

TROPES AND VERBAL IMAGES IN HYMNOGRAPHIC AND LITURGICAL  
RHETORIC TEXTS DEDICATED TO SS PETER AND PAUL IN MEDIEVAL  
SLAVONIC TRADITION

*(Summary)*

The article studies the rhetorical and hymnographic texts dedicated to the two supreme apostles, texts that disseminated among the Orthodox Slavs in the Balkans either as translations from Byzantine Greek or as a part of the original Slavonic literary production. Focusing on the offices for June 29 with a common canon for SS Peter and Paul (attested in the South Slavonic *Menaia*), on the two canons for St. Peter and St. Paul by St. John of Damascus, on the cycle of eight Oktoechos canons possibly written by St. Kliment of Ohrid, on the short sermon also ascribed to Kliment, and on the elaborate encomium by Gregory Tsamblak, the article offers a cross-genre comparison of the sets of stylistic tools and rhetoric strategies used by the writers to celebrate the two apostles. Following the New Testament narrative, the prevailing Byzantine and medieval Slavonic traditions present the deeds of the apostles as separate entities in a chronological sequence, rather than closely combining or uniting their stories (as in the canons ascribed to John of Damascus). The theological message of these texts was mainly conveyed through the paradox (in the lives of both saints) as a main cognitive and stylistic tool in revealing divine providence. The analysis shows that although applying a very limited set of *topoi* and New Testament quotations the authors were still able to create completely different texts with specific didactic, celebratory or penitential character, accentuating at the same time various theological concepts (such as the fulfillment of the Old Testament; the Logos; the chosen ones etc.).

*Adelina Angusheva-Tihanova,  
The University of Manchester;  
Iskra Hristova-Shomova,  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"*