

# Tschaikowsky-Gesellschaft

## Mitteilungen 17 (2010)

S. 12-18

Die von RR Auction 1996-2009 im Internet versteigerten Čajkovskiana  
(Thomas Kohlhase und Ronald de Vet)

Abkürzungen, Ausgaben, Literatur sowie  
Hinweise zur Umschrift und zur Datierung:

[http://www.tschaikowsky-gesellschaft.de/index\\_htm\\_files/abkuerzungen.pdf](http://www.tschaikowsky-gesellschaft.de/index_htm_files/abkuerzungen.pdf)

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Die vom Auktionshaus *RR Auction* (USA) in den Jahren 1996-2009  
im Internet versteigerten autographen Briefe sowie die von  
P. I. Čajkovskij signierten  
Widmungsexemplare, Photographien oder Programmblätter

Der im vorliegenden Heft mitgeteilten, bisher unbekanntes Briefe Čajkovskijs aus den Jahren 1884 und 1893 wurden durch *RR Auction* im Internet versteigert. Ronald de Vet hatte uns auf dieses Auktionsunternehmen aufmerksam gemacht; und er hat die übrigen von *RR Auction* in den Jahren 1996-2009 versteigerten Tschaikowskiana nach den unter [www.rrauction.com](http://www.rrauction.com) abrufbaren Informationen zusammengestellt. Unsere Bitte an das Auktionsunternehmen, uns die vollständigen Texte in ihrer Originalsprache sowie Reproduktionen der Dokumente zur Verfügung zu stellen, damit sie der Čajkovskij-Forschung zugänglich sind, blieb bisher unbeantwortet. Deshalb können wir im folgenden nur diejenigen Informationen mitteilen, die der genannten Website im Internet zu entnehmen sind. Dabei wird der englische Text von *RR Auction* gerade gesetzt, während unsere Ergänzungen in *Kursive* oder in eckigen Klammern erscheinen. Die Abkürzung "ALS" in den folgenden *Beschreibungen* bedeutet: autograph letter, signed (autographer, signierter Brief). Bei den angegebenen Maßen handelt es sich jeweils um Inches.

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1. *Photographie, signiert und beschriftet (russisch) 1892*

Item 939 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Catalog 346 (June 2009)  
Minimum Bid: \$500.00  
Sold Price: \$2,772.00 (With Buyer's Premium)

Rare vintage sepia 4.25 x 6.25 Russian cabinet portrait photo, signed and inscribed in fountain pen in the lower border, in Cyrillic and dated 1892. The esteemed Russian composer passed away suddenly at the age of 53 having succumbed to a bout of cholera. Accordingly, we offer with this unique find an exceedingly scarce treasure, one of the few penned by the luminary before his untimely death. The top edge of this late-in-life, still visual survivor is trimmed, and scattered areas of foxing are present at the image area and lower border. Light surface marks are scattered about Tchaikovsky's likeness and background, and mounting remnants are evident on the reverse. Notwithstanding these age-induced impediments, the photo is in very good condition, and the writing remains generally clear and fully legible.

2. *Brief (französisch) an den Schauspieler Lucien Guitry, Moskau, 8. April 1885*

Item 995 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Catalog 345 (May 2009)  
Minimum Bid: \$500.00  
Sold Price: \$14,031.60 (With Buyer's Premium)

Scarce ALS in French, signed "P. Tchaikovsky," two pages both sides, 5.25 x 8.25, April 8, 1885. Tchaikovsky writes from Moscow to his friend, French actor Lucien Guitry. In part (translated):

"Is it presumptuous on my part to have imagined that it was on my behalf that you wish to come, or did you tell me? Or in the haste of leaving, did I simply misunderstand you? I do now know, but one thing is certain, and that is I would be most happy to have the honor of welcoming you to our second capital, but to my regret I am forced to go, any day now, to the southern part of Russia as my opera *Mazeppa* is to be presented at Odessa, and it is absolutely necessary for me that I be there at the rehearsals.... Sometime after this I must also make a trip to Kiev.... Do not forget me, believe in my unshakable friendship and admiration for your great and beautiful talent...."

