Not long ago, I think I remember posting a note about the valuable new Slovar' ikonopistsev i zhivopistsev Oruzheinoi palaty. 1630-1690-e gody (M., 2012), compiled by Mariia Valentinovna Nikolaeva. She has now published the documents which underlie that biographical dictionary:


The book includes 646 documents, some grouped under single numbers where they pertain to the same delo. Of these, most (roughly 600) have not been published previously. Most are from RGADA, f. 396, covering the period 1637-1701. A few documents have been included from other fondy. As the sub-title suggests, the interest here is in material that sheds light on the daily lives of the painters, but the range of interesting subject matter is broad—for example, description of the architecture of some residences where they lived or worked; information on the purchase of materials and the nature of the contracts into which they entered for certain commissions. There are nearly 100 good quality photographs of the painters' handwriting, indexes of personal names, toponyms for Moscow and its vicinity, and a broader geographic index. The book will be an important addition to any library that is trying to maintain a good collection of Muscovite documents and undoubtedly will be of value beyond the field of those interested primarily in Muscovite painting.