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Christine Love-Rodgers, Esther Jeon  
Hannie Riley and Jussi Hyvärinen

## **Facsimile Editions of Manuscript Books in the Collections of the Scientific Library of Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy**

**Dr Archpriest Vladyslav Fulmes**

Vice-rector of Scientific Work of VOTA & Associate Professor  
Department of Humanities and Practical Disciplines,  
Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy, Volyn Oblast, Ukraine

Each nation preserves and protects its book heritage, takes care of it, studies, popularises and interprets it, thus bringing its achievements from the past to the future, and passing them on from ancestors to descendants. Ukraine has its own rich and vivid history of ancient book publishing. Among Ukrainian national monuments, the origins of which lie in the depths of time, the manuscript book occupies a special place. Each manuscript work is unique, and has an artistic face unique to it. Over the past decades, the work of returning original manuscripts to Ukraine in the form of facsimile editions has intensified. Previously inaccessible Ukrainian manuscripts stored in Austria, Italy, Poland, the USA, France and other countries, have become available to all those wishing to thoroughly study the most valuable monuments of national culture and understand their value in illuminating historical processes. As part of the project “Returning Cultural Heritage to Ukraine”, the efforts of the Gorobets publishing house, as well as other publishing houses, have resulted in the return of many ancient Ukrainian manuscript books in the form of facsimile copies.

The Scientific Library of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (Lutsk, Ukraine) has a considerable number of collections (Fulmes, 2023, 78–84). Among the large number of books, the facsimile editions stored in the library's collections deserve special attention, the description of which is given below.

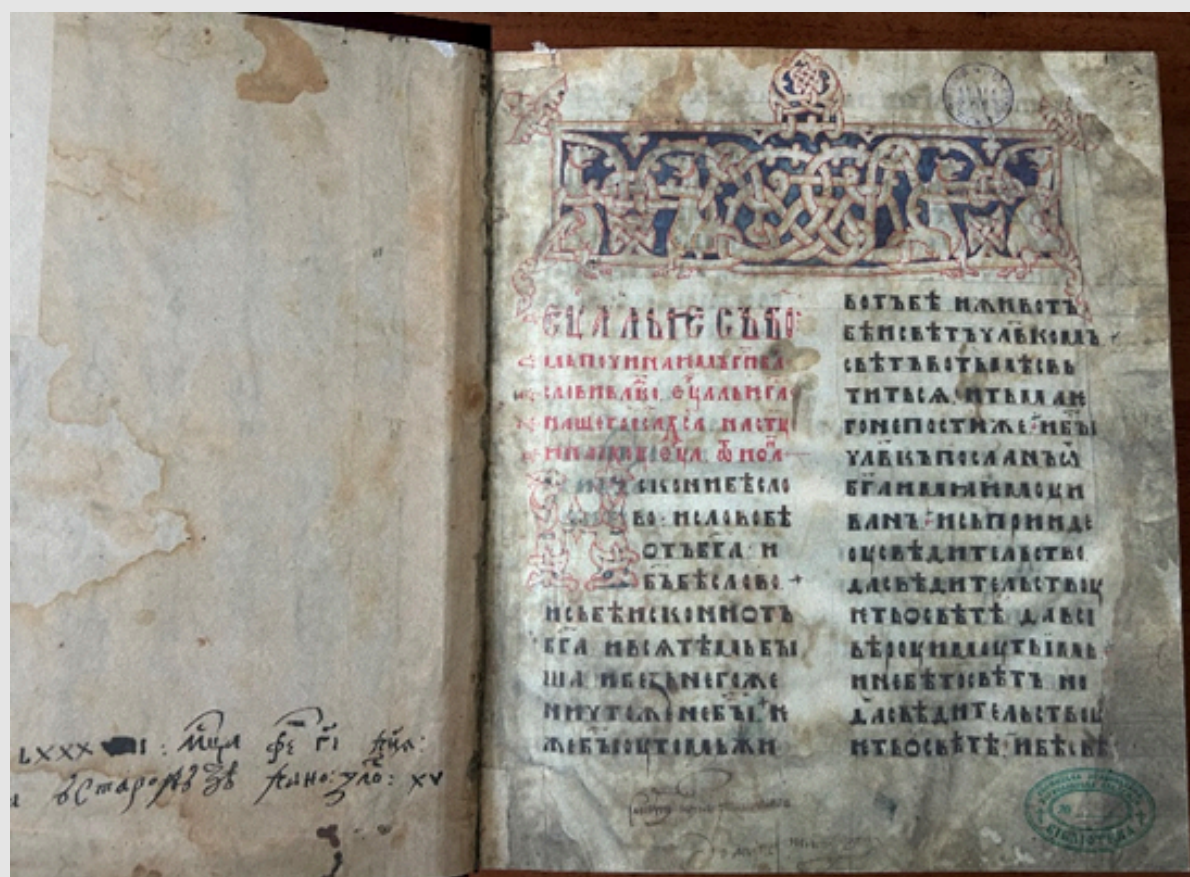
**The *Peresopnytsia Gospel*** is a remarkable manuscript monument of the Old Ukrainian [CLR1] language and art of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the first church book in Ukraine translated from book Church Slavonic into Old Ukrainian. [12] The manuscript takes its name from the name of the village of Peresopnytsia, located in the Rivne region, Ukraine. Work on the Gospel lasted five years (1556–1561). The *Peresopnytsia Gospel* is an incomparable example of a Ukrainian painting and manuscript book, as it has a rich artistic design, the decoration of which is the image of the four evangelists. Today, the original *Peresopnytsia Gospel* is stored in a special sarcophagus of the V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. A facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2008 by the ADEF-Ukraine publishing house to mark the 1020<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the baptism of Kyiv-Rus.



