



RUSSIA, ROYALTY AND THE ROMANOVS QUEENS GALLERY

TUESDAY 29 JANUARY

In a famous photograph, arm in arm, George V and Tsar Nicholas II present themselves and their moustaches to the camera. They were first cousins, and they look almost identical twins. This exhibition explores relationships between Britain and Russia and their royal families, through war, alliance and dynastic marriage, from Peter the Great's visit to London in 1698 through to Nicholas II. Unique portraits, sculpture, photographs, archival documents and miniature masterpieces by Fabergé illustrate historic events and family meetings between the rulers of the two nations, and bring to life the shared patronage of artists and craftsmen from both countries.

The Queens Gallery is also showing the extraordinary pioneering photographs of the Crimean War, taken by Roger Fenton in 1855. Fenton was already an accomplished and respected photographer when he was sent by the publishers Agnew's to photograph a war that pitched Britain, France and Turkey as allies against Russia. Arriving several months after the major battles were fought in 1854, Fenton focused on creating moving portraits of the troops, as well as capturing the stark, empty battlefields on which so many lost their lives. Published in contemporary newspaper reports, Fenton's photographs showed the impact of war to the general public for the first time. Through his often subtle and poetic interpretations Fenton created the genre of war photography, showing his extraordinary genius in capturing the futility of war.

Exhibition study days begin with a lecture in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lecture begins at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. We then travel to the relevant gallery for the exhibition, and end after a brief discussion at about 4.15 pm.

£81 INSCAPE members, £91 non-members. Your family, friends and neighbours who have not previously attended an Inscape lecture are most welcome to be our guests.