

# Slavonic & East European Mediaeval Studies Group

Bulletin, June 2007

<http://userweb.port.ac.uk/~cleminsr/Seemsg.html>

## Group News

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, 3 November in the Sackler Room of the Clore Education Centre of the British Museum. The programme remains to be confirmed, but proposals for papers may still be sent to the Chairman, Professor Ralph Cleminson ([ralph.cleminson@port.ac.uk](mailto:ralph.cleminson@port.ac.uk)).

A small amount of financial support is available to enable postgraduate students to attend the meeting. Any students wishing to be reimbursed should contact Jana Howlett ([jrh11@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jrh11@cam.ac.uk)).

The last meeting took place on 24 March 2007 in the Deneke Common Room of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Papers were read by:

Enrique Santos Marinas: 'The Ideological Use of Biblical Motifs and Quotations in the Canon on the Translation of the Relics of St Clement of Rome'

Anisava Miltenova: 'The Reception of Parabiblical Literature in Medieval Bulgaria (10th-14th cc.)'

After lunch, Francis Thomson gave a short presentation demonstrating through internal evidence in the writings of Josef Dobrovsky that he could not have been the author of the *Slovo o Polku Igoreve*.

Thereafter, an AGM was held.

## Abstracts of Papers

### Enrique Santos Marinas

The hymn devoted to the discovery and subsequent translation of the relics of St Clement of Rome shows a double interest: it is one of the earliest hymnographical compositions in Old Church Slavonic, and it contains clearly ideological elements. The relics of St Clement, third pope after St Peter, played a significant role in two important periods of the Christianisation of the Slavs: The mission of the Byzantine brothers Constantine-Cyril and Methodius in Moravia (863-869) and the baptism of the Rus prince Vladimir in 988. Therefore, study of the canon on the translation of the relics of St Clement can provide valuable evidence of the ideological use of biblical motifs and quotations. Several scholars considered a newly discovered Rus version of the hymn as the work composed by Constantine the Philosopher on the occasion of his discovery of the relics in

861. On the contrary, the Russian historian E. V. Uchanova, on the basis of the ideological use of biblical quotations, came to the conclusion that the hymnographical composition had a Rus origin, dating from the period of the Christianisation of Kievan Rus. In this paper, we show how a careful re-reading of those biblical motifs and quotations do not allow us to support either of these hypotheses.

### **Anisava Miltenova**

In the past, Slavonic scholars associated the concept of apocryphal works and apocryphal elements with the well-known precepts of Bogomilism as an ideological and social tradition that contradicted an 'official ideology'. Within this framework, popular non-canonical texts were called apocrypha and were assumed to be heretical in content. This perception has been revised as a result of the establishment of the medieval literary process in Bulgaria as a mixture of canonical, quasi-canonical, and non-canonical elements (specified by Prof. A. Naumow, 1976). The relationship between these elements, which may be considered both separately and as parts of a system, is simultaneously much more complicated and much more homogeneous than it was thought to be only ten years ago. In many cases the terms 'apocrypha' or 'pseudepigrapha' needed additional clarification. The terms 'parabiblical literature' (established after the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls), and 'paratextual literature' are discussed with reference to the Slavonic tradition. The present paper also poses questions about the correlations within apocryphal, exegetical and catechetical medieval literature in the context of the Mediterranean world and their reception in medieval Bulgaria (10th-14th cc.).

I present the results of textological analysis of three series of apocrypha: (1) the story about Adam and Eve and the cycle about the Holy Tree; (2) the stories about Abraham; (3) the stories about David and Solomon. I have also attempted to shed new light on the chronology of the translations of parabiblical texts and on their character as socio-cultural phenomena in the Slavonic tradition. The transmission of the texts shows that three main types of miscellanies with mixed content existed: the first, based on the earliest translations, was edited and supplemented with additional texts during the 13-14 cc.; the second, an anthology not only of translations but of compilations, during the period of Byzantine rule in Bulgaria (11-12 cc.); and the third, a product of the late medieval period (16-17 cc.), combined texts from the previous two and from other sources. The specific features of the structure of the miscellanies were confirmed not only by philological research, but with implementation of computer tools. This paper is a fragment from a book (under preparation).

### **AGM Report**

The Chairman thanked the speakers and announced that the Secretary would be leaving in August to take up a fellowship at Stanford University.

He reported that the group continued to have difficulties finding speakers, but that the activities and membership were being maintained.

One positive development has been the growth of international contacts, which continue to be lively. The connections with our Spanish and Bulgarian colleagues have been particularly fruitful, although the Germans have been uncommunicative. The Group is keen to encourage more contacts and visits with our sister organisations in other countries, e.g. Croatia.

