
Publication of the text of the oldest extant revenue book of the Novgorod Cathedral of Sancta Sofiia. It was first studied by E. M. Prilezhaev in the 1870s, then, after an interval of half a century, used by B. D. Grekov in his 1914 monograph on the cathedral and its economy. After that, the text was little used until A. A. Selin worked on it in the 1990s. Not least in importance in this source is the fact that it contains village names from the 16th century which are not attested in other Novgorodian sources. Since the administrative units the church used (designated as desiatiny) are not co-terminous with the Novgorod piatiny, the text raises interesting issues about the histories of those units, a subject explored here in an essay by Frolov. I might note that Frolov is one of the compilers of the remarkable Istoricheskii atlas Derevskoi piatiny concerning which I posted a note to this list a couple of years or so ago.

The text of the Prikhodnaia kniga is published here from manuscript RNB, Sof. 1548. O. L. Novikova has provided an extensive codicological analysis of the manuscript (including photographs of the watermarks and careful description of the quire structure). She has also written a brief essay on the scriptorium and scribes of Novgorod’s episcopal chancery. Following her contribution, are more than 100 pages that map the geographical data contained in the book, with careful annotation for each and every village church keyed to the several large-scale maps. A. A. Selin provides some commentary on the “sluzhilye liudi” mentioned in the text. There are indexes of personal and geographic names.


This magnificent addition to the already substantial catalogue of important publications by “Severnyi palomnik” belongs on the shelf of anyone interested in the history of Novgorod, monasteries in northern Russia, Russian architecture and painting.... Be warned though, you may have to forgo a good many latté to pay for it.

The author has been publishing on Novgorod church architecture (and related issues) for a good many years. Here she brings together a wide range of source material to document as completely as possible the monasteries that were in or near Novgorod. The opening essays provide
an overview of the various stages in the history of Novgorod monasteries, from early times down to the present, with a section devoted to the history of the restorations of the buildings. The book then treats each monastery separately, first those whose buildings have been at least partially preserved and restored, then those which have not survived or for which only ruins remain. The illustrations include architectural drawings and reconstructions and historic photos. Among the color plates are a few showing current religious ceremonies in some of the locations. Of some interest here is what we learn (and can see in the illustrations) about the remarkable results achieved to date in piecing together the fragments of murals which were collected from the churches destroyed during World War II. I saw a special exhibition of some of this material several years ago in Novgorod and now learn that where feasible, the results of this colossal labor are being re-installed in the restored and rebuilt churches themselves.

Sekretar’s volume complements and substantially extends the information contained in the encyclopedic Arkhitekturnoe nasledie Velikogo Novgoroda i Novgorodskoi oblasti compiled by M. I. Mil’chik and published in 2008. Taken together, these two books will be the starting point for any future studies of Novogordian architecture.