



The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

Volume 19, Issue 1

Winter 2013

NEW COMPARATIVE MATERIAL BY GEORGI MUSIKISKY

Dr. Scott Ruby, Associate Curator of Russian & Eastern European Art

The following article was based on a volunteer continuing education session given in October 2012 at Hillwood concerning new information on Hillwood's collections. Look for further articles in the future concerning other discoveries that deepen our knowledge about the collections of Hillwood.



Watch with Miniature Portrait of Catherine I

Watch: London, ca. 1720

Watchmaker: Abraham Heydrich

Miniature: St. Petersburg, 1725

Enameler: Georgi Musikisky

Gold, silver, diamonds, enamel, copper

Bequest of Marjorie Merrimether Post, 1973 (acc. no. 16.45.1-4)

I wanted to pass along some information on a work by Gregori Semenovich Musikisky, an artist whose work appears in Hillwood's collection in the form of an enamel portrait miniature of Catherine I, Peter the Great's wife, on a English watch of 1720. This watch is normally installed in a vitrine in the Icon Room, and is featured in the exhibition *Pageant of the Tsars: The Romanov Coronation Albums*, open from February 16 – June 8, 2013. *A Taste for Splendor*, pages 101-102, is another source of written documentation about this object.

Works by Musikisky are extremely rare and very few examples have come to light and for that reason it is important to present other examples of his work whenever they make a rare appearance. It is with this in mind that I would like to present a couple of other examples of the artist's work. As you may know our pocket watch is the only example of an English time piece set with a Russian miniature portrait. Musikisky was one of the artists Peter the Great transferred from the Moscow Kremlin Workshops to St. Petersburg.

The early eighteenth century was a period of reorganization and many of the artists who had formerly worked in the Painting Workshop of the Kremlin were reassigned to other cities, especially St. Petersburg, which Peter I had founded in 1703. In fact by 1705 only two painters remained in the Kremlin Workshops and by 1711, the Icon and Oil Painting Workshop of the Kremlin Armoury was effectively closed by the tsar. Musikisky was particularly adept at enamel painting and was clearly aware of existing oil portraits of Peter the Great although his works are rarely derivative. His enamels were not produced in large numbers or commissioned to be distributed as gifts. Musikisky enamels often include members of the Tsar's family and appear to have been kept originally within the confines of the tsar's personal collections. In this light, very few of Musikisky's enamels can be found in collections outside of Russia.



Medallion with Portrait of Peter the Great and Family, ca 1720
Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

Let's compare two medallions, both featuring images of Peter the Great and dating from roughly the same decade. The medallion dated 1719 (an image is on the next page at the top) and signed by Gregory Musikisky now in the collection of Philip Mould & Co., London can be compared to a later (ca. 1720) enamel painting of Peter the Great with his family, now in the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore (an image of which is on this page) also executed by Musikisky in about 1720. Here, the Russian emperor is depicted together with his wife Catherine (also pictured on the Hillwood piece), his three daughters (from left to right) Anna, Elizabeth (the future empress), and Natalia, and his son Alexei (before he died of torture ordered by his father in 1718). The Walters' portrait is considerably more accomplished than the portrait of Peter the Great, both in composition and in the proportion of the figures, demonstrating Musikisky's maturation as a portrait artist.

The watercolor miniature (at right) is on vellum (prepared animal skin) and inscribed in Cyrillic with ‘St. Petersburg’ and dated ‘1719’. Please note the dress of Peter is nearly identical to that in the Walters Museum’s miniature and to yet another miniature now in the Hermitage (not pictured here) depicting the family of Peter. Closer examination shows Musikisky’s lack of familiarity with the watercolor medium as a distinct stippling is evident—suggesting his greater experience with enameling, where such brushstrokes would be ‘forgiven’ in the firing of the piece.



Peter the Great Minature, 1719
Philip Mould & Co., London



Panagia (Bishop’s Pectoral Icon), ca 1720
Kremlin Armory, Moscow

Musikisky was also adept at religious subject matter, and it is important to stress how artists trained in the Kremlin Workshops were called upon to move from secular to religious imagery at any given moment. Here we see at left a panagia (bishop’s pectoral icon) by Musikisky dated to 1720 depicting the Pietà (mourning of the Virgin Mary for her Crucified Son). The moving miniature is surrounded by a framework of rubies emeralds, sapphires, diamonds, amethyst, and rock crystal.

