

character. In the present issue there are two such articles, and they are both contributions that are sure to retain their weight in further discussions. The most important is probably the last paper, by Fennell. On the basis of textual analysis, and following the Soviet scholar A. A. Zimin, the author is trying to settle the controversy over the *Slovo o polku Igoreve*. His argument concerns the "textological triangle" (Slovo—Zadonshchina—Hypathian Chronicle), and his conclusion is an unhesitant subscription to the view that "*Slovo* had as its sources both *Hyp.* and *Zad.*, and that both influenced *Slovo* independently of each other" (p. 137).

Naturally, in a brief review it would be more than presumptuous to take a stand on an issue of this kind. Fennell's analysis is meticulous and skillful and cannot be ignored. However, there are equally skillful and meticulous expositions of opposite views, and at this moment one cannot but echo D. S. Likhachev's gallant and, we must assume, sincere remark in his Oxford lecture that "the dispute cannot be brought to a conclusion until all the work done on the subject [Zimin's book as the first step] has been published" (*OSP*, 13: 46).

Another issue of great interest and importance, and again of controversial character, is discussed in the paper "Church Slavonic Elements in Russian" by Gerta H. Worth. The author has done extensive research on this subject, and she argues very successfully the importance of OCS to the genesis of literary Russian. Here, too, we see what a tremendous amount of work still remains to be done. The author shows convincingly how the advancement of computer science can aid research of this kind, but she is also fully aware of the importance of individual scholarly judgment. In an article it is, of course, impossible to account in detail for all the evaluative statements. Thus one is occasionally left wondering where exactly the author stands on some particular question (e.g., "A great many of Vinogradov's examples are taken from the Igor' Tale, which for various reasons cannot be considered completely reliable evidence," p. 4).

Literary themes are treated in a number of articles either of survey character ("The Medieval Czech Love-Lyric" by R. Auty, "Tolstoy, Shakespeare, and Russian Writers of the 1860s" by Yu. D. Levin of Pushkin House) or analytic ("Pushkin's Secret of Distance" by J. Bayley, "Reaction or Revolution: The Ending of Saltykov's *History of a Town*" by I. P. Foote). J. Sullivan and C. L. Drage present some "Poems in an Unpublished Manuscript of the *Vinograd Rossiiskii*." "The King of the New Israel': Thaddeus Grabianka (1740–1807)" by M. L. Danilewicz discusses an interesting chapter in European diplomacy and intrigue.

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NOMADS, NORTHMEN AND SLAVS: EASTERN EUROPE IN THE NINTH CENTURY. By *Imre Boba*. The Hague: Mouton. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1967. 138 pp. DM 31, paper.

All existing models of ninth-century East European history have their weaknesses; but it is far easier to criticize them than to construct valid alternative theories. The imprecise, fortuitous, and frequently contradictory nature of the available evidence makes it almost inevitable that the historian who deals satisfactorily with one set of problems will also create new areas in which facts are few and unsubstantiated hypotheses numerous. Imre Boba's monograph, his doctoral dissertation, is the latest reinterpretation of this intractable material.

The author concentrates on the period which marked the end of nearly two centuries of relative stability in the area. Between the seventh and ninth centuries Eastern Europe had been left to develop in its own way: the Avars and Bulgars had moved on to the more tempting southern and western parts of the continent, and the Khazars had kept out the nomads pressing in from Asia. But increasing trade along the Volga-Don waterway, while promoting economic growth, also attracted from Scandinavia the invaders who were to be the cause of large movements of population and far-reaching political developments. These were the Rus', originally, in Boba's opinion, a predominantly Danish confraternity of merchants, but one which rapidly became multinational in character. He believes that the mysterious Rus' center of Artha was established in the Oka region, after Russian pressure had forced the autochthonous Meshchera to move southward. Between 820 and 830 the latter, whom Boba identifies with the Majghari or Magyars, settled in the steppes between the Dnieper and the Don, forcing the Khazars to build the fortress of Sarkel for their own protection. The invasion of the Pechenegs in 888/889 drove the Magyars westward across the Dnieper, where they joined the Altaic Onogur-Bulgars, thus creating the ethnic mixture from which the present-day Hungarians sprang.

When dealing with the Magyars, Khazars, and nomads, Boba's arguments are persuasive; but when he turns to the Rus' and to the emergence of Kievan Russia, one is too conscious that conflicting evidence has been ignored or insufficiently discussed. No single explanation of the term Rus' has yet succeeded in reconciling all the available evidence, and the present work is no exception. Also, while it is evident that the Volga became an important international trade artery before the Dnieper, Boba's denial of the existence of a *put' iz Varyag v Greki* needs more than the silence of the sources to substantiate it. Similarly, his views on the Khazar origin of Kiev and its legendary founder, on Askold and Dir, and on the supposed expulsion of Oleg and his men from Novgorod are too conjectural to be convincing. But in returning a verdict of "not proven" on some of the conclusions, it should also be emphasized that this is a serious and interesting contribution to the subject.

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NOVGOROD THE GREAT: EXCAVATIONS AT THE MEDIEVAL CITY  
DIRECTED BY A. V. ARTSIKHOVSKY AND B. A. KOLCHIN. Compiled and written by *M. W. Thompson*. New York and Washington: Frederick A. Praeger, 1967. xvii, 104 pp. \$13.50.

*M. W. Thompson* provides the first comprehensive account of the results of excavations in Novgorod between 1951 and 1962. This attractive book with many good illustrations will reach wide circles of readers faster than the many volumes of original reports published in Russian. The same author, through translation, has already introduced to the Western world some important Soviet publications on archaeology. Among them are *A. L. Mongait's Archaeology in the USSR*, *S. A. Semenov's Prehistoric Technology*, and *C. I. Rudenko's Pazyryk*.

Excavations of Russian medieval towns are among the most outstanding in Soviet archaeological research. The large areas excavated are truly impressive. According to *Thompson*, the excavations in Novgorod represent one of the major landmarks in European archaeology. The preservation of the wood by the humid