Guitry (1860-1925), then working at the Theatre St. Michel in St. Petersburg, later convinced Tchaikovsky to compose his literary-themed *Hamlet Overture-Fantasy* (1888) and incidental music for Shakespeare's play (1891). Tchaikovsky completed his opera *Mazeppa*, based on Pushkin's poem "Poltava," in 1883, and it was premiered at the Bolshoi Theatre early in the following year. Among the works Tchaikovsky completed in the year he penned the present letter was his programmatic "Manfred" Symphony, based on Byron's poem "Lord Byron." Not counted among Tchaikovsky's numbered symphonies, "Manfred" falls chronologically between the Fourth and Fifth. Light toning (slightly more prominent at edges), light intersecting folds (very lightly touching signature), a few subtle wrinkles, and faint show-through of ink, otherwise fine condition. The writing is dark and clear throughout. A notable association with one of the composer's closest friends and one of his greatest stage works!

*Der Brief ist offenbar nicht in ČPSS veröffentlicht.*

3. *Brief (russisch) an Ekaterina Laroš vom 19. Januar 1893*

Item 896 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Catalog 343 (March 2009)  
Minimum Bid: \$1,000.00  
Sold Price: \$13,045.20 (With Buyer's Premium)

ALS in Russian, four pages on two adjoining sheets, 5.25 x 6.75, January 19, 1893. Tchaikovsky writes to Ekaterina Laroche. In part (translated):

"I received [your letter] a week ago, upon my arrival in Brussels, and since then, partly out of laziness and partly because of lack of time, I have not been able to express in a letter my gratitude for yours. But there is another reason that paralyzes my desire to write to close friends. All this time I have been in a kind of mood of repulsion, going through a kind of moral crisis from which I shall either emerge victorious, that is, with new strength and a new desire to put pen to paper, or defeated, that is, I shall retire and begin to live very modestly, quietly living out the remainder of my life. This miserable state of mind causes me to whimper most stupidly in my letter, and since it is most boring to read whimpers, I am writing very few letters. My Brussels concert was a great success, but I was most improbably bored there and had to fight the desire to spit and flee. The next morning, that is, three days ago, I arrived in Paris, here I have carefully tried to remain incognito. It has been an unsuccessful effort, and I am now overwhelmed partly by the natives and partly by my compatriots.... I have vowed to myself that I shall never go abroad again except as a tourist, and absolutely with someone near and dear to me. I hope all is well, and that our big boy [the recipient's husband] is doing well. If you see Anna Petrovna, tell her that I shall write to her from Odessa. I'm not writing to her separately today because I'm longing to whimper, and can barely restrain myself. I kiss your hands...."

The recipient was the third wife of Tchaikovsky's close friend, the critic and teacher Herman Laroche, whom he had met at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. At the time of writing, Tchaikovsky had just arrived in Paris from Brussels, where he had conducted a concert of his own works to great acclaim. After a trip to Odessa, where he conducted a series of concerts of his works and had his portrait painted, he made his way to Klin. There, from February 4 to February 9, he sketched the first movement of perhaps his best-known and most characteristic work, the Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique"). Accompanied by the original mailing envelope. Very mild handling wear, otherwise fine, clean condition.

*Der Brief vom 7. / 19. Januar 1893 aus Paris ist unter der Nummer 4845 in ČPSS veröffentlicht.*

#### 4. Photographie, signiert und beschriftet (russisch)

Item 779 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Catalog 312 (August 2006)

Minimum Bid: \$500.00  
Sold Price: \$1,705.27 (With Buyer's Premium)

Uncommon 4.25 x 6 cabinet photo, signed and inscribed (in Russian) in ink in the lower part of the image. In fair condition, with toning and soiling, trimming to edges and corners, large loss to one corner (affecting background only), another corner detached but present (affecting a few words), and scattered irregularity to ink flow and adhesion, the writing still remaining generally clear and fully legible.

#### 5. Brief (französisch) vom 23. Juli 1892

Item 865 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Catalog 310 (June 2006)

Minimum Bid: \$900.00  
Sold Price: \$5,969.04 (With Buyer's Premium)

ALS in French, signed "P. Tchaikovsky," one page, 4.5 x 7, July 23, 1892. In full,

"Dear and very respected Sir! Would you please be kind enough to start again checking 'La Courtisane' for which I am impatiently awaiting the 2nd and 3rd act. Thanking you in advance, warm greetings."

