Lest some of you may think that retirees don’t work over the holidays, I thought I should post these notices concerning two new books that look interesting. As usual, I have not had time to do more than skim in them.

A revised version of the author’s 2011 kandidat dissertation, the book is extensively based on new archival research; apart from work in Ukrainian and Russian, it makes extensive use of Polish secondary literature. Samoilovich was extremely important both in the internal and international politics of Ukraine. As the author makes clear, insofar as Samoilovich served Muscovite interests (“vsegda ostavalsia veren Rossii” — p. 233 ), the hetman’s role has been controversial, with nationalist historians taking opposing sides in assessing his policies. The conclusions about him here cast him in a positive light.