

Research Tools

CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCE GUIDE (19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES)

Reported on by
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The *Хронологический справочник (XIX и XX века)* can be a most useful tool for anyone doing historical research on events of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This 37-page booklet, compiled by M.I. Perper and edited by V.N. Baskakov, was published in 1984 by the Leningrad Branch of the "Nauka" Press. It is an example of the kind of calendrical work used by mathematically-minded medieval theologians for computing the dates of the Easter and for providing the Church with a multi-year calendar.¹ It is presented in tabular form, with an index for determining which table to consult for the year in which the researcher has an interest. Thus, an example of its use would be to learn the day of an event when one knows the date. If, for example, we know that Schröder was born on 25 November 1841, a consultation of the calendar tells us that he was born on a Thursday. The tables provide calendrical information for every year from 1801 through 2000.

One need not know Russian to use this research tool. It is sufficient to know how the tables are constructed. The calendars are laid out in two rows, January - July, and August - December + January & February of Leap Years. Each row is divided into seven columns, beginning with Monday (Понедельник, abbreviated „ПН“). The years for which the

¹ The classic example of this kind of book of chronological study and calendrical computation in medieval Russia was *The Science of Men's Knowing the Numbers of All Years* [Учение им же ведати человеку числа всех лет = *Наставление, как человеку познать счисление лет*] of the mathematician monk Kirik of Novgorod (b. 1110), dating from 1134.

particular calendar applies are listed at the bottom of each calendar; there are two such lists for each calendar table, one for the Old Style (старый стиль), and one for the New Style (новый стиль).

The *Guide* will also provide information which will be of special use to students of the history of logic in Russia and the Soviet Union.² The calendars for each of the years covered are given in both "Old Style" (Julian calendar) and "New Style" (Gregorian calendar), so that one can, for example, find the "New Style" birthdays and birthdates of Russian logicians born before the Gregorian calendar was adopted in the USSR if one knows only their "Old Style" birth days.

Copies of the *Chronological Guide* are available in the US for \$0.90 (originally published at 15 kopecks) from Victor Kamkin Bookstore, Inc. The *Guide* is listed as item #380, on p. 31 of Kamkin's *Catalog № 95*. Their mail-order address is: 4956 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA; telephone: (301) 881-5973; fax: (301) 881-1637. They also have a store in New York City, located at: 925 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10010; telephone: (212) 673-0776. Kamkin will send sales catalogues (approximately once an month) to their regular mail-order customers. A US \$10.00 minimum is imposed on mail orders.

² The *Guide* also includes a table listing all the major events of the Russian Orthodox Calendar, including, for example, the dates for Easter, and a list of the "Name Days" (the anniversaries of the Orthodox Saints and martyrs from whom a child's name is chosen on its day of baptism) for the most popular Christian names.