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Л.В. Колотилова

**СБОРНИК ТЕКСТОВ
НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**

по специальности «География. Туризм»

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Научный редактор *Е.С. Устинова*, канд. пед. наук, доц.
Рецензент *И.М. Шеина*, канд. филол. наук, доц.

Колотилова, Л.В.

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COUNTRIES

THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Britain is an island, and Britain's history has been closely connected with the sea.

About 2000 BC in the Bronze Age, people in Britain built Stonehenge. It was a temple for their god, the Sun.

Around 700 BC the Celts travelled to Britain who settled in southern England. They are the ancestors of many people in Scotland, Wales, and Ireland today. They came from central Europe. They were highly successful farmers, they knew how to work with iron, used bronze. They were famous artists, known for their sophisticated designs, which are found in the elaborate jewellery, decorated crosses and illuminated manuscripts. The Celts organized into different tribes. They were pagan, with known as Druids.

In AD 43 the Romans invaded Southern Britain. They came from Italy. It became a Roman colony called Britannia, gave Britain its name. Julius Caesar first came to the British Isles. The Romans set up their capital in London. They built roads, bridges, villas, baths, cities that were the basis of Roman administration and civilization (York, Bath, Manchester). The Romans brought the skills of reading and writing to Britain. The Roman invasion was not completely peaceful. In AD 60, the Iceni, a tribe led by Queen Boudicca, destroyed 3 cities including London. The Romans stopped the rebellion. The tribes of Scotland never completely surrendered to the Romans. As a result, in AD 122, Emperor Hadrian built a long wall to defend the border between England and Scotland. The Romans ruled for 300 years till the Roman Empire collapsing and in AD 410 the Roman legions left Britain to fight the tribes on the continent. They couldn't conquer Scotland. The Romans left Britain in AD 410.

The Angles, Saxons and Jutes began to settle from the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany in the 5th century. We have our knowledge of this period due to an English monk named Bede. The Angles gave England (Angle-land) its name. These invaders introduced a new

culture. At the beginning of a class system, made up of king, lords, soldiers and workers in the land Anglo-Saxon England was one of the most civilized countries in Europe, with organized systems of agriculture and trade. Then was the union of 7 Saxon kingdoms (Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent, Sussex, East Anglia, Essex). In AD 597 Christian missionaries came from other parts of the Roman Empire to bring Christianity to the people. England became Christian very quickly. Anglo-Saxon England became well known in Europe. As Christianity spread, churches and monasteries were built all over England.

The next important step in the history of England came between the years 750 and 1050. That's when the Vikings began to attack Britain. They came from Denmark and Norway. They settled in the north and made the town of York the capital of the kingdom. The Vikings were excellent traders and navigators. They traded in silk and furs as far as Russia. In 1016, England became part of the Scandinavian empire under King Canute.

In 1066 the Normans invaded from France. In September, King Harold II marched north to defeat the king of Norway, at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. This was the fifth and the last invasion of England. The Norman Invasion changed both the history and the language of Britain. In 1066 the French Duke, William, defeated the English king Harold, at the Battle of Hastings. England became a strong, centralized country under military rule. The Norman invaders brought with them Norman architecture.

LONDON

London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and commercial centre. It is one of the largest cities in the world and the largest city in Europe. Its population is about 8 million.

London is one of the oldest and most interesting cities in the world. It began life as a Roman fortification at a place, where Romans founded a settlement on the river Thames 2,000 years ago. They called it Londinium. London became a prosperous trading centre during Middle Ages.

London suffered two big catastrophes: a terrible Plague in 1665 and the Great Fire in 1666. As a result of the Great fire St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed. It took Sir Christopher Wren 35 years to restore it. As a result of its long and exciting history, London offers a visitor a rich store of fascinating buildings, streets, monuments and colourful ceremonies.

The heart of London is the City, its financial and business centre, Numerous banks, offices and firms are situated there, including the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and the Old Bailey. There are some famous ancient buildings within the City, among them St. Paul's Cathedral, the greatest of English churches, the Tower of London. It was used as a fortress, a royal palace and a prison. Now it is a museum of arms and Armour, it has the Crown Jewels. The Yeoman Warders have guarded the Tower since the reign of Henry VIII. They are often called "Beefeaters". These are usually about 6 ravens. Every day at the Tower ends with the Ceremony of the Keys.

Westminster is the historic, the government part of London. There is Westminster Abbey, the House of Parliament, "Big Ben", also Buckingham Palace and other important buildings in it. We can find Westminster Abbey, where British monarchs have been crowned since William I and many other famous people are buried there including statesmen, musicians and writers.

The West End is the richest and most beautiful part of London. It's the symbol of wealth and luxury. It's the shopping and entertainment centre. It includes Trafalgar Square. It is the geographical centre of London to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. The tall Nelson's Column stands in the middle of the square. Behind Nelson's Column is the National Gallery, an art gallery in which we can find many old masterpieces. There are the main shopping areas: Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street, and the entertainment centres of Soho. Piccadilly Circus is the centre of night life in the West End. It's actually quite small. The East End is quite different from the other parts of London.

The East End is unattractive in appearance, but very important to the country's commerce. There are a lot of factories, workshops and docks there. The East End markets are famous throughout the world. Traditionally someone born in the East End is known as a cockney.

London has a few famous parks: Hyde Park, St James' Park, Regent Park with its wonderful Zoo and others.

London includes surrounding villages. Many people don't prefer to live in the city center.

WELCOME TO THE TOWER OF LONDON



"Halt! Who goes there?"

"The Keys!"

"Whose Keys?"

"Queen Elizabeth's Keys."

"God preserve Queen Elizabeth."

"Amen!"

These words can be heard every night just before 10 o'clock. They mean that the Tower's been locked up for the night. The Ceremony of the Keys is at least 700 years old.

WHAT IS THE TOWER?

