

# THE RUSSIAN HERALD



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## EDITORIAL

Many consider GERBOVED to be one of the best heraldic publications all over the world, and this assertion can hardly ever be disputed. Few can realize, however, the fact that all the necessary printing and publication work has been virtually done by one person – all this is Mr. Igor Smetannikov's handiwork. Unselfish as he is, often he has even to spend his own officer's salary for printing expenses and the like. Verily, his great enthusiasm and devotion to Russia's heraldic revival have no bounds.

I cannot help also rendering a worthy tribute to the distinguished heraldic artist Mrs. Natalie Yegorova, who continued working even being in the maternity home almost until the 2-nd of August 1995, the day when she gave birth to our son Ilya (Elias). Recently she was awarded a medal from Switzerland for her great achievements in the heraldic arts.

Some months ago a talented young man, half-brother of Mr. Smetannikov, Mr. Yury Ryzhkin joined us. He shows great zeal for his work.

Now I would like to compare our way of work and that of the College of Arms in London.

As is known, the English College of Arms consists of 13 officers – three Kings, six Heralds and four Pursuivants – who together with secretaries, researchers, librarians, administrators, artists and scribes, make up a total of around 50 full-time employees. Around 200 coats of arms are drawn up each year by the College's heralds. When someone approaches the College asking to be granted the right to arms, the work required is extremely time-consuming. From the first enquiry to the receipt of the finished product can take around TWO YEARS of intense activity by the College's experts. So, obtaining a coat of arms in England is a long process which costs £ 2.200 for an individual and £ 7.550 for a company.

Now, let's make a comparison between the said College of Arms and the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae (CHR).

First, there are far fewer people working at the Moscow Collegium than those at the London one. So, each of us has had all the time to act as a jack-of-all-trades. Besides, there are only two heraldic artists of higher qualification in the CHR, namely Natalie and I, who are usually preferred to apply to for the design and preparation of the Diploma Armorum and the, so-called, library painting.

Secondly, all of us have to run simultaneously a lot of various trends in the heraldic work so that to ensure the normal functioning both of the CHR and the Russian Heraldry Society. Everybody can clearly realize that the work must not ever stop.

Thirdly, the present poor plight of this country cannot but influence our work greatly, and even involve us in somewhat of a political struggle, I mean, for instance, consultations at the Duma over different problems, not always of a heraldic character.

And that is why it took us some months to produce a Diploma Armorum with a fine coat of arms drawn in the Russian style. Nevertheless, we work faster than our foreign colleagues, with the artistic level of our production being very high. So, all we expect from our clients is simply patience and confidence. There has not yet been a single case of the client's disappointment with our work.

Now, to other items. Recently by the Mayor's order was established the Moscow City Geroldia which is aimed to unite the metropolitan heraldic scientists and experts to counterbalance the ineffectiveness of the one based in St. Petersburg. The Moscow City Geroldia consists of most of the Muscovite eminent scholars, suffice it to say that there are Prof. Kamentseva and Dr. Sobleva among them.

Although the membership of both the Moscow City Geroldia and the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae partly coincides, one should make difference, however, between these organizations. While the first one is virtually a part of the Moscow City Administration and presents somewhat of an advisory panel to the Mayor of Moscow; the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae is an entirely independent scientific organization with a much wider range of activities.

Thus, for the last few years the CHR has been functioning as a public organization absolutely legally registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. According to its Statutes the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae has been the sole legal body in this country to be entitled "to create, produce, register and publish the old and new coats of arms which belong to individuals and corporations".

I think it relevant here to remind the readers that the so-called State Heraldic Service's field of action, in conformity with the Presidential Ukase, has been confined strictly to the state heraldry. Though, in our opinion, their "achievements" are poor, if not harmful. First, the so-called state coat of arms (a yellow double-headed eagle in the red field) was never adopted either by the Parliament (Duma) or the overwhelming majority of the nation. In fact the "arms" have been displayed (by some governmental offices) without being properly authorised by the legislative body. Secondly, this is not a "slightly modified version", as some people erroneously think, it is a real mockery because the tinctures of a national emblem are not the right object for chopping and changing.

And we shall continue the struggle for return of the genuine Russian State Arms: Or, a double-headed Eagle displayed Sable. Carthago delenda est.

We do clearly understand, of course, that our temporarily disability, owing to the financial straits, to participate personally in conferences and other events abroad, will cause rather a significant detriment to our international relations. That is why now we carry on negotiations with the Parliament and the Government about a possible enhancement of the CHR status up to the state level, which may well come true after the future Presidential Elections in June 1996.

Endemic criminality. Graft and corruption. Taxation little better than state brigandage: 85 per cent and more. And the effervescent non-wisdom of a hot-headed and inexperienced ruling establishment, together with artificial and unremitting inflation. A deadlock? NO. Russia is worth saving. And we strongly believe that she will rise from the muddied gutter of opprobrium to the pinnacle of respect and reverence.

The Collegium Heraldicum Russiae incorporates most of the national leading scholars and experts in heraldry, genealogy, mediaeval history, and allied subjects. It also comprises a small group of the world-class heraldic artists. So, I wish we had never to be involved in politics. I dream of the time when politics will become again a specific domain of the politicians.

As is understood from the Summary most of the articles in the present issue of GERBOVED are dedicated to Prof. Yelena Ivanovna Kamentseva, whose 75-th anniversary we celebrate this year.

