

THE RUSSIAN HERALD



*AN ENGLISH SUPPLEMENT TO THE GERBOVED
AN HERALDIC QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
PUBLISHED BY
THE RUSSIAN HERALDRY SOCIETY*

SAINT ANDREW PRINCIPAL HERALD MASTER'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

In October 2000 both the Russian Heraldry Society (RHS) and the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae (CHR) celebrate the Golden Jubilee of one of their two Founding Fathers, Commander Chevalier Baron **Valery Yegorov**, OSJ, GCStS, GCMS, Saint Andrew Principal Herald Master of the CHR and Vice President of the RHS.

Incidentally, the turn of the Millennium sees the anniversaries of other remarkable events that are celebrated by the heraldic community in Russia, among them the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the RHS, and the 40th birthday of its President, Igor Smetannikov, who is also Editor-in-Chief of the Gerboved, a unique Russian heraldic quarterly magazine, and the second Founding Father of the both heraldic organizations.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Commander VALERY PAVLOVICH YEGOROV was born on 28th October 1950 in Sochi, a town situated on the Black Sea at the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains in the Kuban Cossack Region of Russia. His grandfather had served as Colonel of the Russian Imperial (afterwards Soviet) Artillery, and his father as a Major in the Air Force. Both were repeatedly decorated with Russian military orders and medals for their brave active service, especially during the Second World War when fighting against Nazi Germany. Commander Valery Yegorov himself served in the Russian Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain. On his mother's side he is a descendant of an Orthodox Archpriest who served in Byelorussia near the Kingdom of Poland.

Commander Yegorov's career was in the Russian Merchant Marine and he graduated as a qualified Navigator at Rostov-on-Don Marine College in 1973. During his seafaring years he used to visit a large number of foreign countries, including Japan, India, Cuba, the Canary Islands, Gibraltar, Spain, Italy, Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Algeria, Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, et al. Later on, he also graduated as an English Language Instructor at the Taganrog Teachers Training Institute in 1987. His appointments in the Merchant Marine Fleet were as a Navigator, First Officer and Commander. He is currently retired. At present he is **St. Andrew Principal Herald Master** of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae.

In 1996 Commander Valery Yegorov was granted the title of **Baron** by HIIH Prince August, Head of the Holy Roman Imperial House, for his services to heraldry and genealogy. He is also a Grand Cross and Knight Commander of several chivalric orders.

Commander Yegorov has two sons and a daughter: Andrew (born 1974), Anne (b. 1982) of his previous marriages, and little Ilya (born 1995) of his pre-

sent wife Natalie Yegorova (b. 1958). They married in 1988, and Natalie has proved to be a talented heraldic artist, having painted by hand in masterly fashion hundreds of coats of arms.

THE MAKING OF A CRAFTMASTER

Having had a lifetime interest in heraldic art, chivalry and history in general, his first heraldic drawings being dated from the early sixties, Commander Yegorov has attempted in recent years (together with a number of his 'brethren-in-arms') to revive Russia's heraldry by establishing competent and authoritative heraldic organisations modelled on the best ancient Russian and contemporary Western patterns. Way back in 1988, when still setting about that formidable task, Commander Yegorov had formulated **three concepts** which should form the basis of further heraldic developments:

1 Comprehensive knowledge of heraldry, its rules and traditions;

2 Consummate skill in heraldic art and design;

3 Legitimate Fountain of Honour (Fons Honorum) for Grants of Arms.

A man of varied attainments, a born linguist and a gifted artist of a scientific cast of mind and indefatigable industry, Commander Yegorov grew quickly in heraldic experience and has become a competent authority with an encyclopaedic knowledge of heraldry, both domestic and foreign, its gorgeous historical legacy, customs, rules and traditions. **A solid library** of heraldic books in many languages gathered over the years, and a collection of innumerable illustrations executed by the best ancient and modern heraldic artists, plus his own conjunction of awareness, skill and imagination, all this gives Commander Yegorov a great advantage in his present position as **Principal of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae**.

He is deeply versed in **Norman French, Latin**, and the heraldic terminology in **other languages**, so that at present he can proficiently blazon any coat of arms, if necessary in the vernacular tongue of the armiger. No wonder that Commander Yegorov was the first and sole expert in the history of heraldry who could correctly translate into English (or rather into Norman French) the mammoth of heraldic description - the full blazon of the **Greater Coat of Arms of the Russian Empire**, with the whole achievement encompassing 64 separate heraldic fields to be thoroughly blazoned. This work was published in No. 1, 1992 issue of Gerboved heraldic magazine.

