

Conference report “The Septuagint: a multilateral focus on the text”, Bratislava, April 22 – 23th, 2022

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The Theological Faculty of Trnava University organised in Bratislava between 22–23th April 2022 an international conference entitled: *The Septuagint: Multilateral focus on the text*.

The phenomenon of the Septuagint is a matter of interest for several areas of research – not only for the Old Testament scholar, but also for researchers of Hellenistic Judaism, patristic exegesis, translation theory and practice. The conference focused on the text of the Septuagint studied from various aspects: its reconstruction, the peculiarities of the language, lexical semantics in their relationship with the Semitic background and within the Greek-speaking, world, whether Jewish or Christian.

As expected, its multilateral focus attracted experts from various fields of research. The main speaker, Prof. Eberhard Bons from the Theological faculty of the University of Strasbourg, opened the conference with a presentation of the project: *The Historical and Theological Lexicon of Septuagint (HTLS)* exemplified in one entry in the coming volume 2.

This large-scale collective and inter-disciplinary project will aim to produce a new research tool: a multi-volume dictionary giving an article for each important word or word group of the Septuagint. Filling an important gap in the fields of ancient philology and religious studies, the dictionary will be based on original research at the highest scientific level. Laura Bigoni contributed with the case study: *Behind the scenes of HTLS: The case study of ἐντρέπω*.

Felix Albrecht from the Georg August University in Göttingen presented a project working on the basic textual tool for the experts on the Septuagint: *Editio critica maior des griechischen Psalters* based at the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

How the different textual witnesses change the understanding of the text were shown in the papers of Sigfried Kreuzer: *New insights in Samuel and Kings and the relevance for Septuagint studies* and Tim Lee: *The kaige Portions of Kingdoms*.

The contributions of Andrew Keenan: *Neologisms in LXX Jeremiah*, Tyler Horton: *Can You Lead a Ἐρπετόν to Water? The Subtle Use of “Creatures” in Genesis 1* and Miroslav Varšo: *Greek equivalents of Hebrew legal terms in Psalms 19 and 119* focused on the lexical semantics.

The history of the various translations within the Old Testament were addressed by the contributions of Július Pavelčík – Adam Mackerle – Viktor Ber: *The Law Concerning Witnesses (Deut 19:15-21): Comparing the Septuagint with the Masoretic Text, Vulgate and Targumim*. Jozef Jančovič discussed the case of the textual extensions in the Greek translation of the Hebrew text: *A Focus on Folly through Two Major Additions in the LXX Proverbs 9:12,18*.

The influence of the Septuagint on the New Testament texts were presented in the papers of František Ábel: *The Sense of the Term καταλλαγή in Isaiah 9:4: An analysis of the Greek rendering of the Hebrew allegory*; the implications for Contextual Reading of Paul's message and of Adam Kubiś: *The Septuagintal reading of Zec 12:10 and its use in the Gospel of John (19:37)*. The historical influence of the Greek texts in the period of the Church Fathers was examined by Clemens Weidmann: *Hoc Graecus codex indicat – Augustine Consulting the Greek Text of the Psalms* and Helena Panczová: *Greek superscriptions of Psalms: The mystery of the missing third day of the week*.

The paper of Ekaterina Druzhinina: *The citations from LXX (Ex 25:23-25) and the description of the table of shewbread in the Letter of Aristeas (Ep. Arist. 57-71)* gave special attention to the influences of the Septuagint on the ancient non-biblical document.

Different Translation Techniques and what we can learn about the peculiarities of the approach in the time of the translation, was the focus of the contributors James Aitken: *Greek Sirach as a transitional moment in Jewish Translation*; Robert Walker: *Interrogatives in the Greek Pentateuch: The Why of Translation Technique*, and Travis Wright: *Literalism and Left-Dislocation in the Greek Pentateuch*.

We are grateful to Helena Panczová from the Theological faculty of the Trnava University for the invitation of the best experts from different European Universities and institutions known for the long-term efforts in the field. Her ability to persuade such a number of specialists to accept the invitation is due not only to her personal charm but also to the high scientific appreciation of her publications and academic activities abroad.