

Dr C.M.MacRobert,  
Lady Margaret Hall,  
Oxford

SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN MEDIÆVAL STUDIES GROUP

Spring Bulletin 1993

The last meeting of the group took place on Saturday, 27th March 1993 at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Papers were read by the Chairman, Lindsey Hughes, on the two weddings of Peter the Great, and by two visiting speakers, Jaakko Lehtovirta of Turku on Ivan IV and Professor Ihor Ševčenko of Harvard on Evfimij Čudovskij.

One of our honorary members, Vladimír Vavřínek, informs us that the Slovanský ústav in Prague, founded in 1928 and suppressed in 1963, has been re-established, and is once again publishing the journal *Byzantinoslavica*. The address for all communications to *Byzantinoslavica* is now:

Slovanský ústav,  
Římská 14,  
CS 120 00 Prague 2,  
Czech Republic.  
tel. (02) 236 16 08.

I have received a letter from Pavla Foglová of the OCS Dictionary thanking the group for our contribution of £200 towards the printing of the dictionary. She informs us that a total of \$12,000 has so far been collected. Fascicle 44 has been printed, fasc.45 will appear this year and there is sufficient funding for fasc.46. This represents a third of the work, and she is confident that the rest will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

I notice that our membership list has not always kept up with the degrees, marital status, etc. of members. I have made changes where I was aware of the need, but if the name and address at the head of this bulletin are not to your liking, please send me the necessary corrections.

Our next meeting and A.G.M. will be on Saturday 6th November 1993 at SSEES. Papers, as ever, are solicited.

RMC

## IVAN IV AS EMPEROR

Medieval emperorship had its roots deep in the Roman-Christian soil. An "ideal emperor" combines two primary functions: that of a sacerdotal, religious ruler, and that of an overlord, sole, supreme, universal ruler. Thus the Western imperial crowns mixed two elements symbolizing these two roles, a bishop's mitre and a universal arc. The Russian word tsar, царь, is commonly believed to have its origin in the Latin *caesar*. It has often been suggested that Muscovite Russia claimed imperial status for its rulers by adopting this title.

There seems to be some evidence to support the idea of transplanting the Byzantine emperors' sacred rulership to Russian soil. The tsars were occasionally pictured with a halo just because of their rulership, *ex dignitate officii*, but this was by no means the rule. However, some priestly role seems to be given to the newly-created tsar: this was reflected in coronation ceremonies and also in the tsar's active role in theological matters. To some extent we can see Ivan IV's Russia as a theocracy, ruled by a semi-religious ruler.

Some contemporaries were convinced that the tsar was also claiming the role of a universal emperor. Especially the pope, but also many Orthodox authors, saw the Russian tsardom as claiming to be the Third Rome, and consequently inheritor of the Byzantine lands. It seems, however, impossible to prove that such universalist tendencies played any practical role in Russian foreign policy. Especially when Ivan IV clearly refused this role, his foreign policy cannot be seen as that of an emperor. It was much more a logical continuation of earlier Muscovite policy; aggressiveness as such does not imply imperial pretensions.

