

English Summaries for Feature Articles.

Несин М.А. Из истории новгородской владычной кафедры в XV в. Святительство Сергия – первого архиепископа Великого Новгорода и Пскова в московский период новгородской истории; к истории взаимоотношений московских властей с двумя его ближайшими преемниками – Геннадием и Серапионом. С. 1-33.

From the History of the Novgorodian Archiepiscopate: The Case of Sergius, the First Archbishop of Novgorod and Pskov in the Muscovite Period of Novgorodian History (From the history of relationship between the Muscovite authorities and his immediate successors, Gennadius and Serapion). Pp. 1-33.

By Mikhail Nesin, Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps (St. Petersburg).

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The paper suggests a new insight into the case of Sergius, the first Moscow-imposed Archbishop of Novgorod and Pskov, who seemingly became insane and voluntarily retired for this reason. A later legend claims that his insanity was caused by his allegedly blasphemous treatment of the local saint's relics, but contemporary sources report no such incident. Nevertheless, several independent sources stated that he was driven insane by apparitions of his predecessors who accused him of taking his position wrongly and illegally, and would make very real physical attacks at him. The author of the present paper hypothesises that the alleged 'apparitions' could have been in fact flesh-and-blood Novgorodian prankers who wanted to remove the Moscow archbishop from their city. The conflict over the Novgorodian archiepiscopate and other cases of archbishops who renounced their position at that period are regarded in detail.

Keywords: Novgorod the Great; archiepiscopate; mental illness



Юдин К.П. Щука с голубым пером: кулинарно-литературный казус. С. 34-40.

The 'Blue-Finned Pike': Cuisine or Literature? Pp. 34-40.

By Konstantin Yudin, independent researcher.

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The paper investigates the case of 'blue-finned pike', a cliché from 18th to 19th century Russian literature. The 'blue-finned' pike was seemingly believed to take this colour in the spring season, although it is biologically untrue: no species of pike found in Russia has blue fins, regardless of season. Moreover, while some Russian translations of foreign cookbooks mention the 'blue-finned pike', no wording like that is present in the originals, so mistranslation cannot be the case. Nor is this fish name found outside the learned tradition. It seems that, for no obvious reason, the idea of the 'blue-finned pike' was introduced into Russian literature by a single person, the writer and translator Vasily Levshin.

Keywords: 18th century; food; pike; translation



Воронин В.М. Малоизвестные предки императора Николая II в Западной и Центральной Европе. С. 41-64.

*The Less-Known Ancestors of Emperor Nicolas II from Western and Central Europe. Pp. 41-64.
By Vladislav Voronin, independent researcher.
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The paper covers the European ancestry of Empress Maria Feodorovna (née Duchess Sophie Dorothea of Württemberg; 25 October 1759 – 5 November 1828) and her links with German, Czech, Italian etc. nobility.

Keywords: 16th century; 17th century; 18th century; European dynasties



Рыбалка А.А. «Бывый брат инок Никодим». Адам Бурхард Селлий в России. С. 65-77.

*Nicodemus the Monk, or Adam Burchard Sellius in Russia. Pp. 65-77.
By Andrey Rybalka, independent researcher.
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The paper covers the biography of the relatively obscure Danish-German antiquary Adam Burchard Sellius who in 1732 moved to Russia and contributed to some theories of early Russian history, most notably, the ‘Wagrian’ theory of the origin of the Riurikids. Having failed to raise funds for his fundamental works on Russian history and language, he became a Russian Orthodox monk under the name of Nicodemus; however, his monastic life proved as unsuccessful as his academic career.

Keywords: 18th century; anti-Normanism; Enlightenment historiography; Adam Burchard Sellius



Губарев О.Л. О «быстрых данах» и русах-дромитах. С. 78-83.

On ‘Swift Danes’ and Rôś-Dromitai. Pp. 78-83.

*By Oleg Gubarev, independent researcher.
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The paper reconsiders the parallels between *Rôś-Dromitai* in Byzantine sources and *veloces Dani* in Western Latin records. One of the most striking parallels is the association between Danes / Rôś and ‘fugitive serves’ or ‘fugitive slaves’ whom the author assumes to be the subjugated Slavs.

Keywords: Vikings; Danes; Byzantine sources



Кочековская Н.А. «Несоветская медиевистика»: риторика как объект исследований культуры и конструирование несветской гуманитарной методологии. С. 84-92.

The (Non)Soviet Medieval Studies: Rhetoric as the Subject of Cultural Studies and Construing Humanitarian Methodology Outside the Soviet Discourse. Pp. 84-92.

By Nika Kochekovskaya, Russian State University for the Humanities.

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The article reviews the 1960s to 1980s trends in the Medieval studies in USSR, revealing how dissatisfaction with the Marxist theoretical framework imposed on historians by ideology would lead to attempts at working out ways of elusion and subversion. The personalities of Mikhail Bakhtin, Leonid Batkin, Aaron Gurevitch and Yury Bessmertny were the most notable in this context. Making Medieval studies ‘non-Soviet’ meant emancipating the discipline from the discourse of politics, utility and straightforward readings. This process was not unparalleled in the West where postmodernism and New Historicism were emerging. Although at least some of the dissident Soviet Medievalists sought to approach a harder science and all of them more or less rejected Marxism as a theoretical basis, while their Western counterparts would sneer at positivism and indulge in Marxist-laden theory, the outcome was strikingly similar - perhaps partly due to the fact that the Marxist thought in Western cultural studies took an aesthetic twist, denuded of social and economic issues. When the iron curtain fell, the meeting of the two traditions of historical thinking was dramatic, and in the 1990s Russia saw a hot dispute about New Historicism and its legitimacy as a method.

Keywords: Medieval studies; methodology; New Historicism