Professor Y. I. Kamentseva is a well-known Russian historian. She was born 2-nd October 1920 in the town of Simbirsk. Since 1922 she has lived and worked in Moscow.

After finishing school in 1938 Yelena Kamentseva entered the Moscow State Historico-Archival Institute and graduated from it in 1942. Then, by her teacher Prof. N. V. Ustyugov, she was offered a post-graduate studentship at the Institute, where from 1946 she was a tutor of a students group.

In 1950 Yelena Kamentseva stood for a degree of Candidate of sciences (history) on the theme called "The Novgorod Poryadnye Records of the 17-th century as a source for the history of the peasantry enslaving". There was two future academicians – L. V. Cherepnin and M. N. Tikhomirov among the opponency.

In 1950 she began reading lectures on the allied historical subjects, such as: heraldry, metrology, ect.

In 1967 Yelena Kamentseva defended a dissertation for a degree of Ph. D. (History) on the theme called "The Russian historical metrology of the end of the 17-th and early 18-th centuries".

In 1971 she became a professor of the Auxiliary Historical Subjects faculty, the course of historiography.

Prof. Yelena Kamentseva is the author of more than 100 scientific works, many of them dedicated to heraldry.

When a young student she personally knew the famous and legendary Russian heraldry scholar V. K. Lukomsky.

Some modern scientists proudly call her their teacher, among those are I. V. Borisov, A. M. Pashkov, S. Tabak, O. N. Naumov, T. V. Dianova, et al.

Prof. Kamentseva is a member of the Moscow City Geroldia, a honorary member of the Russian Heraldry Society, the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae, actual member of the Historico-Genealogical Society in Moscow, member of some doctorate councils of the Moscow universitits.

As an eminent scholar Prof. Kamentseva has a wide range of scientific interests. We all are most proud of her being affiliated to the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae.

Unfortunately, I have neither time nor space to scrutinize the whole contents of the present issue of GERBOVED. I would like only to draw the reader's attention to the Code of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae, more precisely a part of it, which has been preparing by the Presidium. This document is to be of the great importance for the further development of the Russian heraldry.

I thank Prof. Lupant of Belgium for the materials on the Belgian State Heraldry.

All the correspondence from abroad should be sent directly to me: Commander Valery Yegorov, St. Andrew Principal Herald Master, Sanatorium - 5, Monino, Moskovska obl., 141152 Russia.

## SUMMARY

• <b>Editorial</b> .....	3
• <b>Anniversaries</b>	
– Smetannikov I. S. Prof. Yelena I. Kamentseva's Public Heraldic Activities .....	4
– Naumov O. N. Prof. Y. I. Kamentseva and the Scientific Seminars at the Moscow State Historic-Archival Institute (MGIAI) .....	6
– Demidova N. F. Sfragistics and Heraldry in Prof. Y. I. Kamentseva's Scientific Works .....	9
– Prostovolosova L. N. "Teaching Must Go Like Clockwork".....	12
– Pashkov A. M. Prof. Kamentseva's Works in the English-language Historiography .....	15
– Simonov R. A. Prof. Kamentseva's Contribution to the Study of Metrology and Chronology .....	18
– Borisov I. V. Prof. Kamentseva's Role in the Education of the Students .....	21
– Naumov O. N. The Roster of Prof. Kamentseva's Printed Works on Heraldry, Sfragistics and Emblematics.....	24
• <b>State Heraldry</b>	
– Kamentseva Y. I. The Sources of the Soviet Emblematics .....	26
– Yegorov V. P. The Royal Arms of Belgium .....	37
• <b>Genealogy and Family Heraldry</b>	
– Dumin S. V. Arms of the Remy Family .....	39
– Lavrenov V. I. The Ruric Family's Signs .....	47
– Rickman von. V. Y. The Arms of the Noble Families Descended from the Russian Imperial House .....	56
– Borisov I. V. Vladimir P. Lapchinsky (120-th Anniversary) .....	62

● <b>Civic Heraldry</b>	
– Korolev G. I. Fish in Russian Territorial Arms .....	69
– Smetannikov I. S. The Civic Arms of Moscow Land. Heraldic Creativity Goes On .....	78
– Ryumik S. M. Old and Modern Localities Names of the Former Soviet Union .....	82
● <b>Corporative Heraldry</b>	
– Khrustalev A. B. The Arms of The Military-Historical Journal .....	92
– Silayev A. G. About the Arms and Flag of the Society of Merchants and Manufacturers .....	94
● <b>Foreing Heraldry</b>	
– Tumanyan Y. A. The Names and Arms of the Capitals of the Former Socialist Camp .....	97
● <b>Bibliography</b>	
– Naumov O. N. From the History of Russian Heraldry Bibliography	102
– Golovanova M. P. Materials for the Index of Literature on the History of Russian Banners .....	108
● <b>Scientific Conferences Materials</b>	
– Smetannikov I. S. The Code of the Collegium Heraldicum Russiae .	120
● <b>Phaleristics</b>	
– Vakka B. A., Skovrod B. G. A Catalogue of the jubilee pins of the localities belong to the former USSR for the period from the end of the 19-th century to the end of the 20-th century .....	132
– Smetannikov I. S. Non-standard "standards" .....	144
● <b>Heraldic Jokes</b>	
– Abaturon Y. V. The Adventures of a Prehistoric Herald .....	145
● <b>Advertising and Information</b> .....	150
● <b>The Russian Herald</b> .....	153