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The Chinese Palace at Oranienbaum: Catherine the Great's Private Passion

By Will Black

Bunker Hill Publishing. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 48 pages. Dimensions: 6.3in. x 6.2in. x 0.4in. Catherine the Great's seizure of power remains one of the most dramatic and ironic episodes in Russian history. The little-known and rarely visited complex of Oranienbaum, a closed area until recently, was the setting for her coup d'état as well as where she commissioned her first palace as tsarina. Here, she would relax in private with her accomplice and lover Grigory Orlov, with whom she had a secret child. Her creation, the rococo Chinese Palace, her personal dacha, exudes her personality and youthful tastes to this day. Uniquely untouched during the Revolution and two world wars, its dazzling interiors survive intact from 1762. The palace was designed and built by Antonio Rinaldi, with the help of the great artists and craftsmen of the day - Giovanni Tiepolo, Giuseppe and Serfeno Barozzi, and Stefano Torelli, to name but a few. Their work survives in this idyllic rococo retreat, redolent with power and mystery just a few miles down the coast from Vladimir Putin's new maritime residence at Strelina. The World Monuments Fund is actively restoring the fragile Chinese Palace as part of a program of restoration,...



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