[Image 1] The *Peresopnytsia Gospel* [Facsimile] (photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)



**The *Lutsk Gospel* of the 14th century**, as one of the oldest liturgical books of Ukraine, belongs to the monuments of the Galician-Volyn school of book writing [11]. The *Lutsk Gospel* is a complete *aparakos*, in which the text of the four Gospels is divided into separate numbered integral parts – conceptions, arranged in the order of reading on holidays, Sundays and weekdays during services throughout the year. The *Lutsk Gospel* has seven screensavers and almost 400 painted capital letters or initials. The size of the texts and decorations is preserved in the facsimile edition of the *Lutsk Gospel*. All pages are reproduced in their original form, colour and volume. All marginalia contained in the original are also preserved. The facsimile edition of this valuable book was carried out in 2011 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 2] The *Lutsk Gospel* of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century [Facsimile]  
(photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)



**The *Chelm Gospel* of the 13<sup>th</sup> century**, which is currently stored outside Ukraine, is part of a series of editions of ancient Ukrainian monuments, which give scholars access to the sources of Slavic literature [11]. The manuscript has long attracted the attention of researchers who have studied its linguistic features, decorative design, miniature, textology, and so on. The *Chelm Gospel* occupies a unique place in the cultural heritage of Ukraine, primarily as a unique monument of the Chelm environment of the princely era. This is a rare repetition of one of the lesser-known masterpieces of the national tradition: Chelm during the time of King Danylo Romanovych (1201–1264), the publication of which became a significant step in the return from oblivion of this significant page of national history. The *Chelm Gospel* is a complete *aparakos*, that is, a liturgical Gospel, containing readings for all days of the church year from Easter to Great Lent. The Gospel is decorated with coloured screens and initials from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The facsimile edition of the *Chelm Gospel* is supplemented with scientific articles on the history of the *Chelm Gospel* of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the artistic decoration of the manuscript, and on the history of the Ukrainians of the Chelm region. The facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2015 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 3] The *Chelm Gospel* of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century [Facsimile]  
(photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)

