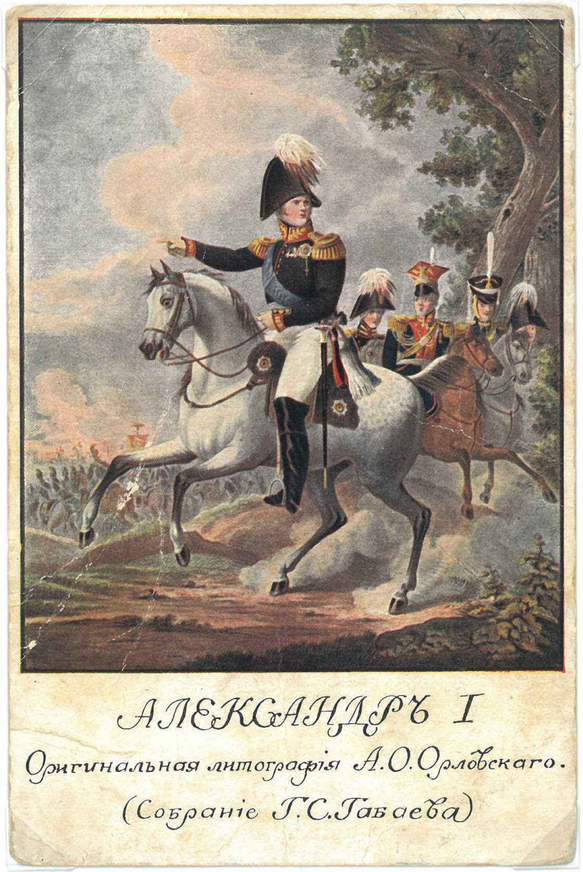
Alexander I – the Victorious Emperor

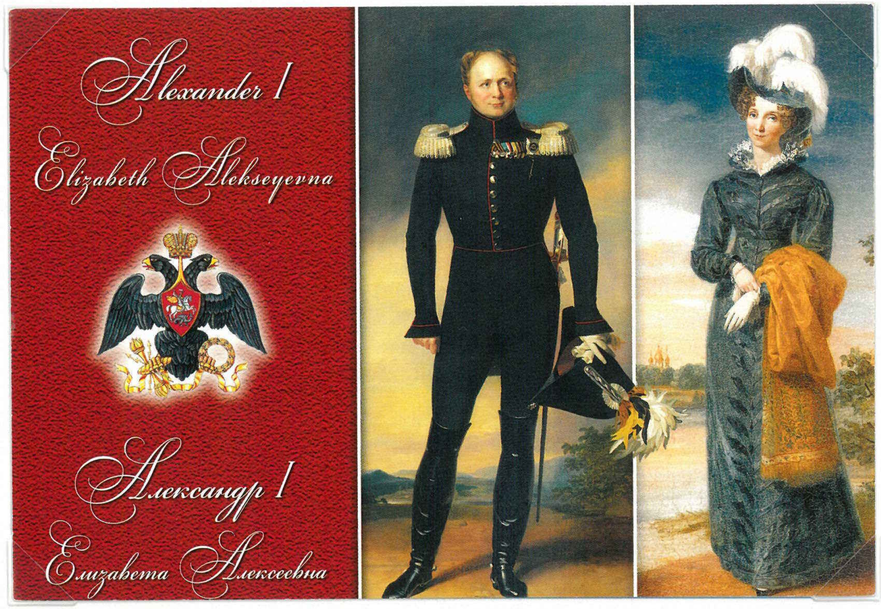
Alexander I (1777–1825) was the son of Emperor Paul I (1754–1801) and Maria Feodorovna (1759–1828), grandson of Catherine II (1729–1796), Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia from September 27, 1801 to December 1, 1825.

Alexander I defeated Napoleon Bonaparte in the Russian Campaign (the Patriotic War) of 1812, a war between the Russian Empire and Napoleon's France. The war lasted for 6 months, from June 24 to December 26. Nationwide participation in the war, heroism of Russian soldiers and officers, unpreparedness of the French army for combat operations on a large territory and in natural and climatic conditions of Russia resulted in Napoleon's defeat in Russia, which led to the formation of an anti-French coalition of European states.

