# English Summaries for Feature Articles.

*Несин М.А. Топоним «Зверинец» / «Зверинцы» в XI-XVII вв. по данным новгородских источников. С. 1-13.*

*The Place-Name 'Zverinetz' or 'Zverintzy' in 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Novgorodian Sources. Pp. 1-13.*
*By Mikhail Nesin, Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps*
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The article concerns the unusual name of Zverin Monastery in Novgorod the Great. The name *Zverin*, literally, 'of beasts', was transferred onto the monastery from the area where it stood. That part of Novgorod was called Zverinetz (in later Russian, that would mean 'zoo'), and it is often assumed that the area was the hunting park of Novgorodian princes. However, while there almost certainly had been a forest area with wild fauna (i.e. 'beasts'), there is no evidence that it had anything to do with the princes' property. The author traces the use of the place-name and its evolution from the singular form 'Zverinetz' to the plural 'Zverintzy', concluding that the transition occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

*Keywords:* place names; Old Rus'; Novgorod the Great

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*Комаров О.В. Казаки – многообразие социального явления XV-XVI вв. С. 14-29.*

*Cossacks: the Variety of Social Caterorization in 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Pp. 14-29.*
*By Oleg Komarov, independent researcher*
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The present paper considers the earliest evidence for the use of the word *Cossack*, re-thinking the widely assumed views on the origins of Cossacks and refuting some popular stereotypes. The author demonstrates that, at the earlier stage, the word *Cossack* could apply to any free-lance soldier or worker, not even necessarily in military service. Most examples of its earliest usage, that is, throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> century, demonstrate that originally it designated non-Slavonic people and its meaning was gradually extended throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century onto various social groups of Russians, Poles and Ukrainians. Contrary to a popular myth, there is no evidence that Zaporozhian Cossacks existed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century – in fact, they seem to have emerged only after the mid-16th century. It was in the course of the 16<sup>th</sup> century that the Cossacks gradually consolidated into integral military communities, and this process was largely encouraged and assisted by the state.

*Keywords:* Cossacks; social terms; 15<sup>th</sup> century; 16<sup>th</sup> century

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*The Genealogies of House of Habsburg between 13th and 17th Centuries: A Case Study in Historiography. Pp. 30-52.*

*By Vladislav Voronin, independent researcher*
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The genealogies of the House of Habsburg, that emerged around the 13th century and became powerful in the Renaissance era, present abundant material for a case study on mythmaking in the Renaissance historiography. Both the need for ancient origins and the then lack of sufficient source basis would result into filling the gaps with outright fiction. However, Renaissance historians would see nothing wrong in it, since history-writing was not yet divorced from rhetorics and literary writing. The 'empirical turn' did not occur until the early 16th century when the now famous work by Lorenzo Valla *On the Donation of Constantine* was published in Germany (more than half a century after it had been actually written). Still, the formation of the evidence-based method would be slow, and mythmaking persisted well into the 17th century. At the same time, there was a parallel world of antiquaries, and it was them (rather than 'professional' historians) who collected material and textual evidence. Their activity would contribute immensely to the modern historical knowledge, but in the 16th – 17th centuries the two fields of studies had not yet merged, and antiquaries were rather despised by the 'professional' history-writers.

*Keywords:* 15th century; 16th century; House of Habsburg; genealogies; mythmaking; Renaissance historiography

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*The Mecklenburg Readers of Sigismund von Herberstein. Pp. 53-65.*

*By Andrey Rybalka, independent researcher*
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The latest fad of the 'anti-Normanist' discourse is the so-called 'Mecklenburg genealogies' which allegedly derive Ryurik's origin from the Slavonic people of Obotrites (thus refuting the mainstream assumption that he was Scandinavian). The present paper demonstrates that the 'Obotrite' genealogy of Ryurik is an early modern construction that resulted from a sequence of 16th to 18th century conjectures, all of which can basically be traced to a single source – the famous work by Sigismund von Herberstein who was the first to identify (mistakenly) Varangians with Wagri.

*Keywords*: 16th century; 17th century; 18th century; anti-Normanism; Mecklenburg; Obotrites; Ryurik; Varangians

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