English Summaries for Feature Articles.

Nesin M.A. Крамолы и крамольники в Новгороде XIII-XIV вв. по материалам новгородского летописания. С. 1-9.

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The medieval Novgorodian chroniclers would regularly employ the word kramola which survives into modern Russian in a generally ironical meaning of “subversion” but by the 13th or 14th century would apparently mean some kind of mutiny. However, the precise meaning of the word has been debated, since Novgorodians could legally overthrow local authorities by the decision of their veche. Therefore, only a kind of uprising which was considered in some way illegitimate could be defined as kramola. But what exactly would make it illegitimate? Nesin refutes the theories that legitimacy of veche decisions had something to do with social backgrounds of participants or with personal attitudes of the chroniclers. He argues that a veche decision was considered a kramola if it was expressed by isolated groups not representing true administrative units of Novgorod.

Keywords: Novgorod the Great; subversion; veche

Лущай Ю.В. Древнерусская изба по сведениям исторических источников X-XIV вв. С. 10-17.

The Old Russian Izba / Istba Housing after the Sources from 10th – 14th Centuries. Pp. 10-17.
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The modern Russian word izba refers to a log cabin, typically heated by a stove (either with or without chimney, the latter variant having become obsolete presently). However, earlier sources have it in the form of istьба and even istobka, in folk etymology transformed into istopka “a heated room or house”. Indeed, the actual etymology of this word is related to heating: either directly or indirectly, through Germanic languages, this word is derived from the vulgar Latin *extufa “bathhouse”. But did the early Slavonic istьба look like a log cabin? What was its construction and method of heating? The evidence from archaeology is inconclusive, because it is impossible to establish which of the unearthed constructions was called istьба. However, putting together various data, including those from foreign sources, allows the author to suggest that istьба was originally a free-standing facility which was heated and functioning as both a bathhouse and a winter accommodation. It was not until the later time that it evolved into the iconic Russian log-cabin.

Keywords: heating; housing; log cabin; Old Rus
The dawn of the Enlightenment era in Russia saw a need in a more scientific approach to world-mapping. Russia desperately needed more accurate cartography. One of the first attempts at modern mapping was the 1707 world map by Vassily Kiprianov. While it received considerable academic attention from historians of science, some oddities of place names on the Kiprianov map has remained unexplained. Through a comprehensive analysis of place names used by Kiprianov, the author of the present paper identifies more sources for his map and concludes that its immediate source was Greek.

Keywords: 18th century; maps; Petrine Russia

Лисович И.И. Анатомия, вивисекция и сифилис: медицинские дискурсы в культуре позднего Ренессанса. С. 42-70.

Anatomy, Vivisection and Syphilis: Medical Discourse in Late Renaissance Culture. Pp. 42-70. By Inna Lisovich, Moscow University for the Humanities. e-mail: innalisovich@gmail.com

The new advances in medical science in early Modern era bring medical discourses into philosophy and poetry. Public dissection of corpses and vivisection of animals becomes the latest fad, although ethical concerns raise gradually, so by the late 17th century vivisection shows fall out of fashion. Vesalius, with his advanced approach to anatomy, was highly influential in Renaissance culture, so that the anatomical discourse was extrapolated upon non-bodily matters (take, for instance, the Anatomy of Melancholy by Robert Burton). Among the new experiments was blood transfusion which required live objects and involved anatomical knowledge.

Another medical novelty of the period was the emergence of syphilis, recognized by contemporaries as a new disease and given a comprehensive description by Girolamo Fracastoro. Its arrival was seen as somewhat apocalyptic. The description of its symptoms is present in Timon of Athens by Shakespeare, and the researcher argues that The First Anniversary by John Donne, presenting a symbolic dissection of the world, also relates to this diagnosis. So the themes of anatomy and sexually transmitted disease are intertwined in Donne’s poem.

Keywords: anatomy; John Donne; medicine; vivisection; Shakespeare; syphilis
This essay regards the Middle Irish and Early Modern Irish motif of christening a fairie [V331.8. “Fairies converted to Christianity”] from a theological perspective, dwelling at some length on ontological implications assigned to an act of baptism by Catholic theology. The author demonstrates how both in Early Modern and Middle Irish narratives the motif in question is utilized to portray the fairies as humans, entitled as such to Christian salvation. These pragmatics, according to the author, survive well into Modern Irish clerical comments, becoming an instrument of political speculation via attributing Irish sovereignty to a continuous bloodline shared by the fairies and Irish Gaelic nobility. Therefore, the said motif should not be considered as just a Christian rendition of pre-Christian mythology, but a representation of much wider pattern represented in Irish aristocratic and clerical tradition.

Keywords: baptism; Irish mythology; Tuatha Dé Danann; sidhe