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Historical and bibliological studies of book heritage by Roman Lutsyk (1900–1974)

Abstract: The article reviews the academic heritage of Roman Lutsyk, long-time head of the Rare Books Department at the Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine (LNSLU). It presents R. Lutsyk's academic achievements in the field of book studies, particularly in the study of early printed books, and clarifies his theoretical and methodological approaches to the formation and academic study of collections of incunabula and post-incunabula. The author emphasizes that one of R. Lutsyk's most important feats is the carefully compiled collection of early printed cyrillic books in the Rare Books Department, which is one of the most complete collections of historical and cultural heritage in Ukrainian libraries.

The main topics of academic research on R. Lutsyk's book monuments are characterized. R. Lutsyk's professionally compiled "Catalogue of Incunabula" (Lviv, 1974) is analyzed, the publication of which made a significant contribution to the development of incunabula studies both in Ukraine and abroad.

It has been established that R. Lutsyk's merit was that valuable book monuments, despite ideological obstacles, were preserved, professionally processed, and made available to scholars, and the Rare Books Department became a source base and a center of monument studies for bibliologists.

Keywords: Roman Lutsyk – book studies – study of the early printed book – early printed cyrillic books – incunabula, Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine (LNSLU)

Słowa kluczowe: Roman Łucyk – bibliologia – badania nad książką starodrukowaną – wczesne drukowane księgi cyrylickie – inkunabuły – Lwowska Narodowa Naukowa Biblioteka Ukrainy im. Wasyla Stefanyka (LNSLU)

Introduction

The book fonds of the Rare Books Department of the Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine (LNSLU) is one of the largest and most valuable in Ukraine in terms of the number of Ukrainian and Western European rare prints. A significant number of its employees—librarians, scientists—contributed to the establishment of this status, and special credit goes to its founder and long-time (over 20 years) director—the distinguished book scholar, bibliographer, and historian Roman Lutsyk (1900–1974). With his direct participation, the department's collection was formed, preserved, and academically processed. R. Lutsyk's professional activity was particularly significant in the process of bibliographic research of the old prints collection, which was assembled in the early 1940s. by selecting publications from the 15th–18th centuries from numerous West Galician institutional, monastic, and private pre-war libraries, expropriated by the soviets and centralized in the academic library.

R. Lutsyk began as a student in 1926–1932, serving as secretary of the Main Board of the M. Kachkovsky Society (“Tovarystvo im. M. Kachkovskogo”). After completing his higher historical studies, R. Lutsyk became the head of the central library and archive of this cultural and educational society, combining his work as a librarian with that of the academic and literary society “Galician-Russian Matica”¹. Later, R. Lutsyk headed the instructor department of the M. Kachkovsky Society, managing the work of its reading rooms and libraries, which numbered more than 300. The liquidation of all national societies by the Soviet authorities in 1939 caused a break in R. Lutsyk's scientific and library activities. It was only in the spring of 1942 that R. Lutsyk got a job at the State Library in Lviv (“Staatsbibliothek Lemberg”) as an academic researcher in the third department (People's House), where he gained training in scientific and bibliographic work, collaborating with the renowned Ukrainian bibliographer and book expert Volodymyr Doroshenko (1879–1963).

From 1944 to 1974, R. Lutsyk worked at the Lviv Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and from August 1944, he held various positions in the departments of processing, acquisition, manuscripts, and old prints. His perfect command of foreign languages, higher education in the humanities, versatile erudition, and developed sense of professional duty were the arguments for appointing R. Lutsyk as head of the Rare Books Department, which was reorganized at the end of 1949 from two components: the Book Museum and the Old Prints Department. At the beginning of the 1950s, he led one of

1 Особова справа. ЛННБУ ім. В. Стефаника. Архів, оп. 3-ос, од. зб. 203, р. 152.

the most complex library departments of the Lviv Scientific Library, R. Lutsyk faced significant challenges in his work, in particular, a large number of unprocessed old prints, which had been collected and chaotically dumped into the book storage rooms of the Rare Books Department (14 Lysenka Street) between 1947 and 1948. This was in accordance with a resolution of the Presidium of the Lviv Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which inevitably led to the levelling and loss of identity of individual historical collections that had their own long and complex history. It was not an easy task for the head of the department to organize the collection and compile a scientific and reference apparatus, which was impossible given that the books had been brought from different institutions. In addition, the head had to carry out all these complex library processes on his own.