Emperor Alexander I personally participated in the major battles of 1805–1807, 1812 and 1813–1814: in Austerlitz, Smolensk, Borodino, Maloyaroslavets, Lützen, Bautzen, Leipzig, the capture of Paris. On March 31, 1814, the coalition troops led by Alexander I entered Paris.



Artist Alexander Orlovsky (1777–1832)
Alexander I
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg: published by the Community of St. Eugenia, after 1905



Artist George Dawe (1781–1829)
Emperor Alexander I
and Empress Elizabeth Alexeevna
(Louise-Marie-Augusta of Baden-Baden)
Russia, St. Petersburg: Gallery Publishing House, 2000

Postcards from
Anzhelika Shestakova´s collection
(St. Petersburg, Russia)

Exhibit plan:

- Portraits of Alexander I – *2 pp.*,
- The Battle of Austerlitz – *3 p.*,
- Peace of Tilsit – *3 p.*,
- The Battle of Smolensk – *4 p.*,
- The Battle of Borodino – *4-5 pp.*,
- The Battle of Maloyaroslavets – *5 p.*,
- The Battle of Leipzig – *6 p.*,
- Entry of Alexander I to Paris – *6 p.*,
- Emperor Alexander I in Taganrog – *7 p.*,
- Monuments to Emperor Alexander I – *8 p.*

Artist V. Bezhanov
Portrait of Alexander I of fresh flowers
Russian Empire, Moscow:
published by Karl Fischer, after 1908

Artist James Northcote (1746–1831)
Alexander I
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg: published by the Community of St. Eugenia, 1912

Emperor Alexander I
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg:
published by Vasily Breev, after 1905

Artist Franz Kruger (1797–1857)
Equestrian Portrait of Alexander I, 1837
USA, New York: published by A. Yaremenko, after 1908

The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

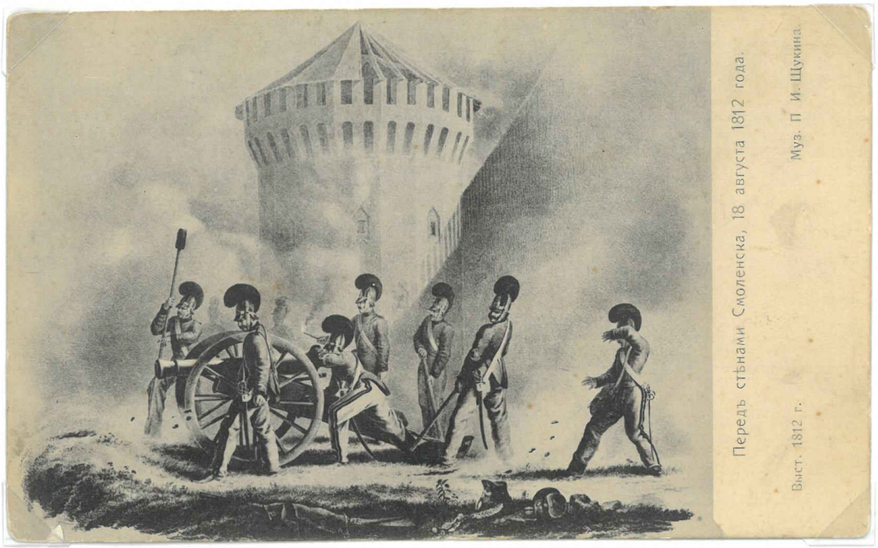
Artist Alphonse Laloz (1872–1936)
The Battle of Austerlitz, 1900
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg, after 1905

Artist François Gerard (1770–1837)
The Battle of Austerlitz on December 2, 1805, 1810
France, Paris: published by Ilya Lapin, after 1908
Versailles Museum, France

Artist Nicolas Gosse (1787–1878)
Tilsit Date, 1807
Germany, Dresden: published by Stengel & Co., after 1905

Artist Lionel Royer (1852–1926)
Napoleon in front of Russian grenadiers at Tilsit, 1894
Publisher unspecified, after 1905

The **Battle of Austerlitz** took place on December 2, 1805, in Moravia. It went down in history as the "Battle of the Three Emperors". The armies of Austrian Emperor Franz II and Russian Emperor Alexander I fought against the army of Emperor Napoleon. The battle ended with the defeat of the allied army.
The **Peace of Tilsit** (June 25 – July 7, 1807) was a peace treaty negotiated between Alexander I and Napoleon. The treaty ended the War of the Fourth Coalition.



