Incunable from the Book collection of Metropolitan Pitirim (Nechayev) (Monastery of St Joseph of Volokolamsk). The first attempt of attribution

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The following paper is the first draft description of an incunable, the famous *Peregrinatio in terram sanctam*, written by a German nobleman, Cathedral Dean and politician in the Electorate of Mainz, Bernhard von Breidenbach, which had been rediscovered in April 2020 in the library of St Joseph of Volokolamsk Monastery. This example is a German translation into early modern standard German dialect. By the comparison of the discovered book with the digital images of the editions of 1486 (Peter Schöffer of Mainz) and circa 1500 (Peter Drach of Speyer) collected in the European libraries it was identified as one of the copies printed circa 1500. Digitized copies are available in Bavarian national library (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek) in Munich, and Prince August Library (Herzog August Bibliothek) in Wolfenbüttel.

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Brief exemplary description

Title: Peregrinatio in terram sanctam. [Dis buch ist innhaltend die heilige[n] reysen gein Jherusalem zu dem heiligen Grab vnd furbaß zu der hochgelobten jungfrowen vnd merteryn sant katheryn], Speyer, ca. 1505, Peter Drach

Typesetting — 48-50 lines.

Font type — undefined[1].

Typesetting size — undefined.

Folio size — 216×320 мм

Figures: 7 maps or landscapes (Ansichten), 15 xylography miniatures (Holzschnitte).

Some other editions this book are the following digitized copies of incunables from European public libraries:

1. Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, in German, printed at Peter Drach's typography in Speyer, circa 1500

(Bayerische Nationalbibliothek, München, GW IV, Sp. 656).

2. Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, in German, printed at Anton Sorg's typography in Augsburg, dated 22.4.1488 (Herzog August-Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, GW 05078).

3. Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, in German, printed at Peter Schöffer's typography by Bernhard von Breydenbach and Erhard Reuwich in Mainz, dated 21.6.1486, wood block printing by Erhard Reuwich (Bayerische Nationalbibliothek, Munchen, GW 05077).

4. Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, in Latin, printed at Peter Schöffer's typography by Bernhard von Breydenbach and Erhard Reuwich in Mainz, dated 11.2.1486, wood block printing by Erhard Reuwich (Universitäts- und Staatliche Bibliothek zu Darmstadt, GW 05075).

Examination of a printed copy

This example of early European printed book was explored during the arrangement of the library of St Joseph Monastery, namely the book collection of the former head of the monastery, Metropolitan Pitirim (Nechaev), on 3rd of April 2020[2]. The book's title was determined by initial visual examination on its back cover. There was a hand-written inscription on the marmor paper back (Fig. 1): Bernh. von Breidenbach. Reise nach Jerusalem. Mainz 1486.

The book has undergone draft digitizing (taken photos of all the pages and covers) and during this process was briefly examined and identified as a real incunable or paleotype, ca 1500, written in early Hochdeutsch dialect. Lightweight vergé paper, visible vertical and horizontal lines comply with f° size (in references this size is mentioned as 2°, Fig. 1, but in fact it is the same size in different abbreviation

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[1] Information about the type is missing in Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke (GW).

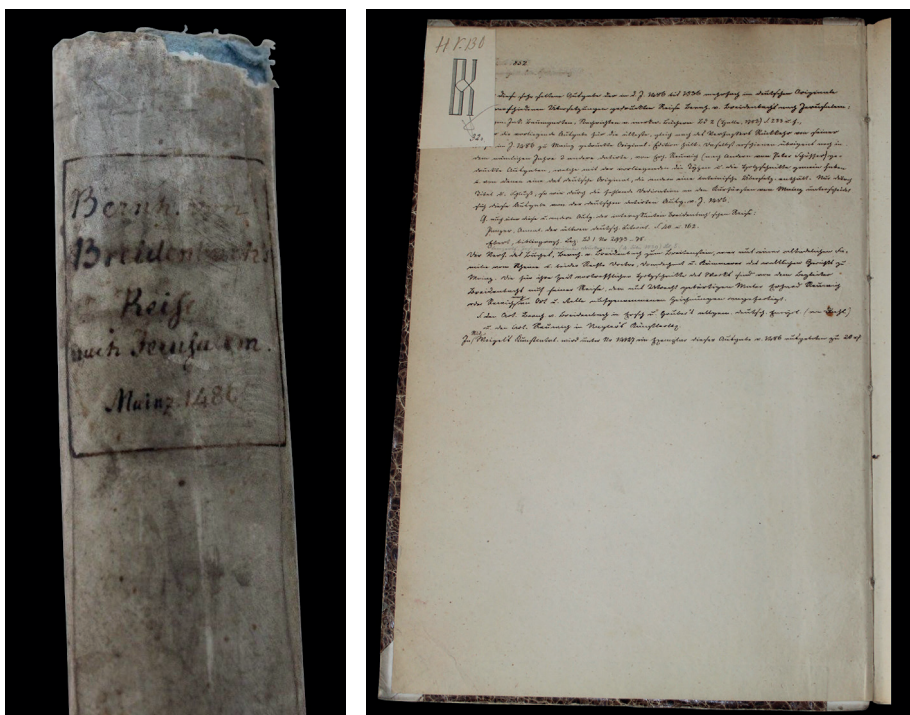[2] The exemplar was found by Yulia Buzykina.

Fig. 1. Paperback with an inscription (presumably Peter Drach, Speyer, ca 1500).

systems. — *Ed*.), without any watermarks. This copy might be considered to be full, because no lost folios have been found, but some parts of maps are missing and one miniature was definitely intentionally cut out.

