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

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Godi suam uas Jest dobro seimale Figma
 Potvoimur obutzeu
 Ekasa mizet vub ibij sabba Emda vusf boen
 na Eymur wjfa.

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)

Jar febe ice vvraffeli.
 Jg wjce dy nist wjkan.
 Et zoloviet dobro volui sam sebe Astodan.
 nikomo on ne seufzet.
 Dat is Lijn frje Masu sa H sijn fuluast
 Jovr. sa drit uumanda.
 volnoi pir fortuma eses Jei, eses ne Jei.
 Jui kroga is Lijn frje gastgebodts wiltu
 drinken off nist drinken.
 Nam velita wjgre na more buice tzo mui malo
 ne petopei.
 wj fadden Lijnin groten Druverindt wj
 Jov fofa dat wj ffor konfayen wvran.