Galits'ko Volynskii litopis: tekstologiiia [*The Galician-Volhynian Chronicle: Textology*], edited by O.P. Tolochko, Kyiv: Akademperiodika, 2020. 929 p. ISBN 978-966-360-419-0

The Galician-Volhynian Chronicle (GVC) undoubtedly belongs to the small number of most famous and valuable ancient Russian chronicles from the 12th and 13th centuries. M. Kotlyar, a well-known researcher of it, noted: 'As a historical source covering the events of its time, this chronicle is not equal to itself, neither by the wealth of actual information nor by the level of interpretation of events, phenomena, the characteristics of characters, and socio-political processes in Galicia-Volhyn and southern Russia.'¹ For historical reconstructions of the 13th century, the GVC is the main, and sometimes the only, supplier of historical facts, of which the authenticity and accuracy for the most part are not in doubt in research literature. In addition, there is no doubt about the general 'plot' of the past, masterfully described in the GVC.² Therefore, it is not surprising that this written document is constantly the subject of attention of historians and philologists. Research into it has been going on for decades. However, it should be noted that interest has revived in recent years, and the world has seen some new and thorough research.

Modern scholars try to explain in detail and comment on everything that has long been 'not clear and incomprehensible'³ in the chronicle. The GVC is a text about a complex history, and has a difficult internal organisation. All this needs to be clarified before the status of the text becomes clear among other evidence from the epoch. In fact, the sources, origin and dating of certain segments of the text determine their suitability as a historical source for the reconstruction of the past reality.⁴ The answers to a large number of these questions can be obtained thanks to the publication 'The Galician-Volhynian Chronicle:

¹ Galitsko-Volynskii litopis': doslidzhennia, tekst, komentar / za red. M.F. Kotliara (Kiev, 2002), s. 9.

² Galitsko-Volynskii litopis': tekstologiiia / za red. O.P. Tlochoka (Kiev, 2020), p. 9

³ Galitsko-Volynskii litopis': doslidzhennia, tekst, komentar, p. 5.

⁴ Galitsko-Volynskii litopis': tekstologiiia, p. 9.

Textology' which was published in 2020. It is the result of long-term work by the Centre for Research on the History of Kyivan Rus of the Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, under the guidance of O. Tolochko, a correspondent member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

In 2014, the centre held the Chronicle Seminar, of which the developments and results are set out in the section 'The Galician-Volhynian Chronicle: An Interpretative Commentary'. Participants in the seminar studied the text of the GVC in detail, using the 'slow reading' method. According to the authors, distinguishing two stages, descriptive and interpretative, is considered a fundamental condition for the correct criticism of the text. The main techniques in the descriptive stage include the procedure of so-called slow or vigilant reading, during which 'violations' in the text are detected. The interpretative stage of the work was carried out using the conjectural method. In fact, in this way, hypotheses about the initial appearance of the text and the nature of the interventions are formulated. The difference from previous attempts at the textological research of the GVC is that the methods of conjectural critique study the process of creating a single text, instead of searching for lost texts. Interpolations, text augmentation, the reworking of certain segments of the text, the identification of continuations, all this is interpreted as evidence of the stages of work on the text, as well as stages in the development of the text, which underwent changes and acquired new features, but remained one whole work.⁵

This edition explicates the results of the long-term textological analysis of the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle (according to Hypatian Letopis). The book contains research, systematic commentary, word indices to the text, and a select bibliography of works about the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle, which include publications, translations and research works.

The main conclusions and generalisations by the author's team are set out in the section 'The Galician-Volhynian Chronicle: The History of the Text'. Here, the compilers analyse the main stages of studying the text, methods and techniques, and borrowings and influences. The methodical reading and fragmentary interpretative commentary of the text clarify and substantiate the main milestones in its history: the origin of the text's current structure; the stages in its formation and their sequence; the chronology of 'editorial episodes'; the timing of various fragments of the text to certain 'editorial episodes'; and the sources of the text. In

⁵Ibid., pp. 14–16.

fact, this part summarises the ultimate goal of the textological study of the text. It consists of finding out the authentic history of the text (the time of its writing, the number of editions, the date and identification of each editorial text, and the sources).

An important part of this study is the 'Interpretative Commentary', which contains an interpretative commentary and an index. The proposed volume contains both indices of the word forms 'Galician' and 'Vollhynian' in parts of the chronicle, and all the word forms available in the text, along with the grammatical characteristics of these word forms.

The authors of the comments are: V. Aristov, Y. Zatyliuk, K. Kyrychenko, V. Rychka, V. Stavysky, O. Tolochko and P. Tolochko. T. Vilkul took part in the initial stages of the project. V. Shtefan and F. Androshchuk were also involved in the seminar.

In general, the book contains material for the study of the Galician-Vollhynian Chronicle, and gives everyone who refers to it tools for understanding the nature of the text, interpreting the content, and clarifying the status of the chronicle as a historical source. It can be stated that this publication is one of the most complete textological studies of the GVC today, but it does not claim to be exhaustive. The study is designed for researchers (primarily historians and philologists) studying the history of Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages, and will stimulate further research on this issue.

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