Celebrations of distinguished senior scholars continue:


Mel'nikova's work is familiar to anyone working on the early history of Rus' and especially the relations with Scandinavians and the Scandinavian sources. She is the pre-eminent Russian specialist on those sources, having edited and translated the relevant runic inscriptions and geographical works (among others). She was honored by election to the Swedish Academy in 1980.

This collection of articles was put together not by the author but by her colleagues who wished to honor her. It includes not only solely authored pieces but a good many co-authored by her and V. Ia. Petrukhin and T. A. Pushkina. The essays are mostly in Russian, some in English, all previously published. They are grouped into four sections: "State formation," "Scandinavians in the history of Eastern Europe," "The Ancient Rus' State and Scandinavians," and "Ancient Rus' on International Routes." At the end is a bibliography of her published work, the first item dating from 1965.

Petrukhin has written a short introduction about her and her work. As an indication of its significance (and how far we now have come from the days when "anti-normanism" dominated official historiography in the USSR), he cites the fact that the article they co-authored on the term Rus' was held for several years by the editors of Voprosy istorii before they finally decided to publish it; the one they did on the term "variag" was rejected by Istoriiia SSSR and finally published only in the post-Soviet period. Both articles, included here, are well worth re-reading and impressive for their acquaintance with all the major scholarly literature (name your language...) and primary sources. The same, I am sure, can be said about the other essays in this large volume, nicely produced in medium format.