

COMPANION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY

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COMPANION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY

by John Paxton

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COMPANION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY

Edward for a long friendship and a memorable visit to Russia

PREFACE

The aim of the Companion to Russian History is to reach as wide a general readership as possible and to answer questions for those with an interest in Russian historical affairs. It is hoped that the book will stimulate its readers and inspire them to read more deeply and widely on the subject.

The period covered is a long one—from the Christianization of Kiev in the 10th century to the end of the Khrushchev era. There are a few entries beyond this date, but it is always difficult to evaluate current events with great accuracy.

Initially, the Companion was intended as an immediate reference tool for readers of Russian literature. In the course of this pursuit, the editor and compiler decided that a more comprehensive coverage was desirable. Who were the Decembrists? What was the background of Alexander Kerensky and Grigory Rasputin? What is hemophilia? Where is Krasnodar? St. Petersburg, Petrograd, Leningrad—when did the names change and why? What was a duma and how many were there? What was an arshin, desyatin, pood or verst? The Companion gives the answers, but it takes no political stand in favor of or against the current regime in the Soviet Union.

The book contains more than 2,500 entries with maps covering a period of a thousand years. It consists of a Who's Who, Gazetteer, Dictionary, Atlas, and Chronology, supplemented by a Select Bibliography. The entries cover people, including the great, the eccentric, the wicked, the good, and the talented; places, from Moscow to the village where Tolstoy lived and worked; movements from the religious to the revolutionary fervor of the 19th century and beyond; the ideas of notable figures, from Peter the Great to Lenin; books, including Das Kapital, which was written in German but translated first into Russian; and the arts, including icons, abbeys, the Hermitage, cathedrals, and the influence of foreigners on the art and culture of Russia. And a large proportion of the entries include bibliographic suggestions for further reading.

Most Russian literature before Peter the Great was in the classical language of the church, Old Church Slavonic, which has influenced Russian to the same extent, though not as visibly, as Latin has influenced English. In modern times, Russian has been receptive to the international terminology of science and politics: e.g., telefon, Kommunizm. There are also borrowings from German, Tatar, French, English (sports terms), and Dutch (naval terms). As writers and readers 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, such as "Tchaikovsky," are hallowed by tradition and, of course, I have used English forms for such people as "Catherine the Great" and such places as "Moscow." (See also entry on Alphabet.)

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 12 days behind the Gregorian calendar in the 19th century and 13 days behind in the 20th century. When Russia adopted the Gregorian system, the Julian date January 31 became Gregorian date February 14. In this Companion, I have used the old style up to 1918 and the new style after that, except for external events, where I have used new style throughout. (See also entry on Calendar.)

Of the pathfinders in Russian studies, two books are sadly out of print or out of date—M. T. Florinsky's Encyclopaedia of Russia and the Soviet Union and S. V. Utechin's Everyman's Concise Encyclopaedia of Russia. The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Russia and the Soviet Union, edited by A. Brown, J. Fennell, M. Kaser, and H. T. Willetts, was published in early 1982. The format, style, and level of the book make it a useful source for further reading and reference.

John Paxton

Bruton, Somerset, England. June 1983

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The compilation and writing of this Companion was undertaken over a period of six years, and naturally the work would not have seen the light of day without the help and constructive criticism of a large number of people. Among those I should like to thank are Eve Beadle, Dione Daffin, Comus Evans, Sheila Fairfield, Brian Hunter, Bohdan Nahaylo, Andrew Rothstein, Annemarie Swainson, Lynda White, and particularly Kathryn Pocock and Teresa Cherfas for much valuable research. Additionally, the help given to me by the staff of London Library was tremendous as was that of Anthony C. Hall, a bookseller specializing in Russian books, of Twickenham, Middlesex, England.

Penny White typed drafts of the Companion at least six times and was her usual tower of strength. If errors are found, as sometimes happens in first editions of reference books, 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.

