

The Russian Aristocracy and the Country Estates: A. Olenin and «Prijutino» (1)

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The Russian aristocracy in Imperial Russia was a very specific class in world history. It differed from that in Britain, for instance, in having a huge population. A distinguishing feature of the class was to build luxury country houses on their estates, where they could live absolutely free. Russian aristocrats traditionally invited many guests to lavish entertainment, and their salons grew into a kind of cultural meeting point. Some of these houses had significant influences on the cultural situation in Russia.

In this paper I would like to consider Alexis Olenin, the owner of the famous country house «Prijutino» in the suburbs of Saint Petersburg.