

# Classical Library for Bulgarian Studies, 1823-1878

From the Russian Academy of Sciences Library (BAN), St. Petersburg



- Oldest items of Bulgarian book printing
- Classical Works of the Bulgarian Renaissance
- Translations of the Bible
- Works on History, Culture, Art, Language and Literature

Title list available at: [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl)

# Classical Library for Bulgarian Publications, 1823-1878

This unique collection includes more than 210 books and periodicals published in the period of National Renaissance – from the very first print till the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottomans. BAN's Bulgarian collection – which is famous throughout the world – is the largest one abroad. It consists of religious literature (including translations of the Bible), literature on history, archaeology and art, educational materials, children's literature, folklore, and linguistic publications. This project will be of interest to specialists in Balkan and Bulgarian history, literary, and culture, and to specialists in the history of the Orthodox Church.

## Bulgarian printing

For many centuries, the Bulgarian people were under Ottoman rule and only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century did the National Renaissance lead to the formation of a new Bulgarian state. After the Ottoman invasion (in 1393), literary life in Bulgaria was confined to monasteries, where chronicles were written and old texts copied. Book printing came relatively late to Bulgaria. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, most books and newspapers were published in adjacent countries. Until the Bulgarian people were liberated from Turkish rule in 1878, Bulgarian books were printed semi-legally (and very often illegally) and were subject to Ottoman censorship.

## Classical library for Bulgarian studies

A great number of early printed Bulgarian books are distributed over several of the biggest libraries in Bulgaria. BAN's Bulgarian collection – which is famous throughout the world – is the largest one abroad. It comprises the oldest and most valuable examples

of Bulgarian book printing. It represents the specificity of Bulgarian publications, starting with the earliest publications – which were devoted to the notion of publishing a national book, in an attempt to earn the reader's trust – and ending with publications from the 1860s-1870s, which are full of progressive liberal ideas. This library includes publications on history, culture, language, and literature, as well as well-preserved early periodicals which have a great scientific and cultural-historical value.

## The oldest books

The most valuable part of BAN's Bulgarian collection is its early printed publications (1820s-1830s); the oldest Bulgarian book owned by BAN was published in 1823. The collection contains the only extant copy of the first translation (probably by Teodosii Bistritskii) of the Bible into New Bulgarian. The six-volume publication *Slavenobolgarskoe detovodstvo* (Kraguevats, 1835) initiated the creation of a national school. Among the Bulgarian publications is the famous

symbol of Bulgarian Renaissance, *Bulgarskaia grammatika*, by Neofit Ryl'skii (Kraguevats, 1835).

Among the publications are books written in Banat-Bulgarian, an extinct dialect. These are rare publications by Bulgarian Catholics, who lived in Banat (close to the Serbian and Romanian border), using Latin characters.

*Early Bulgarian Publications* presents such unique items as *Ot Matfeia sviatago blagovestvovani* (Spb., 1823), *Bukvar, sustaven ot P.K. i S.T.* (Odessa, 1864), the first issue of *Bulgarski bukvar* by P.Ts. Kaliandzh (Odessa, 1861) and *Liubopiten sunovniki i trepetnik* by L. Mukhalev (Braila, 1876).

## Unique items

The collection includes polemic writings devoted to the Greek-Bulgarian Church conflict of the 1860s and the missionary activities of Protestants, as well as biographies and reminiscences of the rebellions of 1860-1870s. The collection also contains earlier unknown account documents from 1878 (which are not mentioned in the bibliographies), written by the Russian occupation authorities. Bulgarian cultural development is reflected by the action programs of educational and charity institutions.

## Translations of the Bible

Translations of the Bible played a very important role in the development of the Bulgarian literary language. BAN owns practically all the early translations into Bulgarian of the Bible. Worthy of mention is the first translation of the New Testament by Neofit Ryl'skii (Smirna, 1840), almost all the copies of which have been destroyed, and the first translation of the Bible into New Bulgarian by Teodosii Bistritskii (St. Petersburg, 1823). The entire print run of this book was destroyed after the religious authorities declared the translation to be non-canonical.



## Bulgarian Renaissance

The collection contains the most important classical works of the Bulgarian Renaissance. Among them are writings by V. Aprilov, Venelin, Z. Kniazheskii, G. Rakovkii, L. Karavelov, and M. Drinov. During the Bulgarian Renaissance a great deal of attention was paid to Bulgarian language studies, as represented in our collection by publications on lexicology, grammar, and teaching methodology for Bulgarian.

