

Report

on the activities of Biblical Library (Bibliotheca biblica) – Sofia July 2014 – June 2015

After 17 years of existence, Bibliotheca biblica at Sofia University approved itself as a desirable and preferable place for scholarly studies of many and different researchers from various institutions - theologians, philologists, philosophers etc. The users have a different status: students (at various universities, not only in theology), academics, scientists, and teachers. For the period 2014-2015, the statistics of the library shows a slight increase compared to last year's visits by students, faculty members and guests, including from abroad (Craiova and Skopje) – about 450 users. They have used more than 1,300 books and periodicals. At the same time scanner services became more and more preferable and usable.

The available library fund amounts to 9771 library units, including 54 units electronic media, 7216 books and 2501 volumes of periodicals.

During the current period (July 2014 – June 2015) Bibliotheca Biblica received 121 library units, including 104 books and 17 volumes of periodicals. Classified by language the new library units are grouped as follows: German – 57, English – 8, Greek – 1, Romanian – 3, Bulgarian – 1, Dutch – 1, Arabic – 1, and 50 in Braille writing system.

In 2014 the newest translation of the Holy Bible into modern Bulgarian language was officially presented to the Bulgarian society. That translation is an achievement accomplished by Bulgarian Biblical scholars, most of which were members of the Sofia Theological faculty. On the base of BB and in close connection with this new Bible translation have started some research initiatives, like: 1. Database to the text of the newest translation of the Bible into modern Bulgarian language, containing difficult places, incorrect renderings and fluctuating linguistic terms; 2. An Index of *nomina personalia* in the new Bulgarian translation of the Bible. The results of the first project will be presented and submitted to the Bulgarian Bible Society for discussion and correction, in order to be taken into consideration for a next edition of the new translation. The mentioned Index of *nomina personalia* should be published as a volume of the “Biblical Library” series.

Under preparation is a volume with articles of biblical scholars, dedicated to the late colleague prof. Slavcho Valchanov, who passed away 3 years ago. He was a member of the board of Bibliotheca Biblica from its creation.

During his researching and lecturer's visit to Regensburg, Germany, prof. Naydenov had a meeting with prof. Nicklas who is responsible for the book delivery for the BBs. They have discussed the need of new books which should be bought.

In the last few days a contact was made with The “Theological Book Network”. After the registration we expect to receive new book donations.

Contributors and donators: prof. Chr. Dohmen, prof. K.-W. Niebuhr, prof. U. Luz, prof. T. Nicklas, prof. Dr. Konrad Huber, prof. H. Klein, prof. R. Kubat, prof. W. Thiel, the British Council Library in Sofia, prof. Ivan Dimitrov, prof. Ivailo Naydenov, prof. Emil Traichev, and others.

17th June 2015

Director of BB – Sofia
Prof. Ivaylo Naydenov