The title reads following header (Fig. 3):
Dis buch ist innhaltend die heilige(n) reysen
gein Jherusalem zu dem heiligen grab
vnd furbaß zu der hochgelobten jung=
frowen vnd merteryn sant katheryn[3]

The book's condition seems to be good, there are few traces of water and soiled paper in the outer corners, wormholes in the first and last outer sections. Multiple marks and NB notices are made by different hands in black and red ink, read in German and Latin. The full page contains 48-50 lines, unlike the exemplar of 1486 printed in Mainz (BSB, GW 05077[4], 40-42 lines). There is no continuous pagination, pages are numbered within a section (A — S). Integrity of the exemplar is generally good; some pages have traces of water and fingerprint stains.

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[3] Literally "This book contains pious pilgrimage to Jerusalem to the Holy Sepulcre and further to highly praised virgin and martyr saint Catherine".

[4] ISTC ib01193000, Available at: https://data.cerl.org/istc/ib01193000 (Accessed on 05.01.2021), or BSB-Ink B-911, GW 5077: Breidenbach, Bernhard von: Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, deutsch. Mainz: Erhard Reuwich, 21.VI.1486. 2°. Available at: https://www.gesamtkatalogderwiegendrucke.de/docs/GW05077.htm (Accessed on 05.01.2021).
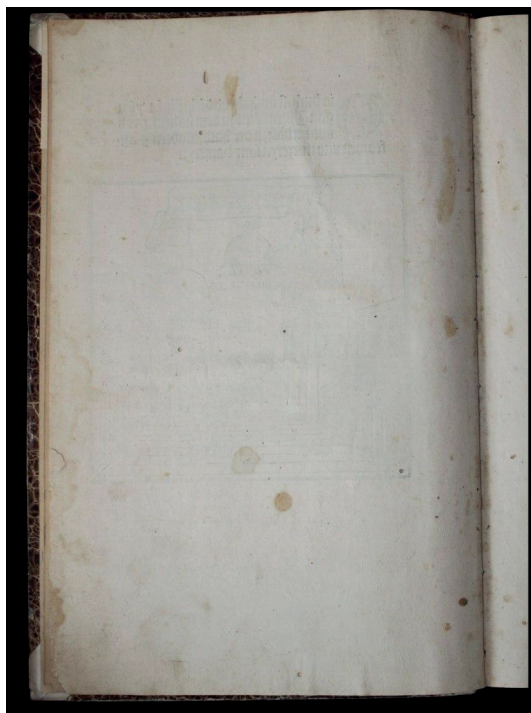
Fig. 2. The paper of the exemplar, f. 1v.

The first and the last folios in the whole block were partially damaged by the wood-boring beetle. There are numerous margin notes in German (some of them may be identified also as Latin, namely toponyms), written by at least two hands with black and red ink, and a couple drawings. Folios are numbered within each section, marked with capital letters from A to S. (Fig. 4).

The *Peregrinatio* of Breydenbach is famous first and foremost for its engravings, depicting views of cities and islands, where pilgrims made their stops, and their final destination — the Holy Land. These pictures are made as xylographic prints after Erhard Reuwich's sketches, which he had drawn during the pilgrimage. There were 7 xylographic cityscapes and views of islands and 18 miniatures with Holy Sepulchre Temple and Cubuclium, specific dresses and alphabets of different nations in Holy Land made by typographer Peter Schöffer of Mainz for first edition of *Peregrinatio*. This exemplar preserved all cityscapes and islands, but they are cropped to the double spread view, and the leaves on the right and on the left sides of it are missing. They probably might be intentionally cut off and used (sold?) as a separate piece of art.

One of miniatures in the last section, which depicts Turkish cavalrymen and Janissary, was cut out.

The list of cityscapes and their integrity:

1. Venice — 3 of 4 folios are lost (the survived double spread view is right edge of xylography picture, Fig. 5 a, b),

Fig 3. The title page.

2. Parenzo — complete,

3. Corfu Island — complete,

4. Modone — one half is lost,

5. Rhodes Island — one half is lost,

6. Creta island — complete,

7. The "Map" of Holy Land — 3 of 4 folios are lost (like in case of view of Venice).

Survived miniatures are following:

• "Form and disposition of Holy Sepulchre Temple" — twice (title and inside the text),

• *Cubiculum* (as a separate plate on the right side of the leaf with the "map" of Holy Land on the verso is attached, Fig. 6),

• inhabitants of the desert (verso of the "map" of Holy Land plate),

• dresses of Saracens,
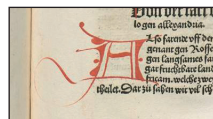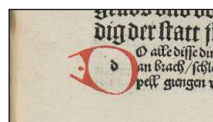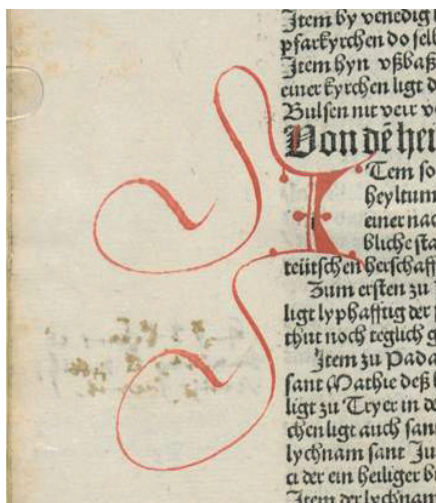
Fig. 4. **a)** pagination of exemplar from the library of St Joseph's monastery of Volokolamsk (further — JM exemplar), **b)** handwritten capital letter and pagination of Drach Speyer 1505 (BSB, GW IV, Sp. 656), **c)** pagination of Anton Sorg's edition Augsburg 1488 (Herzog August Staatbibliothek Wolfenbüttel, GW 05078).