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A

ABAKAN. Capital of Khakass Autonomous Region in Krasnoyarsk Territory, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (q.q.v.). It is situated 150 miles (242 km) SSW of Krasnoyarsk on the Yenisey River and is an industrial center with sawmills and metalworks. Bronze Age tumuli and Turkic inscriptions have been discovered in the city, which was founded as a fort in 1707. Population (1981) 123,000.

ABAZA. Language spoken by people, numbering about 25,000, in the W part of the N Caucasus. Abaza is a written language but has no grammatical cases.

ABAZA, ALEXANDER (fl. late 19th century). Minister of finance (1880–81) under Tsar Alexander II who resigned upon the succession of Alexander III (q.v.), following the latter's proclamation of his intention to

suppress revolution and maintain an autocracy.

ABBEYS. Abbeys were first established in Russia during the 10th century and played an important role in the economy of feudal Russia in the 14th and 15th centuries, as well as encouraging the spread of literacy, culture, and Orthodox Christianity. In the 17th century they became centers of military strength, assisting in warding off attacks by Tatars. In the Soviet Union there are relatively few abbeys, and they are divested of all functions other than religious ones.

ABEL, RUDOLF IVANOVICH

(c. 1902-71). Intelligence officer convicted and sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment by a U.S. court in 1957 for conspiring to hand over U.S. military secrets to the USSR. In 1962 he was exchanged for Gary Powers, U.S. air force officer whose U-2 reconnaissance plane had been forced down near Sverdlovsk in 1960.

ABKHAZIAN AUTONOMOUS SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUB-

LIC. Region situated in Georgia. It has an area of 3,320 square miles (8,600 sq km). Its capital is Sukhumi, situated 100 miles (160 km) NNW of Batumi. The region was annexed from Turkey in 1810 and became an autonomous soviet socialist republic in 1921. The Abkhazian coast, along the Black Sea, possesses a famous chain of health resorts-Gagra, Sukhumi, Akhali-Antoni, Gulripsha and Gudauta-sheltered by thickly forested mountains. The republic produces coal, electric power, and building materials and has light industries. In 1971 there were 116 collective farms and 34 state farms; the main crops are tobacco, tea, grapes, oranges, tangerines, and lemons. Population (1972) 492,000.

ABRAHAM OF SMOLENSK, SAINT. A saint of Kievan Russia (q.v.). Local and contemporary saints were extremely important to the clergy and the faithful of the era.

Obolensky, Dimitri, The Byzantine Commonwealth: Eastern Europe 500-1453, 1971.

Vernadsky, George V., Kievan Russia, 1948.

ABRAMTSEVO. A village and farmstead in the Moscow region, bought by the industrialist Mamantov in the 19th century. It became an important center of Russian folk culture and art, visited by Turgenev and Gogol. It also has several picturesque churches. After 1917, Abramtsevo became a museum and a small town for artists including Vasily Polenov, Ilya Ye. Repin, the Serovs, the Vas-

neknovs, the Mamontovs, and Michael Vrubel. Abramtsevo now belongs to the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

ACADEMY OF ARTS OF THE USSR. Founded in St. Petersburg in 1757 as the Russian Academy of Arts. It comprises the departments of painting, sculpture, graphic art, and decorative art.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR. Founded in St. Petersburg in 1724 by Peter the Great as the Russian Academy of Sciences. It later became the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences and then the Imperial Academy of Sciences. From the Revolution until 1925 it was known as the Academy of Sciences of Russia. It is the chief coordinating body for scientific research within the USSR, directing the work of over 260 scientific institutions.

Vucinich, Alexander S., The Soviet Academy of Science, 1956.

ACMEISTS. A group of poets based in St. Petersburg who founded the Poets' Guild in 1912. The most outstanding members were Anna Akhmatova and Osip Mandelstam. Other members included Nicholas Stepanovich Gumilev, Michael Kuzmin, and Sergey Gorodetsky. They published a journal, Apollon (1909–17), under the editorship of Sergey Makovsky. Their poetry is generally individualistic with a strong emphasis on aesthetics and form. The group disbanded in 1917.

Mandelstam, Nadezhda, Hope Against Hope, 1971.

