



THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

August 15, 2013

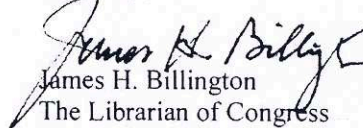
It is a great pleasure to send greetings to you, your staff, and all in attendance at the Symposium, at the Solzhenitsyn Center for the Russian Emigration, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Russian photographer Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorsky. I deeply regret that neither Library of Congress staff nor I will be able to attend this important event, but we send our best wishes for a successful and productive session, and will look forward to learning details and results of the event.

Sergei Mikhailovich was the first Russian to develop successfully a practical method of producing photographs in color. After Sergei Mikhailovich emigrated in 1918, part of his collection, 1,900 color images and an additional 500 black and white prints, also left Russia. He and his family used the photos in Paris until the Library of Congress purchased them from his heirs in Paris in 1948. The digitization of the collection, completed in 2000, means that all of Russia now has access to an important part of its national heritage: color images of many parts of the Russian Empire from the early 20th century. The Library of Congress is pleased and honored that the digital images in the collection have been so popular in Russia itself, and is glad to have established collaboration with several groups and Internet projects in Russia devoted to the study of the life and work of Sergei Mikhailovich.

The Solzhenitsyn Center for the Russian Emigration, founded only fifteen years ago, has successfully collected much material on the Russian emigration, and now contains world-class library, archival, and museum collections. The Director of the Center, Viktor Aleksandrovich Moskvin, you, and your staff are to be congratulated for building such important collections and, in general, for all the work the Center does to study the Russian emigration and further understanding of its contributions to Russian and world culture.

With best wishes for a successful event on August 30,

Sincerely,


James H. Billington
The Librarian of Congress

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