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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

The history of Russian Orthodoxy has always been a focus of attention for Russian humanities. Even in the most unfavorable periods for its study, humanists found opportunities for research work in this area of scientific knowledge. Like no one else, the “ancientists” and medievalists have always known that without studying the history of Russian Orthodoxy it is impossible to fully understand Russian history in the Middle Ages and the modern era. Even in later times, religion played a significant role in the life of our country and people. Over the past three and a half decades, exceptionally favorable conditions have emerged for conducting research on a comprehensive study of confessional history. Significant quantitative and qualitative changes have occurred in this field, the subject range has expanded incredibly and become more detailed, the professional team has expanded significantly, including both secular and religious researchers, and the methods of conducting scientific analysis have become more sophisticated.

This issue of the journal contains articles authored by representatives of historical and philological sciences, specialists in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Old Believers. The traditional union of these sciences made it possible to use research methods from special historical and philological disciplines – archeography, textual criticism, paleography, and codicology. And not only this, but also analytical techniques tested in such fields of knowledge as sphragistics, historical terminology, library science, bibliology, archival science, musicology, museology, etc. First of all, this concerns such an integrative science as source studies, which accumulates diverse methods of analyzing historical sources, not only written ones, but also material, visual, auditory, etc. All the above-mentioned features of the modern research work of source historians and source philologists and the scientific results they have obtained are presented in the published articles.

The articles in this issue are divided into five sections: “Orthodox Hierarchs in Russian Church and Secular History”, “Issues in Church Governance”, “Periodicals Press in the History of the Russian Orthodox Church”, “Libraries and Book Collections in the History of Russian Orthodoxy” and “Book Culture and the History of the Old Belief”. The final sixth section of “The World of the Book” contains a review of a new monograph dedicated to the history of naval clergy.

The first section of the issue, “Orthodox Hierarchs in Russian Church and Secular History”, includes four articles. They highlight the diverse state-church activities of Orthodox bishops over a long period of time: from the accession of Mikhail Romanov to the royal throne to the abdication of the last autocrat from this dynasty, Emperor Nicholas II, and the first years of Soviet power. A sphragistic analysis of the seals using digital modeling capabilities has allowed us to examine in a new way the issue of the certification of the charter of election of Mikhail Romanov to the throne in 1613 by church hierarchs and to explore the biographies of Archbishop Nektarios the Greek and Bishop Sylvester, who participated in this. The influence of the political context on the emergence of the cult of worship and the decision to canonize Orthodox bishops of the 17<sup>th</sup> century – patriarchs and diocesan bishops – is noted. The reasons and stages for the canonization of a significant number of archpastors of that time, venerated as saints and holy martyrs at the general church or diocesan levels, have been established. The role of the manuscript heritage of Ancient Rus' in the polemical works of three bishops from the community of writers of the patriarchal circle of the second half of the

17<sup>th</sup> century is investigated: Metropolitan Ignatius of Tobolsk, Saint Demetrius of Rostov, and Archbishop Athanasius of Kholmogory. On display is a collection of authentic relics from the history of the Russian Orthodox Church in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, housed in the State Historical Museum. The unique artifacts reflect the work of the Local Council of 1917–1918 and are associated with the names of the first post-synodal patriarch Tikhon and two other bishops – the new martyr Bishop Tikhon (Nikanorov) and Metropolitan Nestor (Anisimov).

The second section, “Issues in Church Governance”, opens with an article devoted to the complex issues of the polysemantic nature of terms used in church administration in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Three groups of names are considered depending on their origin and usage in the language, and special attention is paid to the term “clerk”, which denoted both the lowest representative of the clergy and the highest administrator. In another article in this section, information about newly discovered copies of the Charter of St. Joseph of Volotsk is introduced into scientific circulation. It is shown how the text of the monument was adapted by the compilers for practical use in communal monasteries of the New Age. The third article highlights the specifics of the work of stolnik-census takers in the districts, who participated in the census of monastic patrimonial property at the initial stage of the church reforms initiated by Peter I. The last article in this section examines parish records management in the Russian North in the 17<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, reflecting not only data on the economic activities and daily confessional life of the church community, but also its relationship with religious and secular authorities.

The two articles in the section “Periodicals Press in the History of the Russian Orthodox Church” analyze materials from both church and secular periodicals of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. For the first time in historiography, the regional specifics of the Polotsk Diocesan Gazette have been studied as a valuable source on the history of local church and social life. An assessment is given of the participation in secular periodicals of Siberia of the famous priest-missionary A.I. Argentov, a researcher of Yakutia and Chukotka.

The section “Libraries and Book Collections in the History of Russian Orthodoxy” consists of three articles on spiritual literary works in demand in the Russian Orthodox Church and among Old Believers of various denominations. One of them traces the distribution routes of Orthodox publications in the Kola North in the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, establishes the composition of parish and monastery libraries, and defines the role of printed books in the missionary, educational and enlightening activities of the Arkhangelsk diocesan clergy. The other two articles provide reviews of book collections from the Yekaterinburg and Novokuznetsk dioceses. We are talking about manuscripts, early printed and rare editions from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: the history of their creation and existence, as well as the biographies of their previous owners, has been reconstructed.

The section “Book Culture and History of the Old Belief” presents scientific works of both a general and a specific historical nature. The article on the polemical and dogmatic work of deacon Fyodor Ivanov, “Prayer with a Question of the Annunciation Deacon, the Poor Fyodor, to the All-Holy Council, to All of Every Order”, is devoted to the early period of the history of the Old Believers, in which the development of eschatological themes was first begun. Another article presents textual observations on a previously unknown edition of the petition of the monk Abraham, a prominent apologist from the first generation of Old Believers. The reason for the appearance of this text was the controversy with anti-Old Believer publications of the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The third article draws attention to the key points of Peter I's policy towards the defenders of the old rite. It is concluded that it is characterized not only by the strengthening of repressive measures, but also by the realization of the pragmatic interests of the sovereign. Another article demonstrates the specifics of the policy towards the Old Believers of another Russian emperor, Nicholas I, as well as the reaction of adherents of ancient piety to its implementation, which is reflected in epistolary sources from the archive of the Yekaterinburg merchant G.F. Kazantsev, which are being



introduced into scholarly circulation. The penultimate article in this section examines materials from the archive of the Old Believer wanderer Semyon Sharapov, confiscated in 1873 by the police in Tomsk. These materials testify to the broad outlook of their owner and his genuine interest in what was happening in worldly life. The final section of the article discusses the notated singing hectograph of “Stichera to the Holy Right-Believing Princess Anna of Kashin”, published by the Old Believers at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Textual, musical-paleographic and codicological analysis of this edition made it possible to clarify the historical context of its compilation and publication, conduct attribution, and establish the composition and features of the editorial work.

At the end of the issue, in the “The World of the Book” section, there is a review of a recently published monograph on the official position and religious activities of Russian naval clergy at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Executive editor*  
*Candidate of Historical Sciences*  
*Stanislav Gennadievich Petrov*

*Executive editor*  
*Executive secretary*  
*Corrector*  
*Layout designer*  
*Web designer*

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