The Tower of London was started in 1066 by William the Conqueror. He wanted to protect London from enemies, so he built his fortress beside the River Thames on the very edge of the city.

Throughout its 900-year history the Tower has been many things: a palace, a fortress, a prison, a place of execution, and even a zoo.

Today, the Tower is best known as a historical museum and more than 2 million people visit it each year.

About 150 people and eight ravens live in the Tower. And of course the whole place is crawling with ghosts...

THE PALACE AND FORTRESS

The oldest building on the territory of the Tower is the White Tower. This is where the kings of England once ate, slept and ran the country.

Strangely enough, the first person to live in the palace in the White Tower, in 1100, was not a king but a prisoner named Ranulf Flambard. He soon escaped down a rope from an upper window.

Later kings made the Tower larger and stronger and built walls, a moat, smaller and more comfortable palaces.

The last palace built in the Tower was the Queen's House. It was probably built for Queen Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII. But she lived there only as a prisoner for 18 days awaiting her execution. She was beheaded not far from the palace — on Tower Green.

— Halt! Стой!	— prison тюрьма
— Elizabeth	— execution казнь
— God preserve Да сохранит Господь	— raven ворон
— amen аминь	— to crawl with кишеть
— William the Conqueror Вильгельм Завоеватель	— ghost привидение
— to protect защищать, охранять	— to run the country управлять страной
— enemy враг	— to escape бежать (из тюрьмы)
— fortress крепость	— rope веревка, канат
— on the very edge на самом краю, на окраине	— upper верхний
— throughout в течение, на протяжении	— moat ров
	— Anne Boleyn Анна Волейн
	— to behead отрубать голову, казнить

CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND HOLIDAYS IN THE UK

Every nation and every country has its own customs and traditions. Britain is different from our own country. This is natural. In Britain traditions play a more important part in the life of the people than in other countries. Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up.

It has been the law for about 300 years that all the theatres are closed on Sundays. No letters are delivered; only a few Sunday papers are published. Foreigners coming to Britain are struck at once by quite a number of customs and peculiarities in the English life.

The 6 ravens have been kept in the Tower of London now for centuries. They used to come in from Essex for food cracker when the Tower was used as a palace. Over the years people thought that if the ravens ever left the Tower, the Monarchy would fall. So Charles II de-

creed that 6 ravens should always be kept in the Tower and should be paid a wage from the treasury. Sometimes they live as long as 25 years, but their wings are clipped, so they can't fly away, and when a raven dies another raven is brought from Essex.

Some ceremonies are traditional, such as the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour, the State Opening of Parliament. The Ceremony of Trooping the Colour is one of the most fascinating. It is staged in front of Buckingham Palace. It is held annually on the monarch's official birthday which is the second Saturday in June. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Colonel-in-Chief of the Life Guards. She is escorted by Horse Guards riding to the Parade. The ceremony is accompanied by the music of bands. The procession is headed by the Queen.

In England the Queen opens the parliament once a year, she goes to the Houses of Parliament in the golden coach, she wears the crown and the crown jewels. She opens the Parliament with a speech in the House of Lords. The cavalrymen wear red uniforms, shining helmets, long black boots and long white gloves. These men are Life Guards.

In the House of Lords, Chancellor sits on the sack of wool. This tradition comes from the old times when sheep wool made England rich and powerful.

In the House of Commons there are two rows of benches: one row is for the government and the other one is for the opposition. The benches are divided by a strip of carpet, which is also a tradition from old days, when that division prevented the two parties from fighting during the debates.

The Englishmen have love for old things. They prefer houses with a fireplace and a garden to a flat, modern houses with central heating. The houses are traditionally not very high. They are usually two-storied. British buses are double-decked and red, mail-boxes are yellow, the cars keep to the left side of road-all these are traditions.

Most English love gardens. Sometimes the garden in front of the house is a little square covered with cement painted green in imitation of grass and a box of flowers. They love flowers very much.

The English people love animals very much, too. Sometimes their pets have a far better life in Britain than anywhere else. In Britain they usually buy things for their pets in pet-shops. In recent years they

began to show love for more "exotic" animals, such as crocodiles, elephants, and so on.

Queuing is normal in Britain, when they are waiting for a bus or waiting to be served in a shop. People will become very angry, and even rude, if you 'jump' the queue.

Traditionally telephone boxes, letter boxes and double-decker buses are red.

Old customs and traditions may seem strange to visitors but the English still keep up them, which mix with everyday life in the streets.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA

On July 4, 1884, France presented the US with an incredible birthday gift: the Statue of Liberty. The idea belonged to Edouard-Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye, a famous French politician and historian, who greatly admired the United States.



The statue was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, Laboulaye's friend and a noted French sculptor. The framework was designed by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, the creator of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The Statue stands 46.05 metres high from its feet to the top of the torch. It weighs 204 tons.

July 4th, or Independence Day, is the most important American holiday. It's the birthday of the United States of America. On this day, in 1776, America signed the Declaration of Independence and started the fight for freedom from British rule.

Before 1776, the King of England, George III, ruled the thirteen colonies in America. The colonists were tired of the taxes that George III imposed on them. "We have no representation in the British Parliament," they said, "so what right does he have to tax us?" "No taxation without representation" became their battle cry.

In 1767, the British government placed new taxes on tea and paper that the colonists imported from abroad. The colonists got angry and refused to pay. George III sent soldiers to keep order.

In 1773, a group of colonists dressed up as Indians threw 342 chests of tea belonging to the East India Company into the waters of Boston harbour. King George didn't think it was funny. His reply to this "Boston tea party" was a set of laws to punish the colonists, Boston harbour was closed until the tea was paid for. More soldiers were sent there to keep order.

But the "Intolerable Acts", as the colonists called King George's laws, served only to unite the colonies against the British rule. The War of Independence began.