There is a notation in another hand, on the reverse of the second integral page, "Tchaikovsky Kline near Moscow Russia Write Detroyat." This letter may or may not have an association to Oscar Wilde, another well-known celebrity of the time. Wilde's unfinished play La Sainte Courtisane is perhaps the work that Tchaikovsky is referencing in this letter. In fine condition, with a bisecting horizontal fold and a light shade of toning.

*Der Brief gehört in den Kontext von Čajkovskijs Plan einer französischsprachigen Oper für Paris, den er in den Jahren 1888-1891 mit den Pariser Librettisten Pierre-Léonce Détoyat und Louis Gallet diskutiert hat, und offenbar auch noch später, wie der oben zitierte Brief zeigt. Vgl. dazu im einzelnen den Beitrag "Paris vaut bien une messe! Bisher unbekannt Briefe, Notenaufnahme und andere Čajkovskij-Funde" von Th. Kohlhasse, in: ČSt 3, und zwar speziell S. 234-258. Eines der in Aussicht genommenen Sujets war "Sadia ou la Courtisane" (nach Goethe), siehe ebenda, S. 237 f., 240, 251, 254-258 und 297.*

*Der Brief ist nicht in ČPSS veröffentlicht.*

#### 6. Brief (russisch), offenbar undatiert und an eine nicht identifizierte Person [German A. Laroš]

Item 1481 - Piotr Tchaikovsky Catalog 296 (April 2005)

Minimum Bid: \$2,500.00  
Sold Price: \$5,184.27 (With Buyer's Premium)

Rare ALS in Russian, signed "Tchaikovsky," four pages on both sides on two adjoining 6 x 4 sheets. In full,

"Dear Maniac, Modia wrote that you have cockroaches. Why don't you come and stay a few days with me? That would be wonderful. If you come bring with you some issues of 'Russia Olozrenie,' to begin with the one of March (I have two former ones from you, but they are my security). In any case, come and stay with me among the woodcutters of Frolovskoe. Reply in a few words. If it is possible that Katou comes with you, I will be very glad. I kiss you my dear comrade."

Tchaikovsky's postscript reads,

"If you don't come ask the pretty Pole if she puts in gummed bands. The models of 'Russia Olozrenie,' send them here. I dream of going myself to Petersburg as the end of March but I abstain because of bad material circumstances."

The magazine Tchaikovsky is referring to is a magazine dedicated to Russian life including arts and leisure. Accompanied by the original mailing envelope, addressed in Tchaikovsky's hand. The letter and the envelope are matted and framed with a photo of Tchaikovsky, to an overall size of 16.5 x 23. Lower portion of the display bears the letter on a hinged frame, so both sides are able to be viewed, with a translation of the letter inside. In fine condition, with some scattered mild toning.

*Der im englischen Text genannte und offenbar verlesene "comrade Maniac" (sic) dürfte Čajkovskijs ehemaliger Kommilitone am St. Petersburger Konservatorium German Laroš sein, der "Manja" genannt wurde. Und bei der im Postscriptum genannten Person handelt es sich um seine (dritte) Ehefrau Ekaterina Ivanovna, an die Brief Nr. 3 gerichtet ist.*

#### 7. Programmblatt (Dornröschen), signiert und beschriftet (russisch)

Item 818 - Peter Tchaikovsky Catalog 265 (September 2002)

Minimum Bid: \$2,500.00  
Sold Price: \$5,482.62 (With Buyer's Premium)

Program cover, 7.25 x 10, from his ballet, Sleeping Beauty (La Belle au bois Dormant), featuring an image from the story, signed and inscribed in fountain pen, in Cyrillic, in the top right corner,

'To dear Sasha, in memory, P. Tchaikovsky.'

In fine condition, with a few light creases.

*Terminus post quem für das signierte Programmblatt ist natürlich die Uraufführung des "Dornröschen"-Balletts am 3. Januar 1890.*

## 8. Widmungsexemplar des Klavierauszugs der Oper "Mazepa"

Item 593 - Piotr Tchaikovsky Catalog 260 (April 2001)

Minimum Bid: \$3,000.00

Sold Price: \$4,600.00 (With Buyer's Premium)

Hardcover score, 8 x 11, 277 pages, Russian text. Exceedingly rare signed musical score for his sixth opera Mazepa, a dramatic work written by the composer in 1886. The entire score with lyrics is printed, bound with a colorful, gilt text page. On the page listing the cast and music, he writes in dark brown ink (in Russian):

'To my dear friend Batasch from your old friend P. Tchaikovsky, Moscow 20 Feb. 18(?).'

