




## RECENZJE

Stanislav Voloshchenko

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv, Ukraine  
stachevskiy@gmail.com

 0000-0002-7081-5358

Н. Заболотна, *Видання друкарні Унівського Успенського монастиря у фондах Національної бібліотеки України імені В. І. Вернадського. Дослідження. Науковий каталог* / N. Zabolotna, *Publications of the Univ Dormition Monastery Printing Press in the Collections of the V. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Research. Scientific Catalogue*, Kyiv 2024. ISBN 978-617-14-0270-6

Dr Natalia Zabolotna's catalogue presents a comprehensive study of Univ printing house editions held in the Department of Old Printed Books and Rare Editions at the Institute of Book Studies of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine (hereinafter VNLU). This work acquires particular significance as it has appeared during the period of Russian aggression against Ukraine, when the described unique early printed books remain under direct threat of destruction. It is worth noting that the building housing the Univ publications studied by Zabolotna, alongside the invaluable book collection of the last King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Stanisław August Poniatowski, suffered a missile strike by the Russian Federation on 10 October 2022<sup>1</sup>.

The catalogue encompasses 20 editions in 141 copies and three separate fragments. These represent a significant portion of the surviving publications from this important cultural and religious center of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The work culminates extensive research with primary sources conducted between 2010 and 2024. This research has enabled the organization and systematization of extant copies, while substantially expanding scholarly understanding of the Univ typography's printing repertoire and characteristics.

It is worth noting the author's recent study, published in 2024 in the same scholarly journal, entitled "Book heritage in danger: Ukrainian bibliography studies" (vol. 18, no. 1). In the article *The Cyrillic Early Printed Books of Univ and Pochaiv: Peculiarities of Editions, Experience of Scientific Cataloguing*,

---

<sup>1</sup> S. Voloshchenko, *Preface*, "The Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections" 2024, vol. 18, no. 1, p. 9.

Zabolotna examined the problematic aspects of Cyrillic early printed books and sheet editions from the Univ and Pochaiv monasteries of the mid-seventeenth through eighteenth centuries held in the VNLU collection, a portion of which she has meticulously processed for the reviewed catalogue. A significant scholarly contribution made by the researcher was the identification and attribution of editions previously unknown in the academic literature. Among these unique discoveries are the *Hramota* or *Pastoral Epistle* by Lviv Bishop Barlaam Szeptycki from 1712 and counterfeit Univ editions of the *Euchologia*, which substantially enhance our knowledge of Cyrillic printing<sup>2</sup>.

The catalogue under analysis represents the first specialized study devoted exclusively to copies from the Univ typography, whereas previously Valentyna Bochkovska and co-authors published a catalogue of publications from both printing houses – Pochaiv and Univ – spanning the eighteenth through twentieth centuries from the collection of the Museum of Books and Printing of Ukraine (Kyiv) in 2008<sup>3</sup>. It is also worth noting that individual rare publications from the Univ printing house, dispersed throughout lesser-known collections, are gradually being incorporated into scholarly discourse through their description in specialised catalogues, which render these copies accessible to the broader academic community<sup>4</sup>. These facts attest to the particular significance of these two publishing centres of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the growing interest among bibliographic scholars in identifying and disseminating new findings that substantially supplement the history of book publishing of that period. The detailed descriptions of book artefacts presented herein are of inestimable value for further bibliological studies.

The Univ Monastery of the Assumption of the Mother of God, as the author noted in the introductory article, was founded in the late fourteenth century. The date of 1648 is considered the initial milestone in the history of the monastery's printing operations in Univ, marking the publication of the first known book, *Psalter*. Publishing activity continued until 1770, despite the monastery's incorporation into the Uniate Church in 1681<sup>5</sup>. From the mid-17<sup>th</sup> through the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the printing house produced over 50 diverse

2 N. Zabolotna, *The Cyrillic Early Printed Books of Univ and Pochaiv: Peculiarities of Editions, Experience of Scientific Cataloguing*, "The Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections" 2024, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 149–165.

3 В.Г. Бочковська, Л.В. Хауха, В.А. Адамович, *Каталог видань Почаївського та Унівського монастирів XVIII–XX ст. з колекції Музею книги і друкарства України*, Київ 2008.

4 С. Волощенко, *Кириличні стародруки у фондах бібліотеки Отців Василян при Свято-Онуфрійському монастирі у Львові XVI–XIX століть. Каталог*, Zhovkva 2015, pp. 162–164.

