

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

This book offers a unique and fascinating investigation into the lives and careers of the British in eighteenth-century Russia and, more specifically, into the development of a vibrant British community in St Petersburg during the city's first century of existence as the new capital of an ever-expanding Russian empire.

Based on an extremely wide use of primary sources, particularly archival, from Britain and Russia, the book concentrates in a series of chapters on the activities of the British within various fields such as commerce, the navy, the medical profession, science and technology, and the arts, and ends with a broad survey of travellers and travel accounts, many of them completely unknown. Also included are many attractive and unusual illustrations which help to demonstrate the variety and character of Russia's British community.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British
in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BY THE BANKS OF THE NEVA

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BY THE BANKS OF
THE NEVA



CHAPTERS FROM THE LIVES
AND CAREERS OF THE BRITISH
IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY
RUSSIA



ANTHONY CROSS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521552936

© Cambridge University Press 1997

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1997

This digitally printed version 2007

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Cross, Anthony Glenn.

“By the banks of the Neva”: chapters from the lives and careers of the British in eighteenth-century Russia/Anthony Cross.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-521-55293-1

1. British–Russia. 2. Russia–History–1689–1801. I. Title.

DK34.B7C76 1997

947'.00421–dc20

96-3825

CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-55293-6 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-03903-1 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British
in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

FOR JANE AND TOM

CONTENTS



<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Note on Russian dates</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xiii</i>

Introduction *I*

<i>I</i>	<i>The colony by the banks of the Neva</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Factory matters and 'the honourable of the Earth'</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>'In Anglorum templo': the English Church and its chaplains</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>'Doctors are scarce and generally Scotch'</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>'Sur le pied anglais': shipbuilders and officers in the Russian navy</i>	<i>151</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>'Necessary foreigners': specialists and craftsmen in Russian service</i>	<i>221</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Masters of the Arts</i>	<i>262</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>'Out of curiosity': tourists and visitors</i>	<i>331</i>
	<i>Epilogue</i>	<i>392</i>

Notes *397*

Index *461*

ILLUSTRATIONS



- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Plan of St Petersburg, 1771. (Plate 29 from John Andrews, <i>Plans of the Principal Cities in the World</i> , London, 1771.) | 12–13 |
| 2 | Plan of St Petersburg, 1784. (Engraved by Thomas Kitchin, sr., for William Coxe, <i>Travels into Poland, Scandinavia, and Russia</i> , London, 1784.) | 14–15 |
| 3 | The New Isaac Bridge and the English Embankment. (Lithograph, 1820s, by unknown Russian artist.) | 22 |
| 4 | Exchange and Warehouses, Vasiliï Island, St Petersburg. (London, 1755, after original engraving by M. Makhaev.) | 23 |
| 5 | The English Factory House, better known as the English Church, St Petersburg. (Engraving from <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> , 1796.) | 91 |
| 6 | The English Church in present-day St Petersburg. | 92 |
| 7 | <i>The Rites and Ceremonies of the Greek Church, in Russia</i> by Rev. John Glen King (London, 1772), title page. | 106 |
| 8 | Rev. William Tooke (1744–1820). Engraving by Joseph Collyer from an original painting by Sir Martin Archer Shee. (National Portrait Gallery, London.) | 110 |
| 9 | Dr James Mounsey (1700?–73). Engraving by George Schmidt, 1762. | 133 |
| 10 | Dr Thomas Dimsdale (1712–1800). Engraving by Ridley for the <i>European Magazine</i> (1802). | 137 |
| 11 | Dr Matthew Guthrie (1743–1807). Silhouette by unknown artist. | 148 |
| 12 | <i>The Bee</i> , edited by James Anderson, vol. XVII (Edinburgh, 1793), title page. Contains contributions by ‘Arcticus’ (Matthew Guthrie). | 151 |
| 13 | Admiral Samuel Greig (1736–88). Painting by D. G. Levitskii, 1780s. | 190 |
| 14 | Captain John Elphinstone (1722–85). Mezzotint by unknown English artist, 1780s. (National Maritime Museum, London.) | 190 |
| 15 | Admiral Sir Charles Knowles (1704–77). Mezzotint by John Faber (1750s) from an original painting by Thomas Hudson. (National Maritime Museum, London.) | 193 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xi

