

Report on the activities of Bibliotheca biblica in Sofia (July 2008 - July 2009)

It was a good year for the Bibliotheca biblica in Sofia. In despite of the fact, that we had to replace the librarian Ivo Yanev, who started a doctoral program at the Faculty of Theology and was obliged to resign, the new librarian Mrs Ivelina Nikolova (from 1st of February 2009) made a very good start, working with no less diligence. Unfortunately because of the small salary it is difficult to have standing personnel in such positions.

From July 2008 till July 2009 in BB – Sofia were received totally 277 library units. That includes 225 books and 52 periodicals. Every month a list of the received books etc. is sent to prof. Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr, president of the Eastern Europe Liaison Committee (EELC) of SNTS for his information.

Last year the most of the books received came from different donations, a big part of them from the donated library of the late prof. Herwig Aldenhoven from the Christkatholische Fakultät in Bern. Mainly for that reason the majority of the received books last twelve months are in German language.

The book-stock of the library constantly grows up. There are now more than 6600 library units in it (over 4500 books, 2100 periodicals and 50 CDs). The growth is relatively slow, because of limited finances of the EELC. Nevertheless there is a donation of a library, which will bring a large number of books to our library. That is almost the entire library (about 1300 books) of the late Teacher from Halle, Germany, Traugott Holtz, donated to our library by the kind mediation of prof. Niebuhr. We expect the cargo next week (13-17.7.2009), kindly arranged by the Bulgarian priest in Regensburg and with the generous help of a Bulgarian Transportation Firm in Germany (*quo_logis GmbH – Berlin*).

The users of the books in BB come as in previous periods from the Faculties of Theology of the Universities in Sofia and Veliko Tarnovo. In the master degree program the professors of OT and NT make the students acquainted with the new literature in the disciplines they teach and give to the students semester theses, based on the existing literature in the BB. The new is, that colleagues professors from other faculties (of Philosophy, Philology etc.) of Sofia University encourage their students to work on theses with reference to the new literature in the BB. The main information for the users of the library about the existing books and periodicals provide the Gesamtkatalog, as well as the ready-part of the Allegro-catalogue. Also the catalogues sent to BB by publishers are at the disposal of the users.

In the electronic catalogue system Allegro are catalogued till now 4739 books. With priority the librarian Ivo Yanev and (from February 2009 the new librarian) Mrs. Ivelina Nikolova included in Allegro the new received books. Both of them work retrospectively, giving priority to the new received books. The librarian makes also an inventory book, sets the library seal on every book, puts the inventory number and the press-mark. Absolutely all books have been included in the inventory book, have a seal, a number and a press-mark. About 80% of the books have been included in the Allegro catalogue. We have a large number of Greek books, whose registration is now the task of the librarian.

I am looking for a possibility to send Mrs. Nikolova abroad for a short experience in a Central European Theological library with the intention to extend her capacity of librarian in a Bibliotheca biblica of SNTS. She finished her doctor thesis in Systematic Theology and soon will defend it in front of the Scholarly Council of Theology in Sofia.

2009, July 9th

Director of BB in Sofia – prof. Ivan Dimitrov