

Russian Folk Art Displays at The Center

Spring 2010

“A Russian Tea Table”



Our first exhibit, “A Russian Tea Table,” was up from April 26 to May 24.

Close-up of the Table



Tea was introduced to Russia in the 1600's and immediately became a favorite drink. The tea table became the center of family life, and the primary way of entertaining guests. The towels hanging at the top give the days of the week, in order, from Monday to Sunday. (In Europe and Russia, the week starts with Monday.)

“Russian Arts and Crafts”



Our second exhibit, featuring fine art, crafts, costumes, icons and other decorative arts ran from May 25 to June 29.

Woven Birch Bark Crafts



Russia has an almost endless supply of birch trees. For centuries, thrifty Russians have used birch bark to make almost everything from toys to shoes, and painters who can't afford canvas often paint on birch bark instead. The birch bark items displayed here are baskets, shoes, a book cover, an eyeglasses case, a mirror case, salt and pepper shakers, and flowers.

Painted Boxes and Miniatures



Painted and lacquered boxes and miniatures from Russia are known all over the world. The craft actually came to Russia from the West in the 1600's, but reached new heights there and is still very popular.

Nesting Dolls



Matryoshki, or nesting dolls, are the most easily recognized and popular Russian souvenir. They are not just “mother dolls” anymore, but are now painted as animals, Santas, and even political figures. This craft originated about 100 years ago.

Конец

(The End)