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Author's Subject: new title: Paleobureaucratia: Festschrift for N.F. Demidova

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Continuing on the theme of celebrating distinguished colleagues, allow me to provide a few comments on another new book (which I have as yet only skimmed):

Paleobureaucratia. Sbornik statei k 90-letiiu N. F. Demidovoi (M.: Drevlekhranilishche, 2012; ISBN 978-5-93646-185-9), 392 pp.

Don't be put off by the odd title here. Demidova, of course, is known to many of you for her 1987 monograph on Russian bureaucracy and presumably will be at your fingertips as you use her recently published magisterial compilation on the same (*Sluzhilaia biurokratiia XVII veka (1625-1700). Biograficheskii spravocnik*). Others of you will know her for her work on early Sino-Russian relations, where, inter alia, she was involved in editing some of the key accounts for publication, or for her editorial work on Russian relations with Kabarda or the Bashkirs. As Iu. M. Eskin notes in a brief introduction, probably no one who has used the palaeographic tables in Cherepnin's textbook *Russkaia paleografiia* is aware that she compiled them...

This volume, compiled and edited in the first instance by Eskin, contains substantial essays, with two exceptions all by Russian scholars (the exceptions are Hieronim Grala and Nancy Shields Kollmann). As one would expect, a good many of the contributions relate to the history of the pre-modern Russian administrative apparatus and its personnel (e.g., as we might expect, there are essays by Rogozhin and Liseitsev). Nancy Kollmann's essay is an interesting analysis of the depiction of the executions of the *strel'tsy* in 1698 published with Korb's diary that described them verbally in some detail. Her essay which reminds us of the methodological challenges in assessing such visualizations found in foreign accounts; she introduces the Korb material with a discussion based on broad reading in the literature on and publications of illustrated political pamphlets in early modern Europe. An essay by O. V. Novokhatko argues that we should pay more attention to Muscovite private correspondence as a historical source than has been done previously. I was intrigued by a document appended to Eskin's article on Dmitrii Pozharskii's brief stint as *voevoda* in Novgorod in 1628-30, when one of the matters he had to deal with was the discovery in private hands of a genuine royal letter from Mikhail Fedorovich to the king of Sweden, which by a curious set of circumstances had ended up in private hands in Novgorod. There is much more here, on a range of topics, with some of the essays focussing chronologically on the reign of Peter I, even if much else deals with earlier Muscovy. A bibliography of Demidova's work is at the end of the book.