



Moscow & St. Petersburg 1900-1920: Art, Life, & Culture of the Russian Silver Age

John E. Bowl

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Lavishly illustrated, *Moscow & St. Petersburg 1900–1920* is the quintessential guide to Russia's vibrant and influential Silver Age.

In this elegantly written narrative survey, John E. Bowlt sheds new light on Russia's Silver Age, the period of artistic renaissance that flourished as Imperial Russia's power waned. Much of the creative energy could be attributed to the Symbolist movement, whose proponents sought to transcend the barriers of bourgeois civility and whose unconventional lifestyles led some critics to label them Decadents and Degenerates. But, as Sergei Diaghilev declared, theirs was not a moral or artistic decline, but a voyage of intellectual discovery and a reinvention of a national culture.

Bowlt's richly textured volume focuses not only on Russia's best known artists from this period—Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes, Igor Stravinsky, Anna Pavlova and poet Anna Akhmatova—but also on lesser known movements of the period—experimental theater, Nikolai Kalmakov's innovative painting, and the free dance practiced by followers of Duncan and Dalcroze.

Praise for *Moscow & St. Petersburg*:

"This book will serve as a reference resource This ambitious English-language publication aims to cover not only every group of the time but every aspect of the Russian culture. The pictorial layout of John Bowlt's book renders the sheer proliferation of new ideas immediately apparent. The highly charged text charts the medley of productions, groups, and individuals, all local and foreign, associated with the symbolist movement, that make up the vast canvas. As the leading specialist in the Russian 20th-century art scene, Professor Bowlt is well qualified to place the silver age in context." ~ *The Art Newspaper*

"This lushly illustrated volume captures the artistic explosion that was Russia's Silver Age." ~ *Russian Life*


"(An) authoritative feast of a book." ~ *The Irish Times*

"Splendidly illustrated, beautifully designed" ~ *Shepherd Express*

"A truly seminal work" ~ *Midwest Book Review*

"Lavishly illustrated and elegantly written narrative survey." ~ *Panache Privée*

"A dazzling array of color illustrations and period photos displaying the glories of Russia's art, architecture and scientific achievements." ~ *California Literary Review*

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