An accomplished **heraldic artist** with exquisite taste and a bold style of workmanship, Commander Yegorov has produced already hundreds of coats of arms. He has a dream. He is a man with vision and purpose. The ideas are his, as are the exemplary skills in bringing them into reality. What better leader is there for the CHR, and that was the reason why **The Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich** in 1991 appointed him to be **Saint Andrew Principal Herald Master of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae**.

THE FOUNTAIN OF HONOUR

A staunch monarchist all his life, Commander Yegorov clearly understood the fact that on its own professional knowledge of heraldry and skills in heraldic arts could hardly ever be sufficient for the full-scale legitimate work of a heraldic body like the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae. So, it seemed to be absolutely necessary for them to seek and find the legitimate Fountain of Honour (Fons Honorum in Latin), i.e. a supreme source of power and dignity from which the right of granting arms would emanate. Evidently enough, no ex-communist authorities could serve as such source, neither Gorbachev nor Yeltsin, both being former Members of the Soviet Union Communist Party Politburo.

Commander Yegorov always believed that it was only **the Crown** that must be the verily Fons Honorum, having supreme control of coat-armour. This control in all civilized countries is one of the appanages of sovereignty, but from early period much of the actual control has been delegated to the Heralds and Herald Masters (Kings of Arms, in Great Britain and France).

As there has been no monarchy in Russia since 1917, Commander Yegorov came to a conclusion that there was still a unique person who continued to possess all the prerogatives and privileges appertaining to the Russian Throne, and that man was **His Imperial Highness The Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich**, in his capacity then as Head of the Imperial House of Romanov.

Since 1989, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Commander Yegorov has established and maintained **professional contacts** with numerous monarchist and heraldic organizations, as well as with individual colleagues all over the world, whose friendly assistance has ever been indispensable in obtaining diverse materials, advice, and information so much needed just for updating extant heraldic practice in Russia. Their names are listed hereafter in Section Acknowledgement.

The most important of all contacts was, however, that with the Grand Duke. From the very beginning of their acquaintanceship in early 1990, His Imperial Highness was much impressed with the outstanding competence of Commander Yegorov in matters heraldic and genealogical. For instance, he particularly appreciated and valued very highly a colossal piece of heraldic and genealogical researches carried out by Commander Yegorov, the work being titled «**The Heraldic Pedigree of Czaesarevitch Alexis**». Besides biographical data, the Pedigree comprised 60 full colour coats of arms of the ancestors of the last Emperor Nicholas II's son, killed by the Communists in 1918 with the whole Imperial Family. Each coat of arms was thoroughly researched, tracked down, checked, and painted personally by Commander Yegorov. This work was afterwards published in No.4, 1993, issue of the Gerboved heraldic magazine. And it was also for this work that Commander Yegorov was granted the profes-

sorship and the degree of an Accademico Corrispondente Estero, Classe Discipline Storiche by the Accademia Archeologica Italiana in Rome, in 1995.

The Grand Duke's initial commitment to the revival of Russian heraldry in early 1990 established the pattern for his future involvement. His Imperial Highness and Commander Yegorov used to devote a great deal of thought to every minute detail of the future Diplomata Armorum (Letters Patent) to be issued by the CHR. For instance, even the wording of them, or rather the introductory Formula - «**To All And Singular By These Presents Be It Known That The Collegium Heraldicum Russiae Has Entered In The Matricula Armorum The Armorial Bearings Of...**» - was long and thoroughly elaborated together with and then confirmed personally by The Grand Duke in 1991, the year when he appointed Commander Yegorov to be Saint Andrew Principal Herald Master of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae.

CONTEMPORARY HERALDIC PRACTICE IN RUSSIA

Presently in Russia there are two distinct heraldic organisations, sharing a joint administrative structure.

