

Quote 8

The foundations of the nineteenth-century study of Greek palaeography in Russia were quite other than those on which the discipline rested in Western Europe. There – and especially in Latin countries – the revival of interest in Greek manuscripts was above all connected with the activities of the humanists who studied the works of classical authors and of the printers who published them, i.e. with the rise of classical philology. Numerous codices containing the works of classical authors began to reach Italy and France after 1453 and the libraries of a certain number of Greek monasteries survived in Southern Italy. During the following four centuries travellers and collectors of antiquities (and of the exotic) journeyed to the Levant – once the lands of the Byzantine Empire – specifically to search out and acquire manuscripts. (...)

Interest in Greek literature was aroused in Russia primarily for religious reasons, but also in connexion with the rise of the study of Old Russian literature. (...)

Thus the earliest contributions to Greek Palaeography in Russia in the nineteenth century owe nothing to classical philology: they are connected with the rising interest in Russian historical documents and in the history of Russian and the other Slavonic languages.

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E.E Granstrem, 'Greek Palaeography in Russia', in *Bulletin no 17 of the Institute of Classical Studies* (1970), pp. 126-127.