2 / Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic-Acmeists

Poggioli, Renato, Poets of Russia 1880-1930, 1960.

ADASHEV, ALEKSEY FEDOR-OVICH (?-1561). An influential favorite of Tsar Ivan IV who advocated domestic reform and died in prison.

ADMIRALTY. Built by Andreyan Dmitriyevich Zakharov in St. Petersburg. Its gilded spire is the nodal point of three main streets or prospects. Gosling, Nigel, Leningrad, 1965.

ADRIAN, PATRIARCH (1627-1700). The 10th and last of the original line of patriarchs. The archimandrite of Chudov Monastery and metropolitan of Kazan, Adrian was chosen as the new patriarch in 1690. A devout and godly man, he held extremely conservative views and opposed Peter the Great's plans to reform the church. He strove to prevent the tsar from interfering with the life of the church. A number of his religious writings have been preserved. After Adrian's death, the patriarchate was abolished, and the church was brought under the jurisdiction of the state and the new holy governing synod.

French, R. M., The Eastern Orthodox Church, 1951.

ADRIANOPLE, TREATY OF.

Pact signed on September 14, 1829 at the conclusion of hostilities between Russia and Turkey (1828–29). As a result Russia obtained the right to unlimited transit of commercial ships through the Dardanelles and free trade throughout the Ottoman Empire. Autonomy was granted for Serbia and was recognized for Greece. In addition, Moldavia and Walachia were to be occupied until Turkey paid an indemnity.

ADYGEI AUTONOMOUS REGION. Region situated in Krasnodar Territory (q.v.). It has an area of 2,934 square miles (7,599 sq km). It was established 1922 and its capital is Maikop, situated approximately 220 miles (352 km) S of Rostov. The chief industries are timber, carpentry, food processing, and engineering, and cattle are bred in the area. Population (1980) 405,300.

ADZHARIAN AUTONOMOUS SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUB-

LIC. Region situated in Georgia. It has an area of 1,160 square miles (3,004 sq km). Previously under Turkish rule, it was annexed to Russia after the Treaty of Berlin (1878), and constituted as an autonomous republic within Georgia in 1921. The capital is Batumi, Subtropical crops include tea, tangerines, lemons, grapes, bamboo, and eucalyptus. It has livestock breeding, important shipyards and oil refining, food processing, and canning industries. Manufactures include clothing, building materials, and pharmaceutical supplies. Population (1981) 362,000.

AEHRENTHAL, COUNT ALOIS LEXA VON (1854–1912). Diplomat and politician of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was ambassador to St. Petersburg (1898–1906) and foreign minister (1906–12). While he was foreign minister, Austria-Hungary, with German approval, an-

nexed Bosnia and Herzegovina (1908); this action raised the threat that Russia would make war and was one of the incidents leading to the First World War.

AEROFLOT. The world's largest airline and sole organization for air services in the Soviet Union. In 1980 the airline transported 104 million passengers and 3 million tons of freight. It serves 67 countries and its extensive domestic routes cover 3,600 towns.

AFGHANISTAN. Situated in central Asia, Afghanistan is bounded on the N by the USSR, by the Republics of Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and Tadzhikistan, on the W by Iran, and to the E and S by Pakistan. Since the time of Alexander the Great, Afghanistan has been at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. Different ethnic groups passing through or settling in Afghanistan have bequeathed a legacy of internal troubles. Influence in Afghanistan was contested by Great Britain and Russia in the 19th century and by the USSR, the People's Republic of China, and the United States after the Second World War. Afghanistan was reorganized as an independent state in 1921. In 1973 the monarchy was overthrown and King Zahir Shah abdicated. A republic was established under President Daoud. but he was killed in the coup of April 1978. A government was then set up under Nur Mohammad Taraki. The Khalgs became the dominant faction. There were a number of violent uprisings in 1978 as a result of the government's reform program that threatened to undermine Afghan traditions.

