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The Theme of the Issue:

THE HISTORY OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOXY OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup>–20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

#### FROM THE EDITOR

Interest in the history of Russian Orthodoxy has remained constant throughout the existence of Russian historical science and professional communities of domestic humanists. Even in the difficult past century for the study of religion, research has been carried out to deepen our knowledge in this area. Despite the declared secularization of all aspects of Russian life, Orthodox traditions determined many manifestations of the existence of Russian society. In recent decades, the development of the historical and church direction of Russian historical science has received a new impetus, leading to the appearance of a significant number of works devoted to various aspects of the life of Russian Orthodoxy and its influence on the most important components of the political, public, social and cultural reality of our past and present.

Following these latest trends in the development of Russian historiography, this issue of the journal, dedicated to the history of Russian Orthodoxy in the 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries, presents the results of a study of a wide range of problems in the life of both the Russian Orthodox Church and the complex religious and social situation that arose as a result of the rejection of church reforms by Patriarch Nikon Old Believers movements. The central place in the issue is traditionally occupied by studies of historical and literary sources, analyzed by historians, philologists, source scholars, musicologists, and library scientists through the lens and using the tools of special historical and philological disciplines. In this issue of the journal, articles are presented in seven thematic sections: “Historiographic Problems of Church History”, “History of parish communities of the Russian Orthodox Church”, “Orthodox bishops and problems of church administration”, “Intellectuals in the life of the Russian Orthodox Church”, “Periodicals in history Russian Orthodox Church”, “Liturgical and singing tradition of Russian Orthodoxy” and “Book culture and history of the Old Believers”.

The opening section of the issue, “Historiographical Problems of Church History,” includes articles that highlight the state of Russian historiography, analyze research approaches when working with the most important written sources on the history of the Judaizer heresy, the preparation for the conciliar deposition of Patriarch Nikon and the founding of Orthodox monasteries on the Siberian outskirts of Moscow Rus'. The first article examines the use of techniques and methods of textual criticism in works of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries on the history of the Judaizer heresy. Achievements of church historiography of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The second article in this section is devoted to the study of the main polemical work of Patriarch Nikon – “Objections” to the questions of boyar Simeon Streshnev and the responses to them of Metropolitan Paisius Ligarides of Gaza. It concludes with a work that presents the historiographical tradition from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, associated with the problem of the exact dating of the foundation of one of the first monasteries in the Yenisei Siberia – the Monastery of the Nativity of Christ.

In the second section, devoted to the history of parish communities, there are three articles that examine different aspects of the life of the grassroots church communities of Orthodox believers of New and Contemporary times. Based on a well-preserved archive of the 17<sup>th</sup> century of one of the church parishes of the Russian North, an important component of its economy was studied – peasant contracts for villages and land, which imposed on the contractors not only the obligations of conscientiously performing agricultural work, financial and in-kind duties, maintaining the proper condition of buildings, but also made them active participants in the economic,

social, business, and administrative life of the parish community. Using information from church-parish and secular demographic and statistical records of the population, the class and confessional composition, as well as the location and boundaries of rural parishes of one of the districts of the Tomsk province at the end of the 19th century were established. The phenomenon of church samizdat in the first half of the twentieth century is considered. In relation to the liturgical and ascetic written heritage of the Soviet era, diverse in its repertoire, from the archive of secret monastic communities of the Moscow Vysoko-Petrovsky Monastery.

In the articles in the section “Orthodox bishops and problems of church administration,” the main attention is paid to the issues of the composition of bishops’ houses in Kolomna in the 16th century and in Vologda in the 17th century, as well as the ritual of the meeting of Siberian rulers in Tobolsk in the 17th – early 18th centuries. The obtained results of studying a wide range of sources allowed us to conclude that Bishop Joseph of Kolomna was close to the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Philip (Kolychev), as a possible reason for the repressions of Tsar Ivan the Terrible against the secular elite of his bishop’s court during the oprichnina period. Quantitative and qualitative changes in the social, official and personal composition of the episcopal court of the Vologda rulers in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century became the topic of research for the second article of this section. The third article shows that the solemn ceremony of welcoming the new bishops appointed to govern the Siberian diocese and the ruling bishops returning from trips, despite the regulation in the royal charters, was adapted to the cultural landscape, natural conditions and topography of the urban area of Tobolsk.