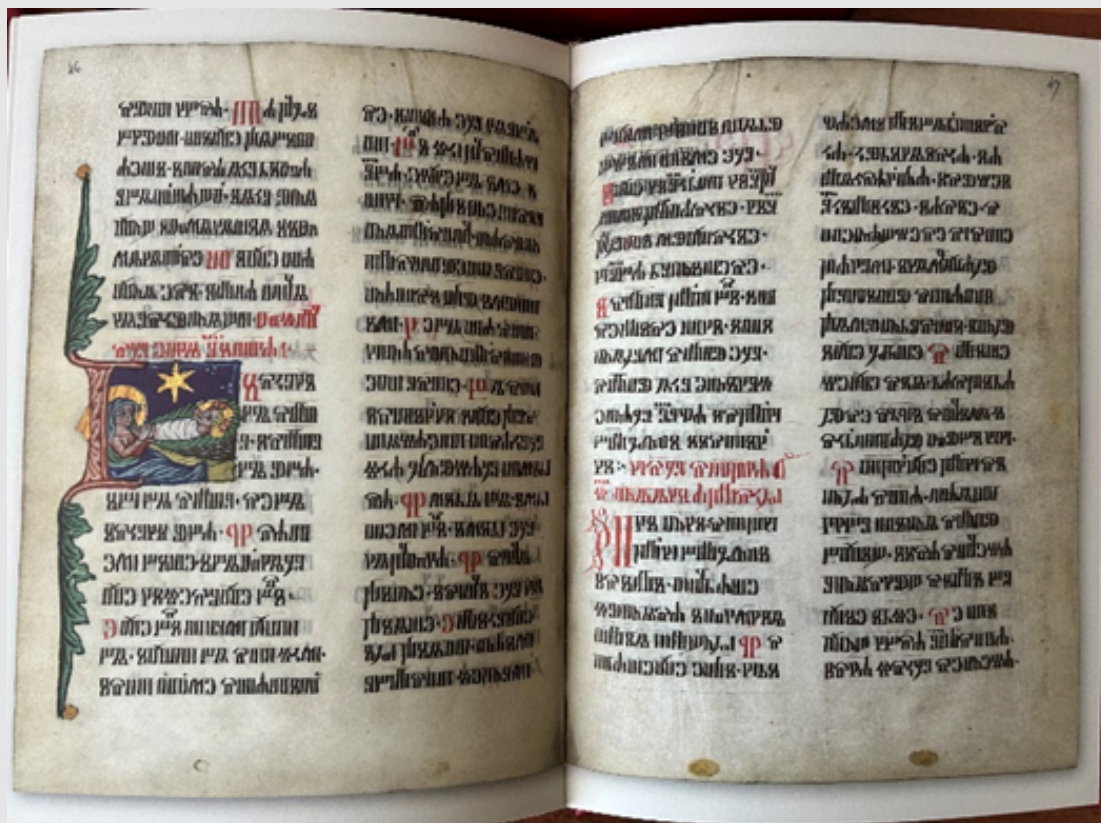
**The *Lauryshava Gospel* of the 14<sup>th</sup> century**, which is kept in the National Museum in Krakow (Poland), thanks to Ukrainian and Polish scholars who studied the codicological, paleographic, textological, artistic, and linguistic features of this edition, contributes to its establishment of a connection with the formation of Orthodoxy and Lithuanian-Ruthenian writing in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which developed according to the Galician-Volyn written tradition. [11] The name of this religious monument is due to the place of its creation: the Lauryshava Monastery. The monument is a valuable source for the study of the Ukrainian language. A facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2018 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 4] The *Lauryshava Gospel* of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century [Facsimile]  
(photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)



