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*Словарь псковских пословиц и поговорок.* Ву В. М. Мокиенко, Т. Г. Никитина, составители. Санкт-Петербург: «Но-ринт», 2001. Рр. 176.

Mokienko and Nikitina's *Dictionary of Proverbs and Sayings from Pskov* contains 31,000 entries and is written for the specialist in Russian paremiology. This volume is dedicated to Vladimir Ivanovich Dal', 1801-1872. Dal' was a unique contributor to 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian culture, a scholar who single-handedly collected proverbs, as well as compiling a four volume dictionary of Russian, "...unsurpassed to this day for regionalism and dialectical expressions" (Victor Terras ed., *Handbook of Russian Literature*, p. 92).

This dictionary is divided into five sections, which are preceded by an erudite and fascinating *Introduction*. These sections include alphabetical, key words organized:

*I. Поговорки*, "Proverbial Sayings," – approximately 5000 items, *II. Устойчивые сравнения*, "Stable Comparisons," – approximately 4000 entries, *III. Пословицы*, "Proverbs," – approximately 4000 entries, *IV. Тематический указатель к разделам «Поговорки» и «Устойчивые сравнения»*, "Thematic Index to 'Proverbial Sayings' and to 'Stable Comparisons,'" *V. Тематический Указатель к разделу «Пословицы»*, "Thematic index to 'Proverbs.'"

Materials for the *Dictionary* were collected throughout the Pskov region by means of "dialectological expeditions" and specialized questionnaires, 1990-1994 (p. 8). Listed are the names of colleagues who worked on these projects, distributed, authenticated and collected the dictionary materials for this volume.

The scholarly *Introduction (О словаре псковских пословиц и поговорок)* contains considerable historical information concerning the linguistic importance of the Pskov region as well as other salient data. The introduction closes with a very careful explanation of the format for the dictionary entries themselves. Mokienko and Nikitina painstakingly clarify how various "nests" (semantic fields) are related to the key words of the dic-

tionary. To these observations are added explanations of the roles of the ellipsis of the governing word, “...эллипсис управляемого слова...” (p. 10). Additionally, care is taken to transmit the difference between the use of parentheses (круглые скобки) versus square brackets (квадратные скобки) within the texts of the various entries. Finally, the collectors discuss definitions, stylistic qualifications and produce commentaries for the various entries. Reference literature, research sources, divisions of the Pskov region and neighboring territories, and a tabulation of abbreviations conclude the *Introduction*.

Since the *Dictionary* represents living language, it is understood that its contents range from the avuncular to the jocular. An example of the latter follows (p. 82):

**ШИШ.** *Не шиш ворона.* Шутл. О бывалом, опытном человеке. Там прадавищица — баба ни шиш ворона, она везде торговала, ходовая, ушлая баба. Остр. ПОС. 4, 156. А парень — не шиш варона, и бегал к ней. Беж. Брат мой умерши, водки красной никогда ня буде пить, он ня шиш варона был. Остр.

**Шиша съесть.** Не добиться своего, получить отказ в чём-л. Зетился ко мне, да шиша съел. Пек., 1855. СРНГ, 11,270.

**Ни шиша.** То же, что Ни фи́га (ФИГ). Нош два месяца тут пракапашился и ни шиша ни сделал. Порх. Разок укунулась, люди больше купа/шь, да ни шиша. В пятницу забалела. Печ. В поле травка и цвятдчки, а в амбарах ни шиша. Пяя.

The organization and presentation of this meticulously crafted study is a pleasure to scrutinize. Richness of content and clarity of explanation are found within the forward to the reader and, thereafter, throughout the volume. Owing to their extreme importance in dialectology, word stress and phonetic spellings, where such may differ from standard language, are found throughout the entries. It is a shame that this offset tirage consists of a mere 1000 copies.

A criticism of this otherwise superbly scholarly volume involves the logistics of determining which section one is examining when the book is opened. Since the volume is logically sub-

divided into five sections, without an at-hand photocopy of the table of contents with page numberings, the typographic set-up of each set of facing pages gives no indication as to which of the sections the reader has opened. Key words appear at the top outside margins of each page. Page numbers are located at the page bottoms. It would have been indeed helpful had the top of page typography included a roman numeral and or the name of the section contained thereon. However, because the book pagination numbers less than 200, and since any reader of this volume will become well nigh familiar with handling the *Dictionary*, this should ultimately *not* detract from this outstanding piece of scholarship.

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