HILLWOOD HAPPENINGS

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of these tours, workshops and other activities. Please register in advance on the sign-up sheets on the clipboard in the Horticulture Building hallway or contact Bill Johnson at 202.243.3927 or

bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org. Advance registration is not necessary for continuing education events in the Visitor Center Theater unless otherwise noted.

How to Watch Videos Online

To view the videos of past lectures, visit <http://volunteer.HillwoodMuseum.org> and click on the Education tab at the top of the website. Select "Lecture Video Archive" followed by the year (for example, "2012 Lectures"). To access a video, select a link and enter "volunteer" for the password.

February 21 (Thursday) 9 a.m.

Plant ID Walk

This plant ID walk will highlight the conifer collection at Hillwood. We will meet in the horticulture break room and hope for good weather.

February 25 (Monday) 10 a.m.

Join us for a series of horticulture presentations in the Visitor Center Theater. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. and finish by 2:30 p.m. Below is the lineup and approximate times:

- **Small -Tree Pruning 10:00 a.m.**
Join Gardener Marshall Paquin, certified arborist, to learn the basics of small tree pruning.
- **Seed Propagation 11:00 a.m.**
Drew Ashbury, Greenhouse and Cutting Garden Grower, will share details on seed propagation such as which media to use, germination rates, timing and much more.
- **Soil Preparation for Woody Plants 11:30 a.m.**

Hillwood lead gardener, Jessica Bonilla, will discuss the importance of starting from the ground up to keep your shrubs healthy.

- **The Hillwood Conifer Collection 1:00 p.m.**
The conifers really stand out in the winter and provide a lot of structure in the garden. Bill Johnson, Horticulturist/Volunteer Coordinator, will provide an introduction to the conifers at Hillwood.

February 27 (Wednesday) 1 p.m.

Hands-on Orchid Workshop:

To Repot or Not?

Your plant will leave this workshop in a "good home" and reward you with years of gorgeous flowers. Bring one or two orchids from home, along with an unglazed clay pot to this hands-on workshop. Limited to 10 people. We will meet Jason Gedeik, Head of Greenhouse & Design Operations, in the horticulture break room and then move to the work room in the greenhouse.

March 1 (Friday), 1:00 p.m.

Behind Hillwood's Changing Gardens

Hear from landscape architect Rodney Robinson, who is working with Hillwood to edit and enhance some of the most mature garden beds across the estate. He and executive director Kate Markert will introduce some of the changes that will take place over the next several years. **Please call 202.686.5807 to reserve a space.** (Visitor Center Theater)

March 20 (Wednesday), 6:30 p.m.

Steel Diamonds in Memory of Anne Odom

Hillwood's most significant art acquisition in recent times is an extremely rare example of Russian Tula steel to mark the memory of beloved curator Anne Odom. The purchase of a magnificent steel candlestick encrusted with ornamentation in steel, silver and gold was made possible with Hillwood acquisition funds in association with the generous support of the Collectors Circle.

Join Dr. Scott Ruby, Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art, to learn more about the armament factory, and Tula's intricate and ornate ornamental steel designs for which they were patronized by the Empress Catherine the Great, and coveted by her court and foreign dignitaries from all over the world. Chief Curator Liana Paredes will eloquently narrate the in-depth search that led her to Paris in pursuit of a truly unique and fitting memorial gift for Anne Odom.

Please call 202.686.5807 to reserve a space.
(Visitor Center Theater)

March 21 (Thursday) 9 a.m.

Plant ID Walk

This plant ID walk will highlight the flowering shrub collection at Hillwood. We will meet in the horticulture break room and hope for good weather.

March 25 (Monday) 10 a.m.

Join us for a series of horticulture presentations in the Visitor Center Theater. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. and finish by 2:30. Below is the lineup and approximate times:

- **Historic Exploration of Hillwood's Japanese-Style Garden 10:00 a.m.**
Jody Fetzer, Garden Supervisor, will show historic images of this garden site, originally designed in 1957 by Shogo Myaida, as it went through re-creation, restoration, repairs and rejuvenation. Jody brings fresh insights from the 2012 North American Japanese Garden Association Conference where she spoke in a session exploring the historic trends found in American Japanese Gardens.
- **Boxwood Culture and Pruning 11:00 a.m.**
Hillwood Lead Gardener Jessica Bonilla will present an overview of boxwood culture including reliable cultivars and pruning tips.
- **Roses: Pruning & Managing Diseases 12:30 p.m.**
Mid-March is the perfect time to prune roses. Bill Johnson, Horticulturist/Volunteer Coordinator, will focus on pruning techniques for hybrid tea, shrub and climbing roses. Jody

Fetzer, Garden Supervisor, will cover how to protect your roses from pathogens.

