¼ a. c.; 2 pendants—3½ a. c.; 1 pendant—1½ a. c.; 3 white br.—3 a. c.; 2 yellow br.—2 a. c.; 4 white br.—3 a. c.; 8 yellow br.—6 a. c.; different brilliants—62 ancient carats.

Inv. 1898—№ 92/88; Inv. 1922—№ 436.

According to archival items, this article was already mentioned in the Inventory of Elisabeth Petrovna in 1761.

№ 125.

Plate LXV, phot. 143, 144 (full size).

DIAMOND «EPAULET» WITH TASSELS.

It is difficult to understand the exact use of this piece of jewellery, and though the Inventory of 1898 refers to it, as to an ornament for the head, it cannot in reality be thus determined. It is more likely a shoulder-strap to which ribbons were attached as a dress support. If the use of this jewel is explained in this manner, we have one complete shoulder-strap with 2 tassels, loosely hanging on diamond rings, and a second one partly taken to pieces, probably for use in some other jewel. On the reverse side, small screws and eyelets are to be seen.

On the whole, a very pretty and interesting piece of workmanship.

Dimensions: 14×6,5 cent.

Diamonds: large Brazilians, of average quality and irregular shape, with a few exceptions; varied in cutting and purity. In the early Inventory, the following stones are noted in the complete shoulder-strap: 2 br. pendants—7 a. c.; 24 br.—24 a. c.; 92 br.—38 a. c.; 80 br.—14 a. c.; 92 br.—38 a. c.; 30 br.—4 a. c.

Setting: silver à-jour, soldered in gold.

According to the opinion of S. Troinitzky, the workmanship belongs either to the epoch of Paul I or Alexander I, after 1800.

Inv. 1898—№ 52 (53 and 53) out of № 49; Inv. 1922—№ 500 and № 501.

№ 126.

Plate LXV, phot. 145 (full size).

A DIAMOND «EPAULET» IN GOLD.

A magnificent golden epaulet, belonging to the epoch of Catherine II. A lovely piece of fine jewellery with beautiful stones.

Diamonds: 1 large one in the large bow, a flat, oval, slightly coloured stone—9 a. c.; 1 large, flat diamond in the small bow—6 a. c.; 6 br.—9, 10—10, 92—69, 32—15, one-cuts—22 m. c. Roses.

Setting and fastening in plain gold. All the diamonds on a foil.

Inv. 1898—№ 56/51; Inv. 1922—№ 494.

№ 127.

Plate LXVI, phot. 146 (full size).

DIAMOND BOW WITH PEARLS.

A bow in two solid silver stripes, studded with diamonds, with a large perforated pearl (8 carats) in the form of a bud. The bow has several little eyelets and, evidently, represents a part of some other ornament of the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: 8×4,5 cent.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones in silver, soldered in gold, indicated in the old Inventory as: 12 br.—2 a. c.; 134 one-cuts—14 a. c.

Inv. 1898—№ 236/229; Inv. 1922—№ 372.

№ 128.

Plate LXVI, phot. 147 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH IN THE FORM OF A BOW.

A very pretty and artistically composed jewel of the second half of the XVIII-th century, suitable for use either as a hair-pin, clasp or brooch. Its simple and tasteful beauty makes it worthy to be exhibited in a museum.

Dimensions: 4,6×3,7 cent. Diameter of the rose in the centre—1,8 cent.

Diamonds: old, good Brazilians, some of them with a light yellowish tone, of ancient cutting, weighing totally about 40 m. c.

On the golden reverse-side is the following engraving: «B. 226. K. 41. ^{28/32}».

Setting: brooch and stones in silver.

The Nos 69/65 correspond, perhaps, with the Inventory of 1898.

Inv. 1922—№ 980.

№ 129.

Plate LXVI, phot. 148, 149 (slightly reduced size).

DIAMOND BROOCHES (FERMOIRS) WITH SPINELS.

Two splendid clasps altered later into fermoirs. The light and pleasing winding lines, and the beautiful blending of tones, allow us to recognize a famous jeweller of the epoch of Catherine II, or even of the end of the Elisabethan epoch, in spite of a relatively modest choice of material. Being worthy specimens of the marvellous progress the jewellery art achieved in the second half of the XVIII-th century, these clasps ought to be exhibited among the collections of the Ermitage.

Dimensions: 4,5×4,5 cent.

The spinel is not of the highest quality; it is however very prettily set on a foil, and rather irregularly scattered in beautiful red spots on a diamond ground.

14 stones weighing totally about 20 m. c.

Diamonds: old, good stones, among them one-cuts; weighing totally about 30 m. c.

Setting: silver, soldered in gold.

On one clasp is engraved: K. 19^{22/32}, on the

Z
Bras.
other — B. 228
29^{10/32}

These inscriptions can be explained as follows: 14 rubies weighing 19^{22/32} c. 228 Brazilian diamonds weighing 29^{10/32} c. This explanation is in perfect accord not only with the definition of our experts, but also with the Inventory of 1898, in which, under № 190/191, two clasps for bracelets are noted, with the same data and weight of the stones.

Inv. 1922—№ 231.

№ 130.

Plate LXVI, phot. 150 (full size).

ORNAMENTS IN THE FORM OF GOLDEN BOWS WITH RUBIES AND SMALL DIAMONDS.

Two small bows with cheap light rubies on a foil, and small diamonds, but what a beautiful composition; what lightness in design and richness of new ideas! These bows can be used either as clasps, as brooches-fermoirs, or as hairpins. Rare, really excellent specimens of the epoch of Catherine II, worthy to be included in the collections of the best museums.

Dimensions: 4,9×4 cent.

Natural-coloured stones: rubies of average quality on a foil, 2 r.—3½ a. c.; 8 r.—7 a. c.; 16 r.—1¼ a. c. (items according to the Inventory of 1898).

Diamonds: 26 old stones—7 a. c.; ordinary br.—21 a. c. All old Brazilian and Indian stones, of varied water.

Setting: solid gold; in the setting of the large rubies is the following engraving: «218 26 B ^{25/32}».

Inv. 1898—№ 185/186; Inv. 1922—№ 967.

№ 131.

Plate LXVI, phot. 151, 152 (full size).

DIAMOND EAR-RINGS WITH EAR-DROPS AND WITH RUBIES.

A pair of rich ear-rings with ear-drops, displaying all the magnificent beauty of good Brazilian diamonds and the brightness of ancient sanguine rubies. The lightness of the lines, the graceful mobility of the three ear-drops, the richness of the stones, and the somewhat heavy design compel one to recollect the splendour of the epoch of Catherine II and the pompous beauty of the XVIII-th century (about 1780). This jewel is a beautiful, highly artistic piece and of great value for a museum.

Dimensions: height—6 cent.; width—4,5 cent.

Natural-coloured stones: good old rubies on a foil; 8 stones—about 30 a. c.

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens, slightly coloured, 8 br.—6½ a. c.; 124 small br.—12 a. c.

Setting: in silver à-jour, the rubies in gold. The loosely suspended ear-drops can be taken off.

Inv. 1898—№ 184/185; Inv. 1922—№ 969.

№ 182.

Plate LXVI, phot. 153 (full size).

DIAMOND BUCKLES WITH SPINELS.

These four, curved shoe-buckles, form together with Nos. 459, 493, 231 and 967 a complete set of ornaments. The light spinels are on a foil in gold, the diamonds are white and in silver.

Dimensions: 5×3 cent.

Spinel: 12 light stones: 4—40 c.; 5—25 c.; 1—5½ c.; 1—5¼ c.; 1—3¾ c.

Diamonds: 8 br.—8c.; 223 br.—36 c.

Workmanship—epoch of Catherine II, about 1760.
Inv. 1898—№ 192 out of № 192; Inv. 1922—№ 461.

№ 183.

Plate LXVII, phot. 154 (full size).

LARGE DIAMOND BROOCH WITH PEARL PENDANTS.

A large, rich brooch, somewhat heavy in diamonds, with three vibrating pearl pendants.

Dimensions: width—10 cent.; height—11 cent.

The pearls are not of a very high quality, old, perforated specimens, being six in all, with a total weight of 85 m. c.

Among all the stones, one is struck by a splendid old Indian diamond, surmounting the central pearl. It is of a pretty triangular shape and considerable thickness, weighing 11³⁷/₁₀₀ m. c.

The rest of the stones, while less remarkable, still represent good old Brazilians: 2 yellowish pendants—about 4 m. c. above the central pendant, a good stone of 3½ m. c.; 6 br.—7 m. c.; 6 br.—3 m. c., the rest—partly one-cuts, pretty roses—about 30 m. c.

Setting: the stones in silver, soldered in gold and some small stems and leaves with diamond roses.

Workmanship, probably, of the middle of the XIX-th century.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 227.

№ 184.

Plate LXVII, phot. 155 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH-FERMOIR WITH A LARGE SAPPHIRE.

Without doubt, the sapphire in this brooch is the best specimen in the world, occupying first place among other celebrated sapphires, not so much by its weight (253 a. c.—260 m. c.) as by its splendid pure cornflower colour, which is so beautiful in the Ceylon stones, and manifests the exclusive art of the ancient Indian cutting. It is difficult to speak of the value of this stone, as it surely is unique.

Dimensions: of the brooch—6×5,3 cent.; of the stone 3,8×3,5×2,2 cent.

Diamonds: 18 good Brazilian stones about 60 m. c. Small diamonds and roses.

Setting: the sapphire in gold, the diamonds in silver with a small golden gallery à-jour. The setting is of the middle of the XIX-th century. The sapphire is of an ancient Indian cutting, the rounded surface being covered with hexangular facets.

This brooch, which was the personal property of the empress Maria Feodorovna, was received by her from the empress Alexandra Feodorovna (wife of Alexander II) as blue was her favourite colour. Most probably this sapphire was purchased at the London Exhibition of 1862, where just such a wonderful sapphire of 252 a. c. was exhibited.

Inv. 1898—№ 353/345; Inv. 1922—№ 257/a.

№ 185.

Plate LXVII, phot. 156 (full size).

BROOCH WITH A LARGE EMERALD-CABOCHON.

A beautiful, somewhat bulky, oval brooch with a dark emerald-cabochon. The emerald is of a dark water, with some defects, in the form of an egg-shaped cabochon, a little scratched and obviously of ancient cutting. The stone was evidently among the first Columbians procured. (Weight 153½ m. c.)

Dimensions: of the brooch—5,8×5,1 cent.; of the stone—3,4×3,1 cent.

Diamonds: 20 very good old Brazilian stones, about 35 m. c. Roses.

Setting: silver à-jour with a small golden gallery at the base.

The central part with the emerald can be taken out and worn separately.

The workmanship belongs to the first part of the XIX-th century, probably to the reign of Alexander I. Not mentioned in the early Inventories. Inv. 1922—№ 173/145 A.

Procured by the Cabinet in 1913 from among the jewels of the Grand-Duchess Alexandra Iosifovna.

№ 186.

Plate LXVII, phot. 157 (full size).

BROOCH-COULANT WITH LARGE EMERALDS.

This beautiful brooch-fermoir with a large, loosely hanging pear-shaped emerald, is partly oriental. We recognize in it the workmanship of the end of the epoch of Nicolas I (about 1850), very pretty in design and harmonious in the correlation of the separate parts. Probably the pendant was added to the brooch at a later period, as it is made of another kind of gold.

Dimensions: height of the coulant—7,3 cent.; of the upper brooch—3×2,2 cent.; of the upper emerald—1,6×1,4 cent.; of the emerald below—3,7×2,7×1,4 cent.

Emeralds: 1 rectangular, very pretty stone of almost perfect purity, cut in steps. Weight about 6 m. c.; 1 pendant bored at both sides, not perfectly pure, but a very pretty, live stone of oriental cutting, showing easily all the irregularities of its surface. Weight about 110 m. c.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones: 18 large ones—10 m. c.; 26 small ones and roses (18)—1½ m. c.

Good workmanship in silver à-jour with a golden gallery.

Not mentioned in the old Inventory.

Inv. 1922—№ 289/b.

№ 137.

Plate LXVIII, phot. 158 (full size).

DIAMOND DIADEM (CROWN) WITH
18 PEAR-SHAPED PEARLS.

This diadem forms, with the necklace № 940 and the large fermoir № 941 a complete set, very rich in diamonds and, especially, in beautiful pearls. However, it is wanting in artistic taste and understanding of the stones and workmanship. The work is modern, second half of the XIX-th century, but the jewel is made of pearls from old reserves, and of new diamonds.

Dimensions: length—about 73 cent.; height—from 5—6 cent.

Pearls: 17 large pearls (the 18-th pearl is separate). Good oriental pear-shaped specimens weighing altogether about 250 m. c.

Diamonds: new Brazilian stones of average quality. 1 br.—a flat pendant appr. 1½ m. c.; 8 br.—appr. 6½ m. c.; appr. 520 br. of medium size—appr.—110 m. c.; roses—appr. 2 m. c.

Setting: gold à-jour.

Not mentioned in the Inventory of 1898.

Inv. 1922—№ 3.

№ 138.

Plate LXIX, phot. 159 (full size).

DIAMOND NECKLACE WITH SAPPHIRES.

A large necklace of a complicated design, with large, dark sapphires. Intertwined diamond branches encircle 9 large dark sapphires, ornamented with diamond pendants. In the centre is a Ceylon sapphire pendentif. This very rich piece, somewhat expressing oriental lines, is the best we could expect of this period of decline in the jewellery art, of the second half of the XIX-th century.

Sapphires: 10 stones (9 oval, 1 pendant)—appr. 200 m. c. Good Ceylon stones of a very dark colour and beautifully matched.

Diamonds: Brazilian stones of average quality, some among them being African specimens. 44 pendants—50 m. c.; 10 small pendants between the 9 sapphires—40 m. c. The rest of the diamonds appr. 120 m. c.

Total weight of the diamonds—appr. 210 m. c.

Setting: light à-jour, in silver with a small golden gallery.

The sapphires are encased in gold. Workmanship of the period of Alexander II.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 225.

№ 139.

Plate LXX—LXXII (full size).

DIAMOND SET WITH LARGE EMERALDS.

A magnificent set with large emerald cabochons, consisting of a diadem, a necklace and a «plastron».

The diadem and necklace, ordered by the empress Alexandra Feodorovna, were made in great haste by Bolin, St.-Petersburg, the plastron by the Moscovian section of the firm Faberger. The latter piece evidently was ordered by the Grand-Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

The whole piece is in à-jour silver, with golden galleries. All the separate parts can be taken off, for which purpose they are numbered.

The stones were furnished by the two firms, South-African specimens only being used. The whole set is remarkably pretty, although neither the idea nor workmanship are original.

Inv. 1922—№ 289/a.

A. PLASTRON.

Plate LXX, phot. 160 (full size).

A very large triangular plastron, composed of three intertwined branches with five bows. Each individual part is very pretty, although on the whole it is somewhat poor and dry in composition.

Four pins belong to the plastron.

Dimensions: width—18 cent., height—17 cent.

Emeralds: 5 rectangular cabochons, the largest of these weighs—45 m. c., the rest about 50 m. c.

Diamonds: good African stones and roses; 228 specimens with a total weight of about 85 m. c.

Workmanship of the Moscovian section of the firm Faberger about 1900, and accomplished by the jeweller Oscar Piel whose initials—O. P.—are engraved on the golden stamps.

B. THE NECKLACE.

Plate LXXI, phot. 161 (dim. about 0,75).

This necklace consists of 10 parts in the form of bows or coulants with emerald pendants.

Dimensions: length—49 cent., height—7,5 cent.

Emeralds: good, fairly pure Columbian stones. 15 emeralds weighing totally 125 m. c.—3 of them are quadrangular, pyramid-shaped cabochons, the other twelve are round, high cabochons. The best and largest emerald weighs 22¼ m. c.

Diamonds: good South-African stones. 610 small ones—about 150 m. c.; 15 large stones—about 45 m. c. The work of the jeweller Schwenn of the firm Bolin (hall-marked) about 1900.

C. DIADEM.

Plate LXXII, phot. 162 (full size).

This diadem, set with beautiful stones, is heavy and has sharp lines.

Dimensions: along the lower edge of the diadem—16×13,5 cent.; height in the centre—9,4 cent.

Emeralds: very good Columbian stones, among them a large quadrangular pyramid-shaped cabochon, of about 23 m. c. of rare beauty; 4 rectangular and 6 round cabochons—about 64 m. c.

Diamonds: good modern stones; 880 br. and roses, weighing totally about 225 m. c.

№ 140.

DIAMOND SET WITH SAPPHIRES.

A beautiful diamond set—as follows: a diadem, necklace, brooch and bracelet with good, large sapphires from Siam or Birma, made for Alexandra Feodorovna by the jeweller Koehli (about 1900). Of a rich and beautiful workmanship with splendid stones. (There is neither hall-mark nor date). The sapphires

are in golden settings with a small golden gallery, the diamonds in à-jour silver settings, soldered in gold. All the stones were procured and matched by the jeweller Koechli.

A. THE NECKLACE.

Plate LXXIII, phot. 163 (full size).

A pretty necklace, though designed in a somewhat dry and geometrical manner, is very pleasant in composition and in its richness of stones.

Workmanship of the same period (about 1900).

Dimensions: length of the necklace—52½ cent., width in the centre—7½ cent.

Sapphires: dark, beautiful stones, chiefly from Siam and Birma, only a few being from Ceylon. 58 stones—260 m. c. total weight.

Weight of the single stones: 12 sapphires—4½ m. c.; 12—30, 11—16, 7—35, 4—52, 1—21, 11 (pear-shaped sapphires)—100 m. c.

Diamonds: good South-African stones. 12 large pendants of about 40 m. c., different diamonds—about 120 m. c.

B. DIADEM.

Plate LXXIV, phot. 164 (dim. 0,85).

A beautiful diadem of an interwoven design, with diamond rays, and 16 large, dark sapphires.

Dimensions: circumference below—38 cent., height in the centre—10 m. c.

Sapphires: dark stones from Siam, of a beautiful tone, 16 stones with a total weight of 220 m. c. Weight of the stones in m. c.: 1—33, 2—55, 2—30, 2—45, 2—30, 2—10, 5—16.

Diamonds: good South-African specimens. 71 br.—45 m. c., 2 br.—2 m. c.; 90 br.—150 m. c.; about 550 br.—appr. 200 m. c.

Total weight appr. 400 m. c.

C. BROOCH.

Plate LXXV, phot. 165 (full size).

A pretty brooch, very successful in composition and from an artistic point of view, the best piece of the whole Set.

Dimensions: 12,7×8,2 cent.

Sapphires: 7 dark, good stones—about 150 m. c.

Diamonds: good specimens from South-Africa: 5 pear-shaped br.—28 m. c.; 3 br.—13 m. c.; 20 br.—35 m. c.; 5 br.—7 m. c.; 69 br.—23 m. c. Total weight about 105 m. c.

D. BRACELET.

(Phot. not inserted).

The less successful part of the Set, as its design does not even harmonize with the whole.

Dimensions: length—18,5 cent., width—2,2 cent.

Sapphires: good oriental stones, weighing about 43 m. c.

Diamonds: 10 br.—23 m. c.; 1 br.—¾ m. c.; 152 br.—12 m. c.

№ 141.

Plate LXXV, phot. 166 (full size).

BROOCH-FERMOIR WITH DIAMONDS AND DIFFERENT NATURAL-COLOURED STONES.

A most beautiful jewel; the successful blending of the bright natural-coloured stones is charming. It is framed by sparkling diamonds. The splendid stones, playing in various colours, give the design a certain lightness, in spite of the large size of the brooch, and the heavy character of the lines in general.

Dimensions: 13×8 cent.

Natural-coloured stones: 1 round, flat emerald cabochon of good quality—about 65 m. c. (above the brooch), 1 emerald in the pendant, of average quality—about 40 m. c. (in the centre), 1 Ceylon sapphire, oval, of excellent quality—about 17 m. c. (in the centre), 2 pink topazes, pear-shaped, of very good quality—about 50 m. c. (lower, on the sides).

Diamonds: Brazilians, 1 diamond of bluish water—about 5 m. c.; 1 br.—of average quality—about 4½ m. c.; 4 br.—9 m. c.; 202 br.—62 m. c.; roses.

Setting: in silver and gold. Workmanship—the beginning of the epoch of Nicolas I, about 1830.

