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AND MUSEUM  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

# Presentation Countdown





NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES



Folk art

→ Factory →

Fine art

# Russian History through Matryoshka Dolls

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Clinton Presidential Library and Museum

# Why Matryoshka Dolls?



- I started collecting nesting dolls in 1992, the year President Clinton was elected to his first term.
- The aesthetic evolution of Matryoshka dolls reflects Russian history from the late Imperial Period to today.
- My presentation last year was on the relationship between President Clinton and President Yeltsin.

# The First Nesting Doll



Nesting boxes  
(China 1000) and  
nesting dolls (Japan  
- Fukuruma and  
Kokeshi 1600)  
existed before  
Russian Matryoshka.

# Folk Art 1890s

- 1920s

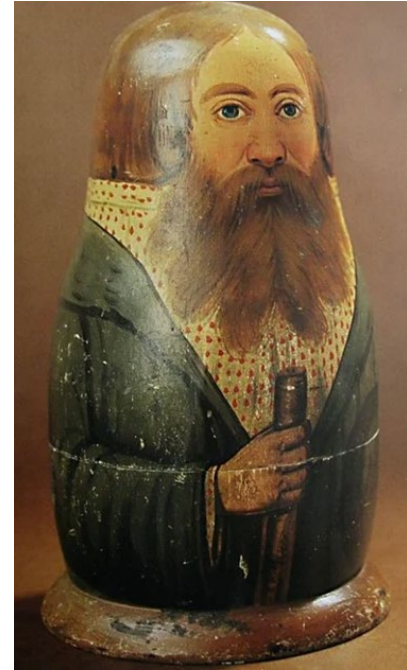


Abramtsevo estate,  
small village north of  
Moscow, an artist  
colony known in the  
19th century for  
fostering the revival of  
Russian folk art and  
traditional crafts.



# Folk Art 1890s - 1920s

Abramtsevo artists—particularly Sergey Malyutin and Vasily Petrovich Zvyozdochkin—crafted the first *matryoshka* doll in 1890. Malyutin sketched the doll's outline and contracted with a woodturner to carve the doll's wooden husk. With a lathe and chisel, Zvyozdochkin created the first blank matryoshka dolls from soft linden wood. Afterward, Malyutin hand-painted the unfinished Russian nesting dolls.



# Folk Art 1890s - 1920s



# Folk Art 1890s - 1920s





# Folk Art 1890s

# - 1920s



# Factories 1920s - 1990s





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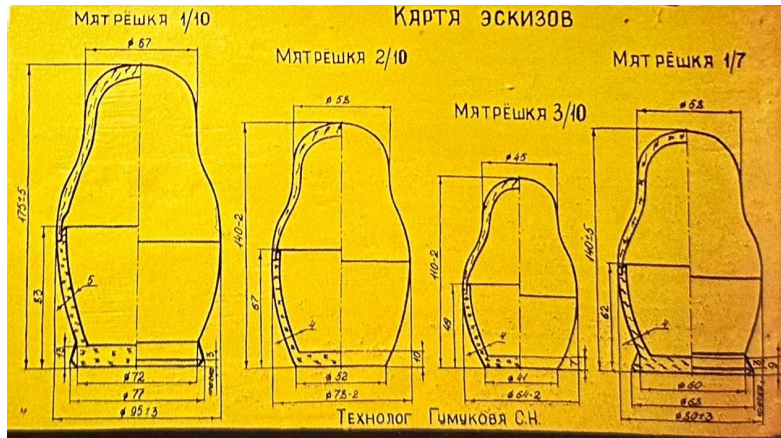


