

THE LITURGICAL PAST IN BYZANTIUM AND EARLY RUS

The chroniclers of medieval Rus were monks, who celebrated the divine services of the Byzantine church throughout every day. This study is the first to analyse how these rituals shaped their writing of the *Rus Primary Chronicle*, the first written history of the East Slavs. During the eleventh century, chroniclers in Kiev learned about the conversion of the Roman Empire by celebrating a series of distinctively Byzantine liturgical feasts. When the services concluded, and the clerics sought to compose a native history for their own people, they instinctively drew on the sacred stories that they sang at church. The result was a myth of Christian origins for Rus – a myth promulgated even today by the Russian government – which reproduced the Christian origins myth of the Byzantine Empire. The book uncovers this ritual subtext and reconstructs the intricate web of liturgical narratives that underlie this foundational text of pre-modern Slavic civilization.

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I shall never forget the moment when this study was born, during a meeting of Gail Lenhoff's graduate seminar on pre-modern Russia at UCLA. The class was reading about Princess Olga's visit to Constantinople, and I mentioned that some of the language in the passage had been borrowed from the liturgy. 'I do not believe anyone has ever noticed that before', the professor responded. 'You should write a dissertation on the topic.' Nearly a decade later, I am delighted to present my adviser with the final results. If this study contains only a fraction of the erudition and rigour which has long characterized her scholarship, then it will indeed have been a worthy undertaking. The same should also be said of another of my mentors in Los Angeles, Ronald Vroon, a man whose enthusiasm, kindness, and devotion to his craft attracted me to the field of Slavic studies in the first place. I am likewise greatly indebted to those who have read and improved drafts of the work, at various stages of its development: Boris Dralyuk, Paweł Figurski,

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|--|
| BAN | Biblioteka Akademii nauk |
| BT | <i>Bogoslovskie Trudy</i> |
| ChIONL | <i>Chteniia v Istoricheskom obshchestve Nestora-letopista</i> |
| ChOidr | <i>Chteniia v Obshchestve istorii i drevnosti rossiiskikh</i> |
| DOP | <i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i> |
| DR | <i>Drevniaia Rus'. Voprosy medievistiki</i> |
| GIM | Gosudarstvennyi istoricheskii muzei |
| GMA | <i>Gottesdienstmenäum für den Monat April</i> |
| GMD | <i>Gottesdienstmenäum für den Monat Dezember</i> |
| GMF | <i>Gottesdienstmenäum für den Monat Februar</i> |
| HUS | <i>Harvard Ukrainian Studies</i> |
| IORIaS | <i>Izvestiia Otdeleniia russkogo iazyka i slovesnosti</i> |
| MSON | <i>Sluzhebnye minei za sentiabr, oktiabr i noiabr</i> |
| OCA | <i>Orientalia Christiana Analecta</i> |
| OCP | <i>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</i> |
| PSRL | <i>Polnoe sobranie russkikh letopisei</i> |
| PVL | <i>Povest' vremennykh let</i> |
| PE | <i>Pravoslavnaia entsiklopediia</i> |
| RDRLS | <i>Razyskaniia o drevneishikh russkikh letopisnykh svodakh</i> |
| RGADA | Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi arkhiv drevnikh aktov |
| RNB | Rossiiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka |
| RR | <i>The Russian Review</i> |
| SEEJ | <i>Slavic and East European Journal</i> |
| Sin. | Sinodal'noe sobranie, GIM |
| SKK | <i>Slovar' knizhnikov i knizhnosti Drevnei Rusi, vol. I, X–pervaia polovina XIV v.</i> |
| Sof. | Sobranie Sofiiskoi biblioteki, RNB |
| Tip. | Fond Biblioteki Moskovskoi Sinodal'noi tipografii (f. 381), RGADA |
| TAS | <i>Tipikon Patriarkha Aleksii Studita</i> |

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------|--|
| <i>TODRL</i> | <i>Trudy Otdela drevnerusskoi literatury</i> |
| <i>VV</i> | <i>Vizantiiskii Vremennik</i> |
| <i>ZhBG</i> | <i>Zhitiia sviatykh muchenikov Borisa i Gleba i sluzhby im</i> |
| <i>ZhMNP</i> | <i>Zhurnal Ministerstva narodnogo prosvishcheniia</i> |