



# Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage

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The Ohio State  
University

THE HILANDAR RESEARCH LIBRARY  
RESOURCE CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL SLAVIC STUDIES

Columbus  
Ohio



*Nina Voutova, Deputy Director of the SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia, Bulgaria, confers with Predrag Matejic in the Hilandar Research Library.*

## A Question-and-Answer Guide For Patrons of HRL/RCMSS

*The HRL and RCMSS answer frequently-asked questions about their mission and the HRL collection:*

### **What is the difference between the HRL and RCMSS?**

The HRL is a special collection library that is part of The Ohio State University Libraries. RCMSS is an independent affiliate of Ohio State's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. RCMSS, which is administered and funded by the College of Humanities, promotes use of the HRL by awarding stipends to visit-

ing researchers and providing staff support. RCMSS can also initiate new manuscript preservation projects, but the HRL typically purchases the actual microfilm that results from such projects.

### **What is the "Hilandar Room"?**

The "Hilandar Room" is the former name for the HRL. In 1978, three years after the Hilandar Research Project completed microfilming the manuscript collections of Hilandar Monastery on Mount

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## Medieval Slavic Summer Institute To Begin June 21

A three-week intensive summer institute focusing on medieval Slavic studies is scheduled for June 21 through July 9, 1999 at The Ohio State University in Columbus.

The institute, hosted by OSU's Hilandar Research Library, Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, will offer two courses: "Practical Slavic Paleography" (Slavic 870) with Predrag Matejic, HRL curator and RCMSS director; and "Readings in Church Slavonic" (Slavic 812) with Daniel Collins, associate professor of Slavic linguistics at OSU.

Manuscript materials on microform from the HRL's extensive holdings will

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### INSIDE FEATURES

#### **HRL Journal**

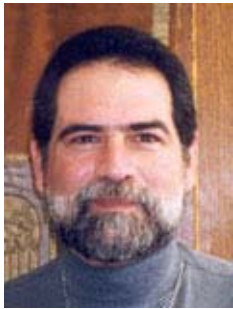
Four recent patrons of the Hilandar Research Library describe their work and research experiences. Page 6.

#### **Internet Search Leads to HRL**

How a new HRL supporter discovered the library while on the Internet. Page 7.

## Director's Desk | Dr. Predrag Matejic

Slavica Publishers, Inc. will issue a collection of papers from the Fourth International Hilandar Conference last August.



Another year of research, preservation microfilming, teaching and promoting medieval Slavic studies is underway, and it promises to be as productive as previous years. As I write

this column, two visiting researchers, Adelina Angusheva and Margaret Dimitrova, are researching materials primarily from Mount Athos, the original copies of which are inaccessible to them. Our guests are from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary and come highly recommended as scholars.

We continue to make accessible the results of the Fourth International Hilandar Conference in August, which commemorated the 800th anniversary of Hilandar Monastery and the 20th anniversary of the Hilandar Research Library at Ohio State.

The *Selected Proceedings*, a volume of papers given at the conference, will be published by Slavica Publishers, a division of Indiana University Press, and is expected to appear late this year. In addition to myself, the editorial committee for this collection consists of Professor Charles Gribble of the OSU Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures; M. A. Johnson, assistant curator of the HRL; and John R. Wilson, a graduate research associate in the HRL this year.

For our successful exhibit of Hilandar materials at the conference last summer, we published a limited number of copies of an accompanying catalog. Lorraine Abraham, one of our former graduate re-

search associates, who is now a librarian at the University of South Carolina, has volunteered to mount the catalog on our web site. Ms. Abraham has also been instrumental in improving the general appearance of the web site, which continues to be favorably received by web surfers around the world.

I am also happy to announce that the OSU Libraries authorized the purchase of five new microfilm readers. These readers make it much easier to work with the microfilms in the HRL and will enhance the educational and research experience of participants in the upcoming Medieval Slavic Summer Institute.

Work on the microfilming of several hundred manuscripts from the library of Tver' State Museum in Russia continues, and is expected to be completed sometime during 1999. Conversations at the August conference resulted in agreements to acquire microfilms of manuscripts from two collections in Bulgaria. Such opportunities are beginning to outstrip our ability to act on them, despite the extremely generous support of the OSU Libraries, especially in the last few years. We are pleased, however, that such opportunities are on the rise, because we feel it reflects the greater acceptance and understanding of our activities with Slavic manuscript collections by institutions worldwide.

