

Contacts:
Reading room
of the Department of manuscripts
and early printed books
codexdep@mail.ru

The department of manuscripts and early printed books holds one of the largest collections of written records in Russia. For more than one hundred year it has managed to collect over 32 thousand sources: Greek papyri dated back to the beginning of I millennium A.D., first birch bark letters found in Novgorod in 1951-1961., rare collection of Greek manuscripts of VI-XVII centuries., slavic manuscripts of XI-XX centuries., among which there are ancient parchment codices, Illuminated Compiled Chronicle of Ivan the Terrible, Menologies of metropolitan Macarius, letters missive of supreme clerical hierarchy, monastery scrolls, manuscripts and books of Cyrillic script of traditional book culture of pre-Petrine era and Old Believers tradition. Civil documents of the modern period are held in the department of written sources.

At the department there works a reading room.

Digital copies of some of the manuscripts from the collection of the department are available for work in the "E-catalogue of museum objects" on the museum website. They can be found at the foot of the page in sections titled «Синодальное славянское» (Synodal Slavic collection), «Воскресенское» (Voskresenskiy) etc. Search by call marks can be made by clicking a button «расширенный поиск» ("advanced search") on the red search line, entry field Инвентарный номер (Inventory number).

Reading room opening times (temporary)

Visitors are received twice a week by appointment: on Wednesdays and Thursdays of the first week of the month, then on Mondays and Thursdays from 11.00 to 17.00 (sessions from 11.00 to 14.00, and from 14.00 to 17.00).

In summertime (July-August) no reception of visitors is carried out.

Requests of materials are taken over email codexdep@mail.ru at least in two working days before the day of visit and only till 16:00. The requests sent after this time will be considered as those sent on the next day. At the same time one can

request no more than 5 items (five requests). The number of manuscripts used for work shall not exceed 5 pieces either.

Issue of a temporary pass

The department of manuscripts admits the following groups of visitors to work with its materials:

- higher education specialists;
- staff of scientific institutions, higher education institutions, museums, libraries, archives, who do academic work professionally.

To work in the reading room a researcher should provide a cover letter from an institution that refers the researcher to the museum library, indicating the purpose, topic and chronological frames of the research (on a corporate letterhead with a signature of the director of the institution, addressed to the attention of Aleksei K. Levykin, Director of the State Historical Museum, or Marina V. Chistiakova, Deputy Director on scientific work and collections) forwarded at codexdep@mail.ru. Consideration of such letters takes several days. The results will be sent to the email address of the sender.

The cover letter is considered valid during the current calendar year. If the topic of the research is changed, a new cover letter shall be provided.

The reading room of the department of manuscripts is accessed via Visitors entrance (entrance № 1) upon the provision of a passport.