

## **Report on the activities of Biblical Library Sofia (*Bibliotheca biblica*) July 2010 - June 2011**

**Ivan Dimitrov**

I have the pleasure to report to the members of EELC/SNTS for more year in the development and activity of the *Bibliotheca biblica* in Sofia. The year past was marked by a new growth in numbers of books. From July 2010 till July 2011 in BB – Sofia were received totally 250 library units. That includes 175 books, 74 issues of periodicals and 1 CD-ROM. The majority of the new received books again is in German – 106, 46 are in English, 4 in Greek, 2 in French, 1 in Russian, 1 in Latin, 12 books in Bulgarian, 1 in Serbian, 1 in the official language of Republic of Macedonia. Among the donors were listed the names of the professors K.-W. Niebuhr, W. Scott, U. Luz, D. Moessner, M. Ebner, S. Tofana, A. Hubanchev, Sl. Valchanov, I. Dimitrov.

Every month a list of the received books etc. has been sent to prof. Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr, president of the Eastern Europe Liaison Committee (EELC) of SNTS for information. Also the donators of books receive from us a letter of gratitude for their donation, which informs them for the reception of the books.

Last year a big part of the newly received books is from the donated library of the late prof. Herwig Aldenhoven from the *Christkatholische Fakultät* in Bern, Switzerland. My OT colleague Dr. Ivailo Naidenov brought them in June after his visit to the Theological Faculty. I am grateful to the colleagues in Bern, who selected the books of the late professor, so we did not receive any duplicates.

In our BB are now 8509 library units (over 6182 books, 2276 periodicals and 51 CDs). This growth is relatively good, despite of the limited finances of the EELC.

The users of the books in BB come as in previous periods from the Faculties of Theology of the Universities in Bulgaria, they are not only Orthodox, but also Protestants and Catholics. In our work with students Master degree in biblical studies we strongly recommend and even urge the students to use the books in BB. Our Biblical library was visited also by colleagues from neighbouring countries including Greece (Thessaloniki).

The users can read the books in the library or copy the needed texts in the office of the library. We do not allow the users to borrow books outside of the library.

The main information for the users of the library about the existing books and periodicals provide the *Gesamtkatalog*, as well as the ready-part of the Allegro-catalogue. Also the catalogues sent to BB by publishers are at the disposal of the users.

In the electronic catalogue system Allegro are catalogued almost all the books (97%). The librarian makes also an inventory book, sets the library seal on every book, puts the inventory number and the press-mark. Absolutely all books have been included in the inventory book, have a seal, a number and a press-mark.

I am glad to inform you about two initiatives of the board of BB. On 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2010, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the new academic year, was conducted a “day of open doors” of the BB, which had a good success. The library was visited by a large number of students and also people outside of the Faculty. The second was a Biblical conference, which took place in December 2010, organized by the members of *Collegium biblicum*, always on the basis of the rich bibliography provided by the BB in Sofia. In the conference participated students in the three stages of education (bachelor, master and doctor). As a desire remains the possibility of on-line use of the Allegro-catalogue of the books in our BB.

2011, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Prof. Ivan Dimitrov, Director of BB in Sofia