Inscriptions for their memory:

14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.

Marya Kargashina

Introduction

There are a variety of options for sources of medieval Russian names, including legal documents, monastery and city records, correspondence, coins, graffiti and other inscriptions. (Baeklund 1959 33, Franklin 18,Wickenden vii) This article will focus on names found in the records and collections of the Trinity-Sergius Monastery just outside Moscow. I have analyzed names of donors, their relatives, monastery personnel, and artisans.

Sources

The Zagorsk State Museum contains the nationalized collection of the Trinity-Sergius Monastery, as well as the monastery's records, particularly one set called the Book of Gifts, which lists donations received in the 14th-17th centuries. (Nikolayeva 7) These records often allow us to determine who donated the object, and potentially who made it. Infrequently, these are the same person.

Monastery records also list artisans who worked in and for the monastery. Additionally, some artifacts are inscribed with the names of makers, former owners or donors. These records, including the 14-17th c. Book of Gifts and other inventories, show a history of gifts to the monastery from not only the princes and boyars, but less frequently higher clergy, merchants, officials, courtiers and peasants. (Nikolayeva 7)

The names in this article are taken from an exhibition catalog, 'Collection of Early Russian Art in Zagorsk Museum', being those listed as donors, artisans and others appearing in the Book of Gifts, other monastery records, or taken from inscriptions on the actual objects housed in the museum. Many items were given in honor of relatives, on the occasions of birth, death, and on the coronation of a monarch, which is often reflected in the inscriptions and the notations in the Book of Gifts. (Nikolayeva 7) Many inscriptions also reference the royalty of the time.

A sample inscription is this, worked in pearls on a liturgical garment: 'IN 7111 (1603) ON JANUARY 1, THIS ROBE WAS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF THE LIFE-GIVING TRINITY AT THE SERGIUS MONASTERY BY NIKITA VASILIEVICH GODUNOV IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER VASSILI AND HIS MOTHER ELENA, THE NUN, AND OTHER RELATIVES'. (Nikolayeva 157) Inscriptions are found on a variety of artifacts, including embroideries, metalwork, and icons.

Of donors whose class or occupation are listed, most are boyar social class and up (29 individuals), followed by clergy (7 individuals), while credited artisans are generally not of the ruling class, with the

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

1

notable exception of royal women who later took monastic orders and one monastic artisan. This does skew the name sets in this sample to the far ends of the socioeconomic scale.

Naming conventions:

Medieval Russians could use anywhere from a given name only to two given names and multiple bynames. The most common name pattern both in general and this data set is a given name and one byname, followed by given name, patronymic and byname or surname. Instances of two given names are either a Slavic name and a baptismal name, or the addition of a religious name when taking monastic orders. (Wickenden xviii)

The types of possible bynames include patronymics, bynames of marriage, locative bynames, occupational bynames, and occasionally true inherited surnames. Patronymics can refer directly to one's father, or with multiple bynames, to another relative as well. Patronymics ending in -vich and -ovna/evna are most common in the noble classes and do not generally become surnames. (Wickenden xxi) Instances of -vich and -ovna/evna in this article mostly are from ruling class donors. Other patronymic forms are common overall, and by the close of the 16th c begin to become surnames. For this article, I will refer to -vich and -ovna/evna patronymics as patronymics and others as bynames.

Bynames of marriage are an option for women, and are formed in the same ways as patronymics. Locative bynames referring to a geographic location are occasionally found in this sample, particularly for saints and rulers. Some surnames formed from locatives. Occupational bynames in this sample are mostly names of artisans, such as silversmith and cross maker.

At this timeframe inherited surnames are hard to distinguish from their source patronymics and locatives, and I have been cautious in identifying them as such. Names I list as surnames appear in multiple generations within this data set.

Naming trends:

The few women's names included are those of donors or royal nuns, meaning they are of relatively high social status or the ruling class. Several individuals appear multiple times.

Artisan's names seem to come from a different pool, and artisans are much more likely to be referred to by an occupational name rather than a patronymic. The exception is when the donor is the artisan, as these cases are usually ruling/Boyar class women donating embroidered items or monks working within the monastery.