Light foxing stains, otherwise very good condition; writing on inscription extends slightly beyond the borders of the page; the signature is large, dark, and nice.

*Da uns keine Kopie der originalen Widmung vorliegt, kennen wir die russische Namensform nicht. "Batasch" kann eigentlich nur aus dem entsprechenden Fall von "Bataša" verlesen sein. So wurde von ihren Freunden die Pianistin Aleksandra Ivanovna Gubert (Hubert) genannt, die Frau des ebenfalls mit Čajkovskij befreundeten Nikolaj A. Gubert (Hubert), einem seiner ehemaligen Kommilitonen am Petersburger Konservatorium, seit 1870 Professor für Musiktheorie und 1881-1883 Direktor des Moskauer Konservatoriums. Aleksandra I. Gubert unterrichtete 1874-1883 ebenfalls dort und war 1889-1914 Inspektorin des Konservatoriums. Čajkovskij war Frau Hubert freundschaftlich verbunden und zu Dank verpflichtet, nicht zuletzt, weil sie von einigen seiner Werke Klavierauszüge angefertigt hatte. Ihr Potpourri aus der Oper "Mazepa" für Klavier zu vier Händen erschien 1885 im Verlag P. I. Jurgenson. Den Klavierauszug der Oper hatte Čajkovskij selbst geschrieben; die Erstausgabe war 1883 im selben Verlag erschienen. (Freigabe durch die Zensurbehörde: 27. Juli 1883.)*

*Das im oben zitierten Kommentar genannte Kompositionsjahr 1886 ist falsch. Entstanden ist die Oper von Juni 1881 bis April 1883.*

*Ein anderes Widmungsexemplar der Erstausgabe des Klavierauszugs von "Mazepa" aus dem Jahre 1883 wird von J & J Lubrano Music Antiquarians LLC für \$ 6.050 (4.230 Euro) angeboten. "With a signed autograph presentation inscription in ink in Russian to head of cast/contents page: 'To my dear Tatyana from an old friend [--] Tchaikovsky, Moscow [18]84. Mit Tat'jana, heißt es, sei Čajkovskijs Nichte Tat'jana Davydova gemeint. Nach: www.biblio.com/details.php?dcx=252143677&aid=aa&t=1*

## 9. Brief (russisch) vom 10. Februar 1887 an Marija Nikolaevna [Ermolova]

Item 624 - Peter Tchaikovsky Catalog 244 (December 2000)

Minimum Bid: \$3,500.00

Sold Price: \$5,060.00 (With Buyer's Premium)

Rare letter mentioning his opera Sorceress

ALS in Russian, signed 'P. Tchaikovsky,' on a 5 x 3.5 card, both sides, February 10, 1887. Note to Maria Nikolaevna [Ermolova], in full:

'I apologize that I could not keep my promise to come to listen to you. I have to spend a few more days working. Forgive me! Believe me, I would love very, very much to come, but the wise thing to do is to sit at home and finish my work on the opera 'Sorceress.' Kissing your hand, P. Tchaikovsky.'

In fine condition. The year 1887 was when Tchaikovsky first performed in public, in Moscow, and indeed, this was the year when he finished his opera, Sorceress.

*Der Brief ist nicht in ČPSS veröffentlicht. Er wendet sich an eine von Čajkovskij geschätzte Schauspielerin des Malj teatr in Moskau: Marija Nikolaevna Ermolova, verheiratete Šubinskaja (1853-1928). Zum Beispiel rühmt er sie in einem Brief an die Sängerin Ėmilija Pavlovskaja vom 25. Oktober 1888 in einer Rolle eines neuen Stücks des Dramatikers Ippolit Spažinskij, Autor der Tragödie "Čarodejka" (Die Zauberin) und des Librettos zu Čajkovskijs gleichnamiger Oper (1885-1887).*

## 10. Brief (französisch) vom 16. März 1889 [an Félix Mackar?]

Item 680 - Peter Tchaikovsky Catalog 254 (Oct 2000)

Minimum Bid: \$2,000.00

Sold Price: \$2,300.00 (With Buyer's Premium)

Rare and desirable ALS signed 'P. Tschaikowsky,' one page, 4.5 x 7, embossed personal letterhead, March 16, 1889. Untranslated letter, in French, to a friend. Tchaikovsky encloses a photograph and sends greetings to his friend's wife as well. In fine condition, with light edge toning, small tear to right edge affecting none of the text and a bisecting horizontal mailing fold.

