

VALERY PIKULEV
VALERY GULYAKIN

WATER AND STONE

HISTORICAL STORY

Valery Pikulev

Water and Stone. Historical story

«Издательские решения»

Pikulev V.

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Water and stone ... — these two elements which merged together create unique beauty of Sankt-Petersburg. The documentary and art photostory, with two hundred color photos, is “business card” at the first acquaintance to the Great City. It acquaints the reader not only with man-made beauty of the Northern Capital of Great Russia, but also opens very difficult history of emergence of the city, its value for the country and — the main thing! — opens wide soul of the Great Child of Peter.

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Water and Stone Historical story

**Valery Pikulev
Valery Gulyakin**

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From the author

Real, Last, Future...

In one good song sung by all favourite Russian “musketeer” – such words are Mikhail Boyarsky, —: “Everything will pass ...”. As they say, you won’t throw out words from a song and whether costs: the song isn’t bad. And, nevertheless, Mikhail Sergeevich, – at all respect! – will pass not everything: there is a Past, it is always with us! It helps to live in the Present and to trust in the Future. On that it is – the Past!

In other song, – and too, good! – it is sung: “There is only an instant between the past and future, – it is called life...” And here is about what to argue. At first sight everything is correct: life, – only a chain of imperceptible moments of the Present, which each link clamped in a vice, between the Past and Future. Instant! – and it is absent any more, it in the Past; and the next instant – it is absent yet as it only in the future... and we live only in the Present, between “already” and “still”! But, whether so it actually?

“Dashing nineties” of the last century! What did they leave in our memory? – Disintegration of the state, revelry of obscurantism: occultism, pseudo-healing... However, among thousands of deceivers and charlatans who filled a TV screen, stadiums and clubs units of carriers of the phenomenon of clairvoyance sometimes appeared, – and it cannot be denied! – units of the people capable to see our past and the future as if considering a certain photo...

Give, think: in what way (even if the most fantastic!) it is possible to photograph our Past or the Future... which are absent?! And if it, nevertheless, is somehow possible, then it is necessary to recognize that the Past and the Future exist along with the Present and – “now”! There is nothing surprising: it is enough to present of itself in the train with company the name “Present”, departed from the station with the name “Past” and rushing to another – “Future”: behind a window the twilight not to see either that, or other station... but they, nevertheless, exist and – “now”! Here also leaves that the past – at all not what isn’t present any more, and the future ... – well, you understand!

And by all well familiar art form – the photo – whether is created it in order that to make the Past property of the Future?! – Isn’t it?!

The photo ... – a riddle in which philosophical judgment still nobody was engaged yet. I remember myself six-year-old... and now, considering that photo, – I... mother... the father ... – I remember not only the area where acted, but even the thoughts which have visited me at the time of “photoclick”. To me it was thought then: “there will pass a lot of time, and I, looking at this photo, I will remember what I thought many years back of: that there will pass a lot of time, and I, looking at this photo, I will remember what I thought... of” – and so many time! It is remembered, me, the six-year-old boy, it very surprised. I am surprised to this day!

Yes, – a set of riddles! And the most mysterious of them, perhaps, – the Photographer! – the person capable “to catch an instant”!

And here, with such person, with Valery Gulyakin, the destiny... or rather – a personal exhibition of his photoworks devoted to our St. Petersburg has also brought together me!

Being, in essence, a professional, Valery Nikolaevich was presented as the fan, having explained the position with the fact that only the person in love with the business can decide to display the favourite city, the favourite country – in the photoetudes. It will quite be coordinated also with my vital installation. And we had had an idea...

– And that if to try to create something like a creative tandem: the writer – the photographer... Whether it is possible in that case, doing present pictures, to glance in the past ... – in the past, in the past of the edge, the country? But whether not to try?!

As a result of similar cooperation there was the whole series of the photosketches entirely devoted to one of the most beautiful cities of the world – to brilliant, unique St. Petersburg.

By means of these photostories different both on subject, and on character of the narration, we will try to show round the city it what it is represented to ourselves.

To tell about the Great City in one book – an impossible task. Moreover, the danger of temptation to come down to such guide with lots of photos of beauty of St. Petersburg, forced to reconsider critically already well fulfilled and given a dry run receptions of a similar genre. And therefore the project, perhaps, will represent a series of the art photobooks united by the general idea: to acquaint the whole world do not, not only with fantastic beauty, and first of all, with soul of the Northern Capital of Russia!