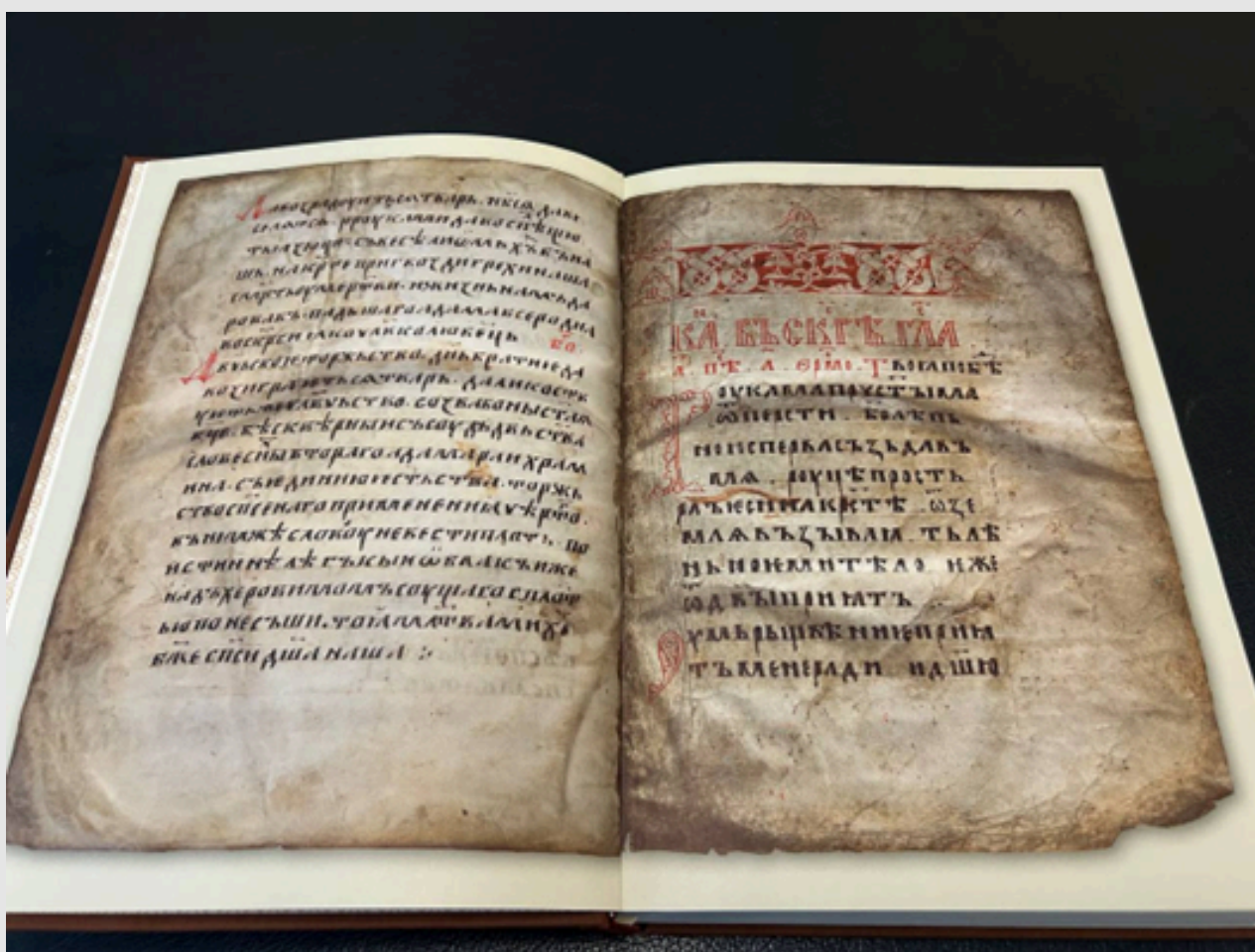
**The Reims Gospel** is a famous Kyiv monument of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, associated with the Kyiv book scriptorium and possibly with the library of the great Kyiv prince Yaroslav the Wise. [11] The fate of the book is closely intertwined with the history of medieval Rus, the Czech Republic, and France, and can rightfully be considered a common historical and cultural book monument. The publication consists of two parts. The first part reproduces the pages of the manuscript monument, and the second contains the results of its research by modern Ukrainian scholars, which reveals the codicological, paleographic, artistic and linguistic aspects concerning Cyrillic features of the codex, as well as the history of its creation, existence and study. A facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2019 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 5] The Reims Gospel [Facsimile] (photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)



