

DESCRIPTION OF NEWLY DISCOVERED GLAGOLITIC MANUSCRIPTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper answers the question, what is to be done after the discovery of new Glagolitic manuscripts. The first thing after finding a manuscript is its registration and protection. The next step is its description. The description of newly discovered manuscripts has three main goals: 1. identification, 2. dating, and 3. locating. For identification a precise description of the outer appearance of the manuscript as well as the identification of its content are needed. Dating and locating, if not explicitly given in the manuscript, require knowledge of different palaeographic and linguistic data. Palaeographic data are generally more important for dating than are the language facts, while the opposite holds for locating. The last step is the comparison of the new manuscript with other, already known and described manuscripts, in order to determine whether it once belonged to the same book as any of them. The author presents the criteria for dating and locating Croatian-Glagolitic manuscripts and illustrates the whole procedure with concrete examples of Glagolitic fragments discovered in the last twenty years.

Introduction

This paper answers the questions: what should we do (or what shouldn't we do) and how should we do it, if we find a new Glagolitic manuscript written on parchment. It is not very probable that we will find a whole hand-written codex, but there is a good chance of finding small fragments, usually in book bindings. For example, in Figure 1 you can see one fragment of a Croato-Glagolitic breviary, which was recently discovered in a book binding in the Regional Archive Klagenfurt (Austria).¹

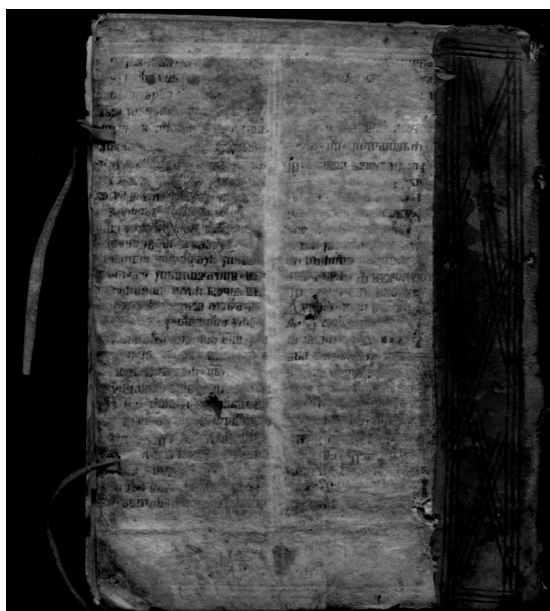


FIGURE 1 The newly discovered *Klagenfurt Breviary fragment*, 14th century

Therefore, I will limit my discussion to newly found Glagolitic fragments. Usually, the discovery of such fragments is due to chance, as was

1 In the meantime the fragment was taken out from the binding of the codex *KLA, Arnoldstein, Hs 47*, protected and stored in the Archive under the call number *GV-Hs 12/69*. Its description and text will be published in the journal *Carinthia*. I would like to thank the Regional Archive Klagenfurt for allowing me to publish this picture.

the case with our fragment from Klagenfurt. Quite exceptionally, the discovery could be the result of a systematic search launched in monastery libraries or parish archives. Such was the case with fragments discovered by Anica Vlašić-Anić, who had systematically searched through libraries in Capuchin monasteries in Varaždin, Rijeka and Karlobag looking for Glagolitic manuscripts.²

Registration and Protection

The first thing that should be done after finding a fragment, or a codex, is to register and protect it. If it is possible, the fragment should be taken out of the binding. Here a couple of warnings are in order. First, do not do it yourself if you are not a professional, because you could cause irreparable damage to the fragment. Bring the book with the fragment to an institution – usually an archive or (national) library – which has an adequately equipped laboratory and can do it professionally. The experts from those institutions will not only take the fragment out of the binding, but also restore and preserve it and most probably protect it by putting it in a box or a folder. Second, do not forget to note the circumstances of the find, which includes all relevant data about the book in which the fragment has been found, such as: the title, the year of publication, the type of binding, the position of the fragment in the binding, the call number of the book (if there is one), and so forth. Third, do not moisten the fragment with water or any other liquid. It is known that old manuscripts have higher readability when they are wet. So, if you can read the Glagolitic script, I suggest you to go to the laboratory and try to read the text of the fragment while it is still wet from the conservation chemicals. In this way you will be able to

