

## REVIEW

**on the academic output for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Field of higher education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical Languages) for the needs of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, published in the State Gazette, issue no. 21 of 15.03.2022**

One candidate participates in the competition: Tsvetan Stefanov Vassilev.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Sc. Anastas Georgiev Gerdjikov, Department of Classical Philology, FCMP, Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“

The competition for the academic position of „Associate Professor“ in the Field of higher education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical Languages) was announced for the needs of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ in the State Gazette, issue 21 of 15.03.2022 with only one candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetan Stefanov Vassilev. From the documentation provided to me, it is clear that all the necessary documents and materials for participation in the competition have been submitted and the procedural requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and employment to academic positions in Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

Dr. Tsvetan Vassilev holds a Master's degree (Classical Philology, professional qualification: philologist and teacher of classical languages and literatures – 2001) and a PhD in Professional field 2.1 Philology (Classical languages – Post-classical Greek, dissertation *Linguistic features of Greek inscriptions in the frescoes of churches with bilingual inscriptions from the 17th century in Bulgaria* – 2016). From 2014 to 2016 he was an Assistant Professor, from 2016 – Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Classical Philology of the FCMP, and from 2021 – Chief Assistant Professor at the Cyril and Methodius Research Center at BAS. His research interests are in the field of medieval Latin and neo-Latin studies, Latin palaeography, medieval and post-Byzantine Greek epigraphy. Tsvetan Vassilev has pedagogical experience in a wide range of disciplines – he has lectured on Ancient Greek grammar and has held seminars in Introduction to Latin Linguistics, Morphology of Latin and Text Analysis, Latin for the philological specialties from FCNF on bachelor's level, and Latin in the Master Program of History of the Bulgarian Middle Ages at the Faculty of History and Latin Language and Introduction to the Morphology of Latin Language at the Master Program Classical Languages and Literature, Department of Classical Philology.

Since the beginning of his scientific career, Dr. Vassilev has produced 17 publications in the field of classical languages, with 7 of which he applied for this competition. In fact, there are 8 publications, but this can be seen from the attached file with the contributions, because it includes the first volume of the two-volume edition of the work of Peter Bogdan, which is missing from the list of publications. This confusing situation is the result of a discussion in the Department of Classical Philology, in which it was pointed out that the first volume of the publication cannot be considered to be a monograph, as it is a critical edition and translation. This is

justified, but the fact that the first volume is not a monograph does not mean that it is not a serious publication – a critical edition is internationally considered to be a work of authorship that is both time-consuming and requires serious knowledge in the field of the competition – the classical languages, as well as in several auxiliary disciplines.

And so, „*Petrus Deodatus / Peter Bogdan – De Antiquitate paterni soli et de rebus Bulgaricis / On the Antiquity of the Fatherland and on Bulgarian Deeds, Tomus primus – textus / Volume one – text, Tsvetan Vassilev – Introduction, Critical Edition, Translation, Commentary, Bibliography and Indexes*“, Sofia, 2020, 620 pages, is the first critical edition of the newly discovered Latin text of the work of Archbishop Peter Bogdan Baksic. Along with the critical edition, the volume includes a translation into modern Bulgarian, the literary and documentary sources are identified, and the commentary contains the realities necessary for the understanding of the text. The publication also includes indices of names, of geographical terms and of some commonly used terms. All this requires serious schooling and hard work, which testify to the qualities of the candidate.

The monograph „*Petrus Deodatus / Peter Bogdan – De Antiquitate paterni soli et de rebus Bulgaricis / On the Antiquity of the Fatherland and on Bulgarian Deeds, Tomus secundus / Volume two. The Treatise „On the Antiquity of the Fatherland and on Bulgarian Deeds“: Palaeography, Textology, Language*“, Sofia, 2020, is the second part of the described critical edition of the text of the historical treatise of Peter Bogdan. The second volume presented for review comprises 160 pages and is an analysis of the text and of the manuscript of the historical work of Peter Bogdan according to the transcript published in the first volume.

Dr. Vassilev presents the personality and work of Peter Bogdan, the main structure of the text, clarifies the year of writing the text and the historical principles of the author, analyzes the style of the work and its linguistic features, offers a palaeographic analysis, a classification and an inventory of the sources diverse as a genre and period and includes a glossary of terms, facsimiles of selected pages of the manuscript, as well as a page from one of the *relationes* of Peter Bogdan, handwritten by him personally, in order to compare the handwriting.

