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Art and Literature Exhibit featuring the Blessed Virgin at the Marian Library

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MARY AND THE EASTERN CHURCHES

DAYTON, Ohio, December 5, 1968 --- The Marian Library at the University of Dayton has recently mounted an exhibit of art and literature showing the place of the Blessed Virgin in the life of the Eastern Churches. Prominently featured are two Russian icons from the library's own collection. The earlier one, dating from the seventeenth century, pictures Mary under the title Our Lady of the Sign. The other, a much later work, shows her as Our Lady of Loving Tenderness. This latter is probably the most popular among the many different types of Marian images honored in the East.

Historical accounts of icons, some of them honored for many centuries, are found in the Greek and Russian books selected for the display. The earliest of these imprints, a compilation of Greek hymns printed in 1724, contains the story of the icon known as Our Lady of Kassiopia. Another booklet, printed at Smyrna in 1847, tells of a miracle wrought by the image of Our Lady of Myrtidiotissa; and one dated at Athens in 1857 gives the history of Our Lady of the Gate, the Portaitissa, venerated at the Iviron monastery on Mt. Athos since perhaps the ninth century.

In addition to these and other like accounts, there is an anthology in Russian of Marian sermons published in Moscow in 1886. Translations from the Greek Fathers comprise the bulk of the volume, but there are also two very beautiful discourses by Dimitri of Rostov, probably the most noted theologian in Russia during the seventeenth century.

To convey some idea of the confidence in Mary's intercession that characterizes this literature, brief extracts in English have been appended to a number of the notes identifying the various books. An appropriate setting for these writings has been provided by the icons previously mentioned and also by brilliant color reproductions depicting Slavic and Byzantine versions of several Marian themes popular in Eastern Church art.

Visitors are cordially invited to see the exhibit which will remain on view until December 20th.