– Yours faithfully! Valery Pikulev

All photos placed in the book – and their nearly two hundred! – are executed by Valery Gulyakin

“Surprises”

St. Petersburg... Leningrad ... – is not present, it not just the name of the city, once, as the fates decree, visited the capital of Russia, – something such that heart of any kind and in the slightest degree forces to be clogged quicker the competent person of Earth also is connected with this name! And for the Russian people, for all residents of Russia, – for all “Russians” as we for some reason were christened recently, is also a symbol of invincible Firmness, Spirit height... and man-made Beauty!

I remember, being in Tallinn, in Soviet period, we wanted – I with parents, – to lodge in hotel near the station for transients, for two days ... “There are no places!” – the grandmother person on duty has answered in Russian, but with characteristic accent; however, seeing that we don’t hurry to leave, – and there was no place to leave: hotels are crowded too, – has thrown, having taken pity: “through the area hotel ... – From Moscow?”. We have told that we aren’t present, – from Leningrad... The old woman has right there become kinder: “wait, I learn” – both she has learned, and she has lodged... and even for three days!

With what only titles don’t call our Great City, – and the Northern Capital of Russia... both the Cultural capital... and Northern Venice... St. Petersburg... However, Venice and Palmyra, in my opinion, could also with honor to bear a proud name – the Southern St. Petersburg.

Yes, our city was more than two hundred years actually the capital of Russia, – since 1712 (from final moving from Moscow of the imperial yard and embassies of the European states) and prior to a Bolshevik revolution (before the return moving of the government to Moscow in March, 1918). However...

“Surprise” the first. Being, – and more than two hundred years! – the actual capital of Russia, St. Petersburg legally never in such quality stayed! We don’t know any law, the act or at least the decree on transfer of the capital from Moscow where – or! Moreover, all Russian emperors (except for Peter I) were crowned at accession to the throne, as well as it is necessary, in Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin! (In this regard we were reached by one interesting story, – or perhaps and beautiful fiction, – connected with Paul I’s crowning which was held on April 5, 1797. And so, the message about the moment of a crowning has reached from Moscow to St. Petersburg... in two and a half hours! – by mail by means of a voice organized by the soldiers built on a chain throughout a way).

We will go further.

The second “surprise” (more true, mystical coincidence). He is connected with a city name.

The city named originally in honor of Saint Apostle Peter (and at all not by the name of its founder as still someone considers), three times – whether and this not historical delusion! – I renounced on its own behalf, following destiny of this favourite pupil Christ. (Saint Peter, too three times, renounced the Teacher... but, nevertheless, has been forgiven them!)

The first renunciation of the city on its own behalf – from the Sacred Name! – happened in August, 1914. Here a root of all troubles (what “Bolsheviks” have no relation to)! It happened on a wave of patriotic upsurge, in connection with the beginning of World War I (The second Domestic as it was called then): the city was decided to be called in Russian, in honor of its founder, Peter the Great, – Petrograd.

The second renunciation happened in January, 1924. The city began to bear a name of the Leader of the world proletariat, Lenin, – Leningrad. And the third ... – in correction of historical delusions, (also give, God, the last!) – in September, 1991. And everything was turned back “into place”!

Thus, for more than tercentenary history the city “thrashed” with renamings of 77 years, – three quarters of the century under an assumed name! – the period for which cruel tests and shocks fell

to its lot terrible and really: horrors of World War I... falling of the Monarchy... ruin and adversities Civil... terrible Blockade during Domestic! – Do not renounce!

And, at last, – **the third historical “surprise”**. And the most interesting, perhaps! It is connected with purpose of St. Petersburg as the cities, with time and the place of its bookmark.

Imagine the huge, wild country (which Russia to Peter was), which capital the sovereign suddenly decided to move to the suburb, under a nose of the dangerous and strong neighbor enemy (which Sweden was then), in the heat of war with it and, – keep more strong! – on yet the territory which is not recaptured off it! What it would be possible to tell about judiciousness of such sovereign? (We will remind that Northern war went since February the 1700th till September of the 1721st year, and laying of St. Petersburg happened in May of the 1703rd).

And what was represented by Sweden of that time, – perhaps, rather weak, worthless opponent on whom and attention you should not have turned? – By no means! Sweden in the 18th century played in the world the same role, as America in the 21st, – the powerful, impudent state! And if Russia, pining with a war burden with Sweden, pulled more than 20 years a military strap, then Sweden at the same time successfully was at war... and a half Europe! Otherwise, how to explain that Swedes appeared near Poltava, without passing through the Russian territory? – They passed, conquering the state behind the state, across Western Europe!

Now we will try to understand in whose territory the tsar Peter put St. Petersburg, – on enemy or, nevertheless, on the Russian.

Undoubtedly, – the Karelian, Izhora, Spassky, Rovduzhsky churchyards of the Votic pyatina (all present Leningrad Region) since ancient times were a part of lands of Mister of Veliky Novgorod and opened for him a way to Baltic!

