
CYRIL PAVLIKIANOV, *Medieval Greek and Slavic Documents of the Athonite Monastery of Hagiou Pavlou (St. Paul) (1010–1580). Critical Edition and Commentary of the Texts.* Sofia: St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2023. 343 pp. – ISBN: 978-954-07-5705-6

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For some twenty-five years now, CYRIL PAVLIKIANOV has been steadily publishing archival material from Mount Athos. His latest book contains fifty-one texts in Greek and Slavonic, which he divides into fourteen groups: (1) late fourteenth-century copies of eleventh-century documents whose originals are kept in other Athonite monasteries, (2) documents concerning the properties of the Serbian nobleman Radoslav Sabia in the villages of Avramitai and Neochorion in Kalamaria, to the southeast of Thessaloniki, (3) Greek decrees (*horismoi*) of the Ottoman sultans Bayezid I and Mehmed II, (4) Greek and Serbian charters concerning the Monastery of Our Lady Mesonisiotissa near the town of Edessa/Voden, (5) Athonite Greek acts translated into Serbian for the needs of the St Paul brotherhood, (6) Serbian charters describing donations of estates and income made to the Monastery of St Paul in Serbia, (7) Serbian translations of imperial Byzantine documents whose Greek originals are lost, (8) documents sanctioning the independence of the Monastery of St Paul from the Monastery of Xeropotamou, (9) acts referring to the boundary between St Paul and the neighboring Monastery of Dionysiou; 10) Byzantine imperial document concerning properties of St Paul in the Kassandra peninsula; 11) Athonite documents referring to monastic cells (*kellia*) within Mount Athos, (12) Byzantine imperial documents concerning a dependency (*metochion*) that St Paul possessed in the island of Lemnos, (13) acts of donation signed by Sultan Murad II's widow Mara Branković, (14) acts connected with the Monastery of Esphigmenou. The dates range between 1010 and 1580 (document no. 49 dates, exceptionally, from 1642/1644).

An introductory chapter (pp. 21–23) surveys the St Paul archive as a whole, focusing on its maintenance, (re)arrangements, classification and cataloguing, as well as on scholarly studies of its holdings. A 'Chronology and Prosopography of St Paul from 1010 to 1580' (pp. 29–47) outlines the monastery's history and informs us about its abbots and benefactors (rulers,

noblemen, noblewomen). The main part of the book presents in a thorough manner documents both genuine (pp. 49–247) and counterfeit (pp. 248–258). PAVLIKIANOV's editorial approach conforms to the standard established in previous publications of Athonite archives. If a document carries no date, he explains its proposed dating in detail.

The illustrations (pp. 259–310), which are of mediocre technical quality, include photographs of acts no. 1 (1010, Greek), 6 (1378, Greek), 7 (1385, Serbian), 8 (1385, Greek), 10 (1399, Serbian translation from Greek), 13 (1401/02, Greek), 14 (1403, Greek), 15 (1403, Greek), 16 (1405, Greek), 17 (1405, Greek), 18 (1406, Greek), 19 (1407, Greek), 20 (1407, Greek), 21 (1408, Greek), 22 (1409, Greek), 23A (1409, Greek), 23B (1409, Serbian translation of the previous Greek act), 24 (1410, Serbian), 25 (1415, Greek), 27 (1419, Greek), 28 (1419, Serbian), 29 (1423, Greek), 27 (1419, Greek), 31 (1429, Serbian), 32 (1429/30, Serbian), 33 (1431, Serbian), 34 (1434, Serbian), 36 (1438, Serbian), 37 (1443, Greek), 38 (1445, Greek), 39 (1451, Greek), 40 (1453, Serbian), 41 (1456, Greek), 42 (1456, Serbian), 43 (1463, Greek), 44 (1466, Serbian), 45 (1469, Serbian), 46 (1495, Serbian), 47 (1538, Greek), 48 (1580, Serbian), 49 (1644, Serbian), 50 (1413, Serbian – counterfeit), 51B (1469, a Serbian translation of the forged Greek act 51). Six maps (pp. 311–317) show the monastery's properties near Edessa (Voden), near Priština (Serbia), on the island of Lemnos, round the villages of Vrakjevštica and Rudnik (Serbia), near the Monastery of St Paul itself, and in the northern Kassandra peninsula.

As a whole, the volume makes a very positive impression with its general thoroughness, its accurate editorial technique, its large (one may say, almost exhaustive) bibliography, and the valuable geographical and prosopographic information in the commentary that accompanies each document. I have but a few critical remarks. One concerns to the editor's *instrumenta studiorum*. He sometimes uses rather outdated dictionaries: for instance, IZMAIL SREZNEVSKY's *Materials for a Dictionary of the Old-Russian Language* (cit. p. 257) have now been almost fully superseded by a modern academic *Dictionary of the Russian Language of the 11th–17th Centuries* (as I write, a fascicle for the letter Y is being prepared for print).¹ Likewise, GALINA ROMANOVA's doctoral thesis on *Russian-Language Nomenclature for Measures of Length* (cit. p. 257) is now replaced by her

1. И.И. Срезневский, Материалы для словаря древне-русского языка по письменным памятникам. 3 vols. St. Petersburg 1893–1912; Словарь русского языка XI–XVII вв., 31 vols to date. Moscow 1975–.

fundamental *Explanatory Dictionary of Old Russian Metrology*.²

The indices list personal and geographic names together, but it would have more convenient to arrange them separately. The names in the entries (as is normal for indices) have a regular form of the nominative case – in some Greek entries, however, the genitive case (found in the relevant document) is listed (e.g. Θετταλίας instead of Θετταλία). The names of monasteries in the genitive are usually noted as such (e.g. Κοχλιαρᾶ, Μονὴ τοῦ) – but this is not the case with the convents of Loutrakiou (Λουτρακίου) (instead of Λουτρακίου, Μονὴ τοῦ), Dermata (Δερματᾶς), Optiara (Οπτιαρᾶς), Philogonou (Φιλογοною) and maybe some others. The monastery of Theodore Tiron is listed in mixed form: Тирона (gen.) Θεωδoρῆ (nom.), rather than the more accurate ‘Τιρονῆ, Θεωδoρῆ’ or ‘Τιρονα, Θεωδoρα, Monastery of’. It would also have been good to add line numbers to the page numbers in the Index, since at present it is not always easy to locate the indexed names.

To sum up, CYRIL PAVLIKIANOV’s latest work must be regarded as an outstanding contribution to the study of Athonite medieval archives. His edition of the Greek and Slavonic documents from the Monastery of St Paul is exemplary and will doubtless serve as a valuable instrument of Byzantine and Slavic studies.

Keywords

diplomats; Mount Athos

2. Г.Я. Романова, Наименование мер длины в русском языке. Moscow 1975; ead., Объяснительный словарь старинных русских мер. Moscow 2017.