- "Saracen" alphabet and Jewish banker, on the same page,
- Jewish alphabet and dresses of Greeks,
- Greek alphabet and dresses of Syrians,
- alphabet of Syrians,
- alphabet of Syro-Jacobites,
- Armenian alphabet,
- dresses of Indians (? called "Abbasines"[5])
- "Indian" alphabet,

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[5] The letters of this alphabet are not identified, some seem to be recognised as ethiopian script, used e.g. in ge'ez.

a)
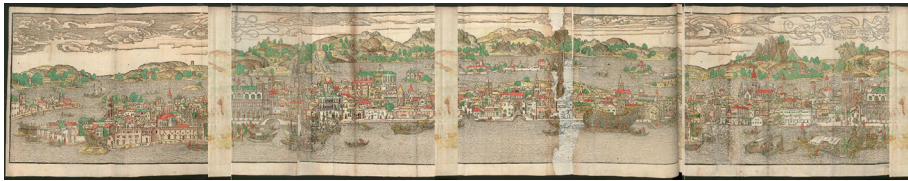
b)

Fig. 5. a) Map of Venice (fragmented), Map of Venice, JM exemplar **b**) Map of Venice (full) from the german edition of 1486, E. Reuwich, Mainz (BSB, GW 05077)[6].

Title page and colophon miniatures, which are to be found in the first Latin edition 11.2.1486 (cf. GW 05075, Darmstadt Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek[7], and german edition 21.6.1486 (cf. GW 05077[8], BSB, Fig. 7) are missing in this exemplar. One colour print, woodcut miniatures are not coloured, initials in this exemplar were supposed to be decorated by the artist, because of free space around small-sized initial letters (v. Fig. 8). It is remarkable, that comparison of these woodcuts with miniatures in the Augsburg edition 22.4.1488 of Anton

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[6] Breidenbach, Bernhard von: Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, deutsch. Augsburg: Anton Sorg, 22.IV.1488. 2°. Digitized version of the exemplar is available on the website of Herzog August Wolffenbüttel Bibliothek: www.diglib. hab.de/inkunabeln/288-12-hist-2f/start.htm (Accessed on: 02.12.2020).

[7] Available at: www.tudigit.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/show/inc-iv-98/0001/thumbs (Accessed on: 02.12.2020).

[8] Breidenbach, Bernhard von: Peregrinatio in terram sanctam. Mainz: Erhard Reuwich, 11.II.1486. 2º.
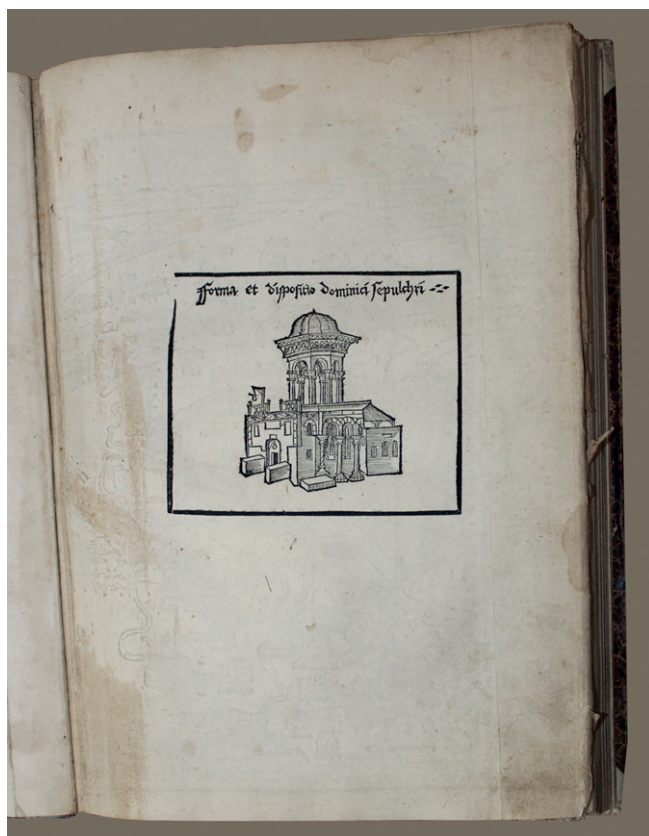
Fig 6. Cubiculum of Holy Sepulcher.

Sorg (GW 05078)[9] demonstrates higher quality of the first ones (Fig. 9 a, b; we didn't undertake detailed comparison with Augsburg edition because of two reasons: first, it is not mentioned in the handwritten inscription, and second — there is an apparent difference of the structure of these two editions, including number of illustrations (miniatures with alphabets are absent), using different printing type and pagination style (Fig. 4 c), and printed initials).

The book finishes with colophon with verse "Glory to God in the highest" in Middle High German (Ere sey gott in der hohe), exemplar of German edition 1486 from BSB has miniature depicting young lady with coat of arms and a crow[10] (Fig. 7 a).

The cover and inside back cover contain labels with class marks BX and HK 130, pen-written, bleached. The label inside cover back lays partly over the extensive German inscription, made with black ink

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[9] Breidenbach, Bernhard von: Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, deutsch. Augsburg: Anton Sorg, 22.IV.1488. 2º. A digitized copy of the print of A. Sorg is available on the website of the Wolfenbüttel Library of the Duke of August. Available at: www.diglib.hab.de/inkunabeln/288-12-hist-2f/start.htm

[10] According to Lempertz, it might be a monogram of E. Reuwich, available at: www.archive.org/details/bub_gb_xqFSAAAAcAAJ/page/n13/mode/2up (Accessed on: 02.12.2020) (Lempertz, Insignien 1838).

