

PREFACE

The present volume contains 24 papers that in one way or another address questions related to the mechanisms and chronology of the Slavicization of the northern regions of present-day Russia. The majority of these contributions is based on the papers read at an international conference, organized by the Academy-funded project *The Ethnic, Linguistic and Cultural Making of the Russian North* (Academy of Finland, No. 208153), and held at the Biological Station of Helsinki University in Lammi on September 22nd – 25th 2005.

The range and scope of questions dealt with in this volume as indicated in its title is rather ambitious, and it is natural that only a part of the problems connected to the Slavicization of the Russian North could be analyzed or solved here. It is also inevitable that, in view of the multidisciplinary of the present papers and the interdisciplinary character of the topic itself, this volume represents a diversity of views, methods and approaches. Although the articles mainly focus on the northern part of present-day Russia, articles connected to the Slavicization and the Russification of other areas have also been selectively admitted.

I wish to point out certain practical issues connected to the use of scholarly terms and transliteration principles which may not be familiar to readers as well as to experts representing disciplines other than linguistics. This note applies particularly to the contributions written in English. First, the names of the Uralic languages have not yet been standardized in English, and the reader will face a certain degree of variation. Second, the transliteration used here attempts to follow the English scholarly usage (thus, e.g., *Čud'* for чудь, *Il'men'* for ИЛЬМЕНЬ, etc.), including the names of persons (e.g., *Zaxarov* for Захаров, *Šilov* for ШИЛОВ, etc.). Only names of locations that bear a comprehensive form such as *Archangel* for Архангельск, *Volkhov* for Волхов, etc. have been rendered as such. In the articles written in German, the corresponding scholarly principles have been applied. As for these contributions, both the old and the new orthography may occur, depending on the individual scholar's choice.

As editor, I wish to thank the Academy of Finland for granting generous funding that has enabled us to organize the conference and to publish this volume. I also wish to thank the advisory board of this volume for its endeavors to critically review the present papers. My appreciation is also addressed to the persons whose technical assistance has been most valuable in proof-reading and formatting the present contributions. And, finally, I wish to thank all those who kindly accepted the invitation to submit a paper to this volume.

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The Editor