A Brief (Re)Introduction

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Oscar Wilde reminds us that “one has a right to judge a man by the effect he has over his friends.” The publication of this second part of the Festschrift in honor of Boris Nikolaevich Morozov stands as proof that our honorand has had an enduring, enriching, and substantial “effect” upon his friends and colleagues. The two parts of this collection have brought together scholars from around the globe who have themselves benefited from Boris’s erudition and generosity and want to acknowledge that “effect” on them. The works they offer to him in tribute here (and in Part 1, published in vol. 56.4) span a range of topics and disciplines – from textology and codicology, to political and social history, to cultural and religious studies. These are fields Boris has worked in (and continues to work in) over his long career. As should always be the case in a Festschrift, the contents reflect the one honored.

And that is certainly the case here. All of the contributions in Parts 1 and 2 are fundamentally sources studies, which is only appropriate given Boris’s career as a foremost expert on Russian sources. Most are detailed and novel studies of single sources or groups of sources, including new readings of sources pertaining to Ivan IV the Terrible (Erusalimskii, Soldat); a controversial image from a foreigner’s account (Kollmann); chronicles and their sources (Bogatyrév, Boeck), cipher-like writing systems of Medieval Russian scribes (Korogodina); specific readings of chapters in the Law Code of 1649 (Kozliakov, Pavlov); sets of sources on the First Militia during the Time of Troubles and the Persian Campaign of Peter I (Liseitsev, Kurukin), family and honor (Eskin, Halperin, Shokarev), the Church and churchmen (Goldfrank, Martin, Thyrêt), and conceptual themes rooted in the reading and meaning of a range of texts (Krom, Ostrowski). Each of these studies reflect an area of scholarship to which Boris has substantially contributed.
The studies in this collection reflect not only the career and achievements of our honorand. They reflect as well the moment in which they are published. A terrible and tragic war has been thrust upon Ukraine; and as connections between scholars and institutions inside Russia and outside Russia have, as a consequence, become strained or wholly broken, this collection pressed on to publication, reflecting the editors’ and contributors’ resilient hope that what they are doing now – even if focused on the remote past and sometimes highly-particular topics of research – will make a difference one day when peace is restored. May that day of peace (and the collaborations, exchanges, and international engagement of scholars around the world working on early Slavic topics) come soon.

Limitations of space (and the dizzying length of the list) prevent us from publishing here the complete academic bibliography of Boris Nikolaevich Morozov. We can direct our readers, however, to a formal bibliography of his works up to 2007 that appeared in print previously ("Spisok nauchnykh trudov B.N. Morozova," Arkhiv russkoi istorii: Sbornik Rossiskogo arkhiva drevnikhk aktov, vol. 8 [Moscow: Drevlekhranilishche, 2007], 702–713) and to a more recent (though partial) list of works published since 2007, available here: https://inslav.ru/people/morozov-boris-nikolaevich.