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The new volume of *Germenevtika drevnerusskoi literatury*

by Daniel Waugh

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Germenevtika drevnerusskoi literatury: Sbornik 16-17. Otv. red. M. V. Pervushin. Moskva: Rossiiskaia akademiia nauk: Institut mirovoi literatury RAN, 2014. 1216 pp. ISSN 1726-135X; ISBN 978-5-91366-794-6.

Those wanting the table of contents (with minimal explanatory notes) of the most recent volume of this series may wish to skip these opening remarks, which are something of a personal indulgence.

The nature of publishing and distribution of books in the bad old days of the USSR often meant that books were bibliographic rarities before they could ever be purchased. Unless one ordered a copy in advance, the local outlet of Akademkniga or Dom knigi might not have a book, even though it would turn out that a dozen copies had been sent off to some place in Siberia (or abroad to, say, Poland), where they languished on a shelf for want of purchasers. Of course there were always exceptions of the obvious things. An American professor related how he went into Dom knigi in Leningrad back in one of the early years of the academic exchange (post-1956) and saw on the shelf the complete works of Iosif Vissarionovich, which the salesperson was trying to get rid of (“Drugogo izdaniia ne budet...”). After pondering the offer and turning it down, he changed his mind and returned to make the purchase. Seeing this, another customer turned to him: “Molodoi chelovek! Why on earth are you wanting to buy those?” Response: “Drugogo izdaniia ne budet!”). Well, as we know, there now is yet another edition (not to mention the fact that the spirit of I.V. seems to live on...).

Aware of the difficulty in obtaining real and desirable rarities, even if newly published, when I was told by a colleague in Moscow in 1990 about the just issued first two volumes of *Germenevtika*, I made a pilgrimage to the Gorky Insitute of World Literature (apparently the only place one could get them), brought several copies back home to the U.S., and then provided them to our library and interested colleagues. The very idea that one would launch a series under that title was an indication of how the old order was changing, even if the editors made it clear that they understood hermeneutics in a very general way: “*Germenevtika*, to est’ iskusstvo istolkovaniia pamiatnikov (ne tol’ko bibleiskikh i ne tol’ko slovesnykh), vsegda trebovalas’ i trebuetsia v gumitarnoi nauke. Na germenevtiku v izvestnoi mere vsegda defitsit. V nastoiashchee vremia germenevticheskie potrebnosti dazhe obostrilis’: i potomu, chto v obshchestve proiskhodit peresmotr suti mnozhestva istoricheskikh faktov, i potomu, chto rastet vzaimnyi interes spetsialistov iz raznykh gumitarnykh oblastei i rabote drug druga, osobenno v podkhodakh k istochnikam.” (*Gemenevtika...Sbornik 1* (M., 1989), p. 3). Hence, the decision to begin publishing quickly (in rotaprint), papers from the ongoing “all-Moscow” seminar on Russian culture from the 11th-18th centuries being held under the auspices of the Institute of World Literature.

The in-house focus of the volumes has continued, serving in the first instance the staff of the Institute (several of whom have more than one article here), though the range of contributors is in fact much broader. Since those first volumes published in 1989 (in an edition of 800 copies), the series has included monograph-length work as well as shorter articles. The more recent volumes are properly typeset and, it seems, ever more massive in size. Even if the current volume is in an edition of only 500 copies, given better distribution, it is not the bibliographic rarity that its ancestor was. Oddly, perhaps, one searches almost in vain on the website of the Institute <http://www.imli.ru/> to discover this amongst its publications, and then the only reference is in a dated short descriptive paragraph for the Division of Early Slavic Literatures <http://www.imli.ru/structure/show/Otdel-drevneslavjanskikh-literatur/>. One would think this is a publication of which the sponsoring institution should be proud.

The contents of *Sbornik* 16-17:

Monographs:

L. G. Dorofeeva. *Chelovek smirenniy v agiografii Drevnei Rusi (XI-pervaia tret' XVII veka)*. pp. 9-388. Her introduction provides a good sense of where hermeneutics fits amongst the analytical approaches in the scholarship on early Russian literature. Although it makes no claim to being more than a very selective treatment, the monograph is an excellent indication of how far we have come now from Likhachev's pioneering *Chelovek v literature Drevnei Rusi* (1970).

O. V. Ivanainen. 'Az'" letopistsa v 'Povesti Vremennykh Let', ego varianty i sposoby vyrazheniia. pp. 389-582. This goes well beyond merely examining instances where one can document directly first-person narrative in the chronicle.

