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Author's Subject: two new volumes of Novgorod documents

Date Written: Sun, 17 Nov 2013 08:35:30 -0800

Date Posted: Mon, 17 Nov 2013 11:35:30 -0500

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Materialy po istorii zemlevladieniia okrestnostei Novgoroda Velikogo.
Publikatsiiu podgotovil I. Iu. Ankudinov. *Materialy po istorii Novgoroda i Novgorodskoi zemli*, Vyp. 1. Moskva: Global Kom, 2013. 232 pp. + appended maps. ISBN 978-5-9551-0636-6.

Akty novgorodskogo Viazhishchskogo monastyria kontsa XV-nachala XVII v.
Publikatsiiu podgotovil I. Iu. Ankudinov. *Materialy po istorii Novgoroda i Novgorodskoi zemli*, Vyp. 2. Moskva: Rukopisnye pamiatniki Drevnei Rusi, 2013. 264 pp. + CD-ROM. ISBN 978-5-9551-0641-0.

As the editor of these two volumes, I. Iu. Ankudinov, explains, they launch a new series that is intended to fill an important gap in the ongoing publication of the massive and important documentary legacy of medieval Novgorod – that is, become for Novgorod a kind of *Russkaia istoricheskaiia biblioteka*, analogous in its eclectic content to that important old series. The texts to be included here are ones that do not fit neatly into existing series such as the ongoing publication of chronicles, *pistsovyie knigi* or birchbark documents. The series is intended to cover Novgorod and the “Novgorod lands” down through the 17th century, though there is some flexibility both geographically and chronologically. Much of the Russian north may be fair game, and documents of later periods may be included if they contain information relevant to studies of Novgorod’s medieval history. One can but hope that this enterprise will flourish and not depend simply on the initiative of one individual.

The first volume contains the *pistsovyie* and *mezhevyie knigi* compiled in 1685-86 (and a supplementary document from a related survey) for the lands adjacent to the city proper (that is, just beyond the outer ring of walls) in the *Vodskaia* and *Shelonskaia piatiny*. Additionally there is a long survey document of 1712, compiled in connection with a dispute raised by Novgorod *iamshchiki* regarding land holdings. As Ankudinov explains in his introductory essay, these documents are of interest because the documentation for the city’s immediate suburbs has not been given the attention it deserves, even though registers such as those published here contain abundant detail that allows one to map land holdings and then have a basis for comparing the late 17th-century distribution with the changes and transfers of subsequent years.

So the first appendix is his map, keyed to the published documents, which shows the boundaries delimited in these records. The other appendices reproduce photographically maps of 1717 and 1719 for the suburban lands on the St. Sophia side of the city (that is, those same areas covered in the texts), maps of the suburban lands of the city from 1742 and the end of the 18th century, and a topographic map of the city from 1819. The maps are folded large-format ones with additional explanation of their contents in the final section of the book. The book has name and geographic indexes.

The second volume in the new series contains 105 documents (59 previously published, 46 published here for the first time; there are 107 numbers, given the division of two in the originals), which constitute the complete corpus of *akty* preserved from the Viazhishchskii Nikolaevskii Monastery for the indicated period. Founded in 1411, by the end of the 15th century, it had become one of the largest landholders among the Novgorod monasteries. Where possible – which is true for most of the documents – Ankudinov bases his edition on the originals, though in a few instances, later copies or the earlier editions have had to be used. In order to provide here as complete as possible a documentary record for the monastery, he includes several long appendices. The first contains records of the *akty* which have not been preserved but at least are summarized in other archival sources. The second is the 1698 description of the monastery's archive compiled as part of a full inventory of its possessions. The third appendix lists (with full references to the sources) all the hegumens of the monastery for the 15th-beginning of the 17th centuries. The following appendix is a compilation from previously unpublished cadastres of the description of the monastery's lands (*votchiny*) for that same period. The book then concludes with commentaries to selected documents and name and geographic indexes.

Just in case anyone wants to check his transcriptions in places that might be problematic, Ankudinov's appended CD includes jpeg color scans of all the *akty*, both recto and verso and with closeups of any seals attached to them. One must join him in thanking S. N. Kisterev for proposing this valuable supplement, which, one trusts, will inspire future publications. Ideally, of course, the entire corpus of documents for medieval Rus' will eventually be available on-line....

As I look through these valuable volumes, I cannot but wish for more from the written records about Novgorod. In particular, one of the as yet great lacunae is to have proper editions of the later Novgorod narrative texts. Many of the 17th and early 18th century Novgorod chronicles (which were surveyed and classified ere so long ago by S. N. Azbelev) are "authorial copies," and the writing and rewriting of the earlier history of Rus' which was taking place in Novgorod in that period is hugely important for the larger subject of the history of Russian historiography. A good many years ago now, I discussed with Azbelev, who came down to Novgorod specifically so we could meet, the possibility we might collaborate on publishing at least one of those chronicles (presumably in PSRL), but he was busy finishing another project, and I then never came through in prioritizing the time to follow up on the proposal.