Over the years, the nature of the HRL collections and RCMSS activities has changed. Both scope and goals have increased as we have grown and new possibilities have arisen. In order to explain better who we are and how to use our resources, we devote much of this issue to answering questions people often ask us. We hope that in answering them, our future patrons and even benefactors will

better understand the role we serve in preserving and creating access to medieval Slavic manuscripts.

**Postscript:** The current situation in Kosovo and Yugoslavia is of great concern. Unfortunately, it reinforces — in graphic terms — the need for programs like ours, which preserve and promote access to medieval culture. It is far too easy in our modern age for all or part of the heritage of a people or peoples to be “cleansed” or otherwise destroyed. What took centuries to build can be eradicated in a matter of days or hours, sometimes in only minutes.

It is, of course, our hope that a reasonable resolution to the conflict will be adopted quickly. In the meantime, we continue our mission to preserve and promote the study of medieval heritage.

*Predrag Matejic*

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## *HRL Hosts Two Bulgarian Medievalists*

By JOHN R. WILSON

Adelina Angusheva and Margaret Dimitrova, Bulgarian medievalists from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, are spending seven weeks this spring studying medieval Slavic manuscripts at the Hilandar Research Library.

The two researchers have been friends ever since they met in school 20 years ago. Now they have begun a collaborative project on medieval Slavic medicinal texts. Some of the HRL manuscripts they are studying during their visit, from mid-March to early May, concern fasting practices and herbal recipes.

"Based on its library collection, at one point Hilandar had a special interest in medicine — more than any other Slavic monastic library," Ms. Angusheva said. "Perhaps they tried to establish it as a healing center."

At the CEU, Ms. Angusheva will soon be defending a dissertation on comparisons among Byzantine, Slavic and Latin



*Visiting researchers Margaret Dimitrova, left, and Adelina Angusheva, are the first to use two new microfilm readers purchased for the Hilandar Research Library.*

books of prognostication. She is interested in how the texts changed as they spread throughout the medieval world. Although the Byzantine and Slavic books were listed in indices of forbidden texts, they had a fairly wide circulation anyway, Ms. Angusheva explained. She teaches Old Bulgarian literature at the University of Sofia "Kliment Ohridski."

Ms. Dimitrova, who teaches Old Bulgarian language and linguistics at Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, completed her dissertation on Greek and Latin lexical

borrowings in Croatian-Glagolitic missals, which retained a great number of archaic forms.

"To establish the earliest Slavic forms, I need to compare many different manuscripts of different origins. Here I can use many non-Croatian-Glagolitic sources to help trace changes in the early Cyrillo-Methodian forms of Greek lexical borrowings in different South Slavic milieus between the 9th and 15th centuries," said Ms. Dimitrova, who studied under Professor Henrik Birnbaum.

Ms. Angusheva and Dimitrova are among the organizers of three conferences to be held at the University of Sofia, August 16-24, 1999. The subjects of the events are: Gregory Camblak, a prominent literary figure of the late 14th century; the Slavist Vatroslav Jagic and Cyrillo-Methodian translations of the New Testament; and cults of early Christian saints who lived until the 6th century in Central and Southeastern Europe.

More information about these events can be found at: <[www.slav.uni-sofia.bg/pages/oldbulpages/LINGUA1.html](http://www.slav.uni-sofia.bg/pages/oldbulpages/LINGUA1.html)>.

As medievalists who can never go to Mount Athos because they are women, the two scholars said they valued the chance to visit the HRL. "The Hilandar Research Library is our Mount Athos!" declared Ms. Angusheva.

## Slavic Summer Institute Runs June 21-July 9

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be used in both courses. Participants will be able to work with original manuscripts and to conduct their own individualized research in the HRL.

Gregory Myers, an expert on Slavic musicology, will give a public lecture on "The Melody of Speech: SS. Cyril and Methodius' Musical Legacy to the Slavs." The lecture will explore the "Byzantine legacy of a rich body of liturgical poetry (the hymnody) faithfully translated into the Slavonic language," Dr. Myers said. Additional lectures, films and recreational opportunities are planned.

Applicants must have a bachelor's de-

gree and a reading knowledge of the Cyrillic alphabet and at least one Slavic language. Preference will be given to applicants with reading knowledge of Church Slavic or some other pre-modern Slavic language.

On-campus accommodations can be arranged with advance notice. Financial aid is available. For those who wish to participate on a non-credit basis, the program cost has been reduced to a minimum. For further information, please contact the HRL at <[hilandar@osu.edu](mailto:hilandar@osu.edu)>.

