Names 301 - Introduction to Russian Names

Presented by
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1

Reference

- A Dictionary of Period Russian Names by Paul Wickenden of Thanet
  - 2nd Edition available free at: http://heraldry.sca.org/names/paul/
  - 3rd Edition can be purchased through the SCA stock clerk
  - Pretty much the definitive work on Russian names in the SCA

2

Definitions

- Given Name
  - Main personal name
  - Usually given at birth or naming ceremony
  - The modern "First Name" is a given name
  - Some cultures allow multiple given names
    - Such as modern "middle" name

3

Definitions

- Byname
  - Part of the name other than a given name
  - Different cultures had different types of bynames
  - Modern "last name" is a type of byname, specifically an "inherited surname"
  - Different types of bynames described in detail in SENA Appendix B

4

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
  - Locative
    - Describes where the person if from
    - Can be marked
      - "of York"
      - "de Marseilles"
      - "von Hamburg"
    - Can be unmarked
      - "Jack London"

5

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
  - Patronymic
    - Formed from the person's father's name
    - Some of the earliest and most common bynames
    - Can be marked
      - "Nialsdottir"
      - "Johnsson"
      - "Petrovich"
    - Can be unmarked
      - "John Henry"
    - Occasionally, matronymics (mother's name) were used

6

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
  - Descriptive
    - Formed from a distinguishing characteristic
      - "the Tall"
      - "Grosse"
      - "gullskeggr"

7

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
  - Occupational (type of Descriptive bynames)
    - Describes the person's occupation
      - "Draper"
      - "Guerrero"
      - "Sardello"

8

Definitions

- Types of Bynames
  - Congnomento, alias, or dictus
    - A second given name the person goes by
      - "Iohannes dictus John"
  - Inherited
    - Clan names
      - Ó Conchobhair (masculine)
      - inghean Uí Chonchobhair (feminine)
    - Inherited surname
      - Basically the modern "last" name

9

Introduction

- Modern Russian Names:
  - Given Name (имя)
  - Patronymic (отчество)
  - Inherited Surname (фамилия)
  - Ivan Vasilevich Romanov

10

Introduction

- Period Russian Names:
  - Given Name (имя) came first
    - Until the 10C it is rare to see anything but a given name
  - Patronymic (отчество) appeared next
    - Appeared in the 10C, and were used throughout our time period
  - Inherited Surname (фамилия)
    - Arrived late in period, 15 or 16C
    - Weren't common until 18C
  - For most of our period, inherited surnames are not appropriate

11

Given Names

- After the Christianization of Russia in 988, most Russians used two given names – a Christian given name, and an Old Russian given name
- Christian given names (also called "Canonical" or "Baptismal" names)
  - Many Biblical in origin
  - Many Byzantine in origin

12

Given Names

- Christian given names
  - Examples
    - Ivan
    - Konstantin
    - Pavel

13

Given Names

- Old Russian given names (also called "Pagan" names)
  - Some from pre-Christian native tribes
  - Some from Scandinavian origins
  - Examples
    - Oleg
    - Igor
    - Guba

14

Given Names

- Usage
  - Most Common is Christian + Old Russian
    - Konstantin Oleg
    - Ivan Guba
  - Reverse occurs fairly frequently
    - Oleg Ivan
  - Single given names occur occasionally
  - Double Old Russian names occur occasionally
  - Double Christian names happen, but are rare

15

Given Names

- Usage
  - Nicknames and diminutives were often used as "real" given names in period
- Female names are hard to come by
  - Women had little or no rights in medieval Russia
  - Thus, their names weren't recorded that often

16

Patronymics

- Formed from the given name of the father
- Follow specific grammar rules to transform from "given name form" to "patronymic form"
- The grammar rules are complex, and have many exceptions
  - I recommend explaining to submitters that grammatical changes may be needed