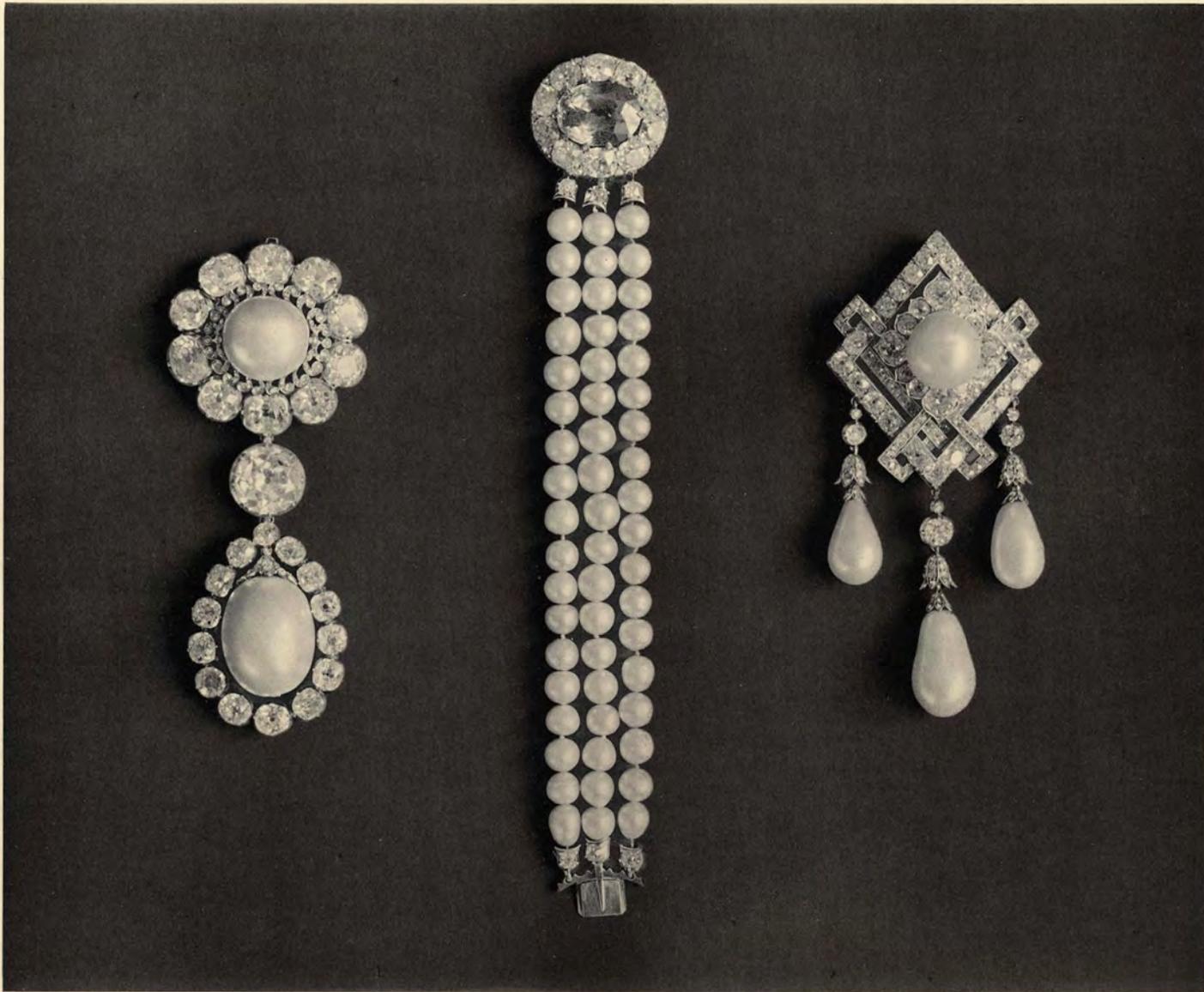
Not found in old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 302.