By that time, the Rare Book Department's fonds consisted of a large collection of books stored in three book depositories: on the first floor of the People's House ("Narodnyj Dim") and Book Museum library (about 70,000 copies), on the second floor of the Petrushevich Museum (over 30,000 copies), and unprocessed fonds—about 87,500 old prints². The Rare Books Department became a kind of center for the concentration and preservation of a huge number of valuable fonds of book monuments that were universal in composition and content but ambiguous in structure, from various libraries, collections, and collections of institutions that had been forming their book collections for centuries.

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From the very beginning, realizing the historical and cultural significance of the department's book treasures and his responsibility for preserving the book treasures of antiquity, R. Lutsyk began a systematic study of the old printed fonds. The importance of bibliographic research on the fonds of book monuments is evidenced by the topics of the department's practical seminars, where issues such as the processing of old prints, determining the completeness of old prints and the method of pagination, methods of identifying defective old prints, the latest methods for determining the format of old prints, and establishing the duplicity of old prints.

Based on this method, R. Lutsyk not only included the required attributes of a bibliographic description, but also provided the most complete information possible about all the features of the publication in general and the copies in particular. At the same time, numerous auxiliary card indexes were created

2 Річний звіт про стан і роботу Кабінету рідкісної книги Львівської Бібліотеки Академії Наук УРСР за 1950 рік. ЛННБУ ім. В. Стефаника, архів, оп. 1, од. зб. 310, р. 4.

(printers, illustrators, bookbinders, individual owners, artistic design of the publication, marginalia, provenance). The multi-copy nature of the fonds required establishing the completeness of old prints based on a detailed comparison of copies considered to be variants of the same edition, identifying duplicates, and highlighting the individual characteristics of each copy. Since most of the early printed cyrillic books copies were defective, they mainly required attribution and complex bibliographic research, and, therefore, professional book science competencies, which R. Lutsyk possessed.

The source materials indicate that the academic study of early printed cyrillic books was a priority for R. Lutsyk. As early as 1951, R. Lutsyk highlighted the main aspects of his bibliographic research on early printed cyrillic books in the article “Slavic old prints of the 15th–17th centuries in the fonds of the Lviv Academy of Sciences of the USSR,” published in the first issue of the journal “Bulletin (work experience)”³. In this scientific publication, the author provided a detailed description of early printed cyrillic books by chronological groups: 1) pre-Fedorov prints; 2) prints by Ivan Fedorov; 3) post-Fedorov prints of the 16th–17th centuries. This was R. Lutsyk’s first academic publication during his work at the institution, which began a series of his research on historical monuments.

In the preamble to his review of book monuments, the researcher described the fonds of old prints, which contained “a significant number of interesting early printed cyrillic books of great academic and cultural significance,” and editions characterized by some interesting individual features (autographs and dedications by prominent writers, high-quality artistic design, etc.)⁴. The content of R. Lutsyk’s publication is distinguished by its historical and bibliographic analysis of the most representative examples of printed products from virtually all known centers of Cyrillic book publishing: Vilnius (now Vilnius, Lithuania), Yev’ye (now Vievis, Lithuania), Kyiv, Krylos, Lviv, Ostroh, Stryatyn, Unev, and Chernihiv. This informative analytical review became a kind of guide for Lviv (and other) researchers and book scholars, who received clear references to publications, as well as significant book scholarly information that enabled them to conduct further research on the development of cyrillic book printing. The content of this publication is also relevant for today’s users of the rare book department, as the article, lost in time, was not in the field of vision of modern book scholars. This is explained, in particular, by the fact that the “Bulletin (work experience)”, which was published in a small print run, has

3 Р. Луцик, *Слов’янські стародруки XVI–XVIII ст. у фондах Львівської бібліотеки Академії наук УРСР*. “Бюлетень: Досвід роботи” 1951, № 1, pp. 39–50.

