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June 2011

Newsletter

American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation

Strengthening ties through art and culture

The Tsar and the President Exhibition Travels to “Tsarskoye Selo”



*Welcome speech by Mr. George Hambleton,
ARCCF Board Member*

The Tsar and the President, a historic collection of documents, photos, art, sculpture, and personal artifacts of these iconic leaders, traveled to St. Petersburg. The exhibition is currently housed in the magnificent Palace of Catherine

the Great, and includes many items not seen in Moscow, relative to Tsar Alexander II. A beautiful 206-page exhibition catalog, in Cyrillic, was created for this event.

The Opening Ceremony took place in the massive courtyard outside the “Tsarskoye Selo” State Museum on April 26, 2011, and featured a full military-dress marching band. The ARCCF was represented by Board Member George Hambleton, who was accompanied by his wife Diane. In addition to comments from Mr. Hambleton, the program featured the following speakers: Olga Taratynova, Director of Tsarskoye Selo Museum, Eugeny Lunacharsky, Deputy Director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation, Alexander Prokhorenko, Chairman of the St. Petersburg Committee for External Relations, Sheila Gwaltney, US Consul General in St. Petersburg, and Mumin Azamhujaev, Director General of Caterpillar, CIS, one of the exhibition’s sponsors. The names of all sponsors were prominently displayed at the entrance to the exhibition, and we are most grateful to them for their financial support, which helped make this exhibition possible: The US-Russia Foundation, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, and special thanks to our good friend Donald M. Kendall.

Visitors will be fascinated by the parallels between the two leaders’ lives, achievements and fates. While Tsar Alexander II and President Abraham Lincoln never met, they did exchange warm correspondence, which is on display. In 1863, during the Civil War, Tsar Alexander II sent Russian fleets to visit the ports of New York and San Francisco, an initiative which helped discourage foreign intervention. The major theme of the exhibition, however, is their shared status as liberators. Alexander II freed over 20 million Serfs in 1861, and in 1863 President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery. The actual pens used to sign these documents are on display, and are examples of the caliber of materials included in this exhibition. Finally, linking them once again, both men were assassinated.

This exhibition is introducing the Russian people to some of our country’s most precious Lincoln materials as well as information regarding his life and legacy, which were not available to them previously. We anticipate many visitors will be drawn to “Tsarskoye Selo” before the exhibition closes on July 31, 2011.

Military Band performs in the Courtyard



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Happy Birthday Mr. Kendall!

Mr. Donald Kendall receives the "Order of Honor" from His Excellency Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation.



On the occasion of Donald M. Kendall's 90th birthday, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev awarded him Russia's "Order of Honor" medal for his support of the arts in Russia. In particular, he was recognized for his support of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, which has been revitalized and thrives under artistic director Maestro Valery Gergiev.*

Mr. Kendall, our esteemed Board Member, is the first foreigner to receive this recognition. The "Order of Honor" was presented to Mr. Kendall by His Excellency Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, at a black tie dinner held in Mr. Kendall's honor at the Russian Embassy on April 5, 2011.

The "Order of Honor" is not the first award the Russian government has bestowed upon Mr. Kendall. In 2004, President Vladimir Putin honored him with the Russian "Order of Friendship" medal.

Mr. Kendall's love affair with Russia began more than 50 years ago. In 1959, four years before becoming PepsiCo's president and CEO, he personally invited Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev to "taste" a Pepsi Cola. Soon after, Pepsi began its long-term relationship with the Soviet Union. The rest is history.

Don Kendall became the first US Co-Chairman of the US-USSR Trade and Economic Council, serving from 1973 to 1977. In 1989 he received the prestigious "George F. Kennan Award" for his contributions to US-Soviet relations.

Mr. Kendall is well-known for his philanthropy. The ARCCF is only one of many organizations assisted and honored by his generosity. His generosity and belief in our mission have allowed us to accomplish some of our most significant projects.

Don Kendall is an extraordinary leader who continues to be our role model and mentor, teaching us how to promote relationships built on trust, respect, and mutual understanding.

**Note: Maestro Gergiev was the recipient of our 2006 Foundation Award. He attended our Gala last year to pay his respect to Mr. Kendall, and our 2010 honoree, Mr. Michael Kaiser, President of the Kennedy center.*



Mr. Donald M. Kendall

SAVE THE DATE: October 2011 Lomonosov an

Giants of Science, Legacy of American-Russian Scientific Ties - Following in the Footsteps of Lomonosov and Franklin, is the title of this year's black tie event, which will include dinner, entertainment and a special-tribute award presentation. We are extremely grateful to our hosts, His Excellency Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation, and Mrs. Kislyak, for inviting us into the Russian Embassy for the evening of October 12, 2011, to celebrate another milestone in our countries' shared cultural heritage.