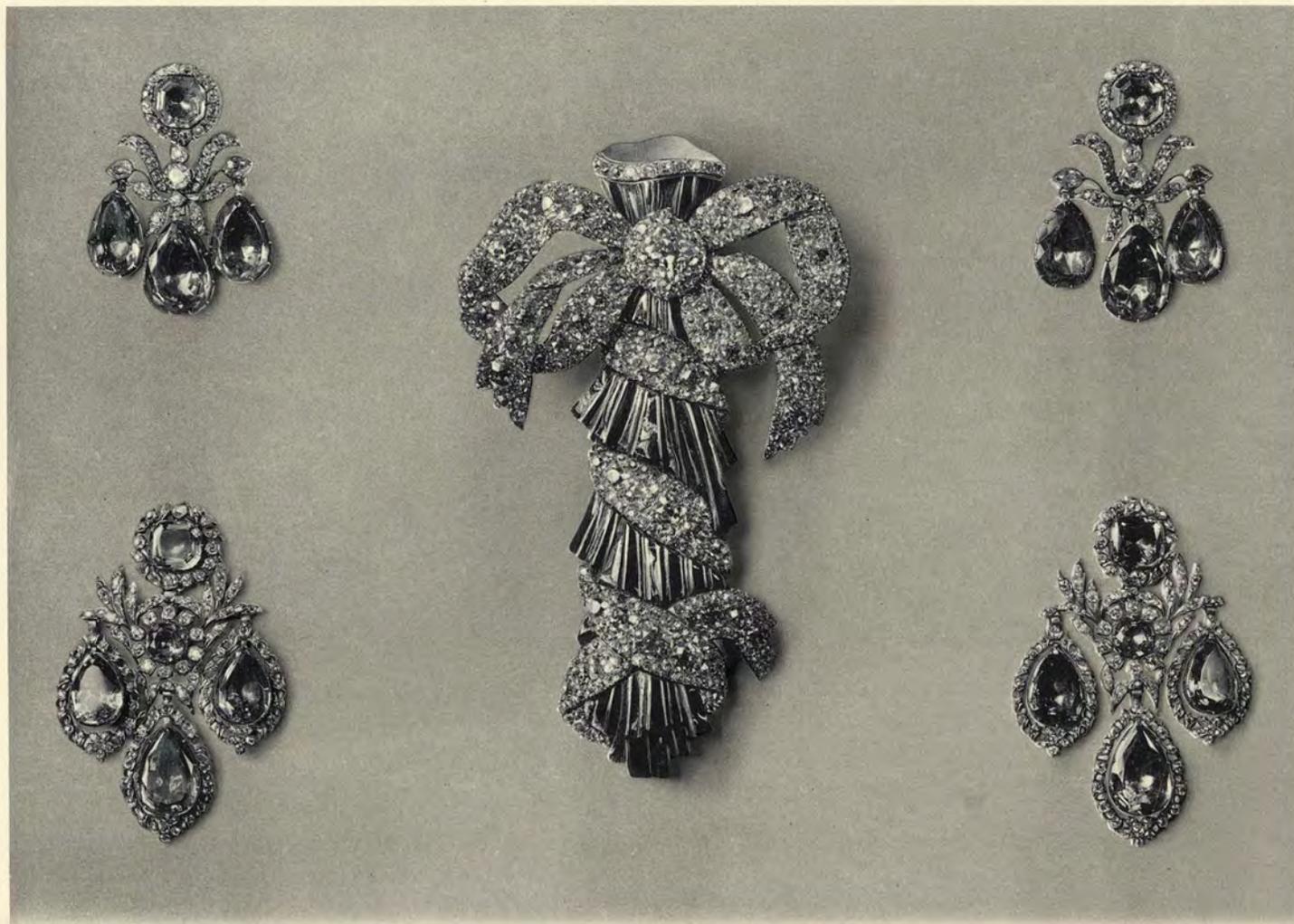


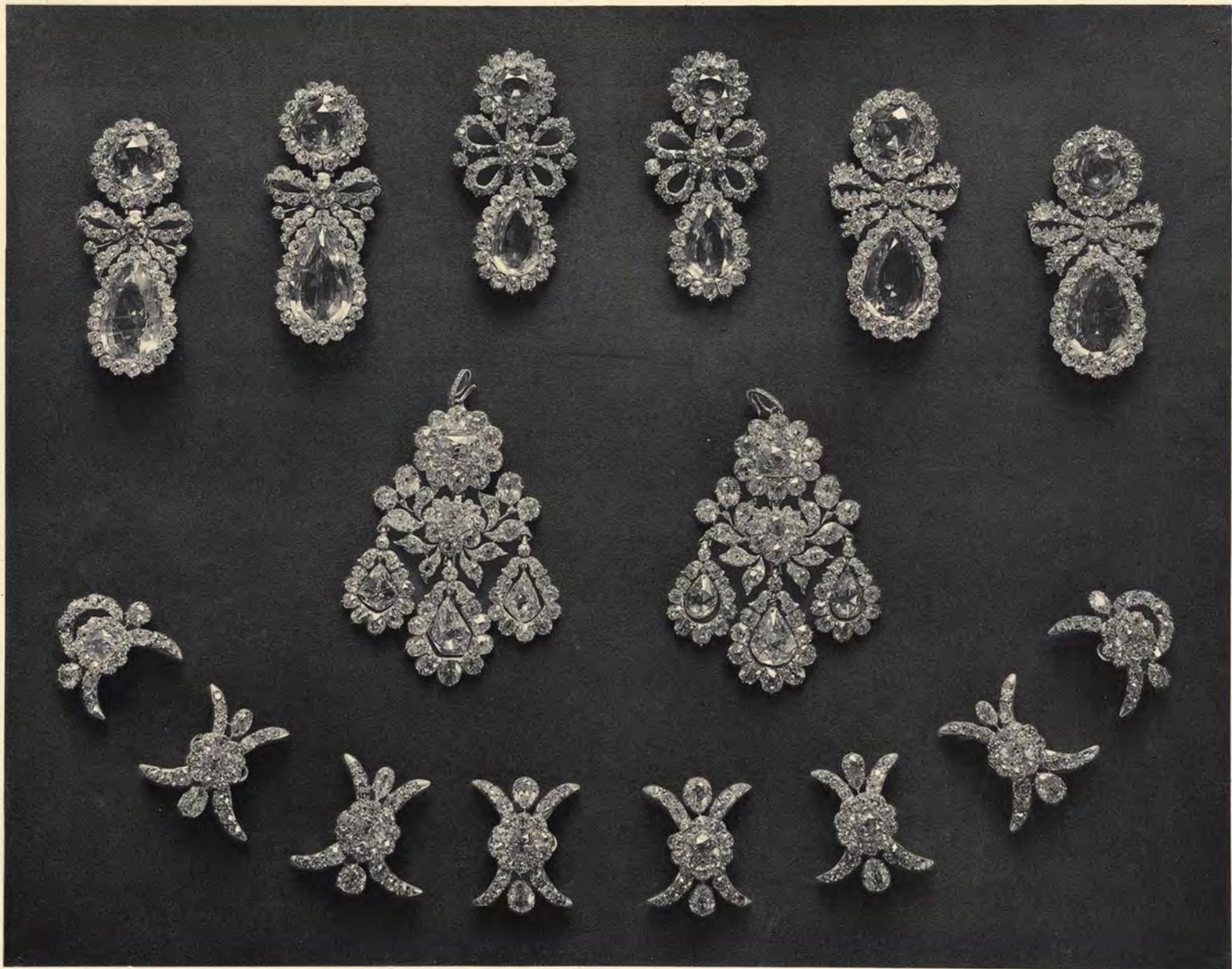


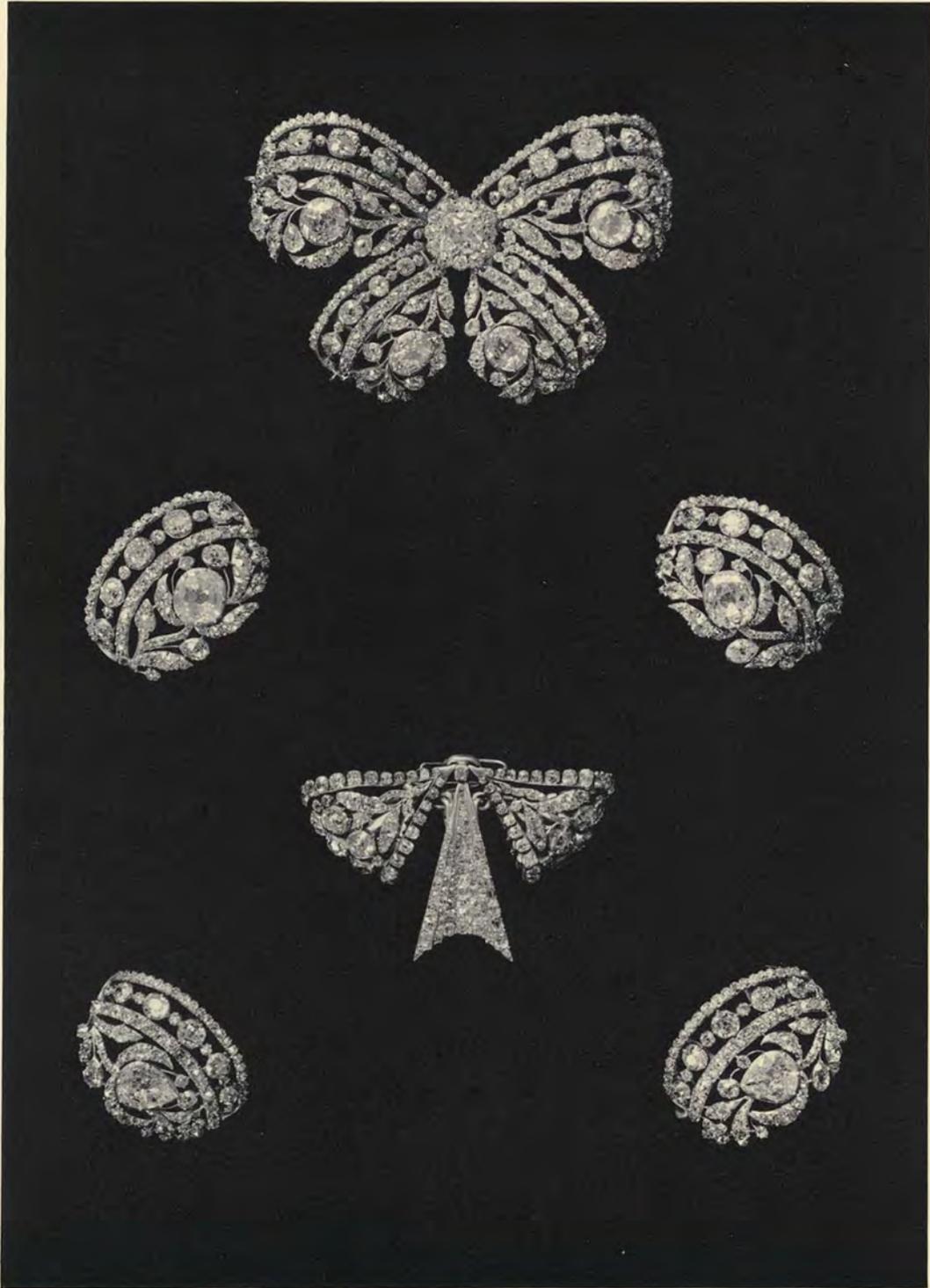


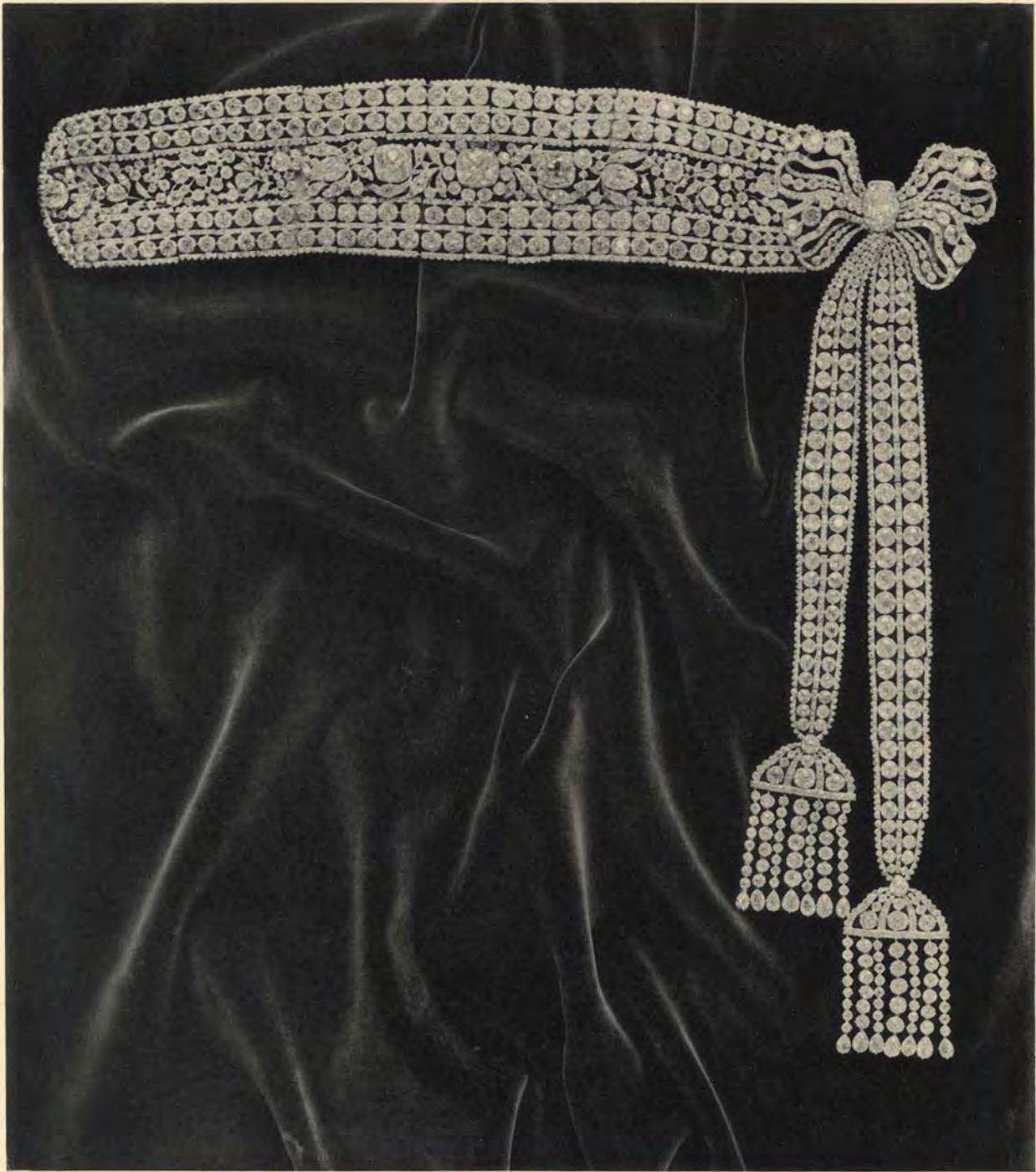








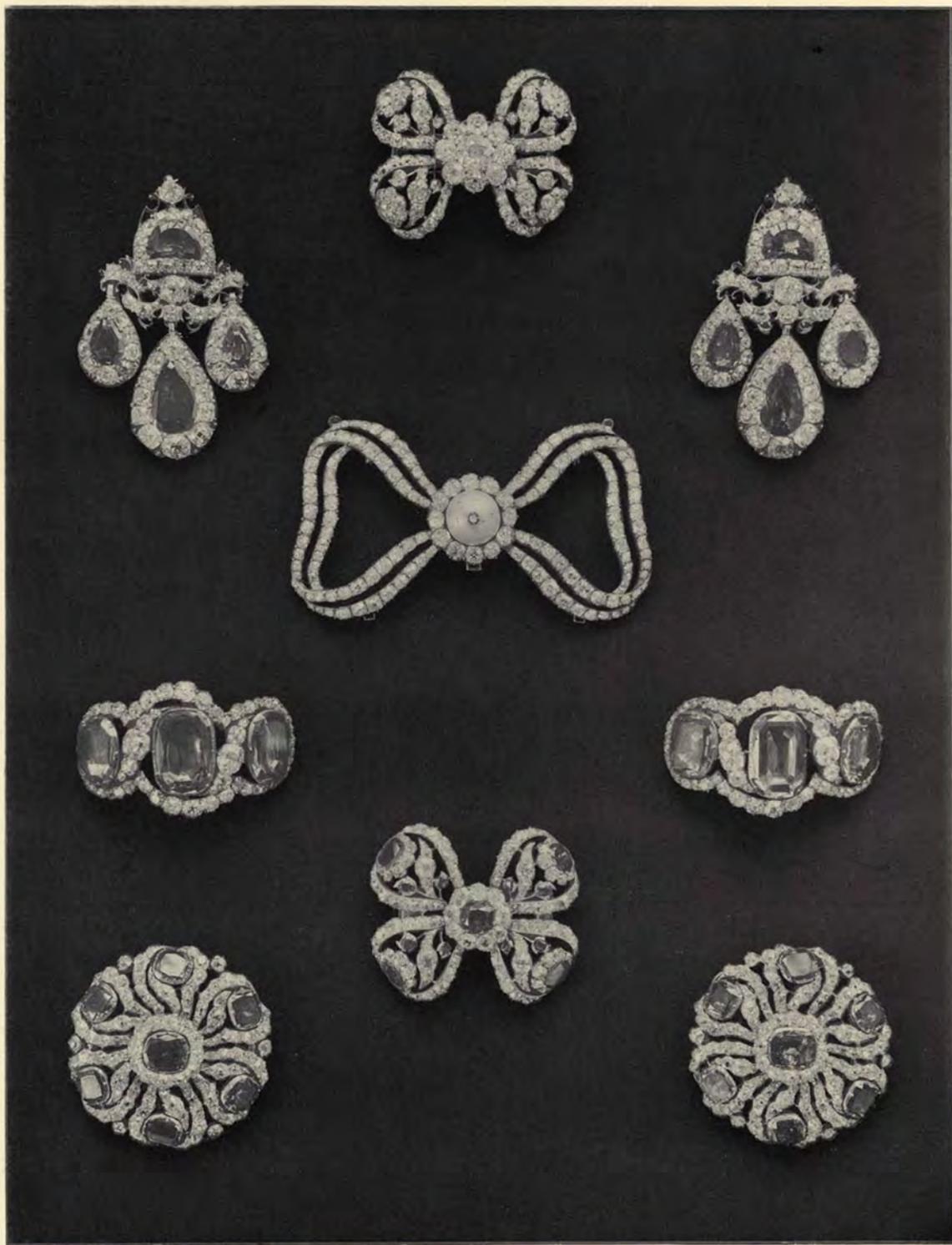






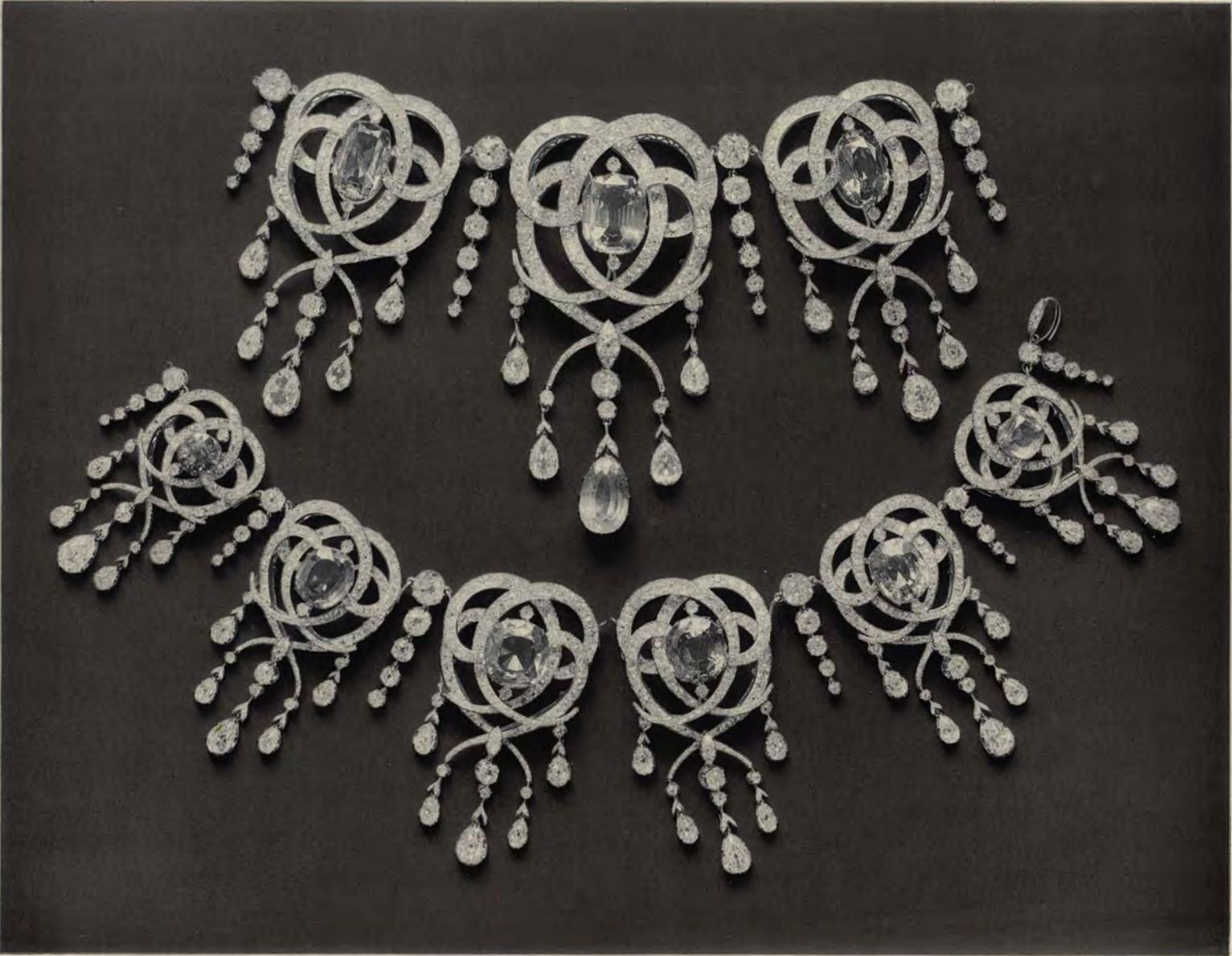


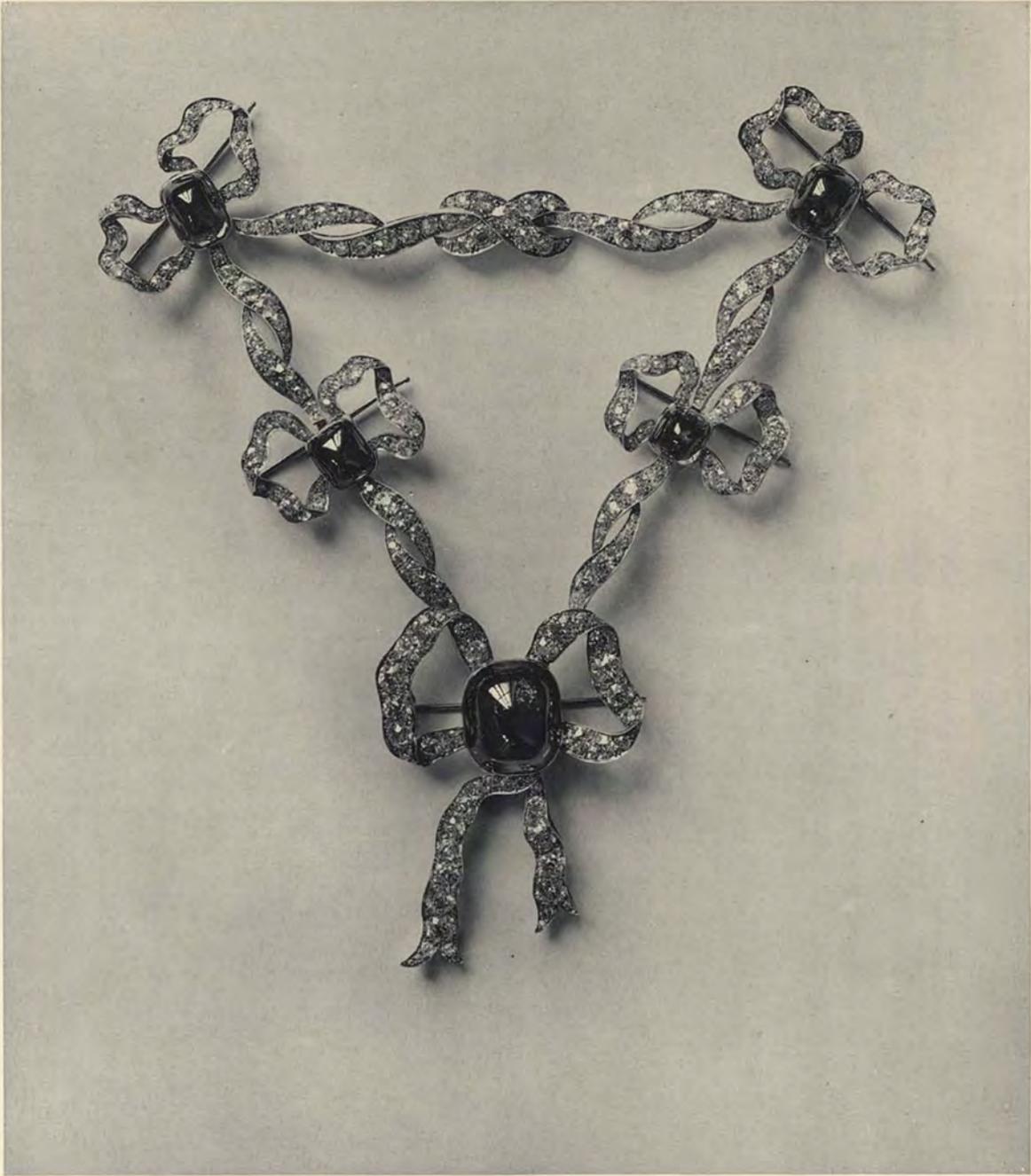


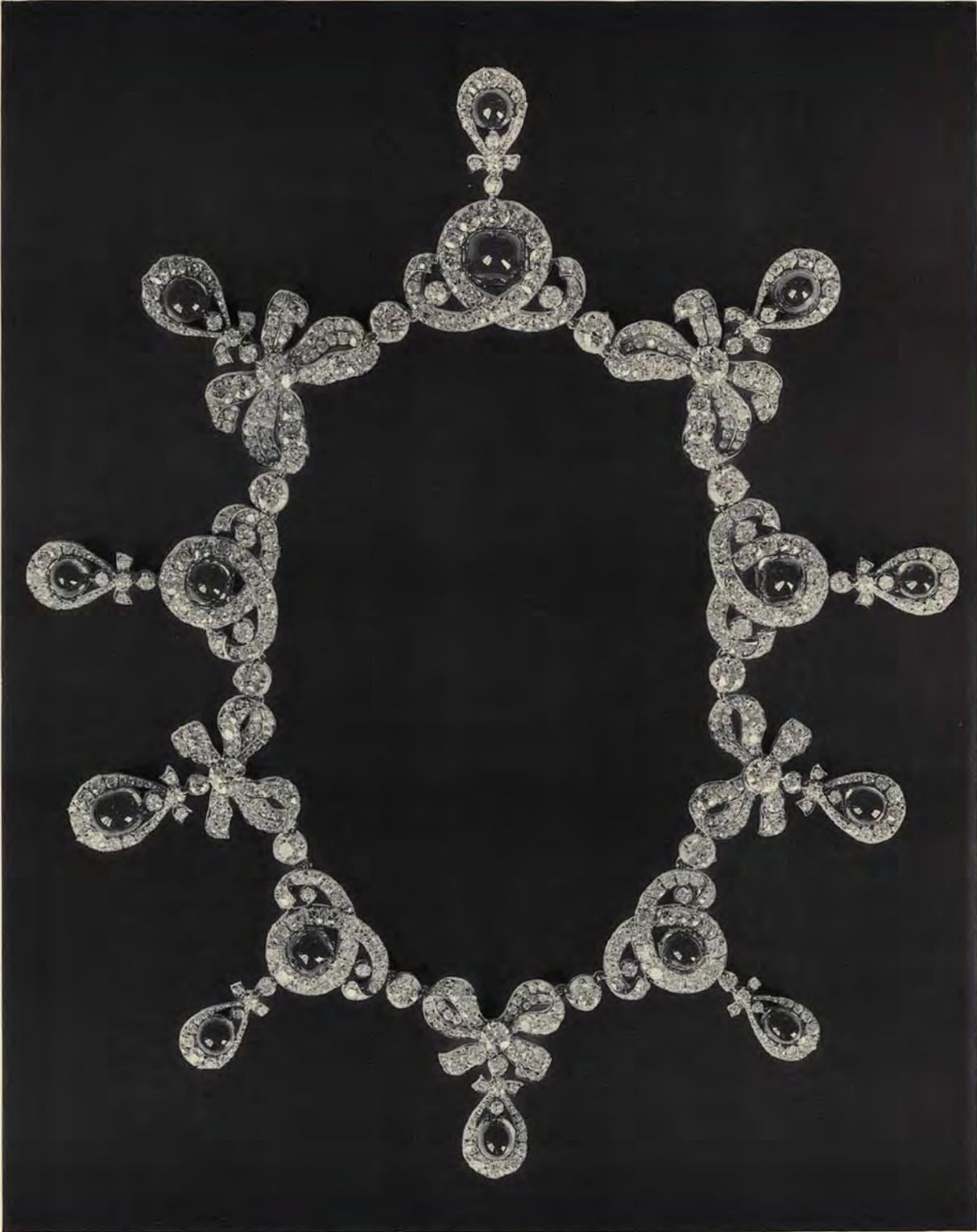






















RUSSIA'S TREASURE
OF
DIAMONDS
AND
PRECIOUS STONES

PART IV

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FINANCES
MOSCOW—1925

RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES



RUSSIA'S TREASURE
OF
DIAMONDS
AND
PRECIOUS STONES

THE FOURTH AND LAST PART

The People's Commissariat of Finance

MOSCOW
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RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

TEXT

SEVEN HISTORICAL GEMS OF «RUSSIA'S TREASURE».

I have endeavoured, in a series of scientific articles, to revive the history of some of the remarkable stones of «Russia's Treasure». There is much that is veiled by the obscure past; much that will never see the light of day. Yet, I should like in this, the last part of our edition, to give a few fragmentary pictures out of the past of our beautiful stones.

The Emerald. A wonderful deep-green stone, of the purest water. Not one stone in the world can rival with its weight of 136 carats. The «Grand Talisman» of the «Great Moghuls», weighing 78 carats, seems insignificant and unassuming; while even the enormous emerald of the Duke of Devonshire, is dull in tone and purity, when compared.

Yet, however beautiful this stone may be, there is not a single word on record, nor is there any legend to unveil its past for us; we can only indirectly re-establish a more or less plausible picture of its origin. It was, probably found in the Middle Ages, at the time of the discovery of America, and most likely kept in one of the sacred Temples of Columbia, from whence it was removed to India, after the sanguinary strife of the Portuguese. Here it mingled with other natural-coloured stones of this country, until it got to the European market, by those mysterious ways in which the Orient so often passed over the treasures of its harems and warehouses, to the merchants of the West.

The Sapphire. Next to the Emerald is another unique gem of our collection—a cornflower blue, Ceylon Sapphire. This remarkable stone, of exceptional purity and brightness of tone, weighs about 260 metrical carats. Once upon a time, the shingle of this stone was found somewhere in the sands of Ceylon. It was an indigenous cutter who, in a simple artless workshop, without other implements or measurements, than his sharp eye, covered its surface with more than one hundred of the finest six-sided facets. Both the famous Rospoli in Paris, and the beautiful sapphire of the Duke of Devonshire, are dull in comparison.

The Chrysolite. This is an olive-green, bottle-coloured stone, pure and transparent like glass, which, a person not conversant, might speak of as a piece of bottle glass. However, it is a real chrysolite, one of those stones which, even now, are kept with such mystery in the Cathedral of Cologne. It brings to mind the time when Crusaders returned with natural-coloured stones of the Orient; when tired warriors laid, on the altars of churches, their offerings of green stones—emeralds and chrysolites brought from the shores of the Red Sea. They were, as a rule, found on the small, volcanic isles of Zebergeth, from whence, by complicated ways and means, they got to the pilgrims and warriors of the Orient, in Arabia and Palestine.

The Spinel. The Red Spinel, like the best red stones in the world, penetrated from the wilds of Afghanistan, into the Orient, and to the warehouses of India and China. They are all, at the present time, registered, but among them, we know of no more beautiful or larger spinel, than the one in the crown of Catherine II. The stone, weighing 400 carats, was procured in Peking in 1676, by the Russian Ambassador Nicolas Spafariy, since which time we are unaware of any more pure or deep-toned stone.

The «Table» Diamond. This remarkable gem is set in a gothic style bracelet. At first glance, even an experienced eye cannot guess the nature of this stone. The thin plate (2 mm.) has a size of 7—8 sq. cent. The stone glistens like a beautiful mirror, as though polished on both sides. It is of rare beauty and purity, and of a beautiful, probably Indian cut, with only two hollows covered by fine gold; evidently a fragment of some unknown, huge solitaire, somewhere in the sands of Golconda, in India.

In size and purity, it is quite an exceptional portrait-stone, but we are quite unaware of its fate. We can only remember the narration of the famous traveller Tavernier, of how in 1642, he wished to procure a big table-diamond for the French Court; the dimensions were more than 12—14 cent., but whether this was really a diamond, remains a mystery, all the more so now, as Tavernier never purchased this stone.

The «Orlov» Diamond. Many legends and tales surround this famous «Orlov», which at the present time crowns the sceptre. We re-establish its real history in the following illustration:—

Our stone was discovered in the beginning of the XVII-th century (probably in the Collur mines) in Golconda. Its original weight was 300 carats; it presented two natural fragments of the «Great Moghul» stone. Shah Jekkan was unsatisfied with its cut, and insisted that it be re-cut, after which it assumed the form of the present «Orlov», of approximately 200 met. carats. It was, in this form, found by Tavernier in 1665, in the Palace of Aureng-Zeb. It is necessary to note here, that after the death of his father—Shah Jekkan—in 1661, Aureng-Zeb became the possessor of another large diamond, perhaps more ancient, and also cut in the form of an Indian rose, and later (in the time of Shah Nadir) called «Koh-i-noor». After being re-cut, its weight was 186 carats. This stone made a splendid pair with our «Orlov», which was at that time called the «Great Moghul»; but we have no reason to believe that they were both fragments of the same natural stone. According to the legendary information of Pallas, the «Orlov» and «Koh-i-noor» were both set in the throne of Shah Nadir, who seized Delhi in 1737. The «Orlov» at this time was called «Deryai-noor» (sea of light); the other stone—«Koh-i-noor» (mountain of light). The further fate of these stones was diverse. The «Orlov» in some manner or other, was stolen, and after passing through many hands, got to the market at Amsterdam. The «Koh-i-noor» escaped this fate, and passed into the hands of Prince Lahore in 1850; in 1852 it was taken possession of by the English and re-cut, losing its historical form (166 c.).

In 1772 the «Orlov» was procured by Count Orlov for Catherine II. It still retains the same ancient Indian cut, as when with the Great Moghuls in India. The historical diamond, the «Great Moghul» and the «Deryai-Noor» (sea of light) are identical with the Orlov. There are no other stones of this type, neither among the Russian Treasures, nor in any other collections in the world.

Thus are dispersed the many legends which told of four solitaires, instead of endeavouring to give a real picture of the two stones which were, and still are. Such are the conclusions to which we have come, after studying our «Orlov», and it will not be a mistake to consider this stone, as the largest and most famous Indian diamond in the world.

The «Shah» Diamond. In this case, the stone itself allows us to read its history, and we give the following absolutely correct data:

Discovery, before 1591.

1591. First engraved date. The stone is in the possession of Burhan-Nisam-Shah II, at Achmednagar.

1595. Probable date the stone passed into possession of the Great Moghuls (after conquering Achmednagar).

1651. Second engraved date. The diamond in the possession of the Great Moghul Shah-Jekkan.

1660. Probable date the stone became the possession of Aureng-Zeb, after war with his father, and seizure of the throne.

1665. Inspection of stones by Tavernier, in the Palace of Aureng-Zeb.

1739. Probable date the stone became the possession of Shah-Nadir, and was brought to Persia.

1824. Third engraved date. The diamond in the possession of the Persian ruler Fatkh-Ali-Shah, of the Kadjar dynasty.

1829. The diamond is sent to the Russian court by the Persian Prince Hosrev-Mirza, after the murder of Griboiedov.

1914. (23-rd July). The stone is removed from the «Diamond Room» in the Winter Palace, to Moscow.

1922. Opening of the strong-boxes with the Regalia and treasures, and the inclusion of this stone in the «Diamond Treasure of Russia».

There is no room here for legends—we have given accurate data of the history of the Orient.

We have described the history of seven remarkable stones—seven new marvels in the world of stones. However complicated may be the fates of humanity at the present time; however pale and withered may seem the beauty of these seven lovely creations of nature, the necessity of which is not felt now, it is in their splendour and in their fates, that we can see the pages of that past, on the ruins of which we are building our present and future life.

A. E. Fersman,

Member of the Academy of Sciences.

Leningrad. July, 1925.

DESCRIPTION
OF RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS
AND PRECIOUS STONES

DESCRIPTION OF RUSSIA'S TREASURE OF DIAMONDS AND PRECIOUS STONES

(CONCLUSION)

Abbreviations: **m. c.** = metrical carat (200 milligr.); **a. c.** and **anc. car.** = ancient carat (205—207 milligr.); **cent.** = centimeter; **cent.** = sq. centimeter; **m. m.** = millimeter; **appr.** = approximately; **br.** = brilliant; **d.** = diamond; **phot.** = phototype; **inv.** = inventory. N. B. The weight of the stones has been verified by our experts and compared with 1898 lists, attached to specimens. A few of the largest stones have been taken out of settings and weighed anew. In each case, the letter «W» has been added in the new records.

№ 142.

Plate LXXVI, phot. 167 (full size).

A STRING OF LARGE PEARLS.

This remarkable row is composed of 38 pearls of first rate quality and rare size. In general, pearls of such exceptional dimensions cannot be exactly matched, yet, even in this respect, this necklace is of a rare beauty.

The 38 ancient Indian pearls weigh about 565 m. c.

There are two small clasps at the ends of the string, and the two diamonds in these clasps weigh $\frac{3}{4}$ m. c. Length of the string—53 cent.

These pearls are mentioned in the early lists.

Inv. 1922—№ 224.

№ 143.

