

Canon and Canonicity in the Bibles of Samuil Micu and Andrei Şaguna: Similarities, Differences and Controversies

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Abstract

This study analyses the relation between the Samuil Micu Bible and the Andrei Şaguna Bible from an isagogic perspective, with special reference to the canon and canonicity of the Holy Scripture books. We consider that such an analysis offers the possibility to make remarks on what the two Transylvanian translations of the Holy Scriptures have in common, but also what separates them, in order to facilitate the understanding of all the aspects that generated controversies when it comes to their relation. Although these controversies were aimed at the Biblical text of the two editions, there was one aspect that was overlooked, namely that the attitude toward the Biblical text was determined by factors of a more confessional nature, whose doctrine reflects two different traditions of reception of the Biblical canon. Therefore, the evaluation of the proportion in which the two Romanian editions of the Holy Scripture (the Samuil Micu Bible, 1795 and the Andrei Şaguna Bible, 1856-1858) reflect the canonical tradition specific to each Church and cultivate their own isagogy is fundamental in determining and understanding their relation.