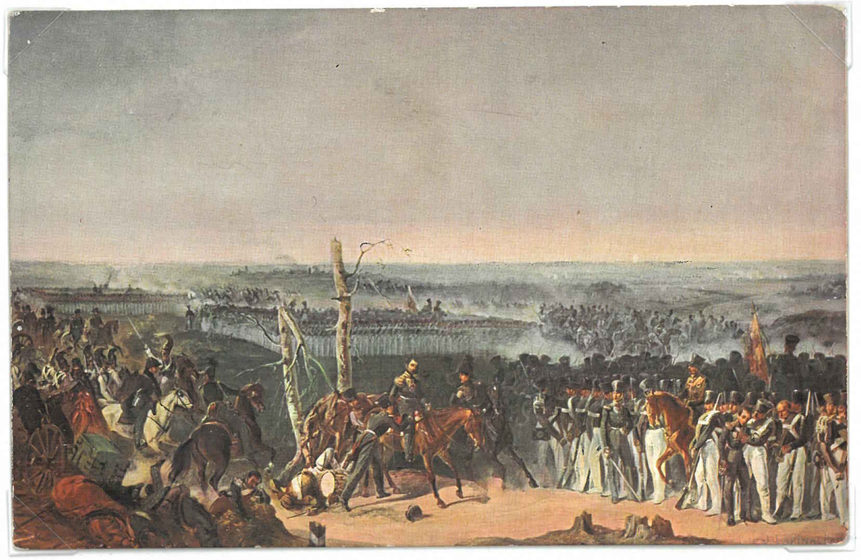
Artist Christian Faber du Faure (1780–1857)
At the walls of Smolensk August 18, 1812, 1857
Russian Empire, Moscow: published by Karl Fischer, after 1908

Artist Node (1778–1829)
Battle of Smolensk, 1st quarter of XIX century
USSR, Leningrad: published by of the State Hermitage Museum, 1962
State Historical Museum, Moscow

Artist Domenico Scotti (1780–1826)
The Battle of Borodino, 1813
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg: published by the Community of St. Eugenia, after 1905

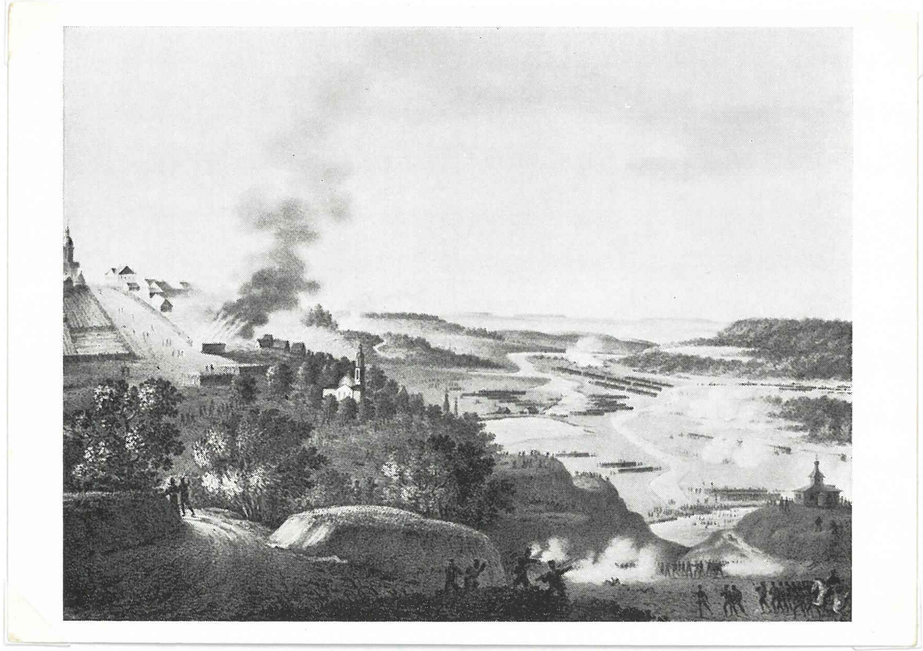
Artist Peter von Hess (1792–1871)
The Battle of Borodino, 1843
Russian Empire, Moscow: published by Karl Fischer, after 1905
State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

