

# **RUSSIAN PORTRAITS**

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Russian portraits by Clare Sheridan

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**CLARE SHERIDAN**

**RUSSIAN  
PORTRAITS**





*Perram Park.*

CLARE SHERIDAN IN THE RUSSIAN SHEEPSKIN HAT  
GIVEN TO HER BY KAMENEFF IN MOSCOW.

*Frontispiece*

*p. 184.*

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# R U S S I A N P O R T R A I T S

By CLARE SHERIDAN



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JONATHAN CAPE

11 GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
CLARE SHERIDAN        -        -        - <i>Frontispiece</i>	
" VICTORY, 1918 "        -        -        -        -        -	13
KRASSIN ( <i>bust</i> )        -        -        -        -        -	21
KAMENEFF ( <i>bust</i> )        -        -        -        -        -	24
LITVINOFF AND HIS SON MISHA AT KRISTIANIA        -	49
BRIDGE BLOWN UP BY YUDENITCH-        -        -	60
GUKOVSKI, HIS DAUGHTER, KAMENEFF AND MARINASHKY        -        -        -        -        -	63
MARINASHKY AND THE MINISTERIAL ROLLS-ROYCE	65
THE KREMLIN, SHOWING ENTRANCE TO THE KAMENEFFS' APARTMENTS        -        -        -	67
BIG BELL, KREMLIN        -        -        -        -        -	70
COLONNADES OF THE ALEXANDER MEMORIAL        -	71
SERGE TROTSKY AND ALEXANDRE KAMENEFF        -	74
BRONZE EAGLE AT THE MUSÉE ALEXANDRE III.	76
BIG GUN AT THE KREMLIN        -        -        -        -	78
ROTHSTEIN        -        -        -        -        -	81
ST. SAVIOUR'S        -        -        -        -        -	83
ZINOVIEV ( <i>bust</i> )        -        -        -        -        -	85
DZHIRJINSKY ( <i>bust</i> )        -        -        -        -        -	88
MARGARET AND RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN        -	90
CHURCH OF ST. BASIL        -        -        -        -	92

## ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
SPASSKY ENTRANCE TO THE KREMLIN     -     -	113
LENIN ( <i>from a photograph</i> )     -     -	118
LENIN ( <i>bust</i> )     -     -     -     -	119
TROTSKY ( <i>from a drawing</i> )     -     -	124
NICHOLAS ANDREV     -     -     -     -	129
TROTSKY AT THE FRONT     -     -	140
TROTSKY ( <i>bust</i> )     -     -     -     -	143
SENTRY OUTSIDE THE GUEST-HOUSE     -     -	158
LITVINOFF AT MOSCOW     -     -     -     -	181
STATUE OF DOSTOIEVSKY     -     -     -     -	182
STATUE, "THE THINKER"     -     -     -     -	183
THE SUKHAREFSKI MARKET     -	184

## FOREWORD

*I* *It is with deep apology that I venture to swell the ranks of those people who write their little books after their little visits to Russia.*

*In defence I can only say that this was not written for publication. I have always kept a diary, in monotonous as in eventful days. In publishing a record of my stay in Moscow I am submitting to pressure without which I would not venture upon such a line. Mine is not the business of writing, nor are politics my concern: I went to Moscow where some portrait work was offered me.*

*There are people in England who are indignant at my doing Lenin and Trotsky. There were people in Moscow who were horrified because I had done Churchill, and expressed a desire to do d'Annunzio, but as a portraitist I have nothing to do with politics; it is humanity that interests me, humanity with its force and its weakness, its ambitions and fears, its honesty and lack of scruples, its perfection and deformities.*

*There are of course people who are pleasanter*

## FOREWORD

*to work for than others, people in whose environment one feels happier and more at ease.*

*In this diary are written freely the impressions of a guest among people who have been much talked about.*

*From this point of view, and without any political pretentions, I offer it to whomsoever it may interest.*