

Sigmund von Herberstein in Muscovite Costume (1526)

Abstract

The book *Rerum Moscovitarum Commentarii* (Vienna 1549, Basel 1556) was the first comprehensive and scholarly description of Russia published in the West. The imperial envoy Sigmund von Herberstein (1486-1566) embarked on two diplomatic journeys to Russia (1516-18 and 1525-26). He learned the Russian language and, as a humanist, he was eager to write a historical and ethnographic description of Muscovite Russia modeled after classic Roman and Greek authors. This portrait of Herberstein in Muscovite dress probably stems from a colored edition of his book, which became the most important reference for subsequent studies of Russia and particularly for cartographic works.

Source



Source: Sigismund von Herberstein Герберштейн в жалованном русском платье, полученном им при втором посольстве (с рисунка того времени) // Сигизмунд Герберштейн. Записки о Московитских делах. - СПб., 1908. Cited in Wikimedia Commons, image file: File: Sigismund von Herberstein in russian dress2.jpg.

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