
Marlene Basarab

- when did the Mongols invade the Ukraine?
- Would the Mongols have ever been battling the Rus/Varangians?
- Also I guess since my family name is Pencheneg /Cuman (Basarab) would they have been involved with the Rus or Varangians?

Answer:

The mongols invaded Rus' lands in the 13th century and basically took overall administrative control through the use of appointed Rus' rulers. They most definitely battled the Rus' and possibly some Varangians though these would have been mercenaries. It's entirely possible that your family may have been involved with the Rus', maybe even attacking their trade caravans along the last stretch of the Dnipro near the Black Sea.

Vsevolod Petriv

- The Swedish Russian war, is there any connection between Ukrainian forces backing the Swedes and the earlier viking connections discussed in the presentation?

Answer:

By that point you're looking at an entirely different social, cultural, and political situation. The Scandinavian connection was completely lost in the early 12th century so highly unlikely that was a motivating factor.

Christine Robitaille, Rurikovychy

- Are you aware of the discovery of the Kievan-Rus' coins found by Robert Carley in Ireland in 2020? UGG: yes, and have noted in newsletter!
- Are you aware of the influence of the Kievan-Rus' into the Mamikonian dynasty? Two princesses of Kievan-Rus' married into this line... -hence, there is influence into Armenia, Bulgaria and Poland as well. . . UGG: I think Myron will allude to state marriages in his concluding comments....
- Another 'state marriage' was that of Anne of Kiev to Henri I of France of course... ...and there were marriages with the Byzantine as well. . .

- Can you please provide my E-mail to William: royal_snowbird@bell.net (Christine)
- In later generations of the Mamikonians, their descendant Álmos of Hungary and Croatia married: Princess Predslava Svyatopolkovna of Kiev; later in the SAME bloodline of descent, his grandson Géza II of Hungary married Princess Yevfrosyniia Mstyslavna. They are direct descendants of 14 generations of Mamikonians via the Greek-Byzantine; Polish (Piast dynasty) and Sachsen lines of the Germanic Emperor Otto II

Answer:

This really just goes to show how connected the medieval world really was. I think you would enjoy reading *Portraits of Medieval Eastern Europe* by Donald Ostrowski and Christian Raffensperger.

Oksana Yarosh

William, thank you. Your talk is still in progress and I have to comment. As you were mentioning Nestor and the primary chronicles, I had alarm bells go off. Racing downstairs to my library, I realized that I have a Ukrainian edited compilation (*Litopys Rusk'j*, published in Kyiv in 1989) starting with Nestor's primary chronicle, and sure enough, found the section about Olga in 6453 (945). I'll have to read this through one of these days; it sure took a lot of suitcase space and weight from Lviv one year. But this volume must surely contain not only Nestor's chronicle but others, too, as it finishes with Volodymyr Monomakh.

When reading genealogy texts, there is sometimes a bit of a 'touchy subject' when one mentions 'Russian' near Rus. Why, in your presentation, do you refer to Russian towns (I don't recall if it was towns or settlements) and not Rus' towns and settlements?

I'll have to think through some of your remarks a bit further. As Jerry eluded to at the start of the seminar, my Ancestry DNA for my mother shows a significant amount of Scandinavian and Baltic that I'd love to try to figure out.

Answer:

I think I may have the same edition. It's quite the sizeable text but definitely worth the read if you have time.

It should have said Rus' and not Russian. That was entirely my fault for not catching it and changing it from the translation I was using. There are very few English translations of the text to cite and most were written 50 years ago. It hasn't been viewed as worthwhile to make an updated edition, unfortunately.

However, regarding the touchy subject issue, I don't think it needs to be touchy at all but rather the equating of historical states/kingdoms/polities with modern nations needs to stop. There are no Russian Rus' or Ukrainian Rus'. These are anachronistic concepts and not a reflection of Rus' identity. Part of the issue lies with tracing genealogies back in time and combining past identities to form a modern identity. Another part of the issue lies in the fact that Rus' tends to be called Kyivan Rus' (which is modern term and only partially correct). It is, like most things, a little more complicated than this. While the "capital" of Rus' was Kyiv (though this often changed depending on the desires of the current ruler) the territory did span into modern day Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, and for a time was one single kingdom. I feel that a lot of focus is placed on later medieval Rus' which was a conglomeration of principalities, not all under one ruler, which confuses matters. Novgorod for example was its own state by that point but it should not be called Russian. I would be happy to discuss this topic further if you want.