Conference reports

ATTEST — Approaches to the Editing of Slavonic Texts. Tradition and Innovation in Palaeoslavistic Ecdotics

Regensburg, 11 to 12 December 2015

The intent and outcome of the earlier ATTEMT workshop (*Approaches to the Editing of Texts with a Multilingual Tradition*, King's College London, 18-20 Dec. 2013, see *COMSt Newsletter* 8 (2014), 8–9) kindled the idea of a new workshop along the same lines, this time devoted entirely to palaeoslavistic text editing. The ATTEST workshop was initiated by Jürgen Fuchsbauer (University of Regensburg), co-organized by Vittorio Tomelleri (University of Macerata) and Lara Sels (University of Leuven), and supported by the *DFG*, the *Hans Vielberth Stiftung* and the association *Graecitas christiana*. The workshop, hosted by the Regensburg Department of Slavic Studies, shared much with its predecessor ATTEMT: its concern to stimulate the debate on the aims and methods of text editing; its intention to move from the experience of individual text editors to the discussion of common problems and perspectives; its focus on the possibilities of the digital and on the relationship between traditional ecdotics and computerized approaches. However, ATTEST bore its own distinctive mark and many of the addressed issues pertained to the particularity of Slavonic textual traditions (for instance, the problem of the different alphabets Glagolitic and Cyrillic, and of orthographical variability in Slavonic) or to the particularity of the various scholarly traditions that coexist within the field (viz. Russian *tekstologija* and western oriented textual criticism).

The opening of the workshop was marked by the celebration of the career of the renowned slavist-medievalist Francis Thomson on the occasion of his 80th birthday. After a brief word of welcome by the Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics, Literature and Cultural Studies, Prof. Dr Volker Depkat, the guest of honour took the floor for his opening address, a general paper on the difficulties and pitfalls of editing Slavonic translations—also the main subject of one of the afternoon sessions (and a reminder of the ATTEMT concern with multilingual traditions). Likewise entertaining and enlightening was the laudatory address by Roland Marti, which highlighted the career of Francis Thomson from the middle ground between bio-bibliography and light-hearted eulogy.

The main part of the meeting consisted of seventeen presentations, organised in six sessions. Focus of the second session was on the intricacies of textual transmission in Slavonic. William Veder elaborated on the contested notion of 'flat tradition', whereby a single authoritative Glagolitic exemplar is copied into multiple Cyrillic copies. The ensuing lively discussion was followed by the presentation of Jürgen Fuchsbauer, who discussed the complications in turning manuscript based editions into searchable digital text, e.g. for incorporation in larger diachronic corpora, stressing the role and responsibility of the critical editor in this process. Susana Torres Prieto then tried to make sense of the abundant and complex tradition of the Slavonic Gospel of Nicodemus, emphasizing the ways in which this kind of textual tradition—with addition, suppression and rearrangement as main features of scribal intervention—defy traditional modes of critical text editing, and giving prominence, in her own approach, to the study of the selection and ordering of the variable text segments or 'building blocks'.

Header of the following session was *Exemplary Editions*, which opened with a thought-provoking paper by Ralph Cleminson on the impossibility to make a critical edition of the Slavonic *Apostolos*, all redactions of which are *recensioni aperte* that cannot be joined together in an all-embracing text. Giorgio Ziffer discussed the existing (diplomatic, copy-text, reconstructive) editions of the monk Chrabr's treatise *On the Letters*, to proceed to the discussion of his edition in preparation, which draws on a fuller knowledge of the manuscript tradition than was previously the case. The announced paper by Anisava Miltenova and Adelina Anguševa-Tihanov, *Editing Slavonic Texts with Fluctuating Traditions: The Case of The Account of the Twelve Fridays*, was unfortunately cancelled.

The fourth session concluded the first workshop day with four papers on *Editing Translated texts*. With the *Life* of Andreas Salos as an example, Anna Pičchadze discussed the many problems that inhere in the editing of translated texts, such as the search for the relevant Greek source text version and the question of the value of (the) existing edition(s) of the Greek for the study of the Slavonic translation. The next speaker, the author of this brief report, used the example of the Slavonic *Quaestiones ad Antiochum ducem* (*CPG* 2257) to discuss how the Greek source text tradition can help disentangle the knots of a conflated tradition, while Lora Taseva went into the necessity and the limitations of adding a Greek *apparatus criticus* to the edition of a Slavonic translation to clarify the relations with its source text(s). The session was concluded with the contribution of Margaret Dimitrova, who discussed the case of a translated Slavonic catena with commentaries on the *Song of Songs* (Theodoret of Cyrrhus, the Three Fathers and Michael Psellus)—an

example of a single-manuscript-based edition (based on the fifteenth-century *codex Rilensis* 2/24).

The Saturday sessions opened with one general and one very specific and specialized paper: Vittorio Tomelleri addressed the overarching questions concerning text edition and methodology, viz. questions of intended readership and editorial orientation (viz. toward the manuscript or the text, towards the origins or the textual history, towards Western *Textkritik* or Russian *tekstologija*) and questions concerning the relation between text editing and linguistics and text editing and lexicography. In the ensuing presentation, Irina Podtergera introduced the audience to the epistolary corpus of the Belarussian-born poet, scholar and churchman Symeon of Polotsk (1629–1680). Over 250 letters and epistles, written in six language varieties (Polish, Latin, Ruthenian, Ruthenian Church Slavonic, Russian Church Slavonic and Russian) and relevant not only from a historical (biographical) but also from a literary and linguistic point of view, pose a real challenge to any editor wishing to disclose the material to the widest possible circle of researchers while retaining linguistic information of the one hand and improving the readability of the letters for non-linguists on the other.

The next session dealt with the promising but also often problematic interaction between traditional text editions and electronic linguistic corpora. Viktor Baranov discussed and demonstrated the problems and possibilities of electronic full-text databases with reference to the Манускрипт corpus (<http://manuscripts.ru>), while Ruprecht von Waldenfels traced the steps *From edition to basic historical corpus*, with as examples his work together with Achim Rabus on the Freiburg *Velikie Minei Čet'i* edition (<http://www.vmc.uni-freiburg.de>) and his work together with Lora Taseva on the Greek-Slavonic word lists to the 'palamite' codex Dečani 88. The session continued with the presentation of Roman Krivko, assisted by various collaborators, of the pioneering project that aims to turn the *Dictionary of the Russian Language of the 11th–17th Centuries* into a lexicographic database. To conclude the session, Aleksandr Moldovan discussed the representation of historical texts in corpora, viz. Old Russian texts in the *National corpus of the Russian Language* (*Nacional'nyj korpus russkogo jazyka*, <http://www.ruscorpora.ru>) and the texts included in the Манускрипт corpus.

Editing in the Digital Age was the subject of the last workshop session, with a paper by David Birnbaum on the integration of textual, orthographic, and linguistic information within a digital edition, followed by Andrej Bojadžiev's exposition on the electronic editing of South Slavonic mediaeval parchment fragments. With the project presentation by Barbara Sonnenhauser, *Diachronic text linguistics digital. The Life of Petka Tărnovska from*

Middle Bulgarian Church Slavonic to Balkan Slavic, the final session of the workshop was brought to a close.

The concluding address by the undersigned stressed the richness of approaches and methodologies in palaeoslavistic text editing, in a field that tends to hesitate between the critical and the diplomatic. A plea was made for more explicit theorizing and for an exchange of ideas, stressing that even when dealing with different textual traditions, we attend to common problems for which we may be able to find common solutions.

For the full programme visit < http://www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/slavistik/aktuelles/attest/index.html>.

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