- **Bonsai Repotting 1:30 p.m.**

Gardener Frances Vandembroucke will explain the process from start to finish, including needed materials and tools, while repotting Hillwood's pyracantha bonsai.

March 27 (Wednesday), 6:30 p.m.

Pageant of the Tsars:

The Romanov Coronation Albums

Exhibition curator Kristen Regina will give an overview of the show, examining the importance of the Romanov coronation albums during the imperial period and up to today. **Please call 202.686.5807 to reserve a space.** (Visitor Center Theater)

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE:

“WHAT’S IN BLOOM”

Molly Mathews, Digital Communications Associate



Camellias in bloom in the Motor Court

We are pleased to announce a new page to our website! “What’s In Bloom” will provide up-to-date information on the horticultural happenings around the grounds so visitors can know exactly what to expect. Led by Garden Supervisor Jody Fetzer, the text will change monthly while pictures in the carousel will be replaced more frequently. If you see an interesting plant or flower, take a picture and send it to Jody at jfetzer@hillwoodmuseum.org. It may be perfect for this page!

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Arthur Kim, Visitor Services Manager

How do you follow up on a record breaking year? At this time, one year ago, Hillwood was just wrapping up its highest attended year on record with 64,199 visitors. With your help and support, 2012 proved to meet and exceed all of our attendance predictions and goals, finishing the year with a whopping 74,624 visitors. This incredible 16% increase could not have been possible without the tremendous support of every one of our volunteers. From the massive efforts to recover from multiple heavy storms, to numerous record breaking programs like the Seersucker Social, volunteers have proven their dedication and support of Hillwood time and again.

What will 2013 bring? One thing we know for certain: it will reflect the considerable talents and dedication from all the hands here at Hillwood. Thank you for contributing to a fantastic year at Hillwood.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWARD KURTZ

Kate Markert, Executive Director

We are very proud to announce that Hillwood's prolific Curator of Costumes and Textiles Howard Kurtz has been promoted to full professor at George Mason University. This promotion shows how highly his contributions are valued and what a significant role his work at Hillwood played in his evaluation. Please join us in congratulating Howard on this very significant academic achievement.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS UPDATE

By Erin Lourie, Adult Audiences Manager

What a year 2013 is shaping up to be already! The interpretation department is gearing up for a very

busy line up of public programs. As always, we draw inspiration for programs from our exhibitions, program partners, and opportunities that arise in line with Hillwood's strategic plan. We truly have an embarrassment of riches this season, with a selection of programs happening each week for the next several months.

Since programs sometimes develop quickly, the best way to keep up-to-date on our program offerings is to visit our website at hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/calendar. Below are some highlights that may be of special interest to you.

Two major programs serve as bookends to the month. On **Saturday, March 2**, we are thrilled to be partnering with the Initiative for Russian Culture at American University to present a Symposium on *Pageant of the Tsars*. Our annual Fabergé Egg Family Festival will be held on Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24.

March includes three public programs that are considered continuing education and are therefore free for active Hillwood Volunteers. (Please do call **202.686.5807** to let us know you're planning to attend.) On **Friday, March 1** landscape architect Rodney Robinson, who is working with Hillwood to edit and enhance some of the most mature garden beds across the estate, and Executive Director Kate Markert will introduce some of the changes that will take place over the next several years. On **Wednesday, March 20** we will introduce the newest object to Hillwood's permanent collection: a Tula Steel candlestick that was purchased as a memorial to Curator Emeritus Anne Odom. Chief Curator Liana Paredes and Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art, Dr. Scott Ruby, will speak about the new object as well as the search for a fitting memorial for Anne. The next week, on **Wednesday, March 27**, Kristen Regina, Head of Collections Research and curator of *Pageant of the Tsars*, will speak about this new exhibition.

The other major theme for March is a celebration of Marjorie Post's love of orchids. This year Jason Gedeik, Head of Greenhouse and Design Operations, will offer seven workshops on orchid care, including *Three Types of Orchids That Thrive At Home, To Repot or Not*, and *How To Get Your Orchid to Rebloom*. Jason will also offer gallery talks about Marjorie's fascination with orchids and lead greenhouse tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays throughout March.

MANSION IMAGES ADDED TO ACOUSTIGUIDE OPUS PLAYERS

Audra Kelly, Head of Interpretation

Some of you may have noticed already that the hand-held devices (called Opus players) visitors use to listen to the Acoustiguide tours have a new feature. Images of the objects or rooms that are the focus of the stop have been added. Most stops now have images customized to the stop.



