“……Welcome to the Russian Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts. Its collections comprise about 40.000 exhibits, representing wood carving, painting on wood, weaving, pottery and porcelain, embroidery, lace, finifit jewellery, painted lacquer work and many other items from traditional Russian craft centers. Hand-carved and hand-painted figurines have always been popular. They were used as toys and for decoration. Here is a fine display of birchbark items from Northern Russia. The famous Khokhloma style is remarkable for its lavish patterns inspired by folk tableware. This style is distinguished by the characteristic gold background and fine brushwork.

The museum`s large collection of Russian lace from Vologda, Yelets and Mikhailov is fascinating. Russian lace makers have won recognition at international fairs for their masterpieces. Here you can also admire Pavlov-Posad shawls. Shawls have always been an important of a Russian woman`s national costume. Although the originated in Kashmir, India, in the 18th century, Russian manufacturers started using worsted weaving yarn and producing their own cloth.

The pottery section displays a wide variety of shaped vessels and toys. The Dymkovo toys have extremely simple forms. They are painted in bright ornamental patterns against a white background. The tradition of Dymkovo comes to life in the figures of red-cheeked nannies and scenes of tea drinking and public merry-making. The display of pottery toys is complemented by those of Filimonovo and Abramtsevo. The Filimonovo toys have elongated shapes and are painted in green, yellow and blue stripes. The glazed toys from Abramtsevo have rather heavy primitive shapes.

The painted lacquerwork section displays items from all the major craft centers: Fedoskino, Palekh and Mstera. These items are well known all over the world. The tradition of lacquer-painting came to Russia from the West. The craftsmen carry on the tradition of miniature painting which dates back to the 18th century. The items are painted in oil and to achieve a highly decorative effect, gold leaf, mother-of-pearl and metallic powder are used. Palekh articles are the most famous. Palekh craftsmen succeeded in developing a highly original painting style which includes a black background, gracefully silhouetted figures from Russian fairy tales, sophisticated colour schemes and exquisite ornamental patterns.

Now let`s move to the second floor where you can see Ghzel porcelain, finifit jewellery, nesting Matryoshka dolls and many other items….”