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Report about the Activities of the *Eastern Europe Liaison Committee* (EELC) of SNTS (1995-2007)

I Aims

The main objective of the Eastern Europe Liaison Committee (EELC) of SNTS is to develop and to support Biblical research and academic teaching of Biblical studies in Eastern Europe with special regard to the Orthodox Christian tradition. Included in its aims is the promotion of exchanges between „western“ and Orthodox Biblical scholarship. The EELC also seeks to create and improve conditions for more Biblical scholars from Eastern European countries to become members of the SNTS. One of the most important projects is to build up and enlarge scholarly libraries for Biblical studies in Eastern Europe (Bibliotheca Biblica in St. Petersburg and in Sofia).

II Activities

- 1995 Establishing a Group for Eastern Europe at the SNTS General Meeting in Prague
- 1997 Opening of Biblical Libraries in St. Petersburg and Sofia
- 1998 First International Symposium of „Western“ and Orthodox Biblical scholars in Neamț Monastery (Romania)
- 2000 Establishment of an Institute for Biblical Studies at the Philological Faculty of St. Petersburg State University (BA and MA program)
- 2001 Second International Symposium in Rila Monastery (Bulgaria)
- 2002 Foundation of the *Collegium Biblicum Bulgaricum* in Sofia (Bulgaria)
- 2005 Establishment of the Center for Biblical studies at Babes-Bolyai-University Cluj-Napoca (Romania)
- 2005 Third International Symposium in St. Petersburg (Russia)
- 2006 Foundation of the Association of Biblical Scholars in Romania
- 2007 Fourth International Symposium in Sambata Monastery (Romania)
- 2008 Publication of the first volume of *Bibliotheca Biblica Series* (Translation into Russian of E. Zenger [Ed.], Einleitung in das Alte Testament)

III Plans

- Extension of the Biblical Libraries in St. Petersburg und Sofia
- Support of translations and publications of important textbooks and scholarly monographs for Biblical studies in Russian (*Bibliotheca Biblica Series*)
- Training and developing scholarly qualification in Biblical studies of younger scholars from Eastern Europe
- Continuation of the International Symposia of „western“ and orthodox Biblical scholars (planned: Minsk [Belarus] 2010)

IV Received Funding

- *For the Biblical Libraries in St. Petersburg und Sofia*

in Germany: € 78.000
in Switzerland: € 40.000
in the USA: € 20.000
in Great Britain: € 15.000

in sum: € 153.000

- *For the International Symposia*

Neamt € 4.500
Rila € 15.000
St. Petersburg € 30.000
Sambata € 8.000

in sum: € 57.500

- *For the publication of translations into Russian*

in Germany € 5.000
in Switzerland € 18.000

in sum: € 23.000

- *Donations from members of SNTS (among others)*

Germany € 15.000
Switzerland € 16.000
Scandinavia € 5.000
Netherlands € 1.000

in sum: € 37.000

- *Donations of private scholarly book collections*

Neville Birdsall ca. 4.000 monographs
Nikolaus Walter ca. 2.000 monographs, ca. 500 issues of Journals
Manfred Weise ca. 1.500 monographs, ca. 500 issues of Journals
Anton Vögtle ca. 1.500 issues of Journals
Manfred Lehmann-Habeck ca. 500 monographs

- *Donations of books and reductions from publishers (among others: Eerdmans, Scholars Press, Mohr Siebeck, de Gruyter, Katholisches Bibelwerk, Fribourg University Press)*

- *Donations of books from SNTS members for the Biblical Libraries*

V Stock of Biblical Libraries (07/2007)

- St. Petersburg:

ca. 14.000 monographs, ca. 6.000 issues of Journals, ca. 50 electronic items

- Sofia:

ca. 4.000 monographs, ca. 5.700 issues of Journals, ca. 50 electronic items