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July 17, 2014

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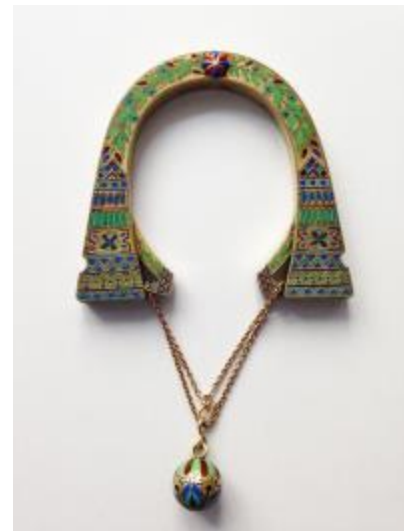
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**HILLWOOD ADDS THREE ACQUISITIONS TO RUSSIAN DECORATIVE ARTS
AND LIBRARY COLLECTION**

Rare 19th-century Russian enameled *parure—jewelry set—* by Ivan D. Tshitshchev, a Soviet-era porcelain desk set by Natalia Danko, and a rare complete collection of an early 20th-century imperial Russian journal are significant additions to three areas of the collection.

WASHINGTON—Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens recently purchased three items, ranging from 1873 to 1936, that add depth to the museum’s Russian imperial, Soviet-era, and research collections. A late 19th-century enameled *Jewelry Set* by Ivan D. Tshitshchev (1829-1893), dating after 1873, consists of a bracelet, brooch, and a pair of earrings and is a rare example of Tshitshchev’s jewelry to be held in a public collection. A porcelain pencil holder, ashtray, and tray from the 1936-38 *Discussion of the Stalin Constitution In Uzbekistan Desk Set*, designed by Natalia Danko (1892-1942), complement an inkwell from this prized multi-piece set that is already in Hillwood’s collection. The *Stolitsa i Usadba*, an illustrated journal published in St. Petersburg from December 1913 to September 1917, is considered to be one of the major publications of the 1910s in imperial Russia and this is one of only a few complete sets to be found in a library collection.



Bracelet from the Tshitshchev Jewelry Set

“Hillwood is dedicated to enriching the understanding and appreciation of Russian imperial art that was first sparked by founder Marjorie Merriweather Post when she returned from the Soviet Union in the 1930s with the [seeds of her important collection](#),” explained executive director Kate Markert. “By continuing to acquire relevant Russian works, as Post did for over 30 years, we are able to add to the cultural and historical significance of the collection and expand our research and interpretation in this field.” The museum’s last major acquisition was an 18th-century candlestick by the Armament Factory in Tula, Russia, purchased in 2013 in memory of longtime curator Anne Curtis Odom.

Jewelry Set by Ivan D. Tshitchelev, After 1873

This enameled, silver gilt, and gold set, also called a *parure*, includes a bracelet, brooch, and pair of earrings in the shape of a *duga*—a yoke used to fasten horses to a traditional Russian horse-drawn sleigh known as a *troika*—which was one of the most popular Russian folk motifs in the 19th century. Crafted after 1873, each piece in this set is decorated with naturalistic and abstract enameled ornaments inspired by traditional Russian designs. Like real yokes, these are embellished with small bells suspended from chains and ribbons. Tshitchelev was considered to be one of the best jewelers in Moscow in the 1860s and 1870s. Because of their strong Russian spirit, Tshitchelev's jewels were awarded medals at several national and international fairs and shows in Moscow, St. Petersburg, London, and Paris. The purchase was made possible through the Anne Curtis Odom Acquisition Fund. The set is now on view in the [Pavilion](#), complementing the elaborately detailed Russian costumes and textiles and silver, enamel, and ivory objects seen in Konstantin Makovsky's genre painting *A Boyar Wedding Feast* that hangs nearby.

Stolitsa I Usadba

This is a rare, complete collection of the sumptuously illustrated journal published in St. Petersburg from December 1913 to September 1917 and comprising 90 issues. Edited by Vladimir P. Krimov and published twice a month for the pre-Revolutionary Russian upper class, *Stolitsa I Usadba*, meaning "capital and home," profiled the homes and lifestyles of the Russian elite. Providing a wealth of information about the history and architecture of Russian aristocratic estates, their owners, art collections, and daily lives, these journals explore in richly-illustrated details the final years of imperial Russia, offering a new backdrop for the study and understanding of Hillwood's imperial collection. The journal will be housed in Hillwood's library and available for use by scholars and researchers.

Pieces from the Discussion of the Stalin Constitution in Uzbekistan Desk Set, 1936-38

Adopted in the Soviet Union on December 5, 1936, the Stalin Constitution revised the Constitution of 1924 in order better to "reflect the victories and achievements that Soviet workers had won." After a year of preparation, a select commission of 31 members produced a draft and distributed it for national discussion. The process is dramatized by Natalia Danko's elaborate porcelain multi-piece desk set for which she was awarded a Gold Medal at the 1937 Paris Exposition.

Uzbekistan was selected as the setting of these discussions because of its previous low rates of literacy and lack of women's' participation in public life. Danko shows the turnaround that was occurring in Uzbekistan with the illustration of women in the objects demonstrating their newfound ability to read the constitution. Danko designed and produced the set in the years Marjorie Post and Ambassador Davies lived in Russia. The newly acquired pieces are part of an ensemble of

desk pieces that complement an inkwell from the same series that Hillwood purchased in 2000. The new objects are on view in the Pavilion along with the inkwell and other examples of Soviet period porcelain.

Hillwood background

When Post cereal heiress, art collector, social figure, and philanthropist [Marjorie Merriweather Post](#) left to the public her northwest Washington, D.C. estate, she endowed the country with the most comprehensive collection of Russian imperial art outside of Russia, a notable 18th-century French decorative art collection, and 25 acres of serene landscaped gardens and natural woodlands. Opened as a public institution in 1977, today Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens offers a gracious and immersive experience unlike any other. Highlights of the collection include Fabergé eggs, Russian porcelain, Russian Orthodox icons, Beauvais tapestries, and Sèvres porcelain, and Post's personal collection of apparel, accessories, and exquisite jewelry. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include the Japanese-style Garden, Rose Garden, French Parterre, and a greenhouse full of orchids.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: VanNess/UDC, Red Line (20 minute walk)
- Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information and reservations or
www.HillwoodMuseum.org
Follow us www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum or Twitter
@HillwoodMuseum
- Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Select Sundays, 1 to 5 pm.
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.
- Café:** The HILLWOOD Café serves lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.
Afternoon Tea is served on Sundays only from 1 to 3:30 pm.
Express Dining, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages is available Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.
Call (202) 686-5807 for café reservations
- Suggested Donation:** \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6.