Hafizullah Amin was made prime minister in 1979 and, following the collapse of the Afghan army, asked for Soviet help. In September 1979 armed confrontation took place between supporters of Taraki and Amin in which Taraki was killed. The Soviets began their invasion of Afghanistan on December 24, 1979, and Babrak Karmal returned from the Soviet Union to be appointed prime minister and president of the revolutionary council. Internal resistance to Karmal and the Soviets has continued for some time. Population (1981) 16,276,000.

AFINOGENOV, ALEXANDER NIKOLAYEVICH (1904-41). Playwright and one of the few important dramatists to emerge immediately after the Revolution. The Strange Fellow (1928) and Fear (1931) were his best-known plays and dealt with the difficulties of change in a new social order. Subsequent plays, The Distant, Greetings Spain, Mashenka, and On the Eve were more acceptable politically to the regime. He was killed in a German air raid.

AGITPROP. Word derived from initial syllables of the words agitation and propaganda, and it refers to a department of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It is responsible for agitation and propaganda on behalf of communism. It is also applied to anyone engaged in agitprop.

Clews, J. C., Communist Propaganda Techniques, 1964.

Schapiro, Leonard B., The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, rev. ed. 1971.

AGRARIAN REFORMS. The first major agrarian reform was the abolition of serfdom, an institution that had developed in the period of Kievan Russia and was consolidated in Muscovite Russia as a means of providing a bonded labor force to support the gentry in their obligation to defend the country. Serfs of private landowners were freed in 1861, royal serfs in 1863, and state serfs in 1866. In all cases the serf's homestead became his own property, hereditary within his family; other land was vested in the village as a whole.

Serfs of private landowners were obliged to surrender part of their former allotments in return for freedom; royal serfs kept the maximum amount of allotment land permitted; state serfs kept all their land against cash rent; Cossacks (q.v.) kept two-thirds of their land against 20 years of army service. The land to be held in common. The system of holding land in common did not succeed; redemption cost was an excessive burden and the rules imposed by the villages were restrictive. Village allotment areas declined: the overall amount of land held by former serfs was still insufficient for their support.

Stolypin's government enacted a second major agrarian reform in 1906; this was revised and extended in 1911. Peasants in communities that did not redistribute land periodically were given their current holdings outright; those in communities which did redistribute were given the right to apply for permanent ownership at the time of redistribution. The community was required to consolidate land into united holdings where it had been held in scattered strips. In 1911

such partitions into private holdings were extended from arable to grazing land, with the exclusion of traditional common lands. There was provision for the abolition of the non-distributing commune by majority vote, of the distributing commune by a two-thirds majority vote. The land held by the peasant household was vested in the head of the household.

In 1918 the Soviet government abolished all private ownership and made farming the sole basis of landholding, but did not immediately proceed to collectivization. During the first Five-Year Plan (1928-32) all land, whether formerly owned by peasants or gentry, was collectivized. In 1930 the central government conceded that enforced collectivization had been too severe, and that peasants in collective farms were to be permitted small private holdings. Policy since then has been gradually to industrialize agriculture in order to eliminate traditional peasant values and replace them with those of an urbanized socialist proletariat. The kolkhoz (collective farm) (q.v.) is owned by its members, but its production policy is state controlled and its produce state allocated. The sovkhoz farm (q.v.) is state owned with hired peasant labor, and is usually highly mechanized and industrial in its approach.

Blum, Jerome, Lord and Peasant in Russia from the Ninth to the Nineteenth Century, 1961.

Emmons, Terence, The Russian Landed Gentry and the Peasant Emancipation, 1968.

Laird, Roy D., Collective Farming in Russia, 1958.

Lewin, Moshe, Russian Peasants and Soviet Power, 1968.

Pavlovsky, George A., Agricultural Russia on the Eve of the Revolution, 1930.

Robinson, Geroid T., Rural Russia under the Old Régime, (2nd ed.) 1967.

Shanin, T., The Awkward Class, 1970.

Volin, Lazar, A Century of Russian Agriculture: From Alexander II to Krushchev, 1970.

Vucinich, Alexander S. (ed.), The Peasant in Nineteenth Century Russia, 1968.