On July 4, 1776, the colonists declared their independence from Britain. Led by Thomas Jefferson, the representatives of all thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence. A large part of it was written by Jefferson himself. The document stated that the colonies were now "free and independent states" and officially named them the United States of America. It also said that all men had a natural right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed and, on July 6, *The Pennsylvania Evening Post* became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document. People celebrated the birth of a new nation.

But the War of Independence dragged on until 1783 when the colonists finally won. The head of the Revolutionary army was George Washington, who later became the first President of the United States of America. In 1783, Independence Day was made an official holiday.

Today, the country's birthday is widely celebrated with parades, public meetings, patriotic music and speech-making. There are picnics and barbecues, and in the evening there are big fireworks shows. Wherever Americans are around the globe, they will get together for a traditional 4th of July celebration!

STARS AND STRIPES

When the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, George Washington decided that the United States needed a flag, too. There were thirteen stripes and thirteen stars in the first American flag. They stood for the number of states in the new-born independent country. Later, new states joined the US. To solve this problem Congress made a new law about the flag in 1818. The

thirteen stripes stayed the same, but for each new state there was a new white star. Today, there are 50 stars on the US flag. The last star was added in 1958, when Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959.

There are many rules for the flag: for example, you should display it only during the day, and you should fold it in a special way. In some schools there is a flag in each classroom, and children stand in front of the flag every day and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| — incredible | невероятный, | — to keep order | соблюдать, |
| удивительный | | поддерживать порядок | |
| — Laboulaye | | — chest | сундук, ящик |
| — Bartholdi | | — harbour | гавань, порт |
| — noted | знаменитый | — law | закон |
| — framework | каркас | — to punish | наказывать |
| — Eiffel | | — Intolerable Acts | "Невыносимые законы" |
| — torch | факел | — to unite | объединять |
| — Independence Day | День независимости | — to declare | провозглашать |
| — to sign | подписывать | — Philadelphia | |
| — Declaration of Independence | Декларация независимости | — to state | констатировать, утверждать . |
| — rule | правление, господство | — liberty | свобода |
| — tax | налог | — pursuit | поиски, стремление |
| — to impose | навязывать, облагать (налогом) | — to distribute | распространять |
| — representation | представительство (в парламенте) | — to drag on | тянуться, затягиваться |
| — taxation | взимание налога | — fireworks | фейерверк |
| — to import | ввозить | — stripe | полоса |

THE LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

FACTFILE

Scotland

Area: 78.769 sq km

Population: 5,200,000

Capital: Edinburgh

Political: Scotland is a part of the United Kingdom. It has its own parliament, legal system, education system and even its own international football team.

History: The Romans never conquered Scotland. Between AD 120 and 140, they built Hadrian's Wall, a huge wall of 118 km. to protect their Empire south of the Scottish border. In the middle ages, Scotland became a united country. There were many wars between England and Scotland. In 1603 the Scottish king, James VI, became king of England and a century later Scotland and England were united.

A lot of people think that Scotland is a part of England but this is untrue. Scotland is, in fact, a part of Great Britain. It is governed from London but in many ways it is separate nation. It has its own capital city, Edinburgh, its own laws and its own stamps. It even has its own language, Gaelic, spoken now by only a few people in the islands.

There are only about five million Scots, and most of them live in the southern half of the country called «Lowlands», where the major cities situated.

But most holiday visitors to Scotland go to the Highlands because of high mountains and deep valleys, clean rivers and cold «lochs». The Highlands are home to many rare birds and animals, like the golden eagle and the wildcat, which are found nowhere else in Britain. It is a lonely, wild and empty land. Only two per cent of the British population live there and the population is getting smaller all the time. There is very little work so most of the young people who are born there have to move south to find a job. Perhaps the Highlands of Scotland will become the last great wilderness of Europe.

Scotland is famous for its own culture. Here are some of the ways in which visitors to Scotland can join in the fun:

HOGMANAY 31 DECEMBER

'Scotland celebrates Hogmanay, New Year, with bagpipe music and dancing in the street throughout the night. At midnight, there are fireworks and everyone sings «Auld lang syne», a song by Robert Burns, a famous Scottish poet. Around the New Year period, Scottish families go 'first footing' visiting the houses of friends and relations to continue the celebrations!

BURNS NIGHT 25 JANUARY

Robert Burns is Scotland's national poet and Scottish people have a big dinner every year to celebrate his birthday. The dinner begins with the sound of bagpipes and the 'haggis'. Scotland's national dish, a kind of sausage made from the heart and other organs of a sheep. Then everyone reads poems and sings songs written by the great 'Robbie Burns' himself.

HIGHLAND GAMES MAY-SEPTEMBER

Nearly every weekend in the summer there are highland games somewhere in Scotland, but the biggest games are at Cowal. People from all over the world come to watch or take part. Over three thousand bagpipers and drummers play all day and there is a wonderful atmosphere. There are highland dancing competitions as well as events like throwing the hammer or 'tossing the caber' -throwing a large tree as far as possible. All the athletes wear traditional kilts.

A SCOTTISH GLOSSARY

Kilt — a «skirt» worn by man

Tartan — a special criss-cross pattern. There are many different tartan patterns. Each Scottish family or «clan» has its own tartan, e.g. the Macdonald Tartan.

Scotch whisky — a strong alcoholic drink which gets its special taste from Scotland's fresh highland water.

Harris Tweed — a type of woolen cloth which is made on Harris, an island off the west coast of Scotland.

Bagpipes — the national musical instrument of Scotland which is once led Scottish soldiers into the battle. Not everyone likes the sound but every town in Scotland has its own bagpipe band.

Robert Burns — the Scottish poet who wrote the famous song «Auld Lang Syne», which British people sing every New Year's Eve.

NEW ZEALAND A GUIDE

FACTFILE

Government

New Zealand is a democratic country with its own parliament. However, it is part of the British Commonwealth, and therefore the official head of state is Elizabeth II, the queen of England, Scotland and Wales. New Zealand was the first country in the world to give the vote to women in 1893, to have old age pensions and the eight-hour working day.

