



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
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FORLILPSI
DIPARTIMENTO DI FORMAZIONE,
LINGUE, INTERCULTURA,
LETTERATURE E PSICOLOGIA

Florence, 14 February 2022

Feast of St Cyril

Dear friends and colleagues!

Despite the pandemic, over the past few days we have been able to meet again and hold our committee meeting. Firstly, we should like to express my sympathy to all those affected by the pandemic and wish them a rapid and complete recovery.

You will find attached to this letter a brief account of our meeting, which took place as part of the Cyril-Methodian Readings organised by N.N. Zapol'skaja, to whom we would like to express my thanks. Even more than in previous years, this seminar was attended by numerous scholars from different countries and was characterised by the presence of topics related to the Slavonic Bible, its manuscript tradition and its legacy in different Slavic languages and cultures. We hope that our Commission will be able to meet again at the beginning of next year during the same seminar, which we hope will, at least in part, be held in the city of Florence. On that occasion we will be able to give the latest updates on the International Congress of Slavists in Paris (2023). We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all the information about this Congress is available at the address: <https://mks-paris.sciencesconf.org>

As you can read in the minutes, we are continuing our work of enlarging and consolidating our Commission by co-opting new members, also in view of a necessary generational turnover. Regarding the statute of our Commission, we would like to invite you to reflect in particular on the figure of the Honorary Member as proposed in the general Statute, which we have sent to everyone. People who have already reached the maximum retirement age could enter this category, remaining in all respects members of the Commission and accompanying the decisions taken by the



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full members with their advice. If there are any members who have long since directed their research to other areas and who have not published any contributions related to biblical studies in the Slavic field in recent years, they should send us their resignation before the beginning of next year (2023). Consideration will have to be given to creating a vice-president.

We can of course discuss these matters at next year's meeting scheduled for the beginning of 2023, but we could also meet at the end of this year, either remotely or in person if there is some conference or seminar related to biblical themes that would like to host us. On that occasion we could present the publication of the proceedings of our seminar on the Slavonic lexicon, which we would like to dedicate to the memory of H. Rothe and F. Thomson.

We should like to express my sincere thanks to all those who were present and spoke during the meeting, and we would like to urge everyone, at this time of transition in our Commission, to contribute their ideas and initiatives for promoting biblical studies in the Slavic sphere in their field of activity. We think it is clear to everyone that the Bible in its various Slavic versions plays a fundamental role in the development of all Slavic languages and literatures. And in this area much remains to be done.

We would like to remind everyone to check their data on the webpage of our Commission on the Cesecom portal. On this portal you will also find publications, presentations of other portals, news about conferences and seminars concerning not only the Slavic Bible, but in general the history of the cultures, literatures and languages of the Slavic world from the Middle Ages to the modern era. Anyone wishing to enrich this portal, which is also extremely useful for students, can of course send me proposals and materials. In recent years, we have endeavoured to make the Slavic world known beyond its borders and within a multilingual and multicultural horizon, without making exclusions, but this is not always an easy task in these times of closures and walls.



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Since 2013 we have met regularly and we have done so even in these times of general crisis in the humanities, in which it seems more complicated to develop cultural initiatives, despite the apparent facilities offered by the web. In the current circumstances, in which what divides is more evident than what unites, the message of peace and solidarity that runs through the entire Bible can only encourage us to continue our activities with serene conviction.

We greet you warmly,

Marcello Garzaniti and Tatyana I. Afanasyeva