

A. G. BONAR

# MEMORIES OF THE SOVIET UNION



BOOK THREE  
1968 GEORGIA

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СССР 1  
КПД  
\*8 ПО 50768\*  
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СССР 13  
КПД  
\*8 У 030868\*  
Ленинград

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE



Andrew Graham Bonar was born in 1933 and went to school in Scotland. Following two years' national service, during which he was trained as a Russian interpreter, he attended London University and subsequently Edinburgh University, and some years later, in 1968, joined the British Council and was sent on assignments to several overseas countries including the Soviet Union. Before being posted to Moscow, however, he had already made four visits to the Soviet Union, of which the first three form the subject of this series of six e-books entitled: *Memories of the Soviet Union 1957, 1959/60, 1968*.

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# OUR ROUTE VIA ISTANBUL AND BLACK SEA PORTS TO GEORGIA AND THE CAUCASUS



# GEORGIA - UPLISTSIKHE

Super 8mm film



## Gori: Stalin's birthplace



## STALIN'S BIRTHPLACE

The cottage where Stalin was born



The cottage in the small town of Gori where Stalin was born in 1878. The cottage was enclosed within a larger pavilion-like building in order to preserve it.

The front door of the cottage in which Stalin was born. He is still regarded as a hero by a majority of Gori's citizens. and his huge statue, which I saw in 1968, still survives.

# PAINTING

Painting by Pirosmanashvili



1965 recording: *a Caucasian dance*



This is a work painted by Niko Pirosmanashvili, the Georgian naïve (or “primitivist”) painter, who was born in 1862 in a village in Kakhetia, was poor throughout his life and died a pauper in 1918. He taught himself to paint scenes mainly from rural life rather than life in the city, his main subjects being peasants, artisans, small shopkeepers,

festive occasions and still life. But he was also interested in historical figures and, in a different vein, domestic (and sometimes wild) animals. Pirosmanashvili lived in troubled times, and partly for this reason was little known during his lifetime. He left many paintings, most of which are now in the Art Museum of Georgia in Tbilisi.

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MEMORIES OF THE SOVIET UNION: 1957, 1959/60, 1968  
SERIES OF SIX BOOKS

MOSCOW

GEORGIA

BUKHARA

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MEMORIES OF  
THE SOVIET  
UNION

BOOK ONE  
1957 MOSCOW



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MOSCOW

CAUCASUS

SAMARKAND

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BOOK TWO  
1959/60 MOSCOW



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BOOK FOUR  
1968 THE CAUCASUS



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BOOK SIX  
1968 SAMARKAND

