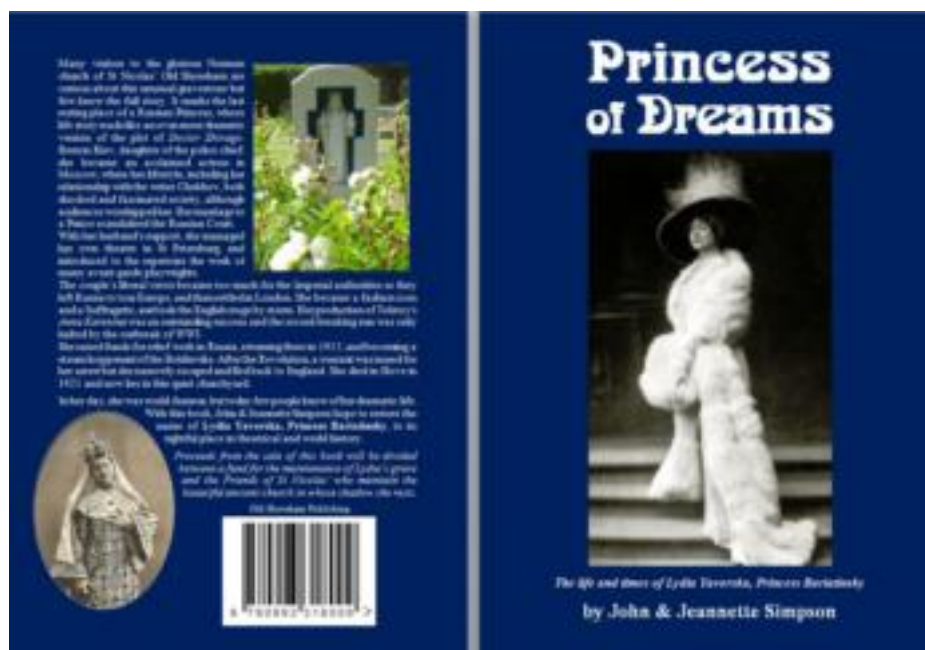


Princess of Dreams

The life and times of Lydia Yavorska, Princess Bariatinsky

A new book by John & Jeannette Simpson



Many visitors to the glorious Norman church of St Nicolas' Old Shoreham are curious about an unusual gravestone there but few know the full story. It marks the last resting place of Princess Bariatinsky, whose own life story was even more dramatic than the plays in which she appeared.

Born in Kiev, daughter of a police chief, she became an acclaimed actress in Moscow under the name of Lydia Yavorska, where her lifestyle, including her relationship with the writer Chekhov, both shocked and fascinated society, although audiences worshipped her. Her marriage to a Prince scandalised the Russian Court.

With her husband's support, she managed her own theatre in St Petersburg and introduced to the repertoire the work of many avant-garde playwrights. The couple's liberal views became too much for the

Imperial authorities so they left Russia to tour Europe and then settled in London.

Lydia became a fashion icon and a Suffragette and took the English stage by storm. Her production of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* was an outstanding success, and the record-breaking run was only halted by the outbreak of WWI.

She raised funds for relief work in Russia and returned there in 1915 and became a staunch opponent of the Bolsheviks. After the Revolution, a warrant was issued for Lydia's arrest, but she narrowly escaped and fled back to England.

She died in Hove in 1921 and now lies in this quiet churchyard. In her time, Lydia was world-famous, but today few people know of her dramatic life. This book seeks to restore her name to its rightful place in theatre and world history.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER (see over)
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Everything about Russia is big – vast distances and huge populations. And to do justice to Lydia and her world, this is a big book. A4 in format (8¼ x 11½”, 21 x 29.7cm), it comprises nearly 350 pages with over 650 illustrations. It is a serious biography and reference work, and can also serve as a ‘coffee table’ book, which you can dip into for a flavour of the times.

Bronze package – one copy of the book, signed by the authors on request.
Retail £30, **Special offer £15**

Silver package* – one copy of the book, signed by the authors on request, plus a genuine 5 Rouble bank note issued in Imperial Russia in 1909. The odds of Lydia having handled it are slight, but not impossible! For her it would have been small change, but for a labourer it was a week’s wages. These notes are over 100 years old, and have been in circulation, and so are far from mint condition. However they provide a tangible link to Russia in the ‘Silver Age’, the three decades before the Revolution, when poetry, theatre and the arts were flourishing.

Retail £33, **Special offer £18**

Gold package* – one copy of the book, signed by the authors on request, plus a genuine photocard from between 1900-1910 showing Lydia in one of her stage roles. The age of these cards means they will not be pristine, but most are in good condition. Because of the small number available we can’t promise any particular role. Search eBay for Yavorskaya and you will see that similar genuine photocards are priced from £32 upwards for a single card. This package is offered at a bargain price for those who would like to have a souvenir of the Silver Age which relates directly to Lydia.

Retail £45, **Special offer £30**

Platinum package* – one copy of the book, signed by the authors on request, plus a genuine 5 Rouble bank note issued in Imperial Russia in 1909 AND a genuine photocard from between 1900-1910 showing Lydia in one of her stage roles.

Retail £48, **Special offer £33**

Postage if required: £5 for UK. Overseas please contact us for rates.

The title of the book is taken from the play *La Princesse Lointaine* by Rostand. It was translated into Russian as *Princess of Dreams* and became an enormous success for Lydia.

Our Princess rests far from her native land, with no family to care for the grave. This book has the dual aim of ensuring that the grave is properly maintained and that Lydia's contribution to the English and Russian stage is not forgotten.

Any profits from the sale of this book will be divided between a fund for the maintenance of Lydia’s grave and the Friends of St Nicolas’ who maintain the beautiful ancient church in whose shadow she rests.

John & Jeannette Simpson

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Payments can be made by **Bank transfer**
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