

The appearance and development of slavic writing

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Abstract: In the article we consider the prerequisites for the appearance of writing among the Slavs.

Keywords: writing, Slavic alphabet, Cyrillic, Glagolitic, Slavic language, parchment, palimpsest

Writing appeared among the Slavs in the mid-9th century. Its emergence was due to the pressing needs of the social and cultural life of the ancient Slavs, as well as the needs of international communication. Neighborhood with new peoples, a new way of life and a new worldview that replaced ancient paganism required the development of new forms of spiritual culture, primarily book culture, which would partially replace or complement the original Slavic oral tradition. They needed their own writing, their own Slavic book language. The emergence of Slavic writing is associated with the names of the outstanding enlighteners Constantine (Cyril) and Methodius. Science draws information about their lives from the "Life of Cyril" and "The Life of Methodius", as well as from the "Tale of Chernorizets Khrabra about the Writings". In 863 Prince of the Great Moravian state Rostislav, who sought to strengthen his position in the fight against the German conquerors, sent an embassy to Byzantium with the aim of inviting preachers who would organize worship in the Slavic language in Moravia. Before this, the German clergy preached here in a Latin language alien to the Slavs. The Byzantine Emperor Michael III responded to the request of the Moravian prince, because. sought to expand its influence in central Europe. The implementation of the Moravian mission was entrusted to the brothers Constantine and Methodius, immigrants from the Greek city of Thessaloniki, where Slavic speech was widespread at that time. The brothers were highly educated people of their time. The younger brother Konstantin knew Greek, Latin, Arabic, Hebrew, and possibly other languages. He studied many other sciences and held the position of librarian, teaching philosophy at the University of Constantinople. Even earlier, Constantine traveled to the Khazars with the aim of spreading Christianity. Methodius had good organizational skills and also knew the Slavic language well. Before his trip to Moravia, Constantine created the Slavic alphabet and began translating liturgical books from Greek.

The activities of Cyril and Methodius. The brothers arrived in Moravia in 863. or 864g. Here they organize services in the Slavic language, teach the population Slavic literacy, and translate liturgical literature from Greek. Constantine and Methodius based the Slavic language of their translations on the dialect of their hometown of Thessaloniki. This language later received the name Old Church Slavonic. The activities of the Slavic first teachers in Moravia caused discontent among the German clergy, who created all sorts of obstacles for them. The brothers had to go to Rome for official confirmation of their activities. On the way to Rome, they stopped in the Principality of Blaten in the territory of Pannonia. Prince Kocel himself learned Slavic literacy and sent 50 students to study. In Rome, Constantine and Methodius found support from Pope Adrian II. Interested in strengthening his authority among the Slavs, he allowed services to be held in the Slavic language. In Rome, Constantine dies. Before his death, he becomes a monk and takes the name Cyril. After the death of his brother, Methodius first goes to Pannonia, where he heads the Slavic bishopric. Representatives of the German Catholic clergy, dissatisfied with the activities of Methodius, held a trial against him and imprisoned him. Only two and a half years later, Methodius returned to Moravia, but Rostislav's nephew Svyatopolk, submitting to German influence, greatly hindered the activities of Methodius and his followers. In 885 Methodius died. 3. Activities of the disciples of Cyril and Methodius After his death, his disciples and closest associates Gorazd, Clement, Naum, Savva, Lawrence and Angelarius were subjected to severe persecution in Moravia and were forced to flee. They received a reliable refuge and worthy recognition of their activities in Bulgaria, where two large centers of Slavic writing arose: Ohrid and Preslav.

