Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage
December 2017

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Founded in 1984, the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies (RCMSS), a center of the College of Arts and Sciences, is dedicated to the promotion of medieval Slavic studies. It is associated with the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, and it provides broad interdisciplinary research and academic opportunities for students, graduate students, faculty, and visiting researchers.

The RCMSS has close ties and shares space with the Hilandar Research Library (HRL). Both developed as an outgrowth of the original Hilandar Research Project (1969-1984). RCMSS is a non-national oriented center that promotes Cyrillic-based research. The Center strives to accomplish its goals through the support of HRL preservation and access activities, research stipends and travel, occasional acquisitions of HRL materials, publication support, and sponsoring conferences, lectures, workshops, etc.

We gratefully acknowledge the Monks of Hilandar Monastery for making it possible for us to share their heritage.


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In 1975, I was fortunate to discover an unknown 14th-century author of versified prayers, the Bulgarian hymnographer Efrem. He lived in times of crisis, strife, and war. One of his verses was a prayer for the “burgeoning tempest to be stilled,” others for “harmony, peace and security,” and for the hope and well-being of the future. At times, such words resonate with me. However, we are now approaching what for many is a time of renewal and hope. It is in that spirit that I extend Season’s Greetings and wish a Happy New Year to all! I will add also my sincere hope that peace and hope may reign where they have not, and that joy and happiness may help heal all who have suffered.

In our last issue, I provided statistics on the numbers of graduate students and researchers who have spent time at the Hilandar Research Library and the number of microfilmed Slavic manuscripts they consulted, etc. Researchers continue to find work here to be important, and income from the Hilandar Endowment Fund continues to support and enable this research, all made possible by the foresight of the monks of Hilandar Monastery and the generosity of donors.

We hosted a one-month research visit beginning in mid-September by Ana Stoykova, Deputy Director of the Institute of Literature of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In October, we welcomed Andrzej Charyło, who teaches Orthodoxy as a professor at the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, Poland. Both found their opportunity to be of tremendous scholarly importance. We also hosted a brief visit by Daniel Rowland, History Professor Emeritus at the University of Kentucky, who visited us for the first time. An eminent historian of Russia, who has taught and authored works about Ivan the Terrible, he wished to examine the facsimiles of the “encyclopedias” copied for Ivan the Terrible in the 16th-century that we acquired beginning in 2010 (see CMH 28: 1).

Dr. Janice Zunich-Katich made a brief visit to see some of the Serbian and South Slavic items we have acquired since her last visit. We enjoy visits such as these and invite those who wish to visit and see some of our “treasures” to contact us so that proper arrangements can be made.

M.A. “Pasha” Johnson, the HRL Curator of Slavic Early Printed Books and Manuscripts, spent several weeks in Serbia and Bulgaria participating in several conferences, scholarly gatherings, and attending a book launch for a collection of articles that she co-edited and for which she served as lead translator. Pasha will be especially busy over the next few months with the Seventh International Hilandar Conference (“Preserving and Accessing Medieval Slavic Manuscripts,” June 15-17, 2018). She will also mount a major exhibit of our archival materials on Pimen Sofronov, the Old Believer iconographer, that will coincide with the conference.

We congratulate Brian D. Joseph, Distinguished University Professor of Linguistics and The Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics, who has been elected to the position of Vice President/President-Elect for the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Congratulations also go to our former GA, Nina Haviernikova (MSSI 2011), who successfully defended her dissertation “Dialect Contact in Slovakia” just this month! Finally, we congratulate our recent researcher Kristina Nikolovska (MSSI 2017), who has been hired as the Specialist/Curator of Slavonic Manuscripts and Early Printed Books at the St. Clement of Ohrid National and University Library in Skopje, Macedonia.

I will close with news of the passing of various friends and supporters. These include Jerzy Krzyzanowski, OSU Emeritus Professor of Slavic, who was a departmental supporter of the original “Hilandar Research Project.” We learned of the passing of A. Dean McKenzie, Professor Emeritus of Art History, University of Oregon, who donated to us his slides of Mount Athos. Mrs. Irene Enich, who donated over 5,000 slides by her husband, Steven Enich, has also passed. Scans of the “Steven Enich Serbian Orthodox Culture Slide Collection” have been accessed via the Internet over half-a-million times in the past few years. Finally, Dragan Vukovich of St. Stevan of Dečani Parish, Columbus, and a family friend, will be missed. An amateur photographer, he provided the photographs of the early period of our development, including those of the Dedication of the Hilandar Room in December 1978.

