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1. (on page 4)
The crown jewels of Russian Federation:
(a) The **Great diamond crown**
(gold, silver, 4936 diamonds with total weight 2858 carats, 75 pearls, 398.72-carat spinel). The crown height 27.50 cm, the lower circumference 64 cm, weight 1993.80 grams. Circa 1762. Master: Jeremie Pauzie. The Diamond Fund of RF, #51.
(b) The **orb**
(gold, silver, 46.92-carat diamond, 200.00-carat sapphire). Height – 24 cm. The central circumference 48.0 cm, weight – 863.97 grams. Master: Georg-Friedrich Eckart. The Diamond Fund of RF, #53.
(c) The **scepter**
(gold, silver, enamel, faceted diamonds, the “Orlov” diamond – 189.62 carats). Length 59.5 cm, weight 604.12 grams. The Diamond Fund of RF, #54.

2. Building
where the Diamond Fund of Russian Federation is located. Kremlin, Moscow, 2017.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF “THE DIAMOND FUND OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION” EXHIBITION

Eugeny G. Gapanyuk
the curator of the Diamond Fund of Russian Federation

On the 2nd November 2017 the Diamond Fund exhibition celebrates its 50th anniversary. During half of a century the exhibition Diamond Fund became one of the most popular and most visited world-class museum; it became the symbol of Russia’s history, its fantastic sub-soil resources wealth, talent and diligence of Russian people.

Over the decades, the exhibition Diamond Fund became a result of scientific, artistic and practical activity of the Gokhran of Russia (see page 6).

The establishment of the Diamond Fund was first considered at the Soviet Council of Ministers presidium on the 22nd February 1967. The Ministry of finance and the Ministry of color metallurgy were ordered to prepare documentation for organization of the gemstones exhibition for the 50th anniversary of the Soviet power. On the 12th April 1967 the Soviet Council of Ministers presidium approved the project of resolution of the Diamond Fund exhibition establishment. On the 4th May 1967 the resolution of the Soviet Council of Ministers “About organization of the Diamond Fund of the USSR exhibition for the 50th anniversary of the Soviet power” determined its open times from the 1st November 1967 until the 15th November 1968. The exhibition was decided to be set in the halls of the State Armoury Museum at the Moscow Kremlin. The Ministry of Finance of the USSR was responsible for organizing and holding the exhibition Diamond Fund, it was in charge of transportation of the valuables for the exhibition. The same resolution determined the list of 160 items to be displayed at the Diamond Fund of the USSR.

By the order of the Ministry of Finance of the USSR, the directorate of the exhibition was established on the right of the Gokhran. The director of the exhibition was Vasily I. Smirnov. The exhibition opening became the significant cultural event in Soviet Union. The amount of requests for group visits from organ-



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18. The diadem-bandeau
(gold, silver, diamond, enamel).
2.6 x 4.2 cm, weight 151.73 grams.
The Diamond Fund of RF, #006.

19. The earrings
(gold, silver, diamonds, enamel).
6.5 x 4.0 cm, weight 70.23 grams. 1750s.
The Diamond Fund of RF, #007.

20. The bow-sclavi
(gold, silver, diamonds, spinel).
11.6 x 11.0 cm, weight 153.48 grams. 1764.
Master: Leopold Pfisterer.
The Diamond Fund of RF, #047.

Russian merchants presented the Empress with the gorgeous step-cut 56-carat diamond for the right of free trade within the Russian borders, and the Empress accepted this gift graciously. Later, this diamond will decorate the base of the garland of the Great diamond Imperial crown, created to the day of Ekaterina's II coronation.

Our attention is drawn by the marvelous bow sclavi which was worn high on the neck, with the velvet band. The bow is made with gold and silver and decorated with diamonds and spinels (*Fig. 20*). It was created by Leopold Pfisterer in 1764, during the Empress Ekaterina II reign, when he was invited for jewelry service at the court.

The small charming hat, near the bow sclavi, is made of gold and silver, decorated with diamonds, rubies, emeralds and wonderful Indian briolette (*Fig. 21*). In 18th century there was no fashion magazines. The fashionable dresses were delivered to the Imperial court of Russia from France, worn by a doll Pandora ("Reserialize"). To make the doll look proper for the Empress, it was wearing this sort of a hat.

21. The small hat
(gold, silver, diamond, ruby, emerald, enamel).
8.0 x 6.5 x 4.0 cm, weight 100.85 grams.
Second half of 18th century.
The Diamond Fund of RF, #048.

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22. The hairpin-bow
(gold, silver, diamonds).
8.0 x 6.5 cm, weight 155.98 grams.
Mid 18th century. Master: Jeremie Pausie.
The Diamond Fund of RF, #050.

23. The hairpin-cornucopia
(gold, silver, diamonds).
7.5 x 7.5 cm, weight 54.55 grams. Circa 1780.
Made by Louis David Duval.
The Diamond Fund of RF, #045.

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The foreground of the exposition presents the pendant made of gold and enamel, with the gorgeous pink Burmese 360.00-carat tourmaline, carved as a bunch of grapes. It was presented to the Empress Ekaterina II by the King of Sweden Gustav III in 1777 during his visit to St. Petersburg (*Fig. 32*).

The second exposition is located in the second display case of the History hall. Rococo style gives way to classic style. The second case displays pieces of classic style jewelry. Diamonds of the very best quality were used for these masterpieces.

The rococo motifs are still sound in hairpins-bows (*Fig. 22*) and the hairpin-cornucopia made of gold, silver and diamonds by Louis David Duval in 1780 (*Fig. 23*).

The same display case presents us with the pieces of jewelry for camisole, known as the "diamond breast" belonged to Paul I; the pieces of jewelry with nacre and the di-