Koporye (1237), Korela and Tiversk (after 1293), ... – network of these Novgorod fortresses covered with Rovduzh (1480) all territory of northwest Russian lands, providing their protection. However, with construction of the Swedish fortress Vyborg (1293) begins expansion of Swedes to the east. Moreover, under the Stolbovsky peace treaty of February, 1617 which ended the Russian-Swedish war of 1614 – 1617, unsuccessful for Russia, all lands of the present Leningrad Region departed to Sweden, having formed its province – Ingria; and in 1632 on the Neva River there was also the Swedish fortified city Nienschanz. Thus, an exit of Russia to the Baltic Sea was tightly closed. And only in September, 1721 the Nishtadtsky world which topped a victory of Russia in Northern war returned to the Empire its primordial lands (Vyborg also was their part) – the territory exceeding on squares Belgium and Holland, combined!

But St. Petersburg, nevertheless, was put to the Nishtadtsky peace treaty, so... in the territory which is temporarily occupied by the opponent! – here in what all piece! So, why “temporarily occupied”? This question, I think, deserves special attention.

Running forward, I want to notice that after the end of Northern war all lands of the Karelian Isthmus (including Vyborg) were a part of the Russian Empire. Moreover, as a result of the last in the history of the Russian-Swedish (Findyanskaya) war of 1808—1809 all Finland also was a part of the Russian Empire (as the Grand duchy Finnish) that was fixed by the Fridrikhsgamsky peace treaty. At the same time the “administrative” border of Finland with other part of the Russian Empire passed to the northwest from Vyborg which already, was not a part of the Finnish principality. However, the Russian emperor Alexander I, in purely administrative purposes, attributed to Finland the earth of the Karelian Isthmus, up to St. Petersburg (1811). And since then the internal (administrative) border between the Grand duchy Finnish and other part of the Russian Empire passed down the river The Sister, near Sestroretsk.

In December, 1917 Lenin, “having granted” to Finland independence, “forgot” to select back the earth of the Karelian Isthmus, attributed to it by Alexander I administratively. In March, 1940,

as a result of completion of war with Finland, the Soviet Union eliminated historical injustice, having returned to Russia its primordial lands – the Karelian Isthmus (well, and in the 2014th, as we know, Russia returned also the Crimea!).

Let's return, however, at the time of the basis of St. Petersburg. No doubt, – desire of the tsar to gain a foothold in the territories which are just won from Swedes in the mouth of Neva was quite natural and reasonable. However, to build here, near by at Swedes, the new capital ... – well is not present, only not it! – Dangerously! And here, if to build good, strong fortress, is, of course... Moreover, it is possible to create around this fortress and a recess lovely to heart, – small such seaside town for rest of soul, – as opposed to enormous, mossy and archaic Moscow with which at Peter very unpleasant childhood memories and youth were connected: Sofya... a streletsky revolt ... – and in it, in own town by the sea, far from capital vanity to begin to build the Russian fleet and to live by new rules! And there, you look, and Russia mother will be accustomed to them...

Well, tsar Peter, – saying to the modern language, – conceived to construct certain “science and technology park” and with its help to develop wild to Rasey facing Europe, to allow it to look to the west through just cut through window! No new capital and in thoughts existed, – Moscow is enough! Peter created the new city, – native! – and for; built as an amusing toy!

Let's remember, for example, its children's entertainments on the Pleshcheevy lake: the amusing fleet, amusing regiments, – Semyonovsky, Preobrazhenskiy (according to names of villages from where peasants), – were taken and in what they turned then?! They became the terrible force and protection of Russia bearing the help to sufferers and horror to enemies on the sails and bayonets! They became beauty and pride of the State Russian!

Isn't it and St. Petersburg...



“The Bronze Horseman”: the most known in the world monument to Peter I – the main symbol of St. Petersburg

First acquaintance

So, so St. Petersburg... And that, and we will go according to its avenues and the areas, stopping (as if a doggie at columns) before each of in the slightest degree interesting structures, monuments ... – “look to the right... and now look on the left ...”, – as crowd of the tourists who became stupid from impressions to whom if only “to be noted” yes to pass away time to the train, and then, so, pompously to speak at home: “about – oh, – I was in St. Petersburg!” – so, perhaps? Of course, no, is not the guide! Give, not hurry, – time at us a pile! – give, it is detailed and... carefully.

Before to meet someone, – to learn who such is what represents, “than breathes”, – not harm to have a look from outside: and what boring whether it is good a figure, whether the blonde... the brunette ... – Oh! Where was I? About the city agreed! Well, all right, – about the city, so about the city.

