



The Donation of Constantine to Sylvester
13th cent.,
fresco,
Santi Quattro Coronati, Rom

Questions

- Why is the White Cow holy? How would you define the genre of the story of a relic?
- How is the dissent between the Eastern and Western branches of Christianity played out in the tale of the White Cow?
- What place does Russia occupy in this dissent?
- In the second vision, Philotheos is told that “all Christians will finally unite into one Russian nation because of its Orthodoxy.” What do you make out of this prophecy?
- What role does the White Cow play in the dissent?
- What is the “historical” rationale behind Russia becoming the third Rome, according to the tale?

Questions for Ul'ianov's article:

- Describe the confrontation between Novgorod and Moscow in the XVth century.
- What is the historical transformation of the Tale of the White Cow? To what purposes does the tale serve in the XVth century?

Questions for Poe's article:

- What is a “pivotal moment” as a historiographical phenomenon? And what does the concept of Moscow as the Third Rome do to Russian historiography?
- Poe gives a historical overview of the concept of Moscow as the Third Rome through different Russian epochs. Select one epoch and discuss Poe's and your ideas about how the concept functioned in this epoch.

The historical significance of the tale of the White Cow according to Ul'ianov

- 1492, the Moscow Council ratifies the new computus
- interest in the hagiography of the Roman pope **Sylvester**
- ca. 1490, the two-headed crowned eagle is used in Moscow as a **coat of arms**
- third **Novgorodian chronicle** mentions the tale of the White Cow
- the **Tale about Murom's island** mentions the tale of the White Cow
- the **donkey walk** in Russia originates in Novgorod
- **autocephaly** of the Russian church
- writing of the **genealogy** of Russian princes