

THE LONG EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

3rd Issue

*Books as Events in Europe
and the Ottoman Empire
(17th–19th Centuries)
Abstracts*

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1. LIVRES-PHÉNOMÈNES DANS LA CORRESPONDANCE DE VALENTIN JAMERAY-DUVAL ET ANASTASIE SOCOLOFF (1762–1774)

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L'article aborde le répertoire de livres mentionnés dans la correspondance (1762–1774) du philosophe-autodidacte Valentin Jameray-Duval et Anastasie Socoloff, dame de la cour de Catherine II. À part les œuvres classiques, largement citées dans leurs lettres, au centre de l'intérêt des deux correspondants se trouvent les publications scientifiques des résultats des expéditions en Sibérie, Kamtchatka, l'Océan Arctique. Un autre corps de textes commentés comprend les documents à caractère politique reflétant les principaux événements et projets du règne de Catherine II : l'organisation de l'État („Nakaz”), l'éducation, la santé publique, etc. Les discussions autour de la parution de certains ouvrages et leur réception (ou rejection) font aussi partie du contenu de la dite correspondance. Ainsi les livres mentionnés représentent une forme de publicité de la fin de la première période du règne de Catherine II et de la Russie en général.

Mots clef: correspondance, Russie, Catherine II, Valentin Jameray-Duval, Anastasie Socoloff, expéditions, politique

2. APERÇU DE LA RÉCEPTION DE MONTESQUIEU EN BULGARIE

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Montesquieu (1689–1755) – Charles de Secondat, baron de La Brède – l'une des figures emblématiques des Lumières devient connu en Bulgarie au début du XXe siècle par la traduction de Mateï Guérov des *Considérations sur les causes de la grandeur des Romains et de leur décadence*. La contribution ouvre une seule page de la réception livresque du fameux philosophe dans le contexte bulgare où le régime communiste après la Seconde guerre mondiale impose une lecture «soviétique». Les commentaires et les traductions des œuvres de Montesquieu montrent l'évolution des idées en dépendance du cadre politique bulgare qui au début du XXIe siècle change radicalement au profit du discours positiviste.

Mots clés: Lumières françaises, Montesquieu, Réception bulgare

3. LITERARY ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES IN ISTANBUL IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was the most influential Protestant society operating among the non-Muslim population of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century. The literary work was one of the important aspects of the missionary activities. Thus, the printing press was among the first establishments of the American missionaries, operating at first in Malta, then in Smyrna and since 1853 – in Istanbul. It became a major missionary agency, creating and distributing in the vast empire literature in almost every language spoken in its territories. Together with the Bible and other religious texts, they also published grammars and dictionaries, as well as school books. Besides, in order to attract a vast audience, the missionaries issued newspapers and magazines in Armenian, Greek, Turkish and Bulgarian. These Protestant periodicals were distinguished for their quality and affordable prices and were demanded and appreciated by many, having far greater influence and significance than what had been previously contemplated. Undoubtedly, the literary activities of the American Protestant missionaries were important for the cultural rise of all communities with whom they have interacted.

Keywords: printing press, American Protestant mission, Ottoman Empire

4. LE LIVRE DANS LE MIROIR DES LIVRES

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L'histoire des humains s'identifie souvent à l'histoire des livres. Le livre – corps et esprit, produit matériel et discours – est source de métaphores livresques qui parcourent les œuvres, les langues et les époques. Objet simple de l'intrigue ou procédé sophistiqué d'auto-réflexion, l'image littéraire du livre n'est jamais univoque et entre dans des jeux intertextuels et interprétatifs qui provoquent un intérêt particulier auprès du public, devenant un facteur important pour le succès de l'œuvre. Un immense thème dont l'article présent se révèle un petit fragment.

Mots clés: Métaphore, livre, monde, miroir, lisibilité, figuration

5. THE FIRST AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL BOOK A FORMER SLAVE – LIFE NARRATIVES AND POLITICAL MESSAGES

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The Autobiography of the freed slave Olaudah Equiano is one of the important reasons the increasing activity and success of Britain's movement against slavery. Equiano's story of inhumanity changed the attitudes to slavery in many people in Britain and in 1807 The British Parliament abolished slave trade. In 1833 The Parliament completely abolished slavery itself. "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano" is the first book written by a former slave and published in 1789.

