

# CYRILSKÉ A HLAHOLSKÉ STARÉ TISKY V ČESKÝCH KNIHOVNÁCH

## Katalog

Zpracovala Františka Sokolová

1997

## INTRODUCTION

### Preface

In the mid-1970s, some of Europe's national libraries began to participate in a research scheme organized by the Russian State Library (former Lenin State Library) in Moscow. In cooperation with foreign specialists, it planned to publish a union catalogue - i.e. a bibliography of rare glagolitic and Cyrillic books. At that time, there were only incomplete catalogues of particular regions and libraries, which tended to be outdated or contained few details.

Despite the fact that the great project of the union catalogue has not been fully realized, it brought certain results. Undoubtedly, it initiated more intensive work in this field, although sometimes indirectly. A lot of expert work was done by individual libraries and researchers.

Only the publication of a preliminary list and a bibliographic description of books printed in glagolitic script (1977, A. Kruming) has been actually accomplished. Concerning the bibliography of Cyrillic early prints, the group led by J.L. Nemirovskij successfully published preliminary lists of books printed in Cyrillic in the 15th and the first half of the 16th century (in 1976), in the second half of the 16th century (in 1979), and in the first quarter of the 17th century (in 1982), as well as editions from the printing house at the Suprasl Monastery (in 1979).

The so-called „svodnyj katalog“ (i.e. the union catalogue or the complete bibliography of books printed in Cyrillic) began to come out in Moscow in an edition of small paperback volumes. Only several were published however, namely incunabula (from the printing house of Svaypolt Fiol in Cracov and from that of G. Crnoyevich in Cetinje, Montenegro), and the project began by publishing a description of Cyrillic prints of the 16th century. But the work was abandoned.

J.L. Nemirovskij has continued the work. He managed to publish two volumes as part of the Montenegrin national bibliography (the printing house of G. Crnoyevich in Cetinje, and Venetian Cyrillic prints till 1638). He has recently published in German the first volumes of the „Gesamtkatalog“, i.e. the union catalogue of Cyrillic early printed books at Koerner's publishing house in Baden-Baden (see list of Bibliography included - Literature to Cyrillic printed books).

The Russian State Library in Moscow published an extraordinarily valuable and detailed catalogue of Ukrainian early printed books till 1700 (its authors: T.N. Kamenyeva, A.A. Guseva, and I.M. Polonskaya).

The national bibliography of Ukrainian and Belorussian early printed books ought to be mentioned among the very important bibliographic works in this field ( see Zapasko-Isayevych and Golenchenko in the list).

A catalogue of books printed in glagolitic, completed by Alexander Kruming, has been, for some time, ready to be published. It should be published soon. Thanks to pioneer works by this author (see the Bibliography), we could describe the glagolitic prints in the Czech Libraries.

The Slavonic Library also participated in this research project. In the mid-1970s, the former State Library of the Czech Socialist Republic (now the National Library of the Czech Republic) was invited to participate by the former Lenin State Library (now the Russian State Library) in Moscow. Questionnaires were sent to all regional libraries and the inquiry was carried out again in 1995. The description of Cyrillic printed books is now complete up to the year 1825.

The work presented here ought to contribute to a future bibliography, which may be successfully completed on the basis of international participation.

Cyrillic and glagolitic early printed books, which found their way to the territory of Bohemia, were usually preserved in the libraries of monasteries and castles. When large public libraries began to be established in the Czech lands at the end of the 18th century, books from the abolished monasteries were brought to them. These books, provide evidence of contact between Bohemia and the eastern and southern Slavonic countries, though there are few of them. There are, however, some precious and unique books to be found among them, e.g. the unique primers from the State Research Library at Olomouc - a Belorussian one published in Wilno in 1637, and a Ukrainian one published in Kiev in 1686. Pupils from what is today known as Belorussia and Ukraine studied at Jesuit colleges in Prague and Olomouc. Research tells us that a Belorussian catechism by Simon Budny has been on Czech territory for a longer period than any other Cyrillic printed books. The catechism was published in Nesvizh in 1562 and brought to Prague Clementinum college soon after its being printed by F. Balthasar Hostounsky, founder of the Jesuit college in Wilno.

In the Czech lands, unlike in Poland or Hungary, early printed Cyrillic books of a religious nature were not used in religious practice but were rather considered something of interesting rarity. In the Czech lands, ap-

parently nothing has been preserved from the only Czech cyrillic printing house which had printed a Bible by F. Skaryna between 1517 and 1519.