*The first is the **Russian Heraldry Society**, established in 1990, whose main goal, among numerous others, is to increase and extend interest in and knowledge of heraldry and allied subjects. It embraces by now almost 2000 amateurs of heraldry all over the former Soviet Union. Its President, Lt. Col. **Igor Smetannikov**, RusAF, Retd., is also Editor-in-Chief of the Russian heraldic quarterly magazine **Gerboved** (a unique scientific publication, profusely illustrated with colour and black-and-white pictures, 160 pages A5 format), of which **Commander Yegorov** is Deputy Editor and Vice President of the RHS as well.*

The second organisation of the kind is the Russian College of Heraldry, which is more customarily called in Latin **COLLEGIUM HERALDICUM RUSSIAE (CHR)**. It was re-established in 1991 under the high patronage of His Imperial Highness **The Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich**, in his capacity then as Head of the Imperial House of Romanov. Being afterwards duly registered with the Russian Ministry of Justice, the CHR is now the sole legal (but non-governmental) body legitimately entitled, in accordance with its Statutes, «**To Create, Produce, Register, and Publish Grants of Arms for Individuals and Corporations**».

At present the CHR incorporates most of the leading national scholars and experts in the field of heraldry, genealogy, mediaeval history, chivalry, and related areas. It comprises also a team of world-known heraldic artists under the guidance of Baroness **Natalie Yegorova**, OSJ, St Catherine Herald of Arms, Principal Heraldic Artist to the CHR.

The work of the Foreign Department of the CHR, headed by Commander Chevalier Baron **VALERY YEGOROV**, Saint Andrew Principal Herald Master, is directed to fulfil the following:

1 The registration and publication of **LEGITIMATE** Grants of Arms that have been bestowed by an officially recognized Officer of Arms from any national Heraldry Office.

2 The registration and publication of previously **UNREGISTERED** arms which have been borne by families over an extended period of time.

3 The creation of a **NEW GRANT OF ARMS** to worthy individuals and corporations who are desirous of obtaining a legitimate, meaningful and pleasing coat of arms which perfectly corresponds to the traditional practices of ancient Russian and European heraldic art.

For each armiger the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae produces a splendid, full colour **LIBRARY PAINTING**, as well as impressively emblazoned **DIPLOMA ARMORUM**. The Diploma depicts the armiger's coat of arms, executed in the finest Russian style, along with a certificate of registration with the text in English and/or in Old Russian. All that, when being properly signed, sealed and framed, will remain a real heirloom for generations to come. Also included is an attractive line drawing for use as a **LETTERHEAD MASTER** for personalizing the armiger's stationery. An exquisitely designed and executed personal **ARMORIAL SEAL** can also be commissioned by special request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

From the very beginning it was John Philip **BROOKE-LITTLE**, Esq., CVO, MA(Oxon), FSA, FSH, the then Norroy and Ulster King of Arms who helped greatly in the formation of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae by way of sending diverse valuable materials and giving professional advice to **Commander Yegorov**, regarding the fabric and practice of the College of Arms in London. And it was he again, in his capacity as Honorary Editor of **The Coat of Arms** (an heraldic quarterly magazine published by The Heraldry Society, England), who first published in the **Winter 1989** issue No. 148, an account by Commander Yegorov of the fate of the last Emperor's family.

Among many others who have also contributed significantly to the making of the CHR are:

Captain Michael **SUBRITZKY** - Count Kusza, GCStS, Ambassador to the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae, who has created and maintains a Website for the CHR, his care and assistance being absolutely indispensable and beyond all praise.

Chev. Donald R. **MANDICH**, BBA, MBA, OSJ, FHS, FHS(Scot), American heraldist and the author of the monograph - **Russian Heraldry and Nobility**,

and whose unexpected but very timely succour in 1992 was more than vital indeed.

Mr. Anthony **WOOD**, NDD, FHS, FRSA, FSSI, FSA(Scot), SHA, President of the Society of Heraldic Arts; Heraldic artist, illuminator and calligrapher. Commander Yegorov considers him to be one of the two **greatest contemporary heraldic artists in the world** (the other being Mr. Ferguson, see next entry) and always expresses his admiration for Anthony Wood's works.

Mr. John **FERGUSON**, ARCA, FRSA, SHA, Hon. Secretary of SHA, Heraldic artist and designer. Another **greatest artist in the world**.

Dr. John S.G. **SIMMONS**, Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford, Librarian 1970-1982, who provided many valuable books to the CHR.

