

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

After three years of silence, ПОДАТА КЪЗНИГОПИСЪНАТА resumes publication.

In these years, the landscape of Old Slavic philology has considerably changed. In Eastern Europe, like in Western and North America, the humanities seem to be in disarray, albeit from different causes. Slavic studies are suffering significant cutbacks in human and material resources, their extent being determined by local, rather than scientific, priorities. But a damage assessment must be postponed until the rubble has been cleared and the situation stabilised.

With the courageous help of Michael Bakker, we have cleared the rubble in the programme of ПОДАТА КЪЗНИГОПИСЪНАТА and transported the bulletin from the age of the typewriter into that of the computer. Too much valuable research was shelved idle until the essential problems of typesetting and formatting would be resolved and the summaries of scientific reunions since 1985–1986 drawn up.

We present you in this double issue three long overdue contributions of importance to the development of textology: Mario Capaldo's *Respect of the Textus Traditus or Venture into Conjecture*, which tests the very limits of breadth and depth of research required to establish a text; Johannes Reinhart's *Excerpts from the Homilies of Gregory the Great in the Izbornik of the XIIIth Century*, which examines hitherto unnoticed details of translation and compilation technique and presents new arguments on a disputed feature of either of two early Slavic dialects; and Mary MacRobert's *Textual Tradition of the Oxford Serbian Psalter MS e Mus. 184*, which shows the importance of codicological and palæographic study in evaluating editorial intervention into an early Slavic text. To them we add a recent study, intimately connected to the preceding in subject and critical approach: Michael Bakker's *New Testament Lectons in the Euchologium Sinaiticum*, which examines in detail one of the very earliest witnesses of the Slavic New Testament translation and presents a coherent approach to the establishment of at least an «intermediary text», which can eventually incorporate all features of the earliest attainable text of the translation.

To the next issue (27) now in preparation, we refer the accumulated data on hitherto unknown Slavic manuscripts and texts (by Ralph Cleminson, Aleksandr Klementiev, Ol'ga Aleksandrovna Knjzjevskaja and Richard Nowak), and to the one after that (28), now in preparation as well, the studies of abbreviations in early Slavic manuscripts (by Elena Koceva, Heinz Miklas, Žan Miščenko, William R. Veder). The surveys of colloquia and congresses, as well as new data on our ОБЩЕЕ ЖИТИЕ must, therefore wait until issue 29–30, which will also include a comprehensive index to issues 1–30.