

**„The Book of the Books”. The Memory of Belief  
Exhibition (10.02-25.02.2005)**

*Meda-Diana HOTEA  
Special collections  
"Lucian Blaga" Central University Library*

The theme of the exhibition was inspired by the reiteration of the classical syntagm from **St. John the Apostle's Evangel, 1,1** : „*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God and God was the Word*”<sup>5</sup>, that word, which we try to understand, try to draw nearer to ourselves, and in order to protect and preserve it, we clothe it into a book. This is an effort in which people identified themselves throughout centuries, and the most eloquent expression standing for it is the **Bible**, the book of the books.

The message, which we wanted to transmit, beyond the invitation for setting up the biblical exegetics, is one that concerns an appeal towards memory: to see the **Bible** the way our ancestors have conceived it. The path that we proposed to cover, unwinded on a chronological level throughout the fifteenth and twenty-first centuries, time in which the **Bible** appears under different aspects: copied or printed in traditional supports (parchment, paper) or inscripted on electronic support; from the *in folio* format of the incunabulum<sup>6</sup> to the Lilliputian<sup>7</sup> format of the bibliophile copy or the ultra-contemporaneous CD-ROM<sup>8</sup>. The diversification of the format and its evolution towards a size that facilitates the usage of the text reflects that the reading of the **Bible** as belonging to the section of private life, beyond the fragmentary reading of the text within the liturgical celebrations. This fact was facilitated under the impact of the Reform that initiated the translation of the holy book to the vernacular languages. Thus we can identify a large linguistic range: Hebraic, Latin, German, Hungarian, Romanian, range French, English.

The exhibition comprises 54 items and we would like to mention especially the facsimile edition of Gutenberg's **Bible**, also known under the denomination of *The Bible with 42 rows* or *Mazarin's Bible*; the rare

---

<sup>5</sup> **Biblia adică Dumnezeiasca Scriptură**, (The Bible, namely the Godly Scripture) Rimini, 1990, p.1192.

<sup>6</sup> See the Catalogue of the exhibition, nr.4.

<sup>7</sup> See the Catalogue of the exhibition, nr.43.

<sup>8</sup> See the Catalogue of the exhibition, nr.54.

editions of the **Bible** translated by Martin Luther; the first integral edition of the **Bible** in Romanian language, printed out in Bucharest in 1688 under the tutelage of Șerban Cantacuzino, in the translation of the brothers Șerban and Radu Greceanu.

The remarkable attention that the **Bible** got is also noticeable in the artistic boundings, which join the issues of the text. We are reminded here of the emblem of the Cluj bindery workshops, which is represented by the motif of the grenadine<sup>9</sup> or the silver investiture of the copy of the **New Testament** printed in Amsterdam in 1687.

The engravings that accompany the text occupy a special place, and we bring into prominence especially the copy printed in Nürnberg in the year of 1692<sup>10</sup> illustrated with steel engravings carried out in the workshop of Nicolai Vischer from Amsterdam after the drawings of Rubens, Jordaens, Bryn, Pieter de Jade.

*Hic incipit catalogus:*

1. **Biblia scholia**, s.l., sec.XV.
2. **Novum Testamentum**, s.l., sec.XV.
3. **Biblia latina**, s.l., 1450-1455. Ediție facsimil.
4. **Biblia latina**, Nurenbergae [Nürnberg], 1478.
5. **Biblia sacra**, Norembergae, [Nürnberg], 1527.
6. **Biblia alphabetica**, Coloniae [Köln], 1535.
7. **Uj Testamentum**, Uj Szigethben [Ujsziget], 1541.
8. **Biblia**, (The Bible), Colosvarba [Cluj], 1552.
9. **Heilige Schrift**, Wittemberg, 1567.
10. **Biblia latina**, Venetus [Veneția], 1571.
11. **Nouum Testamentum**, Lutetiae [Paris], 1569.
12. **Biblia**, (The Bible), Wittemberg, 1589.
13. **Az Szent Biblia**, (The Holy Bible), Vizsoly, 1590.
14. **Szent Biblia**, Oppenheimumban [Oppenheim], 1612.
15. **Testamentum Novum**, Hanoviae [Hanau], 1602.
16. **La Bible**, (The Holy Bible), Geneve [Geneva], 1622.
17. **Biblia Sacra**, Lugduni [Lyon], 1613.
18. **Biblia Sacra**, Venetiis [Veneția], 1627.
19. **Biblia Sacra**, Londini [Londra], 1640.
20. **Szent Biblia**, Amstelodamban [Amsterdam], 1645.
21. **Noul Testament**, Bălgrad [Alba Iulia], 1648.

---

<sup>9</sup> See the Catalogue of the exhibition, nr.19.

<sup>10</sup> Vezi Catalogul expoziției, nr.27.

22. **Noul Testament**, (The New Testament), Bălgrad [Alba Iulia], 1648. Facsimile edition.
23. **Uj Testamentoma**, (The New Testament), Amstelodamban [Amsterdam], 1687.
24. **Szent Biblia**, (The Holy Bible), Varadon [Oradea], 1661.
25. **Biblia**, (The Bible), București, 1688.
26. **Biblia**, (The Bible), București, 1688. Facsimile edition.
27. **Heilige Schrift**, tom II, Nürnberg [Nürenberg], 1692.
28. **Biblia hebraica**, Amstelaedami et Ultrajecti [Amsterdam, Utrecht], 1705.
29. **La Sainte Bible**, tom I, Amsterdam 1707.
30. **La Sainte Bible**, tom II, Amsterdam 1707.
31. **Astvadzașunci [Biblia armeană]**, s.l., 1735.
32. **Biblia**, (The Bible), Bugel [Biella], 1751.
33. **Biblia Sacra**, Venetiis [Venice], 1763.
34. **Szent Biblia**, (The Holy Bible), Basileaban [Basel], 1764.
35. **Szent Biblia**, (The Holy Bible), Basileaban [Basel], 1770.
36. **Biblia** (The Bible), Blaj, 1795.
37. **Biblia**, (The Bible), Blaj, 1795. Facsimile edition.
38. **Noul Testament**, (New Testament), Sankt-Petersburg, 1817.
39. **Noul Testament**, (New Testament), Mănăstirea Neamțul, 1818.
40. **Biblia**, (The Bible), Sankt-Petersburg, 1817.
41. **Noul Testament**, (New Testament), Sankt-Petersburg, 1819.
42. **Szent Biblia**, (The Holy Bible), Pesten, (Budapest) 1837.
43. **The Holy Bible**, Glasgow, 1896.
44. **Biblia**, (The Bible) Sibiu, 1856-1858.
45. **Biblia Sacra**, Paris, 1858.
46. **Les grandes heures de la Bible**, Paris, 1973.
47. **Die Bibel**, Frankfurt am Main, 1988.
48. **Biblia**, (The Bible), București, 1988.
49. **La Bible de Jérusalem**, Paris, 1988.
50. **Biblia**, (The Bible), Rimini, 1990.
51. **Hebrew Bible**, Jerusalem, 1990.
52. **Noul Testament**, (The New Testament), Oradea, 1995.
53. **Biblia**, (The Bible), București, 2001.
54. **Biblia**, (The Bible), București, 2004. Edition in electronic format – CD-Rom.

*Explicit hic totum*