4 Ibidem, p. 40.

now become a bibliographically rare publication. The Library's fonds contains the only copy of this academic publication.

The results of the work on early printed cyrillic books were planned to be summarized in a printed catalog of ukrainian prints of the 16th–18th centuries, the publication of which was constantly postponed due to ideological restrictions on academic research of old prints. The high level of R. Lutsyk's academic work is evidenced by a review by the well-known Ukrainian bibliographer and book expert Fedir Maksymenko (1896–1983), who insisted that “a catalog of cyrillic early printed books of the 16th–18th centuries, on which Roman Yaroslavovych has been working for a long time, and which is notable for its thoroughness and conscientiousness”⁵.

The catalog of early printed cyrillic books in the rare book department, which was compiled professionally and responsibly by R. Lutsyk, was never published. However, the bibliographic material compiled by R. Lutsyk was used by F. Maksymenko in compiling a consolidated catalog of early printed cyrillic books from museums and libraries in Lviv⁶.

R. Lutsyk studied Lviv book publishing in particular detail, and as a result of his academic and bibliographic study of old Cyrillic prints, he compiled an annotated card index entitled “Lviv Slavic Prints of the 16th–18th Centuries,” consisting of 352 cards. The book science and bibliographic materials of the annotated card index formed the basis of the printed catalog “Lviv Publications of the 16th–18th Centuries”⁷, a joint project of the Library and the Lviv Regional Organization of the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments, whose members include renowned scholars and cultural figures such as Mykhailo Vozniak, Yaroslav Isaievych, Ivan Krypiakievych, and Ilarion Svientsitsky. The catalog became a solid academic achievement in presenting the value of old printed editions in the history of Lviv's book culture and the need to record and preserve book monuments. An exceptional role in this was played by library departments that compiled publications from the 16th–18th centuries. In this case, R. Lutsyk collaborated with the well-known researcher of Ukrainian book publishing, academician Yaroslav Isaievich (1936–2010).

As a result of research work, unique copies of old prints from the fonds of the department were introduced into academic circulation. In particular, while reviewing the catalogue of early printed cyrillic books in the Rare Books

5 Ф. Максименко, Рецензія на машинопис каталога “Інкунабули Львівської наукової бібліотеки ім. В. Стефаника академії наук УРСР.” Уклад Р. Луцик, Ф. 1, Документи відділу рідкісної книги, Од. зб. 5, р. 3.

6 Ф. Максименко, *Кириличні стародруки українських друкарень, що зберігаються у львівських збірках (1574–1800): зведений каталог*. Львів, 1975, р. 127.

7 *Львівські видання XVI–XVIII ст.: каталог*, укладач І. Ісаєвич, Львів, 1970, р. 49.

Department and checking “de visu”, R. Lutsyk discovered a previously unknown copy of an extremely valuable edition – “Klyuch tsarstva nebesnoho”. The book is described in bibliographic literature as the first accurately dated edition of the post-Fedor period of the Ostroh printing house (Ostroh, 1587). It is also the first printed work of Ukrainian polemical literature of the 16th century, authored by one of the most educated figures of his time, writer and rector of the Ostroh Academy, Hryhorii Smotrytskyi (–1594). The copy has significant defects: many pages are missing, the title page is lost, pagination is only available on some of the pages due to the trimmed margins of the book, only the pages on which the end of the section “Klyuch tsarstva nebesnoho” and four pages of the section “The New Roman Calendar” are printed have been preserved. R. Lutsyk devoted a separate article to this unique find, entitled “On a Rare 16th-Century Print”, which was published in a thematic collection of academic works by the Library, “Treasury of Knowledge” (Lviv, 1972)⁸. In his scientific research, the author described marginal notes in Old Slavonic and Polish in the margins of the book, described the historical and cultural background of the creation of this polemical monument and its existence in the Ukrainian environment. The author traced bibliographic references and the availability of preserved copies. As a result of his research, he found that the book “was so well-read that only two copies with defects have survived to this day”—in the Central Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (now the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine) and the collection of old prints in the Rare Books Department of the Lviv Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR⁹. Therefore, despite the significant defects of both copies, they “are of great academic value,”¹⁰ the study concludes.

