## Contents

List of Figures, Tables and Diagrams IX Abbreviations XII

Introduction 1

- 1 The Surviving Texts and the Typology of Genres 13
  - 1.1 Writing in Early Rus: A Concise Overview 13
  - 1.2 Letopisi (the Annals) 30
  - 1.3 The History of the World: Translations of Foreign Chronicles and Chronographs 44
  - 1.4 Attempts at Writing Non-Annalistic History of Rus 53
  - 1.5 Minor Forms of Historical Writing 59
  - 1.6 A Comparative Perspective: Historical Writing in Anglo-Saxon England and Old Rus 70
- 2 The Beginnings of Historical Writing in Kiev 91
  - 2.1 The Manuscript Witnesses and Redactions of *Povest' vremennykh let* 93
  - 2.2 Texts-Predecessors of *Povest' vremennykh let*: An Introduction into Discussion 100
  - 2.3 The Problem of the Oldest Tale (the Non-Annalistic 'Nucleus') 111
  - 2.4 The Traces of Early Annals and the 'Two Beginnings' of *letopisi* Writing 119
  - 2.5 Historical Notes in Iakov the Monk's *Memorial and Encomium*: A 'Royal Inscription' of Vladimir? 128
  - 2.6 The Emergence of Rus Historical Writing in a Comparative

Perspective 144

- 2.7 Reporting the Pagan Past and the Conversion: *Povest' vremennykh let* and Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica* 157
- 3 Historical Writing in Novgorod 171
  - 3.1 The Text-Relationships of Extant Novgorodian letopisi 174
  - 3.2 Lists of Officials 194
  - 3.3 The Beginnings of Historical Writing in Novgorod: the 11th Century 198
  - 3.4 The Archiepiscopal Annals of Novgorod and Their Authors 213
  - 3.5 How Did the Archiepiscopal Annalists Work? 219

- 3.6 The Circle of Events Reported by the Archiepiscopal Annals 226
- 3.7 The Archiepiscopal Annals and the 'Living Chronicles' of Western Europe 233
- 3.8 The Synodal Manuscript: A Copy of the *Archiepiscopal Annals* Kept and Continued in St. George's Monastery 243
- 3.9 Excerpts from the Archiepiscopal Annals Made for the Annunciation Monastery 253
- 3.10 Historical Writing in Novgorod: A General Overview 259
- 3.11 Oral Historical Tradition in Novgorod 263
- 4 The Functions of the Annals in Early Rus 277
  4.1 Existing Theories and Their Discussion 280

- 4.2 Who Were Patrons, Supervisors, and Authors of the Annals? 290
- 4.3 What Kinds of Events Did the Annalists Report? 303
- 4.4 Who Could Be Mentioned in the Annals, and Why: Non-Rurikids in *letopisi* 314
- 4.5 How Were the Annals Maintained and Revised? Did They Circulate in Copies? 325
- 4.6 The Annals and Legal Texts 338
- 4.7 Princely 'Messages' in the Annals 341
- 4.8 The 1130s–40s as a Crucial Period in the Documental and Annalistic Writing 353
- 4.9 Political Evaluations in the Annals: Kiev Up to the 1130s and the Northeast 359
- 4.10 Ecclesiastical, Family, and Natural Events in the Annals 371
- 4.11 Summary of the Data Obtained and Comparative Reflections 382

## **Conclusion** 394

Appendix 1: A Note on the Reckoning of Time in Early Rus 399 Appendix 2: A List of Rus Pre-1400 Manuscripts Containing Historical Writing 405 Appendix 3: The Author's Russian-Language Published Works Corresponding to Parts of this Book 409 Bibliography 412 Index of Texts 453 Index of Manuscript Shelfmarks 458 Index of Geographical and Ethnic Names 459 Index of Persons 464