

# The Tenth-Century Cyrillic Manuscript Codex Suprasliensis: An electronic edition

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The UNESCO-funded project The Tenth-Century Cyrillic Manuscript Codex Suprasliensis aims at digitizing the largest Old Church Slavonic manuscript, the Codex Suprasliensis (<http://csup.ilit.bas.bg/>). The Codex Suprasliensis is a Cyrillic manuscript, associated with the Preslav literary school and arguably copied at the end of the tenth or the beginning of the eleventh century.

The Codex contains twenty-four vitae of Christian saints for the month of March and twenty-three homilies for the triodion cycle of the church year. In content it is a lectionary menaeum (or panaegyricon), combined with homilies from the movable Easter cycle, most of which written by or attributed to John Chrysostom (<http://csup.ilit.bas.bg/node/7>). No miscellany with similar contents is known in the Byzantine tradition, and most researchers believe that the Codex Suprasliensis was not translated as a stable compilation from any single Byzantine menological or hagiographical manuscript, and was instead compiled from texts translated earlier and at different times.

The Codex Suprasliensis is written on parchment and shows careful writing and craftsmanship. It was discovered in 1823 in a Uniate Basilian monastery in Supraśl (then in Lithuania, now in Northeastern Poland in the Podlaskie Voivodeship). At present it is divided, with the portions preserved in three libraries: the National and University Library in Ljubljana (118 folios), the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg (16 folios), and the National Library in Warsaw (151 folios). The Codex Suprasliensis has been listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register since 2007.

In the present project, new digital images of all three parts of the Codex Suprasliensis have been reunited for publication in a single electronic edition (the digital images are already available at <http://csup.ilit.bas.bg/galleries>). The separate publication of the photographic facsimile is an interim stage in the project, and the photographs will eventually be republished together with a transcription that will be fully annotated, accompanied by commentary and updated bibliography.

Eventually a diplomatic transcription of the text of the Codex Suprasliensis will be published together with critical apparatus, parallel Greek text, lexicon, and grammatical analysis (in the form of corpus annotation). The annotation of the electronic corpus is at initial stage, with only one piece, the Life of St. Paul the Simple, completely annotated, and another (the Life of St. Paul and St. Juliana) under active preparation.

The first electronic version of the Codex Suprasliensis was a 7-bit ASCII transliteration prepared under the direction of Jouko Lindstedt and distributed by the Corpus Cyrillo-Methodianum Helsingiense: An Electronic Corpus of Old Church Slavonic Texts (CCMH,

<http://www.helsinki.fi/slaavilaiset/ccmh/>) and the TITUS project (<http://titus.uni-frankfurt.de/texte/etcs/slav/aksl/suprasl/supra.htm>). These transcriptions contain numerous errors and come completely without context and critical apparatus (no images, Greek text, commentary, grammatical annotation or analysis, etc.). The new edition under development takes the Helsinki transcriptions as a starting point, converts the text from ASCII to Unicode, corrects the errors, and includes the full range of supporting materials listed above. The encoding of the Old Church Slavonic text, the Greek parallels, and English translation, as well as a thesaurus with information about the relevant hagiographic cults, are being prepared by a working team in the Department of Old Bulgarian Literature, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

A pilot model of an electronic edition of a small part of the Codex Suprasliensis with a search program was developed in 2008 by David J. Birnbaum (University of Pittsburgh, <http://paul.obdurodon.org>). This electronic edition of the Life of St. Paul the Simple was developed in accord with the procedures and priorities described above: it is based on a corrected version of the text published by the CCMH, accompanied by parallel Greek, a new English translation, detailed linguistic commentary, and photographic facsimiles. By exploiting the multipurposing capabilities provided by XML, the proposed edition will build on features of the Paul the Simple project, and will provide a variety of perspectives on the text (paragraphed OCS, Greek, and English; interlinear OCS and Greek; high-resolution, full-color, digital facsimiles) and of query interfaces (full-text, lexical, and faceted morphological), as well as comprehensive linguistic annotation, all richly interlinked to provide a “workstation” environment that enables the researcher to move easily from the results of one query to formulation of the next.