A characteristic feature of R. Lutsyk’s scientific style is an unpublished article preserved in the archives of the rare book department, entitled “About One Interesting Book”¹¹. It concerns “Triod’ tsvitna” printed by Schweipolt Fiol (Krakow, 1493), a collector’s copy of which is preserved in the rare book department. The academic study contains a general overview of the life and professional achievements of the first printer of early printed Cyrillic book, comments on the cradle of printed Cyrillic book in the context of the history of book publishing in the 15th century. The author described Cyrillic incunabula

8 Р. Луцик, *Про один рідкісний друк XVI ст. Скарбниця знань: тематичний збірник наук. праць*, Львів 1972, pp. 106–108.

9 Ibidem, p. 107.

10 Ibidem, p. 108.

11 Р. Луцик, *Про одну цікаву книгу. (машинопис)*, Ф. 1, Документи відділу рідкісної книги, од. зб. 2, р. 2.

as “extremely rare products of the art of printing”¹². R. Lutsyk conducted his bibliographic research of the first edition with the utmost thoroughness and expertise, comparing it with copies available in other book repositories and establishing that, as in other copies, the title page was missing. Despite the fact that the book is in good condition, R. Lutsyk described the defects of the copy: the final pages are missing, of the 362 pages only 339 are present, of which 294 are original, the rest replaced by handwritten analogues written in “three different handwritings” during the 16th-17th centuries. The author emphasises the interesting artistic decoration of the book, where the initials and headings are presented in red paint. R. Lutsyk traced the “interesting fate of the book” with particular care: provenance records on the pages indicated that on 15 May 1740, priest Danilevich donated the book to the church in Pariduby (Volhynia, Kovel district). In 1932, during one of his trips to Volhynia, Bogdan Olkhovsky, an amateur and seeker of antique books, found it by chance in a chest for candles in the same church and on 30 September of the same year transferred the Triod’ tsvitna to the “Studion” library in Lviv. It was from the fonds of this library that the cyrillic incunabulum found its way into the Library’s fonds.

R. Lutsyk conducted a comprehensive study of the preserved book binding. The boards, covered with brown leather, are made using blind embossing with fasteners. The author emphasises that what was unusual about the ancient binding was that “colour engravings, so-called folk paintings, of unknown origin and artist, somewhat damaged, were glued to the inside of the binding”¹³. The folk engraving, preserved on the flyleaf of the upper wooden binding, as the researcher notes, is made on a sheet of medium-thickness grey paper, where a fragment of a painting depicting a church with five domes and large crosses is visible, with the figure of St. Barbara depicted on the left under the lower dome. The engraving is done in black, and the tops of the domes are painted red. On the inside of the lower wooden cover of the “Triod’ tsvitna”, there is also a piece of grey paper with a fragment of an engraving made with ash-coloured paint, depicting a saint in bishop’s robes with a mitre on his head and a book in his left hand. Discovered and processed by R. Lutsyk in the old print fonds of the Rare Book Department, a copy of the cyrillic incunabulum “Triod’ tsvitna” with folk engravings on the flyleaves belongs to the historical and cultural heritage of world-class book monuments and is a great rarity in library book collections.

The study of folk engravings—a unique phenomenon in Ukrainian art—became a new direction in R. Lutsyk’s research. His interest in this artistic

¹² Ibidem, p. 1.

¹³ Р. Луцик, Про одну цікаву книгу. (машинопис), ЛННБУ ім. В. Стефаника. Архів відділу рідкісної книги, ф. 1, од. зб. 2, р. 1.