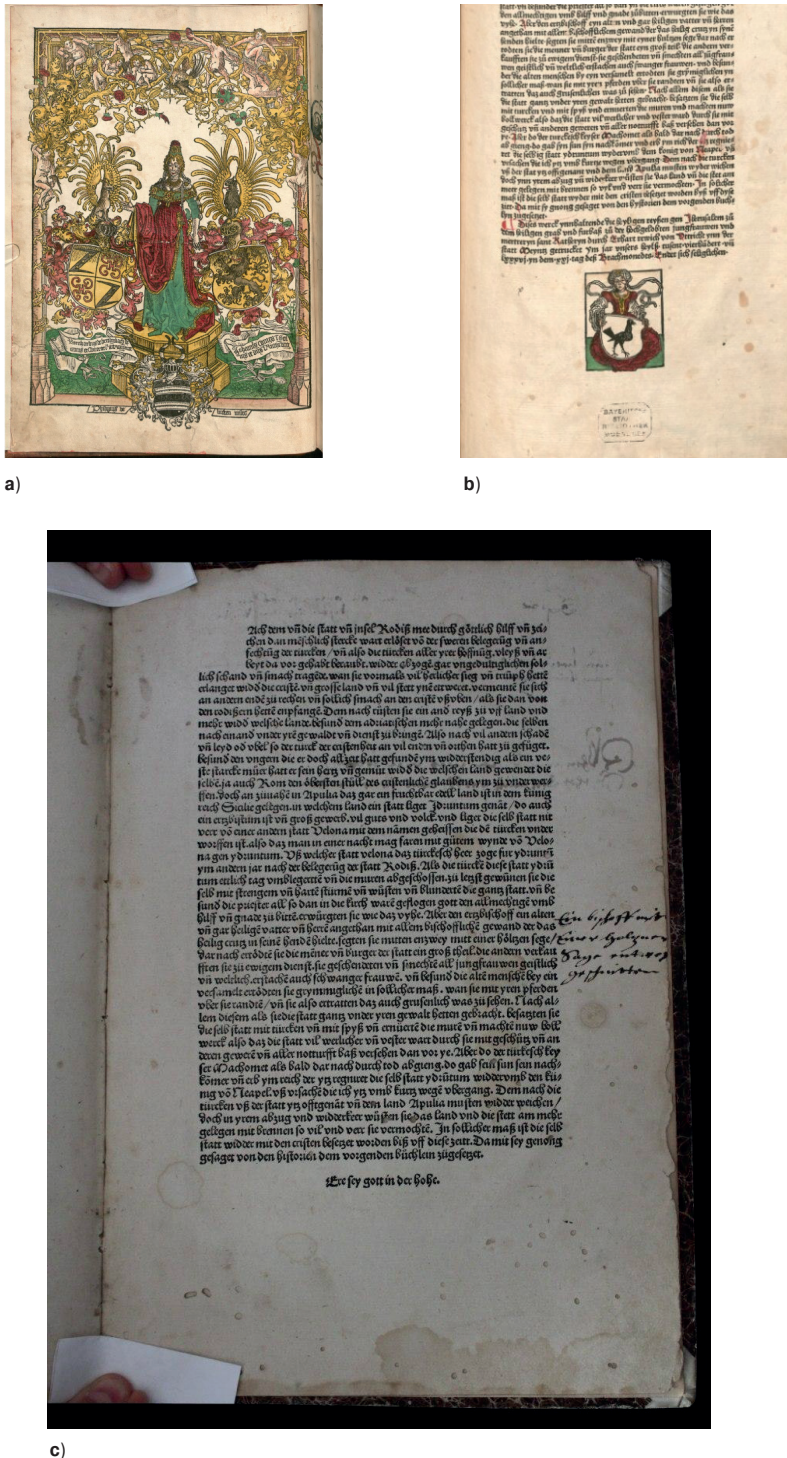**a)**

b)

c)

Fig. 7. a) opening and **b)** closing miniatures of Mainz 1486 edition (Schöffer, Reuwich, Breydenbach, BSB, GW 05077), coloured and not coloured, **c)** colophon with verse "Glory to God in the highest" (JM exemplar).

handwriting of the late 19th century (Kurrent). Pencil remarks between the lines are written by the same hand:

"...diese sehr seltene Ausgabe die in d. J. 1486 bis 1536 mehrfach im deutschen

a)

b)

