

Title: *Descriptio urbis* in St. Petersburg panegyrics by M. V. Lomonosov and A. S. Pushkin  
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My paper focuses on the comparison of *descriptio urbis* in “Medniy vsadnik” by A. S. Pushkin and “Slovo blagodarstvennoe na osvyashchenii Akademii hudozhestv” by M. V. Lomonosov (1764, published 1871) – an oratorical speech in which specifically Petersburg topics was formed. Such comparison seems to be relevant because, when analyzing the connections of “Medniy vsadnik” with 18th century Russian literature, scholars usually limit them to poetic tradition leaving aside the tradition of oratorical prose.

The main attention is paid to rhetorical modes of *descriptio urbis* which turn out to be mainly identical – not only the same *loci* (commonplaces) are used but the composition of these commonplaces is similar. Both texts start from the description of the sea which unites Russia and Europe; after that a plain St. Petersburg landscape is depicted; in contrast to natural horizontal line both authors describe high splendid buildings of the new city; then plenty of ships are mentioned; then Petersburg is compared to Moscow; the final part of *descriptio urbis* comprises joyful pictures of city life during different seasons; spring time with city festivals, ice cracking on rivers and military exercises is emphasized.

Lomonosov’s speech was not a direct source for Pushkin. Similar *loci* and (what seems to be more important) similar composition of two city’s descriptions form a special rhetorical framework which allows us to see the dialogue between Pushkin and 18th century Russian panegyric literature. Pushkin in his “post-panegyric poem” (R. Nicolosi) retains the rhetorical canon *descriptio urbis* formed in the 18th century.