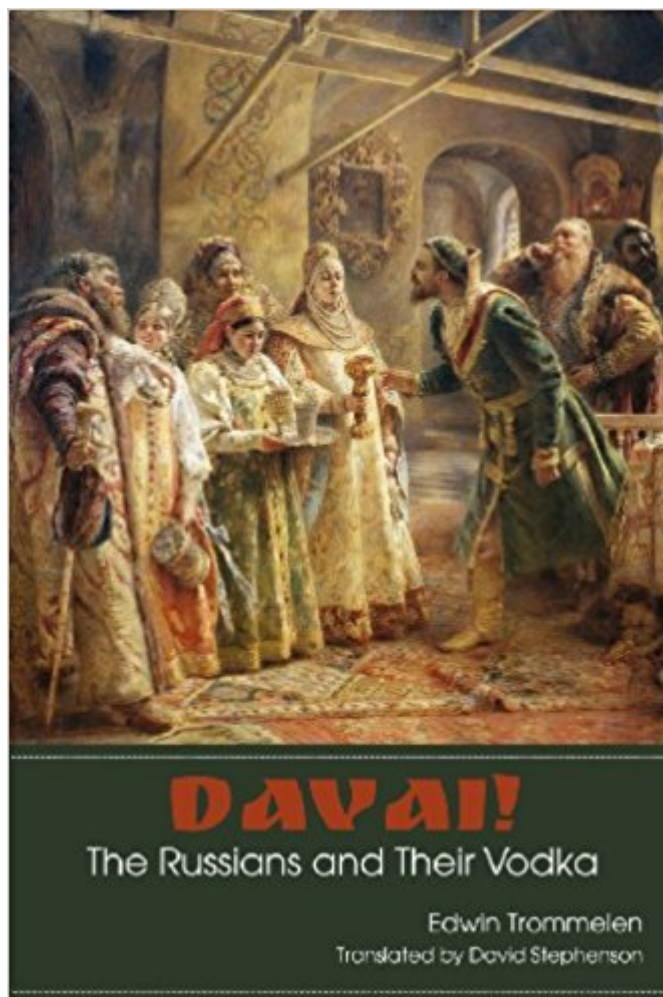


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Davai! The Russians And Their Vodka



Synopsis

You cannot separate Russians from their vodka or vodka from Russia. For over 600 years, this proud Slavic culture has “ for good or ill “ been inextricably bound up with their national drink. This has been expressed in literature, song, politics, history and every aspect of popular culture. In this comprehensive, quixotic and addictive book, Edwin Trommelen explores all facets of the Russian obsession with vodka. Peering chiefly through the lenses of history and literature, Trommelen offers up an appropriately complex and rich portrait. In addition, most all of the hundreds of wonderful quotes from literature, theater and poetry are presented in both their Russian original and English translation, making this also a useful guide to improving one’s Russian through the lens of this ancient drink.

Book Information

Paperback: 330 pages

Publisher: Russian Information Services (September 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 188010072X

ISBN-13: 978-1880100721

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,907,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > European > Russian #1273 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Spirits #4379 in Books > History > Asia > Russia

Customer Reviews

To many people vodka is just vodka, a clear alcoholic drink, yet such a blanket determination will be offensive to many nationalities, particularly Russians, who can hold such ferocious loyalties to their favourite drink that would put many Scots to shame. This (translated) book is a comprehensive treatise about vodka, much more than "just" an A to Z run through. It is thorough, complex, involved and dedicated to just vodka, yet the book manages to be accessible to the average interested reader even though it is written to an academic-plus level. The best of both worlds in fact. First impressions can and are deceiving and the more one became drawn into this book the less awareness one had as to time passing by. It is one of those books where the cliché "so good, it

was hard to put down" was surely invented for. There is probably far much more information about vodka than you'd ever need or want to know, yet that is no bad thing. Whether you are interested in the historic or sociological side of vodka, you're covered. Interested more in culinary matters? Yes, this book is here for you too and you have the benefit of direct access to the original Russian language sources for greater authentic impact (albeit, of course, translated for the reader into English). There are also large extracts given in Russian as well as, befitting such a book, an extensive series of notes and bibliographic references at the end. This reviewer is not sure whether he will benefit from the reproduction of "what to do before, during and after a drinking bout" (of Vodka), for example, but it remained an interesting reflective read in the broader context of this fascinating book. Just beware: you could soon "bore" for your country about the diversity of vodka.

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