The work is the first comprehensive philological study and presentation of the manuscript of the treatise of Peter Bogdan – the first historical treatise in our recent history, one of the main historical sources and the most voluminous work in Latin on the history of Bulgaria in the XVII century. As a result of the palaeographic analysis of the manuscript Dr. Vassilev proved that the manuscript was a transcript and not an original; the linguistic analysis of the text shows a number of features of the individual author's style; the textual analysis establishes the many sources used by the author; a complete inventory of sources in chronological order is added, including over 100 works by over 70 authors, as well as a classification of sources by genre.

Articles № 3 and 4 of the list of publications are thematically related to this monograph.

Article № 4 is devoted to the structure, content, and main historical sources of the work of Peter Bogdan.

Based on the data from the manuscript, the candidate also found a copy of a letter about the establishment of the Custody of Bulgaria and Wallachia from June 10, 1624, stored in the archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

The results will be published in the „A Copy of the Breve for the Establishment of the Custody of Bulgaria and Wallachia“ on June 10, 1624. A newly discovered document from the Archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. – In: Bednarska, K., Kruk, D., Popov, B., Saprikina, O., Speed, T. Terekhova, S., Tsonev, R., Wysocka, A. (Eds.), Contributions to the 23rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Association of Slavists (Polyslav)“. This publication is missing from the list of publications as well, probably because it is still in print.

Article № 3 presents for the first time a translation and the original text of the Apostolic Letter on the Appointment of Ilia Marinov as Bishop of Sofia of July 29, 1624, quoted in part in the treatise of Peter Bogdan, and continues the work of the candidate in studying the testimonies of Catholicism from the Bulgarian lands of the 17th century.

The second monograph – „Greek language in churches with mixed inscriptions from the XVII century in Bulgaria“, Sofia, 2017, is the published dissertation of Tsv. Vassilev for awarding the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ and is a systematic epigraphic description, translation and commentary on 225 Greek inscriptions from 18 churches with bilingual inscriptions from the 17th century in Bulgaria. The publication includes complete photographic documentation of the epigraphic material, classification of the linguistic features of the inscriptions, linguistic examples illustrating linguistic theories of the early modern Greek language, first attempt to restore the mechanisms of writing Greek inscriptions in post-Byzantine Christian art in the Balkans, classification and analysis of the types of linguistic errors depending on the mechanism of writing and the degree of proficiency in the Greek language. Vassilev identified and characterized for the first time the phenomenon of bi-alphabetism and made the first analysis of the use and function of the Cyrillic and Greek supralinear graphemes in Greek frescoes from the post-Byzantine era in Bulgaria.

Articles № 5, 6 and 7 are dedicated to the Greek inscriptions associated with Christian mural art from the Bulgarian lands of the 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The candidate himself points out that the main emphasis in them is the attribution of epigraphic material, which is the biggest challenge for the philologist in the field of studying the epigraphic cultural heritage of the Ottoman period.

The candidate has noted 20 citations of his publications, some of them in publications indexed in Scopus and / or in Web of Science. He has participated in six research projects, in two of which as a leader. He was also an academic mentor in the project „Student Internships“ – 2016-2018.

Tsvetan Vassilev has been nominated for the Pythagor Prize for Scientific Breakthroughs in 2021 for the study of the text and manuscript of the aforementioned work of Peter Bogdan. He is a member of the Association of Byzantinists and Medievalists in Bulgaria, of the Federation internationale des associations d'etudes classiques and of the Societas studiis Slavo-Latinis provehendis.

I have known the candidate for more than 20 years and I have witnessed his advancement from student to scholar and teacher. He is a specialist in classical languages with a broad view on disciplines ranging from Latin palaeography to post-Byzantine Greek epigraphy.

In conclusion, I believe that the candidate fully meets the requirements of Art. 24, para. 1 of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the presented

publications are indicative of the scholarly level of Dr. Vassilev and in particular of his expert experience in the field of classical languages. The sufficient teaching hours required by Art. 24, par. 3 of the Law are also available.

The contributions, skills and competencies demonstrated by the presented publications, as well as the experience of the candidate in teaching give me reason to express a strong positive opinion on the choice of Dr. Tsvetan Vassilev to hold the academic position of „Associate Professor“ in professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical languages).



June 17, 2022

Sofia

Reviewer:

(Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov)