

Exile, Murder and Madness in Siberia, 1823–61

*Also by Andrew A. Gentes*

EXILE TO SIBERIA, 1590–1822

RUSSIA'S PENAL COLONY IN THE FAR EAST: A translation of Vlas  
Doroshevich's "Sakhalin"

# Exile, Murder and Madness in Siberia, 1823–61

Andrew A. Gentes

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*Dedicated to my teachers,  
Tom, Pat, Wilfred, and David;  
and to the victims of the so-called  
War on Drugs*



# Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>Acronyms</i>	xii
<i>Glossary</i>	xiii
Introduction: Geography, Penalty, Power, and Resistance	1
Chapter 1 The Surge: Exile and Crime in Siberia	21
Chapter 2 Administering Exile: Malfeasance, Corruption, and Failure	50
Chapter 3 Political Exile and the Martyrdom of the Decembrists	76
Chapter 4 Extraordinary Decembrists: Chizhov, Lutskii, and Lunin	102
Chapter 5 Paranoia and Conspiracy: Polish Exiles and the Omsk Affair	129
Chapter 6 Exile to Settlement	160
Chapter 7 <i>Katorga</i> and the 1845 <i>Ulozhenie</i>	180
Conclusion: Aesthetics, Delusions, Conclusions	217
<i>Notes</i>	222
<i>Bibliography</i>	263
<i>Index</i>	282

# List of Tables

Table 3.1	Decembrists' Departure Dates from Petersburg to Siberia	85
Table 5.1	Distribution of Polish Political Exiles in Nerchinsk Mining District, November 1837	140
Table 7.1	Annual Escapes from Three Salt Works in Eastern Siberia	214



# Preface

This book continues the history of tsarist Siberian exile I began with *Exile to Siberia, 1590–1822* (2008). Whereas it is desirable that readers be familiar with this previous work, such is not necessary to understand the present work on its own terms. All dates conform to the Julian, or Old Style, calendar, which during the period covered here was 12 days behind the Gregorian calendar. This book uses a number of terms and acronyms with which readers may not be familiar, and so I have provided both a glossary and a list of acronyms' definitions. The transliteration of Russian terms accords with the Library of Congress system, except that in the body of the text I have deleted any diacritical mark that comes at the end of a word so as to facilitate use of the possessive case. Nonetheless, some idiosyncratic transliterations remain because I have quoted other scholars' translations. Finally, I have attempted to convert from Russian to their original Latinate spellings the names of, especially, Polish actors. This has proved rather difficult at times and admittedly involved some guessing, and there are some exceptions to this rule for reasons explained in footnotes. I apologize ahead of time for any errors.

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Congress. Without librarians' and archivists' dedication to their professions this book would not have been possible. I would also like to thank Maney Publishing for permission to use in Chapters 3 and 4 material from an article that appeared in *Slavonica* in 2007. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the good spirit that helps me in all things.

AAG  
*Washington, DC*

# Acronyms

EOGU	Eniseisk General Provincial Administration ( <i>Eniseiskoe obshchee gubernskoe upravlenie</i> )
GAIO	Irkutsk District State Archive ( <i>Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Irkutskoi oblasti</i> )
GARF	Russian Federation State Archive ( <i>Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii</i> )
GUVS	Main Administration of Eastern Siberia ( <i>Glavnoe upravlenie Vostochnoi Sibiri</i> )
GUZS	Main Administration of Western Siberia ( <i>Glavnoe upravlenie Zapadnoi Sibiri</i> )
IGP	Irkutsk Provincial Administration ( <i>Irkutskoe gubernskoe pravlenie</i> )
MVD	Ministry of Internal Affairs ( <i>Ministerstvo vnutrennykh del</i> )
OPT	Prison Aid Society ( <i>Obshchestvo popechitel'nago o tiur'makh</i> )
RGIA	Russian State Historical Archive ( <i>Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi istoricheskii arkhiv</i> )
TobPS	Tobol'sk Exile Office ( <i>Tobol'skii Prikaz o ssyl'nykh</i> )
ZhMVD	Journal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs ( <i>Zhurnal Ministerstva vnutrennykh del</i> )

# Glossary

<i>Arshin</i>	unit of measurement equal to 71 cm or 28 in
<i>Assignats</i>	paper rubles with a value less than for silver rubles
<i>Bezpopovtsy</i>	schismatics who abjured priests
<i>Brodiagi</i>	vagabonds, usually fugitive exiles and penal laborers
<i>Brodiazhestvo</i>	the crime of “vagabondage”
<i>Desiatina</i>	unit of measurement equal to 1.09 hectares or 2.7 acres
<i>Dobrovol'nye</i>	“voluntaries,” term for family members who accompanied exiles
<i>Gimmaziia</i>	high school
<i>Guberniia</i>	province
<i>Katorga</i>	penologico-administrative regime; penal labor; collective noun for penal laborers
<i>Krai</i>	unorganized territory
<i>Meshchane</i>	category of petty urban dwellers
<i>Narodnost'</i>	“nationality-ness”
<i>Narod</i>	the (common) people
<i>Obrok</i>	peasant dues
<i>Okrug</i>	“district”
<i>Ostrog</i>	Siberian fort
<i>Plet'</i>	three-tailed whip
<i>Popovtsy</i>	schismatics who used priests
<i>Raznochintsy</i>	persons without clearly defined class status
<i>Shliakhta</i>	Russian term for Polish gentry class
<i>Shliakhtichi</i>	members of the Polish gentry
<i>Sibiriaki</i>	Siberian Russians
<i>Skopchestvo</i>	crime of castration, or belonging to the <i>Skoptsy</i> sect
<i>Skoptsy</i>	self-castrating religious sectarians
<i>Soslovie</i>	social estate
<i>Starozhily</i>	“long-term residents,” i.e., Siberian Russian peasants
<i>Uezd</i>	“district” (in use before 1822)
<i>Ulozhenie</i>	Law Code
<i>Volost'</i>	canton
<i>Zavod</i>	industrial township