

Ojtozi, Eszter

**A máriapócsi baziliták cirillbetűs könyvei**

(The Old Slavic Liturgy Books of the Basilian Order in Máriapócs)

Debrecen, Kossuth Lajos Tudományegyetem Könyvtára, 1982. 137 pp. (Régi Tiszántúli Könyvtárak 2.) Irodalom. 49—58 pp., 44 kép

This volume, the second in the series 'Old Libraries Beyond the Tisza' (*Régi Tiszántúli Könyvtárak*), was written by Eszter Ojtozi on the library of the Basilian Monastery in Máriapócs (North-East Hungary). The main importance of this book was summed up by the editor of the series as follows: the publication of a catalogue of the old Slavic books seemed to be important in three ways. Firstly, as a reconstruction of the former monastery library, secondly as a work of preservation which could be very important for later scholars, and thirdly, because it represents a significant step in the discovery of ecclesiastic Slavic books available in Hungary, and thus should be integrated into international research undertaken in this field.

The introductory essay consists of three parts and provides a detailed description of the foundation and growth of the monasterial library in Máriapócs, and also tells its readers about its decay after the dissolution of the Basilian order in Hungary. It paints an extremely interesting and exciting picture of the bibliographical, cultural, and historical aspects of the life of the United Greek Catholic Church in Hungary. This work may help to draw attention to shortcomings in earlier presentations of similar cultural heritages. The bibliographical section following the introductory study, the catalogue which is the backbone of the whole volume, the index-system that consists of nine elements, and the illustrations fully achieve the aims of the volume as a whole. Furthermore, the author greatly assists the reader through the provision of an index of the store-numbers of the present location of the books. Still, it has to be mentioned that the illustrations could be identified in the Slavic catalogue only on the basis of a short Hungarian description and the date of the publication. This catalogue may prove extremely useful in the research of popular religiosity. Nowadays there is a growing interest in the popular customs and religious life of the Greek Catholic Church of Hungary. A great number of the members of this Church were Ukrainians who became Magyarized. Their original liturgic language was old Slavic even at the turn of our century. The date of the switch to Hungarian cannot be defined with precision because the change constituted a long and gradual process. The present Hungarian language traditions only go back 80—90 years and are built upon a Slavic liturgical practice two centuries old. It was only possible to evaluate the fragmentary data collected in recent times after a detailed study of the historical background of the Slavic liturgical practice, and the popular customs and beliefs connected with it. But until now, for many reasons these Slavic liturgical books have not been available to researchers. Even the parish churches had never owned all 40 volumes of the entire liturgic series, and the precious books have mostly been destroyed or lost in everyday use. The monasterial libraries were not only scattered after secularization but also lost among an immense mass of books in the central storehouse.

This valuable work of Eszter Ojtozi has now recreated the background of a cultural history thought to have been lost forever.

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