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 16 Samuel Bentham (1757–1831). Oil painting (1784) by unknown Russian artist. (National Maritime Museum, London.) | 208 |
| 17 Captain James Trevenen (1760–90). Oil painting (c. 1788) by Charles Allingham. | 213 |
| 18 <i>An Account of a Geographical and Astronomical Expedition to the Northern Parts of Russia</i> by Martin Sauer (London, 1802), title page. | 217 |
| 19 Charles Gascoigne (1738–1806). Oil painting (c. 1800) by unknown Russian artist. | 251 |
| 20 The Wedgwood ‘Frog’ service (1774). (Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Ltd.) a) Plate, painted with view of ruin and cascade. | 264 |
| b) Frog emblem, detail from oval dish. | 265 |
| 21 Plan of Park, Tsarskoe Selo. Engraving, 1789, by Tobias Muller, after drawing by Joseph Bush. | 272 |
| 22 The Gardener’s House, Taurida Palace grounds, St Petersburg. Designed (1793–4) by Fedor Volkov. | 276 |
| 23 a)–c) Views of English Park, Peterhof. Watercolours (1780s) by James Meader. | 278–9 |
| 24 Plan of English Park, Peterhof. Drawing (1780s) by Giacomo Quarenghi. | 281 |
| 25 Tsarskoe Selo, Sadovaia Street, showing the homes of the Bushs and Camerons and the Orangery. Sketch (1790s) by Giacomo Quarenghi. | 286 |
| 26 Charles Cameron (1746–1812). Charcoal and chalk drawing (1809) by A. O. Orlovskii. | 288 |
| 27 The Cameron Gallery and <i>pente douce</i> from across the lake. Engraving from a watercolour by M. N. Vorob’ev. | 290 |
| 28 The Cameron Gallery, Tsarskoe Selo, 1783–6. | 291 |
| 29 The cathedral of Sofia, near Tsarskoe Selo, designed by Cameron, 1782–8. Sketch (1790s) by Giacomo Quarenghi. | 292 |
| 30 View of the Palace at Pavlovsk, designed by Cameron, from across the River Slavianka. | 294 |
| 31 The Chapel, Aleksandrovskaia Park, Tsarskoe Selo, 1825–8. Designed by Adam Menelaws (1756–1831). | 302 |
| 32 The Egyptian Gates at Tsarskoe Selo, 1827–30. Designed by Adam Menelaws. | 303 |
| 33 Countess A. V. Branitskaia. Oil Painting (c. 1781) by Richard Brompton (1734–83). | 311 |
| 34 Prince A. B. Kurakin. Oil painting (c. 1781) by Richard Brompton. | 312 |
| 35 a)–b) The Academies of Sciences and of Arts. Engravings by Thomas Malton (1789) after watercolours by Joseph Hearn. | 316–17 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

- 36 The Russian Bath-house. Drawn and etched by John Augustus Atkinson (1775–1831) for his and James Walker's *Picturesque Representation of the Manners, Customs, and Amusements of the Russians* (London, 1803–4). 321
- 37 a)–b) 'The Patriot Exalted' and 'Design for the New Gallery of Busts and Pictures'. Two caricatures, published in London, March 1792, mocking Catherine's removal of the bust of Charles Fox from the Cameron Gallery. 329–30
- 38 Rev. William Coxe (1747–1828). Watercolour by unknown English artist. (National Portrait Gallery, London.) 350
- 39 Sir John Sinclair (1754–1835). Oil painting by Thomas Lawrence. 357
- 40 Lady Elizabeth Craven (1750–1828) and the Margrave of Anspach. Engraving, 1789, for the *Town and Country Magazine*. 359
- 41 John Howard (1726–90). Oil painting by Mather Brown. (National Portrait Gallery, London.) 362
- 42 Elizabeth Chudleigh, Duchess of Kingston (1720–88). Engraving by unknown artist. 366
- 43 Jane Hamilton, Lady Cathcart (1726–71). Engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi, 1770s, from original marble medallion by Anne-Marie Collot. 370
- 44 *Particulars Addressed to Lady Cathcart's Friends* by Charles, 9th Lord Cathcart (1721–76), St Petersburg (?), 1771. 371

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE



This has been a difficult book to write and an even more difficult one to finish. It is with some embarrassment that I recall it was as long ago as 1973 that I published an article entitled ‘The British in Catherine’s Russia: a preliminary survey’ with every expectation of finishing a book within two years, rather than two decades. The survey was basically sound, although the use of the word ‘preliminary’ was well-advised. What I was then surveying was indeed the tip of an iceberg and with every year that passed, the imposing size of that iceberg slowly revealed itself. More and more fascinating individuals were discovered, more and more archives, family and public, were found, more and more areas of British activity were recognised. I have frequently sought refuge from the colossus by writing other books, other articles, some, but not all, connected with Anglo-Russian relations, and including a book whose title, ‘*By the Banks of the Thames*’, echoes that of the present volume but which was considerably easier to write, not least because the materials were more circumscribed, the number of individuals involved infinitely smaller.