**Application deadline: May 15, 1999.**



# A Question-and-Answer Guide to HRL/RCMSS

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Athos, the “Hilandar Room” was established to provide access to the microfilms in Ohio State’s William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library (“Main Library”). The HRL and RCMSS were formally established as separate units in 1984.

## **Why can’t women work with original Athonite collections?**

By tradition, no women or children have been allowed on Mount Athos in the last 1,000 years. Female scholars can study many of the Slavic Athonite collections only by using the HRL.

## **What manuscripts does the HRL have?**

The HRL currently has over 4,000 Slavic Cyrillic manuscripts from 73 collections in 20 countries. This represents over 1 million pages of material on microform — either microfilm or microfiche — making the HRL the largest repository of medieval Slavic Cyrillic texts on microform in the world. The collection also includes more than 700 microfilmed books printed before 1800.

## **Are there any real Slavic manuscripts available for research?**

The HRL owns 20 early printed books and manuscripts, primarily for teaching purposes. Microforms allow people to read the original texts but offer little exposure to the physical features of manuscripts and early printed books. The 20 original books and codices enable students to develop knowledge about paper, binding, ornamentation, using watermarks to date the paper and other skills necessary in handling original materials.

## **Is everything in the HRL related to Hilandar Monastery and Mount Athos?**

No, but everything is related to Slavic culture. Only 9 of the 73 collections are



*Mount Athos, Greece*

from Mount Athos. The rest are from countries throughout Europe, with 5 collections from the United States and the Middle East.

## **Why, then, is the library named “Hilandar”?**

The Hilandar Monastery collection was the first to be microfilmed. To honor the initiative of the monastery’s monks in preserving their manuscript culture, OSU agreed always to include “Hilandar” in the library’s name. But this use of “Hilandar” does not mean the HRL is only interested in “Athonite,” “Serbian” or “South Slavic” manuscripts. These materials, while of great importance, repre-

sent only part of this culture and the HRL collection.

## **In which languages are the materials in the HRL collection?**

At first, the majority was South Slavic, but now over half the acquisitions are East Slavic. Since there are 10 times as many East Slavic manuscripts extant as South Slavic, over time the HRL will become primarily East Slavic. The HRL has never failed to microfilm materials because of the language they were written in or the culture they represent. Eighteen different languages are currently represented in the collection. While the majority is in various recensions of Church Slavic, there are also items written in Greek, Latin, Romanian, Turkish and other languages.

## **Why is preservation of and research on medieval Slavic manuscripts important?**

Medieval culture is most extensively recorded in written manuscripts, each of which is a unique creation. If these were not preserved, no one would know of them or be able to learn from them. All in all, these materials have been little studied and still have much to offer.



*Inside the Hilandar Research Library*



Icon of SS. Simeon and Sava

### ***Why do you microfilm manuscripts from the 18th and 19th centuries?***

In Slavic tradition, the printed book did not replace the manuscript until relatively late. The manuscript tradition continued into the 19th century, and more recent manuscripts were often copies of earlier ones. All manuscripts have value, regardless of the time they were written.

### ***How long do your microfilms last?***

Microfilm shelf life depends on storage conditions. The HRL stores its original microfilms in the National Underground Storage Facility, an enormous bunker in Pennsylvania built in the early years of the Cold War. With the optimal conditions there, the microfilms will last 500 years. The copies in the HRL last about 40 years, due to temperature changes and handling. This means that sometime after 2015, the entire HRL collection will have to be regenerated from the original microfilm copies. It will be an expensive, yet necessary, task.

### ***Are the holdings cataloged?***

About half of the microform holdings are cataloged on OSCAR, the university library catalog, and OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center. HRL's goal is to have information about all its holdings accessible on the Internet. Until then, several print guides and other finding aids are available in the HRL.

### ***What else besides manuscripts do you have in the HRL?***

There is an extensive reference collection. In terms of holdings, the OSU Libraries have the 18th largest collection in North America, including a substantial amount of Slavic materials.

### ***Do I have to come to Ohio State to use the HRL? Must I be affiliated with the university?***

Scholars and students from around the world use the HRL. Affiliation with OSU is not required. Researchers do not have to visit Columbus to use the HRL, although it is easiest that way, of course.

For those who cannot make the trip, the HRL may be able to mail photocopies of requested items. Because the HRL has material from 73 different collections, it also has special agreements with the owners of each collection. For their own reasons, only about half the owners permit the HRL to copy their collections for scholarly purposes. So sometimes the HRL cannot fill a scholar's request for photocopied items.

