

TRANSLATION AND TRADITION IN *SLAVIA ORTHODOXA*

September 27-28, 2008
Columbia University
1512 International Affairs Building

Both Old Church Slavonic and the written culture of the Orthodox Slavs began with translations. In the Slavic beginning, we may say, was a word *translated*, a word in transit, moved by the effort to “make Slavic” the Greek logos of Scripture and liturgical books. This privileged status of translation in *Slavia Orthodoxa* was hardly limited to its early days. Translating texts remained a central cultural practice for the Orthodox Slavs throughout the medieval period. The results appear odd to the modern eye. In sharp contrast with the modern emphasis on originality that compels us to define a native culture by its original works, the medieval Slavic literary canon was ruled almost exclusively by translated texts. Translations outnumbered the works composed in Slavonic, outweighed them in significance, and, what is more, shaped the Orthodox Slavic cultural tradition as no original work ever did.

Our two-day international conference attempts to take Orthodox Slavic translation as seriously as did the Orthodox Slavs themselves. We seek to encourage a discussion of tradition and translation as dynamic and interrelated categories, while exploring specific historical issues of medieval Slavic translation practices and their theoretical underpinnings.

The conference brings together some of the most prominent medievalists in the Slavic field from Europe, Israel, and the United States and encourages them to reflect on translation as a transposition of textual, spiritual and political authority, and to consider it in a continuum with other strategies for appropriating an authoritative text: from extrapolation, quotation, paraphrase and allusion, to commentary and exegesis. Our goal is to bring into focus various possibilities for contextualizing and conceptualizing the translations of *Slavia Orthodoxa*, and, in so doing, to enrich our understanding of the ways medieval Slavs negotiated their own place amidst competing foreign traditions.

PROGRAM

Saturday, September 27

9:00-9:30

Breakfast

9:30-11:00

Making Slavia Orthodoxa; Chair: Valentina Izmirlieva

Krasimir Stantchev (The University of Rome Three)

With What Translations Did Constantine Cyril and Methodius Lay the Foundation of the Slavic Written Tradition? (A Critical Analysis of Some Information from *Vita Constantini* and *Vita Methodii*)

William Veder (Chicago)

Translation—Who Cares (If the Target Language Itslef Requires Translation)?

11-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-1:00

Translation, Ideology, and Cultural Appropriation; Chair: Alan Timberlake

Harvey Goldblatt (Yale University)

“Old Approaches and New Perspectives: On Orthodox Slavic "Revivals" and the Art of Translation”

Boris Maslov ((University of California at Berkeley)

Prisvoenie k Bogu: The Afterlife of a Stoic Concept in Old Rus'

1:00-2:30 *Lunch Break*

2:30-4:30

The Old Slavic Babel: Moving Beyond Greek; Chair: Harvey Goldblatt

Moshe Taube (The Hebrew University in Jerusalem)

Jewish-Christian Collaboration in Slavic Translations from Hebrew

Alan Timberlake (Columbia University)

"Chci bo sb? boudout' nemili": Latin and Slavia Orthodoxa

Andriy Danylenko (Pace University)

“...is farsijskoho na ruškij jezik”: Script and Language Choice in Medieval Ruthenia

4:30-5:00 *Coffee Break*

5:00-6:30

Presentation of the volume *Bibliotheca hagiographica slavica balkanica*

Klimentina Ivanova (Sofia University)

Sunday, September 28

9:00-11:00

Translation in Action: Practices and Strategies; Chair: Bors Gasparov

Aleksander Naumov (University Ca' Foscari, Venice, and The Jagiellonian University, Kraków)
The Translations of Francisk Skorina in the context of the Slavonic Biblical and Hymnographic Tradition

Michael Moser (University of Vienna)

The Kyivan Synopsis and Maciej Strykowski's Chronicle: Ruthenian ways of translating Russian History from Polish

Rene Perlemutter (University of Kansas)

"Plenenie Ierusalima Tretje Titovo" in the *Ellinsko-Rimskii Letopisets*

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-1:00

Transposing Spiritual Authority: Translation and Rhetoric; Chair; Moshe Taube

Boris Gasparov (Columbia University)

Transcendence in Translation: The Case of Old Church Slavonic Perfect

Valentina Izmirlieva (Columbia University)

Translation, Transliteration, and the Troublesome Name of God

1:00-2:30 *Lunch Break*

2:30-3:30

Robert H. Davis (New York Public Library)

"Visual Resources and Texts on Old Slavonic Culture at the New York Public Library: An Overview

3:30-5:30

Round Table Discussion: The Future of Medieval Slavic Studies