The Chairman concluded that, all things considered, the outlook for the Group was pretty good.

The Secretary reported that the accounts have balanced out. The Group has a comfortable reserve in the bank, although it would be a good idea to organise a BASEES panel so that we may continue to apply for BASEES grants (see news item below). The membership list has been updated and stands at 72, with the majority now receiving the Bulletin by e-mail.

The Chairman was re-elected for another year (prop. Professor Franklin, sec. Dr MacRobert) and there was a discussion about who might succeed Dr Monica White as Secretary/Treasurer (see news item below).

Dr Florentina Badalanova offered to host the next meeting at the Royal Anthropological Institute in the British Museum, on a date to be decided.

## Other News

### NEW SECRETARY

Dr Jana Howlett has been elected Secretary/Treasurer from July 2007. She can be reached at [jrh11@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jrh11@cam.ac.uk).

### BASEES PANEL

SEEMSG is sponsoring a panel on saints for the next conference of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), which will be held on 29-31 March 2008 in Cambridge. Papers may focus on saints and sainthood in any time period and area of Eastern Europe, and may address the topic from any disciplinary perspective. Please contact Professor Simon Franklin ([scf1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:scf1000@cam.ac.uk)) by 15 July if you would like to present a paper or act as chair or discussant. For more information on the conference, see [www.basees.org.uk](http://www.basees.org.uk).

### ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE BIBLE SEMINAR

A weekly seminar on anthropology and the Bible is being organised by the Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL and the Royal Anthropological Institute. It will

start in the Michaelmas term of 2007, under the joint chairmanship of Dame Mary Douglas, Mark Geller (UCL) and Florentina Badalanova (RAI). Seminars will take place on Wednesdays at 5 pm (UCL venue to be arranged).

The object is to provide a forum for considering the Bible in a broad anthropological perspective. Anthropologists and Bible scholars are invited to contribute. The topics can be as various as the special interests of seminar participants. For example there is already an interest in the oral tradition of biblical interpretation, insights into biblical etymology, the political context of the editing of the Pentateuch, etc. Other topics could include: tricksters, dreams (mantic and narrative), kinship (tribalism and family ties), rituals (and sacrifice), magic (including e.g. anti-adultery ordeals), prophecy and prediction, taboo and warfare, all to be discussed with reference to the Bible.

Anyone interested should contact Mark Geller (m.geller@ucl.ac.uk) or Florentina Badalanova (fbadalanova@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk).

#### PETITION

On 11 May 2007, Professor Phillip Esler, Chief Executive of the AHRC, wrote to University Vice-Chancellors informing them of the Council's decision to withdraw funding from the AHDS after eleven years. The AHDS has pioneered and encouraged awareness and use among Britain's university researchers in the arts and humanities of best practice in preserving digital data created by research projects funded by public money. It has also ensured that this data remains publicly available for future researchers. It is by no means evident that a suitable replacement infrastructure will be established and the AHRC appears to have taken no adequate steps to ensure the continued preservation of this data. The AHDS has also played a prominent role in raising awareness of new technologies and innovative practices among UK researchers. We believe that the withdrawal of funding for this body is a retrograde step which will undermine attempts to create in Britain a knowledge economy based on latest technologies. We ask the Prime Minister to urge the AHRC to reconsider this decision.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/AHDSfunding/>

#### LINDSEY HUGHES

The Group notes with great sadness the passing of Lindsey Hughes on 26 April 2007. Lindsey was an eminent scholar of early modern Russia and an active member of the Group who will be sorely missed. An obituary was published in *The Independent* on 4 May.

#### Membership

The current subscription is £3, due on 1 January, or £4 for members wishing to receive the newsletter of our American sister organisation, the Early Slavic

Studies Association. Any queries about membership should be addressed to the Secretary/Treasurer, Dr Jana Howlett (Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL or jrh11@cam.ac.uk). Other enquiries, including offers of papers, should be made to the Chairman, Professor Ralph Cleminson (University of Portsmouth, Park Building, King Henry I Street, Portsmouth PO1 2DZ or ralph.cleminson@port.ac.uk).

