

SPb Bibliotheca Biblica and Department of Biblical Studies in 2008-2009

Transportation and correspondence

The custom regulations permit sending book packages to 15 kg by weight. There is only one 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 Library uses the Faculty's portal, its address: www.philarts.spbu.ru Bibliotheca biblica. All the materials are in Russian; the most part of the book catalogue is exposed also.

The e-mail address is: bbspb@yandex.ru.

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Books

During the year small number of books and periodicals are received by mail and catalogued. Some dozen books in Russian bought by the Faculty. The total number of volumes is close to 18.000, including 3.500 periodicals and 2.500 in Russian.

The most significant dispatsh is received through Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr and pastor Matthias Zierold. Its first part consists of books bought by Ulrich Luz, it concludes Corpus christianorum (102 vols), Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium (140 vols) and Patrologia orientalis (56 vols). The other part consists of some hundred volumes collected by K.-W.Niebuhr. The books came to SPb with no accompanying list, till now we could not make catalogue of it.

New book shelves are received sufficient for 6 thousand volumes.

Library work

The work of cataloguing of this great dispatsh is only in its very beginning since Natasha Vasilieva married and gave birth to a daughter. Another librarian, Lidia Lukintsova, postgraduate student, has duty is processing the periodicals and helping to readers, whose number is even more than in previous years (about 260).

We hope in some months Natasha Vasilieva, who received library training at Jena University and began to use Allegro Program for cataloging, will return to this work. We received from Sophia Bibliotheca biblica the Allegro catalogue to use it as pattern in SPb. Sasha Mashtakova, one of the best our postgraduate students who received master degree at the Department in December 2008, in September will come to the Library as Librarian.

Teaching

Teaching process has suffered but not great changes. We have limited the number of auditorium hours by maximum 30 per a week and enlarged the volume of unassisted work using as base the Library.

Four female students have graduated from the Department after 5-year education program. Three of them at the same time married and gave birth to childs so their professional future is not clear (Natasha Visilieva is expected to come back as a librarian); the fourth one left Russia for Canada. Five other students after 4-year education program received bachelor's degree and will stay at the Department for two-year master program. Two or three outsiders from other departments of the Faculty pretending to be enrolled for master curricula will take exams in August.

During the academic year four post-graduated students prepared their master theses and received the master degree:

- Sasha Mashtakova (enrolled for 5-year education in 2002). «Melkizedek's Apocryphal Circle in Hebrew, Greek and Slavonic Sources».
- Violetta Danko (enrolled for 5-year education in 2002). «The First [and only] Hebrew/Aramaic – Russian Lexicon to the OT by Osia Steinberg (Wilna, 1876)».
- Maria Oganessova (enrolled for 2-year master curricula in 2006). «The OT Penitence Terminology».
- Timur Shchukin (enrolled for 2-year master curricula in 2006). «Michael Psellus on Canticum canticorum».

Stuff

In 2008 the Department had only three budget places held by Prof. Elena Meshcherskaya, senior lector Tatiana Tkachova and myself. In September 2008 two other budget places of senior lector are added to the Department and held by Kyrill Bitner (Buettner) and Alexander Sizikov. In September 2009 else one place is expected for Ekatherina Druzhinina, lector of Greek.

We have also four part-time teachers: Prof. Lora Gerd (Greek Paleography and Fathers, the Act of Apostles), docent Jury Vartanov (History of Israel, Isaiah, Jeremiah), docent Adel Nemirovskaya (Hebrew, Psalms), archim. Jannuary Ivliev (Paul's Epistles).

Scholarly activities

The Bible Seminar had but few monthly sessions, since in the first semester I had health problems, while in the second one I spend some weeks in Germany (Wuerzburg) as grant holder of KAAD (Katholische Akademische Auslaender Dienst, Bonn). KAAD proposed to me to act as its representative in Russia in distributing scholarships among Russian Orthodox students. In September I am going to address to K.-W. Niebuhr for help in supervising some of them.

In March the Annual conference of the Faculty had in its schedule the section “Bible and Christian Literature” with four sessions and 30 speakers. Unfortunately our plan to publish papers of the Annual Conferences 2007 and 2008 (including the lectures given by Ulrich Luz and Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr in 2003) as separate book is not yet realized, since our publisher met some unsolvable financial problems.

The International Conference “The Holy Scripture as Literature and Factor of Language and Literature Development” with about 30 speakers took place at the Department at the end of June. The papers were on Quran, Hebrew and Greek Bible, Syriac, Coptic and Slavonic Versions.

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

As in the previous years some students take part in summer archeological expeditions in Northern Black Sea region and Crimea where antic Greek as well as Jewish remnants exist. In July one of the students, Anna Hanina, is send to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for three-week archeological practice in Palestine.

At the end of 2008 my book based on my lectures for the University students “The Bible in Liturgy. Byzantine-Slavonic Lectionary” was published in Russian. It gives description of structure of the Constantinople Lectionary and proves that it was composed at the time of Trullian Synod of 692.

Anatoly Alexeev, 9 July 2009