**SUVOROVSKAYA STREET**

**Rendered by *Anastasia Omelianova, October 2016-March 2017***

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It is hard to imagine now that about a century ago people had no idea of television or any other modern means of communication. They had to be content with real life, and strolling along Suvorovskaya Street in Kherson was quite a social occasion.

In summer full life began here at nine pm when at sunset a pleasant coolness of night came down on the city. The Street was cramped and it was impossible to force one's way [through the crowds of](http://context.reverso.net/%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4/%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9/through%2Ba%2Bcrowd%2Bof) people. In Suvorovskaya Street people usually walked without hurrying. Of course! Everyone was expected to show off and to look at others!

By the way, not everyone could flaunt in Suvorovska Street in the evening. To the woman comme il faut (people following secular rules) it was strictly forbidden to walk alone.

When the ladies of Kherson asked the governor, Nikolay Greveniz, for the improvement of illumination in Suvorovskaya Street, he answered, *'Decent women sit at home at night'*. A classical answer of a bureaucrat a hundred years ago! Besides, pretty ladies searching for a fiance walked along the even-numbered side of the street and women who walked with men went along its odd-numbered side.

The Ossetic poet Kosta Khetagurov, who was doomed to spend the time of his exile in Kherson, wrote about walking in Suvorovskaya Street: *'There is a large number of female residents. There are 6-8 ladies (I seriously counted yesterday) per one cavalier...'* Also, a local newspaper 'The World of Kherson' periodically published 'jokes' about Suvorovskaya Street. Here is what they told: *'If you see a man drinking champagne in the restaurant owned by Mr. Gripchenko – it does not mean that the man has got money to pay for that. If a coquette is asking you for money here – it does not mean that she loves you. If a man passed away – it does not mean that he* [*was treated by*](http://context.reverso.net/%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4/%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9/Shahnawaz%2Bwas%2Btreated%2Bby) *a good* [*doctor*](http://context.reverso.net/%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4/%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9/doctor)*.'*

With years, the street has changed. Unfortunately, authorities did everything for that: they demolished the old buildings and whole neighbourhoods in order to [open the passage](http://context.reverso.net/%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4/%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9/open%2Bthe%2Bpassage) to the bar 'Ocean'; removed the asphalt surfacing in order to cover the street with square pre-cast concrete blocks (pavers). The local residents never fully approved of that because *“…babies’ teeth would chatter like castanets when prams were pushed on the pavers along the street, and women would break shoe heels when they happened to miss a paver block and get in between”*.

Moreover, they moved the monuments and 'Europeanized' the facades of the buildings. The integrity of the street has been destroyed. Originally, Suvorovskaya Street was intended to become like Moscow's Arbat. Alas, it bears a resemblance to a Turkish Bazaar… Every year itsspecial image becomes less and less visible. However, it is for almost three centuries now that the people of Kherson love their street – no matter what it looks like.

**Based on the book «*Вулиці старого Херсона» by Victor Pivorovich and Sergey Dyachenko***

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