

4. „Документалното наследство на Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова в Националната библиотека „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“. – *Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne*, №19, 2020, pp. 309-318. ISSN 2084-3011 [„Dokumentalното наследство na Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova v Natsionalnata biblioteka „Sv. sv. Kiril i Metodiy“. – *Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne*, №19, 2020, pp. 309-318. ISSN 2084-3011]

5. „Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова и предложението за назначаването ѝ като преподавател в софийския университет „Св. Климент охридски“. – В: „Архиви и история: пътища на познанието“. Гл. редактор Анна Кочанкова. София: Херон прес, 2021, с. 170-173. ISBN 978-954-580-391-8 [„Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova i predlozhenieto za naznachavaneto ѝ като преподавател v sofiyskia universitet „Sv. Kliment ohridski“. – V: „Arhivi i istoria: patishta na poznaniето“. Gl. redaktor Anna Kochankova. Sofia: Heron pres, 2021, s. 170-173. ISBN 978-954-580-391-8]

**SOFIA UNIVERSITY „ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”  
FACULTY OF HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT „ARCHIVE STUDIES AND HISTORY DIDACTIC“**

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**KIRILA VAZVAZOVA-KARATEODOROVA:  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ARCHIVAL  
RESOURCES**

**A B S T R A C T**

**of dissertation**

**for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”**

**Field of higher education: 2. Humanities**

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**PhD program: „Documentary Studies, Archives, Paleography” –**

**Archivistics**

**Scientific supervisor: Prof. PhD Anna Kochankova**

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## V. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ON THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1. *„Дейността на Български исторически архив при Националната библиотека „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“ 1919–1944 г.“*. – В: Исторически кръгозор. Светът след Първата световна война. Велико Търново: УИ „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“, 2020, с. 159-169. ISSN 2738-747X; COBISS.BG-ID – 44420872 [„Deynostta na Balgarski istoricheski arhiv pri Natsionalnata biblioteka „Sv. sv. Kiril i Metodiy“ 1919–1944 g.“. – V: Istoricheski kragozori. Svetat sled Parvata svetovna voyna. Veliko Tarnovo: UI „Sv. sv. Kiril i Metodiy“, 2020, s. 159-169. ISSN 2738-747X; COBISS.BG-ID – 44420872]

2. *„Научната дейност на Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова според документи във фонда на Тодор Боров“*. – В: Сборник с доклади от XIV Национална научна конференция „България, българите и Европа – мит, история, съвремие“, В. Търново, 2 ноември 2019 г. Т.14. Ред. колегия Николай Кънев и др. Велико Търново: УИ "Св. св. Кирил и Методий", 2021, с. 249-253. ISSN 2603-3860 (Online) [„Nauchnata deynost na Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova spored dokumenti vav fonda na Todor Borov“. – V: Sbornik s dokladi ot XIV Natsionalna nauchna konferentsia „Bulgaria, balgarite i Evropa – mit, istoria, savremie“, V. Tarnovo, 2 noemvri 2019 g. T.14. Red. kolegia Nikolay Kanev i dr. Veliko Tarnovo: UI "Sv. sv. Kiril i Metodiy", 2021, s. 249-253. ISSN 2738-747X; COBISS.BG-ID – 44420872]

3. *„Publication of documents via the profile of the Bulgarian historical archive during until September 9, 1944“*. – Revista de Etnologie și Culturologie – Journal of Ethnology and Culturology, vol. XXVIII, 2020, pp. 117-120. E-ISSN 2537-6152

2. In accordance with the previously set tasks, for first time complexly different documentary sources on the family environment, education and career development of K. Vazvazova have been comprehensively researched and interpreted. Based on these documents, the most important aspects of her work as an administrator and active participant in the processes of archival sector modernization in Bulgaria have been traced.

3. A complete review of the documentary editions prepared with the participation of K. Vazvazova was made, analysing her contributions to the creation of the printed base of Bulgarian historical science.

4. For first time, the activity and contributions of K. Vazvazova in the search and popularization of documents about Bulgarian history in archival repositories outside Bulgaria are a matter of independent research.

5. Here has been prepared an archival inventory, which includes the discovered documents about K. Vazvazova's family background and her career development, regardless of their storage place. The descriptions have been grouped by subject topic, with each document annotated and application data indicated.