The main goal of the **battle for Smolensk** (August 16-18, 1812) was to hold off Napoleon's army and inflict as much damage to it as possible.



Artist Alexander Kotzebu (1815–1889)
Life Guards Izmailovsky Regiment at the Battle of Borodino, 1840
France, Paris: published by Ilya Lapin, after 1908
Borodino Field Military Historical Museum-Reserve

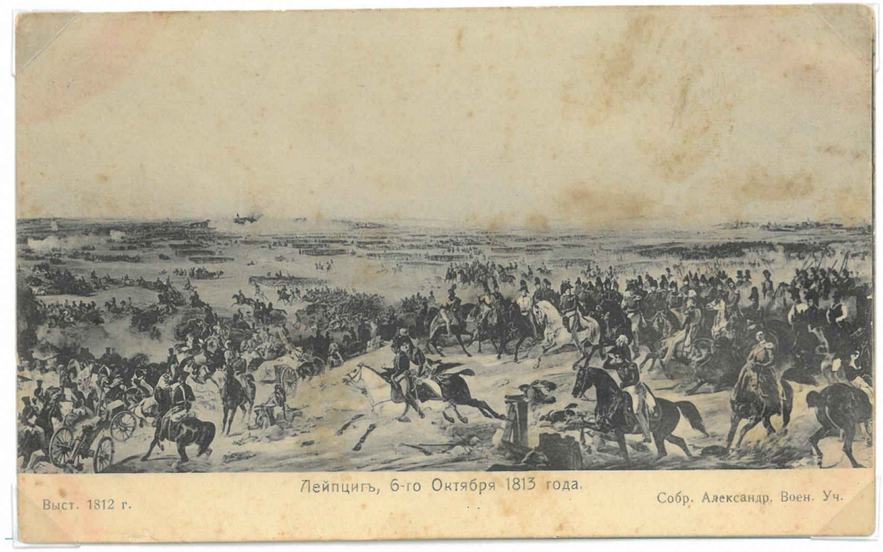
Artist Vasily Vereshchagin (1842–1904)
End of the Battle of Borodino, 1899–1900
Russian Empire, Moscow: published by Karl Fischer, after 1908
State Historical Museum, Moscow



Artist Alexander Dmitriev-Mamonov (1788–1836)
Battle of Maloyaroslavets October 12, 1812, 1823
USSR, Moscow: publishing house "Soviet Artist", 1967

Alexander I's entry into Moscow after Napoleon's retreat on July 11, 1812
Published by L.L., after 1908

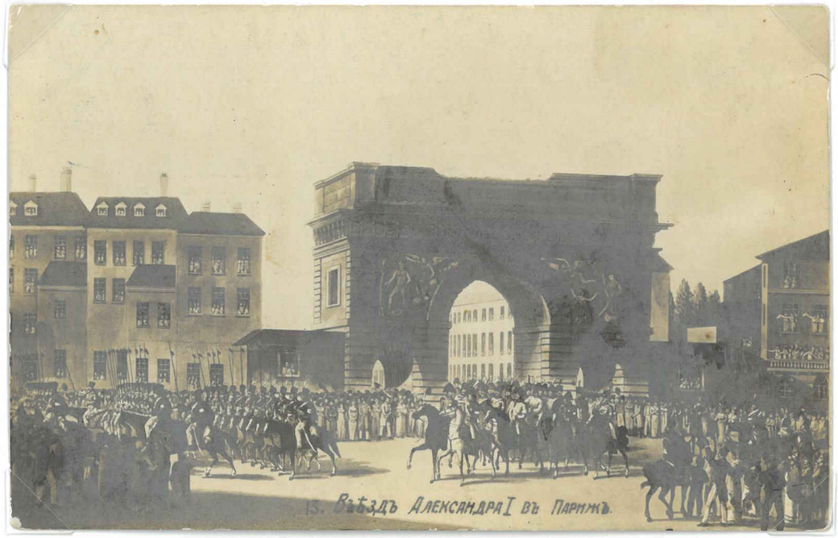
The **Battle of Borodino**, the largest battle of the Patriotic War of 1812 between the Russian and French armies, took place on September 7.
The **Battle of Maloyaroslavets** (October 12) was a turning point in the Patriotic War of 1812, the beginning of the collapse of Napoleon's empire.