Mrs. Margaret J. **WOOD**, ALA, ADAD(Hons), FSSI, SHA; Heraldic artist, illuminator and calligrapher.

Mr. Baz **MANNING**, SHA, Heraldic artist, signwriter, glider and decorative timber shield maker. Editor of **The Heraldic Craftsman**.

Lt.Col. Dr. The Chevalier David Pittman **JOHNSON**, Lord of Kilbonane, ASDF, DSW, President of **The American College of Heraldry**.

Dr. Carl-Alexander von **VOLBORTH**, OSJ, AIH, a German-born American painter, writer, free-lance artist and heraldist, now living in Antwerp, Belgium.

Mr. Stephen **FRIAR**, B.Ed, FCP, FHS, FRSA, SHA, Writer and armorer, whose books are most helpful.

Mrs. Marian **MILES**, MBE, RD. Hon. FHS, Secretary to the Heraldry Society, England.

Dr. John J. Fitzpatrick **KENNEDY**, FRSA1, FHSC, AAIH, Editor of magazine Heraldry in Canada (published by The Heraldry Society of Canada); Mr. R. Gordon M. **MACPHERSON**, FHSC, Art Editor of the HiC; and the then International Correspondent, Mr. David H. **SCHOLES**; who published the first arms that were registered with the CHR, in Vol. XXIV, **No.4, December 1990** issue of **Heraldry in Canada**.

Mr. Adrian **AILES**, Assistant Editor, The Historian (a magazine published by the Historical Association, U.K.), who placed Commander Yegorov's first picture of the Russian Imperial double-headed eagle in No.27, **Summer 1990** issue of **The Historian**.

And many many others, whose good will, sincerity, thoughtfulness, kindness, and frequent generosity were most helpful and instrumental in achieving of the present-day success in Russia's heraldic renaissance.

Special acknowledgement is being extended to Dr. George **VILINBAKHOV**, Russia's State Herald Master, Head of the Presidential Heraldic Council for his favourable opinion of Valery Yegorov's work «**The Heraldic Pedigree of Czaesarevitch Alexis**», and other publications.

THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF COMMANDER CHEVALIER BARON VALERY YEGOROV

After Commander Valery Yegorov was granted the title of Baron in 1996, his armorial bearings were augmented by inclusion of a baronial coronet and a second helmet, which were newly entered in the Mufriciila Armorum on 28th October 2000 to be blazoned as follows:

THE BLAZON

Vair, Azure and Argent, a dragon's sinister wing Gules, pierced through with a tilting spear in bend pointing upwards Or, and in a chief Argent, three escallops in fess Gules.

Above the escutcheon is placed his baronial coronet of rank proper, and thereupon two helmets befitting his degree; that to the dexter with a mantling Gules, doubled Argent, and out of a knightly coronet proper, is set for crest, a dragon's wing Gules, pierced through with a tilting spear Or, as in the shield. That to the sinister with a mantling Azure, doubled Or, and out of a knightly coronet proper, is set for crest, a dolphin hauriant embowed Azure.

The shield is encircled with the black ribbon and pendent therefrom a badge of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Rhodes and Malta; and also pendent below from their proper ribbons: a Cross of the Order of St. Stanislas, and a Cross of the Sovereign Military Order of Swabia, Knights of St. Gereon.

Supporters: dexter, a maiden habited Blue Celeste, wearing a cloak Gules, doubled Or, and holding in her hand a spear Or; sinister, a griffin segreant Or, armed and langued Gules. And on an escrol below this motto, **VIRTUTE, NON SANGVINE.**

SYMBOLISM

The Symbolism of Commander Baron Yegorov's armorial bearings is the combining of his surname, his interest and position in heraldry, and also his many years as a seafarer. The surname «Yegorov» is a variation of the word «George», hence the dragon's wing pierced through with the lance of Saint George.

The Vair was chosen to be representative of his great love of heraldry, whilst the three escallops in the chief serve as a reminder of his many long overseas voyages. The dolphin crest was placed as a token of love and friendship to his faithful companion and wife Natalie.

The dexter supporter, the maiden is representative of Sancta Russia Tutrix, whilst the sinister supporter, the griffin symbolizes the Orthodox Faith, being a representative of the dual nature (divine and human) of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The motto makes the very clear statement that what has been gained and achieved by this armiger has been done by the efforts of his own achievements in life and was not inherited.