

Polnoe Sobranie Zakonov Rossiiskoi Imperii

on microfiche

ПОЛНОЕ СОБРАНИЕ
ЗАКОНОВЪ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ИМПЕРИИ.

ТОМЪ I.

СЪ 1649 ПО 1675.

Отъ No 1 до 618.

САНКТПЕТЕРБУРГЪ.

Печатано въ Типографіи II Отдѣленія Собственной
Его Императорскаго Вѣнчества Канцеляріи.

1830.

General information

Polnoe sobranie zakonov Rossiiskoi imperii
Series I - III, (1649-1825) - (1881-1913),
Spb.-Pg., 1830-1916.

The three series are also available separately:

Series I

Series II

Series III

Number of fiches 7,530

Film type Positive silver halide

Internal finding aids Eye-legible headers with title on each fiche

Order number K-1157/2



Fuji RFP 2 microfiche reader

Introduction

The systematization and codification of law in Russia has a long and complex history. A major effort to bring order to the Russian statute book was undertaken in 1649, with the publication of a Code (*Ulozhenie*) which, unfortunately, contained many gaps. Peter the Great appointed a special codification commission in 1700 and instructed its members to compare the 1649 *Ulozhenie* with the hundreds of enactments subsequently adopted. After three years the Commission produced an incomplete concordance of legislation covered only by the first three chapters of the 1649 *Ulozhenie*. Second and third commissions created respectively in 1714 and 1720 were also abandoned without material accomplishment, although each took a new approach to the task. During the next century seven other commissions struggled ineffectually with the problem, some endeavoring to produce an entirely new codification blending Russian tradition with continental European values and techniques, and others seeking merely to inventory the status of prevailing legislation.

All of these undertakings foundered upon a variety of formidable obstacles: the underdeveloped state of the legal sciences in Russia; cultural and language differences which made it difficult to appreciate the nuances of European legal terminology and institutions; and disagreement as to whether codification should assimilate the continental models or confine itself to a systematic restatement of contemporary Russian Law.

Catherine II was deeply interested in European legal institutions. Under the intellectual stimulus of Montesquieu and Beccaria, she drafted her illustrious *Nakaz* (Instruction) to lay down a framework of rules and law-making to guide an assemblage of worthies summoned to Moscow in 1767 to discuss and improve the Russian legal system. The Committee adjourned in 1774 without substantive achievement. The *Nakaz*, however, was issued in at least twenty-six editions in nine languages throughout Europe between 1767 and 1797 and helped secure for Catherine the title of "the Great". Nor were her interests confined to continental legal systems. Catherine also studied Blackstone's *Commentaries* and encouraged their publication in a Russian edition.

Under Alexander I, a Commission for the Compilation of Laws was established in 1801 and reorganized several times during his reign (1804, 1809, 1812, and 1816). During the first decade of the nineteenth century, Alexander's so-called "liberal period", Jeremy Bentham's notion of a complete rational exposition of the law in codified form attracted Russian interest and his pioneering treatise was translated into Russian. Later it was

realized that new codes could not be acceptable unless they took into account the centuries' accumulation of Russian laws and practices. Accordingly, the commission prepared civil, commercial, and criminal codes, none of which found favor, and an elaborate census of Russian legislation. But its accomplishments were not noteworthy, due principally to the Tsar's lack of interest.

The individual most closely identified with modern Russian codification is M.M. Speranskii. Originally a proponent of a Benthamite approach, he headed the codification commission from 1810-1812 and prepared a draft civil code modeled closely after the French *Code Civil*. After nine years of Siberian exile, Speranskii resumed his work on codification in 1821, now a partisan of the historical school. Pressures for law reform continued to build, being one of the Decembrists' grievances, and Tsar Nicholas I promptly abolished the codification commission and elevated law reform to the jurisdiction of the II Section of His Majesty's Chancery. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the first task of the II Section should be to publish a concordance of Russian laws.



M.M. Speranskii

In 1830 Speranskii and his colleagues published forty-five enormous volumes containing, in chronological order, the texts of more than 30,600 legislative enactments beginning with the *Ulozhenie* of 1649 and ending with the reign of Alexander I on December 11, 1825, under the title *Polnoe sobranie zakonov Rossiiskoi imperii*. Later a second and third series were issued. The second, embracing the reigns of Nicholas I and Alexander II (1825-1881), takes up 55 volumes; the third comprises 33 volumes for the period March 1881-1913, when publication was terminated by the Revolution.