And, nevertheless, – there is in St. Petersburg such town from which it is possible, having taken of the city a broad view, time to survey both immense breadth of stately Neva, and all its historic center: Petrograd Side, Vyborg, Moscow... Spit of Vasilyevsky Island, Peter and Paul Fortress... And the place it – of course, Trinity Bridge.

Those from Petersburgers who managed to visit Paris fall in love with this city to a descent, from the first acquaintance! And, why? – Yes therefore only that in places, – the small such specks of ancient building clamped in a vice of concrete urbanism, – it reminds them native Piter (quite so we call the favourite St. Petersburg). And now imagine thirty square kilometers of magnificence of palaces, monuments, cathedrals ... – what specks there! – thirty square kilometers of only one historic center of the city!

There now, we also reached meanwhile, – we stand just on the middle of Trinity Bridge. Clear solar midday, a clear sky ... – and, suddenly! – no, calm down, it is not a thunder. It is a shot of the midday gun, – still the smoke did not vanish over one of Peter and Paul Fortress bastions (so we, Petersburgers, call Peter and Paul, – or rather St. Petersburg – fortress).

It is necessary to tell several words about the midday gun. In the winter its shot is heard even from Sestroretsk (there is such lovely town in thirty kilometers to the northwest from St. Petersburg), – “Moscow time... twelve hours!” – we hear the announcer’s voice, confident in the correctness. But, here in what a question: whether the Moscow this time, in the business? And “counter” is that so-called “Moscow” time is defined at us – in Pulkovo Observatory that near St. Petersburg, on the thirtieth, – “pulkovsky”! – meridian. (This meridian, by the way, in exactly passes almost along Trinity Bridge!) Thus, the exact time is defined in St. Petersburg, corresponding to it “with an accuracy”, – forgive for a tautology, – about one seconds; and the signal is right there reported to Moscow. And “white stone” Moscow gives it for the, “violating” any there author’s rights, and even carries across all Russia! And the fact that its own (astronomical) time advances so-called “Moscow” approximately for 30 minutes is to it “to a bulb”: there are affairs more important. – So, so Russia lives not on Moscow at all, and on St. Petersburg time!

So, Trinity Bridge. Frankly speaking, the tsar Peter was an ardent opponent of any bridges. Having placed the city with the sea, more, than on one hundred islands, the tsar wanted to acquaint all the citizens with water elements also; and for this purpose, on his plan, the only means of crossing of water barriers which in the city there was great variety, boats had to serve. In such simple way he wanted to accustom citizens to water, and it, this water, not to be frightened. (And waters here, – oh as there is a lot of; only imagine that the spillway of Neva makes... cubic kilometer in 7 minutes!)

However the yard which gradually moved to coasts of Neva from Moscow could not appreciate this whim of Peter; and bridges, of course, had to be built. – At first on floats...

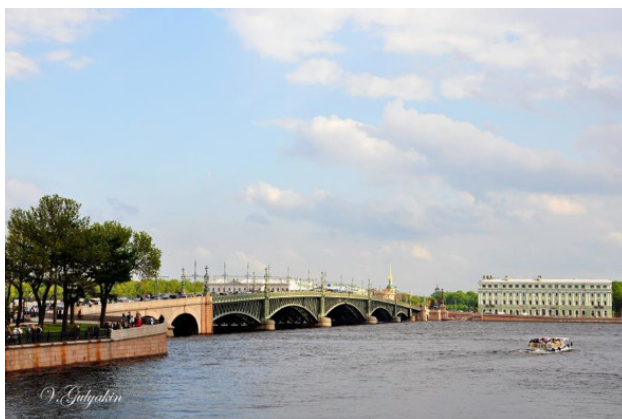
The Trinity Bridge in this plan an exception was not. At first, is slightly higher on a current, there was a floating bridge (already not the first in the city), – and there was it in 1803, – which provided

more convenient way to the Emperor Alexander I to the “country” palace on the Stone island. This palace flaunts on that island with the same name also now; truth, now it not country, but quite “city”. And so, this bridge first was called St. Petersburg. Then, already in 1827, the bridge (besides, floating) connecting the area to a monument to Suvorov and Trinity Square was built. In the beginning it was called Suvorov, and then renamed in Trinity; it was length more than a half a kilometer and is ornated by the lampposts and a handrail of art casting covered with gold leaf. It is already direct predecessor of that bridge whom we now also admire.

Took construction of the constant bridge seriously: even the international competition was announced. Representation and consideration of projects lasted till 1897; and eventually the Emperor Nicholas II – personally! – approved the project of the French firm “Batinyol”. The choice of the French firm was not casual, at all, – at the same time, in Paris, through Seine put the bridge of a name of the Russian Emperor Alexander III, the father of Nikolay.

