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DICTIONARY OF OLD RUSSIAN PLANT NAMES (11TH–17TH CC.): WORD ENTRIES DRAFTS

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Abstract

In the article, the structure of the prospective Old Russian plant names dictionary (the 11th–17th cc.) is discussed. Being created on the basis of the PhytoLex Russian plant names database, it will include the majority of the data represented there. The dictionary is going to be compiled in Lexonomy using XML for the data modeling, which means that the first issue for the compilers is to develop an appropriate XML model, following TEI recommendations. The first part of the dictionary will represent Old Russian words and their meanings and will contain such types of information as forms, gender, phonological and orthographic variants, etymology, definition(s), illustrations with quotations and information about their sources. Additional materials may contain geodata (places of growth and trade), functions of the plant (medicinal, magical, religious, etc.), contextual usage (e.g. metaphorical), synonyms, derivatives, and pictures (if available). The second part will give the opportunity to find all the names of a particular plant recorded in the Russian language from the 11th to the 17th century, which can be quite numerous. The electronic format of the dictionary allows several people to work simultaneously, which is very important in a joint project. It also helps with representing new data in real time and easily preparing printed versions if needed. The dictionary is intended to be an open resource, useful for both ethnobotanists and specialists in the Slavic historical lexicology. It will also become the basis for research into the later periods of the Russian language.

Key Words: PhytoLex, Old Russian language, phytonyms, electronic dictionaries, Lexonomy

Introduction

Old Russian plant names is one of the most difficult lexico-semantic groups to study. Word extraction and analysis are extremely time consuming, which causes lacunas and mistakes even in academic historical dictionaries, i.e. [Dictionary 11th–14th; Dictionary 11th–17th; Dictionary 16th–17th]. The newly created linguistic database PhytoLex (<https://phytonyms.iling.spb.ru>) is designed for registering plant names in the Russian text from the 11th up to the 17th centuries as completely as possible. The basic purposes are: to collect plant names mentioned in Russian texts from the 11th to the 17th centuries; supply them with contexts describing their outlook, functions and legends connected with them; identify unknown Russian plant names; find out the time and mechanisms of borrowing (for loanwords), changes in their spelling and meaning (see details in [Kolosova et al. 2018]).

Methods

The materials for the database are taken by the full-view method from historical dictionaries, archival materials, published and unpublished manuscripts, dictionaries, compiled by foreigners working in Russia, travelogues, medical documents, etc. It is being constantly replenished by new plant names,

added by the project members, each of whom is responsible for certain genres: G. Molkov (Old Russian texts of the 11th-15th cc.), A. Ippolitova (herbal books), O. Olekhovich, K. Khudin (documents of the Apothecary Chancery), K. Kovalenko (handwritten lexicons), A. Shchekin (historical documents), V. Kolosova (foreign dictionaries of the Russian language), K. Zaytseva (technical implementation). The PhytoLex database was created in the Django framework; for the Web interface the Bootstrap framework was used. The data are stored in an open-source object-relational database system, PostgreSQL.

The word entries were compiled in Lexonomy (www.lexonomy.eu) — a professional platform for writing and publishing dictionaries (see the description in [Měchura 2017]). The possibility of its use by multiple compilers makes it possible to work collectively on the dictionary. As the preliminary materials are represented in the database, including identification of the plant and its functions, the process of compilation of word entries includes unification of the headword variant forms (which are given separately in the database) and picking up the most representative citations.

Results

Along with the plant names and their etymology, the database contains a lot of related information: authorship of texts (if known), place and time of creating the document, functions of the plant, etc. Currently (May 2019), the PhytoLex contains 511 plants, 249 sources, 56 publications, 416 etymologies, and 1,797 lexemes, which are reflected in 5,460 word usages. Search options allow looking for such information as names for the same plant; plants having the same name; phytonyms from the same source; phytonyms from the same time period, etc. All this may serve as a sufficient basis for the future Russian plant names dictionary of the 11th-17th C. compilation of which is to be started after the database has representative volume. Nevertheless, word entry structure is to be developed and some word entries can be represented for discussion in advance to foresee all the details and avoid possible mistakes.

