

## Cyrillic documents on the history of Greek Catholics in Czechoslovakia 1918 – 1939<sup>1</sup>

Viktor Kichera

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### *Cyrilské dokumenty k dejinám gréckokatolíkov v Československu 1918 – 1939*

**Abstract:** *The novelty of this research will be primarily that for the first time there will be an attempt not only to discover Cyrillic documents but also to provide specific scientific institutions where they are located, which will be extremely useful not only for scientists but also for students, masters, doctoral students and other researchers for writing their annual or diploma theses. This article will be an attempt to study the locations of Cyrillic documents from the history of Greek Catholics during the period of Czechoslovakia 1918-1939 in the archives and libraries of the modern Czech Republic and Slovakia. The main task will be to facilitate the search stage for students, doctoral students, and scientists studying the history of the Church.*

**Keywords:** *Archives, Cyrillic documents, Greek Catholics, Czechoslovakia 1918 – 1939, libraries, scientific institutions.*

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The importance of this issue and its prehistory is related to the rite of Greek Catholics, who have a Byzantine rather than Latin tradition of worship and is conducted in the Church Slavonic language. Accordingly, the entire life of the Church was connected with the Cyrillic texts of liturgical books<sup>2</sup> and the Slavic tradition of the inventors of the

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<sup>2</sup> More about the study of Cyrillic books and language in the works of Peter Ženuch and Peter Zubko. For example: ŽEŇUCH, Peter – ZUBKO, Peter et alii: Liturgické jazyky v duchovnej kultúre Slovanov. Monotematický súbor štúdií. Bratislava: Slavistický ústav Jána Stanislava Slovenskej akadémie vied, Slovenský komitét slavistov, 2017, 368 s.; ŽEŇUCH, Peter – ZUBKO, Peter: Michal Bradač – Rukoväť cirkevných dejín / МИХАИЛЬ

language, Saints Cyril and Methodius. In other words, the entire heritage of Greek Catholics and the life of the Church is connected with the Slavic language, writing, and the Church Slavonic language of the liturgy. The everyday life of the clergy and faithful was also connected with the Cyrillic tradition of the period under study.

In interwar Czechoslovakia, Greek Catholics belonged to two Eparchies of that time – the Eparchy of Prešov in eastern Slovakia and the Eparchy of Mukachevo in Subcarpathian Rus. Moreover, everyday communication and the language used was also Slavic, and most internal correspondence and documents were also written in Cyrillic, which was close to the Church Slavonic language of Worship.

The novelty of this research is that for the first time, there will be an attempt not only to identify Cyrillic documents, but also to provide specific academic institutions where they are located, which will be extremely useful not only for scholars, but also for students, masters students, doctoral students, and other researchers for writing their annual or diploma theses. It will also help guide young people studying at different levels at universities or other educational institutions to facilitate the heuristic stage of research, which is the collection of material for writing their research papers.

The main task of this paper is to provide locations of Cyrillic documents from the Czechoslovakian era on the history of Greek Catholics, which are primarily in the archives and libraries of the modern Czech Republic and Slovakia. Of course, many documents on the history of the Mukachevo Eparchy are located in the State Archives of the Zakarpattia Oblast of Ukraine in the cities of Berehove and Uzhhorod, but that is not the subject of this study. However, it can be added that the largest number of Cyrillic documents from the period under study are in two fonds: Fond 151 – Mukachevo Greek Catholic Eparchy (which is the largest fond of the archive in general) and Fond 64 – Mukachevo Basilian Monastery. It is in these fonds that researchers will find the most Cyrillic documents, mostly on the history of Greek Catholics in the Mukachevo Eparchy.

Documents on the history of Greek Catholics should be researched primarily in the archives and libraries of the modern Czech Republic and Slovakia. Documents should be understood in their broader context as, not only sources that are poorly researched in archival collections but also documents that have been published, various memoirs, and even periodicals that contain and at the time contained important current information and can be used for historical research. Although periodicals are difficult to study due to their size, they contain unique data that may be found in this type of source but are completely absent from archival documents. Therefore, the task of this paper will be to provide a general analysis of the main archives and libraries, and give an overview of those Cyrillic documents that may contain important and valuable information, primarily for historical research on the history of Greek Catholics in Subcarpathian Rus within a broader context.

