

Early Printed Cyrillic Books

Belorussian and Ukrainian Publications from the 17th Century

This collection includes:

- A diversity of genres
- Beautifully laid-out Bibles
- Liturgical works
- Grammars, dictionaries



Title list available at: www.idc.nl

Library of Moscow State University
Editor: G. Shitova, State Historical Museum, Moscow

 **IDC**
PUBLISHERS



Belorussian and Ukrainian Publications

Continuing its successful series of publications of early printed Slavonic books, IDC Publishers now presents a unique selection of seventeenth-century Byelorussia and Ukrainian books from Moscow State University Library. The collection – which includes over a hundred titles of beautifully laid-out Bibles, liturgical works, and historical works – covers one of the most fascinating periods in the history of Slavic book printing. It will prove an indispensable source of information for scholars interested in the history, linguistics, and culture of the Eastern Slavs.

National and cultural identity

This collection bears witness to the complex, yet fascinating process of book printing in Belorussia and Ukraine when these countries were still under Polish-Lithuanian rule. Deprived of political rights and freedom of worship, the Orthodox Belorussians and Ukrainians struggled to preserve their national and cultural identity by printing religious, liturgical, and historical books in the Cyrillic script. Often, these publications had a polemical intent – attacking the Catholics, the Uniates, and the Protestants alike – or propagated an openly nationalist agenda. One of the most popular works included in this collection is the *Sinopsis* – the first printed book on the history of the Eastern Slavs that promoted the idea of uniting all Slavic peoples. Equally interesting in this respect is the politically charged *Trebnik*, which was published in 1646 at the instigation of Piotr Mogila, the Metropolitan of Kiev.

The Brotherhoods

The role of the Brotherhoods (*bratstva*) was crucial to this process of national emancipation. The Brotherhoods were political organizations that sought to stimulate Belorussian and Ukrainian culture by, for example, establishing schools and printing houses. Alarmed by these initiatives and anxious to curb the activities of the Brotherhoods, the government of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, in tandem with the Catholic and the Uniate Church, banned all politically sensitive publications. However, this did not prevent educated and influential Belorussians and Ukrainians from taking part in printing Cyrillic books. Printing houses specializing in Belorussian or Ukrainian publications existed at some point in time in Kiev, L'vov, Chernigov, Vilnius, Mogilev, and many other places.

Kievo-Pecherskaia lavra

The largest and most productive printing house in Ukraine belonged to the famous Monastery of the Caves, in Kiev. It functioned from 1616 until the

end of the 18th century, and is represented in the present collection by 47 titles. These include a 1619 edition of the *Anfologion* (translated by Iov Boretskii), Pamva Berynda's *Leksikon slavianorusskii* (the first Slavic "encyclopedia"), and a number of *Besedy* ("Conversations" on religious topics) that are especially noteworthy for the exceptionally high quality of the typography. The second largest segment of the collection comprises 20 books printed by the Uspenskii Brotherhood of Lvov, which was one of the most important cultural centers in Ukraine during the 17th and 18th centuries. In Belorussia, the Brotherhoods of Vilna and Eve, as well as smaller printing houses in Mogilev and Kutein, specialized in the printing of Cyrillic books. Among the most valuable of the 23 Belorussian books included in this collection are Kirill Trankvillion Stavrovetskii's *Perlo mnogotsennoe* (1699), *Akafisty vsesedmichnye* (1698) – which was printed by the Brotherhood of Mogilev – and a number of sumptuously illustrated liturgical works and prayer-books.

Unique collection

The present collection consists of 109 rare or otherwise valuable Belorussian and Ukrainian books printed in the 17th century. As well as having an historical value, the combination of luxurious design and sophisticated typography makes these works stand out as true landmarks of early book printing. The books were often embellished by professional artists, who added illustrations and designed the title pages. Ukrainian and Belorussian books differed from those printed in Moscow in both style and content. Whereas the latter were funded by the government and meticulously censored by the Metropolitan and the Tsar, the printing in the Ukraine and Belorussia was supported primarily by private donations. Their repertoire was also much more diversified. The books' more colorful design, their covers, dedications, coats of arms, and spectacular illustrations contribute to the uniqueness of this material.

