

VALK – SIGIZMUND N. VALK: *Novye gramoty o novgorodsko-pskovskich otnošenijach s Pribaltikoj v XV v.* [Neue Urkunden über die Beziehungen Novgorods und Pleskaus mit dem Ostseeraum im 15. Jahrhundert], in: *Istoričeskij archiv* 1 (1956), S. 232-234.

SUMMARY

*New Russian Source Publications
on Russian-Livonian Relations*

The article presents current Russian editions of documents (including both treaties and correspondence) on the relations between three north-western cities of Old Rus', Novgorod the Great, Pskov and Polotsk, with their Livonian neighbours, among others also the Hanseatic League. Previous editions of these documents were published several decades ago (*Gramoty Velikogo Novgoroda i Pskova*, ed. by Sigizmund N. Valk et al., Moscow and Leningrad 1949; *Polotskie gramoty*, Vol. 1-5, Registers, ed. by Anna L. Khoroshkevich, Moscow 1977-1989) and are already outdated. Since then scholars have obtained documents not included in the older editions and, moreover, the principles of edition used fall short of modern standards, let alone the incorrect readings of some documents.

The first re-edition, "Documents of Great Novgorod and Pskov" (*Gramoty Velikogo Novgoroda i Pskova*), is now being prepared by a group of Russian scholars including Igor' Iu. Ankudinov, Pavel V. Lukin, Ekaterina R. Skvairs (Catherine Squires) and Sergei Polekhov. It must be stressed that the Soviet editors didn't look for the manuscripts scattered over several archives (some of which were replaced during the Second World War), but reprinted the texts from old source editions, often simply copying mistakes previously made. The texts written in German, Latin and other foreign languages were translated into modern Russian. If there were both Old Russian and German texts of the same document, only the Old Russian one was printed in the Soviet editions. In the re-edition, the texts are newly transcribed according to the manuscripts and they are being newly translated and commented upon.

In this article, the author dwells on the problems of searching for relevant documents in the archives of Berlin, Lübeck, Moscow, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Riga and Tallinn, their dating and translating into modern Russian language, mainly from Middle Low German. A preliminary list of the documents on the relations of the two north-west Russian republics with Livonia and the Hanseatic League, including their modern archival

signatures, references to previous editions and the most significant literature is presented in the appendix.

Another re-edition presented in the article is called “Polotsk documents, 13th – early 16th centuries” (*Polotskie gramoty XIII – nachala XVI veka*). Two volumes of this three-volume edition were published in 2015. They were prepared by Russian and Belarusian scholars (Vasilii A. Voronin, Aleksandr I. Grusha, Aleksandr A. Zhlutko, Ekaterina R. Skvairs, Andrei G. Tiul’pin and Sergei Polekhov) under the supervision of Anna L. Khoroshkevich. The first volume includes the texts and detailed descriptions of the documents issued by Polotsk authorities and inhabitants, as well as the Grand Dukes of Lithuania when they ruled that city. It contains, moreover, catalogues of seals and watermarks used in the documents. The second volume encompasses extensive commentary, an article about “Polotsk documents as a historical source” by Khoroshkevich (a revised version of her doctoral thesis), as well as a bibliography and reference material. All the documents published in the previous edition were newly revised on the basis of their manuscripts preserved in the archives of Berlin, Cracow, Gdańsk, Minsk, Moscow, Nizhnii Novgorod, St. Petersburg, Riga, Vilnius and Warsaw; in addition, several new documents were added. The third volume will include documents devoted to Polotsk issued by the authorities and inhabitants of neighbour cities and states, mainly Riga and the Teutonic Order, including more than 30 unpublished letters. The editors hope to prepare this volume in the course of the next few years.