

Minutes of a Meeting of the Medieval Studies Group of BUAS held on  
Saturday 17 November 1979 at SSEES

1. It was agreed that the Meeting of the Medieval Group which would normally take place in March 1980 will be replaced by a joint meeting with the 18th Century Group (Chairman Dr. A.C. Cross, University of East Anglia) in July 1980.

The theme of this Conference will be: 'Modernization in 17th and 18th Century Russia.'

Offers of papers should be sent directly to Dr. Cross, (copy to Dr. de Madariaga).

2. The Medieval Group will hold its normal meeting in November 1980, probably on 15 November, in London. Date and place subject to confirmation. Papers are invited now.
3. Dr. J. Howlett and Dr. W. Ryan would take charge of getting in touch with Dr. A. M. Bryer of the Centre for Byzantine Studies in Birmingham, to take up his kind offer to organize a conference on 'Byzantium and its Slavonic Neighbours' in April 1981.

Foreigners would be invited to attend and give papers. Participants were notified that the usual practice is to have one major paper (some 40 minutes) and shorter reports of 20 minutes on each theme.

4. It was agreed to put forward proposals to BUAS for a Ford grant for a conference on the theme Early Protestantism and the Slavonic World, to be held in the first week of July 1982, over a long weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, at a place to be specified later).

(Note by Chairman:

Since the meeting I have spoken to Dr. P. Mayo who informs me that Ford Foundation have asked that a committee of BUAS and NASEES should be set up to administer the Conference grants. The committee has not been set up yet and therefore proposals can be sent directly to Dr. Mayo.

It is expected that the grant will cover basic conference costs (halls of residence, location of conference centre etc, secretarial expenses). It will also in all probability cover the travel costs of some invited participants, particularly from Eastern European countries. We should also apply for the cost of publication of papers.

Since we should not delay unnecessarily with submitting our project, may I invite you to send proposals of themes and speakers to me as soon as possible. I propose that a subcommittee of Dr. Pennington, Dr Ryan, Dr. Heppell (if she is willing) and myself should then draft a programme for submission to BUAS/NASEES. We should be in a position to give the names of a number of East European Scholars we would like to invite.)

5. It was reported that a Conference on Greek-Slav relations in medieval times took place in Salonika in May organised by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in conjunction with UNESCO. No British scholars were present, and probably no British scholars had heard of it.

Various ways of ensuring that information on events of this kind should reach British scholars were discussed, and it was finally suggested that the best way would be to establish regular communications between BUAS and the organisers of such conferences (e.g. UNESCO).

The following notes attempt to sum up the situation regarding the various proposals to hold conferences.

- 1) It has been agreed by the Committee that the meeting which should normally take place in March 1980 will be replaced by a joint meeting with the 18th Century Group (Chairman Dr. A.G. Cross) in July 1980. *at Cambridge*

The theme of this Conference will be:

'Modernization in 17th and 18th Century Russia'

*5-6 July*

Offers of papers should be made to me or to Dr. Cross.

- 2) We shall hold our normal meeting in November 1980. *15 November*  
(offers of papers are welcomed)
- 3) We have received a very welcoming response from Dr. A.M. Bryer to the idea of holding a Joint Conference with the Centre for Byzantine Studies in Birmingham in March 1981 on the general theme 'Byzantium and the Slavonic World'.

It has been too early to start inviting papers in this subject but I suggest that the present meeting should

- a) try to specify the theme more clearly
- b) decide on roughly how many participants it would wish to see.  
(presumably participants will include both those who normally attend conferences at the Centre for Byzantine Studies and those who attend our conferences)

I would like to be in a position to write to Dr. Bryer after the present November meeting of the Mediaeval Group, making concrete proposals regarding dates, papers, people to be invited etc.

- 4) Mediaeval Group Conference for which a Ford grant might be obtained from BUAS. *-1982 at earliest - July? Oxford?*

Unfortunately my circular sent out last June misled many into thinking that I was proposing to hold a Conference on 17th century Muscovy. I was only attempting to suggest the way in which I hoped those with suggestions to make would lay out their proposals.

Members of the group did not submit proposals for a conference, as a result of which the Executive Committee opted for the subject 'Protestantism and the Slavonic World, as outlined below:

- 6 A considerable amount of work has been done on the ecclesiastical history and the social implications of the protestant movement, especially in Poland and Bohemia. We would hope to look rather at the spiritual and intellectual implications and reverberations of the movement, as far as possible among all the Slavs, up to the end of the seventeenth century.

Themes which seem promising might include:

1. The revision of scriptural and liturgical translations in the Slavonic languages (e.g. the Gennadij Bible, the work of Maksim the Greek, Nikon), and the role of printing in this revision.
2. Attitudes to heretics: different forms of heresy, the role of witchcraft and divinatory literature (especially eastern and southern Slavs).
3. Westerners in Slavonic lands, especially west Europeans in Muscovy.
4. Protestant influence in art and architecture.

5. The Hus-Wycliffe link. Wycliffe's role is coming to be more widely appreciated and scholars from Eastern Europe would certainly welcome an opportunity to see some of the Wycliffe material. We understand that either the British Library or the Bodleian could put on a useful exhibition.

We think that for the successful discussion of theological and spiritual issues such a conference needs to take place in a western country; because of the Wycliffe material, London or Oxford would be most appropriate. We believe the results of such a meeting could be valuable.

*Opposite attitude to Western referents  
Referents & E-W politics*