Wishing to end on a joyous note, I am delighted that we received another gift from Alex Rabinovich of New York, who has sent us numerous manuscripts and rare books over the years. This gift is an original Slavic Cyrillic manuscript, generally known as a Tsvetnik (‘Bouquet’). It contains works particularly important to the faith and culture of Russian “Old Believers.” It is a gift we will gratefully use in teaching and research.
I was invited to participate in a conference organized by the National Library of Serbia (NLS) in Belgrade, October 2-4, 2017. It had been fifteen years since I was last in Serbia, so I arranged to spend an extra week there renewing old ties and forging new ones. Special Collections in the Context of Cultural Heritage Protection and Cultural Development Fostering, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the NLS Special Collections, was easily the best library conference I have ever attended! Jelena Glišović, president of the Organising Committee, was first contact for most participants, and her energetic enthusiasm set the tone for the scholarly professionalism and warm hospitality that the entire NLS staff showed its visitors.

190 participants from Special Collections in libraries, archives, museums, and galleries in 22 countries met and discussed the universal challenges of our profession and shared successful strategies for conservation, outreach, emerging technologies, cataloging, and coping with fiscal constraints, staff shortages, demands for digitization, etc. Presentations by professionals from the NLS and all over Serbia conveyed the country’s extraordinary dedication to cultural heritage preservation. NLS staff members chaired each session, which served to introduce them and the NLS organizational structure to visitors. Headphones for simultaneous translations into English and Serbian maximized access to the presentations and allowed all to participate. The library science student volunteers, dressed in neon green t-shirts, were immediately visible and immediately helpful in every way.

There were stellar presentations about manuscripts. Željko Mladićević, head of the NLS department of conservation, described the ongoing efforts to restore manuscripts in Hilandar Monastery’s library. For several years, an NLS team led by Vladan Trijić, NLS deputy director and head of the Department for Archeography, has traveled to Mount Athos to spend time on site repairing fragile parchment, paper, and bindings of the original centuries-old manuscripts at the invitation and under the direction of the monks of Hilandar Monastery. David Howell, heritage scientist at the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford, described extraordinary results achieved through high-tech imaging, which included uncovering a palimpsest in a 16th-century Mexican codex that revealed yet another pictographic text. Ljiljana Puzović, NLS Archeographic librarian, described the history of her department, paying tribute to a list of famous and familiar medieval Slavic manuscript scholars, such as Vladimir Mošin, Dimitrije Bogdanović, Lucija Cernić et al.

On the final day of the conference, Ana Milutinović gave visitors a tour of the NLS. Vesna Aleksandrović, Ivan Obradowić, and other Organising Committee members joined the bus tour of Belgrade that ended at Kalemegdan Fortress. The conference was a resounding success!

The day after the conference, I was back at the NLS. Ljiljana Puzović and her colleagues in the Department for Archeography—Jasmina Nedeljković-Kovačević, Milanka Ubiparip, Jovana Stanojlović, and Miroslav Lazić—welcomed me, and I felt right at home in their reading room filled with microfilm cabinets and reader-printers, and familiar reference materials. The manuscript collections they have are a revelation, particularly those that are available to patrons as color scans. However, nothing could compare to seeing the Beograd Parimejnik and other original codices and early printed books! Each day we took a coffee break and talked shop, exchanging our stories and experiences. Ljiljana looked after me by facilitating introductions and offering assistance in every way. I spoke with Ivana Nikolić about available NLS publications. I met again with Željko Mladićević and learned more about NLS conservation projects. I spent an afternoon at Zadužbina Hilandara (the Hilandar Foundation) with Zoran Kostić, an award-winning typographer (of fonts), who assists the monks of Hilandar in a multitude of ways. I was fascinated to hear the men talk about the time they have recently spent at Hilandar Monastery. I realized that the Hilandar I know from the stories and photographs of Father Mateja and Predrag is the monastery as it was in the 1970s. Things change more slowly on the Holy Mount, but they do change.

My last day at the NLS ended in a field trip to the book launch of A. A. Turilov’s catalog of Slavic manuscripts on Mount Athos (2nd edition) with everyone from the Department for Archeography. As we made our way to the event, on foot and then by city bus, I felt an easy camaraderie with my Serbian colleagues, which I hope will continue through correspondence and further visits.
Call for Papers:  
The 7th International Hilandar Conference:  
“Preserving and Accessing Medieval Slavic Manuscripts”  
June 15-17, 2018  
at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA  
Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the “Hilandar Room”  
and in recognition of Professor Predrag Matejic’s contributions  
to the field of medieval Slavic studies  

The conference theme “Preserving and Accessing Medieval Slavic Manuscripts” is broadly conceived and, as always at an International Hilandar Conference, papers about Hilandar Monastery, its written heritage and scribal traditions in the fields of art history, history, literature, linguistics, theology, etc., are welcome.  

