Imperial Russia

Also by John Paxton

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From the Christianization of Kiev to the Break-up of the USSR

EUROPEAN POLITICAL FACTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (*with Chris Cook*)

PENGUIN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PLACES

Imperial Russia

A Reference Handbook

John Paxton

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for
Cherrill, Elizabeth, George,
Joseph, Patrick, Samuel and Thomas

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Preface

Imperial Russia: A Reference Handbook aims to provide an accessible reference tool for students, researchers, historians and Russian history enthusiasts. It covers the period from Ivan IV (the Terrible) to the death of Nicholas II.

There are many watersheds and turning points in Russian history, including Vladimir's conversion to Christianity in 988 AD, 'The Time of Troubles', the founding of St Petersburg by Peter I (the Great), the abolition of serfdom, the creation of the Third Section, in the twentieth century the establishment of the Duma, Lenin's return to Russia, the publication of the April Theses and the revolutions. The *Handbook* answers questions such as: Who were the Decembrists? What was the background of Aleksandr Kerensky and Grigory Rasputin? What is a *duma*? What was an *arshin*, *desyatin*, *pod* or *verst*? There are chronologies for each of the reigns and the *Handbook* explains important political and administrative changes, the influence of the West, religion, serfdom, and economic progress. Wars and international relations are succinctly explained as is the rise of radicalism and the revolutions of 1905 and 1917. Other sections deal with education, the arts, law, press and censorship. There are biographies which include the great, the eccentric, the wicked, the good and the talented, a glossary, a comprehensive bibliography, maps and an extended index.

As readers and writers know, transliteration problems arise in any book on Russia. I used the Library of Congress transliteration system, but it was necessary to break the rules from time to time. Certain forms, such as 'Alexei Sergeyevich' do not belong to the Library of Congress or to the British Standard schemes. Instead, they usually trace back to the idiosyncratic schemes of early translators who mixed equivalents, 'Alexis', with transliterations. Some idiosyncratic spellings, which as 'Tchaikovsky', are hallowed by tradition, and, of course, I have used English forms for such people as 'Catherine I (the Great)', and such places as 'Moscow'.

Dates also present confusion because until 1918, the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar was used in Russia. Consequently, dates determined by the Julian calendar are twelve days behind the Gregorian calendar in the nineteenth century and thirteen days behind in the twentieth century. When Russia adopted the Gregorian systems, the Julian date 31 January became Gregorian date 14 February. In this *Handbook* I have used the old style, except for external events, where I have used new style throughout. The *Handbook* evolved over several years and the London Library was, as usual, extremely helpful and I have to thank once again my two friends Penny White and Dione Daffin for enormous help.

Thanks are due to Yale University Press for permission to reproduce from *A Source Book for Russian History to 1917* by George Vernadsky and Ralph T. Fisher and to HarperCollins for permission to quote from *Russia: People and Empire 1552–1917* by Geoffrey Hoskings.

Every effort has been made to trace all copyright holders but if any has been inadvertently overlooked, the author and publishers will be pleased to make the necessary arrangement at the first opportunity.

If errors are found they are my own and I shall be pleased, although sad at the time, to be alerted so that they can be corrected for future editions.

John Paxton
Bruton, Somerset
August 1999

THE ROMANOV DYNASTY

Map 1. Russian Expansion in the Reign of Catherine II (the Great) (1762–1796)

Map 2. The Napoleonic Wars

Map 3. Nineteenth-century Expansion of the Russian Empire

Map 4. Russo-Japanese War, 1904

Map 5. Russia in America

Map 6. Lenin's 'Sealed Train' Journey, 1917