Slavic writing reached a particular flourishing during the reign of Simeon, which went down in history under the name "Golden Age of Slavic Writing." The Slavic language became the state language in Bulgaria, replacing Greek and serving not only the church, but also schools, courts, and administrative needs. Clement, who settled in Ohrid, developed active educational activities. It is believed that he taught Slavic literacy to 3,500 people, created the "Life of Constantine-Cyril" and "The Life of Methodius". Some researchers attribute the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet to him. The Monk Khrabr is believed to have belonged to the Preslav school of books, who wrote a treatise "On Writings," in which he sets out the history of Cyril's creation of Slavic writing and defends the right of the Slavs to their own church and original writing. By order of Tsar Simeon, a collection of translations from Greek was compiled, which included, along with church and liturgical texts, articles on grammar, poetics, astronomy, zoology, botany, etc. This book of an encyclopedic nature was preserved in the Old Russian list ("Izbornik 1073"). . Slavic writing began to spread among other South Slavic peoples. The ecclesiastical and cultural traditions

of Great Moravia after the death of Cyril and Methodius continued in the Czech state, where Slavic worship and writing were preserved until the end of the 11th century. Here in the 10th century. The Kyiv Leaves, the oldest surviving Old Church Slavonic manuscript, were written. 4. Slavic alphabet. The oldest Old Church Slavonic alphabets that have come down to us are written in two alphabets - Glagolitic and Cyrillic. The Cyrillic alphabet later formed the basis of the Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Macedonian, Bulgarian and Serbian alphabets. The Glagolitic alphabet fell out of use and was preserved only in Croatia in church use (until the 17th century it was used there for secular purposes). The question of the origin of the two Slavic alphabets and their mutual relationship has occupied scientists for a long time.

Old Slavonic monuments indicate that two alphabets that were very different from each other already existed in ancient times. The Czech scientist I. Dobrovsky believed that the more ancient alphabet was the Cyrillic alphabet and it was it that was compiled by Constantine. As for the Glagolitic alphabet, in his opinion, it arose around the 14th century. in Croatia. He explains its emergence as follows: the Roman Church in the areas that were under its subordination persecuted everything that testified to a connection with Byzantium, i.e. with the Greek Church. And since the Cyrillic alphabet, based on the Greek letter, clearly spoke of this connection, it was replaced by the Glagolitic alphabet in order to preserve worship in the Slavic language.

In 1836, the Slavic philologist V. Kopitar discovered an ancient manuscript written in Glagolitic alphabet in the library of Count Klotz. According to paleographic data, it was much older than those manuscripts that were still known and dated no earlier than 95 to the 14th century. This discovery led to a revision of the previous point of view on the origin of the Slavic alphabet. V. Kopitar put forward a hypothesis about the comparative antiquity of the Glagolitic alphabet in comparison with the Cyrillic alphabet. Further discoveries in this area confirmed the point of view of V. Kopitar. The greater antiquity of the Glagolitic alphabet is indicated by the following:

1. The Glagolitic alphabet is poorer in the number of letters, and, therefore, the Cyrillic alphabet is a more advanced alphabet.

2. The oldest linguistic monuments are written in Glagolitic alphabet (for example, the Kyiv leaves, the Zografsky and Mariinsky Gospels).

3. There are many manuscripts written in Cyrillic on parchment with the Glagolitic alphabet washed out, but there are no manuscripts written in Glagolitic alphabet with the Cyrillic alphabet washed out. All this gave reason to believe that the more ancient alphabet created by Constantine was Glagolitic. The Cyrillic alphabet arose in eastern Bulgaria during the reign of Tsar Simeon (893-927), i.e. then, when the Christian religion had long been accepted there, but services were

performed by Greek priests in Greek. Tsar Simeon wanted to oppose Byzantium not only with state power, but also with cultural power. To protect the independence of Bulgarian culture from unnecessary encroachments by Byzantium, it was necessary to introduce worship in the Slavic language. Some researchers suggest that, based on the model of the Greek alphabet, the New Slavic alphabet was composed by Methodius's student, Presbyter Constantine. Later, Slavic scribes began to identify the presbyter Constantine with the first teacher Constantine - Cyril, and the alphabet he invented began to be called by the name of the second - the Cyrillic alphabet.

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