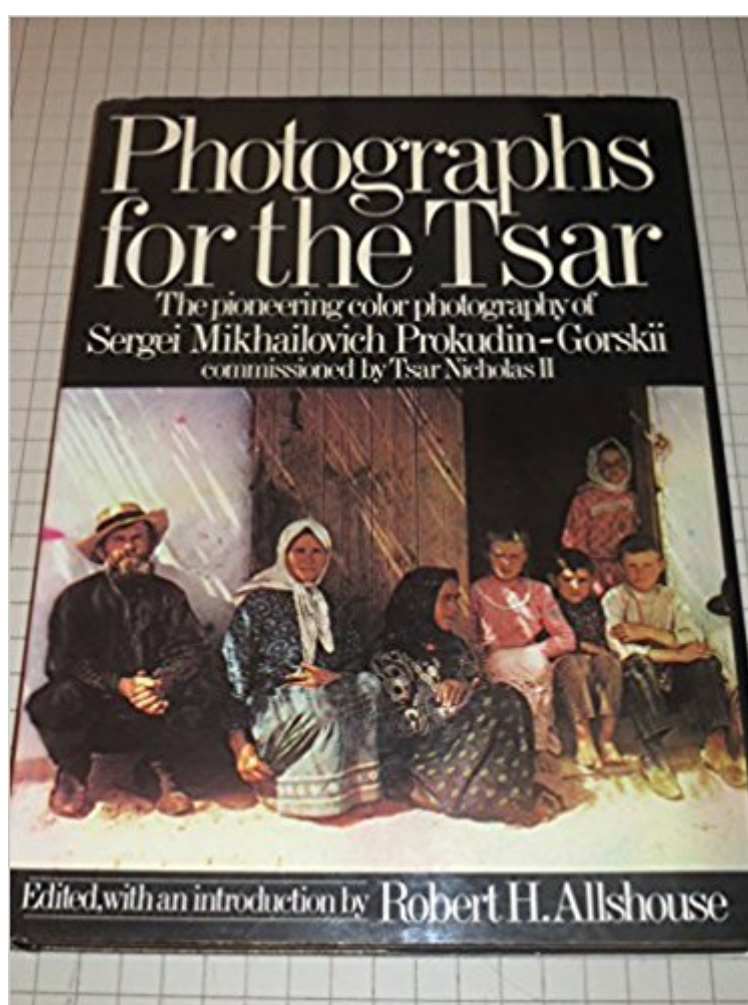


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Photographs For The Tsar: The Pioneering Color Photography Of Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii Commissioned By Tsar Nicholas II



Synopsis

Dust jacket notes: "The photographs in this extraordinary book are the work of a previously unknown pioneer in early 20th century photography, Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii -- commissioned by Tsar Nicholas II in 1909 to travel throughout the Russian Empire photographing things of interest and significance. To view these color images of an era we are accustomed to seeing in sepia tones is an experience of cultural shock -- a trip in a visual time machine to a vanished and exotic world that looks as though it had been captured by the photographer only yesterday. Prokudin-Gorskii, a chemist as well as a photographer, developed one of the earliest processes for taking color pictures and was the editor for many years of a St. Petersburg journal, *The Amateur Photographer*. During the six years he executed the Tsar's commission, he traveled vast distances in a special railway car outfitted with a darkroom -- to the Urals, the Caucasus, the Ukraine, Siberia, Finland, and as far east as Turkestan. Eminent in his own country, he became one of the countless emigres to flee Russia in 1918, disappearing into relative obscurity in Norway, and later in England and France. Like imperial society, he too was a victim of the upheaval of the Revolution. Prokudin-Gorskii managed to bring out of Russia his collection of nearly 2000 glass-plate negatives. This book, produced with the cooperation of the Library of Congress, contains 120 of his finest color photographs -- including the only extant photo in color of Leo Tolstoy. Another 120 have been reproduced in sepia from black-and-white prints. Photographs for the Tsar is a landmark, destined to become a classic in its field."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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This book is full of the most wonderful color and black and white photos of Russia at the time of the last Tsar. It is a treasure in my book collection. I recommend it highly.

I'd seen the photos online some time ago, but while my whole family was on Christmas vacation together, my father told us over lunch one day that he was enjoying the photos in this book, which was on the coffee table in my parents room at the B&B where we were staying. He said it was the kind of thing he'd like to have at home, but "It's probably out of print and impossible to find, and expensive if you can find it." I pulled out my phone and ordered it off on the spot. It IS out of print, but there were plenty of sellers listing it, for a perfectly reasonable price. He was pleasantly surprised when it arrived in the mail two weeks later.

A beautiful pictorial of a time in history. Very impressed with the photographers biography and life. The photographs should be seen by everyone to realize what life was like at that time. Will be one of my most treasured books.

Sergei Prokudin-Gorskii was a chemist and photographer commissioned by Tzar Nicholas II to photograph as much of the Russian Empire as possible in color. Prokudin-Gorskii used three color separations for his photos and as a result some pictures are astoundingly sharp and brilliantly colored, and some the colors are out of register slightly. That's irrelevant, because the photos are spectacular and show the Russian Empire from end to end on the eve of its collapse. The only thing even remotely like this collection is that of Albert Kahn. Beautiful book with beautiful pictures and it allows the pictures to speak for themselves.

The photos mean so much more when they are in color. I wish more history had been recorded in color.

Fantastic photographs!

The pages just produced beautiful photos of the Russian landscape which is completely varied since it cuts across 2 continents. Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii is parallel to Rembrandt in the photography world. His skills here produce a work of art on every page. He captures the heart & soul of the people & the countryside. I have a hand-colored photo from my younger days & the artist, if not the same Mr. Prokudin-Gorskii, has copied him or was directed by him to produce a perfect photograph using the same technique. A must for a serious photographer. BRAVISSIMO!

The photography is beautifully reproduced in this volume, including many photos I had not seen before. I am more aware of his work in early color photography, but his black and white work was gorgeous as well. Had a lot of interesting information about him and his travels.

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