These images will appear on the screen each time a stop is keyed into the Opus player. We hope this will be useful for visitors and help them more easily find the objects that the stop discusses. Efforts will be made in the future to add additional images until each stop (including both

Mansion and garden tours) has an image specific to that stop.

GARDEN RENOVATIONS

Brian Barr, Director of Horticulture

If we live long enough we begin to look older and the same holds true for gardens. Several areas have undergone restoration over the years such as the Putting Green, French Garden, Rose Garden and the Japanese-style Garden. However the garden has been showing its age and is in need of a face lift. This past year, after meeting with several landscape architects, Rodney Robinson Associates was selected to make recommendations for renovation, of the larger garden areas.

The team from Rodney Robinson Associates had several meetings in October with Executive Director Kate Markert, Board President Ellen Charles, and the entire horticulture staff. The plantings were evaluated, areas were identified that are to be improved and areas of high maintenance were discussed.

The first step in the renovation was to evaluate and edit existing plantings. On a recent site visit the team walked the Lunar Lawn beds with staff and tagged plants to be removed or relocated. Work has begun in the west section of the Lunar Lawn bed. Plants have been removed and the area will undergo renovation to the compacted soil. The existing soil will be dug up and amended to improve drainage and fertility.

The next step will be to replant the area in the spirit of Marjorie Post's original garden. The new planting is not limited to the existing pallet of plants and will introduce new plants to provide additional seasonal interest. It should be an exciting year to see the garden get freshened up for the next generation of visitors.

To learn more about the changes that will take place to the gardens over the next several years,

join us for the March 1 volunteer continuing education session at 1 p.m. with landscape architect Rodney Robinson and Executive Director Kate Markert.

MUSEUM SHOP

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

After a gangbuster year in 2012, the shelves are empty and the cupboards are bare! I've been to the gift shows and the products I discovered are starting to arrive in the Shop. A few of the items that I'm most excited about...Resin was everywhere at the gifts shows! This trend continues to expand and evolve into new and interesting styles including resin link necklaces and bracelets in a rainbow of colors.



Resin Necklaces

Retro is a big story for spring 2013 and I've got it covered with totes and clutches with retro fashion designs.

Orchids are always a focus at Hillwood so I am happy to offer orchid pots hand-painted in classic botanical designs.

Spring is a time to break out of the winter rut and welcome new items into your closet. Push the

wool sweaters aside and make room for pieces you won't want to do without - Audrey Hepburn-like rain booties in tan with black rubber bows, long white jackets with black polka dots, and 1950s-inspired backpacks.

One Fabulous Thing!

We are introducing a new feature in the Museum Shop – ***One Fabulous Thing!*** Each month we will feature a new or noteworthy item with a special offer. It could be a book, or jewelry, or a toy...stay tuned for ***One Fabulous Thing!***

Upcoming Events:

- March Orchid Sale – browse our 2nd annual orchid sale.
- Spring Fashion Boutique – highlighting new fashions for spring, summer and the upcoming *Living Artfully* exhibit!

"PAGEANT OF THE TSARS" GOES VIRTUAL

Lindsay Inge, Data Entry Assistant, Registrar's Office

A major theme of *Pageant of the Tsars: The Romanov Coronation Albums* is the evolution of European printmaking and bookbinding technologies. The coronation albums, spanning the seventeenth through the late nineteenth century, reveal the transition from black and white etchings, to chromolithography, to photography. In keeping with this theme of evolving technologies, Hillwood has developed digitized versions of the coronation albums to allow visitors to access the images and text in new and exciting ways.

The digitized versions (known as 'e-publications') are based upon digital scans of the coronation albums compiled by the New York Public Library. Hillwood added captions to each image to provide further context for visitors interested in exploring the full coronation albums. Each e-publication also includes a brief biographical note about the tsar or empress for whom the album

was made, as well as bibliographic information about the original album.

The e-publications will be available for visitors to view in three different settings. An abridged version containing highlights from the album will be available on iPads in the Dacha, allowing visitors to zoom in on details of the images on display. On the second floor of the Visitor Center, an iPad will be hooked up to a television monitor so that visitors can view enlarged versions of the e-publications. Finally, complete versions of the e-publications will also be available for free download from the Apple iTunes store. In these versions, visitors can view not only the images from the coronation albums, but also the original Russian text. These e-publications will serve as both scholarly resources and as a means to engage with visitors beyond their time at Hillwood.