Discussion

The dictionary word entries contain the same types of information as the database does: headword, phonological and orthographic variants, etymology, meaning(s), illustrations with quotations and information about their sources, geodata (places of growth and trade), functions of the plant (medicinal, magical, religious, etc.), contextual usage (e.g. metaphorical), synonyms, derivatives, and pictures (if available).

The schema of the dictionary is based on the TEI P5 recommendation (www.tei-c.org), although some elements had to be included additionally. They are: <function> and <derivative> containing a description of the plant's cultural function and derivative forms.

The simple word entry, containing the headword, grammatical information, etymology (if known), definition, citation(s), and bibliographical data can be represented as follows:

```
<entry>
  <form>
    <orth>каморнумъ [kamornum]</orth>
    <gram>м. [m]</gram>
  </form>
```

```

<etym>от <lang>греч. [Greek]</lang> <foreign>συκόμορος</foreign>
</etym>
<sense>
<def>
<lat>Ficus sycomorus</lat>, сикомор.</def>
<cit>
<quote>Икамориумъ, или каморнумъ, ягодичина. [Ikamorium, or katornum, sycamore fig.]</quote>
<bibl>
<title>Азбуковник Давида Замарая [Azbukovnik of David Zamaray]</title>
<date when='1626'>1626</date>
</bibl>
</cit>
</sense>
</entry>

```

The `<lat>` tag helps to index Latin plant names, which ideally are identified up to the species and are given according to the standardised classification represented in the *Catalogue of Life* portal database [Roskov et al. 2019]. Accurate identification can be very difficult; for example, the plant now known as *Matricaria chamomilla* L. had as many as 36 synonyms at different times and in different catalogues (<http://www.catalogueoflife.org/col/details/species/id/28ea026a937c582fade5a9f0cbd4a20b>), and Old Russian names could be supplied with any of them, if it had an identification at all.

Nevertheless, only one Latin name marked in the database as *accepted name* should be given in a definition — which gives us the possibility to search for all the Old Russian names of a particular plant, which also can be quite numerous.

Unfortunately, that is not always possible, as sometimes there the genus only is known, or there is no evidence mentioned to give any identification at all. For example, the following entry contains only the genus in its definition:

```

<entry>
<form>
<orth>Гуль [Gul']</orth>
<gram>(?) [gender is not defined]</gram>
</form>
<etym>от <lang>тур. [Turkish]</lang> <foreign>gül</foreign>
</etym>
<sense>
<def>

```

<lat>Rosa</lat> роза [rose].</def>

<cit>

<quote>Трандафило, родонъ есть цвѣтъ от плода терновнаго, по словенски свороборинной цвѣтъ, благоуханен, и многолиствен и красен, а по латыне роса; есть древо триандафило, величиною съ человека и ниже, цвѣтъ на нем красной и бѣлой, что маковой, а пахнетъ благоуханно, а по турски гуль, а цвѣтъ ставятъ в печи знойные на ночь, и ту воду пьютъ, то есть вода благоуханнаа. [Trandafilo, rodon is a flower of the fruit of blackthorn, in Slavic *svoroborina* flower, fragrant, and multi-petaled and beautiful, and in Latin called *rosa*; there is a *triandafilo* tree, having the size of a man and lower, the flowers on it are red and white, like poppy's, and it smells fragrant, and in Turkish is called *gul*, and the flowers are put in hot ovens for a night, and that water is for drinking, that water is fragrant.] </quote>

<bibl>

<title>Азбуковник Сергия Шелонина [*Azbukovnik* of Sergy Shelonin]</title>

<date notBefore='1653' notAfter='1659'>1653-1659</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

</sense>

</entry>

In the case where the headword has several phonetic, orthographic, or morphological variants, they will be given there as well. Most often they represent the process of adaptation of the foreign word in the Russian language. Variant forms are shown as follows:

