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ONCE AGAIN ABOUT THE NORTHERN ROUTE AND THE ORIGIN OF CROATIAN GLAGOLITICISM

Abstract:

We are used to looking for the origin of Croatian Glagoliticism into two directions – into the north, from the Cyrillo-Methodian tradition in the Moravo-Pannonian area, and into the south, from Bulgaria, where after their flight from Moravia a few Cyrillo-Methodian pupils continued the work of their teachers from 886 onward.

Concerning the northern route, the earliest Croatian written sources from the 11th century and historical information such as the letter of Pope John X from 925 have mostly been used (cf., e.g., BIRNBAUM 1995-96). But the crux of this assumption was that no conclusive examples were found of phenomena that could be explained solely from the Cyrillo-Methodian tradition of Moravia or Pannonia.

In this paper we want to draw attention to a first such piece of evidence, namely the oldest record of the original sound value of the Glagolitic character **\vec{v}**. Not only does it indicate the direction from which it was imported, but it also provides an idea of when this happened.

Keywords: Constantine's Glagolica, northern route of Croatian Glagolitism, the classifying letter "Kit".

1. Introduction: The newly created Slavic literary culture did not emerge and develop in isolation – its history largely depends on the region and cultural interactions with the peoples living in and bordering around the Slavic community. Consequently, a number of Glagolitic phenomena can be explained only if they are placed in their contextual environment – of a historical, socio-political and linguistic nature.

The documented early history of this alphabet (abecedaria, alphabet verses, Glagolitic texts, epigraphic monuments, and others) can be classified into several stages, with the following chronological development (MIKLAS 2018: 162):

- Preclassical phase: app. 886-919

- Classical phase: 920-975

- Postclassical phase: 976-1100

For the earliest history, however, which concerns the creation of the alphabet and its use in Moravia-Pannonia (ca. 863-885), the facts are scanty. Nonetheless, some peculiarities and discrepancies in the written sources offer an opportunity for reflection on the earliest stages of the implementation of the Glagolitic alphabet in this region. In our paper we will focus on one such example, which, in our opinion, would support the hypothesis of the dissemination of the Glagolica not only to Bulgaria, but also to Dalmatia, even before 886. Our research is based on evidence from metagraphic¹ sources, typological research, and textual data.

2. The letter \forall in the alphabet: One of the most puzzling issues regarding the early Glagolitic writing system, still under discussion, concerns the graph \forall , its initial phonetic value and its place in the Constantinian alphabet.² In later abecedaries (cf. fig.1) the letter occupies the 26th position in the alphabet paradigm, with a numerical value of 800, but the oldest and more reliable abecedaries and metagraphic sources present a different sign for this position, a correlate of the Greek letter Pi or Psi (cf. the so called $Pte - problem^3$). The synopsis of the above sources by MARTI/VEDER (2000.b: 234) displays the variability in the alphabet paradigm, observed in position 26 – after the letter Ω (later Ω t, for Omega) where the earliest abecedaria show several letters: pe, P Π , Δ , \forall , Φ , Φ .



Fig. 1: Position 26 with the greatest variation in the Glagolitic alphabet sources

This information is also confirmed by the Glagolitic *numeraria* (VEDER 2000.b: 235)⁵:

¹ Abecedaria, numeraria, acronymic poems such as the Azbučna Molitva, and hymnography.

² Detailed overview in: VELCHEVA 1988, VELCHEVA 2007, ŽAGAR 2013, ŽAGAR 2021: 231-232; 260-263.

³ See KEMPGEN 2008: 86, in spite of the earlier explanation by MIKLAS 2003.

⁴ The *abecedaria* considered by the authors are: Preslav, Paris, München, Roč; various Glagolitic, also from Bohemia; Stockholm, Čajnice, Tour, Radosav. The newly found Sinai abecedarium from the 11th c. (but based on an earlier exemplar) shows in position 27 dl, cf. PDS 2/2021: 187.