The Metropolitan Greek Catholic Archives in Prešov contains perhaps the largest number of Cyrillic documents on the history of Greek Catholics. The archives' main collections are divided into two large groups: current documentation (Bežna agenda) and

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Брадачъ – ЄПІТОМЪ ІСТОРИИ ЦЕРКОВНЫЯ. Monumenta Byzantino-Slavica et Latina Slovaciae. Vol. VIII. Bratislava: VEDA, vydavateľstvo SAV – Slavistický ústav Jána Stanislava SAV – Slovenský komitét slavistov, 2021, 464 s.

governmental diocesan documents and correspondence (Presidialne spisy)<sup>3</sup>. It is in the latter group of documents that the correspondence of the former Basilian Archpriest Joachim Homa to Bishop Pavel Gojdič regarding the future candidate for the episcopal throne is often found. Thus, Joachim Homa recommended Canon Dr. Vasyl Hadzheha for the episcopal throne in Uzhhorod and criticized the appointment of a foreigner who would not understand the traditions of the local multinational faithful of the Mukachevo Greek Catholic eparchy<sup>4</sup>. Other Cyrillic letters were from Petro Kotovych to Pavlo Gojdič, who was already a bishop at the time; Father Petro himself played an important role in his monastic work, and the two had a friendly relationship<sup>5</sup>. In general, there are many informative documents addressed to the Bishop of Prešov, including epistolaries from various monastic orders and congregations: Basilians, Basilians sisters, Sisters Servants, and others. A very interesting Cyrillic document is a letter from Father Vasyl Hopko, a parish priest in Prague, to Pavlo Gojdič about the state of affairs in the community and the life of the newly established Prague community parish in general<sup>6</sup>.

The archive contains other documents of Cyrillic origin. The peculiarity of their importance was the relations and connections of the Prešov and Mukachevo Greek-Catholic Eparchies and the connections of the Galician Greek-Catholic Metropolis, which was headed by the well-known Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytskyi. An important Cyrillic document is the protocols of the meeting of bishops of the Greek Catholic Church held in Rome<sup>7</sup>.

Among other Cyrillic documents, the correspondence of individual priests with the board of the Prešov Greek Catholic Eparchy on work matters prevails in documents. Interesting Cyrillic papers are the correspondence between the bishops of Prešov and Mukachevo Eparchies, Pavlo Gojdič and Oleksandr Stojka.

Interesting Cyrillic documents with elements of Church Slavonic text are letters from Bishop Oleksandr Stojka of Mukachevo to Bishop Pavlo Gojdič of Prešov. They discuss general issues of the two eparchies, monastic orders, and even the establishment of the Khust eparchy, which lacked funding for the crucial stage. It also refers to a joint pastoral letter concerning the protection of family values in then Czechoslovakia<sup>8</sup>. It should be emphasized that thanks to the correspondence of the bishops of the Eparchies of Prešov and Mukachevo, which was conducted in the folk language, and thus in Cyrillic, the metropolitan archives contain many such documents. These documents can also be used by researchers to study not only the history of Greek Catholics but also the native land in general.

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<sup>3</sup> Archív gréckokatolíckeho arcibiskupstva v Prešove. Prehľad archívnych fondov a pomôcok. See: <https://agapo.wixsite.com/agap-presov/obmedzenia> (18.10.2024.).

<sup>4</sup> Archív gréckokatolíckeho arcibiskupstva v Prešove (ďalej AGAP), f. PS, inv. č. 68, sign. 33/1931. Candidati ad episcoporum Uzhorodensis.

<sup>5</sup> AGAP, f. PS, inv. č. 68, sign. 65/1933. Sukromné listy Petra Kotoviča biskupovi Gojdičovi.

<sup>6</sup> AGAP, f. PS, inv. č. 70, sign. 24/1935. Správa z misijnej práce medzi Ukrajincami v Prahe a okolí – podava V. Hopko.

<sup>7</sup> AGAP, f. PS, i. č. 64, sign. 52/1929. Zápisnica z biskupskej konferencie gr. kat. episkopátu konanej v Ríme od 21. – 29.10.1929.

<sup>8</sup> AGAP, f. PS, i. č. 72, sign. 41/1937. Mukačevský biskup oznamuje biskupovi Gojdičovi zverejnenie pastierskeho listu o rodine – zač. decembra v tlači.