5 Н. Заболотна, *Видання друкарні Унівського Успенського монастиря у фондах Національної бібліотеки України імені В. І. Вернадського. Дослідження. Науковий каталог*, Київ 2024, pp. 3–4.

publications. This continuity of the printing tradition attests to the particular role of the Univ Monastery as an important cultural and religious centre of book publishing in the Ukrainian lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Professor Ivan Ohienko emphasised the special mission of the monastic printing house in Univ, as the principal printing establishment and simultaneously the center of Ukrainian culture – the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra – was subject to stringent censorship by the Tsardom of Moscow. Univ publications were distinguished by the fact that their prefaces, and occasionally the main texts, were printed in the Ukrainian language, thereby preserving ancient Ukrainian linguistic traditions<sup>6</sup>. Within the context of contemporary decolonial processes, the study of Univ early printed books acquires particular significance as one of the instruments for restoring Ukraine's historical memory and cultural heritage. It is precisely through such research that the Univ book legacy can be properly integrated into Ukrainian history without the imperial and Soviet ideological distortions that for decades marginalised the Ukrainian contribution to the development of book culture in Central and Eastern Europe<sup>7</sup>.

Cataloguing and systematically studying Univ's printed books is crucial for understanding Cyrillic book publishing in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This comprehensive catalogue creates a necessary source base for comparative investigations into various printing centers, contributing to our understanding of Cyrillic printing's role in the region's cultural and religious life.

The scientific catalogue is structured in three parts: introduction, main catalogue, and appendices. In the introductory section, Zabolotna presents an overview of the history of the Univ Monastery and its printing press. The author substantiates that the operations of the printing house between 1699 and 1732 were not completely suspended, and that small-format and sheet publications, which had low survival rates, were issued (pp. 3–6). Examples include the *Book of Hours* from 1671 (in 16°), preserved in a single copy (St dr. 585443 I), or the *Prayer Book* from 1698 (in 24°) (St dr. 52127 I), held in the Jagiellonian Library.

The researcher analyses quantitative indicators of publishing output, providing statistical data and characterising the most distinguished publications. Of particular note is the *Archieratikon* from 1740, featuring unique two-colour printing and elements of musical notation. Of value is the hypothesis concerning

---

6 І. Огієнко, *Початок друкарства в Уневі*, “Записки Наукового Товариства імені Шевченка” 1925, vol. 141–143, p. 2.

7 О. Okhrimenko, *Book Culture of Medieval Europe and Rus-Ukraine*, [in] *Христинопільський Апостол XII століття. Факсимільне видання та кодикологічне дослідження*, упорядник та автор дослідження архим. Методій (Станіслав) Волощенко; вступна стаття Олександра Охріменка, Kyiv 2023, p. xiii.

connections between the musical printing technique in the Univ *Leitourgikon* and the Lviv *Irmologion* of 1700, which opens perspectives for research into interregional book contacts (pp. 6–10).

Zabolotna examined the linguistic characteristics of Univ publications from various periods. The linguistic variety of Univ imprints reflected both confessional changes and practical considerations for audience accessibility. This includes 40 editions in Church Slavonic, 10 in Ukrainian, and 2 in Romanian. An important observation is the increase in the proportion of publications in Ukrainian during the Uniate period (approximately one-third of production compared to one-sixth during the Orthodox period). The author documents numerous examples of Ukrainianisms across different linguistic levels, substantiating the value of Univ early printed books as sources for historical linguistic research. The most intriguing linguistic monument is identified as *Zercalo do prezrenia* by Yosyf Shumlyansky from 1680 (pp. 10–15).

The researcher undertook a comprehensive analysis of the artistic design of Univ early printed books. She systematized 574 initial blocks and 68 headpiece blocks identified in publications from the VNLU collection. The iconography of Univ book graphics combines traditional floral motifs with depictions of saints, angels, and birds, symbolic imagery (the All-Seeing Eye in initial “IT”), heraldic elements (Metropolitan Szeptycki’s coat of arms), and rare engraved imitations of seals.

The methodologically considered division of Univ early printed books into “minimalist” (catechetical and small-format publications) and “traditional” (large-format *Leitourgikons* with elaborate decoration) reflects not only aesthetic preferences but also a pragmatic approach to publishing practice (pp. 15–27).