⁵ The *numeraria* are: various from the Grigorovič Parimejnik; various, including such from Bohemia; Radosav, Bosnian-Cyrillic, main Cyrillic, Greek.



Fig. 2: the relevant position in the Glagolitic numeraria

Similarly, in early *alphabetic poems* and *alphabetic hymnographic* works, there occurs a paradigmatic change, and the phonological correlate of the letter after Ω is represented with a pe/p t-acronym: печаль, пъсньми, while the $\check{s}t$ ($extbf{W}$) lexemes (ψ ыстоуых, ψ о, ψ нтомы) are moved further down to position 30:

25	φw		оти	$\bar{\omega}$	ω̄.	w	ō
26	Печаль		ПЕСНЫМИ	ПЕСНЫМИ	√ Пъснь~ ми	ПЕСИРИИ	о обличж
27	♥ Цѣло-		ЦЪСДОЬ-	цъсарь-	ц цъсарь-	Цѣсьрю	ци (цѣ-
	МЖДОЬНО		ствоунаи	ствоунаи	CTBO		NAY)
28	♦ ЧОУД€С∆	чаш, чес, чин, чис	чини	чоудесь	ч чьловъ- колюб-	чиномь	ч чрьвь
29	ш шесто-	шюи	шесто~	шесто-	ш шесто-	шьствига	ш шоумо~
	крил-		крил~	крил-	крил~		Mb
30	ж прстол-		шьствина	шьствина	ш шо	иного	ш шитомь
	t#K				(што)		
31	E NWENN		ИГРДИ	ИГРАИ	з неромь		Z IEРДАНЬ

Fig. 3: Changes in the letter-positions in alphabetic poems and hymnographical works

Some of these variations, in our opinion, must be examined in the light of the alphabetic changes that occurred after the alphabet had been brought to Moravia in 863 and during the following years of continuous use until Methodius' death in 885.

3. Constantine-Cyril's Classifiers: It is a well-known fact that typologically Constantine-Cyril's phonographic system is composed of elements with a clearly expressed functional orientation. Each of its units has at least five main components – number (position in the system) in connection with the numeric value, name, form and sound-correlation. The system is organized according to the inherited historical features of the two most significant writing systems – Semitic and Greek, but at the same time it adopts a number of new elements from the so-called Caucasian letters – Armenian and especially Georgian alphabets⁶. For its time, it was innovative both with the unique appearance of its letters (as a distant script⁷, like the Caucasian)

⁷ Distant script (Abstandschrift) – in alphabet typology – a writing system that is functionally close to a certain typological model, but differs in appearance (for example, the Caucasian alphabets, which follow the Greek archetype, but have different graphic forms). The expanded model (Ausbauschrift), on the other hand, borrows the whole archetype's phonetic paradigm and respective letter images, supplementing units for local phonemic variants (e.g. Coptic script, Cyrillic, Gothic) (cf. MIKLAS 2007: 7).

⁶ Cf. TRUNTE 2004, ŽAGAR 2021: 96-102, MIKLAS 2007, DIMITROVA 2016.

and with a rather phonological than phonetic rendering of the living Slavic speech, fixed in the sound correlates of the graphic units.

However, the intended number of letters (36, caused by the arithmetic value of 4 rows with 9 units, as in the Caucasian) by far exceeded the number of units in the Slavic sound system. Thus, Constantine supplemented the script with signs intended to reflect lexical and other features of Christian texts, thereby adding a new functional level related to the specific Christian theological terminology. These elements, designated as "classifiers", are homophonic or allophonic doublets that serve to denote a specific theological vocabulary, some of them containing non-Slavic sounds and combinations⁸. In the vocal chain – these are the pairs of letters with the same phonetic value /i/, /o/, /ü/ (=v vs. io), and in the consonant chain – the letters for the palatals /g'/ - /k'/ - /ch'/, as well as the single /f/ (as in $\varepsilon'eeh'ha$, $\kappa'umb$, $\kappa'epygumb$ on the one hand, and $\phi ara\omega nb$ on the other).