Papers that compare medieval Slavic to other manuscript traditions will also be considered, as will presentations about the establishment of similar libraries and centers that preserve a cultural heritage and promote scholarly access to its materials.  

For additional information, please see our webpage go.osu.edu/7thHilandarConf  

We invite researchers to submit abstracts (not to exceed 500 words) to hilandar@osu.edu.  

Abstract Submission Deadline: January 10, 2018
Many years ago, in Sofia, I had the honor to be introduced to Prof. Predrag Matejic and to hear for the first time about the remarkable endeavor, unprecedented in the history of medieval studies, that he and his father, Prof. emeritus Mateja Matejic, were undertaking at The Ohio State University in Columbus. Of course, I have in mind the Hilandar Research Library, better known among Bulgarian scholars as the Hilandar Room, where some hard-to-reach, handwritten treasures are preserved in a kind of literary Eldorado. Stefan Kozhukharov, Klimentina Ivanova, Svetlina Nikolova, Anisava Miltenova and others were among my senior colleagues who visited and worked in the Hilandar Room, and their stories about unknown manuscripts and texts they found woke up my interest and made me dream of an opportunity to visit it someday.

Meanwhile, several times I asked the scholars of the HRL for manuscript scans that I needed for my work. I received them immediately, for which I owe great thanks to M.A. “Pasha” Johnson. However, when I started working with South Slavic calendar miscellanies, I realized that only in the Hilandar Room could I examine a dozen of such manuscripts from different collections and, above all, from the very Hilandar Monastery. That is why I was very happy when I received the consent of Prof. Matejic to visit the library for a month with the generous support of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies.

My project, entitled “Translated Hagiography in Balkan Cyrillic Manuscripts,” is focused on the composition of South Slavic handwritten miscellanies that comprise lives and panegyrics of saints. While the Byzantine tradition clearly distinguishes between hagiographic and homiletic miscellanies, Slavic literature almost never features homogenous miscellanies; they are usually hybrid and are the outcome of selective and abridged translations. As it turned out, there is a larger distinction between hagiographic and homiletic compositions in the miscellanies for the first few months of the church year, while the content of the manuscripts for the second half of the year is considerably mixed. This is related to the reduction in the number of saints to be celebrated and to the introduction of services for the movable feasts.

Interesting conclusions can also be drawn from the later Hilandar and other Athonite calendar manuscripts, where one can notice a revival of the writers’ interest in texts from the early Slavic tradition. In these late manuscripts, rare pre-metaphrastic texts have been reproduced, which are not found anywhere else in the handwritten tradition and, apparently, derive from manuscript sources that have not been preserved. The study of the hagiographic works in the manuscripts also provides insight related to the typology of the miscellanies in which they are included. For example, the same vita may be translated twice in two different types of miscellanies – those containing the movable and those with the calendar feasts, respectively. A typical example is the life of St. Theodore Stratilates, which was translated in a movable feast composition (for the first Saturday of Lent) probably in the 10th century, and in a calendar collection (for the 8th of June) in the 13th-14th century.

The manuscript treasures of the HRL are a source that will always provide possibilities for numerous interesting observations and new discoveries, especially because the scholars who work on them never stop searching for opportunities to enrich it with new manuscript collections.

I would like to express my enormous gratitude to this remarkable team – Prof. Predrag Matejic, M.A. “Pasha” Johnson, Ray Alston and Jessi Jones for their kindness, help and support, their responsiveness and hospitality, and I wholeheartedly wish them health and success in their noble work.
Our New Graduate Associate

Each semester we hire a graduate student to assist us in various cataloging, scanning and exhibit projects. They are able to interact directly with our visiting scholars and Hilandar material. This autumn semester Ray Alston (MSSI 2013) worked with us as our Graduate Associate.

Ray started learning Russian as a missionary in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2007-2008. He minored in Russian with a major in English at Brigham Young University—Idaho, where he also met his wife, Megan.

He is currently finishing up a PhD in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at The Ohio State University. His dissertation is on historical themes in Russian opera. When he’s not studying, he loves to read, sing and spend time with his wife and son, David, who was born in February 2017.

My Visit to the Hilandar Research Library

By Daniel Rowland, Professor Emeritus of Russian History, The University of Kentucky

I had a quite wonderful visit to the Hilandar Research Library for two days, October 31 and November 1. I came to continue work with one of the most valuable visual sources from Muscovite Russia, the Litsevoi letopisnyi svod or Illustrated Chronicle Compilation (ICC), published recently in a large, multivolume, facsimile edition by AKTEON publishers.