The bishop's correspondence with his deans about the fate of the unfinished orphanage, its head, and other current issues is interesting. It is obvious that the orphanage is a common concern of the entire eparchy, and the bishop consulted with his priests on how to deal with the difficult situation. Interestingly, all the letters written by the district deans were also written in Cyrillic, and only a few were typed, but in a language close to the spoken Church Slavonic<sup>9</sup>. Thus, in the interwar period of Czechoslovakia's history, the metropolitan archives in Prešov contain the vast majority of documents on the history of Greek Catholics, most of which are in Cyrillic.

However, some of the documents in the Metropolitan Archives in Prešov are written in the state language, Slovak. It all depended on the level of correspondence between the diocesan government in Prešov and the relevant governmental institutions in Bratislava and Prague. One example was a law discussing changes to the *koblina* and the *rokovina*<sup>10</sup>. If the correspondence was with the official authorities, the documents were submitted in the state language. Officials wrote in the state language that it was impossible to repeal the law and that until the case of Subcarpathian Rus was resolved, natural products could be taken in cash, and with the consent of the villagers, priests could be paid in kind. In other words, the Czechoslovakian authorities unilaterally accepted the traditional *koblyna* and *rokovina* as optional and “voluntary”<sup>11</sup>. Some of these documents must be written in Latin rather than Cyrillic. Atanasiu Pekar wrote about the *koblyna* and *rokovina*. He pointed out that it was a long-standing tradition to donate one *kobel* of grain to the church (the so-called *koblyna*) and to work one day a year in favour of the church, the *rokovina*. However, frequent misunderstandings between the mostly poor faithful and the clergy led to the introduction in 1848 of the so-called *congrua*, a state financial support for the priest to properly perform pastoral functions<sup>12</sup>. Of course, these issues were resolved in the state language while the internal affairs of the eparchy were conducted almost exclusively in Cyrillic. That is, a significant part of the foundation's documents was still written in Cyrillic.

Other fonds also contained a significant number of documents in Cyrillic. As early as 1922, almost all internal correspondence among the clergy in the Bežna agenda collection was in Cyrillic, but there were also some documents that were Slavic sounding but written in Latin.

In the archbishop's archives in Prešov, there is a whole program for the opening and dedication of the boarding school prepared by the sisters for the celebrations. It mentions 5 Basilian sisters with an explanation that they came from Galicia, and lists them all: Maria Matthias, Maria Eudokia Humeniuk, Sophia Helena Oleksiuk, Antonia Eugenia

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<sup>9</sup> AGAP, f. PS, i. č. 73, sign. 24/1938. Biskup Gojdič prosé o podporu na dobudovanie diecezálneho sirotinca Congregácii pro Ecclesia Orientale v Ríme.

<sup>10</sup> *Koblyna* – support of the pastor with natural products (60 liters of grain); *rokovina* – labor work in favor of the parish (one day with a burden, two days a year without a burden). More see.: ПЕКАР, А., ЧСВВ. Нариси історії церкви Закарпаття, т. 1. Рим – Львів : Місіонер, 1997. (Срархічне оформлення), с. 124 – 125.

<sup>11</sup> AGAP, f. BA (Spisy), i. č. 436, sign. 1414/1920. Žiadosť Gr. Kat. Biskupstva o zrušenie zákona č. 290/1920 (o rokovine).

<sup>12</sup> ПЕКАР, А., ЧСВВ. Нариси історії церкви Закарпаття, т. 1. Рим – Львів : Місіонер, 1997. (Срархічне оформлення), с. 124 – 125.

Cenknerova, and Helena Hlibovytska. The argument for the visit of the sisters is that the orphans speak only Russian and do not know how to speak Hungarian at all, and the sisters will not be involved in politics. Therefore, attention will be focused exclusively on the Slavic-Ruthenian culture of the girls for their upbringing<sup>13</sup>. Another collection “Grécko-kat. vikariát Mukačevskej diecézy”, also contains interesting Cyrillic documents related to the settlement in the vicariate in Michalovce of the sisters of the servants of Galician origin, and therefore the internal documentation of the sisters with the diocesan administration was also conducted exclusively in Cyrillic<sup>14</sup>.

It is in this collection that correspondence about internal diocesan affairs is predominantly in the Cyrillic vernacular. Bishop Pavlo Gojdič wrote letters to individual clergymen in Cyrillic. The minutes (protocols) of the consistory meetings were even printed in Cyrillic. Of course, letters to the diocesan ordinariate from priests, faithful, and priests' widows were exclusively in Cyrillic, which testifies to the folk character of the eparchy of Prešov, where many texts are found. Consequently, the communication and thinking of the clergy and faithful remained equally Slavic-Cyrillic.