A. S. Demin. *Materialy dlia monografii o khudozhestvennoi evoliutsii drevnerusskoi literatury*. pp. 583-690. Demin was the responsible editor for the first volumes of *Germenevtika* and is the current chair of the Division of Early Slavic Literatures at IMLI. These "materials" indeed are just that, separate discrete essays with no overarching framework to pull them together. The topics are very interesting ones: prophecies, depictions of the surrounding environment, literary cycles, etc.

Articles:

A. N. Uzhankov. *K probleme istoricheskoi poetiki drevnerusskoi literatury*. A lengthy argument as to why the subject merits study, as in the author's own previously published monograph, *Istoricheskaia poetika drevnerusskoi slovesnosti. Genezis literaturnykh formatsii* (M.: IMLI, 2011).

I. G. Dobrodomov. *Istochnikovedenie i istoriia slova*. The focus here is specifically interpretations of the word '*k"met*'. In reviewing the literature, D. takes up, inter alia, the effort of Edward Keenan (described here by the curious epithet "medievalist-shutnik", which the author explains in a note) to interpret it as one of Dobrovsky's "czechisms" or "bohemisms".

M. V. Pervushin. *Obraz eretika v russkoi polemicheskoi literature XI-XVII vekov*

D. S. Mendeleeva. Tema ‘sviatoi zemli’ i ‘vtorogo Ierusalima’ v ‘Slove o Zakone i Blagodati’ mitropolita Ilariona

A. A. Pautkin. Povest’ ob osleplenii Vasil’ka Terebovl’skogo: kul’turno-istoricheskii kontekst i struktura letopisnoi stat’i 6605 goda

N. V. Trofimova. ‘Tako li mne chasti netu v Russkoi zemli?’ Iz istorii letopisnoi povesti o mezhdousobnoi voine 1149 goda

A. A. Shaikin. Plot’ i telo v ikh sootnosheniiakh s dushoi v rannikh drevnerusskikh tekstakh

A. N. Uzhankov. K interpretatsii avtorskoj idei ‘Slova o polku Igoreve’

V. I. Maksimov. Stugna i Dnepr ili Istoriia utopeniia iunogo kniazia Rostislava, brata Monomakhova (po tekstu ‘Slova o polku Igoreve’)

V. I. Maksimov. ‘Dukh’ iuzhny’ i ‘chas osmy’ v “Skazanii o Mamaevom poboishche”—mistika ili real’nost? (Zametki o dispozitsii voisk i khode srazheniia na pole Kulikovom). I found this interesting for the review not only of text, but of evidence from topography, the discussion of the position of the sun at particular moments in the day, etc.

V. I. Maksimov. O ‘poloniannykh vestiakh’ v ‘Zadonshchine’

M. V. Pervushin. Sravnitel’naia geroika: pravednyi Avraam in blagovernyi Dmitrii

M. V. Pervushin. ‘Smirennogo inoka Fomy slovo pokhval’noe’: avtor i ego geroi

V. M. Kirillin. Panegiricheskoe nasledie Pakhomiia Logofeta

E. V. Dzhidzhora. Kompozitsionnye formy izlozheniia v Shestondneve Ioanna Ekzarkha Bolgarskogo i Khristianskoi Topografii Koz’my Indikoplova

G. P. Chiniakova. K voprosu o slozhenii ikonografii russkogo litsevogo Apokalipsisa. An essay which one wishes had included images.

O. A. Tufanova. Motiv ‘Sodoma i Gomora ostavshuiu glavniu...’ v “Tak nazyvaemom inom skazanii’

D. S. Mendeleeva. Rodoslovie pravednogo Iova i motiv ‘poganogo roda’ v sochineniiakh protopopa Avvakuma

D. S. Mendeleeva. Sviatootecheskaia simbolika v tvorchestve protopopa Avvakuma (obraznye pereklichki v sochineniiakh protopopa Avvakuma i sv. Ioanna Zlatousta). Of interest in part because of the methodological challenges of trying to establish exactly what texts Avvakum had in hand (or in his mind).

E. Dal'berg. Novolatinskaia poeziia Shvetsii perioda Severnoi voiny na primere stikhov Magnusa Rënnou. Specifically on various verses pertaining to Russia and the noteworthy military encounters of the war.

M. Iu. Liustrov. Datskie i russkie pobedosloviia epokhi Severnoi voiny. The main focus is the Danish responses.

A. Iu. Zhigalov. Legenda ob apostole Andree v trudakh A. D. Sedel'nikova

Jubilee: celebrating the work of V. M. Kirillin, with a bibliography of his publications.

Bibliography: the complete publications of L. I. Sazonova, through 2013.

In memoriam: on Ivan Vasil'evich Lëvochkin, with a bibliography of his works.