

The aim of the project *Early modern popular Ruthenian song written in Latin script – a borderland literary phenomenon of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth* is to restore to the academic circulation the phenomenon of the popular Ruthenian song written in Latin alphabet, which flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The centuries-old bonding of the Ruthenian lands with the Commonwealth, the presence of Polish culture in the East and its diversity, with the simultaneous lack of a clear language barrier and the resulting sense of alienation, led to the interpenetration of Ruthenian and Polish cultures. The effect of this was the 'Ruthenian trend', concerning both customs and Ruthenian literary output, the most successful of which was the Ruthenian song, preserved in a few printed sources and manuscripts of Polish origin. Anonymous individual poetic texts, written in Latin alphabet, are at first glance difficult to distinguish from among Polish-language works. Perhaps that is why they have not yet received wider interest from researchers, who have so far focused mainly on the unequivocally "national" assignment of this literary phenomenon, without paying due attention to the culturally active perspective of the borderland related to it. Therefore, the following research hypotheses were put forward in the project:

1. By means of writing in the Latin alphabet, Ruthenian literature was able to exert a greater influence on Polish literature, considered to be the dominant one. This led to a reversal of the communication channel between Polish and Ruthenian authors, whose works became a source of poetic inspiration (for example, bucolic motifs of Ruthenian origin);
2. Polish-speaking authors were able to use the Ruthenian language creatively for persuasive, entertainment and stylization purposes;
3. The analysis of discrepancies in the notation of Ruthenian songs can provide information on the level of understanding of the Ruthenian language among Polish-speaking authors and recipients;
4. In order to establish uniform rules for the transcription of Ruthenian songs handwritten in the Latin alphabet, the standardizing solutions used in Latin-printed Ruthenian texts may be useful.

The hypotheses will be verified on the basis of the corpus of Ruthenian songs, which will consist of about 120 works already gathered from manuscripts from the collections of Polish heritage institutions, and songs that will be found as a result of queries in Polish, Lithuanian and Ukrainian libraries. The methodological framework of the project is determined by literary studies and bibliology, which will be supplemented with procedures derived from linguistics, with particular emphasis on the anthropology of writing as well as sociology of literature and its methods for studying cultural interchangeability between multiethnic communities.

The results of the project will enrich knowledge about the specificity of the Ruthenian song and will make it possible to solve the editorial problems related to it, resulting from the diversity of the script, which will allow for further study of the texts - unique literary testimonies of the early modern Polish-Ruthenian borderland. The resulting characterization and classification of the phenomenon of Ruthenian songs written in the Latin script, as well as the elaboration of the methodology and editorial principles will serve as research tools on the borderland of cultures that used to be part of the Polish-Lithuanian state, enriching the knowledge on this subject in historical, social, political and religious aspects. Moreover, the introduction of previously unknown Ruthenian texts discovered as a result of queries (along with the elaboration of the sources in which they appear) into the academic circulation will expand the bibliographic resources concerning the above-mentioned literary borderland.

The research results will be disseminated through conference papers and articles in scientific journals. Transcriptions of the collected texts will be published in the TEI standard on a platform for publishing digital editions, making it possible to search metadata of manuscripts (e.g. tei.nplp.pl or TEIPublisher). Access to the texts will be open and free of charge.