

## REVIEWS

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### ***Canoanele Bisericii Ortodoxe, vol. I-III, Ediție bilingvă, Editura Basilica, București, 2018 (Studiu introductiv, introduceri, note și traducere de lect. univ. dr. pr. Răzvan Perșa)***

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The canonical collection comprises three volumes: vol. I. *The Apostolic Canons and the Canons of the Ecumenical Councils*; vol. II. *The Canons of the Local Councils*; vol. III. *The Canons of the Holy Fathers, Supplementary Canons and Canonical Prescriptions*, in bilingual edition, Greek and Romanian, translated from Greek by Fr. lecturer dr. Răzvan PERȘA, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Cluj-Napoca.

We welcome the appearance of this remarkable work in Orthodox Canon Law, which adds value to the interpretation and understanding of the Holy Canons. As the author himself states in the general introduction, “this translation attempts to adapt the canonical text to the linguistic, cultural and theological standards of our times” (p. 53).

The necessity and importance of this edition are to be found in the *Notes on the current edition* of the author, which emphasizes that “the importance of the current edition resides not only in the attempt to reproduce the canons by a translation as faithful as possible to

the original Greek, but still preserving the current level of the Romanian language, but also in the elements that make up this edition” (p. 77).

It is worth mentioning the constitutive elements of the work, a general introduction entitled *The Canons of the Church – Between Tradition and Topicality*, with six topics: current approaches to the meaning of the canons, the term *κωνὸν* - from the botanic meaning to the Tradition of the Church, why is a new translation of the Orthodox Church canons necessary, the development of canonical terminology and the Romanian translations, the issue of a Greek text that is critically edited and notes on the current edition, followed by an introduction to each group of canons, with a general bibliography, the origin of the respective canons, the date of writing, the text transmission and the reception of the canons in the West and East, the text and, very important for the present day researcher, the Greek text editions, translations in classical and modern languages and, last but not least, bibliography for the interpretation of the respective canons.

Moreover, in *Notes on the current edition* (pp. 77-80) from the general introduction, the author underlines the positive aspects of the work. Thus, “the introductions to each group of canons took into account the historical, doctrinal and canonical context of the occurrence of the canons” (p. 77), following “the reception and incorporation of the respective canons into the fundamental collection of the Orthodox Church, also considering issues related to the transmission and to the authenticity or lack of it in the case of some canons” (p. 77) while recalling “the latest research in the field, positively or critically appreciating certain newer theses” (p. 77).

Noteworthy are also the updated and the additional bibliography, the references to the Greek editions, the

editions of the translations of the canons in classical languages and the translations into modern languages, very useful for the interpretation of the canons. We also mention the bibliography for the particular interpretation of the canons that “contains the vast majority of the studies, articles and works that are dedicated to a particular canon and its interpretation” (pp. 79-80). As the author highlights, “this bibliography can be a fundamental tool for those who want to gain deeper insight into a particular canon” (p. 80).

Last but not least, an essential element is the concordance of the canons achieved by “comparing the references in the Athenian Syntagma, in *Joannou’s* edition and in the edition of Alivizatos” (p. 80).

We congratulate the author for the initiative and the effort made to achieve this canonical collection.

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