Geography

New Zealand, in the South Pacific, consists of two large islands plus other smaller islands with an area of 270,000 sq km. North Island has a warm climate and there is quite a lot of volcanic activity. South Island is cooler and has a higher rainfall. In the South Island there are the southern Alps with Mount Cook (3754 m) the highest mountain in New Zealand.

Economy

New Zealand has some industry but agriculture is more important — there are 55 million sheep, 8 million cows and 1 million goats in New Zealand!

Wildlife

New Zealand was cut off from the rest of the land on Earth for 80 million years and has some unique animals and plants. The tuatara is a reptile-that has survived from the era of the dinosaurs. The weta is the largest and heaviest insect in the world and the kiwi (the symbol of New Zealand) is a large bird which cannot fly.

The People

Over 80% of the 3.6 million people — are of European (mainly British) origin. Around 9% of the population are Maoris — who came to New Zealand from Polynesia in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The two official languages in the country are English and Maori.

Lifestyles

New Zealanders, who are also known as ‘Kiwi’ are relaxed people who love the outdoor life. It is not surprising that New-Zealand is successful as many sports. Its national sport is rugby and its team.

The All Blacks' are often the best in the world. Before every game, the All Blacks perform a 'haka', a Maori war dance, to frighten the opposing team!

Places to visit

New Zealand has beautiful landscapes. In North Island, the Bay of Islands has lovely old forests and beautiful beaches and the Coromandel is perfect for sailing and water sports. Rotorua is the centre of Maori culture and has wonderful hot springs. In South Island, the Southern Alps, the West Coast region and the national park of Fiordland all have beautiful scenery.

Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand. It has a population of just under a million people and is located on North Island. This seaport is an important centre for business and industry. It is also the most dynamic and multicultural city in New Zealand.

The history of the city goes back 650 years when the Maoris settled in the area. European settlement began in 1840 when the British arrived. New Zealand's first governor, Captain William Hobson, made Auckland the capital. Later, the capital moved to Wellington, because it was more central. Since 1945, the city of Auckland has grown and it now has large modern suburbs. In 1985 the New Zealand government made the whole country a nuclear free zone and since then Auckland has been a centre for protest against nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Famous sights include Mt Eden, one of many large volcanic hills, as well as the Auckland Harbour Bridge. At the Parnell Village you can visit some of the first European settlers' homes. In the city is the beautiful Auckland Domain which is famous for its large palm trees and exotic plants. You can see Maoris perform their traditional dances at the Auckland Museum.

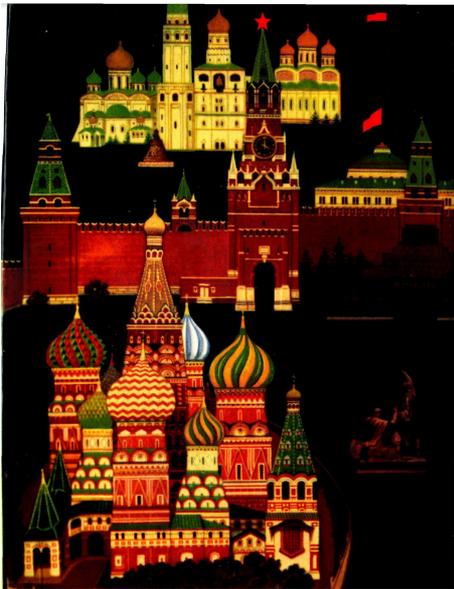
From wherever you are in the city, you can see the sea. Auckland's nickname is 'the city of sails' because it has more boats than anywhere else in the world. It has a warm climate with plenty of sunshine — the average temperature in January (summer) is 23.4°C and in July (winter) it is 7.8°C. It has some of the best beaches in New Zealand for doing water sports: swimming, diving, fishing, sailing and windsurfing.

It is easy to travel between Auckland and the rest of New Zealand. There are regular international flights, too. Flights from Europe take over twenty-four hours and are expensive.

CITIES AND TOWNS OF RUSSIA

MOSCOW

Moscow is the capital of Russia, its political, economic, and commercial and cultural centre. Prince Yuri Dolgoruky founded it 8 centuries ago. It was first mentioned in the records dated back to the year 1147. At that time it was a small fortress. Gradually the city became more and more powerful.



In the 13th century Moscow was the centre of the struggle of Russian lands for the liberation from the tartar yoke. The Kremlin and all the buildings within were reduced to ashes.

In the 16th century under Ivan the Terrible Moscow became the capital of the new united state. Though Peter the Great moved the capital to St Petersburg in 1712, Moscow remained the heart of Russia. That is why it became the main target of Napoleon's attack. Three-quarters of the city were destroyed by the fire during Napoleon's occupation; but by the mid-19th century Moscow had been completely restored.

Now Moscow is one of the largest cities in Europe. Its total area is about nine hundred square kilometres (ancient Moscow occupied the territory of the present-day Kremlin). The population of the city is over 8 million.

Moscow is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It attracts tourists from all over the world.

The Kremlin is a masterpiece of ancient Russian architecture. It is the oldest part of Moscow. The main Kremlin tower, the Spasskaya Tower, has become the symbol of Russia and Moscow. It has a famous clock; one can hear its chimes on the radio. On the territory of the

Kremlin you can see old cathedrals, the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great, the Palace of Congresses, the Tzar-Cannon and the Tzar-Bell, the biggest cannon and bell in the world.

Outside the Kremlin Wall there is the famous Red Square. It is the heart of Moscow. It has more historic associations than any other place in Moscow. Tourists can look at the magnificent St Basil's Cathedral (Vasily Blazheny) and the monument to K. Minin and D. Pozharsky. St Basil's Cathedral was built in the mid-16th century in memory of the victory over Kazan. There is a legend that Ivan the Terrible blinded the architects Barma and Postnik, because he didn't want them to create another masterpiece.