Keywords: Olaudah Equiano's autobiography, slave trade in British Empire, abolishment campaign

6. THE TRAVEL LITERATURE ABOUT THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE 18TH CENTURY – IN SEARCH OF THE KNOWN AND THE UNKNOWN

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Travelogues are an integral part of the literary treasure of the 18th century and are published throughout the century. They offer a variety of pictures of everyday life, nature and history of unknown and exotic countries. Travels to the Ottoman Empire are of great interest to readers and are extremely popular with audiences in many European countries. The Ottoman state stands at the border between the known and the unknown as part of the Orient. Many travelers convey their impressions of what was seen in the lands under the rule of the Sultan. The article draws attention to various aspects of travelogues that represent an important source for the era.

Keywords: travelers, Ottoman Empire, caravanserai, baths, Russian-Turkish wars

7. BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS IN OBREtenov's COLLECTION (OBREtenov SBORNIK) FROM THE LATE 18TH CENTURY – OTTOMAN CONTEXTS

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A basic source for this study is a miscellany from 1789, which is popular among scholars as Obretenov's collection (Obretenov Sbornik). The first introductory part of the paper discusses the problems concerning the book and its author's lives, based on the scarce information, derived from autobiographical "primarily" notes (personal marginalia). Although "Grandfather" Obreten gave the name of a famous family during the Bulgarian national revival period his life is somehow shadowed by his acclaimed ancestors. Of particular interest here are the last few pages of the manuscript, in which Obreten filed his brief historical accounts comprising the years between 1772 and 1808. The main methodological drive of the study is deciphering the protagonists and the socio-political context in some of Obreten's brief historical accounts by cross-examining the Ottoman sources from the period. Juxtaposing the notes and the local kadi court entries and other diverse type of Ottoman documents brings to the fore some interesting details on the local elite clashes as well as the promotion of a local personage to the highest position in the Ottoman Empire – the grand vizier Rusçukli Hasan pasha (April 1790-February 1791). Moreover, this micro-historical approach casts some light on the entangled relations between high-level state officials and minor social actors as the local reaya representatives in a period of social disorder and natural disasters, epidemics and wars. The study on the paralleled memories gives us the opportunity of not only tracing the correlations but of presenting Obreten's accounts as a unique source for the importance and the reflection of these events on the local Christian community.

Keywords: Obretenov sbornik, marginalia, kadi court records (sicils), Rusçuk (mod. Ruse), late 18th century, paralleled memories

8. CETINA INCUNABULA IN BULGARIA

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In 1493, with the assistance of the Montenegrin voivode Gurg Tsernoevich, the first Slavic printing press in the Balkans was established in Cetinje. In two years, four books of worship were published in Cyrillic. These books, together with the Krakow editions of 1491–1493, are the only Cyrillic books printed up to 1500, i.e. Incunabula. In Bulgaria, have been preserved 13 copies of the Cetina editions, nine Octoechos (I–IV) since 1494 and 4 Psalms with followings since 1495. Here we present up-to-date information about these incunabulas, which are kept in the large Bulgarian book libraries (National Library “St. Cyril and Methodius,” Church-Historical Archive and Institute and Scientific Archive of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). We track published descriptions for these books and compare them to their status today. We highlight some issues related to their identification, description and dissemination.

Keywords: Bulgaria, Cetina, book printing, cyrillic, books, incunabulas, octoechos psalter, library, archive

9. THE COMMON RECEPTION OF THE CYCLE ‘MIRACLES OF THE THEOTOKOS’ AND PAISHI HYLANDARSKY’S ‘A SLAVO-BULGARIAN HISTORY’ (BY THE TESTIMONY OF THREE MANUSCRIPTS)

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The article examines the co-existence of copies of “Miracles of the Theotokos” and “A Slavo-Bulgarian History” in three Bulgarian manuscripts from the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century. Both of the works are representing two different genres – the miracle (which usually is a part of the *vitas*) and the historiography. These three manuscripts show the general Christian cultural context in which the texts were read at the time.