2 See Anica Vlašić-Anić, “Glagoljica u knjižnicima kapucinskih samostana,” in *Glagoljica i hrvatski glagolizam*, edited by Marija-Ana Dürrigl, Milan Mihaljević and Franjo Velčić (Zagreb: Staroslavenski institute; Krk: Krčka biskupija, 2004.), 341-354; Anica Vlašić-Anić, “Najnovija otkrića glagoljice u knjižnici riječkoga Kapucinskoga samostana Gospe Lurdske,” in *400. godina kapucina u Hrvatskoj: Rijeka 1610.-2010.*, edited by Goran Crnković (Rijeka: Matica hrvatska, Ogranak u Rijeci, 2010.), 20; Anica Vlašić-Anić, “Najnovija otkrića glagoljice u biblioteci Kapucinskoga samostana u Karlobagu,” in *Franjevci kapucini u Karlobagu*, edited by Anto Barišić, 215-250 (Zagreb; Karlobag: Hrvatska kapucinska provincija sv. Leopolda Bogdana Mandića, Kršćanska sadašnjost, Kapucinski samostan sv. Josipa u Karlobagu, Općina Karlobag, 2014.).

read even the text parts which would later be unreadable. If you moisten the fragment with water, you'll leave permanent spots on it, and it will be later much harder, if not totally impossible, for other people to read.

After the restoration and protection, the fragment is usually returned to the owner, i.e., to the monastery, the parish office, the library, the archive or any other institution in which it was discovered. The Old Church Slavonic Institute (Staroslavenski institut) in Zagreb collects data on all Glagolitic manuscripts in the world. Therefore, it is recommended to send the information about the newly discovered fragment, as well as its photographs, to the Institute.³ The Institute has a digital data base *Izvori Staroslavenskog instituta*, which contains essential information about almost all Glagolitic manuscripts as well as photographs of a great number of them. Unfortunately, the database cannot be accessed online since the photographs of many manuscripts are given to the Institute only for internal use, and cannot be published on the Internet without the owner's permission.

Description

The next step is the description of the newly discovered manuscript. The description has three main goals: 1. identification, 2. dating and 3. locating. I will illustrate all three steps with data about fragments which I have described in the last twenty years, either alone or together with other experts.

Identification

For identification the precise description of the outer appearance of the manuscript as well as the identification of its content are needed. The purpose of identification is that anybody could identify the manuscript as the one you have described. Therefore, in your description you have to give the following data: dimensions of the fragment, damage (size and position on

3 You can send the information and photographs to the following address: info@stin.hr.

the folio), number of columns and their dimensions, number of rows in a column, dimensions of margins, size and colour of letters, ornaments, etc. Let us illustrate this with a concrete manuscript. I will take as an example the Breviary fragment from Novo Mesto which is shown in Figure 2.⁴



FIGURE 2 The Breviary fragment from Novo Mesto, 15th century

The fragment is a 34.5 cm high and 26 cm wide parchment folio. The missing part at the bottom (in the middle) is 11.3 cm high and 4 cm wide. 1.5 cm from the upper edge there is a hole which is 2.5 cm deep. On top it is 4 cm wide, at the bottom only 0.5 cm and on the bend 1.5 cm. The text is written in two columns which are 8 cm wide and contain 36 rows each. The outer margin is 3.5 and the inner margin 4 cm wide. Small letters are 0.3 cm and capital letters 0.4 or 0.5 cm high. Capital letters are written in

4 The fragment has been described and published in Milan Mihaljević, "Fragment hrvatskoglagoljskoga brevijara iz Novoga Mesta," in *Knjige poštujući, knjigama poštovan. Zbornik Josipu Bratuliću o 70. rođendanu*, edited by Davor Dukić and Mateo Žagar (Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 2010), 211-226.

black and then filled with red, while the rubrics are written in red. The interspace between the columns is 1 cm wide. The bigger initial V is the height of 9 rows. It is written in red and reinforced by blue. Its body consists of a braid (of two interwoven ribbons) with palmettes and semipalmettes at the ends and it is ornamented with small pearls and shoots. The smaller initial S is the height of only 2 rows.

