

**RUSSIAN PICTURES
DRAWN WITH
PEN AND PENCIL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649696666

Russian Pictures Drawn with Pen and Pencil by Thomas Michell

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THOMAS MICHELL

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PEN AND PENCIL**



THE FORTRESS AND CATHEDRAL OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, ST. PETERSBURG.

RUSSIAN PICTURES

Drawn with Pen and Pencil

BY

THOMAS MICHELL, C.B.

AUTHOR OF 'MURRAY'S HANDBOOK FOR RUSSIA, POLAND, AND FINLAND,' 'THE SCOTTISH EXPEDITION
TO NORWAY IN 1612,' ETC.

WITH THREE MAPS AND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS

NEW YORK

THOMAS NELSON AND SONS

No. 33 EAST SEVENTEENTH STREET (UNION SQUARE).

LONDON

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

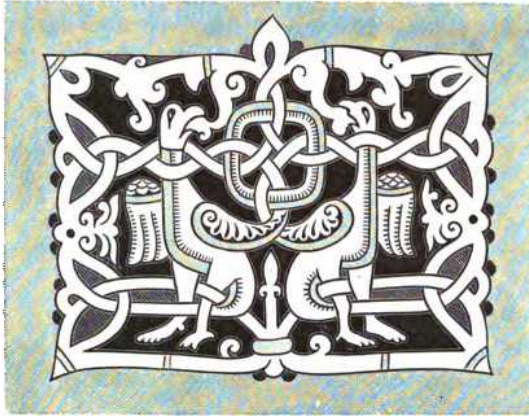
56 PATERNOSTER ROW AND 164 PICCADILLY

1889

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, Limited,
STAMFORD STREET AND CHANCERY CROSS.



AN ILLUMINATION FROM A MS. OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY, IN THE IMPERIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, ST. PETERSBURG.

PREFACE.

THE object of this volume is to represent graphically the salient features of the Russian Empire and its inhabitants. Readers of the previous volumes of the 'Pen and Pencil Series' will remember that their contents are uniformly limited, and, be the country dealt with large or small, the number of pages is the same. Indulgence must, therefore, be claimed for the unavoidably incomplete character of a work that attempts to sketch by the aid of both pen and pencil the lands and peoples embraced in so vast an area as that which stretches from Poland to Kamchatka, and from the Arctic Ocean to the 'frosty Caucasus.'

The execution of this task has been facilitated by the generous permission of Mr. John Murray to draw upon the information contained in the *Handbook for Travellers in Russia, Poland, and Finland*. The thanks of the author are also due in a special degree to Captain J. Buchan Telfer, R.N., for his friendly contribution of a chapter on the Crimea and Caucasus, on which he is a high and well-known authority.

The ancient illuminations that head the chapters of this volume have been copied from M. Boutoffsky's *Ornement Russe*. It will be seen that their purely Byzantine character was preserved through the tenth century

and for a good part of the next, while at the end of the eleventh century the Byzantine style began to be mingled in Russia with elements of native genius, which was gradually much influenced by the art of India and Persia.

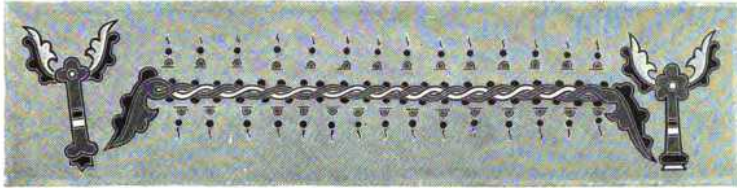
Russia received its first strong impulse from Peter the Great, at a time when the printing press was already an active force, when the wall that had surrounded 'Muscovia' had been considerably breached, and when inter-communication with the rest of Europe, by sea and by land, had become comparatively easy and free from danger. It is therefore as in a glass hive that the Russian bees have ever since been toiling under the guidance of gifted and ambitious rulers to build up the colossal fabric we view to-day with an amazement which is not unmingled with disquietude, when only the area of the modern Russian Empire presents itself for consideration.

The foreign criticism and animadversion to which Russia has been liable since the days, more especially of its great Reformer, have not been produced by racial or religious prejudice. They have been the natural consequence of the great position which Russia acquired so late in her political life, in the eyes and under the keen observation of states that had long been more or less solidified and advanced in the spirit and the form of their civilization and government.

Hence, so far from being a *terra incognita*, Russia, especially that part situated in Europe, has been the subject of such numerous literary productions that it is well nigh impossible to say, or to depict, anything by pen and pencil that will not appear to a large class of readers to be more or less a *réchauffé* of other travellers' notes and artistic labours. Nevertheless, the hope is not forbidden that the book produced in these circumstances may not only please the eye of the reader into whose hands it falls, but also, by giving him accurate, if somewhat scanty, information about the history, peoples, lands, and cities of Russia in both Europe and Asia, add something to the interest he may already take in the subject.

In short, the work may be introduced to its readers somewhat appropriately in the words of an English writer at the end of the seventeenth century: ' 'Tis true, this relation will not afford the same variety of beautiful structures, gardens, statues, and other niceties as that of Italy; nevertheless, the more remote the manners, religion, and policy of the Muscovites are from other nations of Europe, the more abstruse their history and surprising in the event, among a nation guided for the most part merely by instinct, and consequently hurried on from one extreme to another, the more, I say, they may deserve our particular observation at this juncture of time.'

¹ Dedication to *The Antient and Present State of Muscovy*. By Dr. J. Crull. London, 1698.



BYZANTINE ORNAMENTATION OF THE TENTH-ELEVENTH CENTURY, FROM A MANUSCRIPT IN THE LIBRARY OF THE SYNOD, MOSCOW.

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