The Slovak national archive contains almost no Cyrillic documents in terms of correspondence, letters, or official documents. All communication took place in Slovak, both from representatives of diocesan authorities and from the government or the minister with full rights for Slovakia.

The only exception is Cyrillic correspondence about the activities of the vicariate of the Mukachevo Greek Catholic eparchy in Slovakia. Such changes are also confirmed by the fact that on December 30, 1938, Father Mikulaš Chudaki informed the Moscow School of Social Sciences and Humanities in Bratislava that since the Apostolic See named Bishop Dionysius Naryadii as the Apostolic Visitor of the Mukachevo Eparchy in Czechoslovakia, he declared at a meeting of the Greek Catholic clergy in Mykhailivtsi on December 15, 1938, that he was taking over the management of the vicariate as an apostolic administrator. The clergy unanimously voted in favour of the vicariate's existence but received a negative response from the bishop. Therefore, the clergy of the vicariate appealed to the President of the Slovak state, Josef Tiso, to rid Slovak parishes of Ukrainian influence. Since no response was received, the vicariate ceased to exist on December 31, as the parish priest of Falkushov, Mikulaš Chudaki informed and therefore, all church affairs had to be resolved through the apostolic administration in Khust. Indeed, on January 5, 1939, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bratislava that the power of the apostolic administrator extended to the entire Mukachevo eparchy within Czechoslovakia, that is, to Slovakia<sup>15</sup>.

Work in the State Archive of the Košice Region made it possible to discover Cyrillic documents contained only in fragments in the fund of the Košická Župa (1923 –

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<sup>13</sup> AGAP, BA, i. č. 438, sign. 1754/1922. Zoznam študentov ubytovaných v gr. kat. učiteľskom internáte v r. 1922/23.

<sup>14</sup> AGAP, f. Grécko-kat. vikariát Mukačevskej diecézy (GKVMD), i. č. 467, sign. 194/1939. Sestry Služobnice v Michalovciach – v ťažkom materiálnom položení.

<sup>15</sup> Slovenský národný archív (SNA), fond Referát MŠANO, r. 1938, č. š. 180, inv. č. 287, č. 28.713. Grecko-katolícke biskupstvo mukačevské, zriadenie vikariátu pre Slovensko so sídlom v Michalovciach.

28)<sup>16</sup>. There are Cyrillic documents or rather correspondence at the parish level regarding the conflict between Greek Catholics and Orthodox Christians in eastern Slovakia and Subcarpathian Rus<sup>17</sup>. For example, the collection contains Cyrillic handwritten complaints by Orthodox priest Vitaliy Maksymenko on behalf of several residents against a Greek Catholic school teacher, Anna Sedlak, who allegedly beat her students and taught them by beating, which was presented to government officials as repression against Orthodox families<sup>18</sup>.

The State Archive of the Prešov region contains a few Cyrillic documents on the subject of the study, which as most of the Cyrillic documents are contained in the Archbishop's archive. Petra Pavlovičova, an employee of the archive, provided great help in identifying documents and general information about Cyrillic sources. The only thing that is contained in the archive is the Greek-Catholic press in fond Greckokatolícka farnosť v Okružnej. In particular, it contains the diocesan magazine "ЦЕРКОВЬ И ШКОЛА" ("Cirkev a škola" (inv. č. 53, r. 1919 – 1924)) and "УРЯДНЬ ЗВѢСТИ" ("Úradné zvesti" (inv. č. 55 r. 1941 – 1949)).

The registers and individual documents of the State Scientific Library in Prešov have been processed, and primarily contain printed Cyrillic documents related directly or indirectly to the history of the Greek Catholic Church<sup>19</sup>. First of all, these are separate works and studies, Cyrillic periodicals such as "Cirkev a škola" or "РУССКОЕ СЛОВО" ("Russkoe Slovo"), missionary or church calendars. Fewer Cyrillic documents are found in other libraries. Many reports of various church schools or boarding schools are also written in Cyrillic. Interestingly, many publications on the history of Greek Catholics in Cyrillic text were printed in Uzhhorod, Prešov, and Lviv.