phenomenon prompted him to study it in detail. He enlisted the help of his colleague, Ukrainian historian and academician Ivan Krypyakevych (1886–1967), to study these artistic decorations. In his diary entry of 10 November 1960, R. Lutsyk notes that the academician was working on an article “about the colourful wood engravings I found on the inside covers of several old printed books in our collection”¹⁴. R. Lutsyk also interested F. Maksymenko in this topic. The results of their academic research were later published in a joint academic publication by I. Krypyakevych, R. Lutsyk, and F. Maksymenko: “Folk Engravings of the 17th Century”¹⁵. Thus, based on the previously cited handwritten studies and diary entries, it can be asserted that it was R. Lutsyk who discovered and researched the folk engravings in the rare books section of the old prints. The source base for this study consisted of six engravings from old prints of the LNB and three fragments from a manuscript Gospel from the manuscript department of the Lviv University Library. In addition to the “Triod’ tsvitna”, R. Lutsyk discovered folk engravings on the covers of early printed cyrillic books: “Evangeliie Uchytel’noe” (Zabludów, 1569), printed by Ivan Fedorovich (Illus. 1); The Bible (Ostrog, 1581), printed by Ivan Fedorovich, and “Evangeliie Uchytel’noe” (Krylos, 1606)¹⁶. In the publication, the researchers described all the folk engravings found on old prints. Among the book materials, there is a detailed description of the engraving preserved on the flyleaf of the lower wooden cover of the Evangeliie Uchytel’noe” (Zabludów, 1569) from the collection of Ivan Fedorovich’s publications in the rare book department. A sheet of thick grey paper, 16 cm wide and 29 cm long, is glued to the cover. The upper part of the sheet depicts the hind legs of a horse and part of a saddle, while the lower part shows an image of a dragon with a curled tail, accompanied by a human skull and bones. In the background of the engraving, there are chestnut leaves in three places. “This is an image of Saint George the Dragon Slayer fighting a dragon. The engraving is printed in black ink, half of it watercoloured in pale green”¹⁷ (Illus. 2).

The object of detailed study by historians of the book was an engraving found on the inside of the wooden frame of the early printed cyrillic book “Evangeliie Uchytel’noe” (Krylos, 1606). The book belonged to the historical collection of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, as evidenced by the old inventory number 18906 stamped on the replaced handwritten title page. On the flyleaf of the

14 Зі щоденника Романа Луцика (Львів, понеділок 8 лютого 1954 – субота, 25 березня 1961 рр.). Арк. 315.

15 І. Крип’якевич, Р. Луцик, Ф. Максименко, *Народні гравюри XVII ст. Українське мистецтвознавство*, Київ 1971, вип. 5, рр. 150–162.

16 Ibidem, p. 157.

17 Ibidem, p. 158.

upper cover of the old print, there is a piece of paper 18.5 cm wide and 30 cm long with an image of buildings in the form of castles. In the middle is the upper part of the figure of St. George the Dragon Slayer in knight's armour fighting a dragon, and below is part of a horse's head. At the top of the picture is a three-line inscription. The engraving is done in "black paint, with details painted in brown watercolour"¹⁸ (Illus. 3). The inside of the lower frame of the copy is occupied by a double sheet of thick yellowish paper 37.5 cm wide and 30.3 cm long with images of two engravings. The first fragment depicts Jesus with a crown on his head, embraced by the Virgin Mary, with houses and trees depicted below. The engraving is printed in black ink and illuminated in yellowish ink. The second fragment of the engraving depicts "an angel in knight's armour, executed in black ink, partially illuminated in pale brown"¹⁹. (Illus. 4)

The folk engravings discovered by R. Lutsyk are "examples of engraved images and icons"²⁰ that were used to decorate walls, as indicated by their considerable size. If the engravings are reconstructed as a whole, their size can be estimated to be "up to half a metre in length, or even more"²¹, as summarised in the scientific work. The authors of the publication pointed out that a characteristic feature of folk engravings was their illumination, and these "pictures" painted with watercolours on old prints were very rare.