## **I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION**

### **1. Relevance of the topic and state of research**

The name of Kirila Nikolova-Vazvazova is primarily associated with the development of archival studies and archaeography in the "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library. She was born in Aytos on November 25, 1917, where she received her secondary education. She graduated from the classical department of the First Girls' High School in Sofia and majored in "History" and "Classical Philology" at Sofia University. In 1948, she started working in the Bulgarian Historical Archive (BHA) at the "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library (NLCM). K. Vazvazova played an important role in the development of the Manuscript and Documentary Sector (MDS) of the library and, as its head in the period from 1964 to 1974, contributed to bringing its activities to the highest international level. During this period, scientific processing and arrangement of the main part of the documents stored in the BHA was carried out.

A number of archival guides have been realized with the active participation of K. Vazvazova, ensuring access to archival documents stored in BHA. Under her leadership, the volumes of the series "Overviews of archival funds, collections and individual receipts stored in the Bulgarian Historical Archive" were developed. Also under her editorship, the publication of the series "Proceedings of the Cyril and Methodius Public Library" began.

K. Vazvazova was also an advisor in the methodological organization of the processing and publication of archival documents, as well as in the development of a scientific methodology for working with documents, which had acquired national importance.

For more than thirty years, K. Vazvazova annually published monographs, studies, articles, scientific reports, document collections and reference books related to the problems of Bulgarian archival studies and the Bulgarian revival.

## 2. Historiographical overview of the topic

There is still no comprehensive research on the personality of K. Vazvazova, on her activities as an administrator and organizer, archivist and archaeographer in the scientific literature. However, the relevance of the topic is also determined by the fact that Bulgarian archival literature lacks research on individuals who contributed to the establishment of the modern archival system in Bulgaria<sup>1</sup>.

Basic biographical information about K. Vazvazova is contained to one degree or another in general publications dedicated to her anniversaries. These are the articles of Bistra Tsvetkova<sup>2</sup>, Todorka Tomova<sup>3</sup>, Nikolay Zhechev<sup>4</sup>, Lidiya Dragolova<sup>5</sup>, Viktoriya Tileva<sup>6</sup>, Veselin Traykov<sup>7</sup>. In general, they also present information about the scientific contributions of K. Vazvazova. Krumka Sharova<sup>8</sup> and Ruzha Simeonova<sup>9</sup> studied individual problems related to her work in more detail. Some of the documentary editions and author's publications of K. Vazvazova are presented in their research. Information about her biography and

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<sup>1</sup> Единствените подобни публикации за личности свързани с развитието на архивното дело в България са на **Евдокия Петрова, Стефка Петкова**. Михаил Стойков Алексиев и приносят му за архивното дело в България (По повод на 110-та годишнина от рождението му). – Архивен преглед, № 1, 2014, с. 7-66; **Ралица Тодорова** „Доц. Мария Матеева и българската университетска архивистика“ – Архивен преглед, № 3-4, 2006, с. 23-33.

<sup>2</sup> **Цветкова, Б.** Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова на 60 години. – Научен живот, № 4, 1977, с. 24.

<sup>3</sup> **Томова, Т.** Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова на 70 години. – Библиотекар, 1, 1988, с. 40-42.

<sup>4</sup> **Жечев, Н.** Ст. н. с. Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова на 70 години. – Научен живот, № 1, 1988, с. 31.

<sup>5</sup> **Драголова, Л.** Кирила Възвъзова на 70 години. – Векове, № 1, с. 58-61.

<sup>6</sup> **Тилева, В.** Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова на 75 години: [Биобиблиогр.]. – Известия на Народната библиотека „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“, № 20 (26), с. 501-515.

<sup>7</sup> **Трайков, В.** Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова на 80 години. – Българистика и българисти, № 2 (4), 1997, с. 31-32.

<sup>8</sup> **Шарова, Кр.** Научното дело на Кирила Възвъзова-Каратеодорова. – Исторически преглед, № 12, 1987, с. 53-65.

<sup>9</sup> **Симеонова, Р.** Кирила Възвъзова и документалното наследство на Васил Левски. Смисълт на един живот. – Годишник на Общобългарския комитет „Васил Левски“. Българско Възраждане. Идеи. Личности. Събития, № 9, 2007, с. 118-126.

management of the NLCM, K. Vazvazova made an impact on the development of archival legislation in Bulgaria.

The high professionalism of K. Vazvazova is also applied in the collective work of the young and ambitious team of the BHA in the development of methodological rules for working with archival documents, having nationwide significance in the process of standardization and codification of archival processes in Bulgaria.

With her overall activity, K. Vazvazova has made important contributions to organizing the work in the MDS of the NLCM on a scientific basis. A favourable condition for this is the fact that the flowering of her career development coincided with the development of the MDS as an important scientific unit in the system of source studies, archival studies and archaeography.

