

CONTENTS

PREFACE 9

THE KOMI PEOPLES 15

Komi-Zyryans 15

Komi-Permyaks 22

WRITTEN SOURCES AND STUDIES OF KOMI MYTHOLOGY 28

THE MYTHOLOGY OF THE KOMI PEOPLES 42

Cosmogony 42

Aetiological myths 43

Anthropogonical and ethnogonical myths 44

Social-normative mythology of the Komi 44

Ecological principles in Komi mythology 51

Images of folk belief 53

Legends about Chud' 57

The mythological structure of the world 58

Conceptions of the soul and death 58

Survival of the ancient cults 59

The mythology and traditional rites 61

Christian images in Komi mythology 63

Borrowed mythological images and subjects 65

"Sorcery epic" 68

The mythological image of the sorcerer 69

Medical magic of the Komi-Zyryans and Komi-Permyaks 74

Reflection of mythological beliefs in traditional children games 76

Mythology in modern Komi art 77

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF ZYRYAN MYTHOLOGY A-Z 83

KOMI-ZYRYAN FOLKLORE TEXTS 371

KOMI-PERMYAK FOLKLORE TEXTS 384

ABBREVIATIONS 395

A SHORT GUIDE FOR READING KOMI WORDS 398

REFERENCES 399

INDEX OF PERSONS 412

GENERAL INDEX 417