An important aspect of studying this artistic artefact is to identify the centres where the "icon engravings" were made. Researchers suggest that the engravings described, found on book bindings, probably originate from Eastern Galicia. According to scientists, evidence of this is the mention of the printing of engraved icons, found by the authors of the study in the inventory of the printing house of the Lviv Stavropigial Brotherhood for 1662. Among various printing equipment, there is a mention of boards from which engravings were made. The following entries attracted attention: "elbow-length images", i.e. 68.77 cm long, which was the length of an elbow at that time. Accordingly, boards of such a large size could not be used to illustrate books, but were used to "print individual images", as noted in the article. The inventory also includes entries for "sheet tables" and "half-sheet tables", indicating that the printing house produced "wall coverings"²². The article expresses the opinion that engraved icons were produced in Krylos, Univ and other Western Ukrainian printing houses, as well as in travelling printing houses. I. Krypyakevych,

18 Ibidem, p. 158.

19 Ibidem, p. 155.

20 Ibidem, p. 159.

21 Ibidem.

22 Ibidem, p. 162.

P., R. Lutsyk, F. Maksymenko, F. state that the folk engravings found were similar in character and skillful technique to the engravings made by masters from Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Pochaiv. Therefore, “there was a single graphic art of woodcuts, common to all Ukrainian lands,” the academics concluded²³. The authors also emphasised the value for bibliographers and art historians of the materials presented on “engraved images” and the importance of clarifying “their place in the history of Ukrainian printing and art”²⁴. R. Lutsyk’s academic study, co-authored with others, of the least researched artistic artefacts—folk engravings—has, to a certain extent, filled one of the gaps in the study of the history of Ukrainian book art.

The art of designing old printed books is an important aspect of R. Lutsyk’s bibliographic interests. The department compiled a collection of illustrative materials and R. Lutsyk created a bibliographic card index: “Book Design. Illustrations to the text” (five boxes, 4,870 cards). It contains information about artistically designed and richly illustrated publications. As noted by Ukrainian bibliographer and academician Yakym Zapasko (1923–2007) in the “Rare Book Department Guest Book” dated 25 December 1976: “R. Lutsyk compiled a card index of artistically designed books. As can be seen from the card index, this work has been discontinued: there are no books from recent years with better graphic design in it. Meanwhile, the work must be continued, as its academic value cannot be overestimated”. Of course, given the innovative processes in information and library activities, a number of card indexes compiled in the 1950s–1970s now serve more as historical and bibliographic monuments. However, the results of R. Lutsyk’s painstaking academic and bibliographic work have enabled subsequent generations of users to navigate the unique fonds of the Rare Books Department.

It was R. Lutsyk who began systematic scientific research of the collection of old prints in Latin script in the Rare Books Department, focusing on priority valuable editions – incunabula – and their separation into a separate collection. His thorough knowledge of Latin, French, German, and Polish enabled R. Lutsyk to conduct multifaceted bibliographic research on copies of Latin old printed editions. R. Lutsyk’s study of incunabula was based on methods and recommendations developed in European bibliography by leading European scholars. To attribute incunabula, R. Lutsyk referred to the classic and still relevant catalogues of incunabula by L. Hain, “*Repertorium bibliographicum...*”, and V. Kopinger, “*Supplement to Hain’s Repertorium bibliographicum*”, as well as “*Gesammtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*”. The academic descriptions of

23 Ibidem.

24 Ibidem, p. 162.

incunabula created by him in accordance with international standards contained not only basic bibliographic information, but also comprehensive book science materials. This work also required a professional book science base and deep erudition, since the most effective disclosure of the book fonds is possible only if it is perfectly reflected in printed catalogues. The first book science and bibliographic materials on R. Lutsyk's first editions were included in the catalogue of incunabula of the Lviv University Library, compiled by F. Maksymenko (published in 1958). The list of incunabula stored in Lviv libraries includes 23 incunabula marked "AN—Lviv Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Rare Book Cabinet (14 Lysenka Street)"²⁵.

The results of Roman Lutsyk's many years of work on the scientific description and bibliographic annotation of the rare prints and incunabula section are reflected in the catalogue: "Incunabula of the V. Stefanyk Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR", which the compiler dedicated to the 400th anniversary of Ukrainian printing²⁶. In compiling the catalogue of incunabula, R. Lutsyk prepared a valuable register of 39 copies in 37 titles identified at that time. Organised alphabetically by author's surname or title of the work, the catalogue contains a set of information fields characteristic of this type of publication: author of the work; title (with the title in the original language); place of publication, publisher (if specified); printer, date of publication (as presented in the book); book format (in sheet fractions – 2°, 4°, 8°); number of sheets; information about the physical condition of the incunabulum copy: defects, presence of initials, rubrics and engravings, binding and its condition; ownership records, handwritten notes in the margins of the book, book code.

