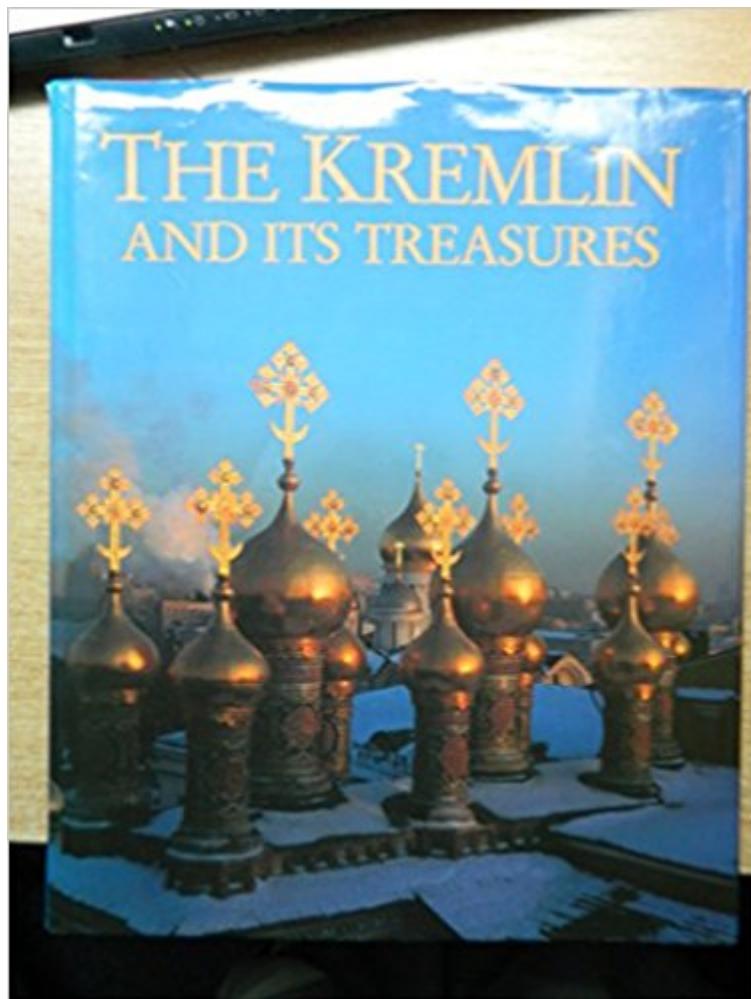


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Kremlin & Its Treasures



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

The Kremlin houses the largest Soviet museum as well as the seat of government, and with glasnost comes this singular volume produced by the U.S.S.R. that reveals a panoply of artistic masterpieces from a period spanning 15 centuries. Superior color photographs capture icons and frescoes, gold and silver smithery, armor and weapons, carriages, crowns, coronation robes and thrones, and church vestments. Featured as well are the architectural splendors of the Kremlin complex itself, which has undergone many renovations throughout its history, with fortress-castle towers, drawbridges, bulbous gilt domes and the exquisite interiors of the former cathedrals and palaces. The volume pictures Lenin's office and private apartment and extols the "Kremlin period" of his life (1918-22), which "is characterized by the extremely important decisions he had to make as well as by the hard work he did." Downplayed is the post-Revolution seizure of privately owned artwork as public property. Rodimzeva is director of the Soviet department of museums, Rachmanov a Tass photojournalist and Raimann a German art restorer. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA The major restoration of the Kremlin in recent years is well demonstrated in this spectacular volume. As a work of architecture, the Kremlin reflects the history of Russia; the works of art contained within expand understanding of that history. On that basis alone, this book belongs in

libraries. Logically arranged, it begins with a history of the Kremlin, followed by a discussion of other buildings in Cathedral Square and then of various palaces and residences, including the 19th- and 20th-Century additions to the Grand Kremlin Palace, and finally a consideration of the Armory. Written by Soviets, the volume necessarily emphasizes collections of which the government is especially proud, including fresco and icon collections dating from the 11th to the 18th Centuries; jewelry; weapons; church vestments; state insignia, crowns, and other royal paraphernalia; and a coin collection. The updated appearance of the Kremlin as a whole, and the excellent photographs of its various collections, make this title a worthy addition to replace older volumes. Dorcas Hand, Episcopal High School, BellaireCopyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Very heavy book but packed with easy to read history of the Kremlin & its treasures with superb colour plates. Highly recommendable for anyone thinking of travelling to Moscow. As someone who is interested in Russia and its history I would rate this as one of the best. Only downside is its size and weight definitely not one to slip in your travel bagsJennifer Elliott

