

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

### **Report about the Activity 2009-2010**

#### **1. 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. It was the case of University of Oslo donation. About two hundred books of the late Prof. Boeckmann were sent as donation while the others were appraised at a rather low price of 100 Norwegian Krone for a parcel. In result this portion of books came back to Oslo since I was not able to make all the necessary papers and pay all the necessary taxes in time.

The Library uses the Faculty's portal, its address: [www.philarts.spbu.ru](http://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 [bbspb@yandex.ru](mailto:bbspb@yandex.ru).

The mail address: Prof. A. Alexeev. Bibliotheca biblica. St. Petersburg University.

5<sup>th</sup> Linea 66. 199178 St. Petersburg, Russia. I am afraid the removal to another building could take place in the next academic year.

#### **2. 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 18.500, including 3.500 periodicals and 2.500 in Russian. The most important entry was that of the late Prof. Boeckmann. Some additional bookshelves are booked.

#### **3. Library work**

The library has computer catalogue of all the books. The use of Allegro Program is to be postponed till Natasha Vasilieva come back after her maternity leave. At the moment we have two part-time librarians, Sasha Mashtakova and Lida Lukincova. The total number of registered readers is over 130, and only 36 being members and students of the Department.

#### **4. Teaching**

There are no changes of the curricula and teaching process.

Four students have graduated from the Department after 4-year bachelor education program and stay with us for two-year master curricula. There is else one budget paid place at master department, and somebody from outsiders will be enrolled for master curricula in September.

During the academic year two post-graduated student have prepared master theses and received master degree. The first is Daniel Samoylenko, who studied two modern Russian translations of Ecclesiastes; he works for Russian Bible Society as consultant of theology for the translation of OT into the Buryat Language and now is invited to be teacher of Hebrew and Greek at the SPb Christian University. The other is Vladimir Ivanov, who received his bachelor degree at the Pedagogical University and successfully prepared his master theses at the Department. His work is connected with theory and history of Bible Translation being based on four English versions

of Mathew. He has received part time job at Russian Bible Society and is going to prepare PhD theses at the University.

*Violetta Danko* who received her master degree in 2009 also works for Russian Bible Society.

*Sasha Mashtakova* teaches Greek and Hebrew at Lutheran Evangelical School of Novosaratovka (in SPb environs).

Together with Prof. Ismo Dunderberg (Helsinki) we have prepared a plan of 10 lectures on NT to be read by visitors of Finland. Till now the plan has no financial basis, probably it could be realized in 2011-12 academic year.

## 5. Staff

In September 2009 the Department had got else one place for Ekatherina Druzhinina, lector of Greek. There are now six budget places: two professors (Elena Meshcherskaya and myself) and four (with Druzhinina) senior lecturer: Tatiana Tkachova (Slavonic), Kyrill Bittner (Semitic Languages), Alexander Sizikov (Bible Translation, Bible Semantics).

Four part-time teachers: Prof. Dr. Lora Gerd (Greek Paleography and Fathers, the Act of Apostles), Docent Dr. Jury Vartanov (History of Israel, Isaiah, Jeremiah), Docent Dr. Adel Nemirovskaya (Hebrew), Prof. Archim. Jannuary Ivliev (Paul's Epistles, NT Exegesis).

## 6. Scholarly activities

The Bible Seminar had six sessions with papers:

Adel Nemirovskaya. Ancient Archeological Monuments of South-East Turkey.

Anna Khanina. Archeology of Ancient Israel [our student who participated in summer archeological expedition of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem]

Dr. Thomas Kauth (United Bible Society). Law Language of the NT

Dr. Dmitry Bumazhnov (Tuebingen). 1) Monotheism and Ecclesiology; 2) Mystical Monotheism; 3) Monotheism and Political Theology.

In March the Annual conference of the Faculty had in its schedule the section "Bible and Christian Literature" with four sessions and 32 speakers. 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.

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

University Publishing House has received for publication two books prepared at the Department:

Nikita A. Meshchersky. Byzantine and Slavonic Liturgical Poetry [lectures red in the 1980-s at the University and prepared by some of his students under editorship of Elena Meshcherskaya]

Anatoly Alexeev. Greek New Testament as published by Nestle-Aland [a handbook contains essay on the history of NT textual criticism and Russian version of NA<sup>27</sup> Introduction]

The Faculty gives financial support for textual study of the Slavonic Gospels. John was published in 1998 with support of German Bible Society, Mathew – in 2006 with support of different sources, and now Mark and Luke are to be prepared for publication in winter of 2010/11.

6 July 2009, Anatoly Alexeev