Boyars and princes in this sample are more likely to be referred to by a double patronymic or patronymic + surname.

Monastics are often referred to in this sample by both their original name and the name taken as a monastic name. Chosen names of monks/nuns are more likely to be greek in origin.

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

2

I have attempted to combine multiple references to individuals, as much I have been able to determine. As Russian declines all nouns, I have converted names found in the genitive case to the nominative case. Transliteration is generally library of congress style.

The names:

Feminine Names

Given names

Anna and Maria are the most frequently found, with 4 individuals each. Irina, Kseniia, Evdokia, and Anastasia have 2. All others are found once. Comparatively, Chaikina finds Anastasiia, Mariia, Khristina, Efiim'ia and Sofiia as the most common feminine names in the Novgorod birchbark documents, while Baecklund 1956 lists Mar'ja, Feodos'ja, Anastaija and Ksenija as the most common in Novgorodian legal documents (34, 21). It should be noted that these sources use differing transliteration systems.

All women in this sample are saints or boyarinas and above. One inscription is worn down and no longer shows the female donor's given name.

The credited female donor/artisans listed are Tsarevna Anna Shuisky, Tsarevna Ksenia, and Tsarina Anastasia Romanovna.

Name	Individuals/Instances	Variant Spellings	Date range
Agrafena	1/1		14th c
Anastasia	2/2		17th c
Anna	4/		15th c, 1510-1631
Evfrosinia	1/3	Efrosinia	1561, 16th c
Elena	1/1		1603
Elizabeta	1/1		1525
Evdokia	2/4	Evdakia	1557-1643
Irina	2/2		1591, 1631
Kapitelina	1/1	Kapitolina	1626
Kilikia	1/1		16th c
Ksenia	2/5	Ksinia	16thc, 1601-1626

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

3

Lyubov	1/1		15th c
Maria	4/6	Mar'ia, Mariia	15thc, 1599-1650
Nadezdha	1/1		15th c
Oksina	1/1	Pos var Kseniia	1601
Sofia	2/2		15th c, 1499
Solomonia	1/2		1525
Vera	1/1		15th c
Yuliana	1/1		Mid 17th c
Zdelana	1/1	Pos var Kseniia	1599
Zhenia	1/1	Pos var Kseniia	1597

Bynames

Most women in this sample are referred to by given name and one byname, either patronymic or surname. One woman, Princess Anna Vassilevna Trubetskoi, is referred to with 2 bynames. The only feminine occupational byname found is Skhimnitsa, nun. None of this small sample use a locative byname.

Patronymics

Name	Individuals/ Instances	Type	Date
Bezzubtseva	1/1	Byname	15th. c.
Borisovna	1/2	Patronymic	1601/2
Grigorevna	1/2	Patronymic	1601/2
Ilyinicha	1/1	Byname	1650
Kholpova	1/1	Byname	15th. c.
Lukianovna/Lukyanovna	1/2	Patronymic	1631/43
Mikhailovna	2/2	Patronymic	1631

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

4

Mikulinskaya	1/1		15th. c.
Paleologena	1/1		1499
Romanovna	1/1	Patronymic	1557
Saburova	1/2	Byname	1525
Shuisky		Surname	
Skhimnitsa/Skimnitsa	2/2	Occupational	1603/26
Staritskaya	1/1		16th. c.
Sutskaya	1/1		14th. c.
Trubetskoi	1/2		1625/29
Ushataya	1/1	Byname	16th. c.
Vassilevna	1/2	Patronymic	1625/29

Masculine names

Given names

Ivan (7), Feodor (8), and Vassilli (10) are the most common, and due to the nature of the data set, mostly donors. Dimitri and Nikita are the next most common, with three each. This is consistent with both Baeklund's study of Novgorodian names, and Wickenden, who both list Ivan, Feodor, and Vassilli among the most common names. (88, xx) Certainly the small size and self selecting nature of this data set limit the conclusions that can be drawn regarding name frequency, though all of these common names are Russian Orthodox saint's names. (Baeklund 1959 78)