The content of the fragments is sometimes relatively easy to determine. For example, in the breviary fragment from Rijeka, shown in Figure 3, it was easy to identify the text as a fragment of the Biblical book of *Proverbs*. The recto side of the fragment contains verses 11-19 of the first chapter (Pr 1,11-19), and the verso side verses 21-18 of the same chapter (Pr 1,21-28).⁵

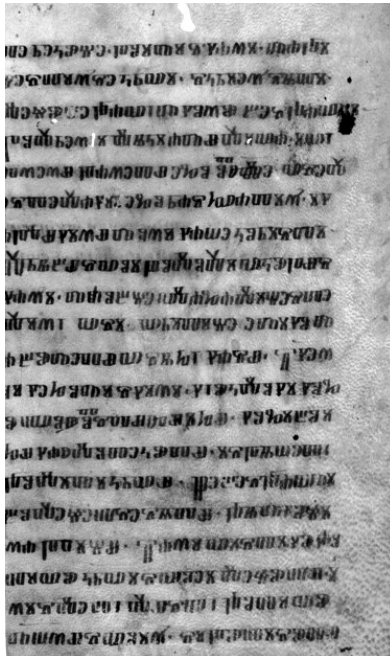


FIGURE 3 The fragment of *Proverbs* from Rijeka, 13th century

5 The fragment has been described and published in Milan Mihaljević and Anica Vlašić-Anić, “Novotkriveni glagoljski fragmenti u riječkoj kapucinskoj knjižnici,” in *Sprache und Leben der frühmittelalterlichen Slaven*, edited by Elena Stadnik-Holzer and Georg Holzer (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang Verlag, 2010), 95-124.

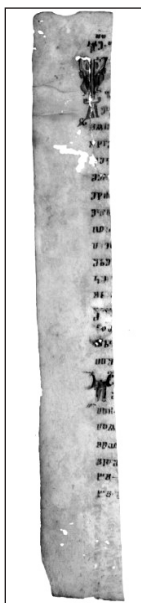


FIGURE 4 The breviary fragment from Rijeka, end of the 13th century

Sometimes it is possible to determine the content only partially, for example in the second fragment from Rijeka, shown in Figure 4, it was possible to identify the text only as a fragment of a breviary.⁶

Because of illegibility, it is sometimes very hard (if not impossible) to figure out the content. For example, it took me almost five years to determine the content of the front page of the *Pazin fragment E* from the beginning of the 14th century, which is shown in Figure 5. Neither Nazor⁷ nor Mihaljević and Vince⁸ could decipher the text on this page,⁹ although it was clear from the content of the other side that it has to be a part of the apocryphal *Acts of Andrew and Matthew in the city of cannibals*, but it couldn't be estimated whether it was located before or after the text on the other side.

6 Cf. also Mihaljević; Vlašić-Anić, "Novootkriveni glagoljski fragmenti u riječkoj kapucinskoj knjižnici".

7 Anica Nazor, "Još glagoljskih *Pazinskih fragmenata* iz početka XIV. stoljeća," *Slovo* 60 (2010): 575-608.

8 Milan Mihaljević and Jasna Vince, *Jezik hrvatskoglagoljskih Pazinskih fragmenata* (Zagreb: Pazin: Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada, Državni arhiv u Pazinu, Staroslavenski institut, 2012.).

9 Nazor wrote: "Prednja strana premazana je smeđe-zelenom bojom i nečitljiva (označili smo je kao a i b)." (The front side is coated all over by brown and green colours and unreadable (we mark it as a and b) in Nazor, "Još glagoljskih *Pazinskih fragmenata* iz početka XIV. stoljeća".

