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**Eastern Meets Western Europe: The Cultural Significance of the Menshikov Palace**

The Menshikov Palace and its patron, prince Alexander Menshikov, enjoy a great reputation in the Russian Federation. An international ensemble of architects and craftsmen devised the palace in the first half of the eighteenth century. Beyond the borders of the Russian Federation, however, both have received far less attention, mainly due to: the language barrier. Modern digital techniques make it possible to render the Russian literature legible to a non-Russian audience, and vice versa, in order to piece together multiple centers of knowledge. One such center is the Netherlands, where the Menshikov Palace is generally known as the 'Dutch Palace'. Why is this? Or better yet, is there indeed a connection between Dutch architecture, most notably of Het Loo Palace, and the palace of the Russian prince in St. Petersburg? By studying eighteenth-century written and visual sources, and comparing literature published by both Eastern and Western European scholars, it is my aim to arrive at a well-balanced answer. Furthermore, the history of the building and its internal layout are taken into account in this paper. As a result, it has become clear that it is mostly Dutch sources that stress the link of the Menshikov Palace with the Netherlands, whereas the Russian literature generally emphasizes Italian influences. The appearance of both exterior and interior of the Menshikov Palace itself is today mainly the result of large-scale reconstruction practices. In the end, the use of digital techniques, together with a critical eye, facilitated obtaining the necessary information. As it turns out, the relationship of the Menshikov Palace with the architecture of the Netherlands is not that obvious. In return, this study has brought to light the varying cultural interests of the two most prominent centers of knowledge involved – namely the Russian Federation and the Netherlands.