-a/1	P - i/10	b - r/100	$4 - \check{c}/1000$
e - b/2	8 - 1/20	a - s/200	$\mathbf{u} - \check{\mathbf{s}}/2000$
$\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}/3$	$\lambda - \gamma/30$	$\sigma = t/300$	э — ъ/3000
9 g/4	$\frac{w}{\kappa} - \kappa/40$	8 - v/400	• - ь/4000
a - d/5	a $-1/50$	$- \phi/500$	$\Delta - \check{e}/5000$
9 - e/6	₩ – m/60	$\Delta r - \chi/600$	$h_0 - ch/6000$
$\approx - z/7$	P - n/70	$\varphi - \omega/700$	ә € – ą /7000
- dz/8	a - o/80	⇒ - k/800	$p - \ddot{u}/8000$
$0^{\circ} - z/9$	p - p/90	v - c/900	э € – ę/9000

Fig. 4: Constantine's Greek classifiers (acc. to MIKLAS 2016)

When the alphabet was transferred to Moravia, these elements had a specific regional development. Since they were not fully supported by the Slavic phonological system and were, to some extent, contradicting the initially adopted phonographic principle (one sound : one graph), in the new Latin-influenced environment they were recognized as foreign to the Slavic phonological system. However, as the Glagolitic numeric system was originally designed after the Caucasian model (to include digits for the thousands), the letters for the classifiers were preserved in the alphabet and, in accordance with the principle of semantic coherence of the Slavic alphabet described in the treatise "O Pismenechb" (24 letters arranged after the Greek

⁸ For the following see also MIKLAS 2003 and 2007.a: 20.

order, followed by 14 Slavic letters), they were transferred from the first to the second, "Slavic" part of the alphabet. This brought about some further sound shifts in the alphabet: the old paradigmatic positions of the classifiers were filled with new content, usually provided by their Slavic sound equivalents and some local sound varieties.

A clear manifestation of the above development is the fate of the letters \mathbf{g} ("Kit"), \mathbf{g} ("G'een'na") and \mathbf{g} ("Cheruvim")⁹ which in the original structure of Constantine's Glagolica were correlated to the Greek palatals *Kappa*, *Gamma*, *Chi* (κ , γ , γ) before front vowels.

N. Durnovo raises for the first time the question of the parallelism between the voiced **Λ** and the corresponding voiceless **8**, and he saw their origin derived from the Proto-Slavic groups *tj and *dj (DURNOVO 1929). According to him, in Serbian and Western Macedonian dialects, instead of π and μπ/μπ, κ appears. Despite some criticism, related to the author's incorrect interpretation of the linguistic facts for the development of the Macedonian palatals¹⁰, this theory illustrates quite explicitly the principal mechanism of the Greek palatals *Gamma* and *Kappa* and their functional variants in the Glagolitic alphabet (DIMITROVA 2021: 48-50). N. S. Trubetzkoy revised it into a theory of pairs for 'own' vs. 'foreign' letters (DIMITROVA 2021: 156-158) and the thesis of palatal foreign correlates is principally supported by K. Horálek, J. Vrana, A. S. L'vov, O. Nedelković, B. Velčeva and others. But since none of them assumed three classifiers for *Gamma*, *Kappa* and *Chi*¹¹, none of these theories developed any further.

4. The development of the letter \forall from *Kit* to $\check{S}ta$: When the alphabet was transferred to Moravia and Pannonia, the palatal classifiers which were related to the Greek writing system lost their meaning in the Latin linguistic environment and were subjected to certain modifications: The letter $\mathring{\mathbf{A}}$ was easily adapted in the Pannonian and related Serbo-Croatian environment, due to a closeness of pronunciation with the palatal (in the further development soft) g in the system; therefore, this Greek classifier became functionally Slavic.