Keywords: “Miracles of the Theotokos”, “A Slavo-Bulgarian History”, copies, manuscripts, reception

10. GUILT AND FREEING FROM GUILT IN THE CONTEMPORARY BULGARIAN TRANSLATIONS OF SLAVO-BULGARIAN HISTORY

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In this paper I reflect on the different translations of the notion of guilt in "Slavo-Bulgarian History" into contemporary Bulgarian. Although there is no complete certainty about the exact meaning in the Paisius's concept, it becomes clear the translations of the notion of guilt through by using "unhappiness," "disinterestedness," "state" are related to the systematic freeing from guilt rhetoric, which – generally – in certain decades is underlined as a nationalistic, yet in others it is not. The ideological readings of the notion of guilt take part in the plot of victimization of the people as it turned out to be a keystone in the national-utopian narrative of "slavery."

Keywords: guilt, iniquity, Paisius, ideology, people, slavery.

11. THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AS A SUBJECT OF INTEREST IN WESTERN EUROPE: THE FIRST PRINTED GRAMMAR OF THE TURKISH LANGUAGE – INSTITUTIONUM LINGVAE TURCICAE LIBRI QUATUOR

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The first printed grammar of the Turkish language is Hieronymus Megiser's *Institutionum linguae Turcicae libri quatuor*. The book was published in Leipzig in 1612. The official language of the Ottoman Empire was a subject of interest in Western Europe due to the fact that by the time the grammar came out the empire was already one of the most powerful states in the world and all European countries were striving to establish diplomatic and trade relations with it. The grammar includes four parts ("books"). Part One deals with the sounds of the Turkish language and with the Turkish alphabet. Part Two deals with the parts of speech and the grammatical categories. Part Three is a collection of Turkish proverbs and Part Four is a Latin-Turkish and a Turkish-Latin dictionary. Some Christian texts (such as Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, etc.) are also included. It is a curious fact that a Bulgarian word is found in the dictionary – the hydronym Mariza. Megiser tried to present the Turkish language in accordance with the Latin models but this has led to a description of the language which is not completely adequate. Still, the grammar has its groundbreaking merit: it provides a model for studying Turkish from a linguistic perspective and for studying languages from a cross-linguistic perspective.

Keywords: first printed Turkish grammar, parts of speech, grammatical categories, phraseological units, Latin-Turkish and Turkish-Latin dictionary

12. REMARKS ON THE WORKS TRANSLATED BY THE OTTOMAN INTELLECTUAL MÜNİF PASHA

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Throughout the Tanzimat period the Ottomans patterned not only their state administrative and legislative structure on a couple of Western European models but attempted to translate a range of literary and philosophical works. One of the most active agents of the process was Münif Pasha. The paper casts light on three of his translations from French into Ottoman Turkish: some dialogues of Fenelon, Fontenelle and Voltaire; Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* and Fenelon's *Abregé des vies des anciens philosophes*. The paper launches the suggestion that Münif Pasha consciously took a part in the attempts to transfer of literature and philosophical ideas and models from France to the Ottoman Empire. Adapting them to the actual needs of the Ottoman society Münif Pasha sought to inspire the Sultan's muslim subjects with high ethical values.

Keywords: Ottomans, France, translations, literature, philosophy, ethics

13. SI LE PAPIER POUVAIT ROUGIR...

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L'idée de cette communication découle de la déclaration d'un journaliste roumain, faite à la Place de la Révolution devant l'Université de Bucarest pendant l'hiver de 1989. Le journaliste avait annoncé qu'à l'époque communiste en Roumanie ont été imprimés de tels livres que le papier aurait dû rougir de honte. Notre communication examine trois cas d'abus de la puissance du livre, qui devaient provoquer de la haine. Le premier cas est lié à la propagande antisémite des partis de l'extrême droite en Bulgarie pendant les années 1920–1930 et surtout pendant les années de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, lorsque les autorités bulgares ont déporté les Juifs de la Macédoine de Vardar et de la Thrace Egéenne, territoires annexés à la Bulgarie en 1941. Le deuxième cas englobe la production imprimée, réalisée par le régime communiste en Bulgarie pendant les mois après le coup d'État de 9.09.1944, qui devait légitimer les violences déjà faites et celles qui allaient voir le jour. Le troisième cas nous dirige vers le XIXe siècle dont la production livresque inclut le traité honteux « Le service juive », édité en roumain, grec et bulgare.

