

55 years since the canonization of the Bulgarian Revival cleric and writer Sophronius of Vratsa



On this date 55 years ago, the prominent Bulgarian National Revival figure Sophronius of Vratsa (Sofroniy Vrachanski) was canonized as a saint by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. He is known for having made the first two hand-written copies of the first revival work of Bulgarian historiography – “Slavic-Bulgarian History” (Istoriya Slavyanobalgarskaya), completed in 1762 by Father Paisii Hilendarski. Sofroniy Vrachanski (1739-1813), one of the most striking figures of the Bulgarian Renaissance, compiled the first printed book written in the new Bulgarian language entitled “Pouchitelno evangelie (The Instructive Gospel), and is the author of over 10 manuscripts. He wrote a “Book on the Three Religions”, presenting Judaism, Christianity and Islam, creating religious diversity in the Balkans, including the Bulgarian lands. In the time of the Bulgarians’ struggle for liberation from Ottoman rule, Sophronius strove to prepare the future Bulgarian political elite for choosing the best form of state governance.