

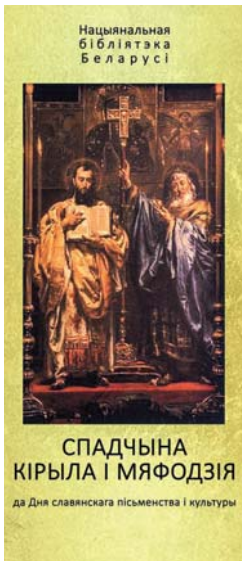
# Rich spiritual heritage of two enlightening brothers

## Book exhibition about the heritage of Kirill and Mefody opens at the National Library

By Natalia Yemelyanova

On May 24th, many countries of Eastern and Southern Europe remember the great Slavonic enlighteners, Kirill and Mefody, while, in Belarus, this day is celebrated as the Day of Slavonic Written Language and Culture.

In this regard, the National Library has prepared a book exhibition, entitled *The Heritage of Kirill and Mefody*, to show the importance of the work of these enlightenment brothers for the development of European civilisation. The event showcases around fifty documents printed within 120 years. They include the original editions of Josef Dobrovský, Ivan Malyshevsky and Piotr Lavrovsky — the first researchers of the life of Kirill and Mefody. In addition, works by Russian and Western European authors are also on display, as are the first Kirill-and-Mefody collections and textbooks in the Church Slavonic language. The expo-



sition is augmented with a facsimile edition of the Ostromir Gospel (1056-1057), the Anthology of Svyatoslav (1073) and the Turov Gospel — the oldest manuscript in Belarus (11th century).

In 863, the Prince of Great Moravia, Rostislav, invited missionaries from Byzantine to translate the Bible and introduce divine services in the Slavonic language. For this purpose, the brothers Kirill and Mefody created the Slavonic alphabet and translated the Bible into the Old Slavonic language. In this way, the peoples of the Southern and part of Central and Eastern Europe received access to the unique spiritual heritage of ancient civilisations.