

ON A COLLECTION OF OLD TESTAMENT STORIES. CODEX SB III 22 FROM THE
COLLECTION OF THE HOLY SYNOD LIBRARY IN BUCHAREST

(Summary)

The text in question is a 15th-century manuscript the second part of which, ff. 184a–207b (following George Hamartolos's *Chronicle* and before the selection of sermons by Pseudo-John Chrysostom, the *Sermon on the reign of King Asa* and the *Revelation of Methodius of Patara*) contains a selection of 24 Old Testament stories. 20 of them are chapters of the so-called 2nd Slavic translation of the *Palaea Historica*, as attested in the *Krušedol Palaea* (Library of the Museum of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Belgrade, MSPC 42, ff. 56a–112b). A comparison of the two copies – SB III 22 and MSPC 42 – shows that the chapters of the *Palaea* in SB III 22 are arranged in a different order than in the original, as well as that some stories alternate with other Old Testament-related items, such as the stories of St. Anna, the adamant stone, or the power of the seven pillars, as well as the *Sermon on icons* by Pseudo-John of Damascus.

An interesting parallel to SB III 22 is found in another manuscript kept in Bucharest: no. 358 from the Library of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. Dating back to the 16th century, it contains a selection of vitae, sermons and so-called apocrypha, among them three chapters from the above-mentioned 2nd translation of the *Palaea* (*On the snakebite*, *On the Ark of the Covenant*, *On the holy priestly garments*). It has been surmised that the codex was written in Wallachia or Moldova. Especially noteworthy is the fact that these two fragmentary copies – as the only ones out of the eight full or fragmentary copies of the 2nd translation of the *Palaea Historica* known so far – are written in the Middle Bulgarian recension of Church Slavic.

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