Mots clés: Livres, Presse périodique, Antisemitisme, Communisme, Violence

14. THE STORY OF GENEVIEVE DE BRABANT IN THE BULGARIAN CULTURE OF THE 19TH CENTURY

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The article presents the literary life of Genevieve de Brabant” in the Bulgarian culture as a three-act play of reception of the story in the Bulgarian context during the Tanzimat era. Following Alain Badiou’s aesthetical perspective about theatre as creating a necessary condition for the eventful enacting of notions, my study discovers the origins of the plot about suffering Genevieve and its appearance as a play and as a novella in the period when Bulgarians were still under Ottoman rule. The first part of the study connects the Western motive of Genevieve with a old religious one. It is the motive about “maiden without hands, saved by Holy Mary.” It was widespread in Bulgarian manuscripts and printed versions prior to the appearance of its foreign sister-motive, that of Genevieve. The second part of the article describes the changes that occurred during the translation of the German and French versions of Genevieve de Brabant by Christoph von Schmidt to Bulgarian. “Suffering Genevieve” is one of the first plays ever staged in Bulgaria and definitely a most favorite one by the spectators. The third “act” of my study describes the way a fictional version of the play of “Genevieve de Brabant” was included in the first Bulgarian modern novel – “Under the Yoke” by Ivan Vazov. In a Badiouan sense the amateur performance is something more than just a theatre play. In the novel it functions as an intended gesture of emancipation with political implications for a bigger event – the liberation of Bulgaria.

Keywords: popular novel, entangled histories, Genevieve de Brabant, Bulgarian literature of the 19th c.

15. KANDOV LIBRARY, OR ABOUT THE LITERARY UNKNOWN OF THE “UNDER THE YOKE” AS A NATIONAL-EPICAL NOVEL

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My goal is to archeologize the footprints of some of the Western European and Russian authors and books in the Vazov’s novel Under the Yoke, whose presence has some – conscious or unconscious of Vazov – relevance to the spectrum of the novel’s messages. Respective – restoration of an intertextual network that includes this “most Bulgarian” and most famous (as if) work in an its own literary (and therefore ideological) context. Context that can be far more complex and multilayered than it seem at first glance.

Keywords: “Under the Yoke”, literary unknown, reading = going mad; Kandov, Raskolnikov (Dostoevsky), Tatiana Larina (Pushkin), M-me Bovary (Flaubert), Don Quixote (Cervantes).

16. QUESTIONS ABOUT READING IN TWELVE PAGES

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The article examines one of the ways of embedding reading as a practice in the cultural horizon of the Bulgarians and its merits in the effort to get closer to God.

Keywords: reading, motivation, Bible

17. ON THE HISTORY OF ONE BOOK: "THE ECCLESIASTICAL QUESTION" BY SVETOSLAV MILAROV – CREATING, MEETING WITH OTTOMAN CENSORSHIP PUBLICATION

Keta Mircheva

The article aims to show how, through the specific fate and two different versions of one book "The Ecclesiastical Question. A Historical Essay" by Svetoslav Milarov, it is possible to trace the evolution and the transformation of some basic ideas of Bulgarian nationalism in the transition from national movement to Nation-state in the late 19th century. As the preserved first version of „The Ecclesiastical Question" bears all traces of the work of the Ottoman censorship over the book, the other focus of the author is to present how the Bulgarian in origin Nikola Mihaylovski fulfills his role as Ottoman censor and deals with his fellow's strong nationalistic essay.

Keywords: Svetoslav Milarov, Nikola Mihaylovski, Bulgarian nationalism, Ottoman censorship

18. UNPUBLISHED BOOKS BY NAYDEN GEROV: THE MANUSCRIPT TREND IN THE CONTEXT OF DEMOCRATISATION OF KNOWLEDGE

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The research interest is focused on Nayden Gerov's unpublished books in the context of a boom in published books in Bulgarian between the 1840s-1870s. The article offers a brief overview of the Bulgarian history of unpublished books, taking as an example the history of part of Nayden Gerov's manuscript heritage. Mostly socio-economic factors impeded "The Revival book" from reaching its wider readership. The research raises several questions that problematize the apparent discrepancy between the published books of N. Gerov in contrast with the significant number of textbooks left in manuscript. One such question is why Nayden Gerov, as a self-proclaimed publicist and Russian vice-consul, managed to publish liturgical manuals, which received popularity but failed to insist enough on the publication and spreading of secular literature (educational, scientific and fiction).

Keywords: Bulgarian archives of the 19th century, Nayden Gerov, the history of a manuscript, printed books and manuscripts textbooks, "Universal history"