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To whom it may concern:

Vladimir Chekhmarev

I write to offer comment on Mr Chekhmarev's attainments as a scholar of Russia culture .

I first met Mr Chekhmarev many years ago when he visited me in Cambridge and I was struck by his dedication to scrupulous research in both written and archival sources. His impressive list of publications since that time points to the major contribution he has made particularly towards our understanding of Anglo-Russian cultural interchange and contacts that extends over the fields of literature and the fine arts. Not more so than in the field of the 'fourth art', landscape gardening.

I have been the fortunate recipient of his massive and major two-volume work *Russko-angliiskie sviazi v sadovo-parkovom iskusstve* (Moscow, 2013). This impressive work surpasses everything previously written about the subject and will remain the standard work on British gardeners in Russia and on the vogue for landscape gardens in the English style. Not only is Chekhmarev acquainted with almost all that has been written in English and Russian (and German and French) pertinent to his subject but he had carried out over many years careful and scrupulous work in archives both in Russia and in England. All his findings are carefully documented in end-notes that follow each chapter and run to some 250 out of the almost 1000 pages of his work. In their extent and wealth of information they are reminiscent of the legendary footnotes of Academician M.P. Alekseev, the doyen of scholars of Anglo-Russian relations. It may be argued that such documentation does not make for easy reading, that the wood is lost in the number of trees, but Chekhmarev's aim is steadfastly to provide his findings as exhaustively

as possible and provide the indispensable sources for any further research.

His latest article, 'British Sculpture in Russia (1570s-1920: An Experiment of Reconstruction' that was published in *Pamiatniki kul'tury* (2013), again shows his abilities in a most favourable light, bringing to his subject a wealth of facts from hitherto little or unknown sources. Its appearance in such a prestigious publication is testament to the quality of his work.

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