25/03/2019

Oldest book in Russia, Novgorod Codex, contains psalms



The oldest existing book in Russia, the Novgorod Codex, is a Christian palimpsest consisting of three bound wooden tablets. Each contains four pages filled with wax, on which its one-time author wrote dozens to hundreds of texts during two or three decades, each time wiping out the preceding text.

The wax of the codex contains psalms 75 and 76, as well as and a small fragment of psalm 67).

According to the data obtained by stratigraphy and carbon dating from the text itself, the wax codex was used in the first quarter of the 11th century and possibly in the last years of the 10th century. These date would make it older than the Ostromir Gospels, the earliest known east Slavic text.