17

Patronymics

- If the given name ends in a hard consonant, add -ov
  - Son of "Anton" becomes "Antonov"
  - Son of "Mikhail" becomes "Mikhailov"
- If the given name ends in a soft consonant, add –ev
  - Son of "Uliy" become "Uliev"

18

Patronymics

- If the given name ends in –a, replace ending with –in
  - Son of "Boroda" becomes "Borodin"
  - Son of "Guba" becomes "Gubin"
- If the given name ends in –ia, replace with –yn

19

Patronymics

- If the given name ends in –ii or –iy, replace with –'ev (' is the Russian soft sign)
  - Son of "Vasilii" becomes "Vasil'ev"
  - Very occasionally, the first vowel will be kept, to form "Vasiliev", but this is unusual

20

Patronymics

- If the given name ends in a different vowel, replace vowel with –ev
  - Son of "Aleksei" becomes "Alekseev"
- If the given name already ends in –ov or –ev, add –lov or –lev, respectively
  - Son of "Iev" becomes "Ievlev"
  - Son of "Iakov" becomes "Iakovlev"

21

Patronymics

- The simple patronymic, transformed as above, is by far the most common byname construction in period Russian
- Often, the word 'syn' (son) was added
  - More commonly after the patronymic
    - Vasilii Ivanov syn
  - Can also come before the patronymic
    - Vasilii syn Ivanov

22

Patronymics

- When father has two given names, just one or both names may be used to form the patronymic
  - Vasilii, son of Ivan Guba could be known as:
    - Vasilii Ivanov
    - Vasilii Gubin
    - Vasilii Ivanov Gubin

23

Patronymics

- If 'syn' is used, it can go before the first patronymic, between the patronymics, or, rarely, after the second patronymic
  - Vasilii Ivanov syn Gubin
  - Vasilii syn Ivanov Gubin
  - Vasilii Ivanov Gubin syn (rare)

24

Patronymics

- If the grandfather is famous, the grandfather's name can be used, in patronymic form, with the word 'vnuk' (grandson) added
  – 'Vnuk' is used in the same way as 'syn'
- In exteme cases, 'pravnuk' (great-grandson) and even 'pra-pravnuk' (great-great-grandson) can be used

25

Patronymics

- The patronymic (the last one if there are two) may also be placed in the genitive case, showing a greater degree of possession
  – Vasilii Ivanov syn Gubina
  – This can be formed by taking the modified patronymic and placing it into genitive case, or by taking the unmarked father's given name and putting that into genitive case
  – Russian cases are beyond the scope of this class

26

Patronymics

- In some cases, patronymics used the '-ich' ending
  – This ending was popular in Novgorod and Pskov among the upper classes
  – By the 16th and 17th centuries, this ending was restricted to the highest nobility (boyars and high court official) and required the tsar's permission to use
  – In most cases, simply adding "-ich" to the basic patronymic formation is correct

27

Patronymics

- In some cases, patronymics used the '-ich' ending
  - This ending would only be used with a single name of a two-name patronymic, most often the Christian one
    - But can mix-and-match when using multi-generational patronymics
  - Never used with the genitive formation
  - Vasilii Ivanovich
  - Vasilii Ivanich
  - Vasilii Gubinich

28

Patronymics

- In earlier period (10-13C) an additional formation was used
  - Names adding in '-av' could be put in patronymic form by adding " –l' " at the end
  - Iaroslav becomes Iaroslavl'

29

Patronymics

- Prince Vladimer Sviatoslavich, vnuk Vsevolod, pravnuk Olgov, pravnuk Sviatoslavl', prapravnuk Iaroslavl' [1176]
  - Given name: Vladimer
  - Sviatoslav – father
  - Vsevolod – grandfather
  - Oleg – great-grandfather
  - Sviatoslav – great-grandfather
  - Iaroslav – great-great grandfather

30

Feminine Patronymics

- Due to the low social status and lack of legal rights of women in Russian society, feminine names, including patronymics, are much harder to come by

