

Студ. К. А. Картенович
Науч. рук. преп. А. П. Савчанчик
(кафедра межкультурных коммуникаций и технического перевода БГТУ)

FRANCYSK SKARYNA

Francysk Skaryna is a Belarusian and East Slavic pioneer printer.

He was born into a well-to-do merchant's family in Polotsk. There, at the age of 14, he came to study in Krakow. In 1504, Skaryna was registered as a student of the Jagellonian University, where he received a bachelor's degree. A little later, he received a PhD in medicine of the University of Padua in Italy.

Francysk Skaryna is considered to be one of the outstanding historical figures of Belarus. He made a great contribution to the development of linguistic culture. Belarusians were the first among the Eastern Slavs to get their own printing, and it was Francysk Skaryna who published the book "Psalter" on August 6, 1517 in Prague.

During his life, Francysk Skaryna made 23 publications. He developed a font with a clear image, began to separate words from each other printing together only prepositions with nouns. He introduced punctuation marks to indicate pauses, and began to enumerate the sheets in Cyrillic letters. Francysk Skaryna attached the title pages with the headlines of the work as well as the time of publication to his publications. Korenovskii edition is rich with engravings illustrating the biblical text. The Skaryna Bible does not fully correspond to any known manuscript or printed codices of the Holy Scripture. It differs from Church traditions not so much in its composition and content as in its General orientation, lively spirit and secular Christian elation. Francysk Skaryna also consistently used uppercase letters-initials at the beginning of sections, and the same capital letter in different places of the text appeared in several versions. He used capital letters in geographical names and proper names. In his books, the length of lines and the proportionate relations of fields and text were equal. He also made footnotes in the margins that explained the meaning of words that might be unclear to ordinary people. These footnotes can be called the first dictionary. In books intended for a wide range of readers, Skaryna used prefaces and afterword, in which he described the content of sections, individual concepts, and explained "dark" phrases.

Francysk Skaryna made the greatest contribution to the development of Belarusian printing. His books are on the same level with the best European publications, which were produced at the highest level of medieval printing technology.