In the summer of 2015 I had finally succeeded in identifying the word *poroda* ‘paradise’, a so-called Preslavism which is very rare in Croatian-Glagolitic texts, which enabled me to read and reconstruct almost the whole text of this page in a very short time. It turned out that it is the text of the 15th chapter of the *Acts of Andrew and Matthew in the city of cannibals*, which confirmed Anica Nazor’s assumption that this side is a front (recto) side of the folio, since the other side contains the text of the chapters 16-18.¹⁰

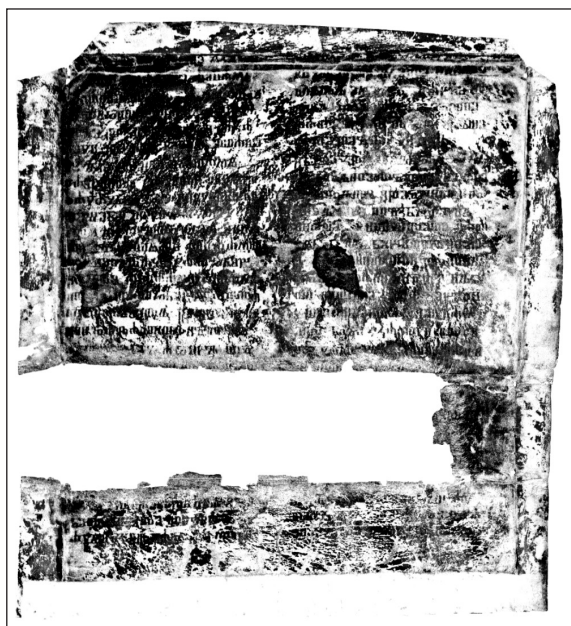


FIGURE 5 The Pazin fragment E, beginning of the 14th century

10 The text has been published in Milan Mihaljević, “Prednja strana hrvatskoglagoljskoga *Pazinskog fragmenta E*,” in *Zbornik vo čest na prof. d-r. Radmila Ugrinova-Skalovska po povod devedesetogodišnjata ot rađanjetu*, edited by Emilija Crvenkovska (Skopje: Filološki fakultet “Blaže Koneski”, 2016), 139-148.

Dating

Dating and locating, if not explicitly given in the manuscript, require knowledge of different palaeographic and linguistic data. Palaeographic data are generally more important for dating than language, while the opposite holds for locating. The reason is that, due to older protographs, the text can reflect a language stage that is older than the one which is characteristic for the time in which the preserved text had been copied. Some of the palaeographic factors that are relevant for dating, are: 1. the inventory and the functions of letters, 2. different shapes of the same letter, 3. ligatures, 4. the distribution of blanks in the text, etc.

The first point can be illustrated with the so-called *jer* signs: 𐝀 (𐝀) (= key shaped *jer* sign), 𐝁 (*štapić* = short stick), 𐝂 (apostrophe). The first sign appeared only at the end of the 13th century.¹¹ After the end of the 14th century *štapić* is a mechanical sign of the end of a word ending in a consonant, while there is no regularity in the use of the apostrophe. In the 13th century manuscripts all three signs alternate. At the end of words ending in a consonant all three signs alternate freely while within the word only the first two signs occur. The closer the manuscript is to the beginning of the century, the greater the number of key shaped *jer* signs. At the end of the 13th century strong *jers* began to be replaced by the vowel *a*, which means that the first sign in the middle of the word was, from that time, most often replaced by the letter 𐝃.

