

Memory of the World Register - Nomination Form

Russian Federation - Slavonic publications in the Cyrillic script of the 15th century

Abstract

This collection of international value consists of 63 books, its greatest part being cultural heritage of Slavonic nations is kept in Russia.

Identity and Location

Name of the Documentary Heritage: Slavonic publications in the Cyrillic script of the 15th century

Country: Russian Federation

State, Province or Region: Moscow

Address: 3, Vozdvihenka str. 101000 Moscow; e-mail: irgb@glas.apc.org

Name of Institution: Russian State Library

Legal Information

Owner: Russian State Library (Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation)

Director: Vladimir Egorov Konstantinovitch

Custodian: Head of collection

Legal Status:

Category of ownership: State public property

Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage: Statutes of Russian State Library and Preservation Dpt.

Accessibility: Public access

Copyright status: Russian State Library ownership State Archives acts

Responsible administration: Rare, valuable and fragile parts of the collection are kept in special conditions

Identification

Description: Slavonic publications in the Cyrillic script of the 15th - 1st quarter of 16 centuries. This collection of international value consists of 63 books, its greatest part being cultural heritage of Slavonic nations is kept in Russia. These are some copies or their parts in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, France, UK, USA, Croatia, Slovenia, The Czech Republic, Greece. Most of these publications are exceptionally few and some unique. They antedated the early books printed by I. Fedorov for 70 years. The main goal - the creation of an united collection on compact discs.

Management Plan

Some parts of the above mentioned material are extremely rare and fragile and kept in particular conditions.

Assessment against the Selection Criteria

Selection criteria of the above mentioned collection is the result of more than fifty years of research work of the specialists of the Russian State Library and an assessment of international resonance of users' interests.

The Slavonic publications of the Cyrillic script are a general culture property which has exerted appreciable influence on the development of the Slavonic nations. They antedated the early books printed by I. Fedorov for 70 years. The 15th to the first quarter of the 16th centuries, when these publications were brought out, got the Slavonic peoples finding their firm stand with library national languages being reaffirmed.

It is unthinkable to study the history of the universal culture, the history of books and bookprinting without addressing early printed Slavonic publications.

The exceptional rarity of these publications, their decrepitude brought on by the time, the necessity of facilitating the access to them cause to be reproduced on compact discs. Another goal which is not inferior to the first one in terms of importance is, in essence, the creation of a new cultural value - a united collection of Slavonic early printed books which was never existed in any literary in the world.

Consultation

Custodians - Russian State Library, Department of rare books (Marushchak G.A., Guseva A.A.).

Nominator

Name: Russian State Library, Director - Vladimir Egorov Konstantinovitch

Relationship to documentary heritage: Keepers of the collection

Contact person: Responsible for the project "Memory of Russia" - Irina Morozova

Contact details: Contact to be established by correspondence (see above address)

Assessment of Risk

The above mentioned material is extremely rare and fragile. It is running great risk daily.

Preservation Assessment

The conditions of the preservation of the Slavonic publications in the Russian State library is insufficient. Restoration of all kinds is less than enough.