

From the Editors: *Вивліоѳика* 2.1

Welcome to the eighth (2020) volume of *Вивліоѳика: E-Journal of Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies* and the first one to appear on the operating platform of our new institutional home at [IOPN Journals](https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/journals/vivlioofika), the digital publishing unit of the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The entire Editorial Board of *Вивліоѳика* would like to acknowledge the generous help of Dan Tracy, Alex Dryden, Mary Ton, and Heejoung Shin at the University of Illinois, who have offered valuable support in helping us to transition to our new site and to the latest version of the Open Journal Systems platform. We would also like to recognize the continuous encouragement of Paolo Mangiafico at Duke University Library, who helped to launch *Вивліоѳика* back in 2013 and who has gently guided its transition to the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Thanks are also due to John Randolph, Director, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor, Departments of History and Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who not only found *Вивліоѳика* a new institutional home but also agreed to join its editorial board. Finally, we are also delighted to announce that at this year's annual meeting, the Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association ([ECRSA](https://ecrsa.org/)) amended its constitution to include an explicit statement about its official sponsorship of *Вивліоѳика: E-Journal of Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies*.

In the editorial to the inaugural (2013) volume of the e-journal that you currently have on your screen, we acknowledged our debt to the original, eighteenth-century, "hard-copy" version of *Вивліоѳика*, edited by Nikolai Novikov, and offered our vision of what an open access scholarly periodical—cheekily dubbed *Вивліоѳика* 2.0—might hope to accomplish.¹ One of our chief desiderata was the creation of an inclusive online publication that would consciously adopt a cosmopolitan approach that embraced the entire international community of scholars of eighteenth-century Imperial Russia. This is still very much the goal of *Вивліоѳика*, version 2.1. The results of our efforts are on display in the current volume, which features contributions in Russian and English from scholars plying their trade in the Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Italy, and Great Britain. Of course, there is still plenty of work to do on the diversity, equity, and inclusion front, not least in the matter of publishing more scholarly articles and book reviews on the social, economic, and religious life of the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional communities residing within and across the boundaries of the Russian Empire during the long eighteenth century. The editors of *Вивліоѳика* will continue to solicit contributions from scholars of non-Russian Slavic (e.g. Ukrainian, Polish), Baltic, and Central Asian studies, and we encourage our loyal readers to reach out to their colleagues and do the same.

Finally, we must acknowledge that 2020 has been a very difficult year for many of us, not only professionally, but also personally and politically. One of the reasons for this crisis is the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has demonstrated the porousness of

¹ "From the Editors: *Вивліоѳика* 2.0," *Вивліоѳика: E-Journal of Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies*, Vol. 1 (2013): i-iv. URL: <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/journals/vivlioofika/article/view/624/514>

national boundaries, the impermanence of social bonds, and the fragility of human life. The impact of this pandemic can be seen in this volume of *Вивліюєика*, which includes an obituary for our Russian colleague, Dmitrii Nikanorovich Kostyshin, who tragically succumbed to the coronavirus in October of this year. In honouring his memory, we seek to commemorate everyone who has sacrificed their life and their health for the pursuit of the public good by studying teaching, and producing scholarship on eighteenth-century Imperial Russia. We take comfort in the belief that Novikov, our secular patron saint, would have agreed with this sentiment and would have encouraged us to continue doing the work that needs to be done in order to leave the world even a little bit better than we found it.