There are a lot of beautiful palaces, old mansions, cathedrals, churches and monuments in Moscow. Now Moscow is being reconstructed and we all hope that in a few years the city will become even more beautiful.

There are more than 80 museums in Moscow. The largest museums are the Tretyakov Gallery and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. They contain a unique collection of Russian and foreign painters including Impressionists. Other unique museums in Moscow include the All-Russia Museum of Folk Arts, the Andrei Rublev Museum of Early Russian Art, and Alexei Bakhrushin Theatre Museum. Mikhail Glinka Museum of Musical Culture and many others.

Moscow is famous for its theatres. The best known of them is the Bolshoi Opera House. Drama theatres and studios are also very popular.

Moscow is a city of students. There are over 80 higher educational institutions in it, including several universities.

Moscow is the seat of the Russian Parliament (the Duma) and the centre of political life of the country.

ST. PETERSBURG



St. Petersburg is one of such cities — the city of Russian glory, situated on the Neva River. It is the second largest city in Russia and one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Peter the Great dreamt of building the fleet and starting trade with many countries, thus he wanted to open "the window to the west". In 1703 Peter the Great founded St. Petersburg. Thousands of workmen were brought from all parts of Russia to build a new city on swampy land at the mouth of the Neva. The work was fast and hard, people dropped dead by the hundreds. When the work was finally finished, amazing and beautiful city with palaces, cathedrals, churches, government buildings appeared and became the capital.

Later on, under other rulers the capital of the Russian Empire grew rapidly in wealth and beauty. From Western Europe architects were invited to lay out the city in harmonious squares. Buildings were constructed of gray and rose-coloured granite. The Hermitage palace and the Winter Palace, the homes of the tsars, were equal to any in Europe. In 1917 the after Great October Revolution it was given the name Leningrad.

The Great Patriotic war brought much suffering to all Russian people and cities, especially to Leningrad, as the siege was laid to it by the Fascists in 1941. For the next two years and a half it was cut off from the rest of the country. People died of starvation. Daily shelling and air raids destroyed parts of the city, its masterpieces-architectural and historical monuments, thousands of people were killed. It took years to rebuild and restore the city.

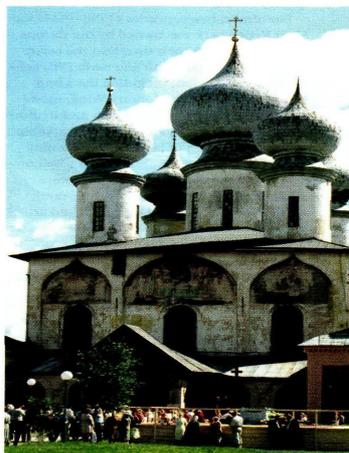
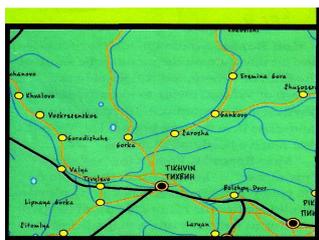
Now it is the city with the population of 5 mln people. It is an important industrial, cultural and educational centre. It is no more the capital of Russia, but very often it is called the second capital of our country.

St. Petersburg is a wonderful city indeed. It surprises and amazes the tourists and citizens, on every turn there is something to catch the person's eye: the Admiralty building, St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Peter-and-Paul Fortress, the Winter Palace, the Hermitage, the Russian Museum.

Some of the world's famous art collections are housed in Petersburg's many museums. The Hermitage, for example, contains the richest collection of paintings in the world. The city is called Northern Venice because there are 65 rivers and canals there with artistically decorated bridges. It's also famous for its beautiful white nights.

If you haven't been to the city yet, you'd visit it by all means. Especially now, when there is a new fast express train which will get you to St. Petersburg for about 4 hours.

TIKHVIN



Tikhvin is an old Russian town in the Leningrad Region to the east of St. Petersburg, in the area around the south of Lake Ladoga region. Its rich and interesting history is evidenced by buildings and structures which have survived through the centuries, the chief one being the Assumption Monastery. Also of great interest is the town's historical centre, with its 18th century town-planning and its local wooden houses typical of the area. The wooden locks — the remains of the 19th century navigation system, which tell of the standards of engineering in past times — for many a year provided trading links between the centre of Russia and its northern territories, and also with foreign countries. Today, Tikhvin is a large modern town.

HISTORY

The place where the town is now located had been populated long before Tikhvin came into existence. Remains of dozens of neolithic settlements dating from the III—II millennia BC have been excavated in the neighbourhood. During the first millennium AD the

place was inhabited by the Ves tribe, the progenitors of the Vepsi now living in this area.

A settlement called Prechistenky Tikhvinsky Pogost grew up on the bank of the Tikhvinka River in the 13th and 14th centuries. There is evidence of a wooden Church of the Assumption built there in 1383. Legend has it that the "miracle-working" Tikhvin icon came down from heaven and was kept in the church until the Second World War, but is now in private ownership in the USA.

In 1515 the Grand Prince of Moscow, Vasily Ivanovich, ordered a stone Church of the Assumption to be built; later, in the middle of the 16th century, the Tikhvin Monastery was visited by his son Tsar Ivan Vasilevich (Ivan the Terrible). This visit strengthened the position of Tikhvin as an important cultural centre. During the 16th century the monastery gained in wealth and the number of trades-people increased.

Tikhvin's prosperity was shattered in the early 18th century as a result of the war with the Swedes. Tikhvin suffered no direct attacks, but it was impoverished and reduced to misery. Revival came in the first half of the 19th century when navigation started along the Tikhvin water-route.

Nowadays Tikhvin is an important industrial centre in the Leningrad Region, at the same time resounding with echoes of its early history.

