

From: dwaugh@u.washington.edu

Author's Subject: new titles: Muscovite kuranty

Date Written: Sun, 4 Oct 2009 20:25:36 +0100

Date Posted: Mon, 04 Oct 2009 15:25:36 -0400

[<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-earlyslavic&month=0910&week=a&msg=LfyQxl01MJdds7ZLyz%2bf1w&user=&pw=>](http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-earlyslavic&month=0910&week=a&msg=LfyQxl01MJdds7ZLyz%2bf1w&user=&pw=>)

Allow me to call your attention to an impressive new publication which should interest Muscovy specialists (as well as those who work on the press and communications elsewhere in early modern Europe). In the interest of full disclosure here, note that I am working on a project about this material with one of the key editors of these volumes, Professor Ingrid Maier of Uppsala University.

Vesti-kuranty 1656 g. 1660-1662 gg. 1664-1670 gg. Ch. 1. Russkie teksty. Izd. podgotovleno V. G. Dem'ianovym pri uchastii I. A. Kornilaevoi. Zavershenie raboty nad izdaniem i podgotovka k pechati: E. A. Podshivalova, S. M. Shamin. Pod redaktsiei A. M. Moldovana i Ingrid Maier. Moskva: Rukopisnye pamiatniki drevnei Rusi, 2009. 856 pp.

Vesti-kuranty 1656 g. 1660-1662 gg. 1664-1670 gg. Ch. 2. Inostrannye originaly k russkim tekstam. Issledovanie i podgotovka tekstov Ingrid Maier. M.: Iazyki slavianskikh kul'tur, 2008. 700 pp.

These two volumes constitute volume 6 of a series begun in 1972 where the intent is to publish all of the translated foreign news compendia of 17th-century Muscovy. While in the first instance the edition was intended for historical linguists, there is much here for the historian who would wish to learn about knowledge in Muscovy concerning the wider world. The period covered by the new volume in the series is of particular interest, since it encompasses the establishment of the regular foreign post connecting Muscovy with the West, an event which made a significant difference in the regularity and quantity of the imported news.

The latest volume in the series is distinctive in that, insofar as the foreign originals for the translations can be determined (by, one might add, a very long and demanding effort involving searches in a great many European libraries and archives), they are now published here along with the Russian texts. This then enables us to see how the translators used their material, where they often were quite selective, and enables us to learn a lot about, among other things, the abilities of the translators. Ingrid Maier's 225-page introduction to the volume containing the foreign texts, a book in itself, is now the best overview of the history of kuranty and their relationship to their sources.

Apart from Professor Maier's contribution here and anticipating future publications relating to this subject, note that one of the editors who contributed a great deal to this project is S. M. Shamin, who has written a number of interesting articles on the kuranty and is completing what should be a significant new book on the subject, where his focus will be the last third of the 17th century. The book on which Prof. Maier and I are working will be more broadly conceived, with

substantial attention to the comparative European context. One hesitates to predict publication dates, but probably one can expect both books to be out within a couple of years.