In case some of you have not seen this listed in recent catalogues and have not ordered the book for your libraries, I recommend you consider:


Since Konstantin Iur'evich was so generous as to send me a set, I have an extra copy now of Vol. I and may have a previously ordered duplicate of Vol. 2 arriving soon. I will be happy to donate them to an academic library.

While I can imagine that Erusalimskii's acceptance of Kurbskii's status as author will raise some objections Down East (and perhaps elsewhere), whether or not one is in that skeptical minority, this massive study merits close attention. The 888 pp. of vol. I include long chapters reconstructing the history of the compilation and dissemination of the works attributed to K. which then appear ("ex silentio" as the author's first chapter suggests) collected in the numerous Muscovite copies starting in the 1670s. No previous study has looked this closely at the manuscript tradition and the codicological issues connected with it. More than the last half of the volume is devoted to classifying the versions of the "sbornik" and describing in detail their manuscripts.

Volume 2 is a new publication of the text of the "Sbornik Kurbskogo," from MS GIM Uvarov 301, with variants from eleven other copies. You will recall that the largest part of the "Sbornik" is the famous Kurbskii "History," which we now finally have here in a new edition.

I haven't had time to do more than skim all this, but perhaps some one of you will write a long review.