c)
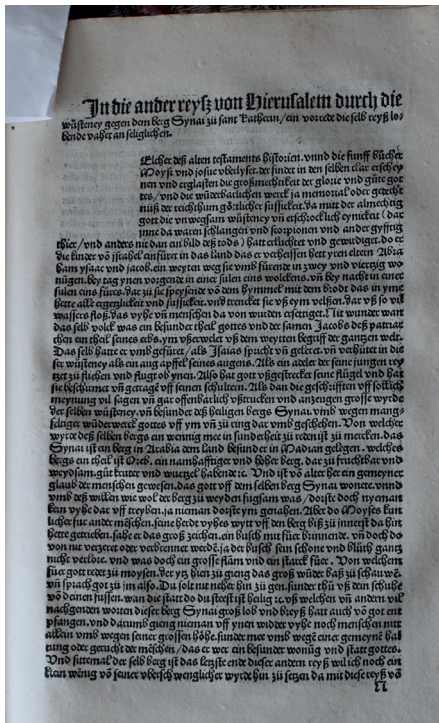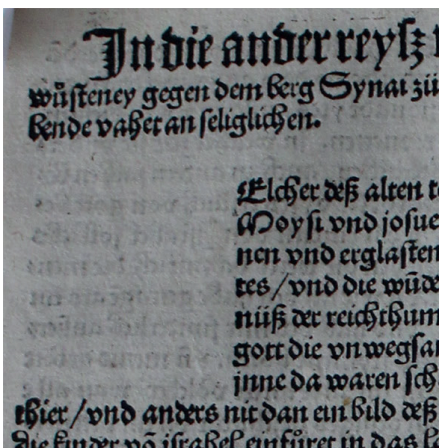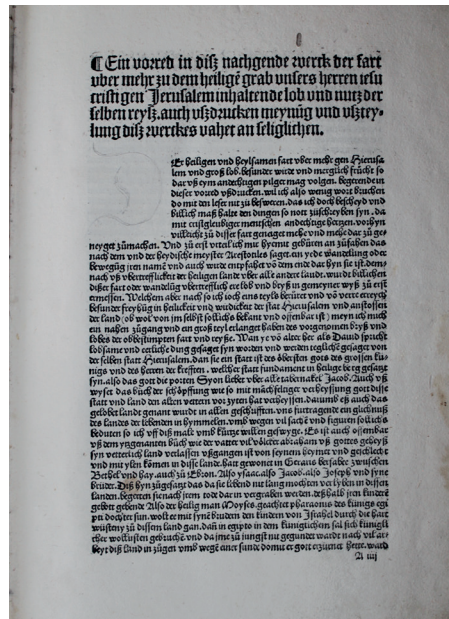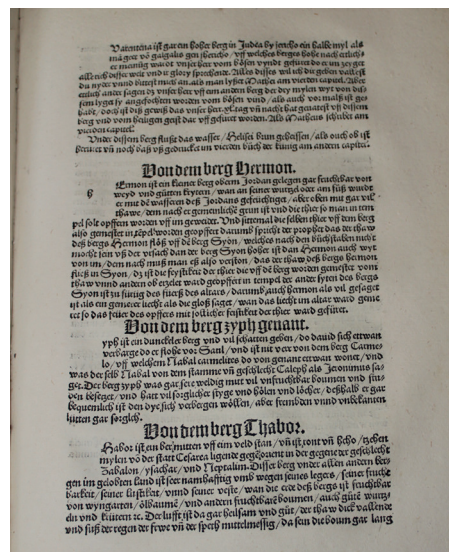
d)

Pt. 8. a-d) empty spaces left for illuminated letters and typed small letter in the leine starts (JM exemplar).
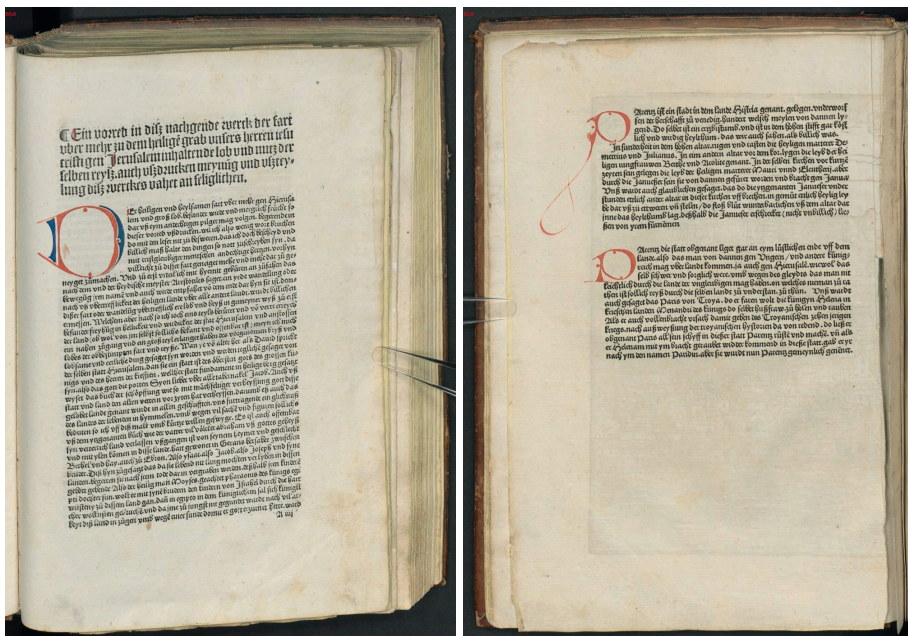
e)   f)

Fig. 8. e-f) illuminated letter P from Speyer exemplar, P. Drach edition ca 1500 (BSB, GW IV, Sp. 656).

a)   b)

Fig. 9. Xylography depicting inhabitants of the desert: **a**) from IVM exemplar, **b**) from A. Sorg, Augsburg edition 1488 (Herzog August Bibliothek Wolffenbüttel, GW 05078).

a)

b)

c)

Originale

<...> verschiedenen Über-setzungen gedrückten Reisen Bernh. v. Breidenbachs

nach Jerusalem

(Si)gm. Jak. Baumgarten, Nachrichten v. merkw. Büchern Bd 2 Halle, 1752 s. 233 u. f.,

<...> die vorliegende Ausgabe für die älteste, gleich nach des Verfassers Rückkehr

von seiner

<...> im J. 1486 zu Mainz gedrückte Original-Edition hält. Daselbst erschienen

übrigens noch in dem nämlichen Jahre 2 andere datirte, von Erh. Reuwich (auch

andere von Peter Schöffer ge=

druckte Ausgabe, welche mit der vorliegenden die Tusche u die Holzschnitte

Fig. 10. a) Greek alphabet and the dresses of syrians, page from the JM exemplar, **b)** dresses of Syrians, **c)** Syrian alphabet: pages from 1486 edition, Mainz (GW 05077).

gemein haben

u. von denen eine das deutsche Original, die andere lateinische Übersetzung

enthält. Nur durch

Titel und Schluss, so wie durch die fehlende Dedication an den Kurfürsten von

Mainz unterscheidet sich diese Ausgabe von der deutschen datirten Ausg. v. J. 1486.

