

## Creation of the Dutch art collection in the Hermitage in the 18th century and the role it played in the westernization of Russia



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## CREATION OF THE DUTCH ART COLLECTION IN THE HERMITAGE IN THE 18TH CENTURY AND THE ROLE IT PLAYED IN THE WESTERNIZATION OF RUSSIA



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GRIN Verlag Aug 2009, 2009. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject History Europe - Other Countries - Modern Times, Absolutism, Industrialization, grade: ECTS 8, University of Groningen, course: M.A. 'Euroculture', language: English, abstract: This paper attempts to follow the cultural channels and actual steps taken by Peter the Great and his successors to cultivate Western European tastes in Russia and to direct the Russian Empire to a Western path of development. It investigates the historic role of St. Petersburg as Russia's window on Europe, and features the great masterworks of Western European art (namely, Dutch) assembled and prized in the Hermitage by the Romanov dynasty, by Peter the Great and by his spiritual follower and enlightener - Catherine the Great, in particular. Over the course of centuries, Russian tsars continuously borrowed ideas and concepts from their Western neighbors. St. Petersburg was to mark the way for Russia to become modern by creating an environment that could be maintained only by broader and deeper contact with the West. However, Peter Rietbergen in his essay on Russia between West and East stresses the inherent duality in Russian culture, and in the national character, as half-Asian, half-European. This issue is to be discussed and evaluated in the paper. A chronological overview of the main acquisitions of Dutch paintings to the Hermitage in the course of the XVIII century is included in the paper. It is hoped that the paper will add to the understanding of the described epoch of the Russian Empire and will expose the role it played in defining its path of historical development. The thesis statement investigated in the paper is as follows: Has the borrowing of...



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