The fourth section is devoted to the study of the peculiarities of the activities of intellectuals in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church and their attitude to the change of confessional affiliation. The formation of the accusatory discourse of church writers of the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century is considered. About the supporters of the emerging religious and social movement of the Old Believers, the problems and main directions of criticism of the views of opponents of the innovations of Patriarch Nikon are identified. For the first time, the difficult path of religious quest in the 19<sup>th</sup> century has been studied in such detail. Representatives of the highest aristocracy of Tsarist Russia, Russian emigrant L.I. Sayn-Wittgenstein, who led her to convert to Catholicism.

The section on the role of periodicals in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church includes two articles, the object of study of which are Soviet newspapers. The problem of formation on the pages of the main newspaper of the country “Pravda” of the image of the Orthodox Russian Church in the turning point for its history in 1922, when neutral and even positive assessments of the activities of representatives of the renovationist church schism appeared, is analyzed. The results of a study of one of the mass Soviet periodicals – the newspaper “Bezbozhnik” in the first three years of its publication are presented. For the first time in historical literature, an attempt has been made to comprehensively analyze the structure of a newspaper and characterize the main types of materials published on its pages.

The section “The liturgical and singing tradition of Russian Orthodoxy” includes three articles that update previously unknown handwritten and sound monuments of the musical culture of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Old Believers. Preserved in the only list of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is introduced into scientific circulation. “A Sermon on the Day of the Great Martyr Nikita” is a church theatrical sermon with the participation of a choir of singers who sang in the church for many years with a detailed listing of all living representatives of the Romanov dynasty, starting with Tsars John V and Peter I. For the first time, a complete scientific description of the collections with scores of spiritual works by composers for church choirs, which were compiled by Archpriest Peter Taratuta in Lithuania and Ukraine on the eve and during the Second World War, is published in the library of the Yekaterinburg Theological Seminary. Hitherto unknown information from handwritten and audio materials about the existence of the tradition of liturgical and extra-liturgical spiritual singing among the Old Believers of Altai was analyzed on the basis of expedition diary and tape recordings made



in the late 1960s. participants in archaeographic expeditions of the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The largest section in terms of the number of articles is devoted to the results of the study of book culture and the history of the Old Believers. It opens with an article about changes in the understanding of the concept of “piety” in written monuments of the 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and about the introduction of their own connotation into this concept by opponents of Patriarch Nikon’s church reform. Another article examines the problem of the leaders of the early Old Believers using subjects from the past in their polemical writings and the nature of their historical erudition. In the following article, a textual analysis was carried out and the publication of a little-known polemical-dogmatic essay “On the Questioning of the Wicked Authorities” by Deacon Fyodor Ivanov, a prominent representative of the first generation of Old Believer scribes, who laid the foundation for the ideology of the religious and social movement of the Old Believers, was carried out. The following article, based on registers and descriptions of the library of the Old Believer Vygo-Leksinsky hostel, examines the level of book culture of adherents of ancient piety, characterized by the thematic breadth of interests and a scientific approach to the use of texts. The last article of this section recreates the features of the existence in the regional manuscript tradition of copies of the historical and eschatological monument of Byzantine literature “Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius”, which was widely circulated among the Old Believers peasants of Nizhny Pechora and was subject to changes during rewriting and processing.

The issue of the magazine ends with the section “Scientific Life”, which contains a message about the anniversary exhibition in the cartography department of the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg, dedicated to the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Sciences and the 285<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the academic Geographical Department.

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