A few hours before heading off to Beijing, I thought I would jot down some notes on books I just received from Moscow (from Kozmenko) which should, I think, be of interest to many of you. No, I have not had a chance to read them yet...


This is not just a summary and survey, but according to the blurb is an attempt to look at the subject afresh using a kind of multidisciplinary approach. Chapters include ones on codicology, spread of paper, those who commissioned the books, scriptoria, and then selected study of particular codices. Since I tend to think anything Sergei Mikhailovich touches is going to turn out to be gold, this should be a book well worth attention.


Substantial (550 pp.) study of an important text editor/author, a monk of the Solovetskii monastery (d. ca. 1664). Apparatus includes extensive manuscript descriptions, good photos of various scribal hands, etc. Blurb promises material on the Schism as part of the story.


This is the fourth installment of the complete Russian translation by Fedosov, who is fully bi-lingual in English and Russian and has been working on this project for years. I would also remind you of the publication of the English original of the diary (being guided through by Paul Dukes), which, according to the understanding with the Russian end of the enterprise, cannot appear earlier than the Russian translation. So far, we have vol. 1 of the original English in print; may the Russian version speed to a conclusion, so we can have the rest of the original.


My impression is that to date people have always paid much more attention to the earlier pilgrim travel accounts. This substantial volume has thematic chapters on what the travelers recorded and includes, for example, a long one on "us and them" issues of how foreign cultures are observed.

A substantial collection of articles on trade and cultural interactions (4 of the articles in English), with a particular focus on relations with Scandinavia. The appendix to this vol. is part 4 of Stoliarova's (vide supra) study of commissioning of books in the 11th-14th centuries.

Now if I could only stay home long enough to read these new treasures.