

Surprising Finds Inside The Kremlin

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The telephone call to The Associated Press Bureau in Moscow was from the Soviet committee for cultural relations. "Tomorrow," the caller said casually, "correspondents will be welcome to tour the hitherto closed areas of the Kremlin."

The invitation was treated more than casually by Western newsmen, who fully realized the Russians must have something they were eager to show the world.

The Westerners weren't disappointed. They were led through ornately decorated halls where hung wonderfully restored religious art treasures, and into private chapels of the imperial families of the past. They were shown beautifully preserved churches:

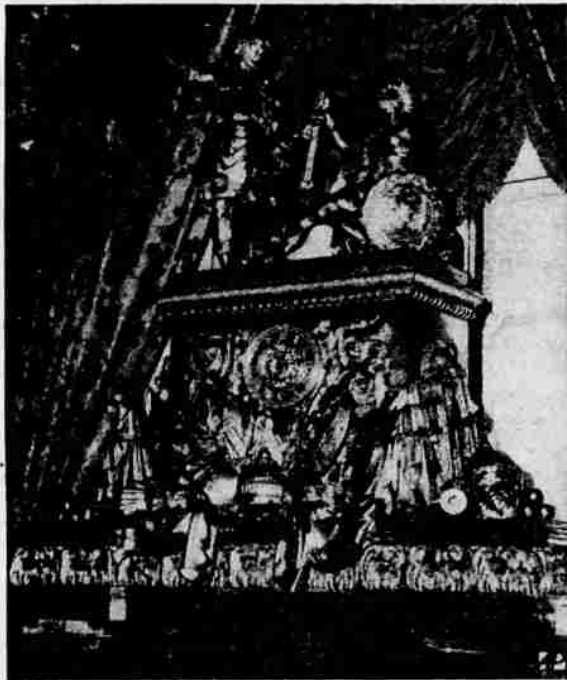
The Church of the Resurrection of St. Lazarus, the oldest building in Moscow erected in the 14th Century; the Church of the Sacred Chasuble of St. Mary, the Church

of the Resurrection with its gold clock - chandelier presented by Charles XI of Sweden, the Church of the Miraculous Ikon of the Savior which has an altar screen of carved oxydized silver, and the Church of the Crucifixion, decorated by Poznansky, one of Russia's most famous ikon painters.

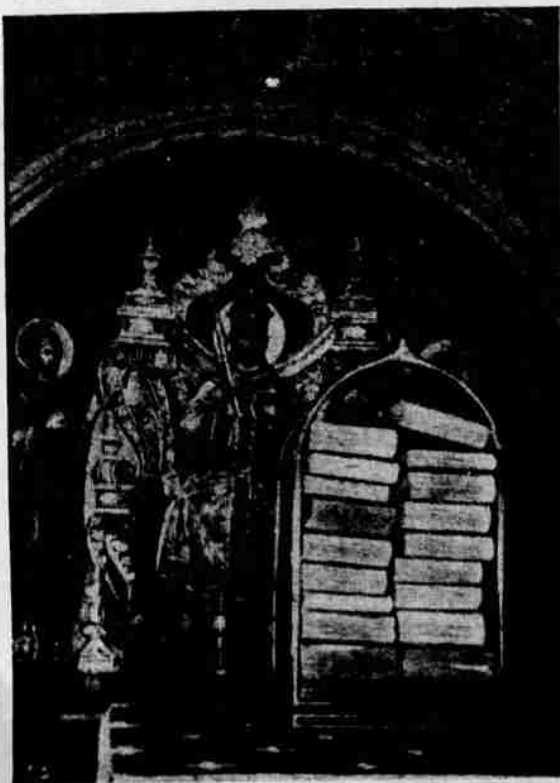
Tucked into an obscure corner of St. Vladimir's Hall—where guests arrive for Kremlin banquets—were the thrones of the Romanovs.

Restoration of the Kremlin, the guides explained proudly, is an ever-continuing process and said even more prize treasures of Moscow's past will be put on view in the future.

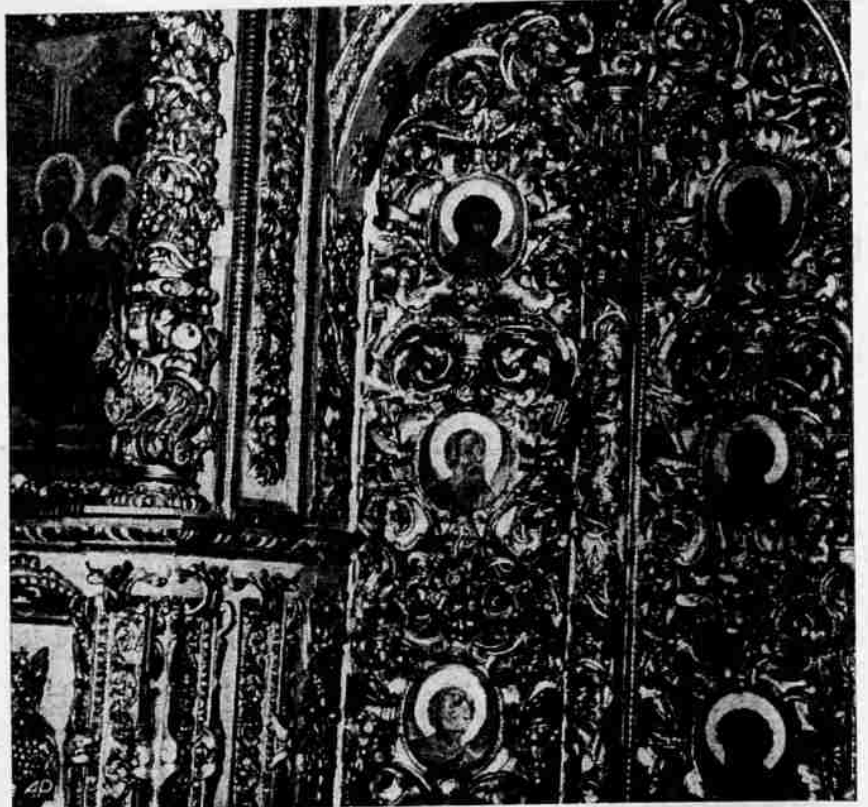
The exclusive pictures on this page were taken by AP Staffer A. I. Goldberg of the Moscow bureau, who explained the invitation to view the Kremlin as "just another of a chain of unexpected developments" in the thawing out of Western-Soviet relations.



INTRICATELY CARVED, ornate gold and marble clock in the Kremlin's Red lounge.



RELIGIOUS panels in the background and church books in the foreground in Resurrection of Lazarus Chapel are a startling contrast to today's atheistic Russia.



SOME OF THE METALWORK and religious pictures inside St. Catherine's Church in the Kremlin.



MAGNIFICENT chandeliers light the Kremlin Palace's Hall of St. Catherine, where the empress held court.



DECORATED hall which once echoed with the shuffling feet of Russia's imperial rulers.



RICH RELIGIOUS PANELS in Church of Miracle of Saviour. Detailed art work above unidentified figure at left is of Jesus entering Jerusalem on donkey and of Jesus following crucifixion.



SILK COVERED throne of Nicholas II, last czar of Russia, sits in the corner of St. Vladimir's Hall.



LION of Nicholas I still stands guard at the stairway leading to the balcony where the czar delivered his imperial orders.