But while "G'een'na" (not: *Djerv/Děrv* – invented by P. J. Šafárik to supplement the missing letter name) comparatively often appears in the Christian lexis (ДРМЭА-, МЭЭРЬ,

⁹ original letter names, reconstructed on the basis of the metagraphic sources.

Durnovo based his assumption on a wrong interpretation – on a genuine development of modern \acute{r} and $\acute{\kappa}$ in Macedonian, while they actually derive from Serbian influence in the 13th-14th centuries, during the time of King Milutin; cf. GEORGIEV1982 and VELČEVA 1988.

¹¹ Cf. the two letters for $x - \sharp r$ Cheruvimo (Chlomb)("Sunny Cher") and **b** Chvala ("Cher").

мэтовожным, мэмээнэ, мээнэмв), with the classifier for palatal k′− **४** the question is different.

As a phonograph, the letter $\mbox{\ensuremath{W}}$ "Kit\" right from the beginning can be found only in a highly limited number of borrowed Greek words, beginning with K (Kappa) + front vowel (i, e), such as the word kit\" "whale" (i.e., Iona's whale), kidar\" "cedar" and names such as Kyrill\". That is why it is missing even in the oldest monuments — Cloz, Zogr etc. The evidence from the sources supports the opinion that at some point the letter ceased to serve as a classifier and lost its sound value (being replaced by its generalized non-palatal equivalent Kako) (cf. fig. 5). This, we presume, happened during the Moravian period when the alphabet was transferred to an environment influenced by the Latin and Old High German literary activity. However, the Pannonian development seems not to have been affected by this change and used Kit as the voiceless opponent of G'een'na for its own palatal pair g': k'.

Latin influence can also be seen in the reduction of the number line to 1000 (according to the model of the Latin number system), with the last sequence of 8 letters remaining without numerical values. In some abecedaria the letter \forall is located precisely in this part of the alphabet. In most sources, however, it marks the numerical value 800 and is placed after the letter 0 (O(tb) - Omega) (see VEDER 2000.b: 235):

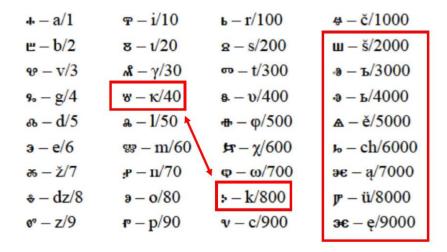


Fig. 5: Changes in the position of the two *k*-letters "Kit" and "Kako" and partial reduction of the numerical system

In the next stage of the Glagolitic development, alphabet changes introduced in Moravia and Pannonia were transferred to Bulgaria, as we learn from the hagiographic texts, by the Cyrillo-Methodian pupils Kliment, Naum, Angelarij. A number of sources dating back to this

period shed light on the development of the Glagolitic system in its new Greek literary environment.

Thus, in the *Alphabet poem* written by Constantine of Preslav before 893¹², the Moravo-Pannonian position of the letter **ʊ** (*Kitъ*) in the alphabet paradigm (after *Omega*), is marked by the acronym *Pečalъ* (**ʊ**eчаль), and in the probably contemporary acrostics *Roždestvenskij* and *Bogojavlenskij* (dated ca. 886) (cf. POPOV 1985: 51), by the acronym *Pěsni* (**ʊ**aɛ̞¬ঙ), wrongly introduced, as we assume, by Constantine of Preslav, in his attempt to reconstruct the original sound-correlate¹³. The newly devised *Pro* acronym also appears in some abecedaries of the 12th-13th cc. (cf. fig.1).