AGRICULTURE. Until 1928 the USSR was predominantly agricultural in character, but it has since become an industrial-agricultural country. Of the gross national product, industry and transport accounted for 42.1 percent in 1913 and 78.8 percent in 1977; agriculture for 57.9 percent in 1913 and 14.6 percent in 1977. Of the total state land fund of 2.2 billion hectares, agricultural land in use in 1977 amounted to 1.1 billion hectares, and state forests and state reserves to 1.1 billion hectares. Twenty-two percent of all those gainfully employed in 1977 were engaged in agriculture (in 1913, 75 percent).

The total area under cultivation (including single-owner peasant farms, state farms, and collective farms) was (in the same territory) 118.2 million hectares in 1913, and 226.4 million hectares in 1980.

Collective farms (kolkhozy) on November 1, 1980 controlled 248.3 million hectares, of which 102.8 million were under crops of various kinds; state farms and other state agricultural undertakings controlled 794.9 million hectares, of which 102.2 million were under crops; manual and clerical workers held 4 million hectares as allotments.

Produce marketed (after consumption by collective farmers) was, in units of 1 million tons, for the present area of the USSR in 1980: grain, 81.3; seed cotton (unginned), 10; sugar beets, 64.4; potatoes, 16.6; other vegetables, 20.6; meat (slaughtered weight) and fats, 11.8; milk and milk products, 59.4; wool, 453; and eggs (1 billion), 46.6.

Between 1953 and 1980 the number of collective farms was reduced, mainly by amalgamation and partly by transformation into state farms, from 93,300 to 26,000, their cultivated area falling from 132 million hectares to 95.5 million hectares.

Investments in agriculture in 1979 were 21.6 billion rubles by the state and 10.2 billion rubles by collective farms.

An All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, founded in 1929, has regional branches in Siberia and Central Asia and 196 research institutes.

Hahn, W., The Politics of Soviet Agriculture, 1972.

Jasny, N., The Socialized Agriculture of the USSR, 1949.

Laird, Roy D., Collective Farming in Russia, 1958.

Laird, Roy D. (ed.), Soviet Agricultural and Peasant Affairs, 1963.

Lewin, Moshe, Russian Peasants and Soviet Power, 1968.

Robinson, Geroid T., Rural Russia under the Old Régime, (2nd ed.) 1967.

Smith, Robert E., Peasant Farming in Muscovy, 1977.

Strauss, Erich, Soviet Agriculture in Perspective, 1969.

Symons, Leslie, Russian Agricul-

ture: A Geographic Survey, 1972.

Volin, Lazar, A Century of Russian Agriculture: From Alexander II to Krushchev, 1970.

AGRIGORODY. Plans were devised at the beginning of 1951 for agrigorody (farm-cities) to be established; agricultural settlements were to be transformed into large centralized towns, surrounded by collective fields. Because the peasants were likely to object strongly to this idea, it did not win the support of all the party leaders and was dropped. Similar plans, however, have been implemented in the Ukraine since 1957.

AIGUN, TREATY OF. One of the "unequal treaties" signed by China (1858) in which it ceded to Russia 400,000 square miles (1,036,000 sq km) of territory on the left bank of the Amur River, including the city that became Vladivostok.

AIR FORCE. The Soviet air force was believed to consist, in 1981, of over 470,000 officers and men and some 9,000 first-line aircraft, excluding second-line and training types. To supplement long-range missiles (limited by the SALT I interim agreement to 1.618 ICBM and 600 MRBM/IRBM), the DA strategic bomber force is estimated still to have 113 Tupolev Tu-95 ("Bear") fourturboprop bombers, 80 Myasishchev M-4 four-jet bombers and flight refueling tankers ("Bison"), 420 Tupolev Tu-16 ("Badger") and 140 supersonic Tupolev Tu-22 ("Blinder") twin-jet bombers, and at least 100 Tupolev Tu-26 ("Backfire") swing-wing bombers.