Cf. auch über diese u. andere Ausg. der
interessanten Breidenbach'schen Reise:
Panzer, Annal. der älteren deutsch.
Literat. S. 40 u. 162.
[pencil note between these lines:
Lempertz, Insignien berühmter
Druckereien (4 Köln, 1839) Bd. 5]
Ebert, bibliograph. Lex. Bd. 1 Nr
2973-75.
Der Verf. des Buches. Bernh. v.
Breidenbach zum Breitenstein, war
aus einer altadligen Fa=
milie vom Rheine u. beider Rechte
Doctor Domdechant u. Kämmerer des
weltlichen Gerichts zu Mainz. Die für
ihre Zeit vortrefflichen Holzschnitte
des Werks sind von dem Begleiter
Breidenbachs auf seiner Reise, dem
aus Utrecht gebürtigen Maler Erhard
Reuwich, oder Rewich, auch an Ort
u. Stelle aufgenommenen
Zeichnungen angefertigt.

S. den Art. Bernh. v. Breidenbach in Ersch u. Gruber's. Allgem. Deutsch. Encycl.

(Dahl)

u. den Art. Reuwich in Nagler's Künsterlex.

In Rud. Weigel's Kunstcatalog wird unter Nr 14127 ein Exemplar dieser Ausgabe

v. 1486 ausgeboten zu 20 rt."[11].

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[11] Spelled out by M. Perst and A. Golovkova:

"…this is a very rare edition of manyfold from 1486 to 1536 manyfold in german original

<…> different translations printed Travels of Bernh.v. Breidenbach to Jerusalem

(Sie)gm. Jac. Baumgarten, Nachrichten v. merkw. Büchern Bd 2 Halle, 1752 s. 233 u.f.,

<…> this edition is took as the eldest, appeared instantly after the author's return from his

<…> In 1486 in Mainz printed original editon. At the same year there also appeared two dated editions printed by Erhard Reuwich (and also the others by Peter Schöffer), which have in appropriate manner the same miniatures and xylographies, and one of them contatins german original, and the other one the latin translation. Only the title and colophone, and also the missing dedication to the prince-elector of Mainz distinguish this edition from the german edition of 1486.

Cf. also about this and other eds of interesting Journey of Breidenbach:
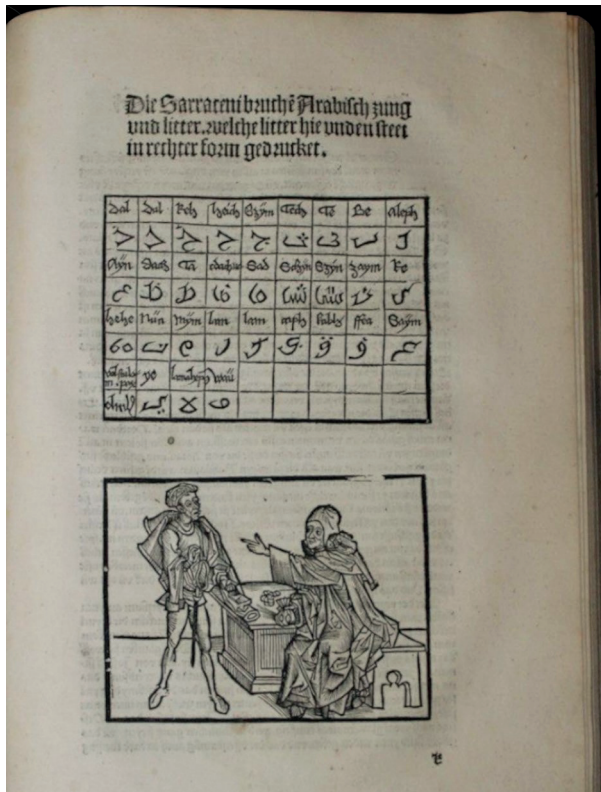
Fig 11. a) Saracen alphabet and the Jewish banker, the page of IVM exemplar, **b)** Jewish banker, **c)** saracens and their alphabet: the page from 1486 edition, Mainz (printed by Schöffer, Reuwich, Breidenbach, from BSB, GW 05077).

It follows from this inscription, left by unknown librarian, that this book is an "German original", which anteceded the German edition of June 21st, 1486, Mainz, P. Schöffer: one exemplar of this edition is GW 05077 from Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, which is digitized and we have used it for comparison of the selection of xylographies)[12].

But according to results of this comparison and the analysis of the structure of the book and the type of the font this exemplar appears to be one of the other German editions, printed by Peter Drach in Speyer circa 1500 (cf. GW 4 Sp. 656a)[13]. The complete match of layout, and specific pagination (number of book section is marked with capital letter, number of pages in lowercase) found only in Drach's edition leads us to the conclusion, that JM exemplar is the "twin brother" of the above-mentioned exemplar of Speyer edition ca 1500 (pt. 4 a, b, c). But the ultimate confirmation of this hypotheses may be possible only after visual examination of both exemplars, including comparison of sizes.