Leipzig
Russian Empire, Moscow: published by Karl Fischer, after 1905

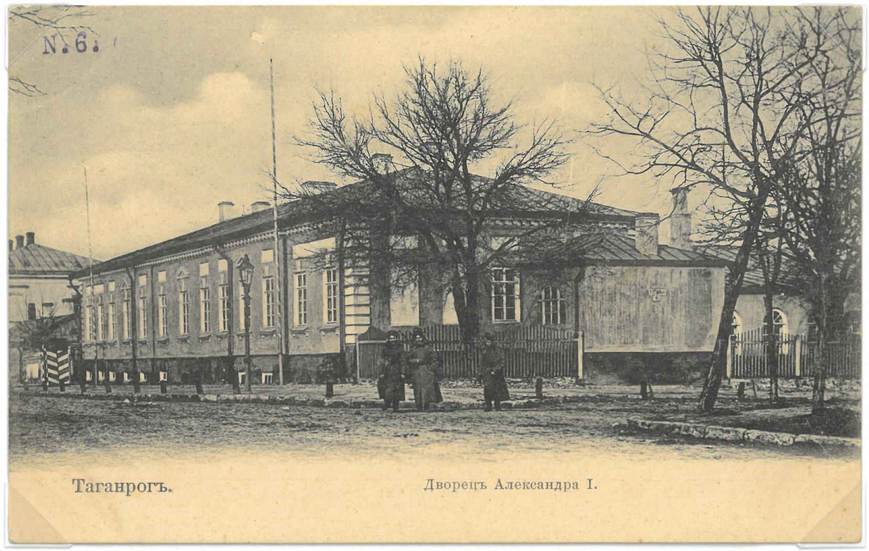
The Battle of Leipzig
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg, after 1905

Artist Stepan Shukaev (1830–1883)
On the heights of Montmartre at the capture of Paris, 1864
Publisher unspecified, after 1905
Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, Moscow

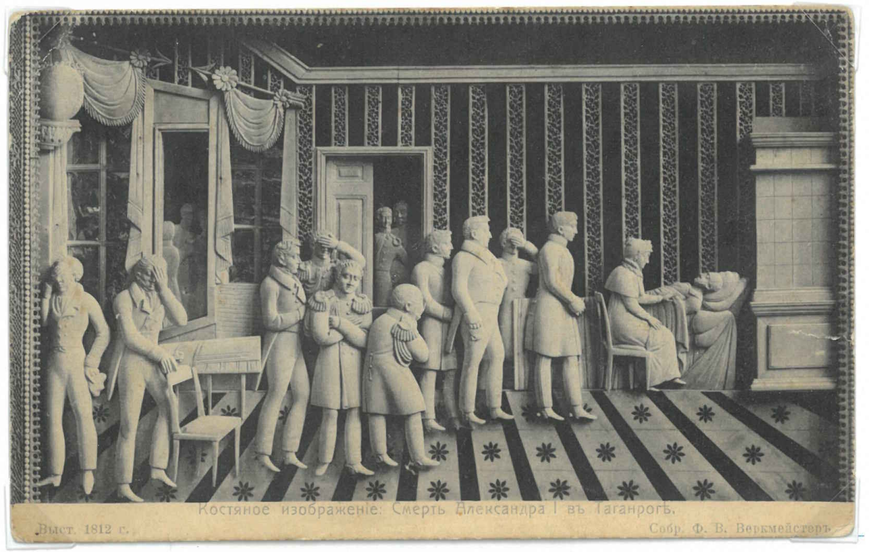


Unknown artist
Entry of Alexander I into Paris March 31, 1814
Publisher unspecified, after 1905

The **Battle of Leipzig** (The Battle of the Nations) took place on October 16-19, 1813. Napoleon's army was defeated by the allied armies of Russia, Austria, Prussia and Sweden.
The **Battle of Paris** (March 30, 1814) became the final battle of the Sixth Coalition War, after which France capitulated and Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated.



