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**MAŁGORZATA SKOWRONEK, *Palaea Historica. The Second Slavic Translation: Commentary and Text*, trans. Y. LOSKE, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź 2016 [Series Ceranea, 3], pp. 204.**

The book under review was written by Małgorzata Skowronek<sup>1</sup> of the Department of Slavic Philology at the University of Łódź. The scholar specializes in Paleo-Slavic studies, the history and textology of medieval Slavic literature, as well as translating texts from Old Church Slavic into Polish. The book can be divided into two major parts: the analysis of the source and the edition of the text itself. The first part consists of four chapters. The first one, *Source Texts* (p. 13–20), provides information on the various editions and extant physical copies of the *Palaea Historica* that provided the basis for the reconstruction of the original text. The following chapter, *On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Slavic translation of the Palaea Historica* (p. 21–30), deals with the phenomenon of the *Palaea Historica* as an important artifact of Byzantine-Slavic culture. The author discusses the dating of the original text as well as its Slavic translations; subsequently, she describes the contents, taking into account the textual variation among the different versions of the *Palaea Historica*. Finally, she presents the research perspectives offered by the source. The third chapter, *Copies of the PH II. Textological Notes* (p. 31–36), delves into the more intricate philological differences among the copies of the second Slavic translation of the *Palaea Historica*. Furthermore, it contains tables presenting the variety of chapter titles across the different manuscripts (p. 37–47). The fourth chapter, *Edition of the Text* (p. 48–57), states the criteria and principles that were adhered to in the edition; Skowronek explains the manner in which the

manuscripts were used to reconstruct the source and presents the rationale behind the inclusion or exclusion of the alternative versions of certain words in the footnotes. The last, fifth chapter, *PH II. The Text* (p. 59–180), constitutes the second major part of the book; it is an edition of the second Slavic translation of the *Palaea Historica* in its original Old Church Slavic version. It has been meticulously annotated with footnotes indicating loanwords, biblical quotes and other references, as well as the aforementioned differences among manuscripts.

The main body of the book has been complemented with a Preface (p. 7), followed by a list of abbreviations (p. 9) and bibliography (p. 9–12). In addition, the author provided an *Index of citations and references* (p. 181–183), directing the reader to the appropriate footnotes, as well as an *Index of proper names* (p. 185–188), which certainly facilitates the use of this edition. It was a welcome choice to include thirteen illustrations depicting the pages of the manuscripts (p. 191–203).

It is somewhat unfortunate that the author did not attempt a translation, thus limiting the reception of the book to a small community of specialists well-versed in the Old Church Slavic language. Nevertheless, the work under discussion sets an example of a professionally prepared source edition, undoubtedly making it a major scholarly contribution to the research in Slavic Philology.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

SKOWRONEK M., “Świat cały ma Cię za obrońcę”. *Michał Archanioł w kulturze Słowian prawosławnych na Bałkanach*, Łódź 2008.

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