

other old Russian *sborniki*—will be incomplete until detailed codicological analysis of the kind illustrated in this book has been applied. Moreover, Kashtanov's analysis of handwriting and paper makes it only too clear why proper reference guides to these subjects must be compiled before codicological analysis will pay in full the investment in time which it requires.

The concluding chapter of Kashtanov's study contains texts of hitherto unknown immunity charters from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, many of them from the Stroev manuscript analyzed in the preceding chapter.

One hopes that more contributions to the ancillary disciplines used by the Russian medievalist will soon appear and be of the same excellence as Kashtanov's book. Emphasis on basic methodology and source criticism can only be welcomed wherever the study of medieval Russia is undertaken.

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THE TIME OF TROUBLES: A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE INTERNAL CRISIS AND SOCIAL STRUGGLE IN SIXTEENTH- AND SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY MUSCOVY. By *S. F. Platonov*. Translated by *John T. Alexander*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1970. xvii, 197 pp. \$6.50, cloth. \$2.45, paper.

The teaching of Russian history, particularly of the pre-Petrine era, has long been hampered by a shortage of adequate scholarly works in English. In recent years there have appeared several translations and republications of foreign accounts of Muscovy as well as other documents of that period. Kliuchevsky on the seventeenth century and Presniakov's *Formation of the Great Russian State* have also been translated, and now Platonov's popular version of his classic work on the Time of Troubles is available. These older works have retained their value, and many more should be translated. But of principal importance in any such undertaking must be an introductory historiographical essay to inform the student of more recent scholarly interpretations. This is not supplied by Professor Alexander in the book under consideration, and it is the only serious objection that one can raise to this otherwise worthwhile translation. Platonov's interpretation of the origins of the troubles is, after all, somewhat dated, and instructors who assign this work to their students will have to explain what is acceptable and what is not. Since most professors of Russian history are more familiar with the post-Petrine era, I fear that this will not be done adequately. The translation, except for a few rough spots, is quite readable and accurate. I do object, however, to the translation of *pole* as "field." "Steppe" or "prairie" would have been better. The book has several useful appendixes: genealogical tables, a chronological table, a glossary of terms, an annotated bibliography, and an index. Professor Alexander should be encouraged to continue with his translations, and if he does not feel himself to be qualified to write an historiographical essay—as he has indicated in this case—he should invite one of his colleagues to make that contribution.

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