This astonishing illustrated chronicle is vast, some 10,000 folios with 17,000 illuminations, and covers all of history from the Creation down to the sixteenth-century present. It seems to have been compiled in the Foreign Office under Ivan IV (the Terrible) in the late 1560s and early 1570s, for purposes that remain unclear. In it, we can see how Russian editors and illustrators of the time imagined their past, from the Old Testament to Roman history to the history of Rus and Muscovite Russia.

I examined images of the Old Testament kings David and Solomon, plus images of Vladimir Monomakh and Dmitrii Donskoii to see how these rulers were depicted, how rulership was presented to the readers of this immense manuscript history. I chose these rulers because they were central to the Muscovite historical imagination, and were also shown in such locations as the Kremlin throne rooms.

My home library at the University of Kentucky could not afford to get this magnificent set of facsimiles, which is lavishly produced with extensive indices, transcriptions of the Church Slavonic texts, and with translations into modern Russian. I was received with unbelievable hospitality by everyone at the HRL, including having a staff member scan the images I needed. I presented my work at a standing-room-only panel at the ASEES conference in Chicago on Friday, November 10, 2017, and included what I hope was a robust thank-you to the Hilandar Research Library and its fabulous staff.
In mid-October, I went from Belgrade to Sofia, Bulgaria, and spent 18 days attending scholarly events, conducting research, and meeting with colleagues and friends. One of the highlights was visiting the “Zograf Room,” located in the Philological Library of the “St. Kliment Ohridski” University of Sofia. By all accounts inspired by our “Hilandar Room,” the parallels between the two libraries include an icon commissioned by the Monks of Zograf (although theirs depicts St. George, the monastery’s patron saint, and St. Kliment), as well as “User Declarations” in Bulgarian and English! The Zograf Room, however, is a wonderful 21st-century re-imagining of the Hilandar Research Project, taking full advantage of technological advances by offering color scans of the Zograf Monastery manuscripts.

At the conference, “The Zograf Library and Archives: Research Approaches to Digitizing, Cataloguing, and Editing the Sources,” I was honored to meet Father Atanasii, the Zograf Librarian, and Father Kozma Popovski. Again, in parallel to HRL’s history, I saw them, with Dimitur Peev, Petko Petkov, Andrei Boiadzhiev, Anna Angelova (the Director of the Sofia University Library), Klimentina Ivanova, Margaret Dimitrova, and Elissaveta Moussakova, as the cohort of “Founders” of the Zograf Room.

Anissava Miltenova’s conference “Medieval Slavonic Literatures in the Digital Age: Terminology, Taxonomy, and Real Text in Manuscripts” focused on standardizing descriptive terminology for Slavic manuscripts. A very timely and relevant topic, coming on the heels of my MSSI 2017 genre lecture and future plans for descriptions of HRL materials. Mariana Damova’s presentation of the interactive online map, “Geography of Letters: The Geography of the Copies of the History of the Slaveno-Bulgarians,” which pinpoints the location of manuscripts of Paisii Khilendarski’s seminal work critical to Bulgaria’s National Revival, was part of a larger initiative, “The Spirituality of Sofia in Historical Memory.” I was asked to share the history and provenance of the “Clarke Manuscript,” donated to the HRL in 1984 by Esther N. Clarke, the widow of James Franklin Clarke. View the project at www.geographyofletters.org.

My first book launch was for a book that I co-edited, Medieval Bulgarian Arts and Letters in a Byzantine Context. Academician Vasil Giuzelev presided, with detailed commentary offered by reviewers Emanuel Mutafor and Iavor Miltenov, and remarks by contributing author Georgi Kapriev. Co-editor and coordinator Margaret Dimitrova and I also spoke at this hour-long ceremony. Subsequently, I attended two other book launches, including one for volume 2 of Nina Vutova’s catalog of manuscripts and early printed books from the National Historical Museum.

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**Launching a New Interactive Exhibit**

By Jessi Jones

On August 23, the Thompson Library debuted it’s memento to the 100th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Justin Luna (OSUL Senior Exhibitions Preparator & Assistant Exhibition Designer) and Pasha curated the Hilandar exhibit case, while Ken Aschliman (OSUL Exhibitions Coordinator) and Jessi designed the brainchild of DSEELC Associate Professor Jennifer Suchland. The interactive exhibit included a poster board mounted with the challenge to “Write one rule for your Utopia.”