The clarification of bibliographic data and identification of unknown publications plays an important role. Through careful comparative analysis, the researcher identified two unauthorized *Euchologia* editions (designated “Edition A” and “Edition B”) published between 1739 and 1744 without the local hierarch’s blessing. The author documented typographical peculiarities that reveal discrepancies between editions, developing a reliable methodology for attributing early printed books. Her assumption that the majority of Univ publications are yet to be discovered (only 20 of 52 known works are represented in VNLU collections) opens prospects for future research (pp. 28–41).

A separate section is devoted to the provenances of the described copies. This permits tracing their historical circulation, considering each early printed book not merely as a typographical product but as a unique historical monument. Zabolotna documents the origins of copies predominantly from Ukrainian ecclesiastical and educational institutions in Kyiv and Volhynia. Ownership, donation, and readership inscriptions enable tracing the extensive

geographical distribution of Univ publications from Volhynia and Podilia to Kyiv and southern regions, confirming the influence of the Univ printing press on the religious and cultural life of Ukrainian lands. Meticulous study of provenances, even those only fragmentarily preserved, permits reconstruction of the peculiarities of book culture functioning in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (pp. 41–42).

The introductory section concludes with an exposition of the methodological foundations of the catalogue and principles for transcribing ancient Cyrillic texts. The structure of the catalogue is based on chronological principle with alphabetical, personal name, geographical indices, and an index of composite volumes. The descriptive system developed by the author encompasses detailed recording of artistic design, bibliographical characteristics of publications, and meticulous documentation of individual copy provenances (pp. 41–50).

The principal portion of the work comprises the actual catalogue of Univ publications held at the VNLU (pp. 51–314). This section constitutes the most substantial and detailed component of the study, where each publication has received a comprehensive scholarly description. Catalogue entries are arranged according to chronological-alphabetical principle. Catalogue entries are divided into two parts: bibliographical description and scholarly copy description. Each entry begins with a serial number, standardized title, and publication year. Zabolotna's descriptions include format, collation formula, printing characteristics, content details by gatherings, incipits, artistic design, and bibliographical references. In the copy description, the researcher systematically presents the inventory call number, condition, all identified provenances and marginalia, binding characteristics, concluding with a bibliography devoted specifically to that particular copy.

The catalogue covers 20 publications (141 copies plus three fragments), published between 1648 and 1745. These include: *Psalter* (1648, two variants 1678, 1689), *Zercalo do prezrenia* by Yosyf Shumlyansky ([1680]), *Euchologion* (1681, 1739, 1744, two variants between 1739 and 1744), *Zercalo bohossloviia* by Cyril Tranquillion Stavrovetsky (1692), *Hramota or Pastoral Epistle* by Barlaam Szeptycki (1712), *Sobranie pripadkov* (1732), *Leitourgikon* (1733, 1740, 1747), *Voslidovanie prazdnikom* (1738, 1745), *Archieratikon* (1740), and *Pouchenie o Sviatykh Tainakh* (1745).

Among the publications described in the catalogue, two bibliographical discoveries by the author merit particular attention. The first unique document is Barlaam Szeptycki's *Hramota or Pastoral Epistle* dated 25 XI 1712, distinguished by both the bishop's authentic signature and personal seal impression. The provenance record "Bibliothecae Collegii Vladimiriensis Patrum Basilianorum" shows that the Basilian Fathers' library in Volodymyr in Volhynia

owned this two-sheet imprint (pp. 88–89). The second discovery comprises two variants of the *Euchologion*, dated by the researcher to the period between 1739 and 1744 (pp. 253–276). The author conducted a thorough comparative analysis of these editions in comparison with the *Euchologia* of 1739 and 1744, the results of which are systematized in a special comparative table (Table 3, pp. 32–38).

Zabolotna's book price records provide valuable insights into eighteenth-century book economics. Thus, the *Leitourgikon* of 1733 cost 36 zloty in 1737, as evidenced by a record of its acquisition by a church brotherhood in Stara Syniava (Khmelnytsky region) for the Church of Great Martyr Paraskeva (p. 102). Conversely, the same book could be purchased for 2 gold ducats, as recorded in the acquisition of a copy for the Church of the Assumption of the Mother of God in Kokhangorod (Vinnytsia region). The later 1747 edition of the *Leitourgikon* was valued at 32 zloty as of 1755 (p. 308).