The State Scientific Library in Prešov contains primarily printed Cyrillic documents directly or indirectly related to the history of the Greek Catholic Church. Moreover, this library has perhaps the largest number of such documents, including many publications published in the then Subcarpathian Rus, which are now in the collections of the State Library in Prešov.

For example, in addition to the above-mentioned periodicals, there is a journal published in Uzhhorod in the printing house of the Greek Catholic Order of the Basilian Fathers as an exclusively Cyrillic journal "Науковий зборник товариства Просвіта в Ужгородѣ" ("Naukovij zbornik tovaristva Prosvita v Uzhhorodi"), which occasionally contained publications on the history of the Greek Catholic Church, and several copies of this journal are kept in the Scientific Library in Prešov.

There are also some scientific theological works, such as the one by the administrator of Prešov, Mykola Russnak, entitled "ЕПИКЛИЗИСЪ" ("Epiklyzis") written in Cyrillic Church Slavonic. Of course, this work is relevant to the entire Greek Catholic Church for better training of the clergy in theological schools and as a scientific theological study,

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<sup>16</sup> Zoznam archívnych fondov a archívnych zbierok. See:

<https://www.minv.sk/?sake-zoznam-archivnych-dokumentov-a-archivnych-zbierok> (18.10.2024).

<sup>17</sup> Štátny archív Košice, (ŠAKE), f. Košická župa 1923-1928, sk. 87., s. 7870/1925. Proruská agitácia Rusínov v KŽ – správa OU vo Vyšnom Svidníku.

<sup>18</sup> ŠAKE, f. Košická župa 1923-1928, sk. 38, s. 3782/1924. Pravoslávne hnutie v obci Lodomirová – vyšetovanie.

<sup>19</sup> Štátna vedecká knižnica v Prešove. Katalóg. See: <https://www.svkpo.sk/katalog> (18.10.2024).

which is stored in the library in Prešov. Cyrillic works also include the works of the famous Ukrainian Greek Catholic priest Augustine Voloshyn, who was a well-known teacher and public and political figure in Subcarpathian Rus. He wrote the work “О письменном языке Подкарпатскихъ русинов” (“On the written language of the Subcarpathian Rusyns”), which is also available in the library in Prešov. Augustin Voloshyn's study was published in 1921 in the Unio printing house in Uzhhorod. This study is also important because Greek Catholics held their services in the Church Slavonic language, and all liturgical books and prayer books at that time were exclusively in Cyrillic. The library's collections also include the work of Julij Hadzheha “Исторія Ужгородской богословской семинарии въ ея главныхъ чертахъ” (“History of the Uzhhorod Theological Seminary in its main features”), also published in Uzhhorod in 1928. Among such historical and theological, or rather hagiographic works is the “Житіє Кирила і Мефодія” (“Life of Cyril and Methodius”) by Bishop Dionysius Naryadiy, published in Uzhhorod at the Prosvita printing house in 1923.

Thus, we see that a considerable amount of Cyrillic literature on the history of Greek Catholics was published mainly in the territory of Subcarpathian Rus. It also contains many Cyrillic readings that were used in primary Greek Catholic schools at that time to teach young people to read, write, and generally learn their native language. One cannot also ignore the “Граматику Бачвансько-рускей бесіди” (“Cyrillic Grammar of the Bachvan-Ruthenian Conversation”) by Gabriel Kostelnyk, published in Ruskyi Kerestur and published by the “Руське народне просвітне дружство” (“Ruthenian People's Enlightenment Friendship”) in 1923, which contained 108 pages. Thus, we see that grammar originating from the Balkans was also used in the Prešov region. Another work by the Greek Catholic priest and linguist Evmenii Sabov, who discussed the issue of grammar for schooling in Subcarpathian Rus, is also available in the library. In particular, there is a study «Russkij literaturnyj jazyk Podkarpatskoj Rusi i novaja Gramatika Russkago jazyka : dlja srednich učebnych zavedenij Podkarp. Rusi»<sup>20</sup>. The availability of such publications in the library will be of interest primarily to historians and linguists who deal with such scientific topics.