Over 200 participants answered, with creative, eccentric, humorous, and provocative responses. It has been a great experiment and lesson in getting students and scholars to interact personally with the historical materials and concepts that they are being taught in OSU courses.
In October 2017, I spent four weeks as a visiting scholar in the Hilandar Research Library within Thompson Library at The Ohio State University. The HRL is a unique place in the world with the largest repository of medieval Slavic Cyrillic texts on microform, and includes holdings from over 100 collections from twenty-three countries. From the first day of my research stay, I was fascinated by the large volume of Slavic materials and resources available. Given that the early Slavic manuscripts are scattered in many libraries and archives all over the globe, it is impressive that in just one place we are able to find such large collections held by various institutions. I had the chance to work with almost 100 Cyrillic manuscripts on microform from the eleventh to fourteenth centuries.

The subject of my studies is the theological heritage of the representatives of the exegetical school of Alexandria in the context of the history of early Christianity. The teachings of this school, although they were propounded in the fourth and fifth century, have significant meaning in modern academic discourse. The main object of my research in the HRL was a comprehensive linguistic investigation of Church Slavonic manuscripts, particularly liturgical and hagiographical texts, as well as historical documents. I was especially interested in working on the Menaion and manuscripts containing works by the Church Fathers’ literary legacy.

During my research stay in Columbus, I worked through microfilms of manuscripts from the Hilandar, Great Lavra, Iveron, Zograf and Saint Panteleimon monasteries (Mount Athos), Saint Catherine’s Monastery (Mount Sinai), and the library of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem. I found also very important and interesting manuscripts in collections from the Bulgarian National Library “Cyril and Methodius” and the Uppsala University Library (Sweden), as well as the Moscow printed book collection described by A. S. Zernova. I engaged in systematic, historical and comparative analysis of manuscripts. It allowed me to make unique observations and creative conclusions. I am convinced that it was a valuable experience and an important step in my research.

I mainly focused on collecting materials for my accentological corpus, but at the same time, I significantly widened my research interests. My work encompassed long hours sitting in front of the microfilm machine, perusing manuscript catalogs, and taking advantage of the focused collection of materials. During my research visit, I managed to find even more interesting manuscripts and discover even more exciting stories and ideas for future projects than I had expected. My research stay was very interesting, inspiring and enjoyable. I found abundant materials for research. I became acquainted with an excellent organization that demonstrated openness and readiness to help with every single detail.

A positive, warm and friendly atmosphere reigns in the Hilandar Research Library, and therefore, the work conditions are most convenient for researchers. The catalog of manuscripts contained all the necessary information about every manuscript of my interest and was available in both electronic and paper form. A month’s stay in conditions so comfortable makes it possible for a scholar to uncover and work through a series of research subjects.

I would like to express my respectful and sincere gratitude to Professor Predrag Matejic, Director of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and Curator of the Hilandar Research Library for the opportunity to work in the Hilandar Research Library, his valuable advice, very interesting consultations, care and attention, and support. I am grateful to Jessi Jones, RCMSS Program Coordinator, for her excellent organization of the journey and her friendly attitude and help in arranging my stay. I wish also to thank Ray Alston for his kindness and great work in microfilm scanning.

The researchers of the medieval Slavic heritage from all over the world who come to work in the Hilandar Research Library have always regarded, and will continue to regard, those who created, worked, and now work in this library with great respect and appreciation. My visit to Columbus was as productive, academically rewarding, pleasant and successful as possible.
Thank You for Your Generosity!

*If we have inadvertently omitted your name for any donation made during the last 6 months of this year, we apologize and ask you to remind us at hilandar@osu.edu – thank you.*

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*Thank you for your generosity!*

With sincerest appreciation the HRL and RCMSS acknowledge the following donors for their generous support.
A Heartfelt Thank You

It is the season of giving and reflection, so allow us to express our sincere appreciation for all of your continued support, which makes the work we do possible.

In the past 35 years, we have been able to provide 334 scholars with access to manuscript material at the Hilandar Research Library, and we consulted or copied 4732 manuscripts for graduate students and researchers! We recently hosted our 9th biennial Medieval Slavic Summer Institute, 2nd Hilandar Research Library Annual Lecture, and are preparing to host our 7th International Hilandar Conference.

None of this would be possible without your generosity.

Ways to Give

You can make a donation by credit card online at www.giveto.osu.edu. Select “Give Today” and search for the appropriate fund.

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**All of our funds support scholar access to our resources, conferences, colloquia, lectures, scholarly publications, and the biennial Medieval Slavic Summer Institute!
Season’s Greetings
and
Happy New Year!

From the Hilandar Research Library
The Ohio State University Libraries
and the
Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies
The Ohio State University

Predrag, Pasha, and Jessi