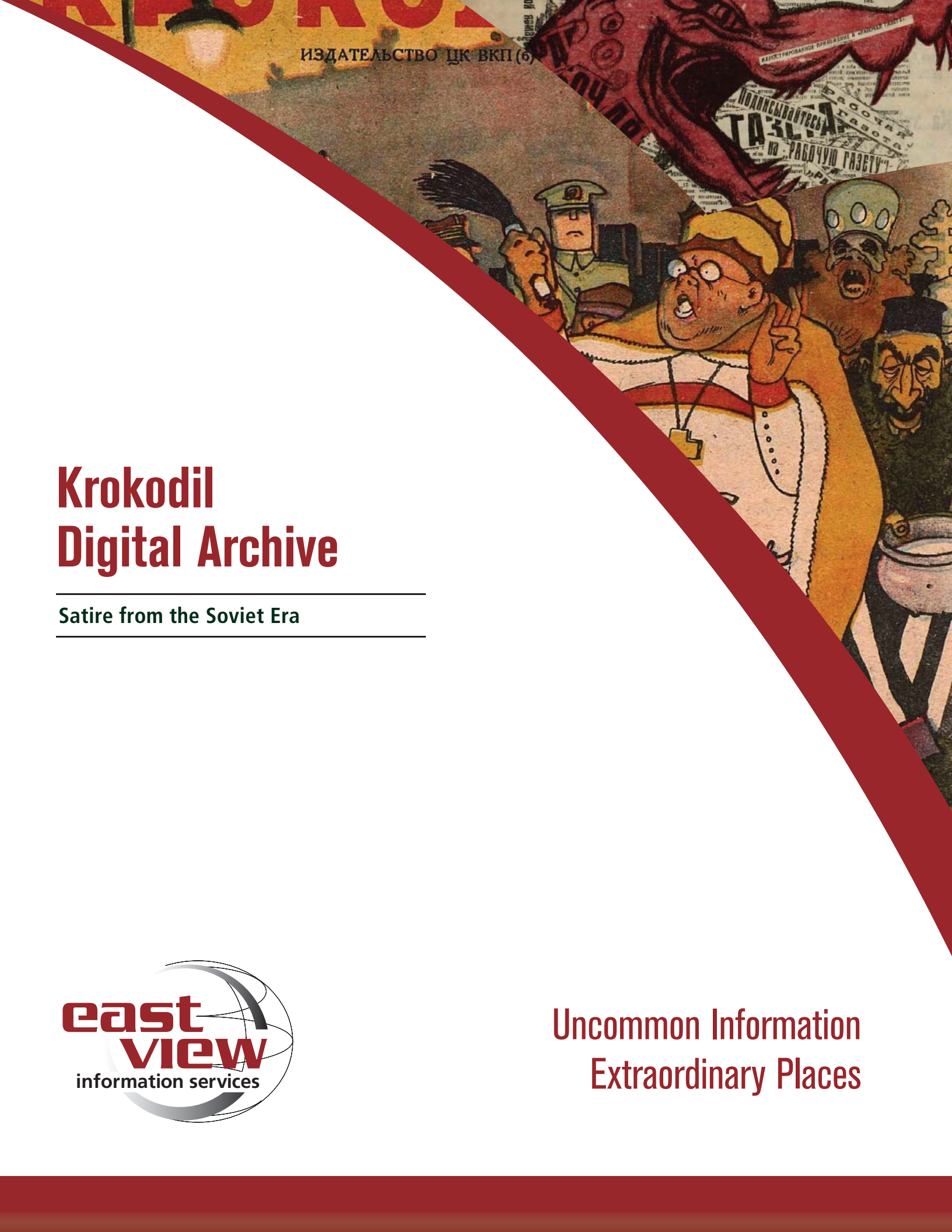


Krokodil Digital Archive

Satire from the Soviet Era



Uncommon Information
Extraordinary Places



Satire from the Soviet Era: *Krokodil* Digital Archive

About *Krokodil*

Krokodil (Crocodile) was the USSR's most famous and longest-running satirical journal. After 1932 it came under direct Party control, which, today, leads to fundamental but as yet unexplored questions about the function of state-sponsored visual satire, official humor and popular responses to it, and about artistic independence and working practices.

In authoritarian regimes such as the USSR, humor is an effective means to introduce ideas or challenge viewpoints. *Krokodil's* anecdotes, stories, and caricatures are central to understanding humor during the Soviet era.

There was a wide range of political opinions embedded in *Krokodil's* cartoons, and many issues were lampooned, including the Soviet bureaucracy and excessive centralized control, religion, US foreign and domestic policy, Western political leaders and events, and much more.

Although the satire was often mocking and ridiculing, and its targets were identified using Party ideology, a close study of *Krokodil's* humor reveals a surprisingly playful approach.

Krokodil was an important creative force in the visual language of Soviet graphic satire. Each issue contained an average of 25 cartoons, and the magazine's prolificacy, as well as its numerous similarities with poster art, ensured that its contributions to visual communication were significant.

History of *Krokodil*

Krokodil was first published as the illustrated Sunday supplement for *Rabochii* (The Worker) newspaper on 4 June 1922. As circulation increased, the editors became convinced of the need for a regular independently numbered journal, and *Krokodil* No.1 (13) was published for the first time on 27 August 1922. Bursting from its front cover was a snarling red crocodile, an avatar that has symbolized the journal and its brand of political satire ever since.

In the period of relative artistic freedom after Stalin's death in 1953, *Krokodil* published a variety of cartoons on various themes, including aspects of domestic politics. Circulation



of *Krokodil* peaked at around 5.8 million (in 1980) and was firmly established as one of the leading publications in the Soviet Union. In form, apart from variations in publication dates, issue numbers and length, *Krokodil* remained essentially unaltered until its final issue in 1991.