SIGHTSEEING

The town's main attraction is the Tikhvin Church of the Assumption. Even today it plays an important part in the harmony of the town due to its solemnity and grandeur. The frescoes by Novgorod and Tikhvin icon painters have partially survived to this day. One of the most fascinating parts of the Assumption Monastery is its 17th century belfry with the adjoining Refectory and the Church of the Veil in the south-west corner of the monastery courtyard. The Refectory building is a replica in design and structure of the famous Palace of Facets in the Moscow Kremlin. The wall paintings have unfortunately not survived.

Among the most outstanding structures in the Tikhvin Monastery are the Treasury Cells and the Church of Exaltation of the Cross built to the design of the famous St. Petersburg architect N. L. Benois.

Apart from the beautiful architectural monuments of the Monastery, Tikhvin also boasts the remains of the famous Tikhvin water-route dating from the 19th century. It is worth having a look at these remains, as they will give you a fuller idea of the town.

LADOGA

The village of Staraya Ladoga lies on the left bank of the broad, deep River Volkhov, 128 kilometres from St. Petersburg. This settlement in the lower reaches of the Volkhov is not widely known, but it is a very special place, steeped in tradition, and at the same time extraordinarily beautiful.

The main "sights" of Staraya Ladoga are on the left bank of the Volkhov, in an area divided into northern and southern sections by the Ladozhka River.

The settlement's historic centre is the mighty stone fortress with its five towers, built in the late 15th and early 16th centuries on a promontory, formed by the above-mentioned rivers. The fortress now houses a museum and is currently undergoing restoration.

On the south side of the fortress courtyard is St. George's Church (12th century), one of the oldest surviving buildings in the Russian North. To the south-west of St. George's Church is the wooden Church of St. Dmitry Solunsky; it is now part of the museum and contains various displays. The Convent of the Assumption stands to the north of the stone fortress.

St. Nicholas' Monastery marks the boundary of Staraya Ladoga. A legend connects it with the name of Alexander Nevsky and his victory over the Swedes at the Battle of the Neva. The multi-tiered, octagonal, tent-shaped 18th century bell-tower, with its special place for the ringer, has recently been restored. The monastery also features the Holy Gates, leading to Volkhov: they are intricate and outwardly very secular. Next to the gates is the quaint, unusual Church of St. John Zlatoust. Although decorated in the Old Russian style, it strongly resembles a Romance basilica.

Staraya Ladoga was celebrating its 1250th anniversary — in 2003, at the same time as St. Petersburg celebrated its 300th anniversary.

VYBORG, MON REPOS

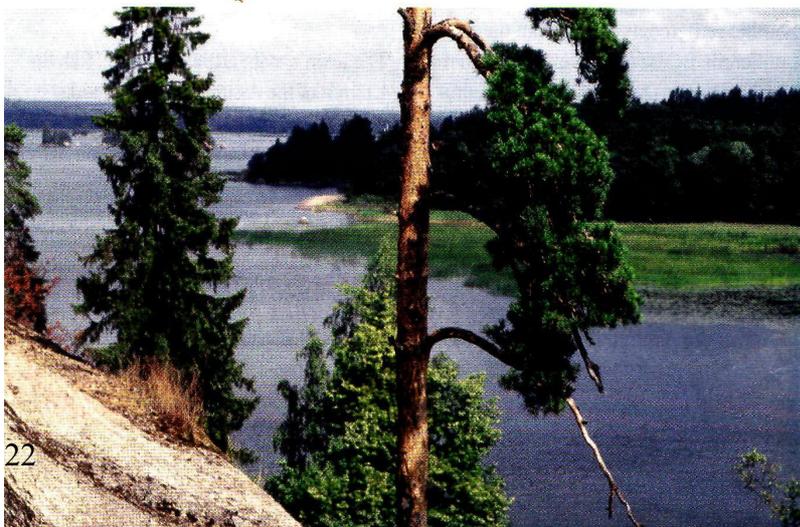
Mon Repos, a museum-reserve of history and architecture on the picturesque shore of the Gulf of Vyborg, is a real jewel in the crown of Vyborg; owing to its particular physical and geographical situation, the landscape here features unique Ice Age cliffs that reach a height of 20 metres.

"Mon Repos" is French for "my rest", "my repose" — and, in truth, the layout of the park is ideal for long walks along pleasant winding paths: the historical part of the park transforms naturally into a magnificent forest-park. Mosses, lichens and ferns bring special delight to the local landscapes. Many species of birds and mammals live here.

For almost two centuries (1788-1943) the Mon Repos park was owned by the Barons Nikolai. It was in their time that the estate and park of the late 18th and early 19th centuries were founded, including the Main Estate House and the Library Wing, monuments of classicist-style wooden architecture and the scenic rock garden — a remarkable example of the art of landscape gardening in the romantic age. Among those who contributed to the creation of the park were architects D. Martinelli, A. Monferrand, A. Stakensneider and C Tetam and artists Y. Mattenleiter and P. Gonzago.

THE ROYAL ROAD

The Scandinavian Royal Road is one of the most popular routes in the countries around the Baltic Sea. The road passes through Bergen and Oslo in Norway, Stockholm and Marienham in Sweden,



Turku and southern districts of Finland to Vyborg, Schlisselburg and on through Russia to the Baltic States and Moscow. Kings and emperors and their messengers, bishops, diplomats, merchants,

the ambitious plans of the great Russian architect were, however, never realised.

From 1796 (the year of Catherine II's death and Paul I's accession) Gatchina received the status of a town and its own coat of arms, while the palace became Emperor Paul's main residence; his "Gatchina troops" were reviewed daily on the square in front of the West facade.

