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Gerhard Friedrich Muller and Peter Simon Pallas
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The Conquest of Siberia

Gerhard Müller (1705–1783) is renowned as the first historian to specialise in the history and culture of Siberia. Born in Westphalia, Müller was invited to teach at the newly founded Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg in 1725. He joined the Second Kamtchatka Expedition to western Siberia in 1735, and on his return spent the remainder of his life publishing works on the history of Siberia. His co-author Peter Simon Pallas (1741–1811) also served on several expeditions to Siberia. This volume, first published in English in 1842, contains the English translation of these authors' detailed description of the Russian colonisation of Siberia and tensions with China. Combining ethnographic material with accounts of Russia's trade with indigenous Siberian peoples and China, this volume presented one of the first scholarly accounts of Siberia to western Europe at a time when the region was little known outside of Russia.

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The Conquest of Siberia

*And the History of the Transactions, Wars,
Commerce, &c. &c. Carried on between
Russia and China, from the Earliest Period*

GERHARD FRIEDRICH MÜLLER
PETER SIMON PALLAS



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THE
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TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN OF

G. F. MULLER,

HISTORIOGRAPHER OF RUSSIA, AND OF

PETER SIMON PALLAS, M.D. F.R.S.

COUNSELLOR OF THE BOARD OF MINES TO THE
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA,

MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT SAINT
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TO HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR HENRY POTTINGER, BART.

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S PLENIPOTENTIARY IN CHINA,

THIS

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE TRANSACTIONS, WARS,
COMMERCE, &c.

CARRIED ON BETWEEN

R U S S I A A N D C H I N A ,

IS

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY'S

MOST HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.

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E X P L A N A T I O N
 OF
 SOME RUSSIAN WORDS MADE USE OF IN THE
 FOLLOWING WORK.

Baidar, a small boat.

Guba, a bay.

Kamen, a rock.

Kotche, a vessel.

Krepost, a regular fortress.

Noss, a cape.

Ostrog, a fortress surrounded with pallisadoes.

Ostroff, an island.

Ostrova, islands.

Quass, a sort of fermented liquor.

Reka, a river.

The Russians, in their proper names of persons, make use of patronymics; these patronymics are formed in some cases by adding *Vitch* to the christian name of the father; in others, *Off* or *Eff*; the former termination is applied only to persons of condition; the latter to those of an inferior rank. As, for instance,

Among persons of condition — *Ivan Ivanovitch* } Ivan the son
 of inferior rank, *Ivan Ivanoff* } of Ivan.

Michael Alexievitch, } Michael the son
Michael Alexeff, } of Alexèy.

Sometimes a surname is added, *Ivan Ivanovitch Romanoff*.

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T A B L E
 OF
 RUSSIAN WEIGHTS, MEASURES OF LENGTH,
 AND
 VALUE OF MONEY.

WEIGHT.

A pood weighs 40 Russian pounds—36 English.

MEASURES OF LENGTH.

16 vershocks — an arsheen.

An arsheen — 28 inches.

Three arsheens, or seven feet — a fathom,* or sazshen.

500 sazshens — a verst.

A degree of longitude comprises $104\frac{1}{2}$ versts — $69\frac{1}{2}$ English miles. A mile is therefore 1,515 parts of a verst; two miles may then be estimated equal to three versts, omitting a small fraction.

VALUE OF RUSSIAN MONEY.

A rouble — 100 copecs.

Its value varies according to the exchange, from 3s. 8d. to 4s. 2d. Upon an average, however, the value of a rouble is reckoned at four shillings.

* The fathom for measuring the depth of water is the same as the English fathom — 6 feet.

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