Name	Individuals/ Instances	Variant spellings	Dates
Aleksander	1/3	Aleksandr, Alexander	1629-31
Alexsei	2/3	Alexei	1550,1631/50
Ambros	1/2	Ambrosii	1456
Andrei	2/3	Andreev	1420/23, 1561
Antonii	1/1		1550

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

5

Anufrii	1/1		1550
Basil	1/1		Mid 17th c.
Bogdan	1/1		1640
Boris	2/7		1420, 1597-1604
Daniil	2/3	Danila	1420/23, 1641
David	1/1		1550
Dionisii	2/3	Dionisei	15th c., 1617/29
Dmitri	3/4	Dmitriy, Dmitrey	14th c. 1625/29/50
Evfimi	1/1		
Evstafii	1/5	Evstafei, Eustafii	1550/81/91, 1602
Feodor	8/12	Feodorit, Fyodor	15th c., 1550-1626
Feodosii	1/1		1463
Feofan	1/1		1650
Filarete	1/1		1631
Flor	1/1		15th c.

Georgi	1/1		14th c.
Grigori	2/2	Grigoriy	14thc, 1436
Ioann	1/2		16th, 17th c.
Ivan	7/11		1449/99, 1557-1636
Korniliy	1/1		1633
Kurilo	1/1		1450
Lavr	1/1		15th c.
Leontii	1/1		15th c.
Levkii	1/1		1550
Makarii	1/1		1561
Mikhail	2/4		Ca 1500, 1626/31/43
Mikitia	1/1		1641

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

6

Nekhoroshi	1/1		15th c
Nikita	3/3		14th c., 1603,1641
Nikola	2/2	Nicola	14th, 16th c.
Nikon	2/2		1405, 1581
Nil	1/1		1641
Ondreevi	1/1	Andreev?	16th c.
Pafnutie	1/1		1629
Perfilei	1/1		1650
Pimen	1/1		1673
Pyotr	2/2		16th c.

Savvati	1/1		1550
Semyon	1/1		15th c.
Serapion	1/1		1506
Sergii	2/2		15th c, 1581
Simon	2/2	Siman	1499, 1673
Sylvester	1/1		15th c.
Timofei	1/1		1641
Varsonofi	1/1		1581
Vasian	2/3	Vassian	1456/63, 16th c.
Vasko	1/1		1450
Vassili	10/11	Vasili, Vasilei	1405, 1449/50, 1499-1561, 1641
Vladimer	1/1		1561

Names of artisans:

Only a few names are found both as artisans and donors : Dionisii, Evstafii (donor/artisan), Ivan, Nikita, as well as Fedodorit (diminutive of Feodor) and Vasko (diminutive of Vassili). For the most part, these are also the more common names overall. The following all occur once as the given name of an artisan:.

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

7

Alexsei, Ambrosii, Andrei, Antonii, Anufrii, Bogdan, Daniil, David, Dionisii, Evstafii, Feodorit, Feofan, Ivan, Kurilo, Levkii, Mikitia, Nikita, Nil, Perfeli, Pimen, Savvati, Simon, Timofei, Vasko.

Bynames

Individuals in this sample set are referred to by one or two patronymics, by one patronymic and a locative, or by a occupational byname, sometimes with a patronymic. 22 men are referred to by two patronymic/surname type bynames, and one, Feodor Borisovich Volotskogo, by a patronymic and locative combination. Only two men are referred to by both a patronymic and an occupational byname.

Patronymics/Surnames:

Name	Individuals/ Instances	Type	Date
Apraxin/ Opraxin	2/2	Surname	1633
Alexandrovich	1/1	Patronymic	15th c.
Alexeevich	1/1	Patronymic	1650
Andreyevich/Andreyvich	2/2	Patronymic	15th c., 1561
Babik	1/1	Byname	1641
Borisovich	2/3	Patronymic	1510, 1599/1601
Bulatnikov	1/3	Byname	1629/31
Chornii	1/2	Byname	1420/23
Dmitreivich/Dmitreve	2/2	Patronymic	1405,
Fedorovich/Feodorovich/Fydo rovich	7/9	Patronymic	Ca 1500, 16th c., 1597-1601,1631-43
Fomin	1/1	Byname	1449
Galichanin	1/1	Byname	1581
Glinskom	1/1	surname?	1564
Godunov/ Gudonov	5/7	surname/ Byname	14thc, 1420, 1597-1604
Golovkin	1/4	Byname	1550/91, 1601/03
Gramotin	1/2	Byname	1624/39
Ivanovich	6/10	Patronymic	14th c., 1499-1626