Except the missing sources, which might verify the existence of the earlier "German original", for the suggested attribution with later date (Speyer, circa 1500) speaks also the above discussed discrepancy of layout of illustrations in the second, "ethnographic supplement" part of the book. As we noticed, the composition which contains on the same page two miniatures, referring to different chapters, would be hardly possible, if the author, Bernhard von Breidenbach and his fellow traveler in journey to Jerusalem, the artist Erhard Reuwich, were directly present or took part in this edition. So there are images of Greek alphabet and dresses of Syrians on the same page in Speyer edition, while in 1486 Mainz edition from BSB (GW 05077) the miniature with Jewish Hebrew alphabet closes the chapter about Jews, and the Greek dresses and alphabet illustrates the chapter about Greeks on the first and last pages (Fig. 10 a, b, c). In the examined edition we found the miniatures depicting Arabic alphabet and Jewish banker at his business on the same page, although the Mainz edition of 1486 Arabic alphabet and Saracen costumes are placed together (Fig. 11 a, b, c). Firstly, the

Panzer, Annal. der älteren deutsch. Literat. S. 40 u. 162.

[pencil note between these two lines:

Lempertz, Insignien berühmter Druckereien (4 Köln, 1839) Bd. 5]

Ebert, bibliograph. Lex. Bd. 1 Nr 2973-75.

The auth. of the book, Bernh. V. Breidenbach from Breitenstein, of the old noble family from Rhein, and the doctor of both laws, Dom-dean and the camberlain of the lay court in Mainz. Oustanding for thier time xylographies were executed by Breidenbach's fellow traveler, native Utrecht's artist Erhard Reuwich, or Rewich, from the sketches drawn from life at the places.

Cf. entr. Bernh. v. Breidenbach в Ersch u. Gruber's. Allgem. Deutsch. Encycl. (Dahl)

and entr. Reuwich в Nagler's Künsterlex.

<In Rud. Weigel's Kunstcatalog under Nr 14127 single exemplar of this edition of 1486 is offered for 20 rt. (i.e. *Reichstaler, — Ed*.)".

[12] Available at: www.daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/~db/0005/bsb00051699/images (Accessed on: 02.12.2020).

[13] Breidenbach, Bernhard von: Peregrinatio in terram sanctam, Deutsch. [Speyer: Peter Drach, nach 1500]. 2°. Apparently, Peter Drach is supposed to be the second carrier of this name in the dynasty of typographers, Peter Drach der Jüngere, oder der Mittlere (young, or middle, or II), who inherited the printing press and the buisness after the death of his father, Peter Drach the elder.
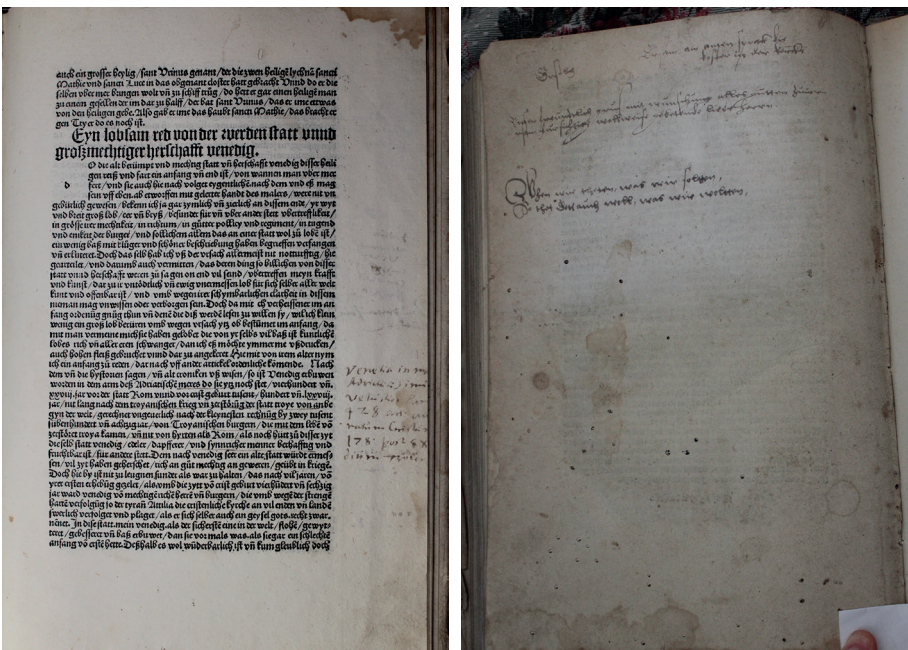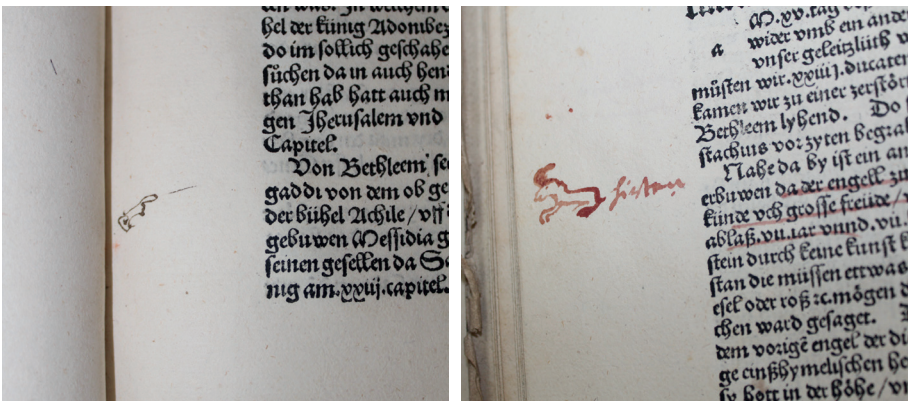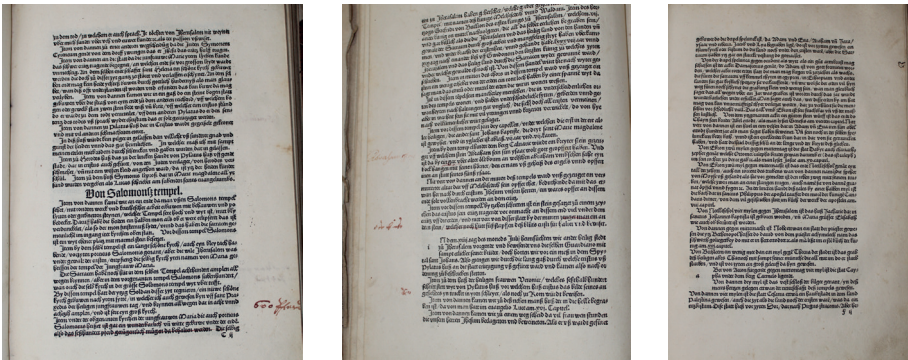
Fig. 12. Examples of notes on the margins, JM exemplar.