We cannot ignore the work of Augustine Voloshyn either. *borona kyrylyky : jak oboronjalysja Pidkarp. Rusyny proty ostann'oho ataku madjaryzaciji pered perevorotom?*<sup>21</sup>. It is in this essay that Augustyn Voloshyn describes the period of the First World War when the Hungarian authorities tried to introduce Latin instead of Cyrillic in the cultural and national life of the region, but this caused great resistance from the Greek Catholic clergy, who were the only representatives of the intelligentsia for the poor and uneducated population of Subcarpathian Rus. Therefore, through the efforts of the Greek Catholic priests and Augustyn Voloshyn himself, he managed to defend the Cyrillic alphabet not only as the alphabet of the folk language but also as the language of the

<sup>20</sup> Russkij literaturnyj jazyk Podkarpatskoj Rusi i novaja Gramatika Russkago jazyka : dlja srednich učebnych zavedenij Podkarp. Rusi / Sostavlennaja Jev.I. Sabovym Užhorod : Kul'turno-prosvetitel'n. obščestvo im. Al. Duchnoviča, 1925, 17 c.

<sup>21</sup> Оборона кирилиці. Як оборонялися підкарпатські русини проти останнього атак мадяризації перед переворотом? Надруковано в "Науковому збірнику товариства "Просвіта" в Ужгороді". — Річник XII за р. 1936). — Ужгород, 1937. — С. 85—117. Перший, скорочений варіант цієї статті і без додатків друковано у "Споминах" у 1923 році. (V. Борьба за кирилицу. — С. 73 – 87).

Church Slavonic Cyrillic liturgy of the Greek Catholic Church in the territory of the Mukachevo Greek Catholic eparchy.

Of great importance was the preparation and publication of reports on the activities of educational institutions, which are an extremely important statistical source for studying the history and activities of educational institutions in Subcarpathian Rus. The library contains many Cyrillic documents on this topic. For example, there is the following, "Доклад о деятельности Ужгородской епарной греко-католической певцо-учительской семинарии за школьный год 1921-38 р." ("Report on the activities of the Uzhhorod Greek Catholic Singing and Teaching Seminary for the school year 1921 – 38.")<sup>22</sup>. These Cyrillic and sometimes bilingual documents provide not only statistical data but also describe specific events and activities of individual departments of educational institutions on an annual basis, which helps to better study the material for historical research.

As mentioned above, the State Scientific Library in Prešov contains a significant amount of periodicals published both in the Prešov region and in Subcarpathian Rus. It contains publications for Greek Catholics published by the Greek Catholic Church itself, with centers in Prešov and Uzhhorod. Examples include calendars, religious magazines, and brochures<sup>23</sup>. Also mentioned was the periodical of the Prešov region, "Russke Slovo", a weekly folk newspaper that for a time was even the official organ of the Prešov eparchy; its editors for a period were also Greek Catholic priests of the eparchy, such as Josef Kizak and Stefan Gojdič, but there were also other editors, such as Vojtech Danziger. The publications in the library date from 1924 to 1938.

An interesting bilingual (Cyrillic and Latin) periodical and official publication of the Eparchy of Prešov was "Распоряжения епархіального правительства въ Пряшевѣ" ("Rasporyazhenija Jeparhijal'noho Pravytel'stva Prjaševskoho i Apostol'skoj Admy-nystratury Jeparhii Mukačevskoj v Prjaševe")<sup>24</sup>. This particular publication contained partial information about the apostolic administration of the Mukachevo eparchy, which covered the towns of Trebišov, Michalovce, and others. Since there were massive conversions of Greek Catholics to Orthodoxy in the interwar period, the Mukachevo eparchy founded a special organization called the Defense of the Faith (*Oborona viri*), which published relevant literature explaining the basics of the Greek Catholic faith to its faithful. Thus, the State Scientific Library in Prešov has relevant journals that were distributed in the Prešov region, although they were published in Uzhhorod.

Among Cyrillic scholarly works and published documents, the work of Professor Oleksiy Petrov, who lived for a long time and studied ancient Cyrillic charters on the history of the region and, at the same time, charters on the history of the Greek Catholic Church, deserves special mention. It is thanks to his work that a sufficient number of charters have been published, including those in the collections of the State Scientific Library in Prešov. For example, there is a work on the oldest charters in the history of the

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<sup>22</sup> Доклад о деятельности Ужгородской епарной греко-католической певцо-учительской семинарии за школьный год 1921 – 38 р.

<sup>23</sup> Календар Благовісника на 1927 р. Пряшів греко-католицький ординат, 95 с.

<sup>24</sup> Див для прикладу: *Распоряжения епархіального правительства въ Пряшевѣ*. Годъ 1936, число III, с. 24 – 33.