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

8

Karachov	1/1	Byname	16th c.
Kirillovich	1/1	Patronymic	1436
Kholpov	1/1	Byname	15th c.
Koshka	1/1	Byname	15th c.
Kurakin	1/1	Byname	1626
Kuzmin	1/1	Byname	1641
Larianov	1/1	Byname	1650
Leontiev	1/1	Byname	1624
Markov	1/1	Byname	1641
Mikhailov	1/1	Byname	15th c.
Mikhailovich	4/5	Patronymic	15th c., 1564-1650
Mikulinsky	1/1	Byname	15th c.
Mstislavsky	1/1	Byname	1626
Nikiforov	1/1	Byname	16th c.
Nikitich	1/1	Patronymic	1631
Nikitin	1/1	Patronymic	16th c.
Obedov	1/1	Byname	Ca 1500
Obratzov	2/2	Surname	Ca 1500
Petrov	1/1	Byname	1641
Romanov	1/1	Surname	1626
Rublev	1/2	Byname	1420/23
Schenyatev	1/1	Byname	16th c.
Solyannikov	1/1	Byname	14th c.
Staritsky	1/1	Byname/ locative?	1561
Stupishin	1/1	Byname	15th c.
Syrakh	1/1	Byname	1550
Tarasievich	1/2	Patronymic	1624/39

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

9

Timofeevich	1/2	Patronymic	1625/29
Trubetskom/ Trubetskoy	2/3	Surname	1629/25, 1592
Ushakov	1/1	Patronymic	1673
Vasilievich/Vassilievich	7/9	Patronymic	1449/99, 1561-1626
Yakimov	1/1	Patronymic	1581
Yanov	1/1	Byname	1641

Occupational bynames:

Name	Instances/ Individuals	Meaning	Date
Derevshtsika	1/1	'the woodcarver'	1641
Inoke	1/1	'monk'	16th c.
Krestenik	1/1	'the crossmaker	1450
Serebrenika	1/1	'silversmith'	1641
Serebryanei Master	1/1	'the master silversmith'	1450
Skhimnitsa	1/1	'nun'	1603
Stremynnogo konokha	1/1	'Stirrup holder' (minor official)	16th c.
Sudonistsa	1/1	'the vessel maker'	1641

Locative bynames

Locative bynames generally use the suffixes -skogo, -ski/sky, or -skaya. Sometimes a locative suffix is used to form a relational byname, for example, Mitislavsky. Many of the locative bynames in this sample are found as part of a claim to lands by royal donors. A few place names occur in inscriptions or the book of gifts on their own; I have included these in the following table as well, without an accompanying byname.

Name	Instances/ individuals	Place	Date

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

10

Bulgarskago	1/1	Bulgar	1525
	1/1	Medvedkovo	1581
Moscovskago	1/1	Moscovy	1525
Novgorodtskago	1/1	Novgorod	1525
Permskago	1/1	Perm	1525
Pskovskago	1/1	Pskov	1525
	1/1	Olyavidova	1581
Radonezhskii	1/1	Radonezh	15th c.
Rostovskii	1/1	Rostov	15th c.
Smolenskago	1/1	Smolensk	1525
Tverskago	1/1	Tver	1525
Volodomerskago	1/1	Volodomerskago	1525
Volotskago	1/1	Vologda	1510
	1/1	Volokolamsk	1510
	1/1	Vozdvizhenskoe	1510
Vyatskago	1/1	Vyatka	1525
Yugorskago	1/1	Yugra	1525

Conclusion

While name frequency for the most popular names follows patterns observed elsewhere in medieval Russia, this particular data set allows us to see the contrast between elite and artisan class naming practices, as well as a basis, however limited, for comparative frequency in feminine names.

Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

11

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Inscriptions for their memory:14-17th century Russian names from the collections of the Trinity-Sergius monastery.
Marya Kargashina

12