Moscow State University Library

Moscow State University Library (founded 1756) is one of the biggest libraries in Russia. Today, it stores more than 8 million volumes and owns many rare books and manuscripts. The most valuable part of its holdings is in the Rare Books and Manuscripts section, which accommodates over 200,000 items, including unique Western, Oriental, and Slavonic manuscripts, archives, incunabula, prints, and other early works. The unique collection of early printed Slavonic books was obtained largely through donations, purchases, transfers from other libraries, and the work of the Archeographical Expedition (which spent over 30 years working among Russian Old Believers in different parts of the former Soviet Union). Nowadays, the Slavonic collection comprises 2,170 items dating from the 1400s to the 1900s.



Orthodox Eastern Church. Triodion, si est, Tripesnets sviatoi velikoi chetyrdesretnitsi : ot ellinninskago izsledovan... Kiev, 1648.



Haliatovs'kyi, Ioanykii. Mesia pravdivyi Isus Khristos syn bozhii ... Kiev, 1669.

General information

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| Scope | 109 titles |
| Number of fiche | 1,428 |
| Size of fiche | 105 x 148 mm. |
| Film type | Positive silver halide |
| Reduction ratio | Varies depending on the size of the original |
| Internal finding aids | Eye-legible headers on every fiche indicating the author, abbreviated title, place and date of printing of each item |
| Bibliographic information | Bibliographic records for all titles ordered are supplied in AACR2/MARC21 format with the microfiches |
| Language | Church Slavonic, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Russian |

Cover illustration:

Orthodox Eastern Church. Leiturgiarion, si est, Sluzhebnik ot litovrgii s. Vasilia, Ioanna Zlatousta, i prezhdsviashtennykh ... Kiev, 1629.

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SLAVONIC BIBLES

Early Printed Cyrillic Books from the Lomonosov Moscow State University Library

This collection comprises the earliest portion of the collection of Slavonic early printed books of the Moscow University Library. It consists of forty Slavonic Bibles and Cyrillic religious books printed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, including beautiful editions of Gospels, New Testaments, Acts and Epistles, and Psalms. This collection is an indispensable source of information for all those studying the history and intellectual tradition of Russia and Eastern Europe.

A printed guide containing full descriptions of the books in the collection was produced on the basis of the bibliography by I.V. Pozdeeva, I.D. Kashkarova and M.M. Lerenman: *"Katalog knig kirillicheskoj pečati XV-XVI v. Nauchnoi biblioteki Moskovskogo Universiteta"* (Moscow, 1980).

- 40 titles
- 492 microfiche
- Including printed guide (20 pp.)
- Texts in Church Slavonic, as well as Belorussian, Ukrainian, and Russian translations from Church Slavonic



CHURCH SLAVONIC AND RUSSIAN HAGIOGRAPHIES

Editor: Father Boris Danilenko, Synod Library of the Moscow Patriarchate

This collection lists very rare collections of Russian and Slavonic hagiographies, Russian Paterika and reference works.

- 57 titles
- 646 microfiche
- Texts in Russian

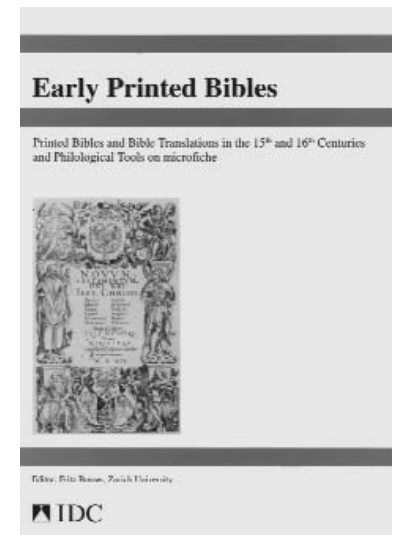


EARLY PRINTED BIBLES

Editor: Prof. F. Büsser, Zurich University

This collection of 300 Bibles and Bible Translations from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries is the first comprehensive collection of its kind, bearing unique testimony to the efforts of several generations of scholars, artists, publishers, and printers who produced the Book of Books. An additional list with Philological Tools from the sixteenth century, consisting of grammars and dictionaries facilitates the usage of the Bibles.

- 177 titles
- 2,902 microfiche



Editor: Fritz Büsser, Zurich University