*Der Brief ist nicht in ČPSS veröffentlicht. Bei dem als Freund bezeichneten französischen Adressaten, dem Čajkovskij 1889 eine signierte Photographie schickt und dessen Frau er grüßen läßt, wird es sich wahrscheinlich um seinen Pariser Verleger Félix Mackar handeln.*

## 11. Photographie, signiert 1890

Item 539 - Piotr Tchaikovsky Catalog 209 (January 1998)

Minimum Bid: \$3,000.00

Sold Price: \$4,427.50 (With Buyer's Premium)

Rare sepia 4.25 x 6.5 cabinet portrait by Pasetti of St. Petersburg, signed in Russian and dated 1890. In fine condition, with a pin hole and several marginal creases and cracks, not significantly affecting the image area or the signature itself. A strong signature and a fabulous image of this highly desirable composer!

*Aus dem Atelier von Pasetti, Petersburg, gibt es vier verschiedene Portraitphotographien Čajkovskijs von Ende 1889 / Anfang 1890, reproduziert und katalogisiert in: Album 2005, Nr. 78-81 (S. 116-120), Katalog: S. 211-213.*

## 12. Brief (russisch) an Édouard F. Napravnik vom 18. September 1880

Item 1293 - Piotr Tchaikovsky Catalog 191 (July 1996)

Minimum Bid: \$3,100.00

Sold Price: \$4,600.00 (With Buyer's Premium)

Rare ALS in Russian, six pages (both sides of three sheets), 6 x 4, September 18, 1880, from Kamenka. The letter is signed 'P. Tchaikovsky' in Russian to his friend Eduard Frantsevich:

'This morning I received your letter and right away set about making alterations, required by the censorship, than I hurried to send the results of my work to Gennady Petrovich. I am very sorry, that they insist on turning the Archbishop into a Wandered, and I am going to ask Jurgenson to go to Petersburg to solicit for allowing me to name this character Cardinal. If there is a Cardinal in La Juif, why not allow him into the Maid of Orleans as well? As to the banning of crucifixes, I had to shorten the final scene because of that. Capriccio Italien as an arrangement for four hands has already been finished, meanwhile it is also being printed as a score and solos and will be ready by November 1...As for the Symphony No. 2, I have to warn you that Mr. Bessel is not likely to live up to his promise to print the scores and solos in the current season; at least, I still have not received the proofs...I am quite sorry that I had dealings with this unscrupulous dealer. Meanwhile, it is impossible to perform Symphony No. 2 other than in its new form, because I destroyed the old score...I thank you, dear Friend, for including my two pieces into the program. This makes me extremely happy...I will keep you posted about my address, so that you could always summon me to Petersburg. From the bottom of my heart I wish you health and strength to cope with your work.'

The Maid of Orleans was a Tchaikovsky opera that debuted in 1881. His Symphony Number 2 debuted in 1873, so it is very interesting to read how he destroyed the old score. The letter is in fine condition, with a light vertical fold in the center and slight toning to the edges. All writing is dark and legible. Accompanied by a complete English translation.

*Der Brief ist nicht in ČPSS veröffentlicht. Die erwähnte Oper, in der ein Kardinal vorkommt, ist "La Juive" (russisch: Židovka" = Die Jüdin) von Halévy. Und die Ankündigung, seinen Verleger Jurgenson zu bitten, mit der Zensurbehörde über die von ihr geforderte Umbenennung des "Erzbischofs" in der "Jungfrau von Orleans" in einen "Pilger" (russisch "strannik") zu sprechen und stattdessen "Kardinal" vorzuschlagen, wie er auch in der Oper "La Juive" akzeptiert worden sei, macht Čajkovskij noch am selben Tag wahr; siehe seinen Brief an Jurgenson vom 18. September 1880 in: ČPSS IX, Nr. 1596, S. 278 f.*

R. de V. / Th. K.