

ONE MORE SOUTH SLAVONIC COPY OF THE CANON DEDICATED TO ST.
DEMETRIUS OF THESSALONICA

(Summary)

The original Old Bulgarian canon to St. Demetrius of Thessalonica has been preserved in 20 copies, 12 of them of Bulgarian and Serbian origin. It is included in the hymnographic tradition together with the translated Greek canons. The canon of Theophanes in mode 4 and the canon of Georgios Skylitzes (9th century) in mode 8, which are usually copied together with a canon by Josephus in mode 6 in commemoration of the Great Earthquake of 740 A.D., are the ones that had the widest circulation of all the enormous number of Byzantine hymnographic works dedicated to St. Demetrius of Thessalonica. The present article brings one more copy of the canon dedicated to St. Demetrius to the attention of researchers. It is preserved in a festal menaion in the holdings of the Russian State Library f. 310 (the collection of V. Undolski) 75 (from the beginning of the 14th century). This copy, though known, has not been published or studied so far. This also provides an opportunity to clarify some points raised in recent publications on South Slavonic copies of the canon of St. Demetrius. The publication of this South Slavonic copy increases the number of known copies of the text and it will be included in the general textological and linguistic analysis in preparation of a critical edition of this early hymnographic work.

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