<entry>

<form>

<orth>агримония [*agrimoniya*]</orth>

<gram>ж. [f.]</gram>

</form>

<form>

<orth>агримониумъ [*agrimonium*]</orth>

<gram>неизм. [unchangable]</gram>

</form>

<etym>от <lang>lat.</lang> <foreign>agrimonia</foreign>

</etym>

<sense>

<def>

<lat>Agrimonia eupatoria L.</lat>, репешок обыкновенный [common agrimony].</def>

<cit>

<quote>Трава агримонии. [Herb agrimonii.]</quote>
 <bibl>
 <title>Рецепты Аптекарского приказа [Prescriptions of the Apothecary Chancery]</title>
 <num>143-2-1059</num>
 <date when='1673'>1673</date>
 </bibl>
 </cit>
 <cit>
 <quote>Травы агримониумъ [of herb agrimonium].</quote>
 <bibl>
 <title>Рецепты для боярина Ильи Даниловича Милославского [Prescriptions for Иуа Danilovich Miloslavsky]</title>
 <num>143-2-743</num>
 <date notBefore='1665' notAfter='1666'>1665-1666</date>
 </bibl>
 </cit>
 </sense>
 </entry>
 <entry>
 <form>
 <orth>Шаптала [*shaptala*]</orth>
 </form>
 <form>
 <orth>шептола [*sheptola*]</orth>
 </form>
 <GramGr>
 <gen>ж. [f.]</gen>
 </GramGr>
 <etym>от <lang> тур. [Turkish]</lang> <foreign>šäftaly</foreign> < <lang> перс. [Persian]
 </lang> <foreign>šäftälū</foreign>
 </etym>
 <sense>
 <def>

<lat>Prunus persica (L.) Stokes</lat>, персик [peach].</def>

<cit>

<quote>А овощей всяких много, яблок, и груш, и вишен, и слив, и дынь и арбузов, и винограду, и огурцов, и орехов гредцких и русских, и меду, и сахару леденцу и белого, и шапталы, а иные овощи и неведомы. [And vegetables are numerous, apples, and pears, and cherries, and plums, and melons and watermelons, and grapes, and cucumbers, and nuts from Greece and Russia, and honey, and sugar — both lollipop sugar and the white one, and *shaptalas*, and some vegetables are unknown.]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Первые русские дипломаты в Китае, [The first Russian diplomats in China]</title>

<num>125</num>

<date when='1654'>1654</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

<cit>

<quote>А яблоки и груши, и сливы, и дыни, и шептолы поспевают на Петровъ день и ранее. [And apples and pears, and plums, and melons, and *sheptolas* ripen on St. Peter's day and earlier.]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Первые русские дипломаты в Китае [The first Russian diplomats in China]</title>

<num>125</num>

<date when='1654'>1654</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

</sense>

</entry>

As it is common in the [Dictionary 11th–17th], it is proposed to supply each citation with the time of the copy creation and the time of the supposed creation of the text. For example, citations from the *Life and Pilgrimage of Danylo, Hegumen from the Land of the Rus* for the database were taken from the published copy of 1495 while the *Life and Pilgrimage* was supposedly created between 1104 and 1106 [Prokhorov 1997]. Both dates should be given after the citation:

<entry>

<form>

<orth>верба [*verba*]</orth>

</form>

<GramGr>

<gen>ж. [f.]</gen>

</GramGr>

<sense>

<def>

<lat>Salix sp. L.</lat>, ива [willow].</def>

<cit>

<quote>Есть же по сей странѣ Иордана на купѣли той яко лѣси древо не высоко, аки вербѣ подобно есть, и выше купѣли тоя по берегу Иорданову стоитъ яко лозие много, но нѣсть якоже наша лоза, но нѣкако аки силяжи подобно есть; есть же и тростие много; болоние имать, яко Сновь рѣка. [On this bank of the Jordan, near that font is a kind of a wood; the trees are low, similar to willows, and higher up the river from that font, along the banks of the Jordan, kind of osier are standing in great number, but it is not the same as our osier, it looks like a cornel a little; there is also a lot of reeds, there are backwaters, like on the river Snovj.]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Хождение игумена Даниила [The Pilgrimage of Abbot Daniel]</title>

