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Slavonica Glagolitica and Cyrillica in Swedish Repositories

The project *Digitalised Descriptions of Slavic Cyrillic Manuscripts and Early Printed Books in Swedish Libraries and Archives*

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Abstract

In the article the authors present the project *Digitalised Descriptions of Slavic Cyrillic Manuscripts and Early Printed Books in Swedish Libraries and Archives* (2010–2012), and describe the first year's work within the project. This includes the establishment of the SVEKYR database, an overview of Swedish repositories with materials of importance for the project, and ongoing work on methods for description of early Cyrillic and Glagolitic manuscripts and books.

The aim of the project *Digitalised Descriptions of Slavic Cyrillic Manuscripts and Early Printed Books in Swedish Libraries and Archives* (DSS) is to create a union catalogue of Slavic Cyrillic manuscripts and early printed Glagolitic and Cyrillic books in Swedish repositories. The three-year project (2010–2012) is funded by the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, and a short presentation of the project can be found at the Foundation's website (<http://www.rj.se/6/1132/var/fundID/1165>). More detailed information about the project in general and presentations of the results to date are continuously published at the DSS website:

<http://www.sprak.gu.se/english/research/research-projects/externally-funded/digital-descriptions/>.

A pilot project at the University of Gothenburg (2008) resulted in a Catalogue of Slavonic books in Gothenburg and Skara (Granberg & Varpio 2009), published with financial support from The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

The DSS working team includes scholars from four Swedish universities: Antoaneta Granberg (University of Gothenburg), Per Ambrosiani (Umeå University), Irina Lysén (Uppsala University), and Alexander Pereswetoff-Morath (Stockholm University). In

addition, the project organisation includes a reference group of nine specialists: Ulla Birgegård (Uppsala University, em.), Per-Arne Bodin (Stockholm University), Ralph Cleminson (University of Portsmouth), Elisabeth Löfstrand (Stockholm University), Ingrid Maier (Uppsala University), Anisava Miltenova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Lars Steensland (Lund University, em.), Mirja Varpio (Lund University, em.), and Hans Åkerström (Gothenburg University Library, em.).

The DSS project continues research conducted in Swedish repositories by several generations of slavists, and without the accomplishments of our predecessors, Swedish and foreign colleagues, the work within the project would simply not be possible.

During the first year of the project period almost fifty Swedish repositories have been investigated. Of these, approximately thirty (see Appendix, below) contain Cyrillic and Glagolitic materials of relevance to the project. In addition to already known manuscripts and printed books, the material also includes several previously unknown books and fragments. A preliminary inventory of the presently known manuscripts and printed books (Granberg et al. 2010) was published as the first report in the series *Cyrillica Suecana* (see <https://gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/23786>).

Another part of the work during the first year of the project has focused on the structure of the descriptions of the materials. Two different models have been established: one for the description of manuscripts and another for the description of early printed books, and several preliminary descriptions of different types of books (manuscripts, Slavonic printed books, books printed in “civil print”) have been completed. These descriptions will be presented and discussed at a workshop in Stockholm in January 2011, organized in cooperation with the research department of the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga biblioteket).

In early 2010 a database (SVEKYR) was created in order to facilitate cooperation within the project. Eventually, the database will contain records of all manuscripts and copies of printed books that will be described within the project. The description will include all records of early Cyrillic manuscripts and early printed books in Sweden listed in existing catalogues (Roubetz s.a., Glubokovskij 1918, 1919, Kjellberg 1951 [with the handwritten additions in the copy located at Uppsala University Library], Gawryś & Jansson 1956, Gawryś 1960, 1961, Davidsson 1975, Steensland 2005, etc.), relevant records in the electronic Swedish Union Catalogue of printed books (LIBRIS), etc., as well as records of previously unknown manuscripts and printed books. At present (December 2010) the SVEKYR database comprises approximately a thousand records (ca. 200 manuscripts and ca. 800 copies of printed books). The database is designed primarily as a working tool for the project, and in addition to fields describing the actual materials (author, title, time of origin, place of origin, etc.), all records also include fields pertaining to the work by the project participants (references to related archival materials and notes, dates of inspection *de visu*, etc.). Some of the descriptive fields are designed and numbered with reference to the

MARC21 standard that is used in LIBRIS and many other electronic catalogues. Notwithstanding the obvious limitations of MARC21 for descriptions of manuscripts and early books, it is important for the DSS descriptions to be organized in a way that will make them usable for improving the existing records of many of the early Cyrillic printed books in LIBRIS (and possibly also in other electronic catalogues).

