

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The eight photographic journeys in this book are composites created to give a sense of discrete geographic regions in Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky's work and my own during our many expeditions. The maps at the beginning of each journey will convey the outlines of the respective regions.

In consultation with the editorial staff at Duke University Press, I have decided to reproduce the digital images of Prokudin-Gorsky's photographs without "corrections," that is, without cropping or retouching. They are presented here in the form produced by the Library of Congress during the digitization of the Prokudin-Gorsky Collection at the beginning of this century.

The foundation of this volume consists of the comparison of Prokudin-Gorsky's photographs with my own taken several decades later. Although broad in its scope, the book is not intended as a comprehensive study of Prokudin-Gorsky's life or his work. References to published sources are contained in the "History" section in part I, "Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky: Photographer of an Empire," but there is no bibliography. The information presented in the text that accompanies the photographs is derived from a myriad of Russian-language sources on regional architectural heritage as well as from notes compiled over decades of my documentary research and field work.

Russian words and names have been transliterated with a modified version of the Library of Congress transliteration system for the Cyrillic alphabet.