<date when='1495'>1495</date>

<origDate notBefore='1104' notAfter='1106'>1104-1106</origDate>

</bibl>

</cit>

</sense>

</entry>

The important part of the plant representation is information on the plant parts and the plant functions in culture and everyday life. The following plant functions are given in the list in the database:

- veterinary medicine (worms, cough, diarrhea, prophylaxis; rabbits, poultry (geese, goslings, turkeys, hens, chickens, swans, ducks, ducklings), cattle (goats, cows, horses, sheeps, pigs, calves);
- decorative (bouquet, wreath, wedding wreath);
- cosmetics (white, eyebrow dye, hair dye, lipstick, blush, mascara);
- dyeing (yellow, green, brown, red, blue, black);
- magic (apotropaic, military, imitative, carpogonic, social, hunting, love spells, agricultural, etymological);
- material (barrels, ropes, hedges, icons, baskets, roof, furniture, brooms, floors, dishes, piles, building, church plates);
- medicine (whites, insomnia, hypertonia, hypotonia, worms, deafness, sore throat, hernia, baby crying, diabetes, constipation, cough, bloody diarrhea, thrush, runny nose, dumbness, frostbite,

burns, poisoning, diarrhea, cuts, cold, bruises, blindness, sunstroke, abrasions, heatstroke, bruises, ulcer);

— honey plant;

— drinks (cocoa, jelly, coffee, mead, tincture, beer, *sbiten*, alcohol, tea).

— environment (shadow);

— food (jam, side dish, porridge, marinades, chowder, seasoning, salads, bakery, pickles, soup, bread, spices);

— religion (feeding ancestors, May tree, ritual symbol, donation, wedding tree, altar decoration, home decoration, icons decoration, decoration of participants of calendar rites, church decoration, covering the road to the cemetery, covering floor);

— social (smoking, snuffing tobacco);

— fodder (rabbits, poultry (geese, goslings, turkeys, hens, swans, ducks, ducklings, chickens), cattle (goats, cows, horses, sheep, pigs, calves));

— economic (aromatization, tar, lighting, writing materials, fuel, coal).

In the word entry the function can be illustrated by citation:

<entry>

<form>

<orth>базановець [bazanovets]</orth>

<gram>м. [m.]</gram>

</form>

<sense>

<def>

<lat>Lysimachia</lat>, вербейник [loosestrife].</def>

<cit>

<quote>Базановец (т) трава востволие именуемая. [*Basanovets* (explanation) herb called *vostvoliyе*.]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Азбуковник Давида Замарая [*Azbukovnik* of David Zamaray]</title>

<date when='1626'>1626</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

<function>

<type>

<label>медицинская [medical]</label>

<cit>

<quote>Базановець, трава лѣкарская, нарицаемая востволие. [*Bazanovets*, medical herb called *vostvoliye*]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Азбуковник Давида Замарая [*Azbukovnik* of David Zamaray]</title>

<date when='1632'>1632</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

</type>

</function>

</sense>

</entry>

Derivative forms will be attached to the word from which they were derived in the corresponding meaning. For example, the adjective *яблонный* 'apple (adj.)' will be given in the word entry *яблонь* 'apple tree':

<entry>

<form>

<orth>яблонь [yablon']</orth>

<gram>ж. [f.]</gram>

</form>

<sense>

<def><lat>Malus sp. P. Mill. </lat>, яблоня [apple tree].</def>

<cit>

<quote>Ту абие томъ часѣ, добро и на потребу сыи древо масличное прозябло, и с нимъ и орѣхъ, и смокы, и яблонь. [Instantly at this moment, a good olive tree, usable for consumption sprouted there, and with it also a walnut tree, a fig tree, and an apple tree.]</quote>

<bibl>

<author>Иоанн экзарх Болгарский [John the Exarch]</author>

<title>Шестоднев [Shestodnev]</title>

<date notBefore='1451' notAfter='1475'>1451-1475</date>

<origDate notBefore='901' notAfter='920'>901-920</origDate>

</bibl>

</cit>

<cit>

<quote>И дрeвеса много овощнаа стоятъ бес числа, масличие, смокви, и рожцы, и яблони, и черешни, инородия. [And there are many fruit trees, standing innumerable, olive trees, fig trees, and carob trees, and apple trees, and cherry trees, others.]</quote>

