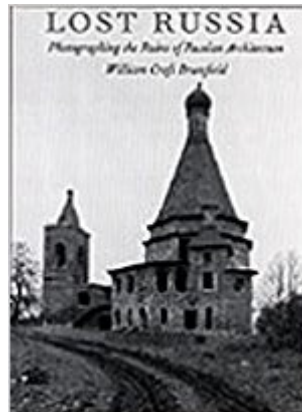




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Lost Russia: Photographing The Ruins Of Russian Architecture



Synopsis

Twentieth Anniversary Edition, with a new preface by the author, available in June 2015 The twentieth century in Russia has been a cataclysm of rare proportions, as war, revolution, famine, and massive political terror tested the limits of human endurance. The results of this assault on Russian culture are particularly evident in ruined architectural monuments, some of which are little known even within Russia itself. Over the past four decades William Craft Brumfield, noted historian and photographer of Russian architecture, has traveled throughout Russia and photographed many of these neglected, lost buildings, poignant and haunting in their ruin. Lost Russia provides a unique view of Brumfield's acclaimed work, which illuminates Russian culture as reflected in these remnants of its distinctive architectural traditions. Capturing the quiet, ineffable beauty that graces these buildings, these photographs are accompanied by a text that provides not only a brief historical background for Russian architecture, but also Brumfield's personal impressions, thoughts, and insights on the structures he views. Churches and monasteries from the fifteenth to the twentieth century as well as abandoned, ruined manor houses are shown "ravaged by time, willful neglect, and cultural vandalism. Brumfield also illustrates examples of recent local initiatives to preserve cultural landmarks from steady decline and destruction. Concluding with photographs of the remarkable log architecture found in Russia's far north, Lost Russia is a book for all those concerned with the nation's cultural legacy, history, and architecture, and with historic and cultural preservation generally. It will also interest those who appreciate the fine art of exceptional photography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Lost Russia is Brumfield’s shortest but most moving book. It could be subtitled ‘a meditative elegy in photographs and words.’ . . . William Brumfield’s photographs can be looked at like going on an inspirational and edifying retreat. The images may or may not remain in your memory, but the subtle effect that they have on your psyche will.” (Archpriest Alexander Garklavs St. Vladimir’s Theological Quarterly) “Brumfield is one of the leading Western scholars today in the history of Russian architecture.” (Nicholas V. Riasanovsky, University of California, Berkeley) “William Brumfield’s Lost Russia provides a poignant account in words and in powerful images of the devastation imposed on the Russian landscape by the Soviet regime. He has managed to weave both media together into a seamless fabric.” (Blair A. Ruble, Director, Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies)

"Brumfield is one of the leading Western scholars today in the history of Russian architecture."--Nicholas V. Riasanovsky, University of California, Berkeley

This book not only met my expectations, but exceeded them. The author took me to places i will never get to see, as well as provide me amazing pictures of these sites for my artistic reference library. as well as explaining about the sites themselves. Most saddeinig is the state of dissrepair of these historical sites, and the lack of funding to keep them up. This book held many a haunting image, weither you buy this to learn about architecture of a past Russian time, or photographic reference, or the state of these amazing landmarks fallen into disrepair... or if you have an explorer's streak within.. you will not be dissappointed. Worth every penny.

Russia is striking for its unique architecture. Having stated that: look to its rich heritage... This photography and text by a leading scholar of the history pertaining to Russian architecture is outstanding. For details about some of its extraordinary sights, this book by William Brumfield is a must! Dag Stomberg

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