Plate LXXVII, phot. 168 (reduced size 0,9).

EAR-RINGS WITH LARGE PEARL EAR-DROPS.

These excellent jewels of artistic simplicity are of great value and show a fine choice of stones, giving the ear-rings a historical significance.

Dimensions of the pear-shaped pearl—3,3 cent. (appr.).

Pearls: of exceptional size and best quality, especially one of them, which is of a rare beauty. Weight—24,91 and 23,40 m. c.

Diamonds: two large Brazilian stones of a white water weighing 9,35 m. c.; two Brazilian diamonds—1 m. c. (appr.); roses.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories. Inv. 1922—№ 946.

№ 144.

Plate LXXVII, phot. 169 (full size).

PENDANT WITH A RARE INDIAN BRIOLET.

This pendant in the form of an ear-ring, is made of a beautiful large white briolet of Indian cutting, set in a delicate golden gallery.

The briolet is an old Indian stone with minute feather inclusions. It had a different fastening formerly, which is indicated by a deep cut on the reverse side of the stone, specially made for this purpose. Two leaves surmount the briolet; above these is a large though somewhat flat and dull diamond.

Setting: silver with golden galleries.

Dimensions: of the ear-ring—4,8×1,6; width of the briolet—2,6×1,6×1,3. Its weight (according to the old Inventory)—40,50 a. c. The weight of the upper

large diamond—5 a. c. Besides these, 2 smaller diamonds of about 1 a. c.
Inv. 1898—№ 42/42; Inv. 1922—№ 232.

№ 145.

Plate LXXVII, phot. 170 (full size).

**DIAMOND AIGRETTE WITH PEARL
PENDELOQUES.**

A beautifully composed jewel in the form of a branch with loosely suspended diamond and pearl pendeloques. At the slightest movement, the whole aigrette vibrates, and the stones sparkle most beautifully. This is a very artistic specimen of the jeweller's art of the Elisabethan epoch, a period in which materials were applied with such a remarkable masterliness.

Dimensions: 8,2 × 4,2 cent.

Pearls: perforated specimens of average quality. 1 pearl—9⁷/₈ a. c., 3 pearl pendeloques—21 a. c.

Diamonds: in the centre—beautiful Brazilian stones mentioned in the Inventory of 1898—2 pendants—appr. 7 a. c.; 2 diamonds—4 a. c.; 9 br.—appr. 8 a. c.; 1 round br.—2 a. c.; 56 different diamonds—about 10 a. c. and 21 small stones encircle the pearls.

Setting: silver, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 226/219; Inv. 1922—№ 244.

№ 146.

Plate LXXVII, phot. 171 (full size).

**BROOCH-AIGRETTE WITH DIAMOND
BRANCHES AND PEARL PENDANTS.**

A remarkable jewel, and like the preceding, worthy of being exhibited in a museum. It is one of the few artistical pieces retained from the second half of the XVIII-th century. Its original design is composed of diamond flowers and feathered palm-tree leaves (in the early lists indicated as «ostrich feathers»). The stones are matched with the greatest taste, and the loosely suspended pearls gracefully vibrate.

Dimensions: 11 × 7 cent.

Pearls: large pearl in the centre—50 m. c. (the weight of 40 a. c. noted in the old Inv. is an error); 2 pendants—15 m. c. (old Inv.—13 a. c.), a round and flat pearl—8 m. c. (old Inventory—8 a. c.).

Diamonds:—excellent old Brazilian specimens, weighing altogether—30 m. c. (appr.).

Setting: solid silver, soldered in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 225/218; Inv. 1922—№ 236.

№ 147.

Plate LXXVIII, phot. 172 (full size).

**A PEARL AND DIAMOND PIN IN LOUIS XV
STYLE.**

A rather small pin with four green enamel leaves, one pear-shaped pearl of about 11 m. c., one half of another pearl (3 m. c.) and 16 flat inferior Brazilian diamonds—3¹/₂ m. c. The lines of the whole composition show traces of the Louis XV style.

Dimensions: 5 × 3 cent.

Setting: pearls in gold, diamonds in solid silver, soldered in gold. Workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch about 1750.

Inv. 1898—№ 232/225; Inv. 1922—№ 469/232.

№ 148.

Plate LXXVIII, phot. 173 (full size).

**HEADBAND IN LOUIS XVI STYLE,
IN SILVER AND GOLD.**

A very fine and beautiful headband in Louis XVI style, set with small diamonds in silver à-jour, and with roses in dull gold enchasements.

The Inventory of 1898 indicates this object as «a diamond chain in the form of a head-dress. 63 diamonds—11 a. c.; 84 diamonds—5 c.; 500 roses».

Inv. 1898—№ 172/173; Inv. 1922—№ 455.

№ 149.

Plate LXXVIII, phot. 174 (full size).

**NECKLACE WITH DIAMOND-STUDED
BOWS.**

This beautiful necklace consists of 47 parts, set in silver, soldered in gold, and decorated with diamonds. Some pendants must have been formerly suspended on the chain, because small eyelets are still to be seen on it. Instead of a locket, there are two small bows through which a ribbon can be passed.

Dimensions: 46,75 × 1,75 cent.

Diamonds: 24 specimens in the bows; 23 in the oval intervals (about 13 a. c. altogether); 322 one-cuts weighing 24 a. c.

Excellent work of the epoch of Catherine II, in Louis XVI style.

Inv. 1898—№ 221/214; Inv. 1922—№ 470/221.

№ 150.

Plate LXXVIII, phot. 175 (full size).

DIAMOND CLASP IN LOUIS XV STYLE.

A very pretty, winding ribbon clasp in Louis XV style, registered in the early Inventory as an «epaulet-bow». Most interesting, and not at all commonplace workmanship of the beginning of the XVIII-th century.

Dimensions: 9,6 × 3,7 cent.

Pearls: 44 perforated specimens, weighing about 7 carats.

Diamonds: 8 stones—4 c.; one-cuts about 5¹/₂ c.

Inv. 1898—№ 234/227; Inv. 1922—№ 476/234.

№ 151.

Plate LXXIX, phot. 176 (full size).

DIAMOND DRESS-TRIMMINGS.

365 silver stripes, together with two stripes for the pockets (№ 368) and one part of a bow (№ 376), form a complete set to trim a dress with a multitude of diamonds. Each stripe is separate and varies in size and shape, making possible any desired fold or design.

The dimensions of the stripes differ as follows: 0,4 × 2,8 cent. in the corners and 1,3—2,1 cent. in the links and somewhat in the width (about 3,0 cent.). The dimensions of the pocket stripes are 3,0 × 2,8 cent.

Diamonds: Brazilians of a good quality in solid silver. Workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II. Inv. 1898—№ 58/54 for the stripes; № 59/55 for the pocket trimmings. The following weights (in anc. carats) are given in the old lists: flowered stripes—13 diamonds weighing 15¹/₈; 68 d.—67; 195—148; 1708—495; one-cuts—600 carats. Pocket trimmings—1 d. of 3¹/₂ c.; 12—36; 4—11; 7—17¹/₂; 6—13¹/₂; 7—14; 7—12¹/₄; 5—7¹/₂; 2—2³/₄; 5—6¹/₄; 30—29; 284—75; one-cuts—44 carats.

Inv. 1922—№№ 395 and 368.

№ 152.

Plate LXXX, phot. 177 (full size).

DIAMOND STRIPES SET IN SILVER.

These numerous beautiful stripes destined for a dress ornamentation show a very original unsymmetrical design, dating from the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions—2,2 × 0,7 cent.

On each stripe are 20 small diamonds, weighing totally about 1¹/₂—2 m. c. Good, old specimens, partly one-cuts, set in silver.

A piece of jewellery of historical value, and worthy of being placed in a museum.

Inv. 1898—№ 64/60; Inv. 1922—№ 39.

Very pretty stripes with a diamond flower in the centre, are represented on the same plate.

Dimensions (besides the corners) — 2,5 × 1,5 cent.

№ 153.

Plate LXXXI, phot. 178 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH AN ORIENTAL TURQUOISE.

This brooch forms a complete ornament set with the turquoise «kokoshnik». The large, somewhat heavy stones of the brooch, do not harmonize with the dry, sharp lines of the composition which is rather poorly designed.

Dimensions: 12,4 × 9,4 cent.

The turquoise which decorates this jewel is very large though not without small defects.

Diamonds—good Brazilian specimens described in detail in the Inventory of 1898 (in anc. car.): 2 br.—6²/₃₂; 2 br.—2²/₃₂; 4 br.—4⁷/₃₂; 6 br.—3²⁵/₃₂; 11 br.—4¹²/₃₂; 16 br.—7²⁸/₃₂; 2 br.—3⁹/₃₂; 38 br.—8²⁹/₃₂; 8 br.—5⁹/₃₂; 4 br.—6¹²/₃₂; 44 br.—6¹¹/₃₂; 10 br.—9²⁰/₃₂; 23 br.—11¹⁸/₃₂; 1 br.—1²³/₃₂; 3 br.—⁹/₃₂; 7 br.—⁹/₃₂ and 224 roses.

Setting—coarse and very massive, wrought by the firm K. Faberger about 1895.

Inv. 1898—№ 370/368; Inv. 1922—№ 263/B.

№ 154.

Plate LXXXI, phot. 179 (reduced size—0,9).

DIAMOND DIADEM WITH AN ORIENTAL TURQUOISE.

This diadem (kokoshnik), together with the preceding brooch forms a set. Though somewhat heavily designed

it still represents an artistic object surpassing by far the brooch described above. It was executed by Faberger at the same time as the preceding jewel, and it shows beautiful stones of a delicate pale blue framed by diamond stripes which are set in heavy gold.

Dimensions: length (inward line)—41 cent.; height in the centre—62 cent.

Turquoise: excellent gems beautifully matched in the form of 54 cabochons.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones described in the early Inventory as follows (in ancient carats): 34 br.—10³⁰/₃₂; 14 br.—6⁹/₃₂; 1 br.—²¹/₃₂; 34 br.—9³¹/₃₂; 5 br.—5¹⁷/₃₂; 41 br.—11³⁰/₃₂; 24 br.—11⁹/₃₂; 10 br.—2³⁰/₃₂; 2 br.—6¹⁹/₃₂; 2 br.—4¹⁹/₃₂; 2 br.—3¹²/₃₂; 2 br.—2³⁰/₃₂; 4 br.—3¹²/₃₂; 649 doublets—86¹²/₃₂; 348 one-cuts—26²³/₃₂ and 334 roses.

Setting in solid gold and silver. Each of the parts can be separated as they are fastened on different pins. The pale blue stones are set in gold, the diamonds—in silver with little golden galleries and leaves.

Inv. 1898—№ 369/361; Inv. 1922—№ 263/a.

№ 155.

Plate LXXXII, phot. 180—183 (full size).

ENSIGN ORDERS.

See description of crosses and stars in Part I, Nos 6, 7, 8, 9, pages 27 and 28.

№ 156.

Plate LXXXIII, phot. 184 (full size).

NOSEGAY OF NARCISSES.

A jewellery-piece of rare beauty, one of the most artistic chef-d'œuvres of the middle of the XVIII-th century.

It is beautifully wrought and of a most charming and accomplished design. The fine golden stems are covered with green enamel, the flowers are loosely fastened and seem to be alive in their mobility, with their petals studded with white diamonds. The centres of the flowers are of pretty yellow brilliants.

This remarkable jewel apparently dates from about 1750—1770.

Dimensions: 18,8 × 8,5 cent.

Diamonds: 3 yellow stones—4¹/₂ m. c.; white brilliants—50 m. c.

Inv. 1898—№ 80/76; Inv. 1922—№ 440.

№ 157.

Plate LXXXIII, phot. 185 (full size).

A SMALL NOSEGAY WITH ENAMELLED LEAVES AND RUBY FLOWERS.

An extraordinary jewel, reminding one in details of big diamond bouquets on coloured foil.

This nosegay-aigrette is composed with exceptional beauty, though it gives the impression of a certain heaviness.

Dimensions: 13,5 × 6,9 cent.

Rubies: 249 small stones of inferior value and light tint weighing about 21 m. c. They are set on a foil of ducate gold.

Diamonds—of good quality set in silver. 304 stones of a total weight of 14 m. c. The stalks are silver covered with green enamel. Workmanship 1750—1760. Inv. 1898—№ 187/188; Inv. 1922—№ 476/187.

№ 158.

Plate LXXXIV, phot. 186 (full size).

A BABY'S RATTLE WITH A WHISTLE
(Elisabethan epoch).

This golden toy is wrought à-jour in the form of flowers and leaves, with adornments on it equally representing flowers. It is ornamented with white and yellow diamonds, rubies and emeralds set in silver and gold. One of the ends is ivory tipped, the other represents a whistle with a ring through which to pass a cord.

The setting is in Louis XV style. The whole object is worthy to be exhibited in a museum.

Length—17,7 cent. The width of the globule—4,8 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 160; Inv. 1922—№ 310.

№ 159.

Plate LXXXV, phot. 187 (full size).

DIAMOND DIADEM WITH INDIAN
BRIOLETS.

A wonderful jewel with excellent white Brazilian diamonds and ancient Indian briolets. It dates from about 1800 and is well-known from the portraits of the empress Elisabeth Alexeievna, the wife of Alexander I.

Length of the circumference at the base—33 cent.

Diamonds: in the front—a large solitaire indicated in the old lists as «the flat blood-red brilliant of 10 carats». Most probably, this is the historical «pink diamond» particularly mentioned in literature among the treasures of Paul I. However, this stone, set in silver, really weighs 13,35 m. c. and is of a very faint rosy tint of remarkable purity. The beautiful briolets of ancient Hindu cutting, some of them a little yellowish, weigh altogether 1 br.—9 a. c.; 4 br.—18 a. c.; 8 br.—32 a. c.; 6 br.—21 a. c.; 8 br.—24 a. c.; 4 br.—10 a. c.; 8 br.—10 a. c.

Besides these—Brazilian diamonds: 2 br.—13¹/₄ a. c.; 2 br.—10¹¹/₁₆ a. c.; 6 br.—28¹¹/₁₆ a. c.; 15 br.—47⁹/₁₆ a. c.; 111 br.—150 a. c.; one-cuts—8 a. c.; 1200 roses.

Setting à-jour in silver, soldered in gold. Workmanship—about 1810.

Inv. 1898—№ 51; Inv. 1922—№ 484.

№ 160.

Plate LXXXVI, phot. 188 (full size).

GOLDEN CROSS WITH FOUR LARGE
DIAMONDS.

Excellent old solitaires set in golden chatons on which the following words are engraved: «July I. Olga. 1846», «April 21-st 1840». The composition of this jewel is rather heavy, and dates from the middle of the XIX-th century. The cross is interesting from a historical point of view.

Dimensions of the cross—6,1×5,6 cent.

Natural-coloured stone: in the centre a right-angled spinel set à-jour; a beautiful light-shaded stone, weighing 7 m. c.

Diamonds: good old specimens of Hindu origin, with weights engraved on the settings: 1 br.—9¹/₃₂ a. c.; dimensions—1,6×1,4 cent.; 1 br.—10³/₃₂ a. c.; 1,3×1,4; 1 br.—13¹²/₃₂ a. c., dimensions 1,8×1,4; 1 br.—11²³/₃₂ a. c., dimensions 1,4×1,5 (somewhat dull); besides these, 8 diamonds weighing altogether 9¹/₂ c. encircle the spinel.

Setting—gold à-jour.

Not mentioned in the early Inventory. Inv. 1922—№ 239.

№ 161.

Plate LXXXVI, phot. 189 (full size).

TWO BROOCHES WITH CEYLON
SAPPHIRES.

Two beautiful brooches-fermoirs decorated with ancient sapphires from Ceylon.

I. A very large sapphire of 249,25 m. c. encircled by 26 brilliants of average quality (20 m. c. appr.).

Dimensions of the brooch—5,11×4,4; of the stone—3,8×3,3 cent.

II. A large sapphire of a rather flat Hindu cutting, weighing 142 m. c. and 24 white diamonds of 16 m. c. (appr.) set in silver.

Dimensions of the brooch—4,7×4,3; of the stone—3,4×3,1 cent. The setting is modern, by Faberger.

Inv. 1898—№ 109/106 and № 108/106; Inv. 1922—№ 491/393 and № 492/108.

№ 162.

Plate LXXXVI, phot. 190 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A LARGE
SAPPHIRE AND DIAMONDS.

This square brooch of modern work, is rich in diamonds and natural-coloured stones but dry, and not very pleasantly designed.

Dimensions: 6×4³/₄ cent.

Natural-coloured stones: a quadrangular Ceylon sapphire, with silky flaws and a rather flat form; a cabochon with 4 facets showing an interesting Hindu cutting; below—another four-sided cabochon with a polished defect. Weight—50,70 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: 8 good, large Brazilian stones weighing about 8¹/₂ m. c.; 24 specimens of equal quality but smaller size—6 m. c.; 136 small one-cuts—4¹/₂ m. c. (appr.).

Setting: the brooch is golden, the stones are set in silver.

Not mentioned in the old Inventory; Inv. 1922—№ 953.

№ 163.

Plate LXXXVI, phot. 191 (full size).

BROOCH DECORATED WITH A LARGE
EMERALD, COVERED WITH AN ARABIAN
INSCRIPTION.

This is quite a remarkable jewel. An excellent Columbian stone with an Arabian inscription is encircled

by a ring of large diamonds. The principal beauty of this piece lies in the astonishing lightness of the gold à-jour setting.

Natural-coloured stones: an exquisite ancient emerald of 40 m. c. cut in the form of steps. In one corner a crack is to be seen, in which part the stone had to be glued. This crack, apparently, was the result of a hard blow. This gem is, probably, of old Columbian origin, one of the first specimens brought over to Europe or Asia, after the discovery of America.

The Arabian inscription is deeply and carefully engraved on the stone's surface.

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens of average quality. 12 brilliants—10 m. c. (appr.); 12 br.—14 m. c. (appr.).
Setting: gold à jour.

Not mentioned in the old lists, but the cipher $\frac{540}{\text{CXXXIV}}$ is engraved on the encasement.

Inv. 1922—№ 986.

№ 164.

Plate LXXXVI, phot. 192 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH WITH A LARGE RUBY.

An object of extraordinary beauty, set with excellent large and ancient stones. Workmanship of the second half of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: of the brooch—4×4,6 cent.; of the ruby—2×2,2 cent. The ruby is of exceptional size (according to the old Inv.—39¹⁹/₃₂ a. c.) and of good quality, though a little dull.

Diamonds: 7 Indian solitaires of good quality; some of them slightly speckled. Weight (old Inv.)—6¹⁶/₃₂ a. c.; 7¹⁶/₃₂ a. c.; 8 a. c.; 6²¹/₃₂ a. c.; 5¹⁸/₃₂ a. c.; 6 a. c.; 10¹⁶/₃₂ a. c.

Setting—silver à-jour, the lower part in gold.

Inv. 1898—№ 354/346. Inv. 1922—№ 6.

№ 165.

Plate LXXXVII, phot. 193 (full size).

EMERALD «SEVIGNE»—BROOCH.

A rich and beautiful brooch, belonging to the same set, as the unfinished necklace № 412 (old Inventory), both jewels being ordered for a fancy-dress ball about 1898. The brooch was made in great haste by the firm Faberger, out of old stones belonging to the reserve of the Cabinet, tied together with pearls by a thin silver thread. A piece, very successfully composed and designed.

Emeralds: excellent old Columbians of a curious old cutting, with a slightly rounded surface.

The old lists mention 2 emeralds of rhomboidal form—140 a. c. which when reweighed, proved to be 174,10 m. c. Another hexagonal stone in a pendant was found to weigh 21,90 m. c. instead of 21 a. c.

Diamonds: Brazilian specimens of a yellowish tint and varied in quality. According to the old Inventory, 15 solitaires (№ 44)—32 a. c.; 3 solitaires (№ 45)—5¹/₂ a. c.; 48 diamonds (№ 124)—38 a. c.; 24 br. (№ 130)—4 a. c. The recent valuation of our experts proves a far greater quantity of diamonds, with a total weight of 100 m. c.

Workmanship—about 1898, somewhat heavy, but still of great effect and in perfect harmony with the old Russian style.

Inv. 1898—№ 126 (out of N-os 124, 130, 44—47);
Inv. 1922—№ 435.

№ 166.

Plate LXXXVII, phot. 194 (full size).

EAR-RINGS WITH EMERALD EAR-DROPS.

A very pretty pair of ear-rings with old Russian emeralds. Two quadrangular stones of a light but very pleasant tint (6 a. c.) and two ear-drops of Indian cutting, slightly scratched and drilled through on the top (according to the old items, these stones weigh—15 a. c.; the recent valuation shows a weight of 20 m. c.).

Brazilian diamonds in silver settings encircle the gems. Workmanship—about 1840, the epoch of Nicolas I. Length—6 cent.; width—1,8 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 128/126 (quotes 60 diam. weighing altogether—9¹/₂ a. c.); Inv. 1922—№ 383.

№ 167.

Plate LXXXVII, phot. 195 (full size).

TWO PENDANTS WITH GLOBULAR EMERALDS.

