THE RUSSIAN GRAPHOSPHERE, 1450–1850

The ‘graphosphere’ is the dynamic space of visible words. Graphospheres mutate: they are reconfigured with changes in technology, in modes of production, in social structures, in fashion and taste. The graphospheric environment can be public or private, monumental or ephemeral. This book explores a new approach to the study of writing, with a focus on Russia during its ‘long early modernity’ from the late fifteenth century to the early nineteenth century. Taking an inclusive approach, it charts unmapped territory, uncovers sources that have almost entirely escaped attention and therefore provides, in the first instance, a unique reference guide to cultures of writing in Russia over four hundred years. Besides generating fresh insights into distinctive features of Russian culture, this outward-looking and accessible book offers a pioneering case study for the wider comparative exploration of the significance of technologies of the word.

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A Note on Transliteration and Dates

Complete consistency in transliteration is barely possible, and not necessarily desirable.

Transliteration of Cyrillic in quotations of words, or in bibliographic references, uses the ‘modified Library of Congress’ system that is more or less standard in online library catalogues. Where such words or names appear in the main text, simply as words rather than expressly as transliterations, I omit the apostrophe that would indicate the ‘softness’ (palatalisation) of the preceding consonant.

Geographic names are a problem. Many of the places changed jurisdiction, and their official names, several times during the four centuries covered by this survey. There are places for which any choice of form may be contentious. For the purposes of this book I apply a sequence of choices.

Where a place-name has become a standard, established English word, I use it in preference to any variety of transliteration: hence Moscow and St Petersburg, not Moskva and Sankt-Peterburg. Where a place has had fundamentally different names, I tend to give first the ‘historic’ name followed by its modern equivalent in brackets: hence Reval (Tallinn). Where there is a choice of spellings for what is essentially the same place-name I tend to use the forms that are preferred in the relevant modern state: hence Vilnius, Lviv, Pochaiv, Chernihiv and Ostroh, rather than Vilna, Lvov (or Lwów, or Lemberg), Pochaev, Chernigov and Ostrog. The choice between Kiev and Kyiv is borderline: Kyiv is the preferred form in modern Ukraine, Kiev is a long-established English word.

Mutatis mutandis similar principles apply to personal names. The names of Russia’s imperial rulers are by convention anglicised: hence the tsars Peter, Alexander, Nicholas, Paul, not Petr, Aleksandr, Nikolai, Pavel. Quite illogically, however, the names of the earlier rulers of Muscovy are, by convention, transliterated rather than anglicised (hence Ivan, Mikhail, not John, Michael), as are all other personal names. Names of non-
Russians culturally active in Russia are normally given in russified form. Hence, for example, Maksim Grek, or the Likhud brothers, rather than Maximos, or the Leichoudes brothers. Some anomalies inevitably remain.

All dates derived from Russian sources are given in the 'old style' – that is, according to the Julian calendar, which was in use in Russia until 1918. Most Russian sources before the start of the eighteenth century date events on a scale starting from the creation of the world rather than from the birth of Christ. To convert anno mundi dates to the Common Era, one should subtract 5508 – bearing in mind, however, that the anno mundi year in Muscovite documents normally ran from September to August, not from January to December. Dating according to the Common Era was officially introduced by Peter I on 1 January 1700.
Abbreviations

AN Akademiia nauk
AN SSSR Akademiia nauk Soiuza sovetskikh sotsialisticheskikh respublik
BAN Biblioteka Akademii nauk
BLDR Biblioteka literature Drevnei Rusi
Bykova and Gurevich, Dopoln. T. A. Bykova and M. M. Gurevich, Opisanie izdanii, napechatannykh pri Petre Pervom. Svodnyi katalog. Dopolnenia i prilozhenii
Bykova and Gurevich, Grazhd. T. A. Bykova and M. M. Gurevich, Opisanie izdanii, napechatannykh pri Petre Pervom. Svodnyi katalog. I. Opisanie izdanii grazhdanskoj pechati, 1708–ianvar’ 1725 g.
Bykova and Gurevich, Kirill. T. A. Bykova and M. M. Gurevich, Opisanie izdanii, napechatannykh pri Petre Pervom. Svodnyi katalog. II. Opisanie izdanii, napechatannykh kirillitsei. 1689–ianvar’ 1725 g.
CASS Canadian-American Slavic Studies
ChOIDR Chteniia v Imperatorskom obshchestve istorii i drevnosti rossiiskikh
Cracraft, Culture James Cracraft, The Petrine Revolution in Russian Culture
Cracraft, Imagery James Cracraft, The Petrine Revolution in Russian Imagery
FOG Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte
GBL Gosudarstvennaia Biblioteka imeni V. I. Lenina (subsequently RGB)
GPB Gosudarstvennaia publichnaia biblioteka (subsequently RNB)
List of Abbreviations

Guseva, Izd. kirill. XVI v. A. A. Guseva, Izdaniia kirillovskogo shrifta vtoroi poloviny XVI veka: svodnyi katalog
Guseva, Svod XVIII v. A. A. Guseva, Svod russikh knig kirillovskoi pechati XVIII veka tipografii Moskvy i Sankt-Peterburga
HUS Harvard Ukrainian Studies
JGO Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas
Marker, Publishing Gary Marker, Publishing. Printing and the Origins of Intellectual Life in Russia, 1700–1800
MGU Moskovskii gosudarstvennyi universitet
Mosk. kirill. izd. RGADA Moskovskie kirillovskie izdaniia v sobraniiakh RGADA Katalog. Vyp. 1–3
MPD – fakt i faktor Moskovskii pechatnyi dvor – fakt i faktor russkoi kultury, ed. I. V. Pozdeeva et al.
PSTGU Pravoslavnyi Sviato-Tikhonovskii gumanitarnyi universitet
PSZ Polnoe sobranie zakonov Rossiiskoi imperii
PSZ.2 Polnoe sobranie zakonov Rossiiskoi imperii. Sobranie vtoroe
RAN Rossiiskaia akademiia nauk
RGADA Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv drevnikh aktov
RGB Rossiiskaia gosudarstvennaia biblioteka
RGGU Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi gumanitarnyi universitet
RNb Rossiiskaia natsional’naia biblioteka
SEER Slavonic and East European Review
SK 1801–1825 Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi 1801–1825
SK Inostr. Svodnyi katalog knig na inostrannykh iazykakh, izdannych v Rossii v XVIII vekte
SK XVIII v. Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi grazhdanskoi pechati XVIII veka, 1725–1800
SKKDR Slovar’ knizhnikov i knizhnosti Drevnei Rusi
SPb II RAN Sankt-Peterburgskii institut istorii Rossiiskoi akademiia nauk
List of Abbreviations

SPbGU  Sankt-Peterburgskii gosudarstvennyi universitet
SPF ARAN  Sankt-Peterburgskii filial arkhiva Rossiiskoi akademii nauk
TODRL  Trudy Otdela drevnerusskoi literatury
Zernova,  A. S. Zernova, Knigi kirillovskoi pechati, izdannye v Moskve v XVI–XVII vekakh
KKP XVI–XVII veka  A. S. Zernova and T. N. Kameneva, Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi kirillovskoi pechati XVIII veka
Zernova and Kameneva,  Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi kirillovskoi pechati XVIII veka
SK kirill. pech. XVIII v.  Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi kirillovskoi pechati XVIII veka