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Some recent reprints and a new translation of a classic

by Daniel Waugh

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V[asilii] N[ikolaevich] Berkh. *Tsarstvovanie Tsaria Alekseia Mikhailovicha*. Moskva: Kuchkovo pole, 2013. 352 pp. ISBN 978-5-9950-0325-0.

I[van] I[vanovich], Golikov. *Deianiia Petra Velikogo, mudrogo preobrazitelia Rossii*. 15 vols. [2nd ed.] Moskva: “Kniga po Trebovaniu,” 2014.

Valentin [Lavrent’evich] Ianin. *Ocherki istorii srednevekovogo Novgoroda*. Izdanie vtoroe, pererabotannoe i dopolnennoe. Moskva: Izd-vo. “Russkii Mir”; IPTs “Zhizn’ i mysl’,” 2013. ISBN 978-5-8455-0176-9.

Fridrikh-Khristian Veber. *Preobrazhennaia Rossiia. Novye zapiski o nyneshnem sostoianii Moskovii*. Perevod i kommentarii D. V. Solov’eva. Sankt-Peterburg: “Iskusstvo—SPB,” 2011. 304 pp. ISBN 978-5-210-01640-9.

While one may wonder who needs some of them, just about any of the classics of Russian historiography appear nowadays in reprint editions.

If your library lacks the 1831 ed. of Berkh, it might want this one, newly typeset and with a few notes added to his original ones. It is, of course, a curious antique, but perhaps retains some value for the quotations from sources, an eclectic mix of which printed in full in the several appendices of what he offered as a volume 2 (both volumes combined into the one here). Even if the lists are now dated, Berkh was ahead of his time, was he not, in compiling lists of members of the upper echelon of court ranks?

The Golikov likewise can be of value for its mining of the sources and its sheer size and detail. It is interesting that we now have a print-on-demand publisher here, producing decent paperback volumes, each of substantial size. Content aside, they seem to be a good value for the money (you should be able to get them for under \$30 each). The text is a facsimile of the 1837 edition, with merely the addition of a new title page. Vol. 1 covers through 1699, and vol. 2, 1700-1705.

The essays by the distinguished expert on Novgorod, 85-year-old Valentin Ianin, constitute a loosely connected history of the city, distilling his vast knowledge accumulated over the decades. One essay is by E. A. Rybina on the international connections of Novgorod. The book was published first in 2008 by “Iazyki slavianskoi kul’tury,” an edition I have not compared to see what changes he may have made here. The new edition was occasioned by his having been awarded in 2010 the Literary Prize of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn “for outstanding archaeological and historical discoveries, which have overturned our perceptions about our early history and

about man in Ancient Rus'." The presentations made at the award ceremony in Moscow on 21 April 2010 are included here as an appendix, Ianin himself given the last word in reflections entitled "Magistralnyi put' sovremennoi nauki: ot differentsiatsii k integratsii," extolling the virtues of interdisciplinary analysis such as that represented in his own work.

Going back now into the 1990s (ancient history, it seems!), we have been treated to many reprints of Russian translations of foreigners' descriptions of Russia, notably in the series entitled *Istoriia Rossii Doma Romanovykh v memuarakh sovremennikov XVII-XX vv.*, which supplies new analytical essays and indexes for each volume. There have also been important new editions and translations, e.g., A. I. Malein and A. V. Nazarenko's magnificent two-volume edition of Herberstein and Dmitrii Fedosov's now nearly complete *Diary* of Patrick Gordon (with the first ever full publication of the original text). Friedrich-Christian Weber's account of Russia in the years 1714-1719 is a much-cited classic, which appeared in several German editions, an English translation, and a French edition within a short time after his return to Hannover. This new translation is from the Paris edition of 1725 (*Nouveaux mémoires sur l'état present de la Moscovie*), which the translator, D. V. Solov'ev, claims is the "most authentic" version of the text. The first Russian translation had appeared in *Russkii arkhiv* in 1872. Included here is the essay on Weber and his text published in *ZhMNP* in 1881 by A. G. Brikner and the translator's extensive commentary/notes and index. I have not checked the translation against the French or the German and English versions.