## Periodicals

BAN owns complete sets (with some exceptions) of early Bulgarian periodicals. Newspapers and magazines reflect the socio-political life of the

country, historical ethnographic discussions, and the development of the literature and art of that time.

## Illustrations

*Dvorianski vybory* by G. Kvitka (Kishinev, 1843) is not mentioned in any bibliography. It contains interesting illustrations. Another interesting item is P.A. Beron's *Bukvar bolgarskii* (which is called "fish bukvar," because of the picture of a fish at the end of the book).

## The Russian Academy of Sciences Library (BAN)

BAN is the oldest library in Russia and one of the biggest libraries in the world. It consists of three sections – Russian, Slavic and Foreign, which store more than 20,000,000 volumes. The Slavic section of BAN is a universal

information source for researchers in Slavic Studies. It contains around 270,000 volumes, printed between the 17<sup>th</sup> century and 1930 in all Slavic languages, except Russian. The most valuable items of the Slavic section have been acquired between the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Language

Most of the publications are written in new Bulgarian; while some are in Banat Bulgarian, Russian, or French.

## General information

Scope	210
Number of fiche	702
Size of fiche	105 x 148 mm.
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	Varies depending on the size of the original
Internal finding aids	Eye-legible headers on every fiche indicating the author, abbreviated title, place and date of printing of each item
External finding aids	Printed guide by BAN "Bolgarskie rannepechatnye izdaniia v biblioteke Rossiiskoi akademii nauk (1823-1878)", St. Petersburg, 2002
Bibliographic information	Bibliographic records for all titles ordered are supplied in AACR2/MARC21 format with the microfiche

## Title list

The title list is printed on a separate insert, enclosed in this brochure. If this leaf is missing, please contact IDC Publishers and we will send it to you as soon as possible, free of charge.

Title lists can also be downloaded from our website [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl)

## Cover illustration from

Neofit Bozveli. *Slavenobolgarskoe detovodstvo za malki te detsa*. Kraguevats, 1835.



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**SLAVONIC BIBLES**

**Early Printed Cyrillic Books from the Lomonosov Moscow State University Library**

This collection comprises the earliest portion of the collection of Slavonic early printed books of the Moscow University Library. It consists of forty Slavonic Bibles and Cyrillic religious books printed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, including beautiful editions of Gospels, New Testaments, Acts and Epistles, and Psalms. This microfiche edition is an indispensable source of information for all those studying the history and intellectual tradition of Russia and Eastern Europe.

A printed guide containing full descriptions of the books in the collection was produced on the basis of the bibliography by I.V. Pozdeeva, I.D. Kashkarova and M.M. Lerenman: "*Katalog knig kirillicheskoj pečati XV-XVI v. Nauchnoi biblioteki Moskovskogo Universiteta*" (Moscow, 1980).

- 40 titles
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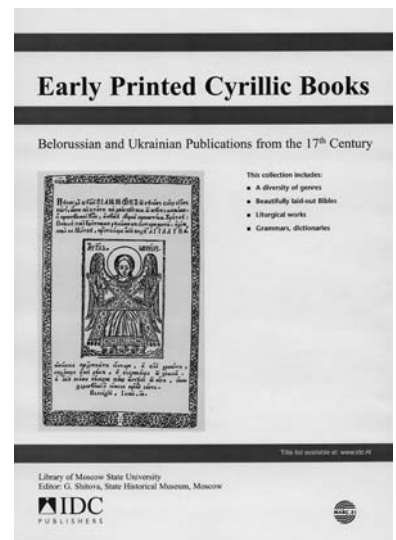


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- Including MARC21 bibliographic records
- Title list available at: [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl)



**SORBIAN PUBLICATIONS, 1693-1853**

**Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg**

Sorbian writings are the cultural heritage of a West Slavic language group that used to be spoken in what is now south-eastern Germany. This collection, comprising 64 rare books and 5 periodicals, provides access to the religious, historical and linguistic heritage of Sorbian culture.

The pride of the collection is fourteen translations of the Bible into Upper and Lower Sorbian. The first and complete translation into Upper Sorbian dated 1728, the first examples of Lower Sorbian, which are translations of the Old and New Testament date back to 1796 and 1706.

- 69 titles
- 397 microfiche
- Including printed guide
- Including MARC21 Bibliographic Records
- Title list available at: [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl)