Church dating back to 1391, according to which the Greek Catholic Church of the region was of Constantinople origin. Therefore, the study of such sources will be very important for historians of the history of the region and the history of the Church in general. Also, the library has the following publication, «Древнейшія грамоты по истории Карпаторусской церкви и иерархии 1391 – 1498 г.»<sup>25</sup>. These documents also relate to the earliest emergence of the Mukachevo Greek Catholic eparchy, and from which the Orthodox Church of Subcarpathian Rus under Serbian jurisdiction, at the time, also claims its origins.

The bookstore of the People's Museum in Prague contains periodicals in the Cyrillic language. First of all, there is "Russkoe slovo", which was published in Prešov, and some publications published in Subcarpathian Rus, such as "Zorya" and "Karpatskyi Svet" of the late 20s and early 30s. Interestingly, "Russkoe slovo" covers almost the entire period from 1927 to 1938.<sup>26</sup> In general, the library of the National Museum in Prague contains few documents on the history of Greek Catholics and is limited mainly to the periodical "Russkoe Slovo", which was published in the Pryashiv region during the Czechoslovak period.

The People's Library in Prague (Národní knihovna České republiky) contains a significant number of periodicals related to Slovakia and Subcarpathian Rus, but only some of them are in Cyrillic<sup>27</sup>. However, the good news is that many of the periodicals are available in the Kramerius 3 electronic database<sup>28</sup>. There is also another similar database, Kramerius 5<sup>29</sup>. Although there are many Cyrillic documents, materials that could contain information about the Church can be found only in the journal "Podkarpatska Rus", which is presented almost entirely in an electronic version. In this publication, Dr. Vasyl Hadzheha, who held high church positions, wrote often about church affairs and also frequently about the history of the region and the Mukachevo Greek Catholic eparchy. There were also articles by Augustyn Voloshyn, Ivan Pankevych, and others.

Thus, the largest number of Cyrillic documents on the history of Greek Catholics, in addition to the State Archives of the Transcarpathian region in Ukraine, are in the Metropolitan Archives in Prešov and the State Scientific Library in Prešov. There are some Cyrillic documents in the National Archives in Bratislava with fewer such Cyrillic documents in the State Archives in Košice and the Prague archives. An exception is the National Library in Prague and the National Museum in Prague, which contain many Cyrillic periodicals, which are partially available through scanned versions on the libraries' websites. That is why these document locations will be useful to all categories of

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<sup>25</sup> Петров А. Древнейшія грамоты по истории Карпаторусской церкви и иерархии, 1391 – 1498 г. V Praze: Nakl. Sboru pro výzkum Slovenska a Podkarpat. Rusi, 1930, 229 c.

<sup>26</sup> Oddělení časopisů Knihovny Národního muzea. See: <https://www.nm.cz/knihovna-narodniho-muzea/oddeleni-casopisu-knihovny-narodniho-muzea/#katalogy-a-databaze> (16.10.2024.).

<sup>27</sup> Národní knihovna České republiky. Katalogy NK ČR. See: <https://text.nkp.cz/katalogy-a-db/katalogy-nk-cr> (18.10.2024.).

<sup>28</sup> Kramerius 3. See: <https://kramerius.nkp.cz/kramerius/PShowChars.do> (18.10.2024.).

<sup>29</sup> Kramerius 5. See: [https://krameriusadmin.mzk.cz/search/r.jsp?forProfile=facet&forProfile\\_sorting\\_dir=&debug=&sort=&q=&issn=&title=&keywords=&author=&rok=&udc=&ddc=&shelfLocator=&physicalLocation=&offset=0&fq=model\\_path:periodical\\*](https://krameriusadmin.mzk.cz/search/r.jsp?forProfile=facet&forProfile_sorting_dir=&debug=&sort=&q=&issn=&title=&keywords=&author=&rok=&udc=&ddc=&shelfLocator=&physicalLocation=&offset=0&fq=model_path:periodical*) (18.10.2024.).

researchers, from students and doctoral students to history buffs and scholars of church history.

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**Adresa autora:**

doc. Viktor Vasilovič Kichera, PhD.  
Uzhhorod National University  
Faculty of History  
Universytets'ka St, 14, Uzhhorod,  
Zakarpats'ka oblast, Ukraїna, 88000  
email: vkichera@ukr.net