Taganrog. The Palace of Alexander I
Architect F. Moll
Publisher unspecified, before 1905

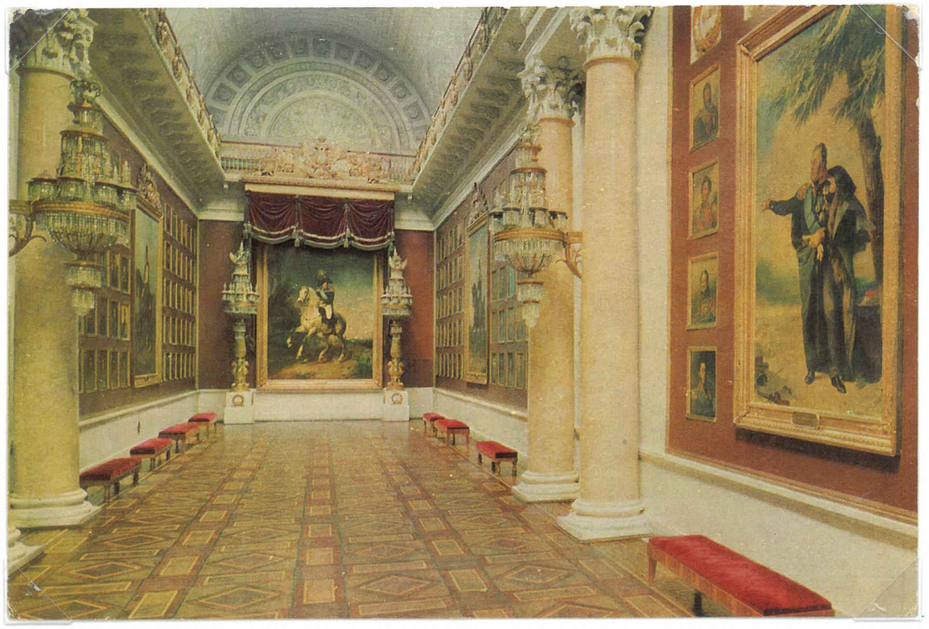


Artist Alexander Afanasyev
Death of the Sovereign Emperor Alexander the Blessed in Taganrog on December 1, 1825, 2nd half of 1820s
Russian Empire, Moscow: published by Karl Fischer, after 1905

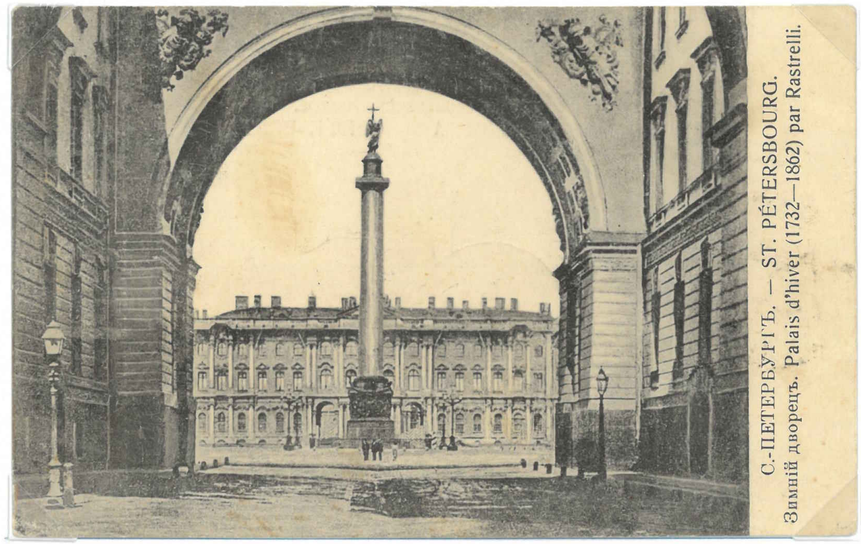
Emperor Alexander I (1777–1825) and **Elder Fyodor Kuzmich** (1777–1864)
Russia, St. Petersburg, 2020

