Introduction

A Printer on the Move

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The present collection completes a joint project of University College London (UCL) and the British Library on the history of early Cyrillic printing. It focuses on the printer Ivan Fedorov, who began his career in publishing in Moscow in 1564 and died in L’viv in late 1583. Working first in co-operation with his partner Petr Mstislavets and later alone, Ivan Fedorov printed almost exclusively religious texts, plus some primers and reference aids to the Bible. Ivan Fedorov’s magnum opus was the first full printed Bible in Church Slavonic, which he published under the patronage of Prince Vasyl’-Kostiantyn Ostroz’kyi in Ostroh (then in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, now Ukraine) in 1581. The overwhelming majority of Ivan Fedorov’s books are printed in Cyrillic characters, though he occasionally used Greek type.

Ivan Fedorov usually attracts the attention of academia and mass media in connection with various anniversaries of his editions. Our project followed this established path by organizing an international conference at the British Library, “Revisiting Ivan Fedorov’s Legacy in Early Modern Europe,” in the anniversary year of 2014. The present collection includes selected papers from the conference and K.Iu. Erusalimskii’s paper, which was submitted after the conference. What is special about the project is that it celebrated not one, but two anniversaries in 2014: the 450th anniversary of the Apostol (Apostolos, Acts and Epistles), the first book Ivan Fedorov printed in Moscow in 1564, and the 440th anniversary of his L’viv Primer, the first book he published in the territory of modern Ukraine in 1574.

1 The project was sponsored by UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, the Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies, the UCL European Institute, and the UCL Centre for Early Modern Exchanges. The publication of this volume became possible thanks to Russell Martin, who took an active interest in the project in his capacity of the editor-in-chief of Canadian-American Slavic Studies.

2 Conference podcast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrHamrcb9OQ.
There were several reasons for this dual celebration. In practical terms, the idea of marking two anniversaries was inspired by the excellent holdings of the British Library, which has unique copies of both editions: the 1564 *Apostol* from the collection of the famous Russian impresario Serge Diaghilev and one of two known copies of the 1574 Primer. A digital publication of the 1574 Primer from the British Library has been prepared within the framework of the project and is available now in the public domain (for more details, see Ekaterina Rogatchevskaia's paper in the present volume).

But there were also conceptual reasons to celebrate both anniversaries. Ivan Fedorov happened to work in several places that are now within the borders of modern Russia and Ukraine. After printing three editions in Moscow, Ivan Fedorov and Petr Mstislavets moved to Poland-Lithuania, where they worked under the patronage of the Ruthenian magnate Hryhorii Khodkevych in Zabludów (now in Poland). Having split with Petr Mstsilavets, Ivan Fedorov continued printing books in L'viv and Ostroh (both in modern Ukraine). Ivan Fedorov's itinerary guaranteed him a place in the national memory of Russia and Ukraine. In both countries he became known as a pioneer of printing (in Belarusian national discourse this place is reserved for Francysk Skaryna). This reputation easily explains why the anniversaries of Ivan Fedorov's editions are usually celebrated as national cultural events. Such national celebrations focus on Ivan Fedorov's editions printed in the territories of respective countries and marginalize other books that he published elsewhere.

A national perspective inevitably gives an anachronistic, fragmented and incomplete picture of early Cyrillic printing. Ivan Fedorov's activities were professional and confessional, not national. This is why this project strove to go beyond the limits of national views by focusing on Ivan Fedorov's editions published in such different places as Moscow and L'viv. Like other early modern printers, Ivan Fedorov and Petr Mstislavets were in constant motion. The history of their work is the history of the printers and their books transcending political and ethno-cultural boundaries.

Hence the theme of a journey in the title of this collection. Exile and wandering are prominent topics in arguably the most personal text in Ivan Fedorov's editions, the colophon of the 1574 *Apostol*. A common subject in world culture, a journey motif can have different meanings. The most obvious is, of course, physical movement in space, from one locality to another. Jeremy Adel-

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3 To access the edition, see http://explore.bl.uk, search for Primer 1574, choose “I want this” and “Digital item.” The impact of the project also included updates for the public catalogues of the British Library and Cambridge University Library.