The task which confronted the II Section was a formidable one. Over half of the enactments included in the first series had been repealed or superseded by subsequent legislation. Many acts were merely repetitions of earlier laws, and almost no effort had been made to systematize legislation governing a particular subject or branch of law into a cohesive whole. Even physically locating the relevant acts was difficult, for few had been printed, many had been misplaced over time in the disordered archives of the various chanceries, and when multiple texts were available they often were inconsistent. Many acts simply were not located, and some were withheld from publication by order of the Tsar. One authority has estimated that for the period 1711-1762 only 17,500 of 30,000 enactments appear in the *Polnoe sobranie*. About one-third of the Imperial decrees for the period 1707-1725; one-fifth for the years 1725-1740, and one-eighth for 1740-1762 are published, though the coverage for 1762-1825 is quite comprehensive. Most private and personal enactments were omitted by the compilers, but certain judicial decisions interpreting or explaining a particular law are included, as are many international treaties.

Nonetheless, the *Polnoe sobranie* is without doubt the richest single source of materials for the legal, political, economic, administrative, and cultural development of Russia from 1649-1913. All three series were printed at St. Petersburg. The first series and several volumes of the second were the work of Speranskii's commission. Thereafter, the collection was published at more or less regular intervals, retrospectively, most volumes covering a single year.

The First Series

This series comprises 45 (in 48 and three appendices) volumes covering the period 1649-December 11, 1825. The contents, as throughout the entire collection, are ordered chronologically. Volumes 41-45 contain chronological and alphabetic indexes, organizational charts prescribing the

numbers, posts, and salaries of government officials, and tariffs.

Each volume is paginated separately and contains annual subject and alphabetical indexes, the latter, as well as various supplemental materials, being separately paginated. The IDC microfiche edition reproduces the rare and little-known annexes of maps, drawings, flags, coins, measures, weights, city arms, and building designs missing in most Western sets. These constituted integral parts of the relevant legislative acts and are an important source of Russian state symbolism. Usually these illustrations were inserted loosely in the annual bound volumes or issued in a supplemental casing of folio size; however, in 1839 and 1843 respectively, volumes were published containing the maps, drawings, and designs as provided in legislation from 1649-1825. Both are reproduced as part of this microfiche edition. Also included in this series is G. Repinskii's index of forenames and surnames which appear in the *Polnoe sobranie*, first series. Repinskii's invaluable index was an independent labor of love published at St. Petersburg in 1873. Volume 1 of the *Obshchii khronologicheskii ukazatel'* covers the period 1649-1825.

The Second Series

The second series, published in 55 massive volumes, mostly bound in two parts, was undertaken pursuant to an Imperial command of September 10, 1830. Covering the period December 12, 1825-February 28, 1881, this series is more complete than the first and somewhat easier to use because the numbering scheme is more advantageously placed. Secret legislation was excluded and in practice much departmental legislation was submitted too late for inclusion in the annual volumes. In 1855 two supplemental volumes to the second series were published containing departmental materials for the period 1825-1850. Alexander II rejected the suggestion that a third series commence with his reign, so that by 1881 some 61,928 acts had appeared in the second series. Each part is paginated separately, as are the various supplements and indexes appended to them. There is, in addition, a four-volume alphabetical index to the second series. Also included

with the microfiche edition is P.M. Maikov's alphabetical name index to the second series published at Moscow in 1911. Volume 2 of the *Obshchii khronologicheskii ukazatel'* covers the years 1825-1850.

The Third Series

With the death of Alexander II in 1881, the question of continuing to publish the *Polnoe sobranie* was reviewed by the State Council and resolved affirmatively. The scope of the series was essentially as before, although certain materials (charters of some share companies and credit institutions, educational stipends and prizes, ministerial decrees, and Senate edicts) were excluded because they appeared in the *Sobranie uzakoneni*. The series consists of 33 volumes, the last 23 of which were issued in two separately paginated parts, through 1913. Some 40, 846 enactments are reproduced. Folio-size casings containing drawings and sketches, many printed in color, were issued for each year of the series (Sz 105).