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## Architecture: Two new publications

by Daniel Waugh

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[Leonid Andreevich Beliaev; Tat'iana Rashidovna Panova]. *Dvorets Tsaria Alekseia Mikhailovicha XVII veka. Istoriko-khudozhestvennaia rekonstruktsiia. 2-e izd., pererab. i dop.* Moskva, 2013. 56 pp. (At head of title: Moskovskii gos. ob"edinennyi khudozhestvennyi istoriko-arkhitekturnyi i prirodno-landshaftnyi muzei-zapovednik Komomenskoe—Izmailovo—Lefortovo—Liubaino.) ISBN 978-5-91-353-024-0

For those like me who had missed the first edition of this large-format, glossy popular publication and the fact that a significant portion of the famous Kolomenskoe palace of Aleksei Mikhailovich has risen phoenix-like from its remains, this book will be valuable. After a brief introduction to the history of the original building, it moves through the reconstructed building, with commentary on each of its most important rooms and lavish color photographs of interiors and details of decoration, furniture, etc. We are assured that the most careful study of all possible documentation underlay the reconstruction; the furnishings, where possible, are all period originals assembled from various collections. My memories of Kolomenskoe date back to the days before one could even visit a few rooms in the museum, the site noted for the transplanted wooden buildings (importantly, a tower of the Bratsk fort and the gate tower of the St. Nicholas Korelskii Monastery), the view of the river from next to the remarkable Church of the Ascension, and the opportunity to wander through the overgrown cemetery around the odd-looking D'iakovo Church of the Decapitation of John the Baptist. I assume the reconstruction of the palace was but one of a series of projects (the controversial "completion" and restoration at Tsaritsyno and reconstruction of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior being others) to recreate the Russian past in ways that would enable the authorities to proclaim their cultural patronage on a lavish scale rivaling that of their tsarist predecessors. Now that I have seen this book, I hope once again to visit Kolomenskoe, curious to learn whether the replica will effectively evoke a sense of the long-lost original.

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M[ikhail] I[saeovich] Mil'chik. *Gorod Kholmogor byl mnogoliuden i znamenit... Ocherk gradostroitel'noi i arkhitekturnoi istorii. Graficheskie rekonstruktsii i dokumenty.* Sankt-Peterburg: "Liki Rossii", 2013. 360 pp. + ill. ISBN 978-5-87417-439-2

Author and publisher deserve kudos for this wonderful volume, which will be essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the Russian North. The author is a prolific specialist on the architecture of the Russian north, who has mined archival sources for old drawings and photographs and for the documentary record of early construction and renovations. While

Kholmogor(y) in Muscovite times was the administrative and ecclesiastical center of the huge northern Dvina region, in the 18th century it was eclipsed by Arkhangel'sk, its population declined, and today it is but an overgrown village with few of its early buildings left. There has been restoration on the former residence of the archbishop (1692-95), but the adjoining cathedral (1685-91) awaits its renewal.

In recovering the history of its architecture, Mil'chik offers abundant illustration from archival photographs (and his own of recent years), old plans and drawings. He brings in analogies with examples of contemporary buildings that have survived elsewhere. One of the key pieces of documentation here is an unpublished and as yet too little studied atlas of Arkhangel'sk *guberniia* compiled in 1797. In an appendix, the author reprints his article on the history of this remarkable atlas, first published three decades ago in *Izvestiia Vsesoiuznogo geograficheskogo obshchestva*. The atlas was drawn up by military surveyors and draftsmen in a matter of months and captures many of the northern towns at a time when much of their wooden architecture (now gone) was still intact.

Over 100 pages of the book contain previously unpublished archival documents, many of them of broad interest, e.g., inventories of the main cathedral and the archbishop's residence, the cadastres of 1710, a 1785 inventory of trades and crafts, and the relevant parts of the descriptive text from the atlas of 1797. A glossary explains now obscure terms found in the collection.

Another appendix reprints recent articles by E.I. Ruzhnikova and E.P. Bronnikova, and adds Mil'chik's supplement to their study of what is known about the portraits of Archbishop Afanasii of Kholmogory. Since one of the famous local crafts of the town was the production of painted wooden chests, N. N. Goncharova's article on them, published here for the first time, makes for interesting reading.

The numerous illustrations—b/w, sepia and color—are first-rate and include fold-out panoramas from the 1797 atlas as well as close-ups of specific sections from those watercolors.