

THE VITA OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT (BHG 721) IN THE SLAVIC
CYRILLIC TRADITION

(Summary)

The medieval Bulgarian translations of the Vita of St. Gregory the Great (*Dialogos*) known so far are the following: an Old Bulgarian translation, which reflects the activity of the Preslav literary school (it is preserved in the Codex Suprasliensis); another Old Bulgarian translation of the early 10th century, which appeared at the same time as the translation of the most popular work of Pope Gregory – his *Dialogues* (the so-called *Roman Paterikon*), preserved only in late Russian copies; and a third translation – Middle Bulgarian – which accompanies the more recent translation of the Roman Paterikon from the 14th century.

A fourth version of the Vita, unknown so far, has been discovered in the Serbian manuscript No. 95 from the Dečani monastery. The codex can be dated to the second half of the 14th century and its orthography is Serbian. A comparison with the other translations shows that the Dečani text and the Russian copy of the Old Bulgarian translation derive from a protograph that has not been preserved. The second Old Bulgarian translation was probably corrected when it was compared with a Greek text at some time in the 13th or the first half of the 14th century in Serbia or by Serbian monks on Mount Athos. The result of this redaction has been preserved in only one copy – the one from Dečani.

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