Two globular, Boule style emeralds of a very fine rhomboidal cutting, decorate these jewels. The emeralds are perforated, of not very high value, probably of Columbian origin. The total weight of the stones, the small pieces of the golden and silver rods included, is 89¹/₄ m. c.; the weight of the stones is probably 75 m. c.

Dimensions: of the whole jewel—2,8 (height); of the globule—1,8 (width), 1,5 (height).

Above and below are ornaments in diamonds (2 br.—2¹/₄ c. and 2 br.—2 c.).

Setting—solid silver; the globule fasteners are in silver and gold. Workmanship—the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 135 and № 133; Inv. 1922—№ 448.

№ 168.

Plate LXXXVII, phot. 196 (full size).

BROOCH WITH A HEXAGONAL EMERALD.

This is a small brooch set with a good dark hexagonal emerald on a golden foil. The stone weighs (according to the early Inventory)—40 a. c. It is encircled by 26 Brazilian diamonds in silver setting weighing about 5 m. c. Workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: of the brooch—3,7×3,0 cent.; of the emerald—3,0×2,1 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 133/131; Inv. 1922—№ 375.

№ 169.

Plate LXXXVII, phot. 197 (full size).

LOCKET WITH A LABRADORITE.

A small, but fine locket with an American labrador of a light-gray shade. The stone is set à-jour. An interesting gem in which distinct needle-like inclusions can be seen; 19 diamonds, weighing about

12 m. c., encase the stone. In the small eyelet one more small brilliant can be seen (not 5, as indicated in the old Inventory).

Dimensions: of the locket—4,3×3,8 cent.; of the labradorite—3×2,6 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 103/101; Inv. 1922—№ 408/a.

№ 170.

Plate LXXXVII, phot. 198 (full size).

PENDANT WITH A LARGE EMERALD.

This excellent stone of a lovely green, in spite of numerous cracks, weighs about 240–250 m. c. The surface of the gem is convex, like that of a flat cabochon, around which is a wide row of facets. On the reverse side, polished cavities can be seen. The whole form of the stone is irregular. The emerald is set in gold and bordered by 54 diamonds (about 12 m. c.) in silver settings, soldered in gold. The work of the jewel refers to the time of Nicolas I. The emerald's particularly yellow-greenish tone, proves it to be of Russian origin. It evidently is one of the first gems found in the emerald mines of the Ural, about 1835.

Dimensions: 6,8×6,3×1 cent.

№ 171.

Plate LXXXVIII, phot. 199 (full size).

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS STUDED WITH DIAMONDS.

This rich ornament, of silver and gold, beautifully studded with diamonds, is the work of the beginning of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: 8,2×5,7 cent.

Diamonds: on the top, an excellent specimen, obtuse-angled, perfectly clear—5,03 m. c. (w.); two pendants—3½ m. c. (appr.); 1 br.—1 m. c., 126 small stones—6 m. c. (appr.) and roses of about 3 m. c.

Not mentioned in the old lists.

№ 172.

Plate LXXXVIII, phot. 200 (full size).

STAR OF ST. ANDREW'S ORDER.

See description in Part I, page 27, № 7.

№ 173.

Plate LXXXVIII, phot. 201 (full size).

STAR AND CROSS OF THE ORDER OF ALEXANDER NEVSKY.

The star is composed of eight rays all studded with diamonds. The crown on the star bears 2 pear-shaped diamonds, one lightly coloured, 14 small diamonds, and 9 roses. The exterior circle has 16 shaded diamonds; the interior circle and the rays consist of small white diamonds. The motto: «for service and fatherland»—is inscribed in roses on red enamel.

Diamonds: old stones, fastened in solid silver. 3 br.—3 c.; 16 br.—10 c.; 24 br.—6 c.; one-cuts—17 c. and 150 roses.

S. Troinitsky refers the workmanship to the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions of the star: 8,75×8,75 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 22/21.

The cross (not represented on the plate) is of diamonds and roses. A white diamond of good quality surmounts the cross. Each of the four eagles has one pear-shaped diamond and a rose. The fields of the order are of light spinels, encircled by small roses. The central part, which bears a painting is bordered by a circle of small diamonds and small roses.

The diamonds are set à-jour; the roses on a silver foil, the reverse-side of the order is golden and engraved. The jeweller's work of the order is beautiful, and apparently of the epoch of Paul I (1796–1801).

Inv. 1898—№ 23/22 with the following data: 4 rubies-balais; 1 diamond—¼ c.; 71 diamonds—10 c. and 500 roses.

Dimensions—5×5 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 429.

№ 174.

Plate LXXXVIII, phot. 202 (full size).

CROSS OF THE HAT OF ST. ANDREW'S ORDER.

A simple, obliquely intersected cross with two layers, consisting of 13 old good diamonds in a light à-jour silver setting.

Dimensions: of the layers—6,2 cent.

Diamonds: good old specimens, the central stone of a light yellowish colour. Weight of the stones: 1 br.—6 a. c.; 6 br.—18 a. c.; 6 br.—14 a. c.; 28 one-cuts—1 a. c.

A very interesting piece, from a historical point of view, being the property of Paul I.

Inv. 1898—№ 11/8; Inv. 1922—№ 430.

№ 175.

Plate LXXXIX, phot. 203 (full size).

A HAIRPIN IN THE FORM OF A LAUREL BRANCH WITH EMERALDS.

A most beautiful ornament, in a very light à-jour setting, in the form of a laurel branch with movable leaves on fine elastic plates. The very fine workmanship belongs to the beginning of the XIX-th century, the epoch when garlands and laurel decorations were in vogue.

Dimensions: 8,0×6,2 c.

Emeralds: of good water and colour, set, as well as the diamonds, in light coloured gold. Small stones—10 a. c.; one-cuts—1 a. c.

In general, a first-rate specimen, worthy to be exhibited in the Ermitage.

Inv. 1898—№ 131/129; Inv. 1922—№ 369.

№ 176.

Plate LXXXIX, phot. 204 (full size).

A COLLECTION OF CHRYSOLITE ORNAMENTS.

Some very fine ornamental pieces in chrysolites, dating from the middle of the XVIII-th century. Very

odd are the steel feathers, which give to each specimen a rather light, elegant appearance.

The chrysolites are of a beautiful pure tone, and apparently from the Isle of Zebergeth, in the Red Sea. The diamonds set in silver, are Brazilian specimens. Inv. 1922—N-os 327, 329, 330, 331, 332.

№ 177.

Plate XC, phot. 205 (full size).

GOLDEN CHAIN OF THE ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.

One of the two renowned specimens of great historical value—the golden chain 80 probe (20 car.); weight 601,2 gr. consists of 23 separate parts supporting the order of the White Eagle. The separate parts are of 3 designs: 1) standards, cannons and shields, completed by a crown with the enamelled initials: A. I; 2) a bow on a golden star with the Polish Eagle in a golden crown; 3) the Russian Two-headed eagle.

The order of the White Eagle: on the star a convex Polish Eagle; on its reverse side is engraved: Pro Fide.—Reg. A Lege. In the centre is engraved: A M—(Maria). According to the date, this piece is the work of the jeweller Keibel, in St.-Petersburg, in 1829.

Dimensions: length of the chain—145 cent.; dimensions of the first part— $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ cent.; of the second part— 4×4 cent.; and of the third part— $4 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ cent.; of the order— 7×7 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 34/33; Inv. 1922—№ 420.

№ 178.

Plate XCI, phot. 206 (full size).

DIADEM WITH LARGE SAPPHIRES.

A very pretty crown of the epoch of Paul I (about 1805), with large sapphires and, a very gracefully curved stripe of blue enamel at the base.

Dimensions: below—28 cent.; height in the centre—9,92 cent.; the large sapphire— $4,1 \times 3,1$ cent.

Sapphires: very interesting Ceylon stones. According to the Inventory of 1898—1 sapphire—70 a. c. (flat, with a greenish tint); 1—26 a. c.; 1—20 a. c.; 2—9 a. c.

Diamonds: large Brazilians—one large flat pendeloque—9 c.; 22 br.—22 c.; 36 br.—11 c.; 146 br.—32 c.; 351 br.—100 c.; 750 roses and 10 br.— $12\frac{1}{4}$ c.

Setting: sapphires—in gold (the large solitaires can be taken out with a part of the setting); diamonds—in silver, with a narrow golden rim.

Inv. 1898—№ 351/343; Inv. 1922—№ 389.

№ 179.

Plate XCII, phot. 207 (full size).

ANCIENT EMERALD PINS.

These three very old pins, probably dating from the beginning of the XVIII-th century, with emeralds on a foil, in solid gold settings, are of a very interesting workmanship and design. The emeralds are encircled by roses and ancient table-diamonds.

a) Emerald, with several cracks and with 16 roses in massive silver setting.

Dimensions: $2,7 \times 2,9$ cent.

b) An octagonal emerald, and 10 ancient Indian table-stones set in silver.

Dimensions: $2,75 \times 2,85$ cent.

c) An oblong emerald, with 8 ancient Indian table-diamonds, set in silver.

Dimensions: $2,6 \times 2,7$ cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 139/136; Inv. 1922—№ 468/139.

№ 180.

Plate XCII, phot. 208 (full size).

SILVER HAIRPINS WITH SAPPHIRES.

Five exceptionally artistic hairpins, though very simple in design, in the form of four-rayed stars. Workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch, about 1750.

Sapphires: 20 light specimens—about 8 m. c.

Diamonds: 5 larger stones; 20 of average size; 48 small ones.

Total weight— $6\frac{1}{2}$ m. c. Brazilian stones, varied in colour and quality. The dimensions of the largest hairpin is $1,9 \times 1,9$ cent. The others are smaller—about $1,4 \times 1,4$ cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 121/117; Inv. 1922—№ 473/121.

№ 181.

Plate XCII, phot. 209 (full size).

EMERALD AND DIAMOND PINS; EPOCH OF PETER I.

Four antique pins, with emeralds set in solid gold with ancient Indian-cut table-stone diamonds.

The lower part of the pins is gilded and engraved, this being typical for the epoch of Peter I.

Dimensions— $2,55 \times 2,35$ cent. and $2,55 \times 2,25$ cent.

Emeralds: of average quality, 2 good stones—10 a. c., 2 inferior ones—16 a. c.

Diamonds: 64 br.—about 7 a. c.

Probably the two larger pins belong to the end of the XVII-th century, the two smaller ones—to the beginning of the XVIII-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 137/134; Inv. 1922—№ 367.

№ 182.

Plate XCII, phot. 210 (full size).

FIVE EMERALD PINS.

These are very interesting jewels, from a historical point of view, one of them (№ 3) being the work of the XVIII-th century, whilst the others (according to S. N. Troinitsky) refer to the XVII-th century.

1) An octangular emerald on a solid golden foil, encircled by 8 high roses set in silver.

Dimensions:— $1,6 \times 1,6$ cent.

2) A large quadrangular emerald on a dark foil, bordered by 27 one-cut diamonds in a solid silver setting. On the reverse side, an interesting design is engraved on gilded silver.

Dimensions: $2,3 \times 2,3$ cent.

3) A square emerald on gold, in a very pretty silver encasement in Louis XV style, with 4 larger diamonds.

Dimensions: 2,8 × 2,6 cent.

4) An oblong, apparently, Egyptian emerald, on a foil, and 8 diamonds of old Indian cut, probably dating from the XVI-th century, set in silver.

Dimensions: 2,8 × 2,2 cent.

5) An oblong emerald surrounded by 8 high roses, in silver settings.

Dimensions: 2,4 × 2,7 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 138/135. This Inv. gives the following data: 5 emeralds—54 a. c.; 47 diamonds—4¼ a. c.; 24 roses—5 a. c. Inv. 1922—№ 398.

№ 183.

Plate XCIII, phot. 211 (full size).

DIAMOND PIN IN THE FORM OF A FLOWER, WITH A PEARL PENDANT.

A most beautiful pin of the Elisabethan epoch, with the stones excellently matched in the form of a typically artistic flower. A specimen of great value.

Dimensions: 4,6 × 3,1 cent.

Pearls—an ancient pear-shaped pearl of excellent quality—12,60 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: 1 pendant—about 2½ m. c.; 13 small pendants and others of a total weight of 7 m. c. The diamonds are set in silver.

Not mentioned in the old Inventory; Inv. 1922—№ 14.

№ 184.

Plate XCIII, phot. 212 (full size).

SMALL DIAMOND NOSEGAY ON A COLOURED FOIL.

A charming piece of the jeweller's art of the first half of the XVIII-th century (about 1745). The beautifully twined leaves, with fine golden veins, are studded with diamonds. The petals of the tulips are golden. All the diamonds are set in solid silver, on a coloured foil, with a golden base.

Dimensions: 9 × 5,5 cent.

The three flowers and the buds forming this nosegay consist of: yellow diamonds: 1 br.—1½ c.; 2 br.—2½ c.; 3 br.—3 c.; 3 br.—2½ c.; other diamonds—2½ c.; one-cuts—14 a. c.

Inv. 1898—№ 90/86; Inv. 1922—№ 418.

№ 185.

Plate XCIII, phot. 213 (full size).

DIAMOND BROOCH-AIGRETTE IN THE FORM OF A BRANCH.

This jewel is a real masterpiece of the middle of the XVIII-th century, with all the exquisiteness and the refined simplicity so characteristic of this epoch. It is composed of a branch entwined by a diamond ribbon and two loosely swinging pendeloques in the form of flowers.

Dimensions: 9 × 5 cent.

Diamonds: Brazilians, of average quality: 2 pear-shaped br.—10 m. c.; 7 br.—9 m. c.; 158 small br.—10 m. c.

Setting: in silver, soldered in gold.

Workmanship: Elisabethan epoch about 1750.

This piece could be exhibited in a museum.

Inv. 1898—№ 75/71; Inv. 1922—№ 414.

№ 186.

Plate XCIII, phot. 214 (full size).

AIGRETTE IN THE FORM OF A STALK WITH THREE FLOWERS.

A fascinating specimen of jewellery of the epoch of Catherine II, with a typically artistic design, which we notice in the early works of Duval. The motive with the buds, which is particularly interesting, is well-known on productions bearing the signature of this master. The peculiar oblique manner in which the square stones are set is also very characteristic of Duval.

Dimensions: 5,0 × 7,0 cent.

Diamonds: good Brazilian stones in a silver setting. The small stones are of inferior quality.

In the old Inventory are noted: 4 yellow br.—5¾ a. c.; 12 br.—9 c.; 6 br.—6 c.; 3 br.—1 c.; one-cuts—6 a. c.

The setting is compact; the reverse side—plain solid silver. Workmanship about 1760—1770.

Inv. 1898—№ 74/70; Inv. 1922—№ 419.

№ 187.

Plate XCIII, phot. 215 (full size).

THREE SILVER HAIRPINS WITH DIAMONDS.

Three fantastical hairpins of the Elisabethan epoch, with pearls set in silver, and soldered in gold.

Dimensions: 3,0 × 2,5 cent.

According to the Inventory of 1898—№ 230/223 (small aigrette): 1 br.—¾ a. c.; 29 br.—3 a. c.; and № 361/353: pearls and 2 br.—¾ a. c.

Inv. 1922—N-os 473/230 and 473/361.

№ 188.

Plate XCIII, phot. 216 (full size).

DIAMOND FLOWERS.

These flowers belong to a set of trimmings described in detail in Part III and represented in the form of tassels on plate LVIII.

Old number—268.

№ 189.

Plate XCIV, phot. 217 (full size).

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

This order was most probably presented by the Spanish Court, and refers to the middle of the XIX-th century. The order is decorated with five very large burnt Brazilian topazes, of the purest pale violet-coloured tone, of a very pretty and regular cut. The oblong stone in the centre is particularly fine; the other four stones are somewhat flat.

Setting—à-jour in gold.

Diamonds: Brazilians in silver à-jour, soldered in gold. 4 br.—3 a. c.; 10 br.—2 a. c.; one-cuts—3 a. c.

The very neat and beautiful workmanship dates from about 1850. The fleece is of light gold with diamonds and chased on both sides.

Dimensions: of the whole order—6,2×6,2 cent.; of the topazes: in the centre—2,8×2,1 cent.; 2 pendeloques—2,8×1,3 cent.; 2 obtuse-angled—1,2—1,0 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 35/34; Inv. 1922—№ 434.

№ 190.

Plate XCIV, phot. 218 (full size).

AIGRETTE REPRESENTING A BIRD WITH NATURAL-COLOURED STONES.

This aigrette is in the form of an eagle; its body and tail consist of small sapphires, the wings—of diamonds. The flowers are studded with diamonds and rubies, and the leaves—with emeralds.

Dimensions: 6×4 cent.

Natural-coloured stones: 21 emeralds—1 c.; 24 rubies—1 c.; 66 sapphires—2½ c.

Diamonds: 110—about 4 c.

Setting: diamonds in silver on a foil; natural-coloured stones in gold, the claws of the eagle are in chased gold. In the beak is a small eyelet, evidently intended formerly as a support for a pendant. Beautiful workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 188/189; Inv. 1922—№ 470/180.

№ 191.

Plate XCIV, phot. 219 (full size).

DIAMOND ORNAMENT.

A rich diamond ornament with a solitaire in the centre.

Dimensions: 5×8 cent.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

№ 192.

Plate XCIV, phot. 220 (full size).

DIAMOND EAR-RINGS.

Ear-rings with big diamonds, of modern workmanship. Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

№ 193.

Plate XCIV, phot. 221 (full size).

HAT-PINS.

Two pearl hat-pins, exquisite work of the end of XVIII-th century.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

№ 194.

Plate XCV, phot. 222 (full size).

PEARL DIADEM.

Beautiful specimen of the XIX-th century. Not mentioned in the early lists.

№ 195.

Plate XCV, phot. 223 (full size).

DIAMOND NECKLACE.

This necklace consists of 25 big diamonds on black velvet, weighing about 60 m. c. and of small decorations of 598 stones weighing about 20 m. c.; 24 roses.

Rare and antique stones beautifully matched.

Inv. 1922—№ 38.

№ 196.

Plate XCV, phot. 224 (full size).

AN ENAMEL BRACELET WITH DIAMONDS.

This bracelet consists of separate small lockets, partly divided by diamond-chatons, and of a clasp in blue enamel. On each locket, beginning at the clasp, one of the following letters is engraved: «N le 23 Octobre 1815». The 5 brilliants in the chatons and numerous smaller diamonds weigh altogether about 7 m. c. Very good roses of about 1½ m. c. Length of the bracelet—19 cent.

This jewel is of historical value for a museum.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories. Inv. 1922—№ 269 c.

№ 197.

Plate XCVI, phot. 225 (full size).

JASPER SNUFF-BOX; LOUIS XV STYLE.

A fantastical two-sided snuff-box (à deux tabacs) with an opening for the finger, made of English jasper, set in chased gold. Beautiful English workmanship. The jasper sooner resembles a jasper-agate with a transparent chalcedony and red spots on a yellow ground. No hall-mark can be seen on this beautiful article, worthy to be included in the collections of the *Ermitage*.

Dimensions: 11×4,2×5,5 cent.

S. Troinitsky and A. Benois refer this snuff-box to the middle of the XVIII-th century, and consider it of great interest in workmanship.

Inv. 1922—№ 156.

№ 198.

Plate XCVI, phot. 226 (full size).

SNUFF-BOX WITH EMERALDS.

An oval snuff-box in chased gold (72 probe—18 carats) in Louis XV style. On the lid are 7 emeralds of about 38 m. c., 6 pendeloques arranged in the form of rays, and one oval emerald.

Emeralds—average stones, on a foil, chiefly of Ural origin. Around, is the following inscription set in diamond roses: «Alexandra Charlotte July 1 1842». The lower part of the snuff-box is in mosaic, representing the Farm-Palace at Peterhof; the work of Weckler in 1842.

Inside the snuff-box was found a paper with the following inscription: «after the deceased Prussian King Frederic III».

Dimensions: 7,6×5,8×4,3 cent.

Though this snuff-box has but little artistic value, it still is of interest to the Ermitage collections.

Not mentioned in the early Inventory; Inv. 1922—№ 531.

№ 199.

Plate XCVI, phot. 227 (full size).

ROUND SNUFF-BOX WITH THE MINIATURE OF CATHERINE II.

A round golden snuff-box, in blue enamel, ornamented with a miniature of Catherine II. It seems as though there was an old effaced hall-mark, on this piece.

Dimensions: 8,2×8,2×2 cent.

According to S. Troinitsky, this snuff-box was made in the XIX-th century, in imitation of the style of the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 151/102; Inv. 1922—№ 151.

№ 200.

Plate XCVII, phot. 228 (full size).

A MOTHER-OF-PEARL FAN WITH A PAINTING, REPRESENTING THE CORONATION OF A RUSSIAN TSAR.