**The Vienna Octoechos of the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries**, currently kept in the Austrian National Library, is among the oldest surviving works of the Galician-Volynian manuscript tradition of the princely times. [11] It is one of the oldest surviving universal collections, containing almost a complete set of texts necessary for divine service (the Six-day service with the Gospel and Apostolic readings for the Octoechos, the festive Minya, and the general Minya by Clement of Ohrid, hymns of minor genres). A facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2019 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 6] The Vienna Octoechos [Facsimile] (photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)

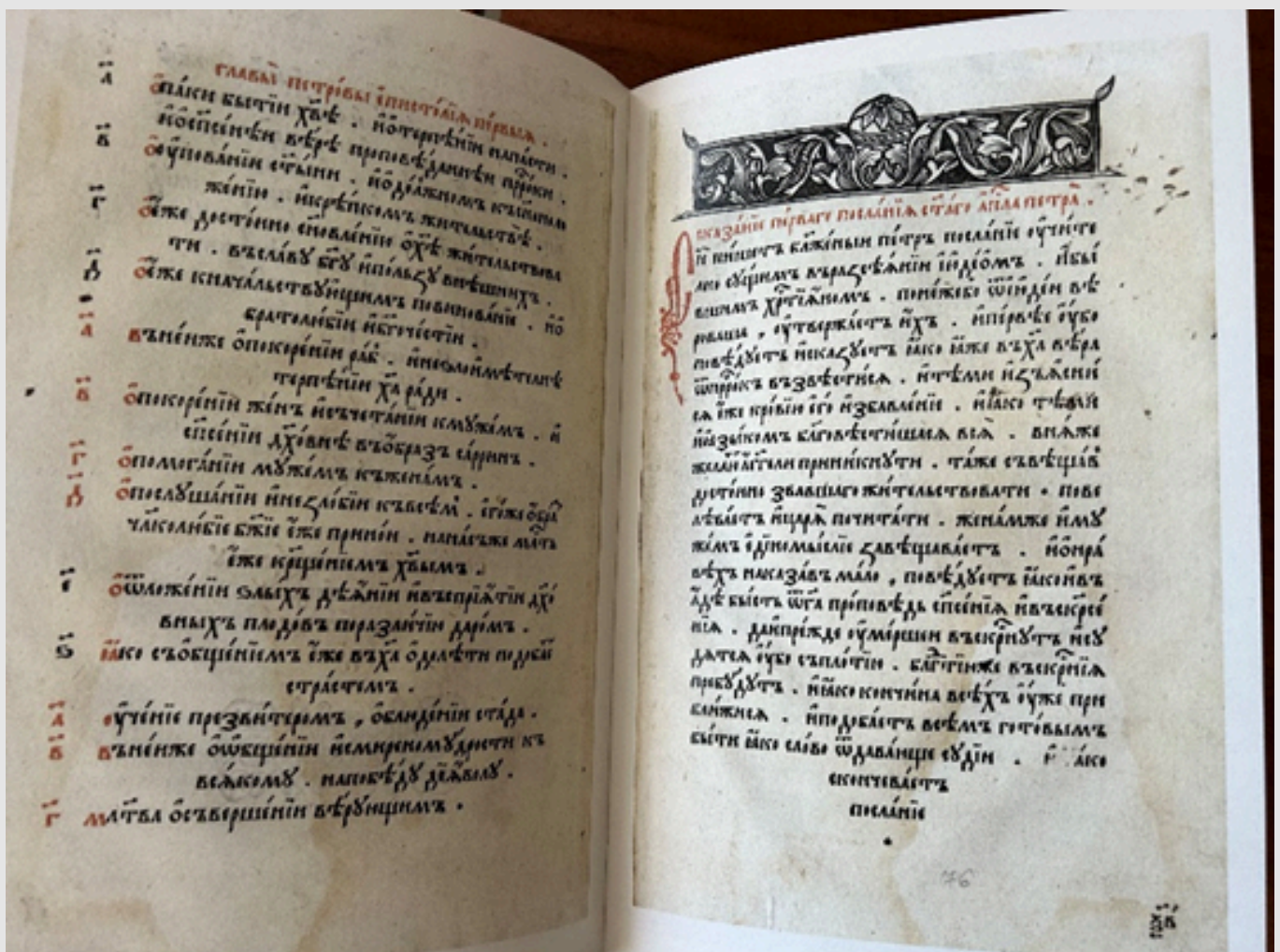
***Prince Vladimir's Psalter (The Prayer Book of Prince Volodymyr) of the 14<sup>th</sup> century*** is an important liturgical monument of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Access to the *Prayer Book of Prince Volodymyr* was restricted for a long time due to it being in the private collection of the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA, Metropolitan Ioann Teodorovych (1887–1971). The manuscript was transferred to the New York Public Library in 1994 and became widely available, which resulted in the appearance of several meaningful publications about it in subsequent years. Its facsimile edition and the modern scientific research contained in it will contribute to further in-depth scientific research both of the monument itself and of the study of Ukrainian manuscript literature in general. The facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2021 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 7] *Prince Vladimir's Psalter (The Prayer Book of Prince Volodymyr) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century* [Facsimile] (photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)