My fascination with the general theme of Anglo-Russian relations in the eighteenth century dates back to my postgraduate study of the career of Nikolai Karamzin, the Russian man-of-letters who visited, and wrote about, England just after the French Revolution; but if I were to single out two works which influenced the direction and range of my research specifically into the activities of the British in eighteenth-century Russia at an earlier stage, I would name Matthew Anderson’s *Britain’s Discovery of Russia, 1553–1815* (London, 1958) and James Cracraft’s article, ‘James Brogden in Russia, 1787–1788’ (1969).

The second of these publications introduced me to the records of the Russia Company and the register of the English Church in St Petersburg, which I have subsequently used frequently and profitably. The Guildhall Library, where they are held, stands at the head of a long list of archives and libraries in Britain, Ireland and Russia in which I have had the good fortune to work and/or from which I have received microfilms and photocopies and innumerable kindnesses from their staffs. They include: the Public

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Record Office, Chancery Lane and Kew; the Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh; the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast; the British Library, London; the National Library of Ireland, Dublin; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin; the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich; the Royal Society, London; the University Libraries and Archives of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cambridge, Hull, Leeds, Nottingham and the School of Slavonic Studies, London; Birmingham Reference Libraries; the County Record Offices of Bedfordshire at Bedford, Cornwall at Truro, Derbyshire at Matlock, Hampshire at Winchester, Kent at Maidstone, Lincolnshire at Lincoln, Wiltshire at Trowbridge and the Greater London Record Office; Dr Williams' Library, London; the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London; the Library of the Grand Lodge of England, London; the private archives of Earl Cathcart, Mr Robert Dimsdale, Mrs Eleanor Rosser and Mrs Joyce Sanderson. In Moscow I was given access to important sources in the the National Library, the Archive of Foreign Affairs and the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, and in St Petersburg to sources in the Russian National Library, the Archives of the Institute of History and the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Naval Archive, and the Central State Historical Archive. I apologise for any omissions in this list.

Over the years my research has been facilitated by the granting of sabbatical leave from the universities of East Anglia, Leeds and Cambridge and I have received generous grants to aid my work from those universities and also from the British Council and the British Academy.

Some of the material in my book has been reworked from articles I have published in scholarly journals and appears with permission of the editors of *Canadian Slavic Studies*, *European Studies Review*, *Journal of European Studies*, *Mariner's Mirror*, *Oxford Slavonic Papers*, *Scottish Slavonic Studies*, *Slavonic and East European Review* and *Study Group on Eighteenth-Century Russia Newsletter*.

My book is about people and there are many people I wish to thank who have made, often unknowingly, a contribution – be it in the form of snippets of information or bibliographical leads, words of understanding or a sympathetic ear. My colleagues in the Study Group on Eighteenth-Century Russia have been particularly supportive and long-suffering and I value highly their expertise and their friendship. I wish from their distinguished ranks to single out Roger Bartlett, who, particularly in the early years, supplied me with all manner of helpful morsels from archives and recondite publications and whose knowledge in certain areas of my investigation is without equal.

Teresa Jones has survived ten years as my secretary at Cambridge and my

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03903-1 - By the Banks of the Neva: Chapters from the Lives and Careers of the British in Eighteenth-Century Russia

Anthony Cross

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

xv

indebtedness to her skills and her patience in seeing this book through to the end is beyond measure.

Finally, my book is dedicated to my elder daughter Jane and her husband Tom, to whom I made the promise that I would finish the typescript by their wedding day – which I did, but only after calling for the adjudication of the third umpire.

NOTE ON RUSSIAN DATES

Dates of events in Russia are shown in both Old and New Style variants (a difference of eleven days in the eighteenth century and twelve in the nineteenth century), even though the New Style was adopted in Great Britain only in 1752.