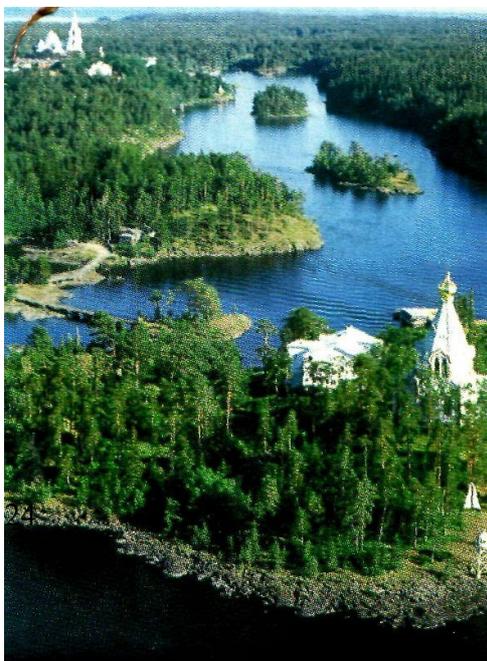
Gatchina remained a residence of Russian Emperors even after Paul's death. Improvements to the palace and park continued, with great architects and artists being brought there for the purpose. In addition to the reconstruction of the side wings of the palace and the creation of new rooms, in 1851 R. I. Kuzmin designed a granite pedestal on the square and a bronze statue of Paul I by sculptor Ivan Vitali was installed there.

At different times Gatchina has been the property of Emperors and their favourites. Celebrated Italian architects and craftsmen were invited here, and Gatchina grew and prospered as a result.

SIGHTSEEING

Gatchina has gained worldwide fame for its palaces and parks, among the most perfect examples of architecture and landscaping. The Gatchina parks (Palace Park, Silvia and Zverinets) are original creations in the art of park planning.

Gatchina boasts a number of interesting architectural monuments, mainly in the area around Paul I Prospekt. At one time this was the main entrance into the town, so triumphal gates were built along it — the Mozinsky and Ingerburg Gates to the north, the Admiralty Gates at the entrance to the park and the Smolensk (or Dvina) Gates at the southern end of the Prospekt.



VALAAM

The sacred islands of the Valaam archipelago lie in the northern part of Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest lake. The main island, which gives its name to the whole archipelago, is surrounded by over 50 smaller islands.

In the past it took two full days to get to Valaam from St. Petersburg. A modern passenger ship will now take you there in 10 hours, while comfortable modern pleasure boats take tourists to these esoteric places on a regular basis.

The excursion starts long before you reach Nikonov Harbour, the moment that the silhouettes of the Monasteries of Gethsemane and of the Resurrection come into view among the tall trees and giant boulders. You then proceed along the road leading to the marvelous Wild Lake (there are ten inland lakes on the island). From there the itinerary continues over a stone bridge connecting the island of Valaam with the Great Skit Island and All Saints' Skit (a skit is a secluded monastery). The stone wall with a beautiful patterned gate forms a rectangle, with the church and belfry in the centre.

You then move on to the central architectural ensemble, the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of our Saviour, with its bell-tower and surrounding monastery buildings dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries. From the central monastery ensemble your route lies over a number of footbridges to the Nikolsky Monastery on Nikolsky Island. Here you find the well-preserved Church of the Prelate Nicholas with an interesting depiction of the Last Supper.

But the main attraction of the place is its natural scenery of rarest beauty, in which man's creations so tastefully harmonise with the unparalleled landscape; it is a wonderful monument to the skill and hard work of the people of Valaam.

MUSEUMS

THE HERMITAGE

It's the dream of many visitors to St Petersburg to wander about the interiors of the Hermitage State Museum. It's one of the largest and the most outstanding museums of the world culture and art. Its displays are housed in 400 rooms spread across an architectural complex of 5 buildings which was created over the course of some 100 years, from the second half of the 18th century to the middle of 19th.



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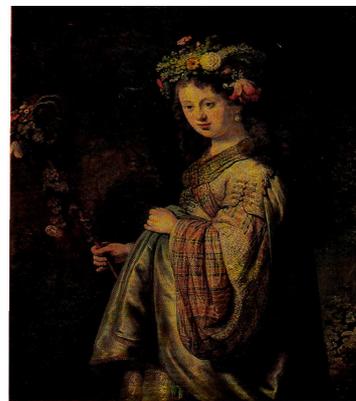
The oldest of these buildings is the Winter Palace erected between 1754 and 1762 by the architect Francesco Rastrelli. For a century and a half this majestic edifice in the exuberant Baroque style was an official residence of the Russian sovereigns. The building has retained its original exterior appearance, but the decoration of its rooms and hall was substantially altered in the course of the restoration work carried out by the architects Vasily Stasov and Alexander Briullov after a devastating fire in 1837.

The main staircase of the palace — the Jordan Staircase — was used most notably by the royal family at Epiphany (6 January) when they attended the traditional Russian Orthodox ceremony of the Blessing of the Waters performed on the bank of the Neva. Since the ceremony recalls the baptism of Christ in the Jordan, the name of the great biblical river became attached to the staircase.

Adjoining the Winter Palace is the building of the Small Hermitage constructed to the design of Jean-Baptiste Vallin-de la Mothe

between 1764 and 1767. It consists of a pavilion and two long well-lit galleries running from it on either side of the Hanging Garden which was laid out at the level of the second store. The Hanging Garden communicates directly with the Pavilion Hall, famous for the interior created in 1850-58 by Andrei Sakenschneider. Back in the 18th century the rooms around the Hanging Garden were the first to house Catherine the Great's collection of paintings and sculpture. As the museum grew, the name of the Pavilion came to refer to the whole of it.

Alongside the Small Hermitage stands a building which in reality consists of a whole complex of constructions added in different times: the Old or Large Hermitage (1775-84 architect Yury Velten), the Raphael Loggias block (1783-87, architect Giacomo Quarenghi) which is a copy of the gallery of the same name in the Vatican Palace in Rome, and the New Hermitage (1839-52, to a design by the architect Leo von Klenze) with splendid interior decor. The architectural ensemble also includes the buildings of the court theatre (1783-87, architect Giacomo Quarenghi), a remarkable example of 18th century ueatrical architecture. All these buildings are connected by covered walkways so that to the visitor they seem part of one huge palace-museum.