I will illustrate the second point with two examples. The first is the letter *jat*. In manuscripts and inscriptions from the 11th century it has a triangular shape with a sharp top (𐝄). In the 12th century and at the beginning of the 13th century the top was cut down, and the letter had a trapezoid shape with an unbroken right end. After the middle of the 13th century the letter appears only in a shape with a broken right end (𐝅).¹² The second example is the shape of the letter C. The older form of this letter with a level bottom occurs until the middle of the 14th century, but the younger variant with the sharp bottom (𐝆) started to appear already in the second half of the

11 Vjekoslav Štefanić, *Glagoljski rukopisi Jugoslavenske akademije: I. dio* (Zagreb: JAZU, 1969.), 12.

12 Branko Fučić, *Glagoljski natpisi* (Zagreb: JAZU, 1982), 14.

13th century.¹³ Therefore, at the end of the 13th and in the first half of the 14th centuries both forms coexist. Before that only the older form existed, and after that only the younger form existed.

In the so-called transitional period of the Croatian Glagolitism, which means until the beginning of the 14th century, the number of ligatures, as well as their inventory (the number of combinations), is smaller than in the later period. There appeared only adequate ligatures, i.e., ligatures in which merged letters had a common part, which were usually limited to two members (two merged letters). After that, the number of ligatures and the number of combinations increase with time, so that in the 15th century we have ligatures which consist of two to five members and which can be either adequate or inadequate. Also, texts from the transitional period adhere much more to the principle of *scriptura continua*, and don't segment the written text into words.

Let us now apply what we have said to *Rijeka fragment of Proverbs*. It has all three *jer* signs: the key shaped sign occurs 38, the *štapić* 16 and the apostrophe 7 times. The letter *jat* always has the broken right end. The letter *C* occurs only once, in the shape with the level bottom. Ligatures are rare, adequate and limited to two members. The principle of *scriptura continua* is relatively well preserved. Therefore, we can date this fragment to the beginning of the second half of the 13th century, which is in accordance with language facts. For example, in this fragment strong *jers* are not yet replaced by **h** (*a*).

Locating

Localization, exactly like dating, is a jigsaw puzzle which couldn't be put together if some important pieces are missing. Different factors are important for localization of manuscripts: textual, historical, linguistic, palaeographic, etc. Among the linguistic factors, the most important role is played by dialect features that are specific to a particular area such as the reflexes of the Common Slavic phoneme *jat* as well as other specific

¹³ Štefanić, *Glagoljski rukopisi Jugoslavenske akademije*, 13.

phonetic changes, the preservation of the prefix *vi-* (< *vy-*) ‘out’ and the spreading of the nominative form of the *v*-stem nouns to the accusative (*loki*, *crki*, etc.), which are characteristic for north-western Čakavian areal (Istra, Kvarner), the form *če* of the interrogative inanimate pronoun, which is characteristic for the idioms of Vrbnik and Omišalj on the island of Krk, etc.

Let us take as an example our earlier mentioned breviary fragment from Novo Mesto. In it *jat* is predominantly reflected as *e*, which is characteristic for north-western Čakavian. Ikavian reflexes occur only in a few endings (in locative and dative). Another dialectal element in it is the voicing of the preposition *s* to *z* (*z’ [di]šučimi*) in front of the voiced dental occlusive. Since this situation is characteristic only for the dialects of the hinterland of Opatija (Opatijski Kras) and some dialects of central Istria, we can say that this fragment has been copied in the north-western Čakavian area, but we couldn’t be sure in which of those two regions. Since the great majority of Glagolitic manuscripts have arrived in Slovenia from central Istria, I would assume that this fragment was copied somewhere in this area.

Relating to Other Manuscripts

The last step in describing a newly found fragment is its comparison with fragments or codices that are already known and described, in order to determine whether it once belonged to the same book as any of these manuscripts. This step requires the knowledge of all the data about the fragment that are described in the foregoing chapters, as well as the corresponding data about other manuscripts. In many cases it is not possible to determine that the fragment was a part of the same book with any other known manuscript, since its dimensions – such as the height and the width of the columns, the height of letters, the number of rows in a column, etc. – as well as the palaeographic characteristics of the script don’t match any other known manuscript. In such cases we have to conclude that our fragment is a testimony to the former existence of one more

Glagolitic book which has not been preserved to today.

