

## OPINION

by *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Silvia Georgieva Georgieva,*

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a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical Languages), announced by Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" and published in the State Gazette, issue 21, p. 138 on 15 March 2022,

for the scientific production and academic activity of

Chief Assistant Dr. Tsvetan Stefanov Vassilev,

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Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetan Vassilev participates in the competition with two monographs, four papers in scientific journals and one paper in a collection of scientific works. The list of scientific publications of the candidate, as well as the information about the citations meet the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

The first monograph is part of a two-volume critical edition and is an indisputable contribution to the field of Bulgarian historiography and knowledge of the sources of Bulgarian history.

The first volume contains the Latin text with a Bulgarian translation and a commentary on the historical treatise of Archbishop Petar Bogdan "On the Antiquity of the Fatherland and the Deeds of the Bulgarians" The discovery of the manuscript (200 handwritten pages in Latin) by Prof. Lilia Ilieva was a scientific sensation in 2017. This important discovery for our native science in itself speaks of the candidate's contribution to

the reading of the text and its translation and commentary, especially since the text is *codex unicus* - the only manuscript of the work that has survived to present day. The second volume of the publication is the habilitation thesis with which the candidate presents himself at the announced competition for associate professor - the treatise "*On the Antiquity of the Fatherland and the Deeds of the Bulgarians*": *palaeography, textology, language*. Sofia, 2020. ISBN: 978-954-07-5053-8. The monograph comprises 160 pages. As a necessary continuation of the first part - the Latin text and the translation into Bulgarian - here the text and manuscript of Petar Bogdan Baksič is analyzed in detail and from different points of view according to the transcript published in the first volume.

The monograph is divided into three chapters. The first of them presents information about the personality and work of Petar Bogdan himself, according to the manuscript. Apart from biographical data about the author of the treatise, the main emphasis is placed on revealing the moral qualities, patriotism and devotion to the church work of Petar Bogdan. This moral and spiritual portrait of the prominent Bulgarian intellectual skillfully extracted from the text is one of the contributing moments of the work.

In this chapter the overall work of Petar Bogdan is examined in detail and the general thematic connections between his relations and the historical treatise are traced. I find it extremely appropriate and well-founded to shed light on the issue of common themes in his various works. This analysis also shows the candidate's broad and thorough view on the overall work of the author and the laying of the historical treatise in his context, while at the same time forming certain thematic circles of his works.

The second chapter of the habilitation paper focuses specifically on the text of the historical treatise and examines the language, dating, structure and content. The historiographical principles in the exposition, the typology of the sources used by the author, the ways of quoting them are summarized. The analysis and typology of the quotations in the treatise are interesting and contributing. The in-depth analysis of historical, ecclesiastical-historical, ecclesiastical-geographical, hagiographic and dogmatic sources stands out as a special contribution to the monograph. The analysis is in-depth and shows Tsvetan Vassilev's extensive knowledge of the different text genres used by Petar

Bogdan in his treatise, as in some places some inaccuracies were found and logical conclusions and assumptions were made about the author's way of work and the attitude to the different types of sources. The study of the source material of the work shows remarkable work, diligence and analytical skills. The generalized analysis of the topoi and the thorough inventory of the sources, presented in diachronic terms and accompanied by conclusions, can also be attributed to the contributions of the monograph.

Vassilev draws important conclusions about the nature of the scientific work of Petar Bogdan, as well as about the addressees of this treatise - the Bulgarian Catholic community, on the one hand, and the educated European Catholic - on the other.

Another contribution to the monograph, but already in a purely philological aspect, is the in-depth palaeographic analysis of the text in the third chapter of the monograph. It aims to prove that the manuscript is not the work of the author, but of a copyist. The peculiarities of the language and style of the work have also been thoroughly studied. The terminological dictionary added at the end is especially useful for the reader and is again the result of Vassilev's systematic work and diligence.

The second monograph presented by the candidate is: *The Greek Language in the Churches with Mixed Inscriptions of the Seventeenth Century in Bulgaria*. Sofia, 2017. ISBN: 978-954-07-4204-5.

The study is a systematic epigraphic description, translation and commentary of 225 Greek inscriptions, of which 121 scrolls, from 18 churches with bilingual inscriptions from the 17th century in Bulgaria - for the first time in the Bulgarian humanities. The monograph contains many contributions, some of which are: identifying and analyzing the concept of *bialphabetism* and classification and analysis of the types of language errors depending on the mechanism of writing and the level of proficiency in Greek – it is also for the first time in classical studies in Bulgaria. The methodology of the study of Greek inscriptions proposed in the monograph could serve as a model in the systematic studies of other Greek inscriptions from the monuments of church monumental painting from the post-Byzantine era in the Balkans.

The presented papers show the lasting scientific interests of the candidate in the field of palaeography and epigraphy and most of all - the life and work of Petar Bogdan and they complement the contributions made in the monographs. /1. Vassilev, Ts. *An Apostolic Letter on the Appointment of Iliya Marinov to Bishop of Sofia on July 29, 1624* - *Balkanistic Forum* 3, 2020, 224–235.4. 2. Vassilev, Ts. *On the Antiquity of the Fatherland and on the Bulgarian Deeds of Petar Bogdan Baksič - Structure, Content, Main Historical Sources*. – *Orbis linguarum (Ezиков svyat)* 2, 2019, 74–85.5. 3. Vassilev, Ts. *A Byzantine Epigram in the Pictorial Cycle of Akathistos Hymn for the Virgin from the Narthex of Kremikovtsi Monastery St George (1493)*. – *Scripta & Scripta*, 16–17, 2017, 313–324.6. 4. Vassilev, Ts. *Bilingualism in post-Byzantine Mural Inscriptions in Balkan Art: Historical Background and Functions*. – *Problemi na izkustvoto (Art Studies Quarterly)*, 1, 2017, 45–51. 5. Bakalova, E., Ts. Vassilev. *The Images of St. Theodore the Studite in Bulgaria and Their Balkan Context*. - In: *Heroes, cults, saints. Art Studies Readings 2015*, 145–16) /

Taking into consideration the innovation and the indisputable contribution of the monographs and papers, as well as the high level of scientific competence shown in them, in conclusion I confidently declare my positive assessment of the scientific and professional-academic qualities of Dr. Tsvetan Vassilev. As a result of the presented scientific production I recommend that Dr. Tsvetan Vassilev be awarded the position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical languages).

Sofia, 15.06.2022

/Assoc. Prof. Silvia Georgieva/