This splendid fan of French workmanship about 1890, is made of mother-of-pearl covered with gold. On one side of the artificial parchment, the coronation-ceremony is painted rather fantastically. A view of Moscow is to be seen in the back-ground. On the other side, the Neva is represented with Cronstadt, with big vessels, and, in the far distance a view of St.-Petersbourg can be seen. The artistical and soft-toned water-colours are signed «G. Lasselaz». The mother-of-pearl plates are decorated with precious stones, and the rich tassels with small crowns. 11 pale rubies—18 m. c.; 11 sapphires—25 m. c.; 1 yellow very bright coloured diamond—5 m. c.; 1 white square brilliant—6½ m. c.; 525 different diamonds and roses—about 22 m. c. Rubies, sapphires and roses are in the tassels. The diamonds are set in silver; the natural coloured stones—in gold.

Length of the plate of the fan—37 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 309/a.

№ 201.

Plate XCVIII, phot. 229 (full size).

THE GOLDEN GOBLET OF EARL SALTUKOV.

A massive gold-chased, three-legged, goblet with a lid and a tray, weighing 5,5 pounds. The gold is 84 probe—21 carats. On the goblet, the following

inscription is engraved: «to the General en-chef Earl Ivan Petrovitch Salytkov, from St. Peter's capital and government, in acknowledgment of non-admission of the enemy to these grounds. 1790».

A very rich and artistical specimen, worthy of being placed in the National Museum, as a historical relic.

The diameter of the tray—24 cent. Height of the goblet with the lid—31,5 cent. Width above—13,5 cent.; below—16 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 169.

№ 202.

Plate XCIX, phot. 230, 231 (full size).

A DIAMOND SABRE.

The sheath of this sabre is of polished silver; the edge of the base and the three loops for the waist-belt are in chased gold. The blade is of steel with golden ornaments on it. The hilt (cavalry form) is in chased gold, very small diamonds fastened in silver. The cockade on the hilt is decorated with an excellent large diamond, encircled by two rows of diamonds of average size. The large diamond's weight is about 5½ m. c.; 440 different white diamonds—weighing 65 c.; 345 small roses.

Dimensions: of the sheath—83×3,5 cent.; of the hilt—15×10 cent.

Workmanship—first half of the XIX-th century. This sabre is supposed to have been the property of Alexander I, a fact increasing its historical value.

Inv. 1922—№ 533.

№ 203.

Plate C, phot. 232 (full size).

SWORD WITH A DIAMOND-STUDED HILT.

This sword has a rich hilt, parchment sheath and a golden chape. Two golden loops with eyelets à-jour for the porte-épée are ornamented with roses. The golden hilt is of exceedingly fine work, à-jour, studded with diamonds of white water and of ancient cutting. The finer lines are set with roses of good quality. The hilt is on the whole of minute size.

Dimensions: of the sheath—83 cent.; length of the hilt—7,5 cent., width—8×6 cent. The gilded design on the steel, three-edged blade, is rather coarse.

Diamonds: 3 white stones—3½ m. c.; 882 diverse ones—150 m. c.; different roses—12 m. c.

Workmanship of the beginning of the XIX-th century. This sword is supposed to have belonged to Paul I. Not mentioned in the old lists.

Inv. 1922—№ 532.

Description of articles not represented on the plates.

№ 204.

DIAMOND DIADEM WITH SAPPHIRES.

A beautiful piece, with large, dark sapphires and loosely hanging pendeloques. Its design is not very successful. The workmanship refers to the second half of the XIX-th century, and, probably, the stones were taken from the reserve.

Dimensions: length—42 cent.; height from 3—5 cent.

Sapphires: 9 beautiful old Ceylon stones weighing totally about 145 m. c.; among these—one large stone in the centre of 34,20 m. c. (w.).

Diamonds: 28 pendeloques of ancient cutting, of average quality, weighing about 28 m. c.; 8 large diamonds, white, of good ancient cutting, total weight 12 m. c.; 320 small diamonds of good quality—80 m. c.; 92 roses—about 1 m. c.

Setting—gold.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 4.

№ 205.

TWO DIAMOND NECKLACES.

Two diamond necklaces of old Indian and Brazilian stones, beautifully matched.

1) A necklace of 28 excellent chatons with the exception of a few stones with black spots. Their weight is marked in ancient carats on the locket being $88\frac{1}{2}$, the weight of the single stones varies between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ a. c.

2) A necklace of 25 chatons, all the stones of pure water and best quality. On the lockets the weight of the stones is engraved in ancient carats; total weight— $133\frac{20}{32}$, $3\frac{26}{32}$, $3\frac{19}{32}$, $3\frac{27}{32}$, $4\frac{19}{32}$, $5\frac{2}{32}$, $4\frac{11}{32}$, $4\frac{18}{32}$, $5\frac{29}{32}$, $5\frac{27}{32}$, $5\frac{28}{32}$, $9\frac{1}{32}$, $13\frac{21}{32}$, $7\frac{18}{32}$, $8\frac{8}{32}$, $7\frac{2}{32}$, $6\frac{29}{32}$, $3\frac{22}{32}$, $5\frac{2}{32}$, $3\frac{2}{32}$, $2\frac{19}{32}$, $3\frac{7}{32}$, $4\frac{12}{32}$, $4\frac{12}{32}$. The weight of three of these diamonds can hardly be deciphered, being between 4,6 and 2 a. c.

Most of these stones belong to the XVIII-th century. The chatons date from the first half of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1922—№ 38.

№ 206.

STAR OF THE ORDER OF ST. CATHERINE.

This star, intended to be sewn on a dress, belonged, according to the supposition of S. Troinitsky, to Marie Feodorovna, the wife of Paul I. The centre of the circle is set with large diamonds; in the crown is one oblong and 2 pear-shaped brilliants. The inner circle and the rays are made of small diamonds. The inscription on the red enamel is made in roses, set in gold. The diamonds are set in silver on a foil. According to the old Inventory: 1 br.—1 a. c.; 19 br.— $9\frac{1}{2}$ a. c.; 4 br.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ a. c.; small stones—12 a. c.; 150 roses.

Dimensions: $7,2 \times 7,2$ cent. The workmanship belongs to the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 30/29; Inv. 1922—№ 432.

№ 207.

A GOLDEN GEORGIAN CHAIN WITH A CROSS.

An ancient Georgian chain consisting of 30 links and decorated with a light cross. An average ruby, four large roses, an emerald and four spherical pearls ornament the cross. Its reverse side is covered with coloured enamel. This jewel is an interesting piece, worthy of exhibition.

Dimensions of each link: $2,9 \times 2,9$ cent.; of the cross: $4,6 \times 3,6$ cent.

In the Inventory № 219 (among other objects).

№ 208.

ANCIENT RUSSIAN SILVER CROSS.

A small cross of gilded filigree, dating probably, from the XVII-th century. It is ornamented with 7 inferior turquoises, 6 small almandine cabochons and very small pearls.

Dimensions of the cross: $4,7 \times 3,5 \times 0,5$ cent.

An interesting article of ancient Russian workmanship and of historical value.

Inv. 1922—№ 219.

№ 209.

CROSS OF ST. ANDREW'S ORDER.

A rich cross, studded with diamonds, in gold and silver, with an inscription engraved on the reverse-side. Workmanship of the beginning of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: $8,2 \times 5,7$ cent.

Diamonds: on the top—a very good, perfectly pure obtuse-angled stone of 5,03 m. c. (w.); two br. pendeloques— $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. c.; 1 br.—1 m. c.; 126 small br.—about 6 m. c.; roses—about 3 m. c.

Inv. 1922—№ 40.

№ 210.

DIAMOND BUTTONS.

18 silver spindle-shaped buttons of various form and size, decorated with old square stones of different fints. The workmanship belongs to the epoch of Catherine II. On the buttons: 58 diamonds of 35 m. c. and 350 small diamonds—30 m. c.

Dimensions: length from 3,3—2,2 cent.; width from 1,4—1,2 cent.

This set is interesting for a museum.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 488.

№ 211.

CROSS AND CHAIN OF THE ORDER OF ST. ANDREW.

The cross and chain of this order are studded with diamonds.

Diamonds on the cross: 1 br.—first rate pendeloque, weight $4\frac{22}{100}$ (w.); 2 br.— $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. c.; small diamonds about 45 m. c.; roses—1 c. The cross is of very good workmanship on gold.

The chain is composed of 23 links and can be identified with that described under № 229.

Diamonds in the chain (according to the Inventory of 1898): total weight about 90 m. c. diverse stones, and 122 c. one-cuts, besides 6000 roses.

Setting: diamonds in silver, gold soldered, with an engraving.

Wrought in the beginning of the XIX-th century.
Inv. 1898—№ 9/2; Inv. 1922—№ 282.

№ 212.

DIAMOND BUTTONS OF THE BEGINNING OF THE XIX-th CENTURY.

10 buttons or trimmings, sludded with diamonds, showing a very pretty engraving on the reverse side. These pretty objects most likely refer to the beginning of the reign of Alexander I (1810—1820).

5 larger buttons, with beautiful Brazilian diamonds, each about 9 m. c. (total weight 45 m. c.) and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. c. of roses.

5 smaller buttons, of inferior material, of about 7 m. c. each (total weight 35 m. c.) and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. c. of roses.

Dimensions: the diameter of the large buttons—2,4 cent.; of the small ones—2,2 cent.

Setting: diamonds in silver, soldered in gold, and engraved.

Not mentioned in the old lists; Inv. 1922—№ 267.

№ 213.

SPINEL-BUTTONS.

2 pairs of buttons decorated with light spinels on a foil, and encircled by Brazilian diamonds set in silver, the reverse side being golden. 4 spinels (in the old Inventory erroneously referred to as rubies)—7 a. c.; 40 br.—8 a. c.

Dimensions of the spinels: $0,8 \times 0,7 - 1,45 \times 1,5$ cent.

Workmanship—Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 195/195; Inv. 1922—№ 462.

№ 214.

DIAMOND BUTTONS WITH EMERALDS.

12 diamond buttons with emeralds of not very good quality, set on a foil. The emeralds are of different size and form, encircled by diamonds of an average quality in silver settings. Some of the buttons are very interesting in view of their peculiar fastening in Louis XV style.

Workmanship—apparently about 1730.

Dimensions: $1,1 \times 1,1; 1,3 \times 1,4; 1,4 \times 1,6; 1,8 \times 1,9; 1,3 \times 1,3$ cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 389; Inv. 1922—№ 507.

№ 215.

GOLDEN BUTTONS WITH DIAMONDS.

2 cuff-buttons, with 2 diamonds of an oval, somewhat obtuse form.

Dimensions: $1,25 \times 1,5$ cent., weight of both diamonds— $3\frac{1}{4}$ c. **Workmanship** of the reign of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 91/87; Inv. 1922—№ 476/91.

№ 216.

DIAMOND TRIMMINGS.

Forty-five small diamond trimmings, in the form of lightly curved ovals. The delicate stems of the design are united by a small flower. The characteristic originality of each individual piece differing in design, allows us to ascribe their execution to the masterly workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II. The original style of the solid silver setting and the refined lines of the design, confirm this supposition.

Dimensions: about $4,2 \times 1,6$ cent. In each piece—a diamond of $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2}$ c. The stones are very varied in value.

Not registered in the old Inventory; Inv. 1922—№ 266.

№ 217.

DIAMOND ORNAMENTS OUT OF THE HOOF OF A DEER.

The historical meaning and sense of this original adornment can hardly be explained. However, some interesting historical facts or particular recollections may have been connected with this hoof of a deer.

1) A large flat pendant with part of the hoof of an almost black colour, mounted in gold and encircled with 20 good diamonds set à-jour (about 15 c.).

Dimensions: $4,3 \times 3,8$ cent.

2) A pair of quadrangular ear-rings made of four pieces of the hoof, each encircled with 16 diamonds (32 br.—12 c.) in silver à-jour settings.

Dimensions: $2,1 \times 2,1$ cent.

3) Similar pendants, only of an oval form, with 34 diamonds weighing about 5 c.

Dimensions: $2,3 \times 1,8$ cent.

Inv. 1898—N-os 311/302, 313/304, 312/303; Inv. 1922—№ 458.

№ 218.

ORNAMENTS OF SMOKY-TOPAZ.

A series of very original adornments, made of flat-cut, light, smoky topazes (quartz). The stones are set in solid gold on a black ground.

a) 2 bracelets with 38 stones. Length—16,5 cent.; width—2,5 cent.

b) One bracelet with 14 stones. Length—21,3 cent.; width—1,5 cent.

c) 2 large ear-rings with 2 flat cut stones.

Dimensions: $2,2 \times 2,2$ cent.

d) 5 curved hairpins with 135 stones.

Dimensions: $2,9 \times 4,5$ cent.

e) 18 round and oval hair-pins with 18 stones.

Dimensions: $1,8 \times 1,8$ and $2,9 \times 1,4$ cent.

The workmanship refers to the reign of Catherine II (1780—1790).

Inv. 1898: N-os 317/308, 319/310, 318/319, 320/311, 321/312, 322/313.

Inv. 1922: N-os 476/317 and 319, 472/318, 451/320, 472/320, 321, 322.

№ 219.

DIAMOND JEWELS WITH BOHEMIAN GARNETS.

Very rich, and artistically composed pieces, with diamond stripes interlaced with threads of oblong Bohemian garnets. The garnets are neither of high quality nor cutting; the diamonds are set in silver. The whole ornament bears a somewhat unfinished, more or less temporary character. It seems as if the setting was not intended for garnets, but rather for pearls. However, these ornaments express the beauty of the epoch of Catherine II.

- a) A pair of diamond ear-rings—about 4 m. c. Dimensions: 2,6×3,3 cent.
- b) 6 hairpins, of the same design as the ear-rings; diamond one-cuts, about 12 m. c. (in the old Inventory—10 a. c.). Dimensions: 2,6×3,3 cent.
- c) Aigrette with a big diamond weighing 1 m. c. and 148 small br.—9 a. c. Dimensions: 11×5 cent.
- d) Ornaments in the form of a triple bow; each with a diamond of 2½ m. c. Dimensions: 2,6×3,3 cent.
- e) Two triple tassels; each with diamonds of 2 m. c. Dimensions: width—30 cent., length—68 cent. Inv. 1898—N-os 299/290, 298/289, 296/287, 300/291, 297/298. Inv. 1922—N-os 475/299 and 293, 451/298, 473/296 and 300.

№ 220.

CHRYSOPRASE ORNAMENTS.

These ornaments are: ear-rings, pins and a necklace with Silesian chrysoprases of high quality. The stones are flat-shaped with slightly convex surfaces, and edged with three-cut facets. They are bordered by Brazilian diamonds of ordinary cutting, in silver settings. The chrysoprases are set in gilded silver.

- 1) Ear-rings with roundly-oval chrysoprases and special small plates for ears not pierced (46 diamonds). Dimensions: 2,0×2,2 cent.
- 2) 6 pins with chrysoprases in the form of pendants; 176 diamonds—10 c. Dimensions: from 1,7×2,1 cent. to 2,7×3,4 cent.
- 3) Necklace composed of 13 rounded settings. Diamonds—16 c. Dimensions: from 1,7×1,9 cent. to 2,2×2,5 cent. The workmanship, of the epoch of Catherine II (about 1770), is worthy of a museum. Inv. 1898—N-os 283/274, 284/275, 282/273. Inventory 1922—№ 452.

№ 221.

SMALL ORNAMENTS OF THE EPOCH OF CATHERINE II.

- a) A hairpin with one rose, in a gold and silver setting. Dimensions: 1,6×1 cent. In the Inventory 1898—№ 337/330 (weight of the rose—1½ c.).
- b) A hairpin with an oblong yellowish diamond, and 13 small rubies in gold and silver settings.

Dimensions: 1,5×1,3 cent.

In the Inventory 1898—№ 474/211.

c) A clasp with the golden initials on it—S. M. E.—wrought on very thin twined wire under a rock-crystal. The initials may be those of Elisabeth Petrovna. The clasp is encircled by 8 small diamonds and 8 small rubies.

d) A setting with a small miniature of a woman under a rock crystal, encircled by 8 small diamonds and 8 rubies.

All these small pieces are suitable for a museum. In the Inv. 1922—N-os 473/337, 474/211.

№ 222.

BOHEMIAN GARNET ORNAMENTS.

The Bohemian garnets are quite first rate in quality, and especially in size. The beautiful stones are set in solid gold (with engraved ciphers). Excellent workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II.

- a) Two bracelets, each composed of 4 strings (176 stones). Length—17 cent.; width—2,9 cent. In the old Inventory—№ 304/295.
- b) A cross, on a double pendant and a necklace (116 stones). Length—45 cent. In the Inventory of 1898—№ 301/292.
- c) Separate golden chatons with 72 stones. Length—54 cent. In the Inv. 1898—№№ 302/293 and 303/294. In the Inv. 1922—N-os 472/304, 457/301, 475/302 and 303.

№ 223.

BOHEMIAN GARNET ORNAMENTS.

A series of ornaments with Bohemian garnets on silver, fastened with wire, and strung on like pearls. Workmanship of the reign of Catherine II.

- a) Two bracelets composed of 6 strings with golden engraved lockets. Length—16 cent.; width—2,6 cent. In the old Inv.—№ 307/298.
- b) 23 oval garnet trimmings of average quality. The size of each clasp-like trimming—3,8×2,5 cent. Inv. 1898—№ 308/299.
- c) A necklace of four rows without a locket (one row is false). Length—34 cent. Inv. 1898—№ 305/296; Inv. 1922—N-os 472/307, 474/308, 472/305.

№ 224.

DIAMOND TRIMMINGS (BUTTONS) WITH SQUARE EMERALDS.

16 old buttons, dating from the reign of Catherine II, three of which, were re-made into hairpins. On each button is a not large, but very pure emerald, of a step-cutting, on a solid silver foil.

The emeralds are encircled by 16 small diamonds, of about 1½ m. c. each.

Dimensions of the buttons—1,25×1,25 cent. (they all differ a little in size).

The Columbian emeralds are very pretty stones, weighing about 1½ m. c. each (total weight in the 16 buttons 26 m. c.).

Setting: silver, soldered in gold, with the letter «K» engraved on it. Very pretty specimens of the epoch

of Catherine II, being of great importance for the Ermitage collections.

In the Inv. 1922—№ 269 «a» and «b».

№ 225.

A SERIES OF MOTHER-OF-PEARL ORNAMENTS.

A beautiful choice of diamond ornaments (belonging to the epoch of Catherine II) with large convex pearls made very artistically of mother-of-pearl cut out of shells. This composition is so well matched, as to show a particularly harmonious blending of the diamond ornaments, and little diamond bows of tender rosy-coloured transparent mother-of-pearl.

Some of these pretty «false pearls» are substituted by pieces of ordinary mother-of-pearl.

Diamonds: very good old Brazilian stones in solid silver.

Setting: silver, soldered in gold, with a small golden gallery.

№ 382/174. A tassel for a girdle, with 3 large and 6 small shells; 218 diamonds of a total weight of about 26 m. c.

Dimensions: height—16, width—4 cent.

№ 381/323. A girdle out of 14 shells; 13 diamonds—14 m. c.; 228 diamonds on the borders of the shells—32 m. c.; in the flowered bows—401 diamonds of 132 m. c.

Dimensions: length—74 cent., width—2,5 cent.

№ 406/324. Two clasps with 4 shells; 10 diamonds—about 14 m. c.

Dimensions: 4,2×3,6 cent.

№ 505/394. Two trimmings with 4 shells; 86 diamonds—about 12 m. c.

Dimensions: 3,6×3,2 cent.

№ 406/324. A part of the girdle 381/323. Seven shells encircled by 110 diamonds—16 m. c.; 9 diamonds of a larger size in the flowers—13 m. c.; in the bows—361 diamonds—59 m. c.

Dimensions: 4,4×2,5 cent.

№ 504/395. Two rings, and 4 trimmings, with 6 shells and 84 diamonds, weighing about 9 m. c.

Dimensions: 1,5×1,7 cent.

In the Inv. 1898—№№ 174/175, 314, 318, 323/315, 325/317, 324/316, 326/319. In Inv. 1922—№№ 381 and 382.

№ 226.

TWO BRACELETS WITH VARIOUS STONES.

These two bracelets form together, a necklace with various stones in golden settings, and good diamonds in an original silver fastening.

The different stones are not of high quality, though one emerald is better than the others.

First bracelet: an amethyst, chrysolite, chrysolite, topaz, an aquamarine, a carnelian.

Second bracelet: a carnelian (chalcedony), jasper, hyacinth, sapphire, an emerald and an agate.

The irregular and unharmonious blending of the shades as well as the antique choice of material, lead us to suppose that the first letters of the different stones form a word or a name. This, however, it was impossible to decipher.

Diamonds: 12 br.—9 c.; 32 br.—9 c.

The workmanship dates, probably, from the Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 341/334; Inv. 1922—№ 456.

№ 227.

A BRACELET MADE OF BLACK SILICIOUS AGATE.

This bracelet consists of 24 oval gilded silver chatons, of black glass and silicious agate (from England?). Length—30½ cent. To this bracelet belong a string of 13 square and 11 round chatons made of the same material. Length of the string—25 cent. This article, of interest for a museum, was probably wrought in the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№№ 315/306 and 316/307; Inv. 1922—№ 476/315—316.

№ 228.

TWO PEARL BRACELETS WITH PLATES OUT OF THE HOOF OF A DEER.