Laying of the bridge was made on August 12, 1897 – in memory of the 25 anniversary of a wedding of the Emperor Alexander III and Imperatritsy Maria Fyodorovna. A bookmark was made in very solemn situation and even in the presence of the president of the French republic! Trinity Bridge was built by 1903. It was majestic: ten flights, adjustable, with a pig-iron protection of art casting, with three-lamp lamps on granite pedestals! It was opened in May, 1903, in days of celebration of the 200 anniversary of St. Petersburg.

In Soviet period the bridge was called Kirovski, – in honor of Sergey Mironovich Kirov, the First secretary of the Leningrad regional committee of the Communist Party, really, it is a lot of made both for the city, and for its inhabitants. Before construction in 1965 of Alexander Nevsky Bridge it remained the longest in the city (582 m). A northern part of the bridge crosses as I already told you, the Pulkovsky meridian on which is defined “Moscow” time. Some experts claim even that the meridian passes on Trinity Bridge axis. But if it and not so, – that from that? All the same, Trinity Bridge – the most beautiful bridge in our city! You judge...



Trinity Bridge. View from the right coast of Neva



Let's approach closer...



Lampposts and lamps



Lampposts and lamps of the bridge



Here it, our handsome, – Trinity Bridge! View from the right coast of Neva

And now, being on the Pulkovsky meridian, from the middle of Trinity Bridge we will admire our St. Petersburg, having surveyed immense breadth of a water scope, granite of the Nevsky coast... a full breast we will inhale the fresh Baltik wind, – it here, it absolutely nearby! – and with great gratitude we will remember Great Peter!

Yes, here, on fenny coast of Neva, all also began with Peter! And then... is then already great “guest workers” of the past, – Domenico Trezzini, Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, Antonio Rinaldi, Jean Baptiste Valen-Delamot, Etienne Falcone, Giacomo Quarenghi, Vincenzo Brenna, Charlz Cameron, Thomas de Tomon, Luigi Rusca, Karl Rossi, August Montferrand ... – it is already created then by their genius all that stunning magnificence which is now called St. Petersburg!

Let's not forget also the Russian architects whose talent was embodied in the stone anthem to Great City which stiffened in centuries on the highest note! – Savva Chevakinsky, Yury Felten, Vasily Bazhenov, Ivan Starov, Andrey Voronikhin, Andreyan Zakharov, Vasily Stasov, Konstantin Ton, Andrey Shtakenshneyder, Peter Clodt, Alexander Bryullov ... – low to all of them bow!

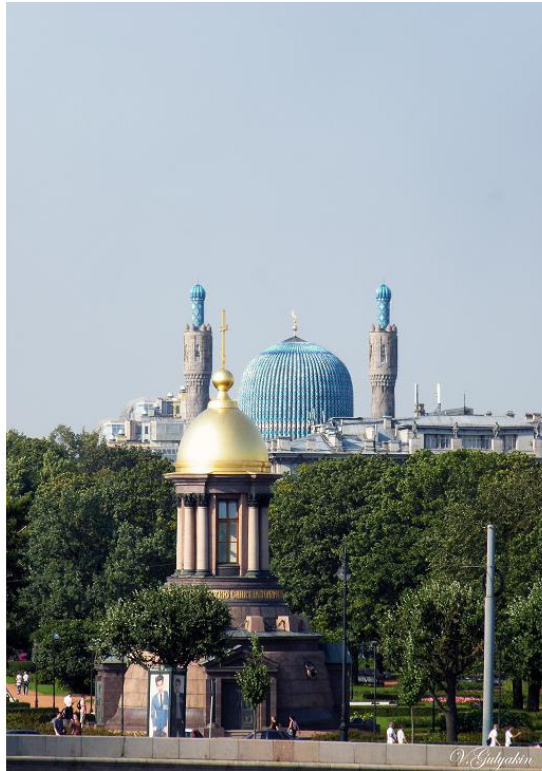
Let's begin to admire the city, of course, from the place of its birth – from the St. Petersburg fortress which bastions were approved on the right coast of Neva, to the left of Trinity Bridge. And then and we will go clockwise...



