

# The Summer Palaces of the Romanovs: Treasures from Tsarskoye Selo

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**From Thames Hudson : The Summer Palaces of the Romanovs: Treasures from Tsarskoye Selo** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Summer Palaces of the Romanovs: Treasures from Tsarskoye Selo:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Gem. On Tsarskoye Selo- (Pushkin) Suffered severe War Damage. Focus on Decorative Arts Superb Colour Photos By Dr This is a very beautiful book that is very well presented with excellent production values. It deals with Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin) alone. The Editor Emmanuel Ducamp has been associated with some of the very best material related to Romanov Palaces. He is always well worth considering if one is looking for a book on this subject. The focus of the book is on a large number of very high quality photographs with accompanying text. It will more appeal to those with an interest in the decorative arts or to those of a scholarly bent. Personally I think it has much wider appeal. It will also appeal to those who linger over objects in museums and who move slowly through country houses. The focus of the book is best seen in listing the table of contents and page numbers. It becomes very apparent that the text focuses on the decorative features of this truly great palace. As the authors are Russian I have not put in their names by their chapters. Contents: Introduction. Pages. 19--38 Palaces, Parks and Pavilions. Pages 39--84 Interiors. Pages 85--136 Stucco, Scagliola and Painted decoration. Pages 137--162 Marble and Coloured Stone. Pages 163--190 Textiles and Costumes. Pages 191--220 Carved Wood and Marquetry Pages 221--248 Decorative Metal. Pages. 249--286 Porcelain and Pottery. Pages 287--310 Coloured Glass and Crystal. Pages 311--330 Amber and Exotic Materials. Pages 331--355 Notes, chronological Bibliography and Index. About 290 colour illustrations (336 in total) the photographs are of excellent quality. Each section is briefly introduced with several pages of text then there are breathtaking photos. These are captioned with informative commentary every few pages. Many of the illustrations are double page spreads. There are beautiful spreads of rooms, halls, staircases and parks at one end of the scale and a 2 page spread of a close up of some golden object be it inkstand, clock or guiding on the Julius Caesar Clock. The effect of the book is that of being able to take a very lie surly tour though the palace and its grounds.

The focus is on the interior. Examples of two sections: In the Costumes and Textiles section you see there are Portraits showing costumes, Furniture, period photos, beautiful close ups of embroidered Russian Eagles, women's and girls dresses and men's military uniforms along with a selection of epaulettes. There is a beautiful traveling suitcase with cap, sword, white gloves etc. on another page there is a selection of decorative regimental headgear. There are also uniforms of the Imperial Children. One of my strongest early memories of Russian decoration was the beautiful coloured stone especially the rich green malachite and the deep blue lapis lazuli. In the Marble and Coloured Stone section there are portrait busts, beautifully carved fireplaces, pictures made of hard stone and semiprecious stones-- the detail in the picture is amazing. The close up of a gilt greyhound on a malachite base is very impressive (it is a paperweight). One is always wishing that there were even more objects in each section but I think the editor and authors have made excellent choices, one could occasionally have wished for a different object but that probably reflects my own taste. One could go through other chapters but hopefully this will give some idea of what is contained in the book. Summary: This book will appeal to those with a reasonable knowledge of art. For those who appreciate the chance to pause, think and look this will really appeal. For those looking to educate the eye then there are a vast number of objects of the very highest museum quality to look at. It also gives a much closer look at a great palace than one gets in many other books and in that sense is a great supplement to them. For those lucky enough to have been through the palace and grounds it will bring back memories and bring forth new joy. For others who have not seen the Palace it is like having a detailed tour-- although one needs other books to show the many other rooms and parts of the ground not covered. Highly recommended to these readers: Risen from the ashes: Petrodvorets, Pushkin, Pavlovsk. This covers the post WWII restoration of Puskin ( Tsarskoye Selo) and the other palaces mentioned. Has a good selection of colour photographs of both the interior and exterior of the Palaces, there Outhouses, Gardens and Parks -- well recommended. See my review: Tsarskoe Selo: Watercolours, paintings and engravings from the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries (Imperial Palaces in the Vicinity of St. Petersburg, Volume 4 "Views of the Palaces of Tsarskoe Selo"). Mainly a selection of lucid 19th century watercolours that were useful in the restoration of the palaces. See my review. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful! By Mariah. This book comes in its own box bookmark. You can feel the passion that went into producing this book of the Russian imperial residences at Tsarkoye Selo. The palaces and parks are now 300 years old and much has been restored from the damage done by the Nazis in WWII. Many of the photographs show the detail of the restored walls, furniture, rooms, etc. The history of the construction and reconstruction of the palaces is quite interesting especially the Alexander Palace which was the favorite residence of the last Tsar and his family. This book is very special and has the latest restoration pictures. Originally copyrighted in Russia in 2010 it was translated from French to English in 2012. 29 of 31 people found the following review helpful. A Book of Treasures! By B. Olson. Quite a beautifully produced book, that is slipcased as well. Anyone interested in the Romanov's possessions at their Summer Palace will certainly enjoy browsing through this edition. It's more than a coffee table book. However if one is particularly interested in the architecture of the main palace and the pavilions located throughout the extensive grounds, they are shown at the beginning of the book, but certainly not discussed in enough detail.

Specially commissioned photographs by Marc Walter and fascinating archive images capture a bygone age of Romanov splendor that will captivate art lovers and historians alike. Situated just south of St. Petersburg, the Russian imperial residence of Tsarskoye Selo is now more than three hundred years old. Tsarskoye Selo (Tsars Village) was once a modest estate housing a summer residence for Catherine I, second wife of Peter the Great. The building now known as the Catherine Palace was extensively rebuilt by Empress Elizabeth and then lavishly refurbished by Catherine the Great. This empress's love of art and decoration is evident in the sumptuous interiors and in the extensive park, filled with fanciful pavilions, bridges, and monuments. Catherine also commissioned the neoclassical Alexander Palace for her favorite grandson, the future Alexander I; this later became home to the last tsar, Nicholas II, and his family until their exile to Siberia. The palace is a glorious showcase for Russian art and craftsmanship in a huge variety of materials and techniques, from the mirrors and lavish gilding of the Great Hall to the blood-red beauty of the Agate Rooms, their walls lined with Siberian jasper. Tsarskoye Selo is not only a piece of art history but a living testimony to the tastes and private passions of the Romanov family. Their clothes and porcelain, their desks and bookshelves build an intimate and involving portrait of life in imperial Russia. 340 illustrations, 289 in color