The DSS project aims to present a fuller picture of the early Cyrillic and Glagolitic materials in Sweden than the existing catalogues. When it comes to the presentation and description of the early printed books, some of the differences between the most important earlier catalogue, Lennart Kjellberg's *Catalogue des imprimés slavons des XVIe, XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles conservés à la Bibliothèque de l'Université royale d'Uppsala* (Kjellberg 1951), and the DSS approach can be described as follows (there are, of course, also many similarities: for example, both include Cyrillic as well as Glagolitic books, and both concentrate on books printed during the 16th–18th centuries):

1. The basic unit in Kjellberg 1951 is the copy, whereas in the DSS project it is the edition. Without going into a detailed discussion on which type of information refers to the edition, and which to the investigated copy, DSS, following Nemirovskij 1996, 2009, Cleminson et al. 2000, and other catalogues, prefers a hierarchical presentation, with a clear distinction between edition and copy.
2. Kjellberg 1951 excludes books printed in the civil script introduced in Russia in 1708 (*graždanskij šrift*) and only lists Cyrillic books printed in a Church Slavonic typeface (*staropečatnye knigi*). The DSS project, on the other hand, will also describe 18th-century books printed in civil script, including books with mixed Cyrillic civil and Latin (Gothic) script, such as bilingual grammars.
3. In Kjellberg 1951, Cyrillic and Glagolitic books are listed in a single numbered inventory, whereas DSS separates different types of materials in different sections (A. Manuscripts; B. Early printed books, Slavonic Cyrillic; C. Early printed books, Glagolitic; D. Early printed books, civil print; etc.)
4. The original edition of Kjellberg 1951 included only copies located at Uppsala University Library, but the handwritten additions also list books located at several other Swedish repositories (Linköping City Library, Lund University Library, the Royal Library in Stockholm, the Västerås Diocesan and County Library, the Rogge Library in Strängnäs, etc.). The ambition of the DSS project is to cover all the main public repositories, and a few private ones, in Sweden.

5. Among the handwritten additions to the catalogue Kjellberg also lists some modern editions of early printed books (e.g. Kjellberg 1951: nos. 0, 5a). This type of books will not be included in the DSS project.

In addition, the DSS project will be able to supply information that was not available at the time of the publication of Kjellberg 1951:

1. Information on catalogues and descriptions printed after 1951 (Vorndran 1977, Nemirovskij 1996, 2009, Cleminson et al. 2000, Varpio 2005, Granberg & Varpio 2009, etc.).
2. Information on text editions printed after 1951 (Sparwenfeld 1987–1990, etc.).
3. Reference to records in electronic catalogues and databases: LIBRIS (<http://libris.kb.se/>), Worldcat (<http://www.worldcat.org/>), the Russian National Library's database of Russian 18th-century civil-script editions (*Russkaja kniga graždanskoj pečati XVIII v., 1708–1800* http://www.nlr.ru/rln/ruslbr_v2.php?database=RLINXVIII), etc.
4. Reference to full-text editions in digital repositories, such as Lund University Library's St. Laurentius Digital Manuscript Library (<http://laurentius.uu.se/>), Umeå University Library's RARA project database (<http://www.uu.se/en/search/special-collections/rara/about>), the Russian State Library's (RGB) digital library (<http://elibrary.rsl.ru/>), etc.

During 2011 the project will mainly focus on describing the materials found so far in the repositories, including the development and establishment of standards for electronic descriptions.

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Appendix: *Swedish repositories containing materials that will be described within the DSS project*

Göteborg, Gothenburg University Library (Göteborgs universitetsbibliotek)

Jönköping, The Per Brahe Gymnasium (Per Brahegymnasiet, formerly Jönköpings högre allmänna läroverk)

Karlskrona, The Carlskrona Reading Society Library (Carlskrona Läsesällskaps bibliotek)

Karlskrona, The Library of The Royal Society of Naval Sciences (Kungliga Örlogsmannasällskapets bibliotek)

Karlstad, Värmland County Museum (Värmlands museum)

Linköping, City and Diocesan Library (Linköpings stads- och stiftsbibliotek)

Lund University Libraries, The University Library (Lunds Universitetsbibliotek, Universitetsbiblioteket)

Norrköping, City Library (Norrköpings stadsbibliotek)

Örebro County Museum (Örebro läns museum)

Östersund, Jämtland County Library (Jämtlands läns bibliotek)

Skara, The Diocesan and County Library (Stifts- och landsbiblioteket)

Skokloster, The Library of Skokloster (Skoklosters bibliotek)

Stockholm, National Library of Sweden (Kungliga biblioteket)

Stockholm, The Bernadotte Library (Bernadottebiblioteket)

Stockholm, The Military Archives (Krigsarkivet)

Stockholm, The Library of the Military Archives (Krigsarkivets bibliotek)

Stockholm, The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (Kungliga Skogs- och lantbruksakademien)

Stockholm, The Library of the Royal Armoury (Livrustkammarens bibliotek)

Stockholm, The National Archives (Riksarkivet)

Stockholm, The Maritime Museum (Sjöhistoriska museet)

Stockholm, Transfiguration of Christ Church (Kristi Förklarings ortodoxa kyrka, Svjato-Preobraženskij prichod)

Stockholm, The Strindberg Museum (Strindbergsmuseet)

Stockholm University Library (Stockholms universitetsbibliotek)

Strängnäs, The Diocesan Library (Stiftsbiblioteket)

Umeå University Library (Umeå universitetsbibliotek)

Uppsala University Library Carolina Rediviva (Carolina Rediviva, Uppsala universitetsbibliotek)

Uppsala University Library: Karin Boye Library (Uppsala universitetsbibliotek: Karin Boye-biblioteket)

Västervik Gymnasium Library (Västerviks gymnasiebibliotek)

Västerås, Diocesan and County Library (Stifts- och landsbiblioteket)

Visby, The Almedal Library (Almedalsbiblioteket)