The Monument to Alexander I in Taganrog, 1831
Sculptor Ivan Martos (1754–1835)
Publisher unspecified, after 1908

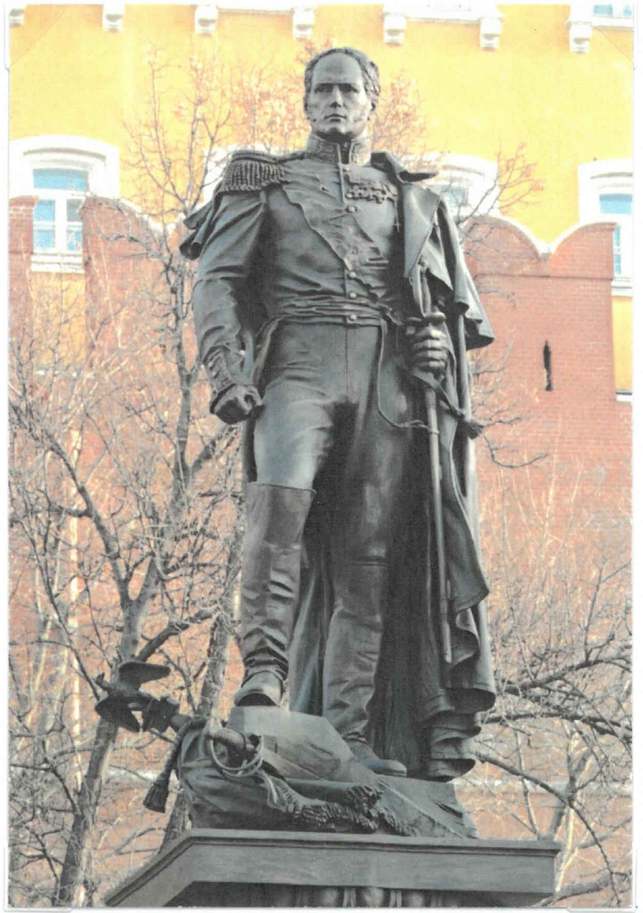
Emperor Alexander I caught a cold and became seriously ill while traveling in the Crimea. He died in Taganrog on December 1, 1825. There is a legend that the emperor staged his death. After that he became a hermit and lived under the name of the **elder Fyodor Kuzmich** in Tomsk. He died on February 1, 1864.



Military Gallery of 1812 in the Winter Palace, 1826
Photo by L. Tarasova, A. Bulgakov
USSR, Leningrad: Publishing House "Soviet Artist", 1968



The Alexander Column, 1834
Architect Auguste Montferrand (1786–1858)
Russian Empire, St. Petersburg: published by A.M.K., after 1908



The Monument to Alexander I in Moscow, 2014
Sculptor Salavat Shcherbakov (born 1955)
Russia, Moscow, 2024

There are **monuments to Alexander I** in Taganrog, St. Petersburg and Moscow. The bronze monument in **Taganrog** was unveiled in 1831. Alexander I is trampling a snake with his foot, which symbolizes the victory over Napoleon. In the late 1920s the monument was dismantled, but it was restored in 1998.

The Alexander Column in **St. Petersburg** was erected by decree of Emperor Nicholas I to commemorate the victory of Alexander I over the French in the Patriotic War of 1812. The height of the monument is 47.5 meters. The angel crowning the Alexander Column is a symbol of the victory of good over evil, a symbol of peace and tranquility that Russia brought to Europe by defeating Napoleon's troops. Made of bronze and granite, the monument was unveiled in September 1834.

In **Moscow**, the monument of bronze was raised in November 2014. In his left hand the Emperor holds a sword, the weapon of the enemy lies under his feet.