

The Ending of the Russian Medieval Garden —The History of an Imperial Manor: Izmailovo

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The development of the garden in Russia didn't depend on the monastery. In the middle ages in Russia we could see gardens only at manor houses. These medieval gardens were not for aesthetic pleasure, they were all utility gardens such as apple yards and medicinal herb gardens.

In the early seventeenth century the Time of Troubles was ended by the establishment of the Romanov dynasty. In this thesis I look at one of Romanovs' manor houses «Izmailovo», a typical Russian medieval manor in Moscow, and try to consider its history.

Izmailovo was the favourite place of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich (1645–1676), the second emperor of the Romanov dynasty, father of Peter the Great. Tsar Alexei was an enterprising person, he tried to make Izmailovo an experimental farm.

In the reign of Alexei, Izmailovo flourished most, but the times changed. Peter the Great, who moved the Russian capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg, paid no attention to Izmailovo. Afterwards Izmailovo manor began to decline. From the beginning of the eighteenth century the medieval type of garden vanished in Russia.