

## Background

### Monument to Grigory Shelikhov in Irkutsk

On July 20, 1795 Grigory Shelikhov suddenly died at the age of 48 in Irkutsk and was buried in the Znamensky Convent.

Five years later, in 1800 Grigory Shelikhov's widow had a monument installed at his grave representing a five-meter pyramid made of the Urals marble on a three-stepped pedestal within the Znamenskaya Church premises. The monument worth RUB 11,760 was made by the Yekaterinburg stone carving factory.



A rectangular basement of the monument is decorated with the bronze bas-relief of Grigory Shelikhov surrounded with bas-relief images of maps, a compass, bales with goods, a court sword and a handwritten scroll.

There are a few epitaphs engraved on the monument pedestal. The eastern side of the monument exposes a text by Gavriil Derzhavin about Grigory Shelikhov's deeds: "He is invaluable by his actions, a citizen by his craft, an honorable man by his ideas, of an extensive and resolute mind, who, with his brave eastern expeditions, found, conquered and joined to the Empire not just Kykhtak, Afognak and many other islands, but the very continental land of America spreading northeastwards; and brought house construction, shipbuilding and tillage into there."

The following epitaph is on the northern side: "Grigory Shelikhov, an eminent citizen of the Rylsk town was born in 1748, got married in 1775, commenced trading in Siberian regions in 1773, made sea expeditions in 1783, 1784 and 1785, died on July 20, 1795." There are also epitaphs in verse by Gavriil Derzhavin and Ivan Dmitriev on the monument.

During the Soviet era the monument lost some of the attributes. The cross was removed from its top. It was then restored in its original form with the help of Vasily Rudyuk, Ataman of the Irkutsk Cossack troops, and the Znamenskaya Church parishioners. On November 2, 2008 the cross was mounted on top of the Grigory Shelikhov monument.

The Znamenskaya Church parishioners currently collect money for the monument restoration.





