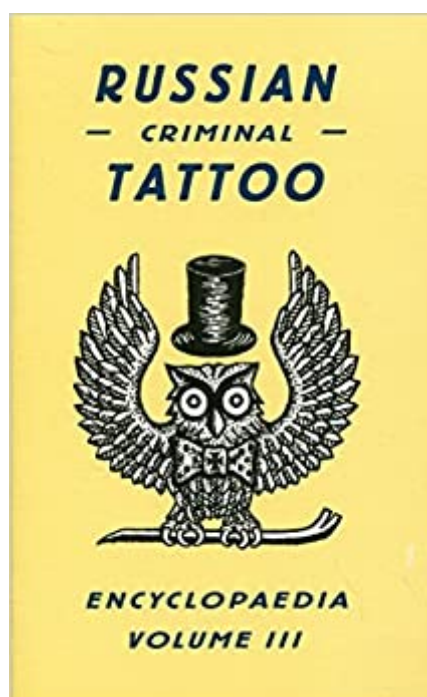


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Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume III



Synopsis

This volume of drawings and photographs completes the Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia trilogy. Danzig Baldaev's unparalleled ethnographic achievement, documenting more than 3,000 tattoo drawings, was made during a lifetime working as a prison guard. His recording of this esoteric world was reported to the KGB, who unexpectedly supported him, realizing the importance of being able to establish facts about convicts by reading the images on their bodies. The motifs depicted represent the uncensored lives of the criminal classes, ranging from violence and pornography to politics and alcohol. A medieval knight is surrounded by the severed heads of his enemies, a naked woman simultaneously services a man and two dwarfs, a crying President Gorbachev grips a human bone between sabre-like fangs, a group of angels drink vodka with God on a cloud--the meanings of these arresting images are explained to the uninitiated eye. Sergei Vasiliev's graphic photographs show the grim reality of the Russian prison system and some of the alarming characters that inhabit it, while the illustrated criminals of Russia tell the tale of their closed society. This volume, the last in the trilogy, includes an introduction by historian Alexander Sidorov exploring the origins of the Russian criminal tattoo and their various meanings today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A book that uncovers a secret language of the body that existed long before hipsters discovered primitivism. -- Flash Art --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The books are a history of the Soviet penal system as much as they are a reflection of a dark period of Russian history. The tattoos illustrated men and women who often were sent to prison for as little as stealing an ear of corn during famished times are the pictorial description of an oppressive regime and the confessions of the disenfranchised who did not benefit from it. Recommended for all who love Russian history, and those who love tattoos.

Great gift for tattoo lover or cool coffee table book. Detailed info about Russian tattoos, more than just pictures, very interesting.

I'm so stoked that this stuff has come back into print. The artist has other stuff out there worth checking out.

I found what I expected to be found. Excellent books for those who know what they are about.

My son-in-law is a graphics design professional artist and also has interest in tattoo design though he does not even have a single tattoo himself. These books were on his wish list and they complete the 3-book set. He loves them.

This is a great book for those who want detailed knowledge on Russian criminal tattoos. In conjunction of parts I and II, it's an education in body art and crime.

Perfect!!!

I bought this as part of research for a book I'm writing. I'm writing about a hockey player whose family is Russian. Don't know if they will have tattoos or not. Very detailed book and well worth the price. I have all three books in the series.

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