ETIQUETTE FOR PETER'S TIME: THE HONORABLE MIRROR FOR YOUTH

In 1717 a courtesy book for Peter the Great's new elite appeared, published in the company of Jacob Bruce's "Primer." Based on European sources such as Erasmus and Comenius, the work was probably assembled in Russia for Pastor Gluck's Lutheran Academy. It enjoyed popularity throughout the eighteenth century: after an initial run of 700 copies, the "Honorable Mirror" was reprinted in 1723, 1740 and 1767, totaling several thousand copies. For anyone interested in the evolution of values and civility in Russia, the "Mirror" stakes a midway point between the Muscovite "Domostroi" and the "Book on the Duties of Man and Citizen" (1783) commissioned by Catherine II. It is perhaps most interesting for its sharp contrast between prescriptions for men and for women.

Since Richard Hellie has, throughout his career, contributed so substantively to our field with myriad translations of primary sources, it seems a fitting tribute to offer him this humble effort.

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The honorable mirror for youth, or guide to manners for life
Assembled from various authors

First and above all, children are to hold their father and mothers in great honor. And when parents invite them to their presence, always hold your hat in your hand, and before them do not put it on, and in front of them do not sit down, and do not take you seat before they do, and in their presence do not gaze out of the window turning your whole body, but stand in an obscure way / p. 2:

with great respect, not next to them but to the side a bit behind them, just as a

3. See my "Civility and Etiquette in Early Modern Russia" (forthcoming).