Lindsey Hughes (SSEES, London): PETER THE GREAT'S TWO WEDDINGS

This paper examined changes in the image and status of Russian elite women in the Petrine era by comparing the circumstances and celebration of Peter I's two weddings: to Evdokia Lopukhina (his mother's choice) in 1689 and to Catherine (his own) in 1712. Analysis focused upon a comparison of a miniature of Peter and Evdokia from Karion Istomin's presentation book of verses *Kniga liubvi znak v chesten brak* (1689) (with reference to Kotoshikhin's account of royal weddings, in which the emphasis is upon the piety of the proceedings) and Aleksei Zubov's 1712 engraving of the wedding feast in the new Winter Palace in St Petersburg. Istomin's frontispiece is a religious allegory, in which heavenly guests Christ, Mary, St Peter and St Evdokia bless the union. The heavenly and earthly planes are linked with religious texts. Evdokia wears traditional robes and strikes a devout and submissive pose. At the same time, both the graphics and the verses are typical products of the Moscow baroque era. Zubov depicted the Westernised courtiers in the latest fashions. Catherine, in low-cut gown, peeps over her shoulder at the observer. (Written sources also show that Peter chose a naval theme for outfits and guests, and ordered dancing and fireworks.) But Zubov's image is also idealised, distorting the proportions of the room and cramming in more guests than actually attended. Cultural contrasts were linked to developments after Peter's return from the Grand Embassy in 1698 when he forced women out of the *terem* to attend social gatherings, used mock wedding feasts (e.g. the 1702 wedding of Filat Shansky) to teach his subjects modern manners and reformed betrothal customs to discourage arranged marriages. The paper ended with a brief consideration of Petrine court life as theatre, in which women, in particular, may have acted out a role, adhering to Western manners in externals but still attached to Muscovite ways in their beliefs and customs. (A shortened version of this paper was delivered at the "Women in Russia" conference in Bath on 31 March.)

**SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN MEDIAEVAL STUDIES GROUP**  
**Autumn Bulletin 1993**

The last meeting of the group took place on Saturday, 27th March 1993 at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Papers were read by Miss Rosalind McKenzie on "The so-called княжеское житие: politics or piety?", by Professor Francis Thomson on "The East Slav failure to assimilate classical antiquity - the causes and consequences", and by Dr Mary MacRobert on "A missing link in the early tradition of the Church Slavonic Psalter".

At the AGM, the Chairman reported that she had received letters from Vladimír Vavřínek, Jakov Solomonovič Lur'e and Maja Andreevna Momina thanking us for awarding them honorary membership. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the group now has fifty-six ordinary and seven honorary members, and a balance of £652 in the bank at the time of the latest statement. The meeting approved a proposal to establish links with the Obštestvo za izučavane na slavjanskata starina on the same basis as our links with ESSA. (A letter has since been received from the Chairman of the Obštestvo saying that they have adopted a similar resolution, so the link between us is now officially in existence.) Members wishing to receive information from the Obštestvo are requested to inform the Secretary/Treasurer immediately. The Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer were re-elected for another year, and the date of the next meeting, which will take place in Cambridge, was fixed at 19th March 1994. *Anyone willing to give a paper at this meeting is requested to inform the Secretary/Treasurer as soon as convenient.*

Dr Wigzell drew the meeting's attention to the exhibition of icons and other works of art from the Russian Museum in SPb "Gates of Mystery: the Art of Holy Russia" taking place at the Victoria and Albert Museum until 3rd January 1994. Enquiries were made about the prospect of the reappearance of *Polata k'nigopis'naja*, and the Secretary/Treasurer reported that to the best of his knowledge two volumes were in a state of near readiness. It was requested that an up-to-date list of the members of the Group should be circulated, and that the secretary of BASSEES should be kept informed of our activities. The Secretary/Treasurer undertook to deal with this. d

There will be a conference on the theme «Выговская поморская пустынь и ее значение в истории русской культуры» at Petrozavodsk in September 1994. Notice of intended participation, and abstracts of proposed papers (2 copies, 2 typewritten pages in English, 1½-spaced without footnotes), should be sent, in theory by 15th October 1993, though I gather there is flexibility in this matter, to:

185640 Республика Карелия,  
г. Петрозаводск, пр. Ленина, 33,  
Петрозаводский гос. университет,  
Исторический факультет,  
Кафедра истории дореволюционной России,  
доценту А.М.Пашкову.

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is organising a colloquium on Old Bulgarian studies from 19th August to 2nd September 1994. All enquiries (and offers of papers) by the end of this year to Professor Ivan Bujukliev at:

Софийски университет «Св. Климент Охридски»,  
Летен Колоквиум по Старобългаристика,  
бул. «Цар Освободител», 15,  
София.