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**Author's Subject:** new title: historical atlas of Derevskaia piatina

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<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-earlyslavic&month=0905&week=d&msg=27Jg6nlvUO9242Et52W9lw&user=&pw=>>

Lest my colleagues on the list think I read only the lyrical prose of Mary Stewart, I thought I would change the subject. I just received several new publications and wanted to share them with you, in the event you are not aware of them. These notes are based on quick skimming (I need to put aside Mary Stewart...) and do not constitute a real review. I am putting the information in two messages under separate subject headings, in the hope that one or the other might start a thread to which others would contribute.

The first is to my mind one of the most remarkable and important publications dealing with Rus which has appeared in recent memory:

A. A. Frolov, N. V. Piotukh. *Istoricheskii atlas Derevskoi piatiny Novgorodskoi zemli*. T. I. *Issledovanie i tablitsy*. T. II. *Atlas i spravochnye materialy*. T. III. *Uezdnye plany poslednei chetverti XVIII veka*. M.-SPb., Al'ians-Arkheo, 2008. (Large format, on good paper; ISBN 978-5-98874-026-1, with separate individual numbers for the separate volumes).

This is part of a project to create an electronic historical atlas of Russia based on precise GIS coordinates. That of itself is noteworthy, since ultimately it will provide a tool for all kinds of integration of data spatially. I would note in passing The CEIR project at the University of Washington, ongoing, which is, among other things, hoping eventually to have all of William Brumfield's photos of Russia available and geo-referenced for easy searching via sophisticated maps.

Although there was a now nearly century-old attempt at mapping another of the Novgorod piatiny (Shelonskaia) by Andriiashev, this new atlas is really a pioneering venture and far more sophisticated than anything else we have seen in the way of historical atlases for Rus (or, I think, for any later period of Russian History). It locates all the places included in the late 15th-century *pistsovye knigi* on detailed modern topographical maps, includes tables for all of them listing basic data in the *pistsovye knigi*, and the relevant geographic designations based on the General Survey of the 1770s. In addition to the new topographic maps, the atlas includes detailed photographs (granted, not always easily readable) of the General Survey and other historical maps from the modern period. It is worth noting, as some of you may have discovered, that often the detailed maps of a century or two ago may now exist only in a single damaged copy. Thus it is critically important to capture their data before it flakes away. The authors have also mined the massive archival economic data records which accompanied the General Survey. We are reminded here of how important it is for historians of Rus to work seriously with such materials as 18th-century sources when studying a range of "early" topics.

Unfortunately the GIS coordinates for the places are not included in the tables, but presumably there would be ways to access that database, which, one assumes, eventually will be made available on the Internet.

Perhaps we could discuss on this list other ongoing work on historical geography, about which I assume some of you know.