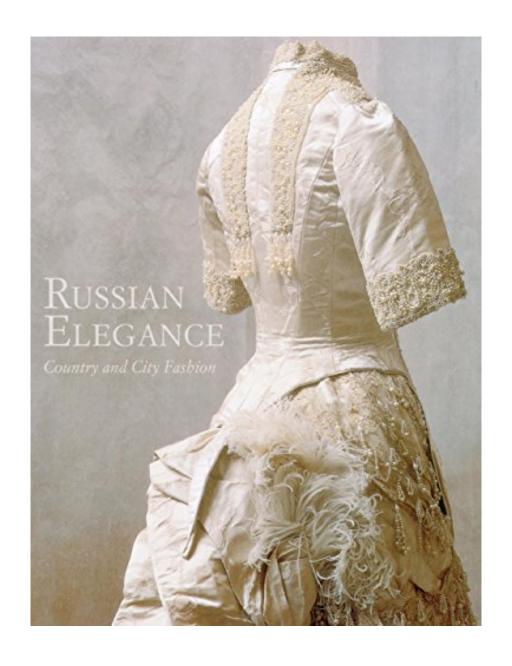


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### About the Author

L. Yefimova and T. Aleshina are on the staff of the State Historical Museum and are authors of numerous publications. L. Yefimova is an expert on Russian folk costume; T. Aleshina specialises in clothing and footwear.

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This beautifully illustrated book shows examples of Russian dress and accessories from the 15th to the early 20th century. Derived from the collection of the State Historical Museum and covering both dress worn in the countryside and in the city, this book is a fabulous feast of splendid patterns and fine detail. From exuberantly colourful and embellished dresses to elegantly sumptuous brocades and silks, the garments and accessories included in this book are an inspiration. In the first part of the book we look at traditional Russian dress which was worn by all Russian peasants, by the urban petit bourgeoisie and by merchants. This type of clothing became accepted as national dress. In the towns and cities, dress was influenced by the Parisian styles but interpreted by Russian seamstresses reflecting the love of bright colours, multi-coloured patterns and decorative features in evidence in traditional dress. In the second part of the book we see examples of the Paris-inspired urban dress. With authoritative essays written by experts L. V. Yefimova and T. S. Aleshina, Russian Elegance is an invaluable resource for fashion designers, artists, fashion historians, set and costume designers, or anyone interested in these beautiful designs.

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fantastic

By K. Platt

Subtitled 'Country and City Fashion, 'Russian Elegance' brings a record of Russian fashion that is truly remarkable. The authors unveil what has hitherto been almost impossible to find. This revelation consists of Russian costume from the 15th to the early 20th centuries. It encompasses Old Russian Dress and National Costume from the 15th to the early 20th century and Urban Costume in Russia from the 18th to early 20th

century. The text is informative and very interesting. The photographs of the costumes are superb. For years I have searched for a book on Russian peasant costume and I am very glad to find some excellent pieces shown in this book. I found all the areas of costume of interest whether they were from the Tsars, peasants or ecclesiastical. Jackets, coats, dresses, headdresses, shoes, handbags and more, all were of interest. The close up details are fantastic and include embroidery and earrings. This is an excellent resource for those interested in Russia, textiles or costume. I highly recommend this beautifully produced book. This review first appeared on yarnsandfabrics website.

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. a really beautiful book on Russian traditional fashion

By K. Maxwell

This is a really lovely book on the fashion in the Russian State Historical Museum. It differs from a lot of other Russian fashion books in that it has a large section of historical costume worn by the peasants and middle class in the country. There's a lot of colorful and intricate festive dress on display and the book explains how town fashion influenced country fashion and vice versa over the centuries. The end section of the book concentrates on town haute couture fashion and includes examples of court dress, general town clothes for men and women and a dress worn by Empress Marie Feodrovna. If you are into antique fashion this book is wonderful eye candy.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Even better than visiting the museums in Russia!

By East West Book Review

Simply put, this book is spellbinding. The photography is so clear and precise, giving you an up-close look at the most beautiful and interesting clothing of the greatest centuries of Russian history. There is a glorious yet silent sadness and joy felt by Russians when seeing these reminders of what life used to look like on the streets and avenues and in homes and cafes. If you've never had a chance to visit the Russian museums where such historical clothing is on display, do not worry, because even if you were to go, you wouldn't get such a clear view as you will via this book. And the authors' commentaries are highly illuminating as well as fascinating, rich with so many facts and details. It's as if they are alongside you while reading the book, sharing their many brilliant thoughts and ideas.

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