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<<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-earlyslavic&month=1108&week=c&msg=LmSNbFUISJnZHGYp9dsT7g&user=&pw=>>

Some of you may be interested in recent books on the archaeology of (or related to) Rus'. Here I include one "review notice" (not what I would consider a review properly speaking) and also list several other books, most of which will also be the subject of similar review notices in the upcoming volume of *The Silk Road*, the journal I edit. I will let you know when it is out (anticipated date early autumn).

G. E. Dubrovin. *Nikitinskii raskop v Novgorode*. M.: Pamiatniki istoricheskoi mysli, 2010. 336 pp. ISBN 5-88451-281-8.

Presented in the same large, lavishly illustrated format as other recent publications of the Institute of Archaeology of the RAN, this volume provides details of the excavations carried out in Novgorod in 2002-2004. The excavation site is in the district of the city historically known as *Plotnitskii konets*, on the commercial (east) side of the Volkhov R., a couple of streets up from the river itself. The site is named for the nearby church of St. Nikita on Nikitinskaia ul. The lowest distinguishable levels of the site contained a good many artifacts (principally 13th century) but no significant structures; the 14th-15th century layers, which have well-defined stratigraphy, included three residences, at least two of which can be associated with the Novgorod elite and possibly identified specifically with individuals documented in written sources. As Dubrovin indicates, the excavation has broadened our understanding of change over time in this region of the city and more generally the 13th-15th centuries.

Readers with general interest in the history of Novgorod should be warned that much of the volume is technical summaries of the archaeological evidence, including a great many of the drawings done during the actual field work. Such extensive publication of field notes is, of course, to be welcomed, where too often such material remains buried in archives.

There is a very valuable chapter discussing and quoting all the evidence from written sources relating to the the area of the excavation contained in published sources that include chronicles and various cadastral records. The chronological range of this material extends well beyond the period for which we have archaeological data, coming down to the beginning of the 18th century. One is reminded here of the yet to be met desideratum that the very extensive late Novgorod chronicles, compiled in the 17th and early 18th century, remain to be published; indeed, they are not cited here.

A later chapter analyzes in detail the dozen birch-bark documents which were unearthed. They have been discussed in earlier publications and their texts are available with all the other birchbark documents discovered to date in Russia (!) on the superb website gramoty.ru.

The other chapters which will be most accessible to the general reader are those summarizing the information on finds relating to crafts and trade and discussing the history of the residence complexes. This area of town (the designation of it as being in the "carpenters" quarter notwithstanding), included metalworking, leather and woolen crafts.

Appendices include an extended discussion of the dendrochronological analysis of the well-preserved wood from the residences and a full listing of the objects found in the excavation, grouped by type. There are a good many decent photographs and clear drawings of the objects, although some of the photos, small in size, really do not permit one to see details of possible interest.

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Since it has been out now for several years, probably most of you who would be interested already know of this book, one of the first to appear in the same lavish format as the book reviewed above:

*Rus' v XIII veke. Drevnosti tëmного vremeni.* Otv. red. N. A. Makarov, A. V. Chernetsov; Sost. V. Iu. Koval', I. N. Kuzina. M.: Nauka, 2003. 406 pp. ISBN 5-02-008847-1.

Its great interest is its focus on archaeological evidence for the period of Mongol rule in Rus', material which is essential to balance the evidence in written sources about the Mongol impact.

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I am preparing review notices for the following two volumes, in this same large-format "series".

*Rus' i Vostok v IX-XVI vekakh. Novye arkheologicheskie issledovaniia.* Otv. red. N. A. Makarov, V. Iu. Koval'; Sost. V. Iu. Koval'. M.: Nauka, 2010. 265 pp. ISBN 978-5-02-037569-7. Papers from a conference held in Kazan' in 2007.

V. Iu. Koval'. *Keramika Vostoka na Rusi IX-XVII veka.* M.: Nauka, 2010. 269 pp. ISBN 978-5-02-037583-3. A catalogue mining both published and unpublished collections; an attempt at devising a new classification scheme to help in cataloguing of future finds.

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I will also be doing review notices for the following:

V. S. Flërov. *"Goroda" i "Zamki" Khazarskogo kaganata. Arkheologicheskaia real'nost'.* M.: Mosty kul'tury; Jerusalem: Gesharim, 2011. 264 pp. ISBN 978-5-93273-333-0. A revisionist call for eassessing the archaeological evidence about Khazar settlements and the role of trade in the Khazar khaganate.

*Mongolian-German Karakorum Expedition. Vol. 1. Excavations in the Craftsmen Quarter at the Main Road.* Ed. Jan Bemmann, Ulambayar Erdenebat and Ernst Pohl. (Forschungen zur Archäologie Aussereuropäischer Kulturen, Bd. 8). Wiesbaden: Reichert Verlag, 2010. 337 pp. ISBN 978-3-89500-697-5. The first volume of detailed excavation reports on the Mongol capital of the 13th century. All but two of the essays are in English.

*The Spillings Hoard. Gotland's Role in Viking Age World Trade.* Visby: Gotlands Museum, 2009. 204 pp. ISBN 978-91-88036-71-1. Essays on the largest Viking Age silver hoard ever discovered, one containing, inter alia, some 14,000 Arab dirhams.