

## **St. Petersburg University, Bibliotheca Biblica and the Department of Biblical Studies**

### **Report about the Activity 2012-2013**

#### **1. Transportation and Correspondence**

The custom regulations permit sending book packages to 15 kg by weight. The only limitation: *no financial documents are to be enveloped*. In this case the package becomes an object of custom's interest that produces a long official process and rather high taxes.

The mail address:

Prof. A. Alexeev. Bibliotheca Biblica  
Faculty of Philology  
St. Petersburg University  
Universitetskaya nab. 11 (= University Embankment, 11)  
199034 St. Petersburg.

*The most part of periodicals till now comes to the previous address. We expect EELC distribute this information among the publishers.*

For e-mail correspondence the following addresses are to be used:

Anatoly A. Alexeev [alexeev.anatoly@gmail.com](mailto:alexeev.anatoly@gmail.com) or [a.alexeev@spbu.ru](mailto:a.alexeev@spbu.ru)

Alexandra (Sasha) Mashtakova, senior lector and the secretary of the Department  
[a.mashtakova@mail.ru](mailto:a.mashtakova@mail.ru)

#### **2. Books and Library work**

During the year a number of books and periodicals is received by mail from Finland (the donation of Karl-Gustav Sandelin and the late pastor Antti Saarela's family), Switzerland (from Uric Luz) and by vehicles from Germany (4 boxes sent by Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr). In total 300 books were added to the electronic list (catalogue). Many thanks for all these persons.

The number of readers was 156, among them 128 outsiders.

In April new Director of the Library Dr. Natalja Stenina, appointed by the Main University Library, began her activity at the Department. Her first task is to prepare all documents necessary to make the University the owner of the Library formally. According to SPb University's library regulation we use now the computer-aided library system IRBIS; the full list of the periodicals will be ready till the end of the year.

#### **3. Teaching**

During a year no serious changes have been introduced to the curricula.

In September of 2012 six outsiders were enrolled to the Department for master curriculum (some of them came from Siberia and Moscow); we take this as a positive mark of growing authority of the Department.

Two persons defended master's theses and received master's degree. The topics were: The God's Names in the Aramaic Targum of Genesis; Three Portraits of Ezekiah (Isaiah, 2Sam and 2Chron).

Two persons defended bachelor's theses and received bachelor's degree to be enrolled to the master's program.

Prof. Dr. Marcello Garzaniti (Department of Slavic Studies, Florence University) gave lecture "The Itinerary as Theology".

The project of a lection cycle of our colleagues from Helsinki and other Finnish Universities for the Department's students is yet under discussion with Prof. Dr. Ismo Dunderberg.

#### **4. Scholarly Activities**

In March, 2013, the Annual conference of the Faculty had in its schedule the section 'Bible and Christian Literature' with three sessions and 15 speakers. Among the participants two papers of Slavonic Bible were presented by the colleagues from Germany and Bulgaria. Resumes of the papers are published on the Faculty's Internet site in Russian and English.

Some members of the Department took part in the scholarly session of the SPb Judaica Institute (December, 2012), the conference of the SPb Christian University "On the NT Parables" (March, 2013). In both cases publication of the papers is expected.

In April, eight students (bachelors and masters) took part in the Annual Faculty Student Conference.

#### **5. On the collaboration with Dmitry Bulanin Publishing House (hereafter DB)**

For some months we have been negotiating with DB on establishing joint book series *Biblia Continua* including also a year-book of the same title. The title means the Bible itself together with the all forms of Judean and Christian writings (Apocryphal, Liturgical, Chronographic, Rabbinic, Patristic, etc.) is the object of our interest. In addition to the members of the Department there are now some postgraduate students able to pursue research work and regularly publish papers on the topic. Today we distribute our papers among different scholarly centers and different periodicals, it makes our activities as a scholarly institution unobtrusive. Besides, the year book is a perfect form of international scholarly activities, since in today's Russia the English language is in wide use, whereas international periodicals are not readily available. Finally, the book review and bibliography section is important for scholarly development of this new for our country academic discipline. The first books to be published in the series are Nikita Meshchersky's (my university's mentor) lectures on the history of Byzantine Hymnography, about 400 pages, and Martin Noth's Israel History, the only 20th century's Old Testament study that has survived the Qumran overturn.

In the 2012 SPb Bibliotheca biblica report I mentioned two our books published by DB, they are *The Holy Scripture as a Factor of the Language and Literature Development* and *NT Textual Criticism and Nestle-Aland-27*. The expenses of both publication were covered by DB, we received 50 free copies in both cases. Meshchersky's and Noth's books will be also published by DB in 2013 with no financial support of the Department either the University. However we need money for payment of further translations as well as editorial work in case of the year book and some serious philological investigations and critical editions of ancient texts, so I have posed before the Faculty question of financial support of this project. I believe internalization of the project will be helpful for its success.

12 July 2013