Naturally, we can sometimes establish a relationship between our fragment and some other manuscript. I will give as an example the Missal fragment shown in Figure 6, which was found in a book binding in the University Library in Rijeka and described in Mihaljević.¹⁴

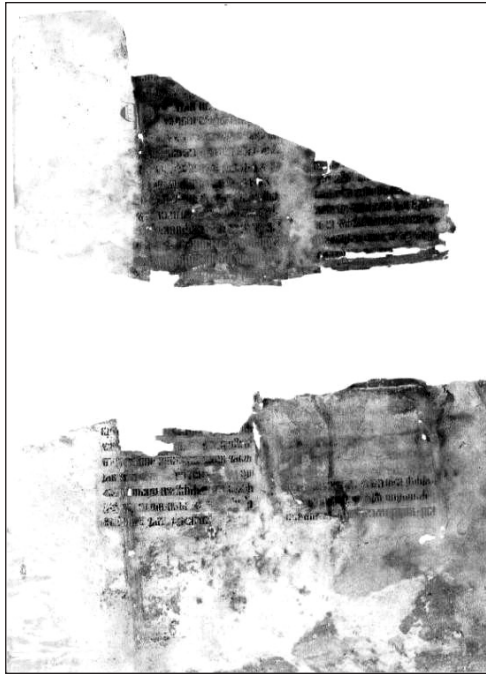


FIGURE 6 The Missal fragment from Rijeka, 15th century

On the bases of palaeographic and linguistic data I dated this fragment to the first half of the 15th century. After that, I decided to compare it with Croatian-Glagolitic Missals from that period. The first on my list was the *Missal from Novi Vinodolski*, since I had at first glance noticed that the script of the fragment was very similar to that of this Missal. Moreover, I knew that this Missal was heavily damaged, especially its beginning. By

14 Milan Mihaljević, “Novootkriveni glagoljski fragmenti u Sveučilišnoj knjižnici Rijeka,” *Dometi* 7:12 (1999): 27-38.

comparing them, I found that they are in all relevant respects identical: the column width in both of them is around 6,5 cm, the column height is 21 cm, columns in both of them contain 30 rows, the height of small letters is 4 mm and of capital letters 5 mm. The decisive fact was when I discovered that the word *poidutb* which begins on the fragment (*po-*) continues on the first page of the Missal (*-idutb*). Therefore, I could, without any doubt, conclude that this fragment was once a part of the *Missal from Novi Vinodolski* and that it was located immediately in front of the first page of the preserved part of the Missal. Of course, we are not always so lucky.

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OPISIVANJE NOVOOTKRIVENIH GLAGOLJSKIH RUKOPISA

KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

hrvatskoglagoljski
rukopisi, glagoljski
fragmenti, opis
novootkrivenih rukopisa

SAŽETAK

U radu se odgovara na pitanje što treba učiniti kad se pronađe novi glagoljski rukopis. Novopronađeni rukopis treba najprije registrirati i zaštititi. Nakon toga ga treba opisati. Opis rukopisa ima tri glavna cilja: 1. identifikacija, 2. datacija i 3. ubikacija. Identifikacija pretpostavlja precizan opis vanjskog izgleda rukopisa i utvrđivanje njegova sadržaja, tako da svatko komu rukopis dođe u ruke može odrediti da je riječ o tom rukopisu. Datacija i ubikacija, ako nisu izrijekom navedene u rukopisu, zahtijevaju, između ostaloga, poznavanje različitih paleografskih i jezičnih podataka. Paleografski su podatci važniji od jezičnih za datiranje rukopisa, a jezični za njegovu ubikaciju, tj. određivanje mjesta na kojemu je nastao. Posljednji je korak usporedba novootkrivenog rukopisa s drugim od ranije poznatim i opisanim rukopisima kako bi se odredilo je li on nekad bio dio istoga kodeksa s nekim od njih ili je riječ o ostatku nove, dosad nepoznate knjige. Autor navodi mjerila za datiranje i lociranje hrvatskoglagoljskih rukopisa, a cijeli postupak opimjeruje dijelovima opisa glagoljskih fragmenata pronađenih u posljednjih dvadeset godina.