Since there was no need for a second P in the alphabet, the graphic form \mathbf{W} , due to its similarity with \mathbf{W} , started soon to be used as a second correlate of $/\mathbf{S}/$ ("Fancy \mathbf{Sa} ") – which in the further course of events became \mathbf{Sta} (Christova-Somova; Miklas 2022: 32–39). That is why remnants of the long-out-of-use letter name \mathbf{Kitb} can be traced in the alphabet verses both as $\mathbf{Wbctoym}$ (where the so-called "Fancy \mathbf{Sa} " appears), and, under a wrongful onomasiological interpretation of the lexeme with the ultimately achieved fixation of the letter as equivalent of East Bulgarian $/\mathbf{St}/$, as * \mathbf{Stitb} ("shield"). In Cyrillic on the Glagolitic basis \mathbf{W} is formed.

Instead of abandoning the already redundant letter P-2, it was retained in the conservative abecedaria. However, its graphic representation as \mathbf{W} was no longer possible. The sources testify that the scribes constantly searched for a graphic image of the given phonetic unit (cf. fig. 6) and found various solutions: In the Sinai abecedarium (Sin.), the form derives from the Cyrillic/Greek Π , "glagolitized" with the typical Glagolitic circle(s); in the Munich abecedaria (Mon.) – the forms of the letter are based on the Cyrillic Π and the Latin P; the scribe Radoslav depicts the letter with a new Frbtb (because of the pronunciation of Phi as /p/); in the Paris abecedarium Constantine of Preslav's acronym $Pe\check{c}alb$ is syllabically shortened to Pe (as it happens with other Glagolitic letters in their further development – e.g. herb, ci, g'e, etc.); and in the Čajnice abecedarium the scribe does not use a specific form at all, but the letter is depicted by its numerical substitute Omeg (cf. MIKLAS 2004: 395):

¹² Only preserved in Cyrillic copies, the earliest of the 12th c.

 $^{^{13}}$ partly according to the form of the letter Psi, partly according to the order of the Greek alphabet (the sequence $Omicron \rightarrow Pi$) and partly due to the requirements of the liturgical pre-feast alphabet chants, where the daily vespers and mornings for the first 5/6 days contain sets-of-three letter verses, thematically linked to the forthcoming celebration. For details on alphabet representations in hymnography cycles Cf. STIPČEVIĆ 1981: 98, DIMITROVA 2021: 187.

cyr. cyr./lat. glag. (gr.-cyr. substitute for Ф) name numer. translit.

dl П/Р f pe(čalь) w

Sin. Mon.-cyr./glag. Radosav Paris (AM) Čajniče

Fig. 6: Various attempts by the scribes to find the right image for *P-2*

Of the three palatal classifiers only \mathbf{A} is well preserved because it often occurs in important words such as *evang'elie*, while the others gradually became obsolete (not without leaving interesting traces, cf. the fate of "*Chlъmъ*" ¹⁴).

Due to the considerable transformation of the letter \mathbf{W} (Kitb) in Bulgaria discussed above, which followed the earlier Moravo-Pannonian changes in both the initial phonetic value and the paradigmatic position of this graph, we can hardly anticipate any remnants of the primary Constantinian sound value k of the Greek palatal classifier \mathbf{W} (Kitb) in sources originating from Bulgaria. To find the missing link, which would support the hypothesis for an early sound shift of the graphic sign, we directed our attention to other regions of the Slavic cultural milieu where the written tradition might retain traces of the earliest Glagolitic system. And indeed, in one such source, originating from Dalmatia, we found a record of the original sound value of the letter \mathbf{W} (Kitb).

5. Traces of *Kit* in Croatia: According to the *Vitae* of Clement and Naum, some of the Cyrillo-Methodian followers arrived and, supposedly, developed a literary activity in the region of Dalmatia. Despite the fact that no firm record of their cultural mission has survived to our time, the long, continuous development of the Glagolitic tradition in this region throughout the centuries, following the demise of the First Bulgarian Empire, lead to the conclusion that, if systematically sought for, remnants of earlier texts can be found there – either in the form of relic features in later codices or as palimpsests. Thus, in at least five Croatian manuscripts¹⁵ in the Service of the Saints (Valentin,) Cyril and Methodius – we find the form ₩ՖЪБЗА-Э for the holy monk's name *Kyrill*-, in which the grapheme ♥ appears as a positional variant of *K*:

¹⁴ DIMITROVA 2018: 42-75; DIMITROVA 2021: 193-194.

