EVALUATION STATEMENT

of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumen Zhivkov Boyadzhiev from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski "- Center for Slavo-Byzantine Studies" Prof. Ivan Duychev ”, the only candidate in the competition for the academic office: FULL PROFESSOR / Professional Field 2.2 History and Archaeology. History of Late Antiquity; Christian Prosopography.

Assoc. Prof. Rumen Boyadzhiev is a well-known and internationally recognized specialist in late antique and early medieval church history and prosopography (fourth-sixth centuries). He is the author of a voluminous, valuable and rewarding work that has received a worthy recognition. At the same time he is an authoritative lecturer in history at several humanities faculties at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

For his participation in this competition he presented two monographs: his doctoral dissertation “Early West European monasticism. The Benedictines and the East to the middle of the 11th Century ” (Sofia 1996) and the recently published book“ Lost *Africa sacra*. Late Antique North Africa 4th-6th c. (Sofia, 2019 ), as well as 11 more studies and articles, mainly devoted to late antique female monasticism, early Christian prosopography and symbolism.

The thematic unity in his research, on the one hand, is a guarantee of the sustainability of scientific interests and his systematic approach in scientific pursuit, and on the other, he is constantly developing his advanced professionalism. Both historically and philologically, his scientific works are characterized by precision and erudition.

Among the works presented at the competition, the monograph "Lost *Africa sacra*" deserves a central place. It is dedicated to the history, urbanism, economy, and Christian life in North Africa during the fourth and sixth centuries. Despite the predominant Christian issue, this scholarly work is aimed at revealing the overall scientific picture of urban development, provincial structure and organization of the region. Through the use of a variety of source material was revealed, the unique North African urbanism, that made a lasting mark on economic and spiritual development. The developed and presented Prosopographic Corpus of Christian Women (160 in total), based on epigraphic and narrative historical evidence, is innovative and contributing. It has a markedly positive character and complements the first part of *Prosopographia feminarum Christianarum saec. IV-VI*., produced and published in 2011. The monograph "Lost *Africa sacra*" is important not only for Bulgarian but also for global historical science. Translating it into English in order to make it accessible to a wider range of specialists will be positive for the credibility of our humanities and is highly recommended.

Considering the contributive character of Rumen Zhivkov Boyadzhiev's studies and his successful teaching activity, I recommend that he be awarded the SCIENTIFIC DEGREE AND ACADEMIC OFFICE OF FULL PROFESSOR PROFESSIONAL FIELD 2.2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY OF THE LATE ANTIQUITY; CHRISTIAN PROSPOGRAPHY.

The 6th of August 2019 Author of the statement:

Sofia (Acad. Vasil Todorov Gyuzelev, BAS)