A telling example of book migration is provided by one copy of *Pouchenie o Sviatkykh Tainakh* (1745). Through provenance records, it was possible to trace its complete journey: initially, in 1761, the book was purchased by Priest Yosyf for the Church of the Prophet Elijah in Kopachiv for 15 hryvnias (three kopas), at the beginning of the nineteenth century it belonged to Priest Theodosius Myrovych, and by 1825 student Symeon Myrovych had pawned it to Mykola Fylyanovich for 5 roubles in Boryslav (pp. 283–284). Such detailed provenance records enable not only the reconstruction of an individual copy's trajectory but also analysis of the dynamics of price fluctuations for books and peculiarities of their functioning within the ecclesiastical milieu.

The concluding component of the publication comprises meticulously prepared appendices that substantially enhance the scholarly reference potential of the catalogue. Among these are a compact alphabetical list of Univ publications held in VNLU collections (ten titles, p. 315), as well as an exhaustive register of all 52 publications from this center known at the time of publication spanning the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (pp. 315–318). The indices developed by the author are of substantial heuristic potential: personal name, geographical, and a special index of ancient libraries, compiled on the basis of identified provenances (pp. 319–325). Indispensable for bibliographical studies is the author's table that visualizes the structure of 20 composite volumes according to the chronology of Univ alligates (pp. 326–329). The reference section includes: bibliography (pp. 330–333), abbreviations (pp. 333–334), illustrative material (11 images, pp. 335–338), English-language summary (pp. 339–340), and contents (pp. 341–342).

Zabolotna's publication opens new perspectives for research into Univ book publishing and the Cyrillic tradition more broadly. Her identification of previously unknown editions, development of attribution methodology, and

systematization of provenances create a reliable foundation for future investigations. This catalogue will serve as an essential resource for bibliographers, historians, and cultural researchers, while setting high standards for modern bibliographical practice.

Dr Zabolotna's scholarly catalogue represents a fundamental study that substantially expands our understanding of Univ publishing and establishes new standards in the field of Cyrillic early printed book cataloguing. The author successfully combines profound bibliographical expertise with innovative research methods, notably developing a detailed system for attributing counterfeit publications based on microanalysis of typographical characteristics. Particularly valuable is the identification of two previously unknown publications – Barlaam Szeptycki's *Hramota* or *Pastoral Epistle* (1712) and two variants of the *Euchologia* (1739–1744).

Some methodological aspects need clarification. While the author challenges the traditional view of a complete printing hiatus (1699–1732), the argument relies mainly on assumptions about poor survival rates of small-format publications. This conclusion lacks sufficient factual support. The principle of dating the counterfeit *Euchologia* solely as “between 1739 and 1744” also raises questions, without attempting more precise chronological localisation based on watermarks or other technical paper characteristics. Furthermore, it would be desirable to see a more detailed discussion of the socio-economic factors that might have influenced the emergence of counterfeit publications within a single monastic center.

Despite these observations, Zabolotna's work systematizes existing knowledge and opens new horizons for bibliological research. The catalogue will become an indispensable tool for historians, bibliographers, and cultural studies scholars, whilst the developed methodology for describing early printed books may serve as a model for similar projects devoted to other printing centers.

### Bibliography

- Bochkovska V.H., Khaukha L.V., Adamovych V.A., *Catalogue of Publications from the Pochoiv and Univ Monasteries of the 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> Centuries from the Collection of the Museum of Book and Printing of Ukraine*, Kyiv 2008.
- Ohienko I., *The Beginning of Printing in Univ*, “Notes of the Shevchenko Scientific Society” 1925, vol. 141–143, pp. 1–20.
- Okhrimenko O., *Book Culture of Medieval Europe and Rus-Ukraine*, [in:] *Apostolus Christianopolitanus of the Twelfth Century. Facsimile Edition and Codicological Research*, Compiler and Author of the Research archim. Methodius (Stanislav) Voloshchenko; Introductory Article by Oleksandr Okhrimenko, Kyiv 2023, pp. xiii–xvii.

Voloshchenko S., *Cyrillic Early Printed Books in the Collections of the Basilian Fathers Library of Saint Onuphrius Monastery of Lviv of the 16<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Catalogue*, Zhovkva 2015.

Voloshchenko S., *Preface*, “The Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections” 2024, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 9–12.

Zabolotna N., *Publications of the Univ Dormition Monastery Printing Press in the Collections of the V. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Research. Scientific Catalogue*, Kyiv 2024.

Zabolotna N., *The Cyrillic Early Printed Books of Univ and Pochaiv: Peculiarities of Editions, Experience of Scientific Cataloguing*, “The Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections” 2024, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 149–165.