In the 19th century, these rare volumes were gathered by book-collectors, in the Czech lands mainly by the Slavist scholars J. Dobrovský, V. Hanka and particularly by P.J. Šafařík. As a part of their legacies, the books came to the collections of large public libraries.

The collection of south-Slavonic books printed in Cyrillic and glagolitic from the celebrated library of P.J. Šafařík have been preserved in its entirety at the Library of the National Museum in Prague. It was bought by the Land Committee of the Czech Kingdom in 1863. This collection is of the most precious of its kind throughout the world. It used to be considered the second such collection after the one at the National Library of Russia in St.Petersburg (the former State Public Library of Saltykov-Schedrin, and original Imperial Public Library), which includes the famous Pogodin's collection of Cyrillic printed books as well as apparently the largest collection of the glagolitic prints, bought in the 19th century from the legacy of Professor Berchich. The Prague collection also used to equall another famous collection „Raccolta Praga“ in the Library of St. Mark's at Venice. Other large collections of Cyrillic printed editions can be found in Russia, the former Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Roumania, Hungary, Poland, and Sweden.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, large public libraries on Czech territory began to purchase Cyrillic and glagolitic prints and continue to do so today. The majority of Cyrillic prints presented in this work has been acquired in this way. The early printed books from the territory of Ukraine are dominant in Czech libraries, closely followed by books printed in Moscow, which is perhaps surprising. Such a great number of Moscow editions preserved in our country was not expected by A. Florovsky either. (A. Florovsky, an émigré Russian historian living in Prague - see the Additions: a letter by Florovsky from 1958 to A. Zernova, Russian researcher).

Interest in the antiquities of Cyrillic and glagolitic typography dates back to the beginnings of Slavonic studies as a scientific field. Even the first Czech Slavists - Joseph Dobrovsky and Fortunat Durych - collected sources of literary antiquities as stated above for their studies. In his dissertation „De Slavo-bohemica sacri codicis dissertatio“ (Prague, 1777), Durych mentions the Cyrillic printed books located in Count Nostic's library, e.g. „Četveroevangelie“ (The Four Gospels) printed by Petr Msti-

slavec in 1575, and the New Testament published by Primus Truber in Tübingen in 1563, as well as a commentary about the Prague Skaryna's bible as well. There are so many facts and pieces of information both in Dobrovsky's and Durych's writings and in their mutual correspondence that even now, they serve as bibliographic works (see the Literature to glagolitic and Cyrillic prints). V. Hanka became the first Czech to present a description of the Skaryna's Bible published in Prague with an article in 1852, entitled „Czech Incunabula“. Celebrated writings by P.J. Šafařík, especially his „History of South-Slavonic Literature“, are principal bibliographic sources in the study of Cyrillic and glagolitic printed books. P.J. Šafařík also worked at the Prague Royal Library in the Clementinum (today's National Library of the Czech Republic). In 1850, he made in manuscript a bibliographic list of Slavonic books in this library, which also includes Cyrillic prints. A photocopy from this list is included in the Additions at the end of this work.

Also Oton Berkovec, an outstanding Slavist from Slovenia, was concerned with South-Slavonic early printed books. He described them both at the former University Library in Prague and at the Slavonic Library. At the latter, he published a bibliographic list of Rešetar's collection of the ragusiana, i.e. books originating from or concerning the town of Dubrovnik. Cyrillic printed books are also to be found in the collection, the earliest of which is „Četveroevangelie“ (The Four Gospels), published in Belgrade in 1552. In the title „250 years of literary relations between Ukraine and the Czech lands“, Orest Zilynsky, a celebrated researcher in Ukraine studies, completed a bibliographic list of Ukrainian early printed books held at the Library of the National Museum in Prague, in the National Library of the Czech Republic (former Royal University and later State Library), and at the Slavonic Library (see the Literature to Cyrillic printed books).

In this catalogue we have followed the Czech rules of transliteration. We have not attempted to define the language of the prints described both for practical reasons and because such a complicated question was not our objective. In most cases, the books included are of the nature of religious worship and it was not our aim to identify, to what extent elements from vernacular languages had penetrated the religious Slavonic language in individual books. These books should provide researchers with rich linguistic material.

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