Subject: reading for long winter nights

At the risk of sending coals to Newcastle (or is the cliche "discovering America"?), let me make a couple of suggestions with reference to books that have just arrived in the mail from Moscow. I have only skimmed them. Here in Seattle we are having for us icy weather, and I see from the news that much of the rest of the U.S. is buried in blizzard conditions. Surely at least candlelight is available, to give your reading endeavors a Muscovite feel while you savor these new publications.

The books are:


Not exactly a "chet'ii sbornik," but an important book with close examination of a multitude of copies of this work, which was widespread in Muscovy. Classification of the various redactions; appendices include text of Khronograf osobogo vida v spiske 1691 g.


This is one you can really sink your teeth into, by the distinguished specialist on Muscovite literature who has written imaginatively about evolution of genres etc. And another fine production by Indrik. The book contains some 180 pp. of thematic chapters setting the texts in their broader literary context. The texts were widely known and in many ways quite influential. The remainder of the book is a critical edition of a wide range of redactions, excerpts, analogous texts etc. There is a short index of polonisms and "neponiatnykh slov," a 25 p. arkheograficheskii obzor, etc.

So, pour yourselves some glögg, put your feet up in front of the fire (if you have no qualms about contributing to global warming), and go to it.

Best for the holidays,
Dan Waugh