



Preface

The 1st issue of volume 18 of *Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections* journal (*Z Badań nad Książką i Księgozbiorami Historycznymi*) is dedicated to the Ukrainian book heritage, which is now in danger of destruction due to the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (2014-present). The full-scale military invasion of the Russian army into Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has had tragic consequences in the field of science and culture. For more than two years of active hostilities, almost two thousand cultural institutions were damaged or destroyed, not including individual objects of material heritage. For example, in the spring and fall of 2022, the largest book collections in Ukraine suffered from the consequences of missile attacks by the Russian Federation. First, on 12 March, the Korolenko Kharkiv State Scientific Library of Ukraine, which houses more than seven million preservation items, including a unique collection of manuscripts and ancient printed books from the Volyn region, was destroyed. On 10 October, the historical buildings of the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine and the Maksymovych Scientific Library of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, located in the centre of Kyiv, on Volodymyrska Street, were damaged. Every day, in Ukraine, the world's book heritage is under threat of destruction, in particular the valuable collection of the last king of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Stanisław August Poniatowski.

At the beginning of January 2023, the idea of this special issue appeared under the title *Book Heritage in Danger: Ukrainian Bibliography Studies*. Its purpose is to support Ukrainian scientists in the realities of active military operations. Today, researchers live and conduct their studies under challenging conditions. The authors of this issue, Nataliia Bondar, Nataliia Zabolotna, and Olha Maksymchuk, work and take care of the preservation of early printed books in the Department of Old Prints and Rare Editions of the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine. This issue of the journal is an important platform and is designed for the world scientific community to hear the voice of Ukrainian scientists and to get as fully acquainted as possible with the research of the book heritage, which is now under attack and on the verge of destruction.

This issue of *Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections* contains seven scientific articles that deal with the study of books and book collections. The topics of the publications chronologically cover the period from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries. The studios are arranged chronologically and thematically. The authors of the articles are persons affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Catholic

University, and the Ossoliński National Institute. I will allow myself to briefly summarise the main aspects of the research of my colleagues, whom I would especially like to thank, first of all, for their participation in the preparation of the journal's issue.

To write my research *Colophons in Cyrillic Codices as a Unique Socio-Cultural Phenomenon of Early Modern Times*, I have analysed more than 70 colophons preserved in fifteenth-sixteenth centuries manuscripts from the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Colophons are a micro-source in the book that reconstructs its initial history because it often talks about the person of the scribe, the geographical and social origin, the time of the creation of the codex, its customer, purpose, and the historical background of the era. My research deals with the typology of colophons and their content. Based on the analysis of these sources, I highlight the claims of the scribe, explaining their experience in the craft, characterising their mission and writing instructions to the readers, or calling to correct possible errors in the text.

This issue contains two studies on early printed books and fragments of the book collection. In the publication *Experience and Potential of Early Printed Books Fragments Attribution from the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine Collection*, Nataliia Bondar shares her experience of attribution of book fragments from the collection of the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine. This is about the identification of text fragments and the attribution of individual folios. The researcher pays special attention to the book folios used as endpapers for the binding. The author studies the printed engravings glued to the Gospels and notes that they were not previously known as art objects. Based on her research, these book engravings were also reproduced for individual distribution.

Olha Tkachuk selects 42 books at the Ossoliński National Institute and states that they belonged to Ukrainian public and church institutions: Library of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, The *Studion* Library, Library of the Ukrainian Pedagogical Society *Ridna Shkola*, Andrei Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv, Library of the Greek Catholic Chapter in Przemyśl. In the article *Fragments of the Ukrainian Book Collections in the Ossolineum's Holdings of Early Printed Books in Wrocław*, she gives a detailed list and description of these copies from the specified collections. The researcher reconstructs the history of their relocation to Wrocław. The author states that the migration of books took place during the Second World War or immediately after its end.

The article *Structure and Decoration of the Manuscript Vinets Khrystov by Antonii Radyvylovskyi from the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine* analyses the Cyrillic codex of the seventeenth century. Olha Maksymchuk establishes that this particular copy is decorated like the printed version published in Kyiv in 1688. However, from the results of a detailed analysis of both versions of the same book, it follows that the manuscript contains many differences from

the later printing. The author traced them in the text and artistic design. The researcher supposes that this work's decoration system corresponds directly to the content of the text.

The research materials of Nataliia Zabolotna show that the book publishing heritage of two publishing centres of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which functioned under monastic communities in Univ and Pochaiv, is not sufficiently researched. Her article *The Cyrillic Early Printed Books of Univ and Pochaiv: Peculiarities of Editions, Experience of Scientific Cataloguing* identifies hitherto unattributed copies and fragments of editions of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the author's opinion, fragments without information on time and affiliation are especially valuable, because they have not been properly processed so far. Their discovery and research add new facts to the history of book publishing at specific publishing centres. Nataliia Zabolotna proposes her method of identifying such editions using examples from the Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine.

Ivan Almes raises the issue of the unification of books of liturgical content in the Union Church after the Zamość Synod of 1720. In his article *Zamość Style Unification: Liturgicon and Euchologion in the Basilian Monasteries of the Lviv Eparchy in the Second Half of the 18th Century* based on the materials of inventory descriptions of property and visitation survey protocols of sanctuaries followed the fulfilment of the prescriptions of the mentioned Synod. The source potential of these materials allows the author to trace the unification of the liturgical themes of the books in the monastic communities within the Lviv Diocese in the second half of the eighteenth century. The author admits that the decisions of the Zamość Synod in the use of specifically prescribed liturgical literature were especially delayed in time in parish communities, in contrast to monastic ones.

Through the prism of text and image, Svitlana Potapenko actualises the problems of studying the Ukrainian elite history in its stormy 18th century. In the scientific study *'Hettman von Klein Reussen': the Image of Kyrylo Rozumovsky in Mid-18th Century Early Printed Books and Engravings from the Razumovsky Family Collection*, the author analyses Hetman's eulogy and his portrait engravings from the Rozumovsky family collection. A comprehensive study of narrative and visual sources allows the author to trace the transformation of the image of Kyrylo Rozumovsky from the ruler of the Russian Empire, the helmsman of Cossack associations, the leader of Little Russia to the hetman of Ukraine, who enjoyed authority with political and military ambitions.

As the editor of this issue of *Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections* and on behalf of all the authors of the articles, I would like to thank the Editorial Board of the Journal and personally Professor Agnieszka Chamera-Nowak for the initiation and multifaceted support of the publication

Book Heritage in Danger: Ukrainian Bibliography Studies. I hope that the publication of these papers will enrich our knowledge of the history of books and the written heritage with new facts. On behalf of the scientific community of Ukraine, I express thanks for the comprehensive support of our researchers by Polish scientific and educational institutions, as well as for all Ukrainians by the Polish people and the state.

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