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"Catherinian Chinoiserie: Oriental Enchantment in Enlightenment Russia."

This paper examines late eighteenth-century Russian views of Asia. Focusing on the court and the educated élite, it describes perceptions of the East as expressed in literature, architecture and the decorative arts, based on my recent book, *Russian Orientalism* (Yale UP, 2010). Despite considerable tension on the Asian frontier and a legacy of hostility vis-à-vis Islam from the Church, many Russians saw such Eastern neighbours as China and Turkey in a surprisingly positive light.