To emphasize the non-commercial nature of the HRL, there is no charge for requested copies, but researchers may make a donation to the HRL to help defray the cost of this service.

### ***Should I request HRL material via interlibrary loan?***

No. Please contact the HRL directly to request items.

### ***Do you offer reference assistance by telephone and E-mail? Do you offer workshops?***

Yes. The HRL/RCMSS try to respond as quickly as possible. RCMSS occasionally offers a Slavic paleography course.

### ***Is there financial assistance available for work in the HRL? What if I live outside the United States?***

Yes. The RCMSS usually offers several research stipends, primarily during the summer. Foreign scholars are eligible for financial aid. They may want to con-

tact an RCMSS international affiliate for firsthand information about working in the HRL and visiting Columbus. The names of the affiliates appeared in the June 1998 issue of *Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage*.

### ***Do you fund only projects you initiate, or can I propose my own research?***

Only rarely do we initiate projects, since we prefer to fund the research of others. Researchers do their own work, not the HRL's or the RCMSS's.

### ***What are your hours?***

The library is open Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. during the regular university session. By exception, we can occasionally arrange to open on the weekend for scholars who cannot come during regular hours.

### ***What housing is available at OSU?***

The HRL can arrange housing for visiting scholars, but it is sometimes difficult. Therefore, we request early notification of planned visits.

### ***What if I have more questions?***

Contact us by telephone or E-mail, as shown on page 2. We're happy to help.

## **Summer Stipends Offered**

RCMSS will award a limited number of summer stipends to graduate students and junior faculty. The stipends range from \$500 for two weeks' or \$1,000 for one month's research.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and brief statement of their proposed research, explaining how the HRL materials will be used. Graduate students should also include a letter of recommendation from their advisor.

Address materials to RCMSS, Summer Stipend Award Committee, 225 Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1286.

**Application Deadline: May 21, 1999**



## HRL Journal

*In this new feature, Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage asks researchers who have used the Hilandar Research Library in the past year, either in person or by mail, to describe their experiences and work. Scholars who wish to contribute items may send them to the HRL.*

### Authenticity and Orality In the *Slovo o polku Igoreve*

By OLGA NEDELJKOVIC

CHICAGO — I am studying the *Slovo o polku Igoreve*, a masterpiece of old East Slavic literature and one of the few secular texts that have been preserved. To defend the authenticity of the *Slovo*, which has been seriously questioned, it seems appropriate to compare it with other secular works, such as the epic poem *Digenis Akritas* and the *Povest' o Akire Premudrom*.

One aspect of my analysis is focused on the oral discourse in these three texts, which demonstrate the interplay between memory and reading aloud in a society not fully literate. No external physical order is imposed on the texts, so their seamlessness makes it hard to find a given section. The layout of medieval Slavic texts forces readers to rely on memory for contextual clues rather than on the visual display to which we are more accustomed. The oral discourse in these texts is a device of literacy.

The HRL kindly sent me a package of microfilm of the Akir Premudri text from the Duichev collection as well as copies of Russian printed versions of the story and related literature available in the HRL. All that material cannot be found anywhere else in the West or in any single library in Eastern Europe.

The information I acquired from the HRL shows that one deals with instances of the mimesis of immediacy or simulated orality in the three texts. In different ways, they use linguistic and discourse material that may correspond to features of oral narratives or casual speech. But this

type of simulation or mimesis of orality must be handled with care; we have to accept a difference in the theoretical status of the respective data.



### Creating a Catalog of Saints For the Saratov Collection

By DONGSOO JEON

The HRL recently acquired a collection of microfilmed manuscripts from Saratov State University that is little known, since the city of Saratov was closed under the Soviet regime. I am developing a database of the Slavic saints and their feast days mentioned in each of the Saratov manuscripts. When finished, the database will be a useful tool for scholars who want to research specific saints from particular places. The target date for completion of the database is the end of September.

### A Scholar's Networking Introduces Him to the HRL

By THOMAS ROSEN

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — I found out about the HRL years ago from a Swedish colleague, Per Ambrosiani, who completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Columbus and had many good things to say about the library. In 1995, at a conference

on computer processing of medieval Slavic manuscripts, I met Professor David Birnbaum, who talked about the HRL on numerous occasions.

How may the HRL be useful to me? Well, first and foremost by being available. I have had some very bad experiences trying to obtain microfilm copies of manuscripts from certain libraries in the former Soviet Union. Mount Athos can also be difficult. Access to a library like the HRL, with good catalogs, web pages and service really makes my work enjoyable.

