

THE SLAVONIC TRANSLATION OF PATRIARCH PHOTIOS' LETTER TO KNYAZ
BORIS AND ITS GREEK ORIGINAL

(Summary)

The article explores the manuscript tradition of the Slavonic translation of Patriarch Photios' letter to the Bulgarian knyaz (prince) Boris-Michael. The translation has been preserved only in Russian copies (more than 15), dating from the beginning of the 16th century until the beginning of the 20th century. Although the composition was very popular and well-disseminated in the Russian church and literary environment, a number of Bulgarianisms in the text suggest the possible existence of a Bulgarian archetype. The basic principle behind the translation is the strict observance of the Greek original, which can be traced on several language levels: calquing Greek composite words, preserving the Greek word order, word-for-word translation, and others. The exploration of the nominal system shows relation to the language of the Turnovo literary tradition – because of that the translation of Photios' letter cannot be dated any earlier than the end (the third quarter) of the 14th century.

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