



# Moscow and Muscovites

*By Vladimir A Gilyarovsky*

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## Moscow and Muscovites By Vladimir A Gilyarovsky

Vladimir Gilyarovsky's classic portrait of the Russian capital is one of Russians' most beloved books. This award-winning translation makes the book available to English language readers for the first time. Gilyarovsky's self-described "chronicle" is a spectacular verbal pastiche: conversation, from gutter gibberish to the drawing room; oratory, from illiterates to aristocrats; prose, from boilerplate to Tolstoy; poetry, from earthy humor to Pushkin. \*\*\* Winner of the prestigious 2015 Award for Best Translation into English by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. \*\*\* First published in 1926, the book positively teems with rich descriptions and vivid anecdotes: ...from the depths of Moscow's sewers to the murky back rooms of its gambling dens... ...from the steam-filled halls of banyas to the dining rooms of posh restaurants and workers' taverns... ...from the lives of students and waiters to the struggles of market traders and heroic firemen... Gilyarovsky's book documents pre-Soviet life in the Russian capital like no work before or since. This first-ever English translation includes dozens of historical photos, poems in the original Russian, an index, and maps. REVIEW: "...This English rendition is a true accomplishment... students studying any aspect of nineteenth-century Russia would gain from this work a more graphic and more complete sense of the vanished pre-revolutionary world than any single textbook or literary work is likely to provide." – Barry P. Scherr, Dartmouth College (Slavic and East European Journal)

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## **Editorial Review**

### **About the Author**

Vladimir Alexeyevich Gilyarovsky (1853-1935) was an adventurer, raconteur, poet, actor, gourmand, and an indefatigable writer. He is widely acclaimed as "the grandfather of Russian journalism," and wrote hundreds of sketches, reports and exposés. *Moscow and Muscovites* is considered his masterwork and a treasured classic among Russians, who know him best by the affectionate nickname, "Uncle Gilya." His chronicle of Moscow captured the great city in a literary chrysalis just as it was being ravaged by the Bolshevik Thermidor. Brendan Kiernan is a freelance translator and political analyst. A student of Russian language and literature since 1977, he earned his bachelor's from Williams College and his Ph.D (in Political Science) from Indiana University, Bloomington, as well as an area studies certificate from IU's famed Russian and East European Institute. He is the author of *The End of Soviet Politics* (Westview), and is currently finishing his translation of Andrei Bely's forgotten masterpiece, *The Moscow Eccentric*, to be published by Russian Life Books in 2016.

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