

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

Report about the Activity 2010-2011

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.

The Library uses the Faculty's portal, its address: www.philarts.spbu.ru Bibliotheca biblica. All the materials are in Russian; the book catalogue is exposed also.

The e-mail address bbspb@list.ru.

The mail address: Prof. A. Alexeev. Bibliotheca biblica. St. Petersburg University.
5th Linea 66. 199178 St. Petersburg, Russia.

After removal to the building of Faculty that is expected in July the address is as follows:
Universitetskaya nab. [= the University Embankment] 11, 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia.

2. Books

During the year small number of books and periodicals is received by mail and catalogued. The Library possesses 12801 volumes in the European Languages (against 12598 in 2010), and 2029 in Russian (against 2103 in 2010). The short cut of the last figure is explained by exception in course of the inventory of some offprints in Russian alien to the Library collection. The number of periodical is 3756 units (against 3748 in 2010).

About 20 boxes of books that came to the Library (among them a valuable collection of the late pastor Antti Saarela of Helsinki) have not yet included in the list because of the inventory.

In course of the inventory the loss of about 30 books was exposed. Being a library of direct access of all the readers, *Bibliotheca biblica* meets some of the following up problems. Our consolation is that according to the Russian library standard the quantity of books lost could be to 0.9% in 15 years of the period of work, that is about 180 volumes (the standard is for libraries with access only through librarians).

At the present all the books are packed to boxes and ready for transportation.

3. Library work

The main event of the year was the inventory carried out in two or three months by two librarians of the Fundamental University Library. It was done with no care and established the wrong number of 611 lost books. This unverified result was used by the new Rector's office for a kind of bureaucratic struggle with Dean Bogdanov. Only Karl-Wilhelm's letter to Rector of March, 21 stopped using Library in this struggle.

The idea of removal of the Library to the Faculty building is also belongs to Rector's office. We cannot appeal against since at the present the Library occupies the University hostel's premises that are to be used according to its intended purposes.

The premises we are receiving for books at the Faculty's building are not less of today's ones and can be expanded in time; however we'll lose all the study rooms and will share the Faculty rooms with the other departments.

Director of the Fundamental University Library, Mrs. Natalia Mantseva, proposes the following plan of reordering the situation. Bibliotheca biblica keeps its present status fixed in the agreements of 1997 and 2003; together with this it becomes a sector (department) of the Fundamental Library, my position will be that of scholarly supervisor of Bibliotheca being in subordination of the Vice-Rector for Research. Bibliotheca will receive one or two librarians for readers' service and catalogizing and necessary equipment. The plan seems reasonable.

At the moment we have two librarians (formally, Department's assistants), Sasha Mashtakova and Lida Lukincova. In course of the inventory they acted drastically and selflessly.

The total number of registered readers is 154, of them 34 being Department's members and students.

Vladimir Ivanov, our postgraduate student, is charged to run contacts with the Electronic Library Project of Johannesburg University.

4. Teaching

There are no great changes of the curricula and teaching process.

In June four (she) students have graduated from the Department with master's degree.

Darja Krukova. Her thesis is on pre-Luther translations of the Sermon on the Mount. She received a half-time place in the National Library, Department of the Old Printed books and will be enrolled as aspirant of the Institute of Linguistics, the Russian Academy of Sciences. The theme of future doctorate – study and publication of the 15th century German MS Psalter of the National Library.

Elena Strelnikova. Her thesis is devoted to liturgical structure of three Greek MSS of Byzantine NT Lectionary. Having received an artistic education in her secondary school years she reveals interest and ability to paleography. Some month ago she was invited a half-time collaborator at the MSS Depot of the National Library, sector of Greek MSS, where took part in electronic edition of Codex Sinaiticus that was carried by British Museum, Leipzig University Library and the National Library, SPb.

Tatjana Nicevich. Her master thesis is on the Early Catholicism in the NT Text, the topic till now unfamiliar to Russian Biblical scholarship.

Julia Tushnova. She got bachelor's degree of Classical Philology, and then spent two years at the Department studying Hebrew and Bible Theology. Her master thesis is on comparison of Ecclesiastes and NT salvation concepts.

My contacts with *Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer-Dienst* (Bonn) started in 2009 and terminated this winter by setting up the Russian *Partnergremium*. KAAD proposes from one to three year scholarships for doctoral thesis. I recommend to German colleagues all our postgraduate students as capable and perspective scholarly researchers.

5. Staff

As at the previous academic year the Department has six budget places: two professors (Elena Meshcherskaya and myself) and four senior lecturer: Tatiana Tkachova (Slavonic Studies),

Ekatherina Druzhinina (Greek), Kyrill Bittner (the Semitic Languages, Talmud, Bible Archeology), Alexander Sizikov (Bible Translation, Bible Semantics). Sasha Mashtakova, being an assistant, began teaching Greek. Salary of teachers without scholarly degree was raised in May at 50% and now is about 500 USD.

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

6. Scholarly Activities

In March, 15-18 the Annual conference of the Faculty had in its schedule the section "Bible and Christian Literature" with four sessions and 26 speakers; 7 of this number were from SPb Christian University.

In April, 8 students (bachelors and masters) took part in the Annual Faculty Student Conference. Some of them presented their papers to student's scholarly sessions of St. Petersburg Spiritual Academy and Moscow University. For the two day seminar based on papers of the EELC Minsk Symposium, September, 2010, the latter were translated into Russian to be published in Minsk.

In March-August, 2011, I take part in the work of scholarly group 'Cultural Archeology. Jewish-Slavic Cultural Connections of the Late Middle Ages' (Institut of Advanced Studies, the Hebrew University). Besides study of the Old Russian translations of Hebrew sources (Esther, Song of Songs, Josippon, Apocrypha on Moses, Solomon, Zerubbabel, etc.) I work at the Jerusalem National and University Library to update my lectures on Introduction to the Bible with new scholarly literature. Every month one or two weeks I spend at SPb.

6 July 2011

Prof. Anatoly Alexeev