Similar to № 458 (old Inventory) the polished plates of a deer's hoof were used for these two bracelets, and divided by 59 scotch (?) pearls of about 50 c. weight. Each bracelet has a golden locket, with a very fine design on black enamel. Most interesting and original workmanship, probably of the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: length of each bracelet—15,3 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 243/236 (here the plates are said to be of agate); Inv. 1922—№ 469/243.

№ 229.

TWO BRACELETS WITH DIFFERENT COLOURED STONES.

Two bracelets of ancient workmanship, with different-coloured stones, set in silver and gold-lined. Between the coloured gems are large old diamonds of varied quality. In the locket, is a large round chrysolite encircled with small diamonds.

Evidently, the initial letters of the stones form a certain word, which, however, is undecipherable.

First bracelet:—6 diamonds—about 9 c.; 23 small diamonds—2 c. and about 350 roses. A chrysolite, two oval almandines; an amethyst, opal, chrysolite, chalcedony, jasper and a malachite.

Dimensions: 19 cent.

Second bracelet: 8 diamonds—about 6 c., and about 375 roses. An oval chrysolite, 2 almandines, 3 malachites, 1 jasper, 2 chalcedonies.

Dimensions: 17 cent.

Workmanship of the epoch of Alexander I, about 1820. In the Inv. 1898—Nos 347/340 and 348/341; in the Inv. 1922—Nos 470/347 and 348.

№ 230.

TWO GOLDEN BRACELETS.

One golden bracelet is ornamented with a cross formed of 4 small flowers, in white enamel with golden leaves, and one small turquoise.

On the clasp, the following date is engraved: «d. 18 April 1818»—(birthday of Alexander II). Length—18 cent.

The other golden bracelet has the following inscription engraved on it: «from the 3 Sept. 1840 to the 16 April 1841». Length—17 cent. The meaning of this inscription is unknown.

Both bracelets, not mentioned in the old Inventories, are of interest for a Russian museum.

Inv. 1922—№ 520.

№ 231.

AMETHYST NECKLACE AND AIGRETTE.

Most beautiful jewels of the end of the Elisabethan epoch (about 1750), with light Ural amethysts and Brazilian diamonds, in silver settings, soldered in gold.

a) The necklace is composed of 10 separate parts with 47 trapezi-form amethysts. Length—19 cent., width—7,2 cent.

In the Inventory of 1898—№ 276/267.

b) The aigrette is made of 6 amethysts.

Dimensions: 7,5×4 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 277/268; Inv. 1922—N-os 473/276 and 277.

№ 232.

SMALL PEARL AIGRETTE.

This aigrette is ornamented with two pearl pendants; one of these, in the baroque style, weighs about 14½ a. c. The diamonds, of white water, are set in massive silver on a foil (4 diamonds—3 c.; 3—1 c.; 4 one-cuts—3 a. c.).

Work of the Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 227/220; Inv. 1922—№ 400.

№ 233.

A SOLID AIGRETTE WITH PEARL PENDANTS.

A massive, flower-shaped aigrette, with pendants made of oval perforated pearls (two pearls—16 c.). Diamonds in silver, on a foil; two diamonds are decorated with white and green enamel.

In the old Inventory: 1 diamond—⅓ a. c.; 4 br.—2 a. c.; one-cuts—1½ a. c.

The whole piece is in a silver setting, soldered in gold.

Dimensions: 5×3,3 cent.

Workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 228/221; Inv. 1922—№ 399.

№ 234.

AN AIGRETTE WITH TWO LARGE EMERALDS.

A beautiful specimen of the epoch of Catherine II, of a very light reclilinear composition, so characteristic of the latter part of the XVIII-th century.

Dimensions: of the aigrette—4,8×7,9 cent.; the upper emerald—1,4×1,4; the lower emerald—1,8×1,8 cent.

Emeralds: good dark Columbian stones, square-shaped on a foil of ducaut gold; the reverse side is of solid silver. Weight—20 a. c. and 12 a. c.

Diamonds: of very good quality, and perfect purity in silver settings; total weight about 21 m. c.

Inv. 1898—№ 127/125 (the property of the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna); Inv. 1922—№ 370.

№ 235.

A GOLDEN BROOCH WITH A SQUARE EMERALD.

A pretty article of a simple, yet tasteful composition, with good stones of recent years.

Dimensions: length—3,5 cent.; width—1,1 cent.

The emerald: cut in the form of steps and weighing about 4½ m. c.; a Columbian specimen of irreplaceable quality, though not of a very deep colour.

Diamonds: two pear-shaped Brazilian stones, each weighing 6⁹⁸/₁₀₀ m. c. (w.).

Setting: in gold. The cipher XCV is engraved on the setting of the emerald. Modern workmanship marked «A. I.».

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 990.

№ 236.

A BROOCH-FERMOIR WITH A LARGE SAPPHIRE.

A very pretty brooch, of the second half of the XIX-th century, with yellow African diamonds.

Dimensions: 4,2×3,3 cent.

The sapphire: not a bad oblong, Ceylon stone.

Diamonds: 20 yellow stones, probably from South-Africa, their weight being about—15 m. c. Roses.

Setting: silver à-jour, with a small golden gallery.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories.

Inv. 1922—№ 257/b.

№ 237.

A DIAMOND BROOCH-FERMOIR WITH A LARGE INDIAN SAPPHIRE.

A splendid brooch, with a very pretty setting, ornamented with 12 big diamonds; work of the middle of the XIX-th century.

Dimensions: 4,5×4,2 cent.

The sapphire is a dark Indian stone, weighing about 32 m. c.

Diamonds: old Brazilian white stones of average quality. 12 diamonds about 12 m. c. Numerous roses.

Setting: silver à-jour, with small golden gallery.

Inv. 1898—№ 106/104 (the sapphire—27¼ a. c., 12 diamonds—9 a. c., 400 roses).

Inv. 1922—№ 257/c.

№ 238.

TWO ROUND BROOCHES WITH SAPPHIRES AND YELLOW DIAMONDS.

Two brooche-clasps with Ceylon octangular sapphires of average quality, with a greenish tint, set in gold à-jour.

They were formerly used as trimmings, and later re-made into brooches.

The diamonds: yellowish specimens in a golden setting, weighing about 10 m. c.; roses— $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. c.

Dimensions of the diameter—3 cent.

The workmanship most probably belongs to the middle of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1922—№ 235/b.

№ 239.

A GOLDEN BROOCH IN THE FORM OF A CROWN, WITH A MINIATURE.

This golden crown-shaped brooch is not of high artistic value, but of good workmanship, of the second half of the XIX-th century. It bears a miniature of the children of Alexander III.

Dimensions: $4,3 \times 3,7$ cent.

Diamonds: 1 briolet of irregular rhomboid shape and good water—about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. c.; 1 portrait-diamond—4 m. c.; 3 diamonds—about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. c.; 116 small stones—about 5 m. c., partly one-cuts and partly double-cuts.

The large stones are Brazilian specimens, some of them probably from South-Africa.

The setting is solid, in light gold. On the rim the following ciphers are engraved: 455—LXI.

Inv. 1922—№ 982.

№ 240.

A BROOCH IN THE FORM OF A BOW, WITH A LARGE SAPPHIRE IN THE LOCKET.

A beautiful jewel with rich stones; of a very large design and heavy execution, so typical for the jewellery-art of the middle of the XIX-th century (the locket is re-made out of a clasp).

Dimensions: of the bow— $9,5 \times 7$ cent.; of the locket with the sapphire— $5,4 \times 4,4$ cent.

The sapphire: a very dark, deep-coloured stone, typical for the too dark coloured stones of Siam. It has the form of a high oblong cabochon and weighs about 75 m. c.

Diamonds: Brazilians, some of them milky, of average value; in the bow—19 large diamonds—60 m. c.; 264 small br.—50 m. c.; in the locket—12 large stones—22 m. c.; small br.—5 m. c.

Total weight of the diamonds—about 140 m. c.

Setting: silver à-jour, with a small golden gallery. Workmanship: 1850—1860.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 300.

№ 241.

WEDDING-RINGS.

One golden ring in the form of a cross, with the inscription: «Thy will be done» and a small ruby. The ring has been very much worn.

A pair of gold and silver rings (ladies and gentlemen) with the inscription: «le 1 Juillet 1817—1 Juillet 1842»; evidently, these rings refer to the silver-wedding of Nicolas I.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 524.

№ 242.

RING WITH A LARGE DIAMOND.

A chased gold ring, in light-coloured gold with a large diamond, encircled by roses on dark-blue enamel.

Dimensions of the diamond about $1,4 \times 1,4$ cent.; of the ring: 3,1 c.

A large diamond of an original, somewhat violet-coloured tint, a little dull and with black spots. Weight—about 10 m. c. 89 roses—about 1 m. c.

The ring, evidently, belongs to the beginning of the epoch of Catherine II, and deserves to be exhibited in a museum.

On the reverse side the number 688 is engraved. Not noted in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 211/a.

№ 243.

DIAMOND RING WITH A LARGE EMERALD.

A ring of rare beauty, belonging to the second half of the XVIII-th century, with excellent stones, and of artistic workmanship. The oval ornament of the ring (dimensions $2,2 \times 3,4$ cent.) is set with a first-class square emerald cut in steps, of very pure water and deep colour, weighing about $5\frac{1}{4}$ m. c. This oval ornament is framed with 12 very good Brazilian stones, weighing one carat each, and at both ends of the oval two more one-carat stones with 4 small diamonds round them. The weight of the 4 br. is $\frac{1}{4}$ m. c. The place where the ornamentation joins the ring, is beautifully decorated with very small leaves and roses (158 roses— $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. c.).

The very light, exceedingly pretty composition expresses the grandeur of jewellery-pieces of the epoch of Catherine II. They really should be placed among the collections of the Ermitage.

On the inner side of the ring is engraved: «3669—1007×116».

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 211/b.

№ 244.

GOLDEN CLASP OF THE EPOCH OF PETER I.

A solid golden carved clasp of the epoch of Peter I, with 4 roses— $\frac{2}{3}$ c.

Dimensions: $3,2 \times 2,8$ cent.

A typical model of the fine jewellery workmanship in Louis XIV style, executed about 1700.—A worthy piece for a museum.

Inv. 1922—№ 474/335.

№ 245.

«BANDEAU» OF BLUE FORGET-ME-NOTS (MYOSOTIS).

A small «bandeau» of a very pretty, fine workmanship, with forget-me-nots made of pale-blue enamel, and diamonds, in plain silver settings, soldered in gold. The stems of the flowers are golden. Workman-

ship of the end of the Elisabethan epoch, about 1760.

Dimensions: 2,3×1,7 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 175/176; Inv. 1922—№ 476/175.

№ 246.

LOCKET WITH A FLAT ROSE.

A small locket, of splendid workmanship, with a little bow on the top. Instead of a flat portrait-diamond, a very flat rose was used, weighing about 3¼ a. c., a beautiful and very pure stone, with large triangular facets. The stone is encircled by small diamonds in a silver setting, soldered in gold. (Inv. 1898 notes—2 c. diamonds and 200 roses). An interesting object for a museum.

Dimensions: of the whole locket: 4,1×2,8 cent.; of the rose—1,9×1,3 cent.

Setting of the diamonds: à-jour. The reverse side of the locket is glass. Workmanship—first quarter of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 84/80; Inv. 1922—№ 422.

№ 247.

LOCKET WITH A FLAT BRAZILIAN AQUAMARINE.

This oval golden locket, belonging to the first half of the XVIII-th century, is an object especially suitable to be exhibited in a museum.

Dimensions: of the locket—3,6×4 cent.; of the stone—2,3×2,6 cent.

The aquamarine is flat, dark-coloured, of a very pure water, and has the form of a cabochon of a doubly-convex lens.

Diamonds: in a silver à-jour setting, 18 inferior stones—10 m. c. On the pendant—12 very small roses.

Inv. 1898—№ 98/94 (the weight of the diamonds is noted as 12 a. c.); Inv. 1922—№ 994.

№ 248.

OVAL LOCKET, WITH AN EMERALD CAMEO DECORATED WITH DIAMONDS.

A small golden locket, probably of the middle of the XIX-th century (about 1840) decorated with an emerald cameo and girdled with diamonds.

A light coloured emerald, apparently of Egyptian origin, somewhat glassy, with a finely carved «haut-relief», representing a charming woman's head. The workmanship of this old carved gem is very successful. The gem is surrounded with 20 good diamonds weighing about 6½ m. c. Roses—1 m. c.

Dimensions: of the locket—3,1×2,7 cent.; of the carved stone—1,8×1,4 cent.

An object for exhibition in a museum.

Not mentioned in the old lists; Inv. 1922—№ 219.

№ 249.

EAR-RINGS MADE OF BONE TURQUOISE.

Small ear-rings in bone turquoise (4 stones) of a very pretty colour, encircled by 14 roses in golden settings.

Workmanship—epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: 3,5×1,2 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 214/208; Inv. 1922—№ 475/214.

№ 250.

PENDANT WITH A LARGE SOLITAIRE.

A beautiful, though simple pendant in silver, with a golden ring (on the reverse side) with a small diamond on the top, and a large trapeziform solitaire. This is a wonderful Indian stone of pure water, engraved: «№ 1—12²/₃₂» (ancient carats).

Dimensions: of the whole pendant—3,1×1,8 cent.; of the stone—2,1×1,7 cent.

Not quoted in the old lists; Inv. 1922—№ 306.

№ 251.

A PAIR OF EAR-RINGS WITH DIAMOND ROSES.

Lovely ear-rings, displaying the beauty and accomplishment of the jeweller's art, of the Elisabethan epoch. The silver leaves, studded with diamonds, beautifully join the delicate golden buds, and a large rose in full blossom. A big solitaire forms the centre of the flower, its petals being studded with small diamonds.

The splendid design, and the beauty of the whole composition, gives these ear-rings a great artistical value.

Dimensions: 4×2 cent.

Diamonds: two old large Brazilian stones—15⁹⁵/₁₀₀ m. c. (w.); 2 smaller stones—about 2¼ m. c.; 8 small diamonds—about 1½ m. c.; roses—about 3 m. c.

Setting in silver, the golden reverse side being engraved: «A. 254».

A. N. Benois ascribes the workmanship of this piece to the end of the Elisabethan epoch.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 190.

№ 252.

GOLDEN CHATONS WITH SAPPHIRES.

16 sapphires of different size, form and colour, on a foil in solid gold. The stones are of inferior quality, of a total weight of about 250 c. They were used as trimmings for dresses.

Dimensions: of the sapphires between 2—3½ cent. Old settings of the XVIII-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 124/122; Inv. 1922—№ 454.

№ 253.

DIAMOND PENDANTS WITH SAPPHIRES.

Five golden pendants, with yellow diamonds in the centre, and Ceylon sapphires of not very high quality. 1) and 2). A pair of oval pendants, with oval sapphires, weighing totally 40 m. c.

Dimensions: of the pendant—3,7×2,9 cent.; of the sapphire—2,5×1,8 cent.; weight of the yellow diamonds—about 9 m. c. Roses—about 3½ m. c.

3) A large pretty sapphire, of a very pleasant tone, triangular, of about 30 m. c. Diamonds—4 m. c.; roses—1½ m. c.

Dimensions: of the pendant—3,7 × 3,2 cent.; of the stone—2,2 × 2,2 cent.

4) A dark, though not perfectly pure sapphire. The perforated stone has the form of an oval pendeloque, and weighs about 45 m. c. The diamonds are not of high quality—about 8 m. c.; roses—2 m. c., among them many are yellow.

Dimensions: of the pendant—3,7 × 4,2 cent.; of the stone—2,8 × 2,2 cent.

5) A dark, rather dull, perforated sapphire, in the form of a very oblong pendeloque; weight above 50 m. c. Diamonds—about 10 m. c.; roses—about 2 m. c.

Dimensions: of the pendant—3,5 × 4,8 cent.; of the stone—3,3 × 2,0 cent.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories. Insignificant workmanship of the middle of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1922—№ 252.

№ 254.

EAR-RINGS WITH DIAMONDS AND BLUE GLASS.

Each of these small square ear-rings, has in the centre a diamond, weighing about 2 c., around which are greenish-blue pieces of glass, on a silver foil. The ear-rings are set and soldered in gold. Workmanship—about 1760. An interesting specimen for a museum.

Dimensions: of the ear-rings—1,6 × 1,6 cent.
Inv. 1922—№ 460.

№ 255.

EAR-RINGS WITH BEAUTIFUL HIGH ROSES.

These ear-rings of pure water, are decorated with beautiful high roses of a good and sharp-pointed cutting, and set on a foil of solid silver.

Dimensions of the roses—1,25 × 1,25 cent. Total weight about 6½ c. The setting of the ear-rings is pale gold, with a peculiarly curved fastening to make them especially convenient for wearing. Evidently the ear-rings formerly had pendants attached to them, as small eyelets can still be seen, probably for this purpose.

Workmanship—epoch of Catherine II.

A jewel to be exhibited in a museum.

Inv. 1898—№ 94/90; Inv. 1922—№ 470/94.

№ 256.

SIX PENDANTS OF BLACK SILICIOUS AGATE.

These pendants of black silicium (agate) are indicated in the old Inventories as coal. Around the agates, is a golden à-jour rim of 88 diamonds (16 a. c.). The stones are in silver settings, with golden eyelets.

Workmanship—latter part of the XVIII-th century (about 1800).

Dimensions: 2,7 × 1,7 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 314/305; Inv. 1922—№ 470/314.

№ 257.

PINK GRANITE EAR-RINGS.

Five pairs of ear-rings of exceptional beauty, of the epoch of Catherine II, reminding one by their design of aquamarine ear-rings of the same period. Pretty pieces of pink granite-pegmatite form a flat rose; the upper part is rounded; the lower part has the form of a pendeloque; in the bow, bordered with diamonds, fine stripes of the same granite are to be seen. These jewels are of a striking beauty, in spite of their plain material, consisting of ordinary pebbles found in the neighbourhood of St.-Petersburg.

Dimensions: 5,7 × 2,8 cent.

Diamonds: 143 one-cuts—10 c.

Inv. 1898—№ № 290/281, 291/282, 292/283, 293/284, 294/285; Inv. 1922—№ 472/290—294.

№ 258.

HAIRPIN WITH A LARGE EMERALD.

A piece, of little artistical value, its only interest being the Russian emerald, most likely one of the earliest procured about 1830—1840.

Dimensions: 3,9 × 3,3 cent.

The emerald is a big cabochon, with very faint cracks, not very deep coloured, but a pretty stone. (Weight 23^{80/100} m. c.) (w.).

Diamonds: 12 different white Brazilian stones; total weight about 7 carats; 24 small roses.

Setting: gold à-jour, of average workmanship. Production of the middle of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1922—№ 16.

№ 259.

PIN WITH A DOUBLE ROSE.

A small, original pin, with a slightly bent or crooked rose, in a silver setting, with a rose on the reverse side cut in the same form, in rock-crystal. Weight of the rose—1¼ a. c. Workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 338/331; Inv. 1922—№ 469/338.

№ 260.

PIN WITH SCOTCH PEARLS.

A pin, with two perforated, unpolished Scotch pearls weighing 9 and 8 c.

Dimensions: of the pearls—1,05 × 1,15 and 1,0 × 1,0 c.

Inv. 1898—№ 240/233; Inv. 1922—№ 469/240.

№ 261.

PIN REPRESENTING UNDINE WITH A GREAT BAROQUE PEARL.

An old jewel, of the Renaissance epoch, unfortunately somewhat injured, and with some parts missing. The pin represents a sea-maid; the baroque pearl forms the body; the head and left arm are golden, in white enamel, slightly painted. One leg in the form of a fin is golden, with bluish-green enamel. The back

is of very finely chased gold. The right arm, the right leg, and the object which the figure supported on its head (perhaps a shell), are missing.

Dimensions: 3,4×2 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 241/334; Inv. 1922—№ 470/241.

№ 262.

SAPPHIRE PINS.

Five pins (out of 7 specimens mentioned in the Inventory) with loosely hanging sapphire pendants. Evidently, these are very old, oriental perforated stones.

a) An old Ceylon sapphire of a good colour and diamond-cut, in a golden case with silver wire.

Dimensions: 2,2×1,55×0,8 cent.

b) An old Ceylon light sapphire, of a not very pure tone, drilled through with copper wire. Judging by the form of the cutting, it is a double rose.

Dimensions: 3,3×2,9×1,4 cent. Weight—about 80 c.

c) A dull sapphire, diamond-cut, perforated at the sharp end.

Dimensions: 2,3×1,3×1,5 cent.

d) A light, pure, not very large sapphire, of diamond cutting, encircled by small diamonds.

Dimensions: 2,0×1,3×0,8 cent.

e) A good Ceylon sapphire, diamond-cut.

Dimensions: 1,15×0,9×0,6 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 123/120; Inv. 1922—№ 468/123.

№ 263.

SMALL EMERALD LEAVES.

Two emerald leaves, joined together with two emerald curved cabochons (1½ c.) and ten roses. Unfortunately, the cabochons and roses are lost. The leaves are on a solid gold foil.

Dimensions: 1,4×1,4 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 163/166; Inv. 1922—№ 468/163.