At the present time the Hermitage collection comprises more than 2.500.000 works of art, including 15.000 Paintings, over 12.000 sculptures, more than 600.000 drawings and engravings and about



1.000-000 coins and medals. Among me great artists whose works can be found here are Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Titian, Rembrandt, Rubens, Goya, Watteau, Renoir, Michelangelo and Matisse. The Hermit-

age contains art collection of all ages. The collection represents the art of Italy, Spain, Holland, Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain and other countries. Of the American painters most representative is Rockwell Keht who presented 26 pictures to the Museum.

Special departments of the museum are devoted to the history and culture of Russia. There is also a collection of applied art: tapestries, furniture, metal work, silver and jewelry.

Thousands of people visit the Hermitage and admire its collections every year.

THE FREEDOM — LOVING FINE ARTS PUSHKIN MUSEUM

The beautiful marble palace built on Volkhonka Street by 1912 could house some 10,000 exhibits. These were mostly copies of classical sculptures dating from Ancient Egypt to the Renaissance. In the past one hundred years the collection has increased more than 50-fold and now contains some 600,000 exhibits. The museum also has a picture gallery of original works, a hall devoted to graphics art, and a numismatic collection.



Second only to the famous Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts preserves and displays artefacts of Egypt, Asia Minor, Ancient Greece and Rome, Byzantium, and West European countries. With the years, it has been enriched by the collection of paintings of the Rumentsev Museum, the West European collection of the Tretyakov Gallery, many private collections, some of international value, and also finds from once flourishing ancient towns on the northern shores of the Black Sea.

Ascending the wide front staircase, you enter a hall of Greek and Italian courtyards with fountains. In the vaulted Greek Hall you will feast your eyes on ancient vases. Since no examples of ancient Greek painting have survived, the scenes on these vases, dating from the time of the Parthenon, give us an idea of that period.

The museum was created as a collection of copies but gradually it has acquired ever more originals. Today ancient art occupies a hall

of 400 square metres. Among thousands of works are such masterpieces as the marble sarcophagus "Intoxication of Hercules", a torso of Aphrodite, Corinthian vases and terracotta statuettes.

No visitor will resist the temptation to take a look at the Moscow collection of the Impressionists and their followers — Degas, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse. Few museums anywhere in the world can boast such an extensive collection of Renoir. In fact, the museum's collection of turn-of-the-century French painting is one of the world's richest. A much-frequented site in the capital, the museum hosts numerous exhibitions drawing crowds of lovers of painting and plastic art. Many even complain that the abundance of exhibitions leaves them no time to visit halls with permanent expositions.

THE RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY

It actually had three names: the Pashkov House, as the oldest of the library's buildings once belonged to a wealthy merchant Pashkov. The Rumyantsev Museum, in honour of the unique Book and Document Archive. The State Lenin Library, the name of the principal lib-



rary in Russia, was adopted after the death of Vladimir Lenin. Today, it is called the Russian State Library. And that makes four names.

Long ago, it was the Rumyantsev Museum, in honour of its founder, the outstanding statesman, able politician, and State Chancellor (a title which he carried to the end of his days), Count Nikolay Rumyantsev. The great passion of his life was collecting. The Count lived in St. Petersburg; there, on the banks of the Neva, he was able to assemble a huge collection of books, autographs of famous people of the day, various documents, and manuscripts, including some ancient ones. But the main thrust of his collecting was books on political science. This unique grouping was kept in a house specially constructed for that purpose on the Angliyskaya Embankment. Thus first library in Russia was not in Moscow, but rather in the northern capital of Russia.

After the Count died in 1826, his collection, assessed at 26,000 volumes, remained static, and nothing more was added. The fate of the library, which the great collector had left in his will for "the benefit of the Fatherland, and its greater enlightenment," was left up in the air.

Twenty-five years went by; in 1862, the first public library was inaugurated in Moscow, by Imperial Decree of Tsar Alexander II. This year is also considered the year of the founding of the Rumyantsev Museum. The house on the Angliyskaya Embankment in St. Petersburg was sold, and the money from the sale went to transport the collections to Moscow, to the former home of a merchant Pashkov. The new library building was equal in all respects to the St. Petersburg estate. From the balcony of this opulent palace built by the great architect Vasily Bazhenov, the view of the Kremlin was nothing short of sensational.

The library stacks increased mainly by the process of the obligatory contribution of one volume, free of charge, of every publication printed on the territory of the country. The library had acquired this right of compulsory complimentary copies equally with the St. Petersburg Public Library and the Library of the Academy of Sciences. Another source of enrichment was the private collections the museum received as donations.

A colossal collection of art and books, numbering hundreds of items, came from Tsar Alexander II, who personally visited the library on several occasions. Other donors included collectors, patrons of the arts, writers, poets, and artists. The famed scientist Abram Norov donated tens of thousands of books, tomes used by the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin.

Composer Mikhail Viyelgorsky and philosopher Pyotr Chaadayev contributed their collections.

Other donors included Leo Tolstoy, Anton Chekhov, and Dmitry Mendeleev. All of them had been to the library to peruse other works.

At the end of the 19th century, the library boasted more than 100,000 volumes.

From the very first days, the Rumyantsev Library proved immensely popular with Muscovites. On January 2, 1963, a twenty-seat reading room was inaugurated. Its popularity grew at such a rate that the facilities accommodating readers had to be constantly enlarged. In

1879, the new reading room had room for 170; in November 1915, a room with 300 places opened in the central building.

During the first fifty years of its existence, the library served readers of every social class and professions, but young students made up the bulk of the visitors. Starting in 1906, following the Russian Revolt of 1905, the library report on the breakdown of its patrons, the category 'Workers' was introduced.

In the 1930s, construction of a library complex was begun next to the 18th-century house. World War II delayed the construction, which was completed only in the mid-50s.

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Колотилова Любовь Валериевна

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НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**

по специальности «География. Туризм»

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