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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITORS

In September 1987, a conference was to have taken place at the Catholic University to discuss the subject of *International Data Bases for Medieval Manuscript Studies*. Its aim was to make minds, approaches, experiences and traditions meet both of those with ample experience in computerization of manuscript data, and those who now envisage its application; those who develop their own systems, as well as those who rely on available software; those who record and store mss data selectively, according to their own specific research aims, as well as those who do so as comprehensively as possible; both codicologists and textologists, students of Occidental and Oriental mss. It did not take place. But the participants were kind enough to present their papers for publication in *Полата књигописана*, which is now happy to offer to your discussion the solutions and the problems (in this order) they have written about. We hope that some formal framework can be found to give these papers their due, e.g. the Third Hilandar Conference in Beograd (28-30 March 1989).

The publication of these papers (overdue for almost a year and a half) marks a turning point both in the existence of the Catholic University Nijmegen and *Полата књигописана*. As the Catholic University is concerned, it decided in 1987 to end all formal activities in the field of palaeography, codicology and textology, except within the realm of Dutch studies. As concerns *Полата књигописана*, the turning point is twofold. First of all, even though this issue is officially still published at Nijmegen, the inside of the front cover already informs you of its removal to the University of Amsterdam, the three St. Andrew's crosses of which will mark the cover from issue 23-24 on (we are confident that Amsterdam, with its long history of Armenian, Greek, Hungarian, Latin, Slavic and other imprints, will prove a more propitious base for the publication of this bulletin, than Nijmegen). Secondly, you will no doubt notice some changes in typesfaces and layout: these are due to the fact that IBM has long ago ceased to produce the variety of typeheads we have grown so accustomed to. We have to make a concerted effort now to get the computer and its output facilities to work for us. But in the meantime we have to allow for a certain period of heterography.

Since this turning point has been reached almost simultaneously with the tenth anniversary of *Полата књигописана*, it seems a good moment to

consider some overall changes in the bulletin. These changes aim in the first place to increase the speed and regularity of publication. Leaving aside the monographic issues in the by now well-known brown covers (e.g. 10-11, 12, 14-15, 16) which may be published whenever there is an occasion, we shall henceforth endeavour to publish our regular informative issues two or three times a year in fascicles of 20-30 pages until the standard size of a single issue (60-80 pages is reached). Librarians will, we hope, be happy to get these fascicles with pages uncut and stapled at the spine. Individual users will, we hope, not object to the absence of a formal cover. This approach will, we are quite certain, increase our contacts and exchanges to the benefit of the development of our field of multi-disciplinary research. It will also provide the opportunity to publish, as part of issue 25, a comprehensive index for the first ten years (1-20).

Hoping to be able to continue with you, and for you, the contacts, discussions and exchange of ideas that have proven so fruitful for the study of early Slavic books, texts and literatures,

we beg to remain yours faithfully

Mario Capaldo

William R. Veder