

From: dwaugh@u.washington.edu [mailto:dwaugh@u.washington.edu]

Author's Subject: BAN honors its long-time staff: two new publications

Date Written: Sat, 16 Nov 2013 12:49:14 +0000

Date Posted: Sun, 16 Nov 2013 07:49:14 -0500

<<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-EarlySlavic&month=1311&week=c&msg=pH0GOHTs04Ddhs8WMIQMzw&user=&pw=>>

We are all familiar with the genre of the "biobibliograficheskii ukazatel'," published by various Russian academic institutions to honor distinguished scholars who have long graced their halls. These volumes come in varying formats, sometimes nicely printed, in other cases inexpensively. Unless the honoree also has been celebrated with a full-scale Festschrift (or posthumously in an obituary), often the biographical sketches provide the fullest information we may hope to find on education, careers and accomplishments. The bibliographies, of course, can be very useful.

Elena Alekseevna Savel'eva. Biobibliograficheskii ukazatel': k 75-letiiu so dnia rozhdeniia. Otv. sost. A. A. Romanova; vstup. st. V. P. Leonov. SPb.: Biblioteka Rossiiskoi akademii nauk, 2012. 28 pp. 100 copies.

Irina Nikolaevna Lebedeva. Biobibliograficheskii ukazatel': k 80-letiiu so dnia rozhdeniia. Sost. I. M. Beliaeva, V. A. Klisheva. SPb.: Biblioteka Rossiiskoi akademii nauk, 2012. 24 pp. 100 copies.

These are modestly produced brochures (whose photos, unfortunately, are muddy). The honorees are indeed distinguished scholars. Savel'eva finished library school in Leningrad and then worked her way up through the ranks, in the Publichka (RNB) and then BAN, where in 1996 she became head of the Division of Rare Books. She defended her kandidat degree in the Institute of History in 1974 on "The History of the Northern Peoples" of Olaus Magnus and its information about Russia," a study that then appeared as a published monograph. Apart from her expertise in Russo-Scandinavian relations, her list of 169 publications (through 2011) includes a number of important projects connected with historical collections, especially of books printed in foreign languages in Russia, and the books that formed the first collections of BAN back in the 18th century. Among the private libraries she has catalogued are those of Iakov Brius (Jacob Bruce), Polish King Sigismund II Augustus, and Andrei Vinius (Andries Winius). Several of her publications concern the annotations made by Mikhail Lomonosov on books in BAN. The brief biographical sketch of Savel'eva's career here is by none other than the Director of the library.

The longer essay on Lebedeva has more of a personal tone to it and includes several photos taken in earlier stages of her career. At the end is even a little poem honoring her, by one of her long-time colleagues in BAN and another of its distinguished scholars, N. Iu. Bubnov. Her early education equipped her to have entered the Faculty of Linguistics in Leningrad University, but the reversal in the fate of N. Ia. Marr, Stalin's once-favored language theorist, resulted, inter alia, in the closure of the faculty. Irina Nikolaevna then matriculated in the Faculty of Philosophy where she wrote her senior thesis on Aristotle's treatise on the soul. This required she study

Greek and Latin and, as the essay here puts it, "the boldness to dispute the generally accepted opinion about the relevance of her chosen subject for socialist science." She defended her kandidat dissertation in the History Faculty of LGU on late Greek chronicles and their translations, a work then published as a monograph in the series Palestinskii sbornik. Through the years she credited a great deal in her training to Evgeniia Eduardovna Granstrem, who was arguably the most prominent specialist in the Soviet Union on early Greek manuscripts and who recommended her for her first job in BAN.

Among Lebedeva's 92 publications (through 2011) are the catalogs of the Greek and Latin manuscripts in BAN, co-authorship of the catalog of Peter the Great's library, and her annotated edition of the "Tale of Barlaam and Ioasafat." She has also written on the book collections of several of the early Romanovs.

I have warm memories of interacting with Irina Nikolaevna when working on manuscripts in BAN ere so many decades ago and still treasure a thoughtful gift she presented to me as I was preparing to return home.