The present essay is the sequel to a series of five articles describing early Russian materials in the Library of Congress.¹

Among the holdings of the Library of Congress, the de Ricci catalog (1935) identifies only one manuscript fragment of Slavonic provenance – an illuminated page from Ioann Ekzarkh Bolgarskii's Shestodnev [a six-day prayer suite] on parchment.²

E. G. Baskakov’s surveys, published in 1959 and 1962, include the Library of Congress holdings, even though the author was never in America and had to rely on the writings of American archivists, who made no great effort to include information about Russian sources in their guides.³


³ E. G. Baskakov, “Dokumental’nye materialy po istorii narodov SSSR v arkhivakh i bibliote- khakh SshA,” Istoriia SSSR, no. 2 (1959), 223-24. (The G. V. Yudin Collection is mentioned in connection with searches for V. I. Lenin’s autographs; the names of thirteen composers whose materials are among the holdings of the Library are listed.) By the same author, “Rukopisnye istochniki po russkoii istorii v arkhivakh SshA” (based on a new Guide to Archives and Manuscripts Collections in the U.S.A.), Istoriia SSSR, no. 2 (1962), 218.
In 1979 Natal’ia S. Demkova published the first description of some of the early Russian materials held by the Library of Congress. From this work we learned that the Library of Congress houses several early Russian books and manuscripts, most notably the *Tsvetnaia Triod’* [the liturgy from Easter to All Saints’ Week] (no call number) and the *Pomorskie otvety* [Answers from Pomor’e (a priestless Christian community that dwelt in the White Sea coastal region from the late seventeenth to mid-nineteenth century)] (call number BX601.D4). These two manuscript books were described in rather great detail in Demkova’s article. Among the early printed books, she mentioned the *Grammatika Meletiia Smotritskogo* (Moscow, 1648), and she referred to V. Jackson’s supplement to R. O. Jacobson’s work, which mentions that the Library holds a copy of the *Apostol* by Ivan Fedorov.

Edward Kasinec published in *Polata Knigopisnaja* (Nijmegen, the Netherlands), March 1980, and later republished in his book *Slavic Books and Bookmen* (New York: 1984) “Notes on Old Cyrillic Printed Books and Manuscripts in American Repositories,” which mentions some Slavic manuscripts and printed books held by the Rare Book Division of the Library of Congress. He first mentioned the manuscript in the Rare Book Division (see footnote 5 above).

Let us begin with the manuscript folio that merited inclusion in de Ricci’s catalog. It measures 27.7 by 21.4 cm. The scribe’s handwriting clearly dates to the fifteenth century, and one illumination in the teratological style, measuring 16.4 by 13.3 cm, must be dated to the early fourteenth century.


5. It was difficult to locate this manuscript in the Rare Books Division since it lacked a call number. It consists of 226 ff, but only the first 89 ff are paginated. It measures 29.5 x 18.9 cm and includes two glued engravings: Feodosii Pecherskii on f. 17, and The Trinity (unpaginated folio). Presumably the manuscript dates to the middle of the eighteenth century. On the binding folios at the beginning of the manuscript, are inscribed in ink: Ivann Gumeniuk. Zbarazh dnia 15/VII 1881. The manuscript most likely originated in South Russia or Ukraine. The larger part of the book lacks any musical notation, but sometimes one can see notes on five-line staff. The paper has watermarks (monogram is illegible). The book often has monochromatic illuminations copied from the earliest manuscripts: plaits. It contains church services starting with Sabbath before Palm Sunday and ending with Pentecost service. The book was acquired by the Library as a gift of Anna Kuprak (see her inscription dated February 13, 1957).

6. The dimensions of the piece are 31 x 19.5 cm, 800 p. The book belonged to Ivan Platonovich Brysin. It was acquired by the Library of Congress in 1932 and dates to the 1740s. On page 83 is an outstanding illumination of the Pomor’e type. The script is early Pomor’e style. On the paper book plate “Yudin coll” mistakenly is written.