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Innovation in tradition : Tönnies Fonne's Russian-German phrasebook (Pskov, 1607)

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Godi suam uias Jest dobro seimale Jijna
Potvoimur obitzen.
Etasa nuyt vub ibij sabba Budea vusf bron
na dijnan vyjfa.

This study explores the history of the language of a manuscript known as Tönnies Fonne's Russian-German Phrasebook (Pskov 1607).

The phrasebook is not, as many scholars have assumed, the result of the efforts of a 19-year-old German merchant, who came to Russia to learn the language and who recorded the everyday vernacular in the town of Pskov from the mouths of his informants. Nor is it, as others claim, a mere compilation by him of existing material.

Instead, the phrasebook must be regarded as the product of a copying, innovative, meticulous, German-speaking, professional scribe who was acutely aware of regional, stylistic and other differences and nuances in the Russian language around him, and who wanted to deliver an up-to-date phrasebook firmly rooted in an established tradition.

INNOVATION IN TRADITION Pepijn Hendriks

Pepijn Hendriks
INNOVATION IN TRADITION
Tönnies Fonne's Russian-German
Phrasebook (Pskov, 1607)

Jas sebe ne vvratterii.
Jg vyice dij nuyt vyjkan.
Eot tzoloviet dobro volui sam sebe Astodan.
nikomo on ne seuszet.
Dat id Lijn frje Masu sa J sijn fuluost
Jov. sa dunt unuanda.
Volnoi pir forkuma eses Jei, eses ne Jei.
Jui kroge id Lijn frje gastgobods viltu
Driudau off nuyt Driudau.
Nam velita vygre na more buice tzo mui malo
ne petoyei.
wy sadou Lijnii grofou Duvuvindt wy
Dov sosa Dat wy sijn konfayou vovau.