# Factories 1920s - 1990s



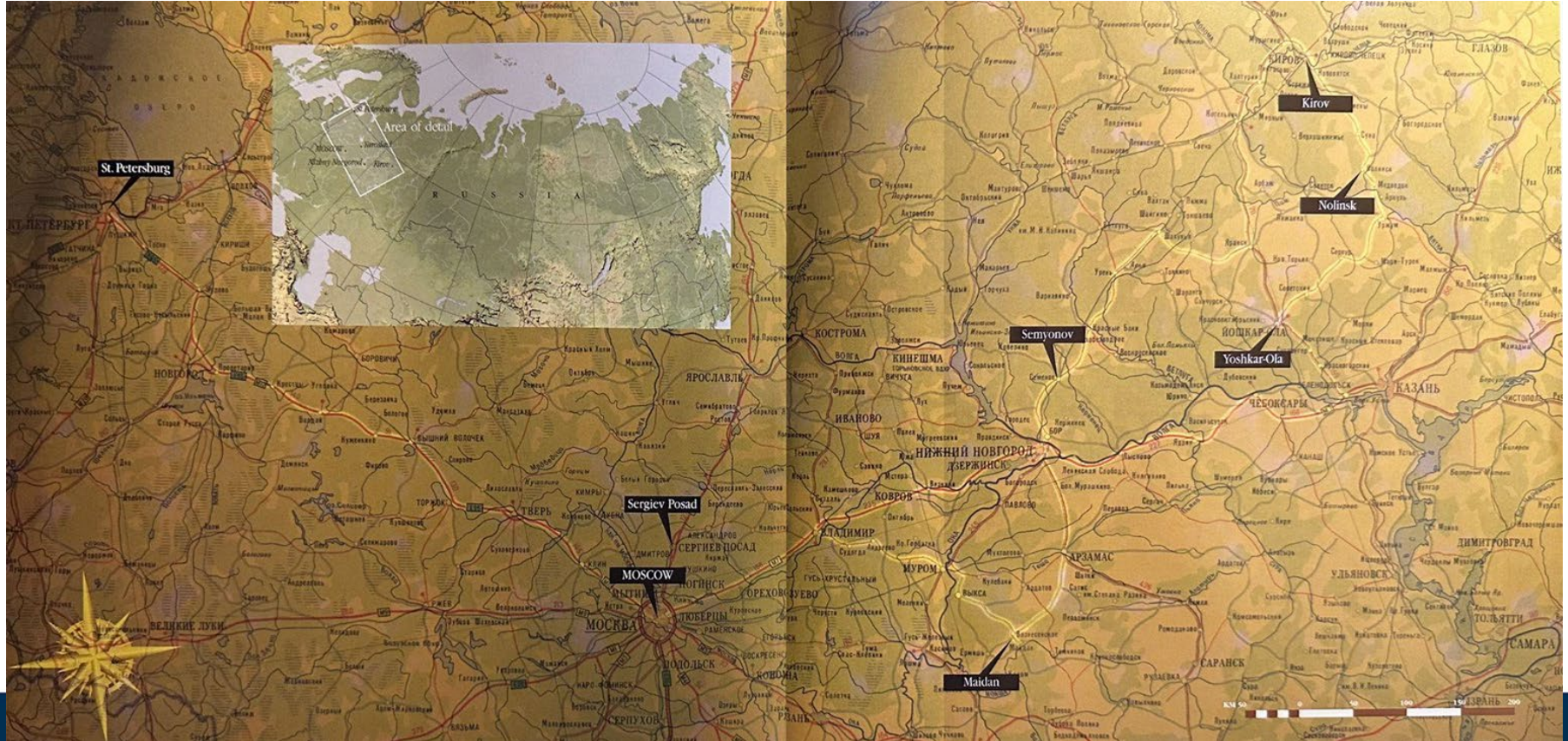


# Factories 1920s - 1990s





# Regional Dolls



# Matching Matryoshkas

- Divide into fourteen teams (3-4 to a team)
- Each team will receive a card with either an image of a Matryoshka or a description of a regional style
- Teams need to find the matching doll or description for their card, without showing their card to anyone on another team.
- Present your match to the the judge (Kathleen) to determine if you are correct.
- The first pair of teams to successfully match wins.





# Zagorsk/Sergiev Posad



- Muted colors
- Painted with gouache including flesh tones of face and hands
- Light brown hair on largest doll, sometimes black hair on smaller dolls
- Simple babushka in red, green, blue, orange, and yellow
- Tiny red heart shaped mouth
- Apron may plain or decorated with simple dots
- Largest doll may have one arm up and other at her side



# Semenov (Semyonov)



- Bright & vibrant - typically red with a yellow babushka
- Natural wood for skin tone
- Black hair
- Two small black dots indicate nose
- Pink mouth and cheeks
- Bouquet of flowers on apron, usually red

# Polkov Maiden



- Bright & vibrant
- Rendered with aniline dyes and black india ink
- Natural wood for skin tone
- Black curly hair
- Two small black dots indicate nose
- Pink mouth and cheeks
- Bouquet of flowers on apron, usually pink, blue, and yellow
- Often dolls have no arms

