



in a tendentious way. The editing was however done in the second half of the XVII century, and the scribes obviously adhered to their normal handwriting, which can be dated to the second half of the XVII century. On the other hand, the very first Romanovian documents were written by the scribes who had been raised and educated in the pre-Romanovian epoch, and so their handwriting had been drastically differ-

ent from the one introduced in the second half of the XVII century, as we can see nowadays. Thus, the mysterious handwriting was common in Russia, or the Horde, around the end of the XVI century; the documents of the first Romanovs had fortunately enough preserved some specimens.

We must note that we did manage to read a Russian document dating from 1613-1614, and some



Fig. 14.131. Page from a book entitled "Guard", dating from the XVI century. Taken from [783], issue 2.



Fig. 14.132. Page of the "Spear Books" allegedly dating from the late XVI - early XVII century. Taken from [783], issue 2.



Fig. 14.133. Document from the Stroganov Archive. Dates from "the year of 122", which converts to the modern chronological scale as 1613-1614. Taken from [787], issue 7.

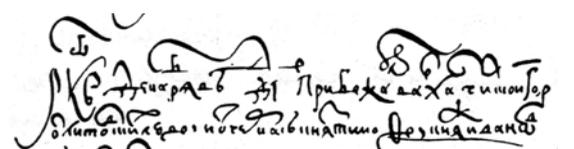


Fig. 14.134. Fragment of the previous illustration: a close-in. Taken from [787], issue 7.

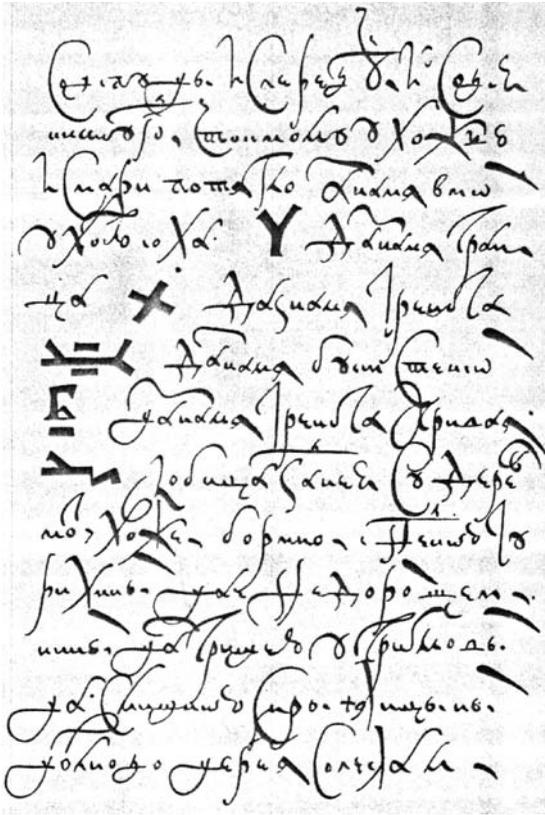


Fig. 14.135. Page from the Chronicle of Putivl dating from 1629. Taken from [791], issue 19.

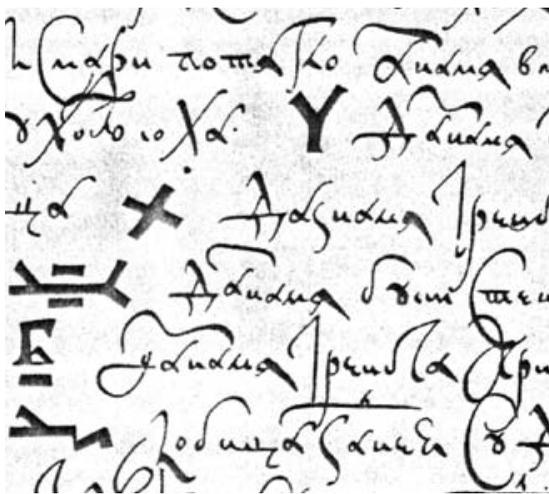


Fig. 14.136. Fragment of the previous illustration: a close-in. Taken from [791], issue 19.

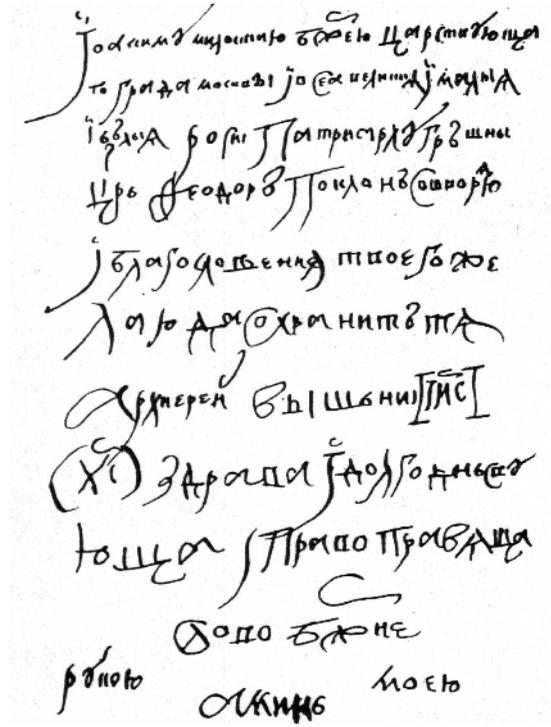


Fig. 14.137. Authentic missive sent by Czar Fyodor Alexeyevich Romanov to the Muscovite Patriarch Ioakim around 1676-1682 A.D. Taken from [785], issue 5.

