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Feature Title: ЛѢТОПИСЬ Lietopis'

Article Title: 6-14 Sep 1983: Kiev. The Ninth International Congress of Slavists

Journal Title: *Polata Knigopisnaia*

Issue Date: June 1984

Publisher: William R. Veder, Vakgroep Slavistiek, Katholieke Universiteit, Postbus 9103, 6500 HD Nijmegen (Holland)

Citation: *Polata Knigopisnaia: an Information Bulletin Devoted to the Study of Early Slavic Books, Texts and Literatures* 9 (June 1984): 76.

Appears in:

Community: [Hilandar Research Library](#)

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Collection: [Polata Knigopisnaia: Volume 9 \(June 1984\)](#)

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/Starobălgaristika 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 remonstration 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-