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CODICOLOGICAL NOTES ON THE GOSPEL FROM VRATSA (NBKM 19)

*(Summary)*

The Gospel Lectionary from Vratsa has been known since the end of the last century. B. Tsonev gave a precise description in a monograph published in 1914 to which some details concerning the method of preparation of quaternions could be added. The presented paper concentrates on the system and types of ruling of the manuscript. It will serve as an introduction to another study of the Vratsa Gospel, and its lectionary structure as reflected in its illumination, envisaged by the author. The author is aware of the fact that this kind of codicological investigations is still not widely practised in Bulgarian archeography and therefore comparative material is insufficient for a substantiated conclusion. Nevertheless, the system and types of ruling established for the Vratsa Gospel are compared with several Old Bulgarian MSS such as the Vatican palimpsest or the Glagolita Clozianus and two manuscripts from the 13th and 14th centuries, as well as with some more general examples of Byzantine MSS. Some considerations on the scribe's method of work are also shared. The conclusion, however provisory for the moment, states that in the Vratsa Gospel close to archaic types of ruling of the pages were used though their probable reflecting of a contemporary practice is not excluded. The archaization of the "technology" runs, in a way, parallel to the archaic lectionary redaction of the manuscript claimed already by the scholars.