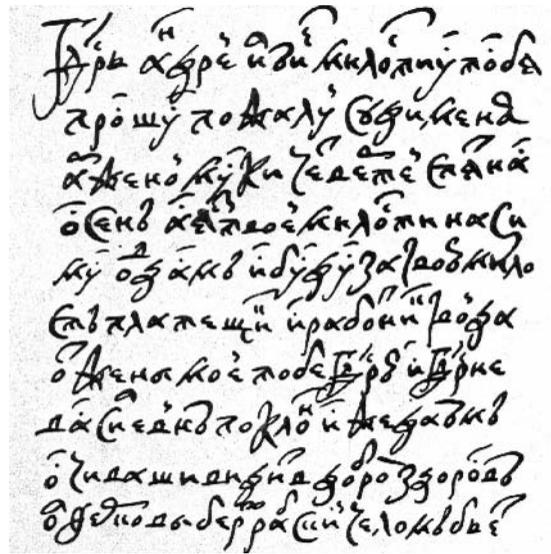


Fig. 14.138. "The letter sent by Olfyorka to A. I. Bezobrazov". The XVII century. Taken from [785], issue 5.

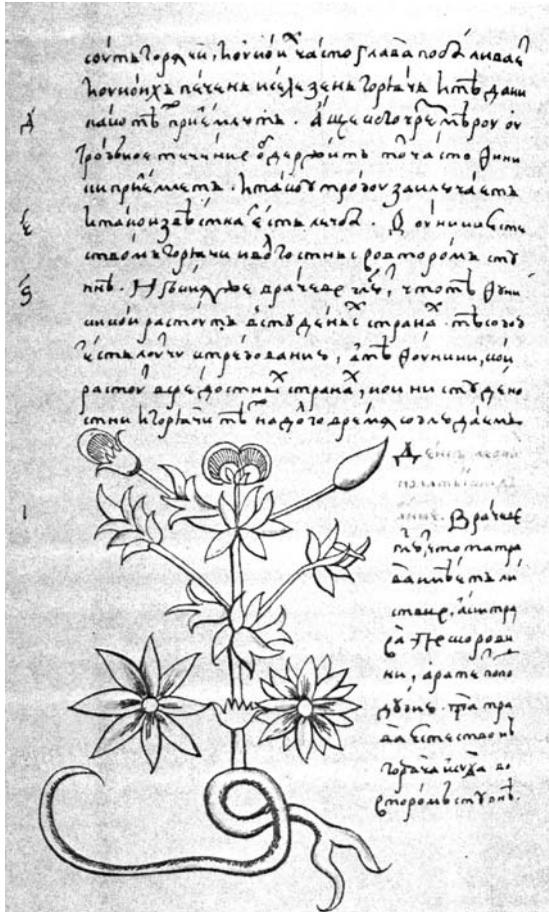


Fig. 14.139. Page from a XVII century Book of Herbs. Taken from [791], issue 19.

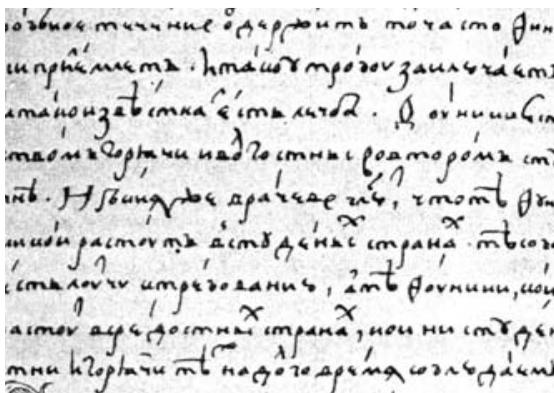


Fig. 14.140. Fragment of page taken from a XVII century Book of Herbs: a close-in. Taken from [791], issue 19.

fragments of another Russian document dated 1629, qv in fig. 14.133 and 14.134, but it had cost us much effort, and it had taken us a long time to get accustomed to the idiosyncratic shape of letters, the peculiar manner of making insets and abbreviations, and the various versions of one and the same letter.

Let us quote the header of the document that dates from 1613-1614.

*“Questioning materials*

*In the рКВ (122nd) year, on the 14th day of December, Prince Timofei, son of Prince Ivan Obolenskiy, arrived with haste from the Varkharchinskaya Horde to represent the Lithuanians and the Cherkassians.”*

A curious detail is that year 122 “since Adam” is indicated sans millennia (seven in the thousands place is omitted). This year corresponds to 1614 A.D. on the modern chronological scale, since 7122 = 5508+1614. This “millenarian abbreviation” had been used in the old documents as a rule. There is no chronological confusion in the present case – however, if the document had related unfamiliar events, one could easily “extend” Russian history into the distant past, dating it to 614 instead of 1614, for instance.

Another interesting observation is as follows. The Lithuanian and Cherkassian troops are referred to as the Horde; the Russian word used is “*gorda*” and not the more common “*orda*”. This spelling might shed some light over the etymology of the English word Horde, for instance. The word “horror” must be of a similar origin – this is how the Horde became reflected by the sweet-sounding “ancient” Latin (see [237], page 480). As for Russian, the word “*gordiy*”, or “proud”, is also very likely to be a derivative of the word “*gorda*”.

Let us however return to the ancient Russian handwriting styles and recollect the fact that many of the ancient coins found in Russia have illegible inscriptions that are declared Arabic (see CHRON5, Chapter 2). The Arabic origin of these letters can only be estimated from the shape of the letters, that does indeed look Arabic. However, attempts to read the inscriptions as Arabic texts have failed, and that is why they were called illegible in the first place. However, the Russian handwriting of the late XVI – early XVII century, which often strongly resembles the Arabic script visually, brings us to the thought that all these “illegible inscriptions” on coins are in Russian.