I saw this at my college library some 20-21 years ago and was fascinated by the pictures and remembered the cover of the book so I was able to identify it online. It's really a terrific book. In this age of online photos making photography books of locations less valuable, it still has value because I haven't been able to see such good and extensive pictures of the Moscow Kremlin, inside & out, as are in this book. Also, there's a decent amount of text describing the subjects of the photos.

Great .As ordered .

The Kremlin and Its' Treasures traces the history of the Kremlin, and beautifully shows and describes its churches, museums, palaces, and government buildings. FOR more than 500 years the treasure of the Kremlin has been one of the great sights of Moscow. In 1485, after the completion of the first stone churches and palaces, the collection had become important enough to erect a special building to house it. By the 16th century, the czar's treasure was so large that when Ivan the Terrible retreated to Novgorod before the Crimean Khan, the treasury contents occupied 450 sleighs. Many of these objects are still housed within the Kremlin walls, and the Russian treasury is the largest in the world. The most important pieces, about 2,000 in all, are on permanent public view in an attractive yellow and white Renaissance-style building of 1851, situated just behind the red-brick Borovitsky Gate. Nowhere in the world are more gold, silver and precious stones on

view. The armory contains wonderful works of Turkish and Persian applied arts - superb carpets and textiles, as well as embroidered and jeweled horse trappings. The Kremlin Armory's special strength in 17th-century Turkish material makes it unique, and the Kremlin is richer in the great English display silver of the 16th and early 17th centuries than the best English collections. The heart of the armory's collection, however, is Russian decorative arts, which include the great cathedrals as well as the armory, they outnumber all other categories of objects. Much of the superb metalwork, jewelry and embroidery was made inside the Kremlin. One of the most beautiful objects in the collection was made in 1598 for Boris's daughter, Irina Godunova. It is a censer, or covered incense burner used in church rituals, in the shape of a domed church with windows to allow the smoke to escape. Made of solid gold and set with 24 large gems, this highly ornamental object at second glance shows great refinement. The row of figures of saints who appear to process around the main part of the censer is drawn in the style of Russia's icon painters. In the 17th century Kremlin craftsmen used unprecedented quantities of enamel ornament on the silver and gold objects they created, so that they blaze with color. Certain jeweled Gospel and prayer book covers produce gasps of wonder from visitors. The larger gallery that follows contains Russian material of the period from 1600 to the Bolshevik revolution. The public favorite here is a case of objects made by the extraordinary firm of Faberge around 1900. For many visitors the first-floor galleries are the high point of their visit. There the regalia of the Russian state is on view, including several crowns, orbs and scepters, and five splendid thrones. A silver one made for the child co-Czars Ivan and Peter (later Peter the Great), has an opening in the back so that their older sister, Sophia, could tell them what to say during state occasions. The state diamond collection is also housed in the armory and contains the extraordinary diamond imperial crown of Catherine the Great and the huge Orlov diamond, which also belonged to her. The display contains thousands of stones and provides information about the diamond industry of the Soviet Union, including a map of the country in diamonds. Much of the exhibition is work by modern Soviet jewelers. THE coach room next to the state regalia would in itself justify a trip to Moscow, containing the glittering vehicles of Catherine the Great and the oldest existing state coach, commissioned by Elizabeth I of England and later presented as a gift by James I to Czar Mikhail. Another of the large galleries on the first floor is devoted to textiles. From textiles imported from Byzantium, Turkey, Persia, Italy and France Kremlin craftsmen made wonderful embroidered vestments to be presented by the czar as gifts to the church. Many are decorated with thousands of Russian freshwater pearls and other jewels. In the same gallery visitors can see the coronation and wedding clothes of Catherine the Great and the much simpler garments of Peter.

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