# Kirov, Vyatka (Viatka), Nolinsk



- Bright & vibrant - typically yellow, red, or purple
- Natural wood for skin tone
- Red (orange) hair
- Two small black dots indicate nose
- Pink mouth and cheeks, with thin black line separating the lips
- Bouquet of flowers on apron
- Smaller dolls sometimes have polka dots on body or babushka

# Kirov, Vyatka (Viatka), Nolinsk



- Bright & vibrant - typically yellow, red, or purple
- Natural wood for skin tone
- Red (orange) hair
- Two small black dots indicate nose
- Pink mouth and cheeks, with thin black line separating the lips
- Decorated with fine cut pieces of straw



# Kalinin



- Natural wood for skin tone for face and hands
- Blonde hair, blue eyes
- Decorated with poker work - brown, wood burned grooves

# Yoshkar Ola (Yoscar Ola)



- Yellow, green, or blue babushkas
- Natural wood for skin tone for face and hands
- Black hair, black eyes
- Geometric designs on apron, often in red

# Soviet Union/Communist Bloc



- Belarus  
(Brest Region)
- Traditional
  - Black
  - Lacquered
  - Pastel

# Soviet Union/Communist Bloc



Above Ukraine, Right

Poland



# Fine Art 1990s Today



# Politics and Pop Culture





# President Clinton



This set of nesting dolls of world leaders includes, in decreasing size, Clinton, George H. W. Bush, Yeltsin, Gorbachev, Kohl, Major, Thatcher, Mitterrand, and Hussein.



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# Clinton Presidential Library



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# Clinton Presidential Library



- Little Rock, Arkansas
- 80+ million pages written materials
- 100,000+ museum objects/artifacts
- 2.6 million photographs
- 18,300 audio and video recordings

**Left:** Exhibits on second and third floor of the Clinton Presidential Library.



# Education Resources

## [clintonlibrary.gov/education](https://clintonlibrary.gov/education)

### ★ Online Educational Programs

Pre-K- 2nd grade: [clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/pre-k-second-grades](https://clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/pre-k-second-grades)

3rd - 5th grade: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/third-fifth-grades](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/third-fifth-grades)

6th - 8th grade: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/sixth-eighth-grades](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/sixth-eighth-grades)

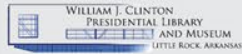
9th - 12th grade: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/ninth-twelfth-grades](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/ninth-twelfth-grades)

★ Civics for All of US: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/)

★ The Powers of the Presidency: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/powers-presidency](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/powers-presidency)

★ Lesson Plans and Activities: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/lesson-plans-and-activities](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/lesson-plans-and-activities)

★ Teacher Workshops: [www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teacher-workshops](https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teacher-workshops)



# Clinton Digital Library

## [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us)

- ★ Daily Schedules
  - President - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/collections/show/39](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/collections/show/39)
  - First Lady - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/collections/show/33](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/collections/show/33)
- ★ Topical Research Guides - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/topics-guides](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/topics-guides)
- ★ Digital Library Exhibits - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/exhibits](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/exhibits)
- ★ Presidential Travel Schedule - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/travel-schedule](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/travel-schedule)
- ★ Meetings and Calls with Foreign Leaders - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/foreign-leaders-meetings-calls](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/foreign-leaders-meetings-calls)
- ★ Memcons and Telcons - [clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/memcons-telcons](https://clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/memcons-telcons)



# Clinton Digital Library



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The **Clinton Digital Library** is a virtual research room and digital repository that provides free and open access to the digitized collections of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library & Museum to everyone, anywhere in the world. Whether you are a lover of history, a student working on a school project, or a scholar, the Clinton Digital Library allows you to keyword search for archival documents, videos, audio recordings, and photographs and to search, browse, and view whole files, just as you could if you came to the Library's research room in-person.

[Learn more...](#)

### President Clinton's Daily Schedule



The daily schedules of President Clinton document meetings, trips, speaking engagements and social activities for the eight years of the Clinton...

- 2 million pages of archival documents
- 400 audio recordings, photographs and streaming videos
- 8 Digital Library Exhibits, 7 Topical Research Guides
- [Clinton Library YouTube](#)
- Clinton Library [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), & [Twitter](#)

Left: [Clinton Digital Library homepage](#)



# Questions? Contact Us

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# The End

