STATEMENT

For the candidature of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Todor Alexandrov Popnedelev, the only participant in the competition for "Professor" in the field 2.2 History and Archaeology (Bulgarian historiography - historical periodicals), announced at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in State Gazette no. 96 of 19. XI. 2021.

From Prof. DSc. Zhelyazko D. Stoyanov

Assoc. Prof. Todor Popnedelev, participated in the announced competition for the academic position of Professor. He started his teaching work in 1991 as a senior assistant professor in the Department of History of Bulgaria at the Faculty of Arts of Sofia University. Since 2005 he has been Associate Professor. He gives compulsory lectures in full-time and part-time study to students at the Faculty of Arts - Introduction to Historical Knowledge for the majors History, History and Philosophy, History and Geography, History and Foreign Language and Archival and Documentary Studies. For students majoring in History and Philosophy, History and Geography, and History and Foreign Language, he lectures on Directions and Schools in Historical Scholarship. For students majoring in History - Bulgarian Historiography. He also teaches two free elective courses - Bulgarian Historiography for students in the double major and Balkan Historiography for students in History and Geopolitics of the Balkans. He teaches in four graduate programs.

In the documents submitted for the competition by Assoc. Popnedelev's research (monographs, studies and articles) several main areas of scientific interest stand out.

The first covers the essence of the main trends that developed in European historiography, Romanticism and Positivism, as well as their reflection in our national historical science. Trends in the Development of Bulgarian Historiography in the Late 19th - Early 20th Century - sp. A Look at the Development of Bulgarian Historiography in the 20th Century (National History). - Anamnesis, Year. XVI, 2021; **A Look at the Development of Bulgarian Historiography in the 20th Century (National History) Development of Historical Science from 1944 to the End of the 20th Century. -** ANAMNESA, God. XVI, 2021. In these, the candidate details the differences between Romanticism and the positivism that replaced it, both thematically and methodologically. The teaching work of our professional historians at the University and their contribution to the advancement of Bulgarian historiography is also elucidated. Assoc. Popnedelev has also managed to present an argumented periodization in the development of our historical science in the 20th century.

Another emphasis in the candidate's research, which is largely a continuation of the previous one, stands out in the titles From "People's" to "State" History. - Anamnesis, God. In. Historical reconstruction and current situation in the Republic of Bulgaria. Sofia. Kliment Ohridski, 2020 (co-authored with Vladimir Stanev, Svetoslav Zhivkov). They more directly clarify the role of state policy in the field of education and spirituality through legislation, the educational and scientific structures being built, and the preservation of our nation's memory.

Significant attention Assoc. Popnedelev has devoted to the study of the rich historical work of prof. В. Zlatarski in the field of the Bulgarian Middle Ages, the Bulgarian Revival and historiography, as well as his teaching work. On the basis of archival material and published studies of the scholar, the candidate has sought to clarify the role of V. Zlatarski as the first researcher of many problems of our national past and the first teacher in a number of university disciplines. Another focus of the candidate's research has been to clarify the scholar's methods and methodology. To this group of publications belong The Making of Prof. Vasil Zlatarski as a historian and teacher. Sofia. Centuries and University Lecture Courses of prof. Vasil Zlatarski - sp. Vekove.

In the monograph The Bulgarian Middle Ages in the Pages of the Yearbook of Sofia University. Faculty of History and Philology (1905-1945). University Publishing House "Sv. Kliment Ohridski", 2022, 200 pages, is essentially the habilitation thesis of the participant in this competition*.* In this informative monograph, Assoc. Т. Popnedelev poses and elaborates a number of major problems of contemporary Bulgarian historical science.

First, he rightly raises in this work and heuristically analyses the question of the nature and content of the very definition of the term "Historiography". His correct approach to the treatment of this important problem also determines his attitude towards the possibilities of researchers to successfully analyze the problems surrounding Bulgarian medieval historiography, which Assoc. Т. Popnedelev makes the subject of his research.

Second, with the foundation of Assoc. Т. Popnedelev directs his research interest to a heuristic analysis of the work of some of the leading representatives of Bulgarian historical thought, among whom are authors such as V. P. P. Nikov and others. The correct use by the author of the monograph of appropriate scientific tools and scientific methods, which in turn significantly enhances the epistemological and praxeological aspects of his research, deserves special mention and support.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the documents and research presented in the competition for "Professor" by Assoc. Popnedelev meet the national scientific requirements and his research is original and does not give grounds for suspicion of plagiarism. As a result, I will recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to award Assoc. Popnedelev the academic position of Professor.

Prof. DSc. Zhelyazko D. Stoyanov

13.02.2022 г.