

The Golden Ring: Cities of Old Russia

Alexei Komech

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Alexei Komech : The Golden Ring: Cities of Old Russia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Golden Ring: Cities of Old Russia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful souvenir of RussiaBy bluebird3wonderful souvenir of Russia, and recommended for anyone planning a trip, to see some of the views; thanks for the great book, the great protection for the book in shipping, the fast delivery,etc. I'm very grateful4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful look at old Russian churches and monasteriesBy Orange Newt"The nine medieval cities featured in this ... volume are the oldest and most lavishly endowed with architectural monuments in all of Russia." The featured nine are Novgorod, Pskov, Vladimir, Suzdal, Zagorsk, Pereslavl-Zalessky, Rostov-the-Great, Yaroslavl, and Kostroma. The "Golden Ring" is the term used to refer to a subset of these, grouped to the north and east of Moscow; Novgorod and Pskov are away off to the west, nearer the Baltic. For each city there are on average 4-5 pages of text and 10-15 photos, many of them full-page.Alexei Komech is an architectural historian and editor. His text is interesting, informative, and in no way over-technical.Vadim Gippenreiter's excellent photos were taken with attention not only to composition and architectural detail, but to nuances of weather, season, time of day and special lighting conditions. There are scenes with snow and others with summer wildflowers; Vladimir's Cathedral of the Dormition rising out of mist, Rostov's Holy Savior-Yakovlevsky Monastery in a golden sunset from across Lake Nero, and the Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery in Zagorsk, essentially a massive fortress enclosing a wonderland of domed and spired churches.One relatively minor (to me) criticism or complaint: although the title says "cities" and Komech's introduction gives a brief overview of the history of the cities as a whole, the sections on each individual location, both

text and photos, focus almost exclusively on churches and monasteries. It's all interesting and the photos are gorgeous, but -- aren't there any other kinds of buildings or features of historical significance in these nine places? OLD RUSSIAN CITIES, by the same authors, is this same book. It's the U.K. edition; different title, cover photo, and publisher, but identical contents. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The riches of Russia's medieval cities By S. Smith-Peter This book consists of an overview of the architecture (mainly churches and monasteries) and art (icons and iconostases) of Novgorod, Pskov, Vladimir, Suzdal, Zagorsk, Pereslavl-Zalessky, Rostov-the-Great, Yaroslavl, and Kostroma. The text is admirably clear and the photographs are quite beautiful. The chapters begin with an introduction to the history of the cities, which give their early history, when they were conquered by Moscow and then turns to the history of the most important ecclesiastical buildings. The focus is pre-18th-century works and even more on those up to the 15th century. Aside from mentioning specific examples devastating losses of architecture during the Soviet era, the book avoids discussion of that time. I should note that the book translates both monastery and convent as "monastery." In Russian, the term is "women's monastery." So some of the great structures listed here are convents. This is a beautiful tour around the golden ring for the armchair traveler.

Book by Alexei Komech

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