Here are brief descriptions of some recently published books which will interest various subscribers to this list. The summaries are based on de visu examination of the volumes but not on my yet having read them and thus in no way should be taken to constitute reviews.

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A collection of 21 previously published articles, some reprinted here unchanged, most with updated references and a few substantially expanded over the original versions. One of the latter is the long essay “Rasskazy o chudotvornykh ikonakh monastyria Khilandar’ v russkoj zapisi XVI v.,” first published in 1996. This is a complementary volume to the same author’s Slavia Cyrillomethodiana (2010). The headings of the book’s four sections are:

I. Kirillo-Mefodievskaia problematika. Tvorchestvo uchenikov Kirilla i Mefodiia. Bolgariia v IX-X vv.;
II. Sud’ba glagolitsy v srednevekovoi pis’mennosti iuzhnykh i zapadnykh slavian;
III. Kul’turnye sviazi vostochnykh i iuzhnykh slavian v XIV-XVII vv.;

The book is provided with an index of manuscripts cited.

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First acquaintance with this book is very positive; I would note at the outset that the author is not to be confused with the notorious “other Fomenko.” A medium-format volume with abundant and high quality illustrations (many in good color), the book is a pioneering effort to analyze the information on the nautical charts of the indicated period covering the Black Sea littoral. It introduces the genre of the sources in some detail and discusses toponyms and imagery, in the latter section examining what the maps help us to reconstruct (along with many other sources) about socio-political history. There are numerous helpful appendices. I probably will write a more extended analysis of this book for the 2012 volume of The Silk Road [for that review, see The Silk Road 10 (2012): 203-4].

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The book is an important contribution to the study of the Patriarchal administration as it emerged in the 17th century and more broadly to the growing literature on Muscovite chancery administration. To date, the bureaucratic paper produced by the Patriarchal administration has not been systematically analyzed or the copy books properly described. The author attempts both here (her description of the books in RGADA fonds 235 and 236 occupies more than 100 pp. of the book) and writes as well about the staffing, functions and financial aspects of the institution. There are personal and geographic name indexes and a subject index.

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This important reference work belongs on the shelf of every serious student of late Muscovite history. A large format volume, it goes well beyond such earlier works as Bogoiavlenskii’s Prikaznye sud’i and Veselovskii’s D’iaki i podd’iachie, the former based on archival sources but limited in its scope, and the latter flawed by its reliance on often erroneous information in published sources. Here the scope of the enterprise includes provincial administration, not just that in the central prikazy, and the source base is archival documents. The material is organized alphabetically by surname (there is a clear explanation of the problems of names in the Muscovite sources), with the dates of service, the administrative department, the salaries, and the sources of the information all listed under each name. The information is conveyed with abbreviations, spelled out in the apparatus; the sources (some 9500 archival files) indicated by numbers, referenced to a long list. The apparatus includes indexes of central administrative departments and provincial ones (the latter listed by town).

While Demidova, who is known for her earlier work on Muscovite administration and on Muscovite relations with China, has done much of the work, a good many others were involved in the preparation of this volume, notable among them Galina Anatol’evna Ivanova.

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This substantial volume is the sequel to a volume 1 published in 2005. The articles include both analytical essays and text publication. Somewhat over 200 pp. of the book includes papers delivered at an international conference “Christian text in culture,” held in Perugia and Rome, 2-5 May 2005). Several of those essays have been translated into Russia for publication here.

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Lavishly illustrated catalogue for a small but important exhibition currently at the LandesMuseum in Bonn and scheduled for the Allard Pierson Museum (Amsterdam) and kelter römer museum (Manching) later this year and into 2013. Featured are recent finds from cave burials dating as early as the early Turk Empire (7th-8th century). These include well-preserved garments, a saddle, bows, arrows, and quivers. Of particular interest is a largely well preserved harp with sounding bowl and neck decorated with stag figures and runic inscriptions. The exhibition also includes several of the well-known miniature paintings from the Mongol Empire (probably most produced in Tabriz in the early 14th century) now housed in the Dietz Collection in Berlin. This may be the last chance to see these in a traveling exhibition. A good half of the book is devoted to essays on various topics connected with the culture of Mongolian nomads and to restoration and reconstruction of the objects on display. In conjunction with the exhibition, a symposium was held in Bonn on Feb. 9-11, with papers by leading specialists on the culture of nomads in Inner Asia in the period between the last centuries BCE and the rise of the Mongol Empire. The papers will be published in the excellent Bonn series on Eurasian archaeology.

[For my more extended review of this volume, see “Farewell to the Marauding Nomad,” The Silk Road 10 (2012): 158-63.]