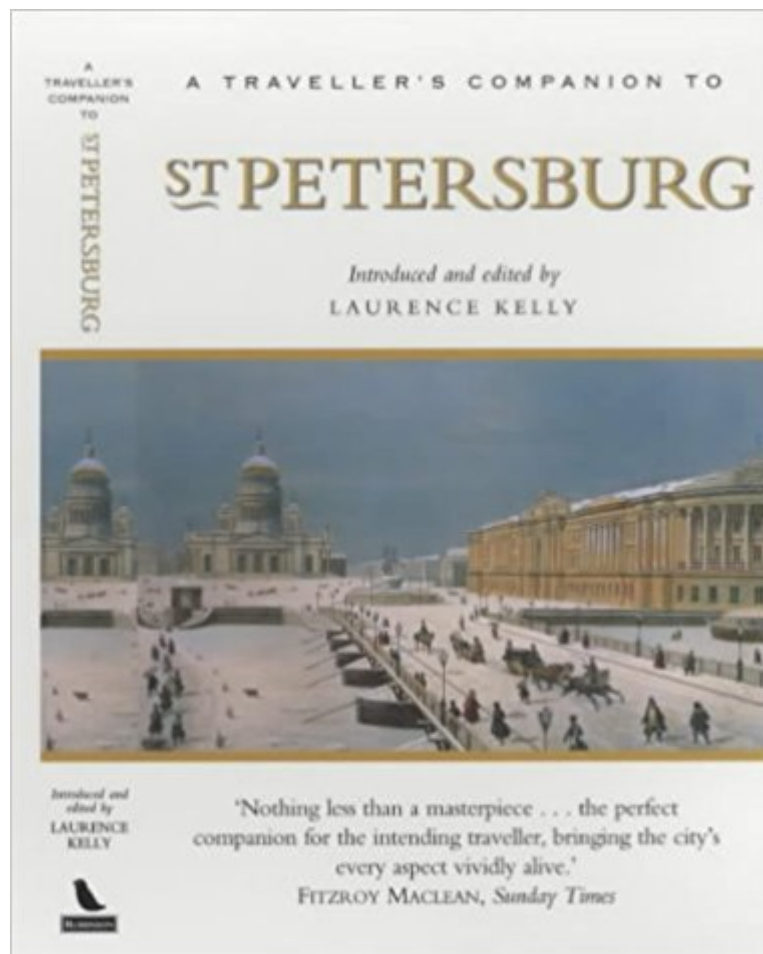




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A Traveller's Companion To St.Petersburg



Synopsis

Featuring a vivid selection from biographies, novels, letters, poems, diaries and memoirs, this volume traces the story of St Petersburg from earliest times. Through these pieces, readers can observe the city's foundation by Peter the Great, on the marshy shores of the Gulf of Finland. First hand accounts tell of the 1825 Decembrists standing in the snow in Senate Square, refusing to accept Nicholas I as Tsar, being shot down where they stood; of the imprisonment of Dostoevsky and the duel that killed Pushkin; of the last moments of the mad Emperor Paul; and of the storming of the Winter Palace by the crowd in 1917.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"- 'Nothing less than a masterpiece... the perfect companion for the intending traveller, bringing the city's every aspect vividly alive.' Fitzroy Maclean, Sunday Times - 'A magic lantern on place and people: Russians and foreigners; major events in Russian history in eye-witness immediacy; so vivid a book that you need not hasten to travel there yourself; and certainly should not hasten when you arrive.' Gay Firth, Financial Times - 'Enthralling reading... a well-balanced selection that affords marvellous glimpses of its grandeur and its grimness, its magnificence and its horrors.' Elisabeth de Stroumillo, Daily Telegraph - 'Even for those who may never visit Leningrad, this book will be a source of enjoyment and interest.' Denis J. B. Shaw, British Book News

Laurence Kelly, author of Lermontov: tragedy in the Caucasus and editor of the Traveller's Companion series, was born in Brussels and educated at New College, Oxford, where he read

history. He joined the Life Guards in 1950 and served in the Foreign Office. The son of a former British ambassador to Russia, he has been a regular visitor to St Petersburg for many years.

Instead of just writing a synopsis of the sights in the city, this book takes each major place and enters a series of short entries down through the centuries written mostly by visiting travelers such as foreign government officials, members of other country's royalty, etc. Fascinating, especially if you're thinking of going there.

The book came promptly and was most interesting and greatly assisted me in the class I'm attending on the history of St. Petersburg. Most enjoyable with wonderful historic anecdotes.

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