

From: Daniel Waugh <dwaugh@U.WASHINGTON.EDU>

Author's Subject: new book: Old Russian translation of Durandus

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<<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-EarlySlavic&month=1307&week=c&msg=g/dvDuCoaGhIdR3wcfyl8w&user=&pw=>>

"Rationale Divinorum officiorum" Wilgelmi Durandi v russkom perevode kontsa XV v. Izdanie podgotovleno A. A. Romanovoi i V. A. Romodanovskoi. Otv. red. I. P. Medvedev. Moskva; Sankt-Peterburg: "Indrik," 2012. 264 pp. ISBN 978-5-91674-219-0.

This valuable text publication at last fulfills the intent of the noted scholar V. N. Beneshevich (1874-1938), who never lived to complete his own edition. Durandus' larger work was one of the most famous and influential medieval explications of the liturgy. The Old Russian translation from its eighth book (concerning the church calendar) was a project of Novgorod Archbishop Gennadii, undertaken in 1495 (that is, after the compilation of the new Paschal Tables in 1491/92). The editors here are uncertain which of the possible translators who worked with Gennadii was responsible for the text but do not share Beneshevich's rather harsh judgment about the quality of the translation. In her brief treatment of the text, not cited here (where she mistakenly numbers the manuscript as Pogodin No. 1127), the late Elke Wimmer (*Novgorod—ein Tor zum Westen*, Hamburg, 2005, pp. 144-145) suggests Dmitrii Gerasimov as the most likely candidate.

While the text has survived in only a single, imperfect 17th century copy (RNB, Pogodin Collection No. 1121), as the introduction here specifies, it clearly was known and cited in other Muscovite texts, most extensively in a widely copied "Predislovie sviattsam". Of particular interest for the translators was what Durandus had to say about the origin of the names of the signs of the zodiac and the planets and the method of calendrical calculation according to the system of indicts.

This careful edition includes a linguistic commentary on the principles of the translation, a description of the Pogodin manuscript, publication of the Old Russian text interlined with the Latin original (taken from an edition of 1485 but with emendations based on a modern critical edition of the text), and complete Latin-Old Russian and Old Russian Latin word indexes.