Presumably, the printed version of the incunabula catalogue was somewhat abridged, as the author prepared comprehensive bibliographic annotations of the collection items. This is evidenced by R. Lutsyk's handwritten materials for the catalogue, preserved in the department's archives, which contain carefully researched and meticulously processed bibliographic material. It is important to emphasise that in terms of its structure, systematisation and auxiliary apparatus, the incunabula catalogue is a valuable source material for incunabula studies and "a concrete response to the demands of the time"²⁷. This conclusion was

25 Ф.П. Максименко, *Першодруки (інкунабули) Наукової бібліотеки Львівського університету: каталог*. Львів, 1958, р. 28.

26 Р. Луцик, *Інкунабули Львівської наукової бібліотеки ім. В. Стефаника Академії наук УРСР: каталог*, Львів 1974, р. 39

27 Ф. Максименко, Рецензія на машинопис каталога "Інкунабули Львівської наукової бібліотеки ім. В. Стефаника академії наук УРСР," уклад Р. Луцик, ЛННБУ ім. В. Стефаника. Архів відділу рідкісної книги, ф. 1, од. зб. 5, р. 3.

reached by the reviewers of the catalogue, F. Maksymenko and Y. Isaievich²⁸, who recommended it for publication.

Roman Lutsyk enjoyed well-deserved recognition not only among domestic but also foreign researchers. This is confirmed, in particular, by a review published in 1974 of the “Catalogue of Incunabula” by James Walsh (1891–1981), a scholar at one of Harvard University’s libraries, the Houghton Library²⁹. Key to James Walsh’s review is a series of valuable remarks on the size and formation of the collection of first editions. Highlighting the loss of rarities during World War II, the reviewer noted: “Leafing through the few pages of the catalogue, it is impossible not to regret the descriptions of incunabula that are missing from it: its 39 bibliographic descriptions represent only a meagre remnant of the library’s collection of incunabula, which numbered about 400 books from the 15th century, before it was looted by the German occupiers”³⁰.

The author of the review emphasised that in 1940, Lviv libraries were the largest holders of incunabula in Ukraine. The number of first editions found in the collections of pre-war libraries amounted to almost 1,200 copies, and after the removal of some of the first editions in 1945, their number decreased to 100 copies of incunabula. Confirmation of this thesis can be found in the study by R. Dzyuban, senior academic research fellow at the Library, “Changes in the fonds of the Lviv branch of the Lviv Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1945–1953” (Lviv, 2010). He noted, in particular, that the Library suffered great losses during the war, in particular, the majority of old prints—over 300 incunabula—were taken away. The reviewer also assessed the thematic repertoire of the incunabula catalogue, most of which were religious works: “Of the 36 copies in the collection, 25 are theological publications, and the remaining 11 are works of classical literature, grammatical treatises, medical manuals, and chronicles”³¹.

As the reviewer noted, a bibliographic rarity preserved in the Library’s incunabula collection is a bundle containing treatises by Marcus Tullius Cicero,

28 Я. Ісаєвич. Рецензія на рукопис каталога “Інкунабули Львівської наукової бібліотеки ім. В. Стефаника академії наук УРСР,” уклад Р. Луцик, ЛІННБУ ім. В. Стефаника. Архів відділу рідкісної книги, ф. 1, од. зб. 4, р. 3.

29 E.J. Walsh, *Incunabuly L'viv's'koji naukovoji biblioteki im. V. Stefanyka Akademiji nauk URSR: Kataloh [The Incunabula of the L'viv Research Library of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: A Catalogue, R. Ja. Lutsyk (compiler)]. Recenzija*. “A Review of Soviet Ukrainian Scholarly Publications” 1974, vol. V, no 1. Fall—Winter, pp. 45–46.

