Revisiting Ivan Fedorov’s Legacy in Early Modern Europe:

The 450th Anniversary of Ivan Fedorov’s Acts and Epistles (Apostol) and the 440th Anniversary of His Primer (Azbuka)

An international conference

Friday, 9 May 2014, 9.30-17.15
Conference Centre (Elliot and Bronte rooms), British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Free entry, but booking is essential. Book now: http://www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event160565.html

Organised by the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) and the British Library, this conference will celebrate the 450th anniversary of Ivan Fedorov’s edition of Acts and Epistles (Apostol) and the 440th anniversary of his publication of the Primer (Azbuka), both in 2014. Fedorov is usually regarded as the father of printing in Russia and Ukraine. Supported by SSEES, the Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS), UCL European Institute and UCL Centre for Early Modern Exchanges, the conference will challenge the narrow national views of Fedorov’s heritage by offering a transnational approach to the history of early printing. The British Library holds one of the most impressive collections of Fedorov’s editions in the West, including a copy of his Apostol of 1564 originating from the collection of the famous impresario Sergei Diaghilev, a copy of the 1574 edition of Fedorov’s Primer (an extremely rare edition which has survived only in two copies), and a copy of the Ostroh Bible which may have originated from the library of Ivan the Terrible. Centred around the British Library’s unique copies of Fedorov’s editions, this interdisciplinary conference aims to explore Fedorov’s publishing activities from the perspective of cross-cultural contacts in early printing. Historians, philologists and librarians from the UK, Russia and Ukraine will discuss the early history of printing, the text of Fedorov’s editions and their impact on later printed books, Fedorov’s cultural profile and the important, but often neglected role of patronage in the production of Fedorov’s editions. The conference will be accompanied by a show-and-tell.

Organisers:
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