¹⁵ i.e., the Breviary Vatican Illir. 6, ff. 208b-209c from the second half of the 14th c., the Paris Miscellany Slav. 73, f. 3r from 1375, the Academy breviary HAZU IIIc12, f. 69r from the end of the 14th c. (ŠIMIĆ 2014), the printed Baromić breviary, f. 324b from 1493, and the Second Breviary of Novi, ff. 407b–408d from the end of the 15th c. (PANTELIĆ; NAZOR 1977); cf. MIKLAS 2018: 174.

Се свети еръи твои, господи, валентинъ, **щурилъ** и метудии, славу въка отвр'гше, того ради прити утегу, тобою **щедрещим**, к' с'вршеному степену (II. Breviary of Novi: ff. 407b—408d, translit. acc. to LAVROV 1930: 138).

Based on this evidence and the above considerations, we can assume that the existence of the relic reading for the palatal classifier **\(\mathbf{v}\)** in Croatian sources is a phenomenon which can only be explained in terms of the earliest literary itineraries of the Cyrillo-Methodian tradition from the (Moravo-) Pannonian realm, i.e., the Northern route (cf. MIHALJEVIĆ 2017: 190).

This finding also suggests that efforts to discover new such monuments/texts, possibly as palimpsests, from the region of Dalmatia may prove to be quite rewarding and provide important facts about the origin and the development of the early Croatian Glagoliticism.

Sažetak:

Navikli smo podrijetlo hrvatskoga glagoljaštva tražiti u dva smjera – prema sjeveru, iz ćirilometodske tradicije na moravo-panonskom području, i prema jugu, iz Bugarske, gdje su stigli nakon bijega iz Moravske neki ćirilometodijsci učenici i su nastavili rad svojih učitelja od 886. nadalje.

Što se tiče sjevernog puta, do sada se uvijek pozivalo na najranije hrvatske pisane izvore iz 11. stoljeća i povijesne podatke poput pisma pape Ivana X. iz 925. godine (vidi npr. BIRNBAUM 1995-96). No srž te pretpostavke bila je da nema konačnih primjera fenomena pronađeni su koji bi se mogli objasniti isključivo iz ćirilo-metodske tradicije Moravske ili Panonije.

U ovom radu želimo skrenuti pozornost na prvi takav primjer, odnosno najstariji dokaz grafeme "Kit" 🞖. On ne samo pokazuje smjer odakle je uvezen, već također daje ideju o vremenu kada se to dogodilo.

Zusammenfassung:

Wir sind es gewohnt, den Ursprung des kroatischen Glagolitismus in zwei Richtungen zu suchen – im Norden, in der kyrillo-methodianischen Tradition des moravisch-pannonischen Raums, und im Süden, in Bulgarien, wo nach ihrer Flucht aus Moravien einige kyrillomethodianische Schüler die Arbeit ihrer Lehrer ab 886 fortsetzten.

Hinsichtlich der Nordroute wurde bisher immer auf die frühesten schriftlichen kroatischen Quellen aus dem 11. Jahrhundert und historische Informationen wie den Brief von Papst Johannes X. aus dem Jahr 925 verwiesen (vgl. z.B. BIRNBAUM 1995-96). Der Haken an dieser Annahme war jedoch, dass keine schlüssigen Beispiele für Phänomene gefunden werden konnten, die allein aus der kyrillo-methodianischen Tradition Moraviens oder Pannoniens erklärt werden konnten.

In dieser Arbeit wollen wir auf ein erstes Beweisstück dieser Art aufmerksam machen, und zwar die ältesten Belege des Graphems "Kit" & Sie geben nicht nur die Richtung an, aus der sie importiert wurden, sondern liefern auch eine Vorstellung davon, wann dies geschah.

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