**The Lviv Apostolos of 1574** or the *Acts and Epistles of the Apostolos Ivan Fedorovych*, is traditionally considered the oldest precisely dated book printed in Ukraine, a material evidence of the duration of the Ukrainian cultural tradition. [11] The facsimile reprint of the outstanding first edition celebrates the enormous merits of the printed word, and the life and creative feats of the “printer of previously unseen books” Ivan Fedorovych, a master of book art, a talented engraver, engineer, foundryman, East Slavic humanist, and educator of the 16th century. The facsimile edition of this valuable book was published in 2023 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 8] The Lviv Apostolos of 1574 [Facsimile] (photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)

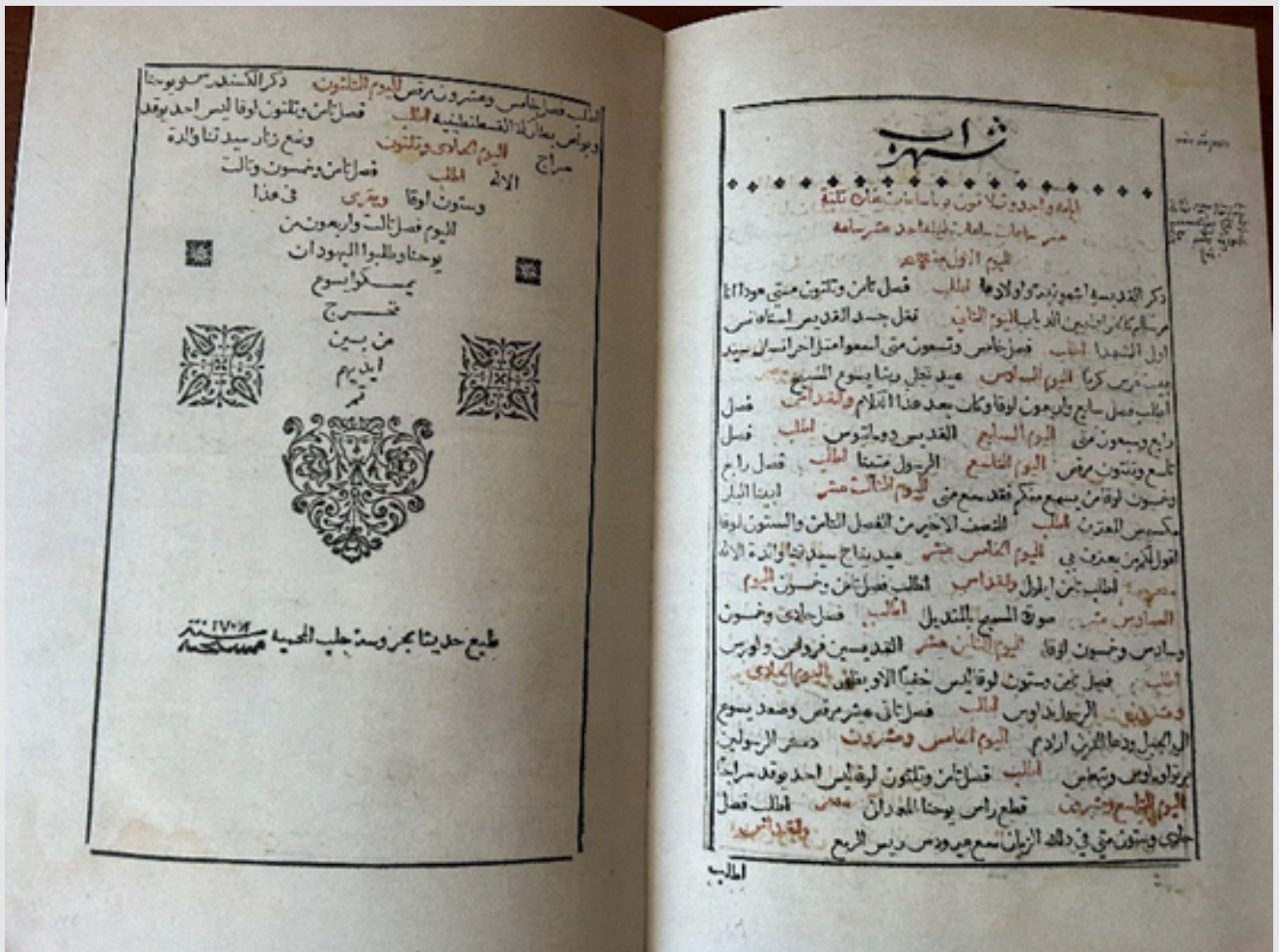


**The Galician-Volyn Gospel of the 12<sup>th</sup> century** is a valuable source for the study of Church Slavonic in the Ukrainian edition, as it contains the linguistic features of the contemporary inhabitants of Galicia and Volyn. In terms of structure, this is a complete Gospel-*aparakos* with an added monthly dictionary. The facsimile part is supplemented by a scientific part containing historiographical, linguistic-orthographic, and artistic research. The facsimile edition of this valuable book was carried out in 2024 by the Gorobets publishing house.



[Image 9] The *Galician-Volyn Gospel* of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century [Facsimile]  
(photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)

***The Book of the Honest Immaculate Gospel, the Lamp that Shines and Illuminates (The Mazepa Gospel)*** is part of Ukrainian national historical heritage. [11] The outstanding monument was first published three centuries ago (1708) in the Syrian city of Aleppo at the expense of the Hetman of Ukraine, Ivan Mazepa. and contains a dedication to the Hetman-patron, written by the Patriarch of Antioch Athanasius III Dabbas. This book is evidence of the ancient historical ties of Ukraine with the Levantine Middle East, as well as the discovery of a virtually unknown episode in the life and activities of Hetman Ivan Mazepa.



[Image 10] *The Book of the Honest Immaculate Gospel, the Lamp that Shines and Illuminates (The Mazepa Gospel)* [Facsimile] (photo provided by Vladyslav Fulmes)

Thus, it can be stated that the facsimile reprinting of unique manuscript books and the storage of these editions by libraries, in particular the Scientific Libraries of Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy, provides access for a wide range of readers to corner rare, unique East Slavic monuments of Christian culture and the history of the Ukrainian language. The publication of facsimile editions with thorough scientific research has created a significant base for further long-term research into the history of the manuscript book and national culture, with its influence on the spirituality of society and its cultural potential.

## Bibliography

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