



Georges-Louis Le Rouge
(1712–ca. 1790)

**FASHIONABLE GARDENS
JARDINS À LA MODE
Vol. 6**

About the project

<https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/>

France

1776–1788

Paper, leather, cardboard, copper etching, burin technique, watercolour, gold embossing





SELECTED BY
Svetlana Bakalova,
Museum Guide



I am one of those employees whom they call the ‘first line’ in the museum, the ones who constantly engage with visitors. You could say that we guide our guests through the museum, this truly enchanting and amazing place. And the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve is unique in many ways. You will find no single exposition theme, no strict exposition structure, no long-established decoration of halls covered with nearly century-old dust. In this place, historical events, destinies, the world of the human creator and the world of the nature-creator are intertwined.

The soul of our museum has many sides and is boundless. Here everyone can find something personal and interesting. But somehow many people forget that Tsaritsyno is not just a museum, it is a museum-reserve, and one of its ‘exhibits’ is its historical park.

In the 18th century, every proper manor or emperor's residence had a park. Just as clothing or architectural trends were changing, so were trends in the design of gardens and parks. In early 18th century, French formal gardens were in vogue, featuring precise symmetry, correct geometric figures. These are essentially picture-like gardens, to be witnessed from a certain standpoint. As you can tell by their name, they come from France, from the famous Versailles. But in the second half of the 18th century, they were replaced by English landscape gardens. This park is like wild nature tampered by man: curving trails, surprising scenery that can only be seen when you wander in the garden. And there were artisans — garden architects — who created these pieces of garden art. They used their knowledge, fashion trends and albums like the one presented in the display case.

Look at these amazingly detailed and fine pictures...

Imagine yourself as a beautiful lady or a charming gentleman, spending a pleasant time surrounded by fragrant plants, garden sculptures or gazebos. Enjoy a peaceful stroll under the

canopy of trees or appreciate the scope of the garden designs. Many of them are quite sophisticated and demanding in execution. This album's pages can take the viewer into the marvelous and beautiful world of nature, changed profoundly by a thoughtful hand of a man. The creativity of nature and humans in such parks are in harmony. After all, the garden and park designs of the old can be a source of inspiration for people today as well. You do not have to be a landscape designer, the most important thing is to be a person of contemplative and creative nature. The pages of this album best illustrate one of the themes of our museum — a historical park. By the way, Tsaritsyno Park cannot be strictly called formal or landscape. There, as well as in the whole history of this area (the genius of the place is quite peculiar in Tsaritsyno), both types of garden design merged and became a unique entity. And after perusing the album's pages, you may ask yourself: 'Should I have a stroll in the park?'