Panorama of St. Petersburg (Peter and Paul) fortress, on the right coast of Neva (view from Trinity Bridge; the bridge – on the right, off-screen)



Architectural fragment of the bridge (Peter and Paul Fortress – at the left, off-screen). View from side of the left coast of Neva



On a background – a dome of the Tatar mosque. View from the bridge, from outside left coast of Neva. (The bridge – at the left, off-screen)



Right coast



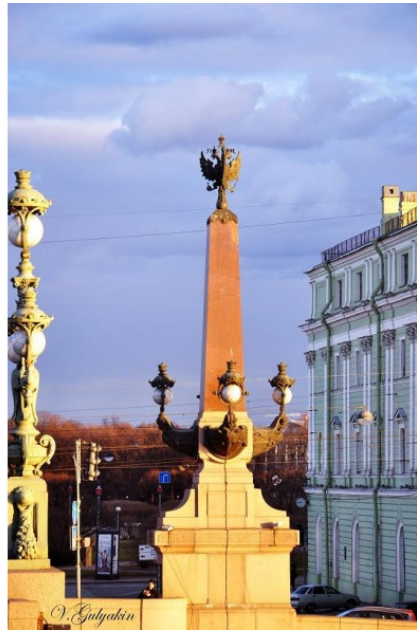
Right coast of Neva (views from The Trinity Bridge)



Panorama of The Petrograd Side (the same right coast of Neva, to the right of the bridge)



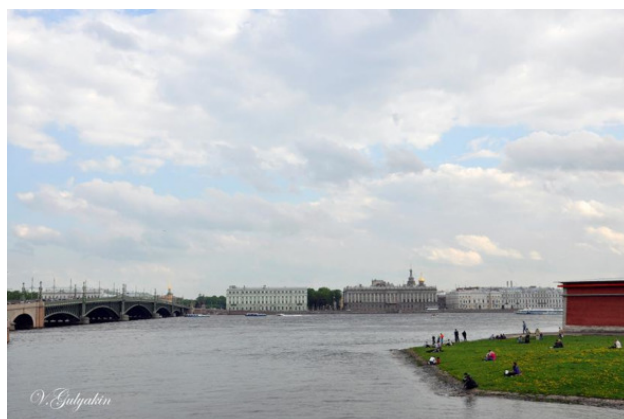
To the left of The Trinity Bridge the strip of greens of The Summer garden is seen (it is already left coast of Neva)



The Trinity Bridge. Left coast of Neva



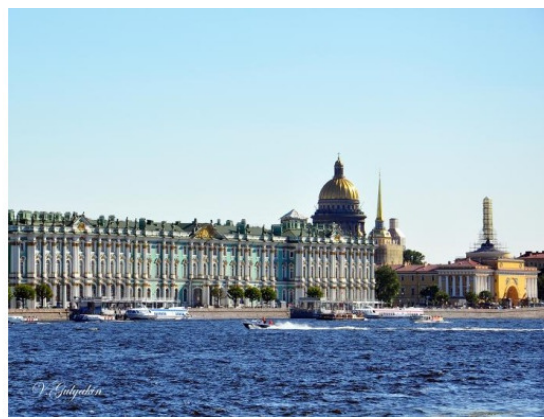
Fencing of The Summer garden well-known for the whole world



On a background – a left bank of Neva



Protected at the left, protected on the right...



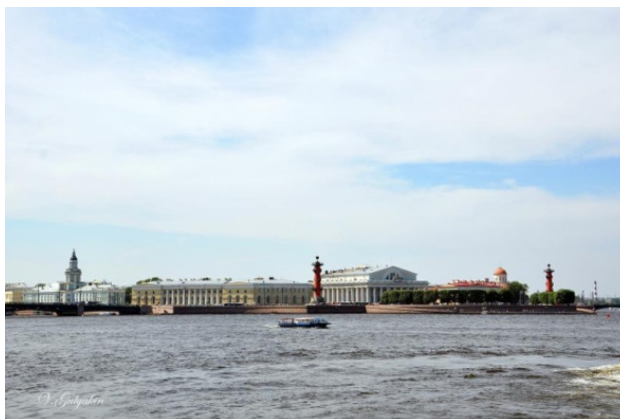
Winter Palace, St. Isaac's Cathedral and Admiralty...



Even closer...



Panorama of The Winter Palace, Admiralty and Spit of Vasilyevsky Island



Here it, Spit of Vasilyevsky Island well-known for the whole world



The Saint Petersburg Stock Exchange building



Also we were turned back into place. And again Peter and Paul Fortress. Evening falls by St. Petersburg

So, the first acquaintance, with St. Petersburg took place. And now, dear readers if you had a desire to learn about this Great City more, we will go further.

Having surveyed the historic center of St. Petersburg from Trinity Bridge, “right on the spot” – and most of guests arrives in our city, as a rule, from the South (from Moscow), and it is simple to them not to bypass this bridge, – now “from the place to descend”, to us, nevertheless, it is necessary: we pass from “nodding” acquaintance to The Great City to deeper which for the majority, it is sure, will

turn into great friendship. So, we will descend from Trinity Bridge and we will go there from where the city “eats-went”.