The fast attack tactical air forces, under local army command in the field, have an estimated total of 4,800 ground-attack and reconnaissance aircraft.

Operating 1,200 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, the Soviet navy has the world's second largest naval air arm.

Kilmarx, Robert A., A History of Soviet Air Power, 1962.

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE, CONGRESS OF (1818). Meeting of the Quadruple Alliance (q.v.) (Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia) and France at Aix-la-Chapelle (now Aachen), attended by Tsar Alexander I (q.v.). The Alliance reaffirmed the political reorganization of Europe established by the Congress of Vienna (1814–15) and restored France's status as an independent power. It withdrew its occupying forces and admitted France into what thus became the Quintuple Alliance (q.v.).

AKADEMGORODOK. A "scientific city" near Novosibirsk, where some of the most famous Soviet research institutes work in cooperation with advanced industrial enterprises.

AKHMADULINA, BELLA (1937–). Her poetry is based on the tradition of the Acmeists (q.v.); sober, prosaic images, calm diction, and structural compactness are features of her work. Her active and lively imagination frequently leads her poetry beyond the bounds of accepted reality to express avant-garde themes. Themes of Akhmadulina's work include sickness and neurotic states of

mind, the importance of intimate human concerns, nature, and technology. Akhmadulina has been published only sporadically, although a volume, *Struna*, appeared in 1962. Akhmadulina was at one time married to the poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Brown, Edward J., Russian Literature since the Revolution, 1963. Holthusen, J., Twentieth Century Russian Literature, 1972.

AKHMATOVA, ANNA (1889-1966). Pseudonym of Anna Andreyevna Gorenko. She was a poet of the school of Acmeists (q.v.). Her poems, inspired by the poetry of Pushkin, brought her great renown. Her most popular collections were The Rosary (1914) and The Willow Tree (1940). She married another Acmeist, Nicholas Stepanovich Gumilev, who was executed by the Bolsheviks in 1921, and she subsequently became an "un-person" until 1940. In 1946 she again incurred the displeasure of the authorities for "bourgeois decadence" and was expelled from the Union of Soviet Writers, but she was rehabilitated in 1959.

Driver, S. J., Anna Akhmatova, 1972.

Haight, Amanda Chase, Anna Akhmatova: A Poetic Pilgrimage, 1976. Kunitz, Stanley and Hayward, Max (eds.), Poems of Akhmatova, 1973.

Mandelstam, Nadezhda, Hope Against Hope, 1971.

AKKERMAN, CONVENTION OF. An agreement signed on October 7, 1826 in Akkerman, Rumania, between the Ottoman Empire and Russia, by which Russia's demands

concerning Serbia and the Danubian principalities of Moldavia and Walachia were accepted, under threat of war, by the Ottomans. The terms were that the earlier Treaty of Bucharest (1812) was confirmed; Serbia's autonomy was recognized; Russia was granted the right to protect the autonomy of Moldavia and Walachia, with the guarantee that the hospodars (princes) would thereafter hold office for seven-year terms and could only be dismissed with the consent of the Russian ambassador in Istanbul; Russian ships were given the freedom of the Black Sea and the Danube River; and the straits of the Bosporus and the Dardanelles were opened to any merchant vessels sailing to or from Russia. Subsequently the Ottomans renounced the convention and attempted to regain control of Serbia, Moldavia, and Walachia, compelling the Russians to declare war on the Ottoman Empire in 1828.

AKMOLINSK. Until 1961 a city and oblast. It was renamed Tselinograd (q.v.).

AKSAKOV, IVAN SERGEY-EVICH (1823–86). Poet, essayist and critic. He was the son of Sergey Timofeyevich Aksakov. An ardent Slavophile journalist, he was frequently in trouble with the authorities. His greatest critical work was a biography of the poet Fedor Tyutchev (q.v.).

Lukashevich, S., Ivan Aksakov, 1823–1886: A Study in Russian Thought and Politics, 1965.

Riasanovsky, Nicholas V., Russia and the West in the Teachings of the Slavophiles, 1952.

8 / Akhmadulina—Aksakov