

Überhaupt ist diese Reise durch das Land der Kalevala-Lieder wunderbar. Wie auf einen Wink mit dem Zauberstabe des Autors beleben sich die leeren Dörfer und die verlassenen Bauernhäuser, tief gebückt unter ihrer schweren Traglast treten die berühmten karelischen Hausierer hervor, bärtige Fischer nesteln an ihren Netzen,

von den vergrasten Friedhöfen ertönen Klagelieder, uralte Runolieder wogen übers Land, Beschwörungsworte des Eisens ziehen sich dicht am Boden entlang... Vor den Leser tritt ein Abschnitt unserer Geschichte in all ihrer Lauterkeit.

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Г. Керт, Н. Мамонтова, Загадки карельской топонимики. Рассказ о географических названиях Карелии, Петрозаводск, изд. «Карелия», 1976. 102 pp.

А. А. Минкин, Топонимы Мурмана, Мурманское книжное издательство, 1976. 208 pp.

Onomastics has turned into an independent branch of science which provides valuable material for linguistics, history, archeology, ethnography as well as other sciences. Therefore it is natural that during the past 10—15 years a great number of onomastical works have appeared in the Soviet Union. At the present time linguists study name not only individually but also groups dealing with onomastic studies have been formed in many institutes and other scientific institutions. Especially much attention has been paid to the study of placenames. From year to year the number of published research works has increased. Many toponymic surveys of very different quality about various regions of the Soviet Union have been published. These books of small size are mostly meant for the public at large. A small introduction is usually followed by a vocabulary part in which only placenames with clarified or easily guessed etymologies are given. Of course such material is not sufficient for drawing essential conclusions.

Many such books deal with placenames of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed origin. Among the works that have appeared during recent years let us mention the book «Знаете ли Вы? Словарь географических названий Ленинградской области» (Leningrad 1974) by S. V. Kislovski. It deals with placenames of Izhor (Ingrian), Finnish, Vepsian and Russian origin in the Leningrad Region. The work «Нёройки караулят Урал» (Sverdlovsk 1976) is written by A. K. Matvejev, a well-known linguist who has studied substratal names

of the northern regions of the Soviet Union and also placenames of Finno-Ugric origin. In the book the author writes in an interesting way about Uralic placenames among which there are also Finno-Ugric (Komi, Mansi) names. A. Turkin speaks about placenames of the Komi ASSR in his «Кöни тэ олан» written in Komi (Syktyvkar 1977).

Among other books of their kind the ones written by G. Kert, N. Mamontova and A. Minkin attract attention because in them placenames of the present villages and former settlements of Russian Lapps are examined. The earliest written data on the Lapps having lived in the Kola peninsula go back to the 9th century. It is also known that earlier (in the 14th century) the Lappish territory extended far to the south reaching the present-day southern part of the Karelian ASSR. If at the present time there are only about 1,700 Lapps scattered over the whole Murmansk Region then on the territory of the Karelian ASSR it is only placenames that are evidence of former Lapp migrations.

Russian Lappish placenames have been insufficiently studied as yet. Among the Soviet linguists, perhaps, N. Sinkiewicz-Gudkova and G. Kert, have most fruitfully contributed to the study of those placenames. The majority of the placenames in the Karelian ASSR are Baltic-Finnic names. In the Murmansk Region besides Lappish names (according to A. Minkin 80%) there are also names of Karelian, Finnish, Komi and Russian origin. The Karelian influence

in Murmansk is noticeable especially in the Kandalakša region, while Finnish has influenced mostly placenames in the border areas. In the central regions and eastern part of the Kola peninsula we can find names of Komi origin which have a historical background. Namely, at the end of the last century there was an epidemic among reindeer on the present-day territory of the Komi ASSR in the region of the Ižma River. Then the Komi fled from the plague and moved to several places in the Kola peninsula. Russian placenames form the latest layer both in the Karelian ASSR and the Kola peninsula. In Karelia these names can be found mostly in the eastern and south-eastern part of the republic where Russian settlements were first established.

The authors of both books have studied all of the published material, systematized it and written about it in a fluent manner. G. Kert and N. Mamontova have rendered the words hidden in placenames of Lappish and Baltic-Finnic origin in Finno-Ugric transcription (e. g. *Мегрега* < *mäg-rä(t)jogi*). But in A. Minkin's work all the examples of names are in the Cyrillic alphabet (e. g. *Чальмне-Варрэ, Кофтояр*). Naturally, the rendering of Lappish names in Russian transcription is complicated. Presumably that is why A. Minkin has often had to retell in his own words the original meaning of one or other name without offering Lappish appellative forms by way of comparison.

The book written by G. Kert and N. Mamontova is of small size and unpretentious purpose. To begin with, the authors have tried to give an overview in the

light of toponymy of how Karelia was inhabited. In the following chapters the formation, change and disappearance of placenames is discussed. An alphabetical dictionary of placenames forms the most extensive part of the work (pp. 37—102). Under 33 fairly extensive name articles (beginning with the name of the town Belomorsk and ending with the name of the river Šuja) only the names of larger object are dealt with, the history of the corresponding place and the interpretations of names current at different times are presented.

The book about placenames of the Murmansk Region is much richer. During many years of study A. Minkin has collected valuable historical and linguistic material from ancient documents (chronicles, maps, local surveys of the population) and literature and made it readable. It is not superfluous to point out that the reviewers of his work were G. Kert, J. Pospelov and I. Ušakov. 12 chapters of the book deal with the names Kola and Murmansk, placenames which have arisen from names of colours, figure, size, birds, animals, plants and other characteristics are likewise touched upon. A separate chapter is devoted to placenames derived from personal names. The great mobility of the Lapps is the reason why they have so many placename landmarks.

At the end of the book there is a glossary of Lappish geographical terms.

Attention paid to placenames is evidence of interest in the past and present of one's native land. The authors of both books have wished to arouse this interest in their readers.

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