### Demon Possession and Miraculous Cures

By CHRISTINE WOROBEC

KENT, Ohio — I came to the HRL in November to examine late 17th and 18th century miracle stories and have been hoping to return since that time. I was only able to take notes on one manuscript, *Iavlenie i chudesa tolgskoi ikony Bogoroditsy so slovom pokhval'nym i sluzhboi*, from the Saratov State University collection. The manuscript helps me flush out the experiences of individuals who sought spiritual aid in the Petrine period. In this case, it was the aid of an icon that was to cure people of demon possession and various ailments.

The information will be included in my forthcoming book, *The Bedeviled Village: Hysteria, Shrieking and Witchcraft in Russia*. The book examines changing perceptions and representations of possession among state officials, religious authorities, peasants, the intelligentsia and psychiatrists, with a focus on the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Possession became a gendered phenomenon in the modern period, affecting mostly peasant women who could use it to voice suffering and seek redemption through healing. But these women were viewed as dangerous by the state, and later, psychiatrists. While the Church increasingly embraced scientific explanations, its representatives did not abandon beliefs in the possibility of possession and its miraculous cure.

# Internet Search Leads to Hilandar Research Library

By HELENESENECAL

When Milly Terzic searched the Internet last November for information about the culture of Serbia, her father's homeland, she discovered the Hilandar Research Library web site. Intrigued, she decided to find out more about the preservation and study of Cyrillic manuscripts and medieval Slavic culture at Ohio State.

Ms. Terzic contacted the HRL to request a copy of its newsletter and other information. On February 23, 1999, she made a brief visit to Columbus to see the

HRL. Ms. Terzic met the Very Rev. Mateja Matejic, OSU professor emeritus of the Department of Slavic and East European languages and literatures and former director of RCMSS, and Predrag Matejic, curator of the HRL and director of RCMSS. She was also able to meet with her friend, Fr. Živojin Jakovljević of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Lorain, Ohio.

Seeing firsthand how microfilmed manuscripts of historical, cultural and religious value are preserved and studied, Ms. Terzic said, gave her a "tremendous sense of pride and appreciation for

OSU and its dedicated Hilandar Research Library staff."

Ms. Terzic also noted that scholars from around the world are now able to research the documents that have been cataloged in the HRL. As Father Matejic showed Ms. Terzic photographs of Hilandar Monastery, she commented on the images of dedication and unquestionable personal commitment of the monks.

"Differences of politics, language and culture aside, there appear to be no boundaries for Orthodox Christians beyond these ancient walls — every stone and icon tells a story!" Ms. Terzic exclaimed.

A native of Chicago, Ms. Terzic is an investment director for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company's Real Estate Finance Group. She is responsible for managing a multi-million-dollar commercial real estate mortgage portfolio and for initiating and servicing commercial real estate loan transactions throughout the midwestern United States. She lives in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Impressed by what she saw, Ms. Terzic said she wanted to make a contribution to the Hilandar Endowment Fund. Her donation was matched by MassMutual, which encourages its employees to use its matching gift program. According to the company, the program "is designed to recognize and promote qualified and worthy charitable contributions to education, health care, the environment, culture, the arts and community and social service organizations."

The product of an immigrant family with strong Serbian Orthodox Christian roots and cultural heritage, Ms. Terzic spoke fondly of how her parents instilled in their children the importance of family, education, a strong work ethic and the need to help others. Now, Ms. Terzic said, she hopes to pass on the same values to her 4-year-old daughter, Katherine.

## Recent HRL/RCMSS Contributors

*We thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Hilandar Endowment Fund:*

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Buchanan, Michigan

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**Mitchell & Violet Zunich,**

Amherst, Ohio



*Plaques in the HRL recognize donors.*

*Contributions support the HRL/RCMSS in its efforts to promote medieval Slavic studies. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. Checks should be made payable to The Ohio State University; indicate HRL/RCMSS in the memo section.*

We only recently learned of the death of a great benefactor to the HRL/RCMSS,

Mr. Theodore Vukelich  
of Lorain, Ohio.

May his memory be eternal!



*The Hilandar Research Library was given first opportunity to purchase this copy of the Instructional Gospel printed in Moscow on June 12, 1652. It contains an inscription from the 1650s by a cleric of the Church of St. Nicholas the Miracleworker, possibly of the village of Lutsyn. This was the penultimate book printed in Russia before the Nikonian reforms and, therefore, is an important addition to the HRL collection.*

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