31

Feminine Patronymics

- Most feminine patronymics are formed exactly as the masculine patronymic, and then put into the feminine gender, by adding '-a' at the end
  – Alekseev becomes Alekseeva
  – Antonov becomes Antonova
  – Mikhailovich becomes Mikhailovicha

32

Feminine Patronymics

- Most commonly, especially in late period, is the familial form which takes the form of "patronymic + doch' " (doch' mean daughter)
  – Makrina Dmitrieva doch' (1570)

33

Feminine Patronymics

- Upon being married, the same construction can be used with the husband's name and "zhena" (wife) instead of "doch' "
  – Usually, the husband's patronymic (or other byname) would also be used
  – All elements placed into the feminine gender
  – Katerinka Stepanova zhena Proniakina (1538-9) – Katerinka, wife of Stepan Proniakin

34

Feminine Patronymics

- Other relationship markers include:
  – mat' – mother of
  – vdova – widow of
  – devka – mistress or servant of

35

Feminine Patronymics

- Combination of father's and husband's names were used, using the conjunction "a" (and/but)
  – Varvara Avdeeva doch', a Stepanova zhena Ivanova (1610) – Varvara, daughter of Avdei, wife of Stepan Ivanov

36

Feminine Patronymics

- Modern ending is often "-ovna" or "-evna"
  – Very rare in period, a few citations from gray period
    • Marfa Ivanovna (1618)
    • Princess Evdokeia Luk'ianovna (1643)
  – Used primarily with the Christian name

37

Metronymics

- Very rare
- May occasionally suggest bastardry
- May occur when mother is far more important than father (royalty)
- Rules of construction are basically the same as for patronymics, but there are so few it's hard to establish patterns

38

Descriptive Bynames

- Fairly common, especially among women
- Two grammatical form – patronymic and adjectival

39

Descriptive Bynames

- Patronymic form
  - An adjective, noun, or combination of the two receives a patronymic-style ending
  - All other rules of grammar, such as gender, must be observed
  - Usually the simplest form of patronymic ending was used
    - Bezborodov – clean-shaven
    - Dolgonosov – long-nosed
    - Nepotselueva (f) – the unkissed

40

Descriptive Bynames

- Adjectival form
  - Most commonly simply using a common adjective in the correct gender
    - Korotkii(m)/Korotkaia(f) – short
    - Dorogoi/Dorogaia – dear
- Possessive form
  - Used to indicate ownership, usually of a woman by her husband.
  - See Wickenden

41

Locative Bynames

- Toponyms
  - Formed from the place name in three ways:
    - Patronymic form
      - Pskovich – literally "son of Pskov"
    - Noun form
      - Pskovitianin – "Pskovite"
    - Adjective form
      - Pskovskii – "the Pskovian"

42

Locative Bynames

- Toponyms
  - In SCA use, sometimes formed by adding "iz" (from/of) followed by the name of the place in genitive case
    - iz Pskova – From Pskov
    - This seems to be a SCAdianism, not period usage

43

Caution

- Many bynames "look" like patronyms
  - Descriptive
  - Occupational
  - Locative
- Be careful of trying to back a given name out of a patronym
  - The byname "Miasnikov", meaning "Butcher" is an occupational byname – we cannot turn it into the give name "Miasnik"

44

Final Thoughts

- Registerable vs. Authentic
  - A submission must be registerable, it need not be authentic
  - While we can encourage clients to design authentic names and devices, we cannot, and should not force the decision
  - If a client is set on a registerable but not very authentic submission, you should process it!

45

Final Thoughts

- Registerable vs. Authentic
  - Wickenden is a fantastic resource but has limitations
  - If a client wants a truly authentic name, you need to use Wickenden carefully
    - Look at the cited forms, not just headers
  - Better yet, go to other sources, including Wickenden's cites
    - Tupikov and Moroshkin are available in ebook

46

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47