30 Ibidem, p. 45.

31 Р. Дзюбан, *Зміни у фонді Львівської філії Бібліотеки АН УРСР у 1945–1953 рр. Львівська національна наукова бібліотека України імені В. Стефаника: Історія і сучасність: доповіді та повідомлення Міжнар. наук. конф. (м. Львів, 28–30 жовтня 2010 року)*, Львів 2010, p. 177.

published in 1467–1470. D. Walsh considers the lack of information about the provenance of the books to be a shortcoming of the incunabula catalogue. This thesis can be explained by the fact that R. Lutsyk's provenance studies have been preserved in manuscript form in the archives of the Rare Books Department.

The reviewer also points out that there is no summary in English, which would be acceptable for this type of publication. D. Walsh recommends compiling a brief description of the book titles based on card catalogues that would provide information about losses, and submitting them as an additional index to the catalogue; when compiling the index, the information should be checked against bibliographic catalogues of pre-war incunabula. By improving the catalogue with material on the composition of the library's collection before World War II, it would be possible to give a more complete description of the incunabula collection³². The catalogue was published on time in 1974, but the author did not live to see the results of his work. Analysing the current state of incunabula research, R. Lutsyk's printed catalogue can be considered an invaluable contribution to the development of the history of Western European book printing.

R. Lutsyk conducted a similarly detailed bibliographic study of post-incunabula, which were separated into a separate book collection. The compiler of the catalogue of post-incunabula of the Rare Books Department, classical philologist and compiler of the dictionary of Rumeian dialects, Rima Kharabodot (1927–2017), considered R. Lutsyk her mentor and teacher in the study of old prints and valued his competent advice and guidance. In her handwritten preface to the catalogue post-incunabula (Lviv, 1974), the researcher noted: "This work is dedicated to the memory of the esteemed head of the Rare Books Department, Roman Yaroslavovych Lutsyk, who instilled a love for old printed books and on whose initiative the catalogue was created". The compiler emphasised that the catalogue of post-incunabula is a continuation of the academic study of the Rare Books Department's fonds of old printed books, which was started by R. Lutsyk³³.

R. Lutsyk's scientific interests also included a detailed analysis of the collection of old printed editions from the second half of the 16th–18th centuries in the Rare Books Department, which he formed and researched over a period of 24 years. R. Lutsyk included the substantive results of his book studies in

32 E.J. Walsh, *Incunabuly L'vivs'koji naukovoji biblioteki im. V. Stefanyka Akademiji nauk URSR: Kataloh [The Incunabula of the L'viv Research Library of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: A Catalogue, R. Ja. Lutsyk (compiler)]. Recenzija*, "A Review of Soviet Ukrainian Scholarly Publications" 1974, vol. V, no 1. Fall – Winter, p. 46.

33 Ibidem.

a manuscript article entitled “Rare Books Department”³⁴, which is preserved in the manuscripts department of the Library. This book study is part of the historian’s valuable unpublished academic work.

Conclusions

The period of totalitarian rule, during which R. Lutsyk had to work, when the Rare Books Department was subordinated to the main task of Soviet-era libraries—the promotion of mass-market books—was not conducive to the study of early printed editions as an important factor in national culture, and their physical preservation often depended on the people who cared for them. It was to R. Lutsyk’s achievement that, despite the ideological overlay of Marxism-Leninism, valuable book monuments were properly preserved and professionally processed, and his research efforts were directed towards the development and activation of book studies of old printed books by introducing rare prints into academic circulation. In the Rare Books Department, he managed to assemble a collection of old prints in Latin script, including rare collections of incunabula and post-incunabula, and to form a collection of early printed cyrillic books in the Department, one of the most complete in Ukrainian libraries. R. Lutsyk’s bibliographic heritage is a solid foundation for researchers of Ukrainian and European book printing in various aspects of academic knowledge in the history of books.

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Source: Funds of the Rare Book Department,

The Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv.

Photo: Natalia Lev



Illus. 2. Evangelie Uchytel'noe. Zabłudów, printed by Ivan Fedorovych, 1569.

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Illus. 3. Evangelie Uchytel'noe, Krylos, 1606.

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Illus. 4. Evangelie Uchytel'noe, Krylos, 1606.

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