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APPENDIX IIa

Terminology in the Kuranty

The formulae at the head of each set of kuranty generally reveal a great deal about the compilations which follow: the date of receipt or translation, the channel through which the original came, and the language and nature of that original. The nature of the original is not always clear though, since different terms were used to indicate the source. The examination here of some of the terminology used in the kuranty headings may therefore help in locating the originals and may also be of interest for study of the lexicon of seventeenth-century Russian. A more extensive examination of the terminology in the kuranty is needed to support my tentative conclusions.

The sources for the kuranty included rassprochnye rechi (depositions from prisoners or visitors from abroad) and chelobitnye (petitions), which were clearly marked as such.¹ However, more common among kuranty entries were those beginning "perevod s..." (translation from) followed by the indication that the source was a gramota or gramotka (document or letter), list (pamphlet or letter), pis'mo (generally referring to "something written"; "writing" or "language"), or kuranty (news letter or newspaper).

Gramotka appears somewhat more frequently in the kuranty of the first half of the seventeenth century than later and

1. Examples of the former are to be found in TsGADA, fond 155, 1665-1666, No. 11, fols. 253-265, reproduced in the next appendix, and in BAN, 32.14.11, No. 4, fols. 4-9. Two chelobitnye are in TsGADA, f. 155, 1676, No. 8, fols 11-12.

often denotes a personal letter. Invariably it means a handwritten source, not a printed one; frequently it is found in a phrase indicating that a copy or extract has been made from it (spisok s gramotki, vypis' iz gramotki).

Also handwritten and most common in the period prior to the establishment of the postal service in the 1660's is a pis'mo. In some cases, it is modified by vestovoe (hence, "news letter") or defined as including portions from some gramota. In some cases the author of the pis'mo is specified, but often it is simply an anonymous circular newsletter of the type drawn up and copied by postmasters in various parts of Europe. A specifically vestovoe pis'mo includes "articles" from various places and is merely a handwritten form of material identical with that in most printed newspapers of the time. In fact, such pis'ma were the means through which the printers' agents in various cities sent the news that was then printed. I have found one case of a pechatnoe vestovoe pis'mo, but probably the term kuranty came into such common use that this way of indicating a printed newspaper was uncommon.²

It is possible that list, when used alone in the first half of the century, specified a handwritten source;³ but

2. "Perevod s vestovogo pechatnovo pisma iz goroda Am-burkha po roznym vremenam nyneshnego 152-go [1643] godu sentiabria s 20-go chisla" (cited by Shlosberg, "Nachalo," 80).

3. For example, "Perevod s lista, s latinskogo pisma, kakov pisal is Pskova ko kniazuiu L'vu Shliakovskomu nemetskoi perevodchik Matvei Veiger noiabria v 28 den' v nyneshnem vo 152-m godu" (cited by Shlosberg, "Nachalo," 106-107). Here list is in apposition with pis'mo and the letter is clearly handwritten.

later in the century, it clearly can refer either to a printed or handwritten source and commonly is modified either by pechatnyi or pis'mennyi to indicate this. In either case, the modifier vestovyi may be used; one may suggest that a pechatnyi vestovyi list (printed newsletter) was the common term for a printed newspaper until the term kuranty came into use. In at least two cases, it is clear that pechatnyi list specified a printed brochure or Flugblatt.⁴

While the etymology of the term kuranty (rarely found in the singular kurant) has long been clear, little attention has been given the question of when it came into use. It rarely appears prior to 1660; it seems clear that it became common only after printed newspapers with titles including the word "Courant(e)" appeared in Muscovy. At least some examples of such newspapers were known as early as 1646; since all of them were Dutch, it may be that until the 1660's kuranty meant specifically Dutch papers of that title.⁵ By the middle of

4. Shlosberg, "Nachalo," cites on 109: "perevod s pechatnogo lista chto velela pechatat' Sveiskaia koroleva i razoslat' v svoei zemle vsem svoim poddannym o chem vschalas' voina promezh' Sveiskogo i Datskogo korolevstva ikh zemlia." Among the desiderata requested from abroad in 1659 by Aleksei Mikhailovich, along with books and vesti (regular newsletters), was a "list pechatnoi o gosudareve pokhode," presumably one of the many printed pamphlets regarding Russian military actions against the Swedes or Poles in the 1650's (see the tsar's desiderata of 1659 in Gurliand, Prikaz velikogo gosudaria Tainykh Del, 108-109).

5. Among the earliest newspapers received were the Europische Saterdaegs Courant and the Courante uyt Italien (ende) Duytslandt, both published in Amsterdam; see A. Bulga-

the 1660's, the term seems to have become a generic one for foreign newspapers or news letters.⁶ When used alone, it probably means printed newspapers, but very frequently the modifier pechatnye makes this more definite. The combination pechatnye i pis'mennye kuranty is not uncommon, but pis'mennye kuranty is rare.⁷ In a number of cases the modifier vestovye is applied, but this is probably redundant. It is not clear when the Muscovite compilations, based on kuranty in the original sense and on other sources, came to be called by the generic term kuranty by contemporaries, although such usage was common by 1676.

The headings generally indicate the language of the originals from which the kuranty were compiled--the most common being nemetskie and galanskije (German and Dutch) and less fre-

kov, "Otvét na bibliograficheskii vopros." Although my information for the period prior to 1660 is very incomplete, the first instance I have found of the use of the term kuranty is in TSGADA, f. 155, 1659, No. 4, fol. 7, where the source for the translations of news items (vesti) is termed galanskije kuranty.

6. For example, it is already common in the kuranty of 1665 and 1666: TSGADA, f. 155, 1665, No. 2, fols. 1, 8; 1665-1666, No. 11, fols. 15, 20, 26 et passim.

7. One example is "Perevod z galanskikh kurantov pismennykh perevedeno v nyneshnem vo 174-m [1666] godu maia v 10 den' kotorye podal Ivan Fan Sveden" (TSGADA, f. 155, 1665-1666, No. 11, fol. 125). In at least one case, the copyist made a telling correction: where he had written "perevod s galanskikh kurantov," he crossed out the last word and added "pismennykh vestovykh listov" instead (ibid., fol. 55).

quent pol'skie, latinskie, and aglinskie, the Polish sources being either printed or handwritten, but the Latin and English usually only handwritten. Beginning in the late 1660's, German sources are indicated either as nemetskie or tsesarskie (Imperial--referring to the Habsburg Empire), and by the middle of the 1670's, the latter term had almost entirely supplanted the former. Along with this change came a tendency for the compilers to mix the German and Dutch materials under a joint heading; this makes locating the sources extremely difficult.