And so far we will look once more at our handsome, – at The Trinity Bridge.



The Trinity Bridge. View from the right coast of Neva



...Like the good old days!

It is a little history

Rainy October, 1702. Troops of the associate and the friend Peter I, the general field marshal Boris Sheremetev take storm the Swedish fortress Noteburg. Peter participates in this nice business! No, not in the Commander-in-chief rank – save, God! – and only goal-scorer captain: he has no need “to be stuck out”, he and so – Peter The Great! This fortress, having a reputation for unapproachable hitherto, costs on the island in the mouth of the Neva River and, together with other fortress, – Nienschanz, – that is lower on a current, controls, and, speaking simply, – tightly bars for Russians all waterway from Lake Ladoga to the Baltic Sea. In half a year, at the beginning of May, 1703, the Nienschanz is given. Without fight.



Symbolical reconstruction of fortress Nienschanz

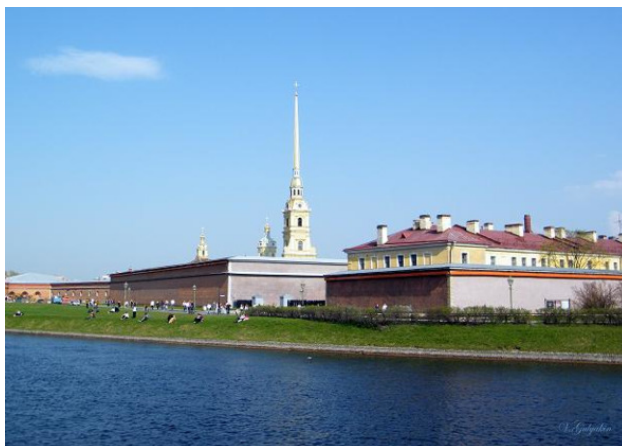
Well, on the lands which are just won from the Swede, on this major water communication, it is necessary to be fixed. Prompt in the rushes Peter makes the fast decision! And here, on May 16, 1703 – remember this blessed date (in old style)! – marshy coast of the Nevsky delta are disclosed by amicable knock of axes and squeal of saws: the forced construction of fortress began. – And, of course, on the island, that around water! The island is this, known to Swedes as Lust-Eland (“cheerful”), and to Finns – Enisaari, by Russians it was nicknamed Hare. But, about it a bit later...

Generally, St. Petersburg is located more than on 30 islands (and to these nobody found time to bring full clarity in this question: some bring their number to the 42nd if to consider also artificial). In the city 342 bridges (and together with suburban, there are a lot of more than five hundred: call even number 580). Five hundred bridges which hung over nearly fifty rivers, channels, small rivers and channels – than not Venice!

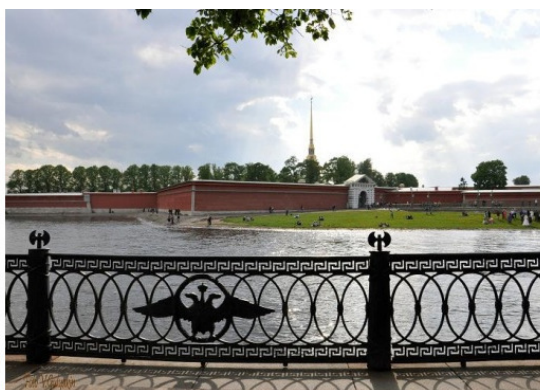
Let's return, however, that May day. **“In the 16th day of May (in a week of Pentecost) fortress is put and called Sanktpiterburkh”** – so about this event the tsar Peter will write! This date – on May 16 (on May 27 on new style) 1703 – is also the Birthday of St. Petersburg!

Dear reader, at you can arise a reasonable question: and why, actually, on May 27, but not the 29th ... – upon transition from the Julian calendar, – by the way, one of Peter's reforms to which time in Russia was considered not since Christmas, and... from creation of the world! – and so, upon transition from the Julian calendar to Gregorian on which there lives the whole Europe it would be necessary to add 13 days, but not 11. And it is absolutely fair ... – for start date of the twentieth century. To dates of the nineteenth century agreed to add only 12 days; for the 18th – already 11. And for all other centuries leaving deep into stories add 13 days, again “not to take a steam bath”. There is such piece!

The small island on which put fortress is separated from the neighboring huge island rather narrow, but quite fast by a channel. From this blessed island, all also began with it. There, on this small island, we will also go.