< bibl >

< title >Хождение игумена Даниила [The Pilgrimage of Abbot Daniel]</title >

< date when='1495' >1495</date >

< origDate notBefore='1106' notAfter='1108' >1106-1108</origDate >

</ bibl >

</ cit >

< derivative >

< form >

< orth >яблонный [apple]</orth >

</ form >

< cit >

< quote >Прививки яблонные. [Apple grafting.]</quote >

< bibl >

< title >Назиратель [Nazirateł]</title >

< num >333r</num >

< date notBefore='1576' notAfter='1600' >1576-1600</date >

</ bibl >

</ cit >

< cit >

< quote >Сады яблонные. [Apple gardens.]</quote >

< bibl >

< title >Роспись Китайскому государству... [Description of the Chinese country...]</title >

< date when='1619' >1619</date >

</ bibl >

</ cit >

</ derivative >

</ sense >

</ entry >

Words denoting parts of the plants, such as bud, branch, wood, leave, grain, fruit, bark, root, flower, petal, sepal, bulb, oil, seed, sap, resin, cone, etc. will be represented in the separate word entries, for example:

<entry>

<form>

<orth>изюмъ [*iz'um*]/</orth>

<gram>м. [m.]/</gram>

</form>

<etym>от <lang> тур. [Turkish]/</lang> <foreign>üzüm</foreign>

</etym>

<sense>

<def>Плод растения <lat>Vitis vinifera L. </lat>, виноградина [Fruit of Vitis vinifera L., a grape].</def>

<cit>

<quote> Которые ж подаютъ овощи терпкие и мокрые лучши плодятся в долинахъ нежели на горахъ, для тое причины смокви, изюмы и иные овощи благоуханные болши по горамъ родятся. [Those vegetables which they serve, tart and juicy, bear fruit better in the valleys than in the mountains, for the same reason figs, grapes and other fragrant vegetables grow usually in the mountains.]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Назиратель [*Naziratel*]/</title>

<num>119v</num>

<date notBefore='1576' notAfter='1600'>1576-1600</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

<derivative>

<form>

<orth>изюмный [*izumny*]/</orth>

</form>

<cit>

<quote>Изюмныя и винные ягоды, и виноград на все стороны лопатами мечут. [Grapes and fig berries in all directions are thrown by shovels.]</quote>

<bibl>

<title>Сказание о роскошном житии и веселии [Story about luxurious life and joy]/</title>

<num>41</num>

<date notBefore='1600' notAfter='1700'>XVII в.</date>

</bibl>

</cit>

In fact, the dictionary should consist of two parts. The first part, “Phytonym — Plant”, or Russian — Latin, is organised according to the Russian alphabet, has Old Russian phytonyms as head entries, and explains which plants could be named by this or that Old Russian word, as it was shown in the given entries. The second part, “Plant — Phytonym”, or Latin — Russian, is organised according to the Latin alphabet, having modern nomenclature Latin plant names as word entry titles, and explaining which Old Russian names this or that plant could have in the 11th–17th cc. Some plant names, mostly loaned, could have quite a large amount of synonyms. For example, the database contains 10 words for peach (*Prunus persica* (L.) Stokes) — *бросква, броскви́на, броскви́ня, броски́ня, персика, персиконъ, прасква, родакина, шаптала, шептола*, and 10 words for sycamore fig (*Ficus sycomorus* L.) — *икамориумъ, каморнумъ, сокомория, сукамина, сукамня, сукомария, сюкамина, суюкомория, ягодина, ягодичина*. The abundance of variants reflects unstable situation in the lexical system caused by the appearance of the new objects and dialect variety.

The two-fold structure of the dictionary will allow making fast and comfortable cross-references between plants and their names.

Conclusion

The electronic format of the dictionary allows several people to work simultaneously, which is very important in a joint project. It also helps with representing new data in real time and easily preparing printed versions if needed. The Old Russian plant names dictionary is intended to be an open resource useful for both ethnobotanists and specialists in the Slavic historical lexicology. It will also become the basis for the research into the later periods of the Russian language.

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