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<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-earlyslavic&month=1208&week=a&msg=NqsABhihiq4C81DQbeMoIQ&user=&pw=>>

Here are a couple of titles which I think should be of interest for some on this list, even if the focus in them is largely "modern."

Slukhi v Rossii XIX-XX vekov. Neofitsial'naia kommunikatsiia i 'krutye povoroty' rossiiskoi istorii. Sbornik statei. Cheliabinsk: "Kamennyi poias," 2011. 368 pp. ISBN 978-5-88711-087-7.

A collection of essays from an international conference held in 2009 in the German Historical Institute in Moscow; the culmination of a joint German-Russian project on the subject. Yes, there is now a new discipline, "rumorologia" (= rumor research). The argument here is that altogether too little has been done to explore seriously what we might call "alternative knowledge" in the form of "rumor" and see how such may in fact have had a real impact in Russian history, where rumors tend to fly most vigorously at moments of social or political crisis. The book has 5 sections (summary titles here, not exact translations): 1. Definitions and methodology; 2. Causes for rumor: military actions, humanitarian catastrophe, crisis of power. 3. Social contexts in which rumors spread; 4. Comparisons of secular and religious rumor; 5. Rumors as instruments of government sanction and exercise of power. Much of the focus is the Soviet period, but I think one might find some of this stimulating for pushing such investigations back at least into late Muscovy. You might particularly enjoy the essay by I. Narskii, "Kak kommunist Cherta rasstreliat' khotel: apokalipsicheskie slukhi na Urale v gody Revoliutsii i Grazhdanskoi voiny," The book is worth having if for no reason other than the wonderful photo on the cover. Don't be put off by publication in Cheliabinsk – the volume has very good production values.

Fal'sifikatsiia istoricheskikh istochnikov i konstruirovanie etnokraticeskikh mifov. M. IARAN, 2011. 380 pp. ISBN 978-5-94375-110-3.

The product of a collective project begun in 2007 in the Russian Academy on the theme of "Falsification of sources and national histories," this volume has a certain political urgency in that it clearly is intended to undercut the ways in which falsified sources are still being used for nationalist political ends and stirring ethnic hatred.

There are several general essays: by one of the main contributors V. A. Shnirel'man; by V. P. Kozlov (who for many years headed the Archival Commission and has written extensively on 19th-century forgeries); by L. A. Beliaev, chief editor of *Rossiiskaia arkheologiia*, on falsification in archaeology; and by the noted medieval Scandinavian specialist E. A. Mel'nikova. Of particular interest will be the several essays (one by the historical linguist A. A. Zalizniak) on the "Book of Veles," which was fabricated by Iu. P. Miroliubov and

continues to be regarded by many as authentic, despite devastating proof to the contrary by serious scholars. If you enjoy modern mythologization about the Muscovite Time of Troubles, you will want to read the essay by A. E. Petrov et al., entitled "Mezhdu nauko i oblastnoi administratsiei: opyt fal'sifikatsii ostankov Ivana Susanina s pomoshch'iu zadannoi interpretatsii arkheologicheskikh i sudebno-kriminalisticheskikh issledovani." Stepan Shamin (author of a recent book on the Muscovite kuranty) has contributed a short essay whose starting point is the widely copied apocryphal correspondence of the Turkish sultan. The coverage in the book takes us as well to the Caucasus, Tatarstan, and other areas. The book concludes with a long transcription of the round-table discussion held in Moscow on 17 September 2007. There is a short "program statement" in English, indicating that the book was published to coincide with a related round table held in July 2011 on "Archaeology and 'the grand narratives' of Russian history." Its proceedings (apparently not yet published) should also make interesting reading.