Type of The St. Petersburg (Peter and Paul) fortress from a channel. Big Neva – at the left (off-screen)



And so “Peter and Paul Fortress” at a descent from Trinity Bridge looks

“Storm” of The St. Petersburg Fortress

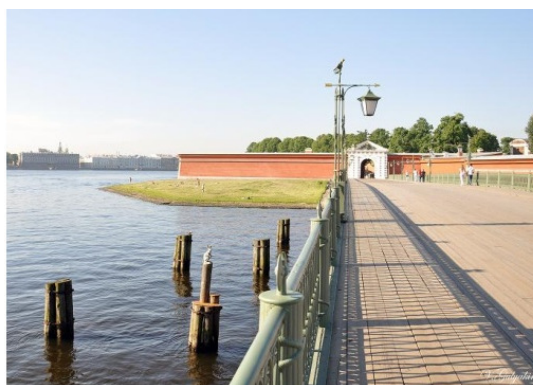
Well, we start “storm” of the Peter and Paul Fortress ... – quite so we, Petersburgers, in a familiar way we call Peter and Paul and if absolutely officially, – St. Petersburg – fortress. Before starting this no laughing matter, – detailed acquaintance to fortress, – investigating all its back streets and being inspired by genius of architectural concepts, we will approach at first Ioannovsky Bridge, to very first of the St. Petersburg bridges. However, in those far times it was called Petrovsky...



Ioannovsky Bridge through the Kronverksky passage (through that to a channel)

On one of pile ice-cutting blocks before the bridge the figure of “the hare who escaped from a flood” established here to the 300 anniversary of the city is well distinguishable. On one of legends, during a flood the hare found rescue, having jumped on a boot to the tsar Peter... Here, tourists “for luck” also throw coins, trying to get a hare directly into a pan!

Ioannovsky Bridge – one of two ways conducting in The Peter and Paul Fortress.



One more symbol of the city: the hare who escaped from a flood

The bridge is thrown through the Kronverksky passage and connects the Hare island on which The Peter and Paul Fortress is located, to the Petrograd island where we now also are, having descended on it from Trinity Bridge.

Petrovsky Bridge, namely so it was called in the beginning, arose at the same time with construction of The St. Petersburg fortress, was adjustable and leaned on wooden barques. Then, in 1706, instead of the floating bridge appeared lifting, already on the wooden piles replaced

subsequently with stone foundations. Since 1887 began to be called Ioannovsky – according to the name of one of fortress ravelins.

A little more than 150 meters long and 10 meters wide, the bridge does not suppress the sizes, but its wooden flooring which is boomingly “giving” steps, a decor of a protective lattice with “semi-antique” lamps... Yes, link of times is felt here – mighty well!



Lamps and fragments of a decor of a protective lattice of Ioannovsky Bridge



Yes, link of times is felt here...

Footpath, to the left of the bridge, winding along external walls of fortress, conducts directly to the city beach, and the path which is running away to the right – to the helipad from where it is possible to make flight over the city.



We get into the helicopter...



...Also we fly

No, we will not depart, and we will go directly, anywhere without turning, – in fortress. And here, we go on a wooden flooring of Ioannovsky Bridge, listening attentively to booming given steps, and we go to gate of the Ioannovsky ravelin. Their cool twilight as if foretells a meeting with history...

Nevertheless, why for Peter this fortress, never, besides, not being involved in battles was necessary? What forced him which just took two terrible fortresses at Swedes – Noteburg and Nienschanz, – to urgently build one more? Besides, the Nienschanz located in the median Neva Current as well as possible corresponded to a role of customs “latch” for collection of duty from all who will carry down the river to Russia goods. And militarily fortress could serve still, covering future city from the West, be built it under protection of its walls. And Noteburg, – fire of its serf artillery would stop any who will dare to threaten the city from the East. But, probably, in that there was also Peter’s idea, – “we will threaten the Swede from here!” – that it was also not going to defend, he looked further!

Peter needed the fleet. Only the military fleet could make Russia the great sea power – “a leg firm to become at the sea”! But whether the fleet which construction only still began could, and crews of the ships are untrained, – whether such fleet could resist to skilled Swedes in the high sea? And where to cover the ships having big draft from the perfidious opponent, – not in narrow bends of the

river?! – No, the Nienschanz for this purpose was no good at all! – The big water area, broad river lands is necessary. At the Gulf!

And here, if to construct fortress on the island, in the delta of Neva, – in that place where the river, being divided into two deep sleeves, forms the widest smooth surface of quiet water, – here then pass from the sea will be closed reliably!

“For several days the convenient place is found to that...” – Peter in the diary will write down. The island on which it decided to build fortress from three parties is washed by waters of wide Neva, and from the neighboring big island it is separated quite fast a channel, representing a natural defensive barrier. Here on this island the first stone of the city of Saint Apostle Peter was also put... and there was it, as we know, in the 1703rd year A.D., May, the 16th day...

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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