**Because of the heavy cost of posting the Bulletin, members who receive paper copies but have access to e-mail are urged to give the Secretary their addresses, so that future Bulletins can be sent electronically.**

Times the role of EITB

Russian nominal declension

THE JOURNAL OF THE

Slavonic examples

Slavonic & East European Medieval Studies Group  
AGM, 24/3/07

**Agenda**

Chairman's report  
Secretary/Treasurer's report  
Election of officers  
Date and place of next meeting  
AOB

*Ask Jan about  
medieval  
putting panels together  
for BASEES: Saints or  
history*

**Accounts and Membership Report, 2006-07**

Opening balance, 1/3/06	1205.25
<b>Income</b>	
Interest	1.30
Subscriptions	121.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Postage, biscuits, etc.	41.92
Speaker's guest room	52.00
Closing balance, 1/3/07	1233.63

There was even less financial activity this year than in previous years, since no one applied for a travel grant and the group did not apply for BASEES money. I would recommend, however, that SEEMSG try to organise a panel for next year's BASEES conference: not only would it help keep us on the BASEES radar screen, but it would provide a much-needed medieval element to the conference. That said, we are in no danger of going broke as long as subscriptions continue to come in.

The members' list stands at 72 following some pruning. Only a few members have been difficult to contact; their names are highlighted on the list. We are continuing the policy of sending everyone with an e-mail address an electronic newsletter.

# Slavonic & East European Mediaeval Studies Group

Bulletin, March 2007

## Group News

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, 24 March in the Deneke Common Room of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. The programme will be as follows:

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Enrique Santos: 'The Ideological Use of Biblical Motifs and Quotations in Mediaeval Eastern Slavic Hymnography'

12:00 Anisava Miltenova: 'The Reception of Parabiblical Literature in Medieval Bulgaria (10th-14th cc.)'

1:00 Lunch

2:00 AGM

**Lunch** will be available at an estimated cost of £5; anyone who wants it should inform Mary MacRobert (catherine.macrobot@lady-margaret-hall.oxford.ac.uk) **no later than 16th March.**

A small amount of financial support is available to enable postgraduate students to attend the meeting. Any students wishing to be reimbursed should contact Monica White (mmw27@cam.ac.uk).

The last meeting took place on 11 November 2006 in the Latimer Room of Clare College, Cambridge. Papers were read by:

David Birnbaum: 'Recent Developments in Electronic Text Technology and Medieval Slavic Manuscript Studies'

Jana Howlett: 'The Life of Metropolitan Peter of Moscow: When, Why and Where Was It Written?'

Francis Thomson: 'Is the Expression "Tsar Symeon's Florilegium" a Contradiction in Terms?'

## Membership

The current subscription is £3, due on 1 January, or £4 for members wishing to receive the newsletter of our American sister organisation, the Early Slavic Studies Association. Any queries about membership should be addressed to the Secretary/Treasurer, Dr Monica White (Clare College, Queen's Road, Cambridge CB3 9AJ or [mmw27@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mmw27@cam.ac.uk)). Other enquiries, including offers of papers, should be made to the Chairman, Professor Ralph Cleminson (University of Portsmouth, Park Building, King Henry I Street, Portsmouth PO1 2DZ or [ralph.cleminson@port.ac.uk](mailto:ralph.cleminson@port.ac.uk)).

**Because of the heavy cost of posting the Bulletin, members who receive paper copies but have access to e-mail are urged to give the Secretary their addresses, so that future Bulletins can be sent electronically.**

## Other News

### 40TH SPRING SYMPOSIUM OF BYZANTINE STUDIES: 'BYZANTINE HISTORY AS LITERATURE'

The Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies of the University of Birmingham will hold the 40th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies from 13-16 April 2007. The deadline for registration is 30 March. For more information see: <http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/conferences/byzantine/index.htm>

### CONFERENCE

A conference entitled 'Iberian and Slavonic Cultures in Contact and Comparison: Towards Crisis and Property' will be held at the Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon from 26-28 April 2007. For more information see: <http://www.iberian-slavonic.org>

### WIKIPROJECT RUSSIAN HISTORY

Members may be interested to learn about the initiative, spearheaded by Marshall Poe, to 'add, improve and monitor articles concerning Russian history in all periods' on the online encyclopedia Wikipedia. For more information see: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject\\_Russian\\_History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Russian_History)



Izyaslav-Dimitri, Svyatoslav-Nicholas, Vsevolod-Andrew, Svyatopolk II-Michael, Vladimir II Monomakh-Basil, Mstislav-Harald-Theodore, Yaropolk II-possibly John. However, a complex study of the subject should include the spouses of Kievan princes and at least some of their offspring. This Ph.D. thesis chapter in its full and final form will comprise all types of sources and give details of the rules of name-giving upon baptism in the Rurikovich family.

### Membership

Any queries about membership of the Group should be addressed to Dr Oksana Yurchyshyn-Smith (*Secretary-Treasurer*), 20 Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU or [oksanays@supanet.com](mailto:oksanays@supanet.com)