

GLAGOLITIC TRACES AND REFLECTIONS ON THE CYRILLIC ALPHABET IN THE  
SLAVIC VERSION OF THE CHRONICLE OF GEORGE SYNKELLOS

*(Summary)*

The paper describes and classifies the traces of the Glagolitic alphabet in the Slavic version of the Chronicle of George Synkellos. The Chronicle is known in 5 Russian copies from the XV–XVI c. The text contains 15 proven errors in reporting numbers that could be explained only through the existence of a Glagolitic original created in Bulgaria at the end of 9th century when this alphabet was still in active use. Three of them represent a mere transfer of the respective Greek letter by the copyist. The others occurred in the process of copying the Glagolitic text in Cyrillic characters. Most of the Glagolitic remnants are concentrated in the first part of the Chronicle that covers world history from the Creation to the Resurrection of Christ and have no correspondence in the Greek text of Synkellos since this first part of the Slavic version comes from Africanus's Chronograph that is not fully preserved in the Greek manuscript tradition. At the same time the Slavic version contains a later interpolation located at the end of this first part, which explains the misuse of Cyrillic characters as numbers due to the changes in their shape. The interpolation shows a mixture of Bulgarian and Russian linguistic features and could be dated to the time of the Second South Slavic influence in Russia with a high degree of probability. The Glagolitic traces and the reflections on the Cyrillic alphabet mark the history of the Slavic version: it was created for the newly baptised Bulgarians in the 9th century and copied many times in Russia in the 15–16th centuries when the Russian imperial model was established.

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