Krokodil had, and indeed it continues to have, a loyal following. Satirists and cartoonists of various political persuasions cite its influence. The publication of this digital resource brings the magazine closer to a scholarly audience and offers the opportunity to fill in the gaps in our understanding, some of which are identified above, and to gain a better understanding of the intersection of media power, politics and humorous popular engagement in the Soviet context.

The *Krokodil* Digital Archive

Whether it's looking at the rich illustrations or reading in-depth articles, researchers want access to more primary source materials. The publication of *Krokodil* as a digital resource brings the journal closer to a scholarly audience. All content is available, filling in any gaps, for scholars to gain a better understanding of the intersection of media power, politics and humorous popular engagement in the Soviet context.

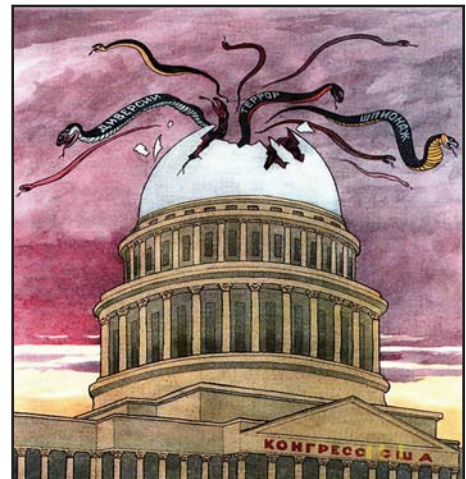
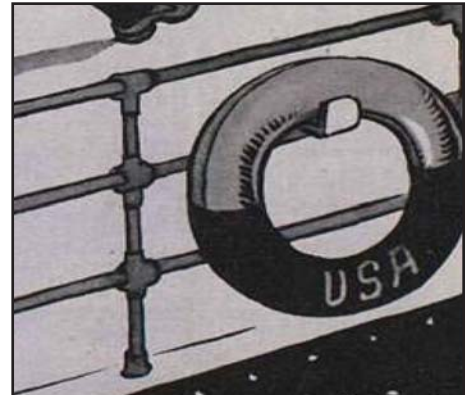
To highlight *Krokodil's* rich artistic content, East View has loaded the complete digital archive to our new e-resources interface. Each issue may be viewed in the original layout and design, with searchable text, including relevant keywords within the artwork.

East View carefully added relevant tags and keywords to the images in order to deliver a more complete full-text search result.

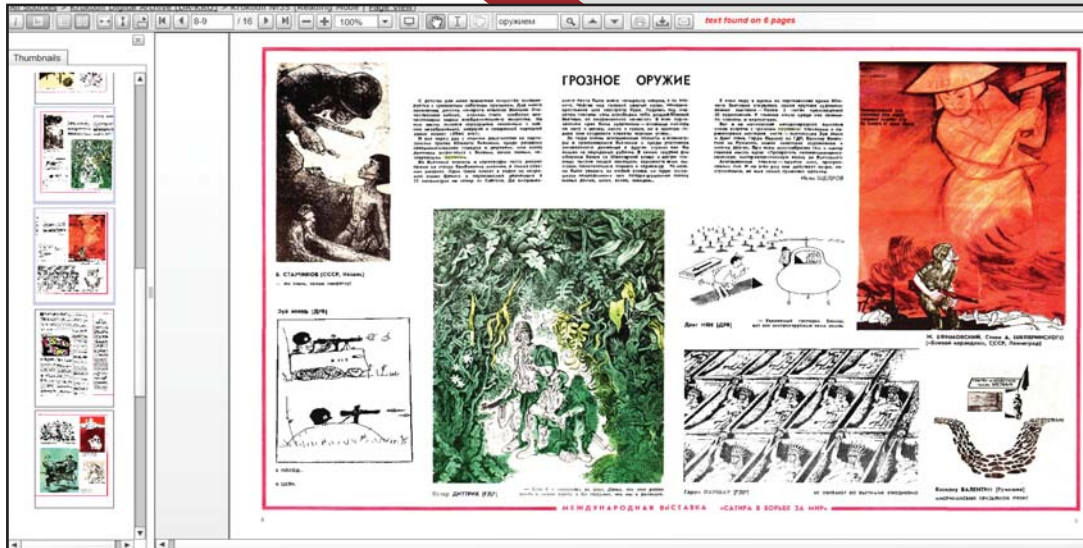
This added value delivers users the ability to find results within the articles and wherever they are represented in caricatures, cartoons and drawings. For example, a place or country (Vietnam, Washington, Pentagon), people's names (Brezhnev), or abbreviations (USA, NATO, CIA, USSR) are an integral part of the cartoon image, as these identifiers have been manually tagged into the database.

Additional tools found in the interface may be used to magnify the images or text, or download pages for future reference.

Search result from images tagged "USA" or "США"



A cartoon found by searching for "Kukryniksy", which was the name for the artistic collaboration of Mikhail Vasil'evich Kupriyanov (1903–1991), Porfirii Nikitich Krylov (1902–1990), and Nikolai Aleksandrovich Sokolov (1903–2000).



East View's Krokodil Digital Archive interface.

Ordering Information

Acquire the entire collection, from 1922, for a one-time cost plus an annual maintenance fee. Please contact your East View account representative or email info@eastview.com for a quote.

For More Details

Download this brochure from our website: www.eastview.com/files/EVKrokodilDA.pdf

Please contact your East View account representative at info@eastview.com to request a trial or learn more.



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