№ 264.

TWO PINS, WITH RUSSIAN DIAMONDS.

These two neck-tie pins are set in à-jour silver, with a small golden gallery on which the following words are engraved: «1838, on the river «Koushaika». The diamonds are of white water, with square surfaces, one of them weighing— $\frac{3}{16}$ m. c., the other— $\frac{1}{4}$ m. c. (appr.). Both diamonds are the first Russian diamonds found in the Uralian mines, in the district of Goroblagodatsk, and are therefore of great scientific and historical interest.

According to items on record they were cut in the polishing-mill at Peterhof.

Inv. 1898—№ 367/359; Inv. 1922—№ 468/367.

№ 265.

PIN IN THE FORM OF A STAR SET WITH ROSES.

This pin has the form of a very original silver star, with 8 roses of ancient triangular cutting, in the form of 8 rays and one larger rose in the centre (weight about 1½ c.).

Exceptionally interesting workmanship of the beginning of the XVIII-th century.

Dimensions: 3×3 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 336/329; Inv. 1922—№ 468/336.

№ 266.

PINS WITH ENAMELLED LEAVES.

Three pins, with small golden leaves, covered with green enamel with blue, yellow and white flowers in diamonds of $\frac{19}{32}$, $\frac{3}{16}$, $\frac{1}{16}$ carats.

Dimensions: 2,5 cent. Workmanship—probably Elisabethan epoch.

Inv. 1898—№ 177/178; Inv. 1922—№ 468/177.

№ 267.

AGATE STUDS WITH SMALL NATURAL-COLOURED STONES.

These double studs are made of round agate of a pale-gray tint, fastened in gold. The flowers in a vase, applied as ornamentation, are decorated with coloured gems: 4 small emeralds, 8 rubies and 4 sapphires. The reverse side is of carved gold. Workmanship—probably of the Elisabethan epoch.

Dimensions: 1,3×1,3 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 213/207; Inv. 1922—№ 476/213.

№ 268.

CHATONS WITH RED STONES.

These 35 chatons, are of different size and shape in silver settings, with 35 red stones on a foil. 31 of these gems are spinels, 3—pink topazes and 1—rock-crystal, in a modern setting.

Dimensions: from 0,7×0,8 to 1,3×1,7 cent. The setting belongs to the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 307/201; Inv. 1922—№ 474/207.

№ 269.

SAPPHIRE PINS.

Three oval pins, with sapphires (of about 4 a. c. weight) and diamonds (about 10 m. c.) in a solid silver setting, of the epoch of Catherine II.

Dimensions: 2,8×1,4 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 120/116; Inv. 1922—№ 473/120.

№ 270.

A HAIR-PIN IN THE FORM OF A DRAGON-FLY, WITH RUBIES AND DIAMONDS.

A small hair-pin, of the Elisabethan epoch, representing a dragon-fly. The golden wings are covered with blue enamel, and set with ten old, white diamonds on a foil. The body of the insect consists of two weak, flat rubies set on a foil.

Dimensions: 3,25×2,25 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 189/190 with items in ancient carats; 1 ruby— $1\frac{3}{4}$; 1 ruby— $\frac{3}{8}$; 10 diamonds— $1\frac{1}{4}$; Inv. 1922—№ 469/189.

№ 271.

THREE SILVER HAIR-PINS WITH DIAMONDS.

Three hair-pins, of the Elisabethan epoch, one of them of a most fantastical form, with a pearl. In a silver setting, soldered in gold.

Dimensions: of the big hair-pin—3,0×2,5 cent.
Inv. 1898—№ 230/223 (aigrette with a small pearl—7 a. c., 1 br.— $\frac{3}{8}$ c., 29 br.—3 a. c. and № 361/353. 2 br.— $\frac{3}{4}$ a. c.); Inv. 1922—№№ 473/230, 361.

№ 272.

HAIR-PIN WITH A PEAR-SHAPED PEARL.

A hair-pin, with a pear-shaped pearl of average value (10 carats, appr.) in a golden case, studded with small roses. Above the pendant, is a diamond of about $\frac{3}{4}$ a. c., in a silver setting.

Dimensions: 2,9×0,9 cent.

The whole pendant, being evidently only part of some large ornament, is set on a screw.

Inv. 1898—№ 233/226; according to this Inventory there were three pins, each of them having 4 pearl pendants. Inv. 1922—№ 469/233.

№ 273.

CHATONS WITH SPINELS.

Six à-jour chatons, in a golden setting, with 5 spinels and one pink topaz, varnished from the reverse side. They are of different size, form and weight.

According to the old Inventory—6, 14, 10, 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ a. c.

Dimensions: from 1,4×1 to 1,8×2,3 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 206/202; Inv. 1922—№ 472/206.

№ 274.

SAPPHIRE HAIR-PIN.

A hair-pin, with a pear-shaped, perforated Ceylon sapphire, and 19 old white diamonds. Set in silver with a golden base. Workmanship of the Elisabethan epoch.

Dimensions: 1,8×1,5 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 122/118; Inv. 1922—№ 474/122.

№ 275.

OLD EMERALDS IN GOLDEN CHATONS.

Twenty seven old emeralds, on a foil, in a solid gold setting, representing buttons or trimmings. The stones are of different quality, size and form, weighing totally about 300 m. c.

Dimensions: of the two largest stones—3×2,8 cent.

The old number, 390, does not exist in the rough copy of the Inventory of 1898; Inv. 1922—№ 510.

№ 276.

SAPPHIRE HAIR-PIN.

A quivering hair-pin, of the Elisabethan epoch, with a loosely suspended sapphire of a very pretty tone, though not free from silky thread, and small inclusions.

The top of the stone is flat, and bordered by very fine facets, whereas the lower part is rather coarsely cut.

Dimensions: of the stone: 1,3×1,0×0,3 cent.

A trifling object, belonging to the middle of the XVIII-th century, being, however, of interest for the collections of a museum.

Not mentioned in the old Inventories; Inv. 1922—№ 516.

№ 277.

TWO EMERALD PINS.

Two very old pins (workmanship, beginning of the XVIII-th century), with Egyptian emeralds, not free from small cracks, on a foil and decorated with Brazilian diamonds of good quality, in a plain silver setting. A fine object for a museum.

Dimensions: 2,4×3,2 and 2,4×1,9 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 140/137 with the following items in ancient carats: three emeralds—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; 4 br.—3 c.; 15 one-cuts—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Inv. 1922—№ 469/140.

№ 278.

PINS WITH EMERALD PENDANTS.

6 pins with light-coloured, slightly cracked emeralds, most of them, of Egyptian origin. One emerald is in à-jour setting; 2—in solid chatons; 3 emeralds are perforated and set in solid gold. Three of the stones are of an interesting ancient cut, with a slightly convex, rounded surface. The old Inventory indicates about 100 a. c. in the 6 stones.

The setting belongs to the Elisabethan epoch, with the exception of one not very large stone, in à-jour setting, which refers to the beginning of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 152/150; Inv. 1922—№ 405.

№ 279.

PEARL-PINS IN THE FORM OF STARS.

Three pins, each of them with 4 pear-shaped pearls, and Brazilian diamonds, in solid silver.

1) The pearls, weighing about 20 c., are fastened on a golden pin; the diamond in the centre is slightly coloured, and weighs $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; 12 diamonds—1 a. c.

Dimensions: 3,0×3,0 cent.

2) Pearls of about 16 c. weight, perforated. Diamonds—1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; 4 br.— $\frac{5}{8}$ a. c.

Dimensions: 2,3×2,3 cent.

3) Pearls weighing about 10—12 c.; on a golden pin; 4 br.— $\frac{1}{2}$ a. c.; 1 br.— $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Dimensions: 2,7×2,9 cent.

Workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 233/226; Inv. 1922—№ 401.

№ 280.

THREE DIAMOND HAIR-PINS IN SILVER.

A) A diamond hair-pin, in à-jour setting, in the form of a bow with a pendant (which is missing). Stones: 1 Brazilian diamond, oblong, of average quality, and 77 small diamonds, with a total weight of 9 m. c. On the reverse side is engraved—1763, 19 (Paude) 80^{27/32}.

163 Br.

Ç. F. E.

It is very difficult to define the meaning of these ciphers.

The engraved date, refers to the first years of the epoch of Catherine II, giving this object a historical importance.

Dimensions: 4,1×3,1 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 87/83; Inv. 1922—№ 468/87.

B) Two small hair-pins, in à-jour silver setting with 2 diamonds— $1\frac{1}{8}$ a. c. and 32 small diamonds— $2\frac{1}{8}$ c. Nearly the whole of the pendant is missing. These pins belong to the epoch of Catherine II, resembling, in design and work, the preceding object.

Dimensions: 2,8×1,5 cent.

Inv. 1898—№ 179/180; Inv. 1922—№ 473/179.

№ 281.

PINS IN THE FORM OF FLIES.

Two pins, in the form of small flies, with diamonds and chrysolites.

Dimensions: 2,25×2 and 2,5×2 cent.

The chrysolites are of a light colour; each pin contains two stones.

Diamonds: in each pin are 6 table-stones of Indian type, with a total weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Silver setting. Very neat and fine workmanship, probably between 1730 and 1750.

Inv. 1898—№ 328/321; Inv. 1922—№ 468/328.

№ 282.

EMERALD PINS.

Three original pins, with emeralds.

1) This pin, quivering on a spring, is set with a light, probably Egyptian emerald, slightly cracked and perforated from two sides, with a cone-shaped drill. The gem has the form of a cabochon, and weighs about 25 carats.

Beneath the emerald, on a golden joint-pin is a slightly cracked pearl.

Dimensions: (with the setting)—4,0×7,6 cent.

2) In this pin, vibrating on a spring, is a pear-shaped, faceted, light emerald, with faint cracks (probably of Egyptian origin).

The narrower end of the emerald is perforated and covered by a small furrow, which partly disappeared when the stone was re-cut. Apparently an old stone, the cutting of which was afterwards changed. Weight about 22 c.

Dimensions: (with the setting)—2,4×1,3 cent.

3) A loosely suspended, Columbian, pear-shaped emerald, somewhat flat, cut on one side, perforated, and fastened in gold. This emerald is of a very pretty tint, in spite of some small cracks. Weight—about $5\frac{1}{2}$ a. c. Above the green gem is a crown with diamonds, in a silver setting (15 stones—about $1\frac{1}{2}$ a. c.).

Dimensions: (with the crown)—2,9×2,5 cent.

These three pins belong, probably, to the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№№ 143/140, 144/141, 147/144; Inv. 1922—№ 404.

№ 283.

DIAMOND AIGRETTE.

A hair-pin of ancient workmanship, probably of the Elisabethan age, in the form of a curl, with diamonds fastened in silver, on a foil. Between the diamond

rays—are rays of narrow golden stripes. The reverse side of the aigrette is lined with gold.

Dimensions: 3,5×2,75 cent.

Diamonds: of average value; of Brazilian origin: 1 br.— $1\frac{1}{4}$ c.; 2 br.—1 c.; 27 br.— $2\frac{1}{4}$ a. c.

Inv. 1898—№ 178/179; Inv. 1922—№ 468/178.

№ 284.

SILVER PINS WITH RUBIES AND A SPINEL.

10 solid silver pins, most of them with rubies, in a dull setting, are encircled by a ring of Brazilian diamonds.

On the reverse side ciphers are engraved, giving the quantity and weight of the stones.

The pins are of old workmanship, probably of the beginning of the Elisabethan epoch.

1) A spinel, encircled by 18 diamonds, weight— $4\frac{1}{32}$ a. c. On the reverse side is engraved: «3 B. 18 K. $4\frac{19}{32}$ ».

Dimensions: 2,7×2,2 cent.

2) An «Indian» ruby, with 14 diamonds, weight— $2\frac{1}{4}$ a. c. On the reverse side is engraved: «№ 2 R. K. $5\frac{2}{32}$. B. 14 K. $2\frac{1}{4}$ ».

Dimensions: 2,1×1,6 cent.

3) An «Indian» ruby, weighing $1\frac{1}{32}$ a. c., with 12 diamonds, weighing $1\frac{1}{32}$. Engraved: «№ 11 R. K. $1\frac{1}{32}$ B. 2 K. $1\frac{1}{32}$ ».

Dimensions: 1,4×1,2 cent.

Seven ruby-pins, of different size, varying between 1,2—1,6 cent., with the ciphers: 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 engraved on them.

Weights of these pins: 1 ruby— $2\frac{25}{32}$; 10 diamonds— $1\frac{10}{32}$; 1 ruby— $2\frac{1}{32}$; 11 diamonds— $1\frac{29}{32}$; 1 ruby— $1\frac{1}{32}$; 12 diamonds— $1\frac{3}{32}$; 1 ruby— $1\frac{23}{32}$; 12 diamonds— $1\frac{21}{32}$; 1 ruby— $1\frac{1}{32}$; 11 diamonds— $1\frac{15}{32}$; 1 ruby— $1\frac{1}{32}$; 11 diamonds— $1\frac{1}{32}$; 1 ruby— $1\frac{1}{32}$; 12 diamonds— $1\frac{10}{32}$ a. c.

Workmanship—epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 469/183, including 7 pins out of the № 496/194; Inv. 1922—Nos 469/183 and 194.

№ 285.

AN OVAL SNUFF-BOX WITH A MEDAL OF CATHERINE II.

A silver snuff-box, of old Russian workmanship, ornamented with the medal of Catherine II, hall-marked with the year 1774.

Dimensions: 10×6,4×3 cent.

A piece, of great interest for the collections of the Ermitage, and, according to S. Troinitzky, of excellent workmanship.

Inv. 1922—№ 154.

№ 286.

TWO SNUFF-BOXES.

Two damaged, golden snuff-boxes, interesting for a museum.

One of these boxes, in the form of a book, was made in Geneva in about 1820. The second, with a secret lid, but without any miniature, was probably the work of Keibel about 1830.

Dimensions: of the first—8,0×5,3×1,1 cent., of the second—8,5×6,5×2,1 cent.
Inv. 1922—№ 153.

№ 287.

A BRIGHT ENAMEL OVAL SNUFF-BOX WITH A MINIATURE.

This golden, oval snuff-box, is covered with bright enamel, oriental style, with a miniature of Alexander II, at the time when he was crown-prince. A beautiful piece, which the expert A. Faberger, attributes to a Geneva master. The following words are engraved on the borders: «God save the Tsar. December 25-th 1833». There is no hall-mark.

Dimensions: 8,4×5,6×2,3 cent.

This snuff-box is of historical interest.

Inv. 1922—№ 149.

№ 288.

AN OVAL SNUFF-BOX, IN DARK-BLUE ENAMEL.

A small, oval snuff-box in dark-blue enamel, with cupid on the lid. French workmanship of the beginning of the XIX-th century. Not hall-marked.

Dimensions: 6,8×5×2,1 cent.

A piece, to be exhibited in a museum, although a little common-place.

Inv. 1898—№ 148/104; Inv. 1922—№ 148.

№ 289.

SIX DIFFERENT SNUFF-BOXES.

Six diverse snuff-boxes, of great interest for a museum collection.

1) A small, high-shaped, dark-blue snuff-box, of Geneva workmanship, of the beginning of the XIX-th century, bearing an old hall-mark.

Dimensions: 7,5×2,8×2,3 cent.

2) A flat, chased golden snuff-box, probably the work of Keibel.

Dimensions: 8,1×5,7×1,7 cent.

3) A large, solid golden snuff-box, with a medal of Elisabeth, which opens like a lid. A beautiful piece of English workmanship, of about 1820, with an old hall-mark.

Dimensions: 9,6×6,5×3 cent.

4) An oval, silver snuff-box in Louis XVI style.

Workmanship about 1880.

Dimensions: 9,0×4,4×3,9 cent.

5) A copper, gilded snuff-box, in Louis XV style, with a hunting scene on the lid.

Good, chased, German workmanship, of the middle of the XVIII-th century.

Dimensions: 7,75×6,1×3,8 cent.

6) A small, flat snuff-box, in gilded copper, showing the profile of Alexander I, and signed «Andrieux».

Dimensions: 7,1×3,4×0,9 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 152.

№ 290.

A FLAT SNUFF-BOX.

An octangular, golden, very flat snuff-box, of excellent Geneva workmanship. A picture out of ancient history is represented in coloured enamel.

Dimensions: 9,1×4,8×1,6 cent.

This snuff-box is worthy to be included in the collections of the Ermitage. S. Troinitsky attributes it to the first decennaries of the XIX-th century.

Inv. 1898—№ 146/111; Inv. 1922—№ 146.

№ 291.

GOLDEN SNUFF-BOX WITH A MINIATURE.

A golden, flat snuff-box, in red enamel, with a miniature of the crown-prince Alexei, encircled with small diamonds: 35 diamonds of a total weight of 1¼ m. c.

Dimensions: 9,0×5,0×3,3 cent.

In the locket is an emerald cabochon.

This snuff-box is interesting for a museum.

The workmanship, as well as the character of the painting, refer to the beginning of the XX-th century.

Rather coarse work by a German firm (probably Hanau).

Inv. 1922—№ 145/117.

№ 292.

WHITE OPAL SNUFF-BOX WITH A LOCKET.

This is a most beautiful, golden snuff-box, in white enamel, of Parisian workmanship. The locket is decorated with a picture in the style of antique cameos representing five dancing girls. A considerably old worn-out hallmark can be seen. S. Troinitsky refers this first-class object to about 1770.

Dimensions: 8,2×4,2×2,7 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 126.

№ 293.

SNUFF-BOX WITH A PICTURE OF THE MONUMENT OF PETER I.

A round, golden snuff-box in dark-blue enamel, with a picture of the monument of Peter I on the lid. It was wrought by the jeweller F. Boudde in St.-Petersburg. The enamel is in imitation of lazurit, with golden spots. The snuff-box has an old hall-mark.

Under the monument, the following inscription can be seen: «year 1782 August 6-th».

Dimensions: diameter—7,4 cent., height—1,8 cent.

According to the opinion of S. Troinitsky, this snuff-box is of great interest for the collections of the Ermitage.

It refers to the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 125/1; Inv. 1922—№ 125.

№ 294.

GENEVA SNUFF-BOX.

An octangular, flat, golden snuff-box, set with a turquoise, and with white and dark-blue enamel. The workmanship of this article is very fine and artistic. A scene of ancient history is reproduced on the lid. It has an old hall-mark.

Dimensions: 9,6×4,2×1,5 cent.

An object worthy to be exhibited in a museum.

S. Troinitsky ascribes it to an early period of the XIX-th century.

Inv. number 147/105; Inv. 1922—№ 147.

№ 295.

A FAN WITH A PICTURE OF THE CASTLE OF FREDENBORG.

A very pretty fan, of Parisian workmanship, though the water-colour picture on parchment, signed by Mingaret, and representing the castle of Fredenborg, is not very artistic. On the upper plates of the fan, is a chased gold ornament, covered with opal enamel in pinkish tones, with female figures and roses. Above the fan, is a two-headed eagle with a golden crown.

In the centre of the eagle, is a large South-African diamond, of 8 m. c.; a beautiful yellow briolet of 5½ m. c. represents the imperial globe.

The whole fan is bordered with small diamonds, the larger among these weighing 3½ m. c.; and 985 small diamonds weighing 36 m. c. Besides these stones, 4 rubies and 2 light pink topazes decorate the borders. The two tassels are ornamented with 2 circles of small diamonds and rubies. The inside of the fan is of excellent work, on light tortoise-shell. Workmanship of about 1900.

Inv. 1922—№ 309/b.

№ 296.

A DOLL'S HAT, STUDED WITH PRECIOUS STONES.

«A head-dress consisting of a very small hat»—thus is the description of this object in the Inventory

of 1898. It is set with very good old stones, in solid silver and gold.

The Inventory indicates: 1 briolet—7⅙ c.; rubies—11 c.; 1 diamond—1½ c.; 1 diamond—1½ c.; diamonds—23 c.; emeralds—3 c.

A most beautiful toy, which, according to the opinion of A. Faberger, was intended for a pet monkey. Excellent and very fine workmanship of the epoch of Catherine II.

Inv. 1898—№ 186/187; Inv. 1922—№ 465.

№ 297.

A LARGE MAGNIFYING GLASS.

This is a large magnifying glass, with a golden rim, covered with white enamel and green leaves; the handle is of nephrite from Sayanne. The initials N. II. indicate that it belonged to the tsar Nicolas II. The object is the work of the jeweller Petrov, who was engaged for this task by Faberger; this is confirmed by the inscriptions on the setting: «Faberger» and «M. P.».

Dimensions: diameter of the glass with the rim—8,3 cent.

Length, with the handle—20 cent.

An interesting piece for a museum.

Inv. 1898—№ 141; Inv. 1922—№ 141.

№ 298.

GOLDEN NOTE-BOOK, IN LOUIS XVI STYLE.

A golden note-book, in Louis XVI style (Vernis Martin) of excellent old French workmanship (about 1770), worthy to be added to the collections of the Ermitage. This piece is not hall-marked.

Dimensions: 10,3×7,4×1,6 cent.

Inv. 1922—№ 155.

