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## Several new publications

by Daniel Waugh

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*Il'menskoe Poozer'e i smezhnye territorii v kontse XV-XVII vv.* Publikatsiia podgotovil I. Iu. Ankudinov. (Materialy po istorii Novgoroda i Novgorodskoi zemli. Vyp. 3). Moskva: Rukopisnye pamiatniki Drevnei Rusi, 2014. 456 pp. ISBN 978-5-9551-0719-6.

This is the third volume of an important new text series, whose first two installments were noted by me in a previous post. The main region covered here extends south from the outlet to the Volkhov River along the west shore of Lake Il'men to the mouth of the Veriazha River. Some 20 by 5 km in area, the region was important for its several monasteries and connections with several river routes. In fact the documents in this collection encompass an even larger area, including some other administrative districts (*pogosti*) along the Veriazha. Included here is the complete corpus of cadastral records for that region, only some parts of which had previously been published. The largest part of the texts are from 18th-century copies. A short introduction discusses the circumstances in which several of the surveys were carried out and there are indexes of personal and geographic names. A schematic map indicates the approximate boundaries of the 89 villages included in the area between the Veriazha and Lake Il'men.

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Iu[rui] S[ergeevich] Vasil'ev. *Izbrannye trudy po istorii Evropeiskogo Severa Rossii XII-XVIII vekov.* 2-e izd., ispr. i dop. Vologda: Drevnosti Severa, 2013. 256 pp. ISBN 978-5-93061-076-5.

For those (like me) who missed the first edition of this reprint collection, this nicely printed medium-format volume is most welcome, in that it brings together a very valuable set of articles by Vasil'ev, the majority published in regional collections that would not be readily accessible in most libraries. The first section contains source analysis and guides to the cadastral books, for the most part for the Vaga and Kargopol' areas. Much of the rest of the book is studies focused on the local economy and land ownership. There are articles locating (and mapping) holdings of Novgorodian elites in the region, analysis and tabulations of population counts and the different categories of land, some biographical sketches, and more. A bibliography of Vasil'ev's more than 150 publications (the first dating from 1970) concludes the book.

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*Pistsovyie knigi iugo-zapadnogo porubezh'ia.* [Sost. M. Iu. Zencheko i dr.]. (Katalog pistsovykh knig Russkogo gosudarstva. Dokumenty zemel'nogo kadastra i zemleustroistva XVI-XVIII vv.

RGADA. F. 1209. Pomestnyi prikaz. Vyp. 5). Moskva: Pamiatniki istoricheskoi mysli, 2013. 792 pp. ISBN 978-5-88451-324-2.

Beginning in 2001, this series has been publishing detailed descriptions of the cadastral record holdings of RGADA's collection for the Pomestnyi prikaz. To date we have volumes for the Russian North, the Novgorod lands, the eastern suburbs of Moscow and the Upper Volga region. The new volume encompasses the upper Oka region (Orel, Mtsensk etc.), Tula, Belgorod, Elets, Kursk, etc. Entries often include the full text of the opening protocol to a volume. Where more than one town or region is covered in a given book, a table of contents referenced to folio numbers is provided. All told there are 1850 numbered entries. What we wouldn't give (I dream) if we could trade a few dozen of these cadastres for even one of the no-longer-extant Mongol censuses of the 13th century! That said, they are a huge resource, now more readily accessed, for many important questions of the history of pre-modern Russia. The last 150 pages are the geographic and name indexes.

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S[ergei] V[asil'evich] Saitanov. *Staraia Ladoga: arkheologii i istoriia: istoriografiia arkheologicheskikh issledovaniĭ i nekotorye voprosy istorii ee vozniknoveniia, razvitiia i znacheniiia v period obrazovaniia drevnerusskogo gosudarstva*. Moskva: Ontoprint (Izdatel' Markhotin P. Iu.), 2013, 136 pp. ISBN 978-5-00038-074-1.

Readers might well ask whether to take seriously any "academic" book such as this pocket-sized volume published by what we might term a "vanity press." This, especially when in his introduction here the author makes special note of his indebtedness to A. G. Kuz'min, whose prolific output on early Rus' and its sources has been, to put it kindly, controversial. The argument of this volume is that Ladoga was hugely important as a trading center, and it was in defense of its interests that the "calling of the Rus" occurred. In this telling, the founders of Ladoga were Slavs from the southern shores of the Baltic, and the Rus were their compatriots from that region. Understandably then, the review of archaeological investigations of Ladoga, which occupies two-thirds of the book, is highly selective. This is a kind of "anti-normanism redux," which, given the unlikelihood that we can ever prove the ethnicity of the possessors of material objects found by archaeologists, has to be treated at least as a provocative hypothesis, however unconvincing it is likely to be once subjected to closer scrutiny.