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ЛѢТОПИСЬ

15-30 AUGUST 1983: SOFIA

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SLAVIC PALAEOGRAPHY

Four years after the first (cf. Polata knigopisnaja 3(1980):63-68), CIBAL organized a second seminar to promote the skills of dating, localizing, determining the contents and cataloguing of early Slavic manuscripts. Unlike the first seminar, the second emphasized training: 19 young researchers from Eastern and Western Europe spent most of their time on practical work on original manuscripts from the Cyril&Methodius National Library under the very competent guidance of its helpful staff. Even the 12 lectures were carefully attuned to this training purpose: they reviewed the state of the art in key areas, rather than present original research on specialized topics (although it is to be expected that their printed versions contain many new observations and interpretations). The lectures concerned:

1. *The development of Cyrillic script up to the XVth century: in Bulgaria (E.Koceva and B.Rajkov, Sofia), in Rumania (O.Guțu, București), in Rus' (A.A.Amosov, Leningrad) and in Serbia (D.Bogdanović, Beograd).*
2. *The orthography of Cyrillic manuscripts between older antigraphs and contemporaneous regional dialects (E.Dogramadžieva, A.Minčeva and B.Velčeva, Sofia, and W.R.Veder, Nijmegen)*
3. *The structures of sborniki (K.Ivanova and S.Kožuharov, Sofia)*
4. *Description of manuscripts (K.Stančev, Sofia)*

Cf. also below.

26-27 AUGUST 1983: SOFIA

CONFERENCE ON BALKAN MANUSCRIPT ILLUMINATION UP TO THE 17TH CENTURY

The participants of the seminar above were fortunate enough to be confronted with original research and discussions of detailed problems as well. The Bulgarian Academy and the National Library organized a conference devoted exclusively to questions of decoration and illumination of manuscripts, at which eight eminently qualified scholars presented highly stimulating views on the interpretation and utilization of data from decoration and illumination in general manuscript research. The lectures concerned:

1. *The classification of types and styles of ornament and illumination in manuscripts in different languages (A.Džurova, Sofia and Ch.Paschu, Athinaï)*
2. *The relation of ornament and text tradition (D.Bogdanović, Beograd and O.Guțu, București)*
3. *The relation of ornament and time and place of origin (D.Karadžova, Sofia and L.Vasilev, Beograd)*

4. *The relation of manuscript and printed book* (E.Koceva, Sofia)
5. *The relation of manuscript illumination and other arts* (L.Mavrodinova, Sofia).

The papers read both at this conference and the preceding seminar have been very briefly reviewed by K.Stančev in Palaeobulgarica/Starobългарistika 8 (1984)1:118-120. They are to be published together in Paléographie et diplomatique slaves, Vol. 2 (Sofia 1984).

6-14 SEPTEMBER 1983: KIEV

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SLAVISTS

As far as your editors are concerned, this Congress did not take place: one was withheld from attending by the prohibitively high cost of transportation and stay, the other was not granted a visa to attend.

It was obviously a congress of "representatives of science", rather than a scientific congress. Its organisers, the Soviet Committee of Slavists, had not taken care to ensure the free exchange of experience and opinion by as many slavists as possible - both the overcharged prices (as compared to In tourist rates) for lodging and the difficulties incurred by Western participants in trying to obtain a visa bear testimony to this fact. Your editors cannot even rule out the suspicion that the organisers used the instrument of confirmation of participation to the USSR consular service (a prerequisite for issuing a visa) quite selectively: they know of at least four other instances of visa not being granted to slavists who had dutifully paid their registration fee - in none of these cases was any explanation offered, and no remonstrance was ever answered by the Soviet Committee of Slavists. That the organisers had, indeed, other objectives in mind for the Congress than its participants, is neatly demonstrated for at least the field of medieval studies in the Literaturnaja Gazeta № 38 of 21 Sep 1983.

Luckier than those who were left to the mercy of the Soviet Committee of Slavists, were those who made their travel and lodging arrangements through Intourist - as tourists, they paid less and were certain of their visa. But wisest were most probably those who saved their energy, money and time for a worthier cause.

30-31 MARCH 1984: NIJMEGEN

MAKING MANUSCRIPTS ACCESSIBLE TO RESEARCH

Making medieval manuscripts accessible to research is first and foremost a systematisation problem. Research on any one manuscript is possible only by comparison to other manuscripts, preferably all that contain comparable features. The systematisation of these features is a prerequisite to the scientifically relevant cataloguing of manuscripts, which, in turn, presents a number of systematisation problems of its own. These problems are common to all medieval manuscripts, irrespective of their origin, and must be solved on the highest possible level of synthesis, if the solution is to be significant at the level of the concrete feature in a concrete manu-