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Author's Subject: two new books: Eil'bart and Cherkasova

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<<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-EarlySlavic&month=1311&week=a&msg=quuypAj9eEaO3MXemKq4NA&user=&pw=>>

It's a good thing some of the book dealers nowadays are creating special lists of publications "from the provinces," even if that designation might misleadingly imply some kind of "provinciality" of merit. For without these lists, which, inter alia, reflect the changes in book production and distribution in Russia since 1991, we might well miss some extraordinary work, such as that in the two volumes annotated here by the undersigned, writing from another of the provinces, if one closer to home.

Dan Waugh

Nataliia Vladimirovna Eil'bart. *Smutnoe vremia v pol'skikh dokumentakh Gosudarstvennogo arkhiva Shvetsii. Kommentirovannyi perevod i istoricheskii analiz*. Novosibirsk: Izd-vo. Sibirskogo otdeleniia Rossiiskoi akademii nauk, 2013. 401 + 16 pp. ISBN 978-5-7692-1283-3. At head of title: Ministerstvo obrazovaniia i nauki Rossiiskoi federatsii. Zabaikal'skii gosudarstvennyi gumanitarno-pedagogicheskii universitet im. N. G. Chernyshevskogo.

While it might be natural now for those with questions about the Time of Troubles (surely there are many such inquisitive readers) to address them to College Station, TX, how many of us would add Chita to that list of centers of Smuta-expertise?? Which is where the author of this important book is located. I cannot begin here to explain how its contents, as the author emphasizes, may force us to revise conventional wisdom about many aspects of the Smuta. In the first instance here, it would seem we can learn a lot about what exactly the Poles who were meddling in Muscovite affairs really were thinking. I have no time to read the book carefully enough to elaborate, but surely we will eventually have a review out of College Station to guide us. I can at least summarize briefly why you may wish to order a copy before the edition of 280 copies becomes a bibliographic rarity.

Eil'bart spent some months in the Swedish archives mining them for the Polish documents carted off to Sweden during the "Deluge" of the war between Sweden and Poland in the 1650s. The 130 documents of varying lengths here for the most part have not been published previously and have lain largely unnoticed in Sweden despite the fact that even as early as 1841, A. A. Chumikov had recognized their value and recommended their acquisition by the Archaeographic Commission. With one or two exceptions the documents are from the Riksarkivet collections filed as Extranea Polen and Skokloster Samlingen. For those who have been to Sweden and visited Skokloster (the imposing residence of Karl Gustav Wrangel which has miraculously survived virtually unchanged since the middle of the 17th century and contains a magnificent library even to this day), the fact that so many of the documents were in its archive is of particular interest. The material

from Extranea Polen is mainly correspondence of King Sigismund III and Laurentius Gembicki, who was variously Crown Chancellor and later Primate of Poland. A number of the documents report in substantial detail the Muscovite boyars' responses to points raised in diplomatic negotiations.

The documents are grouped in the following chapters, each of which has an introductory essay contextualizing the material: I. V preddverii Smuty; II. Lzhedmitrii I; III. Delo Tushinskogo vora; IV. Moskovskii pokhod Sigismunda III; V. Iakub Zadzik in Ian Gridich o moskovskoi voine; VI. Moskovskii pokhod korolevicha Vladislava. Eil'bart has provided brief notes identifying individuals mentioned in the letters, but there is no index. She indicates there is more such documentation to be published and expresses the hope that there can be an edition of the texts in the original language.

Marina Sergeevna Cherkasova. *Arkhivy vologodskikh monastyrei i tserkvei XV-XVII vv. Issledovanie i opyt rekonstruktsii*. Vologda: "Drevnosti Severa," 2012. 576 pp. ISBN 978-5-93061-070-3.

It should be less of a surprise that a book focusing on the Vologda uezd be published in Vologda, even as we may marvel how its excellent production values are such a far remove from those of an earlier era when we might have expected rotaprint on yellowing and fragile paper. With disarming self-effacement Cherkasova explains briefly how her career led her to archival specialization, the present volume the result of a decade's work. She has mined, it would seem, all the possible sources for the ecclesiastical history of Vologda. The first 120 pages here contain brief histories of the Vologda episcopal seat and all the monasteries and rural churches she has been able to identify and whose locations are indicated on several nicely drawn maps that accompany the text. For each of the institutions, she synthesizes what we know about the history of its "archive" of documents, basing the information on surviving originals, copies, or listings in *opisi* (even if the documents themselves have not survived). The second and larger part of the book is her reconstruction of those archives, where for each document she indicates briefly its content and then provides the references to its archival location or publication or to the record of its existence. Even without one's accessing the full texts, one can use the book for answering a variety of research questions relating to church administration, communication between Moscow and the provinces or within the province, etc.

Appendices contain tables summarizing the numbers of documents for each institution and their types, and texts of seven previously unpublished documents. There are careful indexes of personal and geographic names and the names/titles of the documents, a bibliography and a listing of the archival files consulted both in central repositories and in the Main Archive of Vologda Oblast' (GAVO) and the Vologda State Historical-Architectural and Fine Arts Museum-Preserve (VGIAKhMZ).

The book serves as an inspiring reminder of how much valuable information is available in the regional archives for the ecclesiastical history of Russia, much of it as yet little known or used. This is an impressive work of scholarship and a reference volume that will stand the test of time.