inconsequent layout, putting together images, irrelevant to each other, breaks the entire logic of narrative in this part of the book, and the second — such kind of confusion (or, "shift") might have occurred because of mechanical changes in typesetting: that's why images of different nationalities, which were supposed to "open" the chapters, and the tables with alphabets, which were meant as colophons, had been shifted and merged in such strange combinations.

We suppose, that unknown author of the inscription on the inside back wasn't armed enough with the sound information about Peter Drach edition and couldn't compare the present exemplar with the dated exemplars of 1486. There might be also other reasons for it, for example the lack of experience in describing incunables, or, the supposed attribution of this exemplar as a "German original" might indicate the intention to sell the book for the higher price.

References to handbooks and auction guides, dated with second half — end of 19th century, character of handwriting style and some language features are referring on its provenance from private collection in German Empire. Multiple notes on the margins are made at least by two different hands. One handwriting is the same as the inscription on the inside of the front cover, the second one differs in forms of letters and, maybe, the time. The hand number 2 is presented on the inside of the back cover (Fig. 12).

The suggested authentication is "after 1500, Speyer, Peter Drach II (?)" needs to be approved, because the only exemplar of the Speyer editon we could refer to (Breydenbach, Bernhard von: Dis buch ist innhaltend die heilige[n] reysen gein Jherusalem zu dem heiligen Grab vnd furbaß zu der hochgelobten jungfrowen vnd merteryn sant katheryn, [Speyer], [ca. 1505][14]), have no precise date (i.e. we cannot be sure, that there are no variations and versions within the edition, which might destroy the entire argumentation.

The limitation of this research is connected to the lack of time for examination of presenting original. There was no precise measuring (sizes of fonts, lines, number of pages in blocks and number of blocks) undertaken during the visual examination and photography in the depot.

That's why this report can be perceived as a preliminary research. The further study of German edition of Bernhard von Breidenbach's *Peregrinatio in Terram Sanctam* from the library of St Joseph's monastery of Volokolamsk needs more detailed comparison with other specimens of the supposed edition, which are kept in libraries and museums of

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[14] The digitized version of this exemplar on the website of BSB contains references to all fonts used in it:

VD16 B 8259 — BSB-Ink B-913 — GW IV, Sp. 656, source: www.inkunabeln.digitale-sammlungen.de/Ausgabe_ (B-913).html (Accessed on: 02.12.2020); https://data.cerl.org/istc/ib01195000?style=expanded (Accessed on: 02.12.2020); in english catalogue this German edition is dated like "after 1502, when Latin version of the book appeared in P. Drach's typography", with a reference to GW 05076, which is dated strictly as 29. VII. 1490 either in ISTC:www.data.cerl.org/istc/ib01190000 (Accessed on: 20.12.2020), or in GW www.gesamtkatalogderwiegendrucke. de/docs/GW05076.htm (Accessed on: 02.12.2020).

Russian Federation and countries of European Union and United States and described in special literature, catalogues and handbooks. During the first stage of research our aim was to authenticate the book as incunable, and identify it as an exemplar of rather rare edition, less explored and less discussed, than the famous edition of 1486, and, that is most important, still not introduced for scientific use in Russian academia[15].

The founding of incunable in the library of St Joseph's monastery of Volokolamsk and its introducing for Russian academic science seem to be a lucky strike for incunable and paleotype researchers. The further examination of this exemplar might give answers about the time and circumstances, under which it appeared in Russian state, and maybe might pour the light upon its previous life.

Appendix

Online Databases:
www.gesamtkatalogderwiegendrucke.de — Catalogue of incunables, Berlin State Library, Preussischer Kulturbesitz Foundation
www.data.cerl.org/istc/ — Incunabula Short Title Catalogue, British Library
www.digitale-sammlungen.de/ — Catalogue of digitized collections of Bavarian national Library, Munich
www.diglib.hab.de/ — Catalogue of digitized collections of Prince August Library, Wolfenbüttel

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[15] According to GW catalogue there are 43 exempars detected.

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