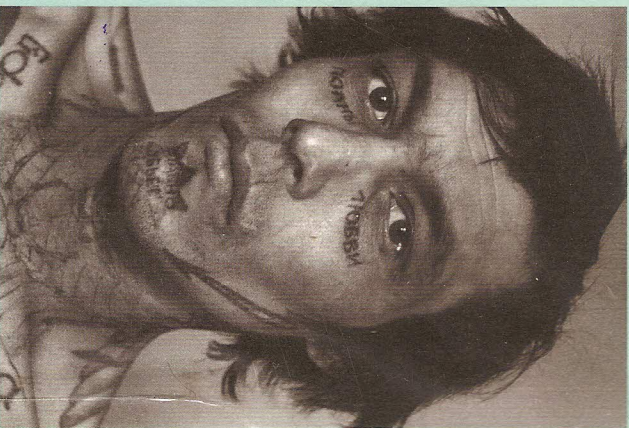


This second volume of the *Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia* is an essential companion to the critically acclaimed first volume. It features previously unpublished drawings and photographs from the extraordinary archives of Danzig Baldaev and Sergel Vasiliev.

During his lifetime as a guard in St Petersburg's notorious Kresty Prison, Baldaev diligently recorded over three thousand criminals' tattoos and their coded meanings. His drawings form a unique gallery; a passport into a hidden world of shovel-faced prostitutes, skeletons pushing wheelbarrows, salami-wielding politicians, fornicating devils, messages tangled in barbed wire and monkeys in uniform. Tattoos on hands, feet, legs, torsos, foreheads, eyelids, buttocks and genitals all take their place in this fascinating document of a rapidly disappearing criminal society, where history, status and even sexual preference are indelibly etched on the body.

With an introduction by Anne Applebaum, winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for *Gulag: A History*.



RUSSIAN CRIMINAL TATTOO ENCYCLOPAEDIA

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ENCYCLOPAEDIA
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Danzig Baldaev was born in 1925 in Ulan-Ude, Buryatiya, Russia. The son of an 'enemy of the people', he was subject to repression in communist Russia and sent to an orphanage for children of political prisoners. After serving in the army in World War II, he came to Leningrad in 1948 and was ordered by the NKVD to work as a warden in 'Kresty' – an infamous Leningrad prison – where he started drawing the tattoos of criminals. His collection of tattoos were recorded in different reformatory settlements across the former USSR between 1948–2000. Baldaev died in 2005.

Sergei Vasiliev was born in 1936 in the Chuvash region of Russia. He was a staff photographer for the newspaper *Vecherny Chelyabinsk* for over thirty years. He has received many honours including International Master of Press Photography from the International Organization of Photo Journalists (Prague, 1985), Honoured Worker of Arts of Russia, and the Golden Eye Prize. His work has been exhibited internationally and is held in numerous museum collections. He is author of more than twenty books, including *Russian Beauty* (1996) and *Zonen* (1994).

Alexei Plutser-Sarno was born in 1962 in Moscow. He is a leading contemporary Russian scholar who graduated from the Department of History and Literature of Philosophy, Tartu University, Estonia. A lexicographer specialising in Russian folklore, he is author and presenter of the television programme *A Black Square*, and has published many research articles in literary and scientific journals.

Anne Applebaum is a columnist and member of the editorial board of *The Washington Post*, a former deputy editor of *The Spectator*, and a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books*. Her book *Gulag: A History*, won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction in the U.S. and the Duff Cooper Prize for history in the U.K.

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