This year Russia celebrates the 300th Anniversary of its beloved son Mikhail Lomonosov. Therefore, it is fitting for ARCCF's annual gala to be dedicated to this Russian genius, polymath, scientist, writer, and creator of the Russian literary language, and his equally famous American counterpart, Benjamin Franklin, also a major contributor to the world of literature, education, science and inventions. These two are often referred to as the "DaVinci's" of Russia and America. Russian-American scientific exchange may have started with Lomonosov and Franklin, but it is with gratitude to the **Smithsonian Institution** and the **Russian Academy of Sciences**, of



B. Franklin

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

If I had any doubts as to the reception that would be accorded our exhibition, "The Tsar and the President" in Moscow's State Archive, they were completely dispelled by the warm, insightful and quite frankly enthusiastic comments (see below) carefully entered in the Guest Book by a succession of Russian visitors, and one prominent American. Unaware, as most of them were to the very positive role played by Russia under the leadership of Alexander II (the Liberator) in support of the cause of our Emancipator (Abraham Lincoln), many expressed a wistful desire to return to such a time of cooperation and good feelings between our countries and peoples. It has been my hope from the outset that the exhibit's historical reminders might achieve that very reaction.

And here, I cannot overemphasize the ARCCF's gratitude for the confidence expressed in this undertaking by the extraordinarily generous financial assistance of our principal sponsor, the US-Russia Foundation, an entity created to enhance trust and cooperation between our two countries. САЛЮТ!

James W. Symington



Mr. Symington amazes Russian visitors to the exhibition with Lincoln on the money!

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Excerpts from the Official Guest Book: State Archive, Moscow

"... My sincere congratulations to the Russian and American organizers and curators, whose cooperation in this is a contemporary illustration of the spirit of common cause that the relationship between Lincoln and Aleksander exemplified. All of this is an inspiration to me in my daily work to forge a more constructive and productive relationship between our two great nations."

John Beyrle, US Ambassador to Russia 12 March 2011

"Thank you very much for the exhibition. It looks that I was in another dimension and I experienced prouddness for our history. Could we return to these good old days (of American Russian relations) again?" 2/24/11

(Continued)

Franklin - Giants of Science ANNUAL GALA



which, interestingly, Benjamin Franklin was a distinguished member, that it has continued for over 150 years. Therefore, the highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the ARCCF Foundation Award to our special guest of honor, Dr. G. Wayne Clough, the distinguished Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in recognition of the legacy of ongoing scientific exchange between these prestigious institutions.

There will be entertainment! Guests will be treated to a staged dialogue between Lomonosov and Franklin, our "Giants of Science." Both men were aware of one another's achievements, although they never met. This evening will rectify that. ARCCF will rewrite history for one-night only, by bringing them together so we can eavesdrop on what they might have had to say to one another. We look forward to having you join us on October 12. Please contact us at gala@a-rcf.org for ticket information.

M. Lomonosov

**About the American–Russian
Cultural Cooperation Foundation**

American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation is a non-profit organization created in 1992 by a group of prominent American enthusiasts in cooperation with the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

The mission of the Foundation is to build ties, and increase trust and understanding between the people of America and Russia through the visual and performing arts, and shared cultural exchange.

ARCCF relies solely on contributions from interested supporters to foster its projects. We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. We welcome your questions and comments at:

APotemkin@A-RCCF.org.

Excerpts from the Official Guest Book: State Archive, Moscow

(continued)

“This unique exhibition brings excitement to my soul.” 2/26/11

“It is good to realize that from those days up to the present time, Americans and Russians never shoot to each other and God grant it will be the same in the future.” 2 /27/11

“God grant that the basis for cooperation and good neighbor-hood between Russia and the United States created by the leaders of our two countries will continue to be strengthened in spite of anything. Thank you to the State Archive and the American side for their contribution to this noble cause.” 3/13/11

“Incredible exhibition!...This exhibition is beyond any praises. It is a place where all school children should be brought. Exactly at such exhibitions can we educate young people... After seeing this exhibition it is understood that we have nothing to divide Russia and America: it is unavoidable that we will have peace and friendship based on this history. If everyone would understand this! I will use the exhibition catalogue in my teaching lessons.” 3/20/11

“Much interesting unknown data, which has changed for the better my opinion about the North American States. Thank you.” 3/23/11

“Beautiful idea, noble. Exhibition is on view at the right time. Perhaps it will sow seeds of sanity in our souls. Thank you.” 3/25/11

“Was here three times. Excellent. Great pleasure. Many thanks.” 3/25/11

American - Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation

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***June 12 -The ARCCF wishes our Russian friends
Happy “National Day!”***