



Russian Epic Studies, 1947, Vol. 42 (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Roman Jakobson

Forgotten Books, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Russian Epic Studies, 1947, Vol. 42 Among Western scholars the conviction has long existed that medieval Russia produced little in literary art and culture comparable to the early achievements in epic poetry, verse tales, and in prose in the vernaculars of Western Europe. To a certain extent, early nineteenth-century Russian apologists of native medieval culture helped to promote this false notion. Subsequent collectors, scholars, and literary historians, however, have conclusively established that Russian literature during the first two centuries of its existence (eleventh and twelfth) not only assimilated important genres of medieval Byzantine literature, but on the basis of them produced many original works of distinction in those genres which were also typical of medieval Western European literature. As in the medieval West, no doubt a great deal of what was written in Kievan Rus has been lost to us, but that which has survived is considerable in bulk, and much of it testifies to the fact that early Russian literary culture reached a high point of genuine creative growth until it was checked by barbarian incursions from the steppes and...

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