We're excited by the potential these e-publications have to allow visitors to delve deeper into the coronation albums, and hope that we can continue to enhance the visitors' experience through the use of new technology.

2014 MANSION DOCENT TRAINING

Mark your calendars! A Mansion Docent Training Program will take place in 2014 from January – June. Applications will be available this spring/early summer. Stay tuned for more details...

NEW DISPLAYS IN MANSION

Audra Kelly, Head of Interpretation

I invite you to take a look at the new displays in the Mansion, many of which will be installed on Monday, February 11 and be on view until June. Many of this first rotation's displays tie-in to the themes of the *Pageant of the Tsars: The Romanov*

Coronation Albums exhibition open from February 16 – June 8, 2013.

Highlights of the displays include:

- Dining Room table: a table fit for a tsar! Regal porcelain created for the coronation of Nicholas I in 1836, along with magnificent lapis lazuli and gilt bronze candelabra, and wineglasses from the Cottage Service
- Breakfast Room table: pieces from the remarkable Orlov Service, given by Catherine the Great to her favorite Count Orlov in the 1760s
- 2nd Floor Library: a Russian grant title of nobility given by Empress Elizabeth in 1751
- Russian Liturgical Gallery: Displays of icons of Kazan Mother of God, one of the most revered icons in Russia; and vestments worn for the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II in 1896 (one is on loan; one is from Hillwood's collection)
- Pavilion: a Russian court-style dress ca. 1895
- Mrs. Post's closets: the elegant dress and accessories Marjorie wore when presented to the British royal court in 1929, and the gown worn by Marjorie when she received France's highest award, the Legion of Honor medal

Several special displays will be presented in conjunction with events. Those include the following:

- In honor of the Valentine's Day and coinciding with "From Russia with Love: A Valentine's Day Opening Benefit" on the evening of February 14 (for more information on attending, please see Hillwood's website), extremely rare portrait diamond jewelry will be displayed until the middle of March. The jewelry is on loan from a private collection.
- In conjunction with February 20's public program *Under the Influence: Inspiration in*

Design, lecture by Charlotte Moss, two scrapbooks of Marjorie's along with several digital reproductions of the pages will be displayed in the Dressing Room on the second floor.

Information detailing the rotations will be emailed and available in the Volunteer Lounge and Visitor Center Kitchen and posted on the Volunteer Website (<http://volunteer.hillwoodmuseum.org>).

Roentgen Desk Returns!

The Roentgen desk, recently exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the exhibition *Extravagant Inventions: The Princely Furniture of the Roentgens*, is back on permanent view in the French Drawing Room.

STAFF UPDATE

Angie Dodson, Chief Operating Officer

Hillwood is pleased to announce that Katy Albertson has been promoted to Head of Visitor Services. Katy brings her experience as our Visitor Services Coordinator and Visitor Services Assistant at The National Museum of American Indian to this leadership post and we could not be more delighted to recognize her talent and accomplishment in this way. Please join us in congratulating Katy on her new role!

KUDOS & CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

Russian Winter Festival

With the help of 24 dedicated volunteers, Hillwood welcomed over 1,500 visitors and set a new attendance record for Russian Winter Festival on Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9, 2012. Thank you for your assistance with making another memorable event for our guests:

Virginia Barreto	Susan Lund
Kristine Bender	Irene Malbin
Sally Burns	Carol Moravsky
Kris Clark	Betsy Muri
Ken Garrison	Joyce Piliero
Irene Gersh	Roz Rettman
Carolee Heileman	Delia Riso
John Hibbits	Erica Stern
Essie Horton	Lois Stratton
Wilhelmina Irshad	Kevin Tomaine
Jo Anne Jelling	Kiska Williams

Fabergé Egg Family Festival

Celebrate spring's arrival in Russian style with the Fabergé Egg Family Festival on Saturday, March 23 (10 am – 7 pm) and Sunday, March 24 (1 – 5 pm). Volunteer assistance will be needed in the Visitor Center, Mansion, and with special programming and activities. If you are available to help, please contact Lisa Leyh at 202.243.3938 or LLeyh@hillwoodmuseum.org.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to welcome five new volunteers to Hillwood. Joining Interpretation are Raisa Dubensky, Svetlana Geyfman, Laura Osterhage, Nancy Pallesen, and Nancy Smith Friedlaender.

The *Post Serial* is published quarterly for Hillwood volunteers by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. It is edited under the direction of the volunteer management team of Bill Johnson and Lisa Leyh and other Hillwood staff members. Copyright 2013 by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

Publication dates:

February, April, July and October