K. Vazvazova belongs to the first generation of Bulgarian archivists, who creatively searched for ways and laid the scientific foundations of Bulgarian archival studies. In this difficult mission, the personality of K. Vazvazova is distinguished by exceptional will power, dedication, energy and uncompromising scientific honesty, both to herself and to others. She impresses not only with her creative activity, but also with her high qualities as a leader and administrator.

## IV. MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DISSERTATION

1. Archival documents containing data on the life path and career development of K. Vazvazova as an administrator and organizer in the process of building a modern archival system in Bulgaria, as a participant in the standardization and codification of archival processes, as an archivist and archeographer. A number of them are being introduced into scientific circulation for first time. The archival funds of the Central State Archives, the National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Scientific Archives of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia University Archives, State Archives – Sofia are reviewed.

the archival fund of the NLCM do not always provide clear and sufficient information about the atmosphere in which K. Vazvazova worked, but demonstrate her inherent commitment to personnel development and scientific activity in the field of archival studies and archaeography.

K. Vazvazova has made significant contributions to the retrieval of documents on Bulgarian history in foreign archives, as well as to the replenishment of the MDS funds with such documents. Of course, the contributions of K. Vazvazova in searching, acquiring and publishing documents, mainly about figures and events from the Bulgarian revival period, should not go unnoticed.

In addition to acquiring copies of documents about Bulgarian history from foreign archive repositories, K. Vazvazova systematically collected data and impressions about the organization of work in foreign libraries and archives during her business trips abroad. A characteristic feature of her good professionalism is the creation of numerous contacts with heads of archival institutions and leading historians and archivists at the visited places. Such cooperation is particularly fruitful when searching for documents and acquiring copies of documents about Bulgarian history.

An important aspect in the professional biography of K. Vazvazova is her active participation in the process of generating the centralized archival system in Bulgaria after 1951. Decree No. 515 marked the beginning of this process, but the reception of the new archival regulation went through various stages and in the conditions of a wide-ranging, sometimes acrimonious, discussion of exactly how the principles of centralism should be understood and applied. In the period from the issuance of Decree No. 515 in 1951 to 1974, when the law on the state archival fund was adopted, K. Vazvazova took an active position on a number of archival reform issues, including defending the long-standing tradition of the NLCM and its special departments. Actively participating in the archival discussion on the

scientific activity can also be found in the *"Ten Days of Memoir Literature"*<sup>10</sup>, as well as in the biographical-bibliographic reference book by Petar Cholov<sup>11</sup>.

In two of her interviews published in the magazines "Rodoznanie" and "Biblioteka": *"Know your kindred to know yourself"*<sup>12</sup> and *"Alone with Kirila Vazvazova: [Interview]"* K. Vazvazova shared interesting moments related to her family environment and the formation of her worldview, determining her further creative career.

The questions concerning the acquisition, preservation and management of the documentary heritage at the "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library, where the professional path of K. Vazvazova took place, have been the subject of many years of research. They are studied to one degree or another in a number of publications devoted to the history of archives in Bulgaria, such as the monographs of Anna Kochankova<sup>13</sup>, Maria Kuzmanova<sup>14</sup> and Konstantinka Kalaydzhieva<sup>15</sup>.

The history of BHA at NLCM from its establishment till the beginning of XXI century has been studied by authors such as Victoriya Tileva<sup>16</sup> and Lyubomira Trashlieva<sup>17</sup>. To some extent these studies refer to Veliko Yordanov<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Десетдневника на мемоарната литература. 27 май – 5 юни 1987. Стара Загора, 1987, с. 5.

<sup>11</sup> **Чолов, Петър**. Български историци: Биографично-библиографски справочни. София, 1999.

<sup>12</sup> Опознай рода си, за да опознаеш себе си. – Родознание = Genealogia, № 2-3, 1995, с. 36-42.

<sup>13</sup> Насаме с Кирила Възвъзова: [Интервю]. – Библиотека: списание за библиотечна теория и практика. № 3, 1993, с. 55-59.

<sup>13</sup> **Кочанкова, А.** Българско документално наследство: архиви и институции на паметта. София, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> **Кузманова, М.** История на архивите и организация на архивното дело в България. София, 1966.

<sup>15</sup> **Калайджиева, К.** История на Народната библиотека „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“ 1978–1944 г. и въпроси за съвременното ѝ развитие. София, 2018.; Материали за историята на Народната библиотека. 1944–1978. София, 2003.

<sup>16</sup> **Тилева, В.** Към 90-годишнината на първата българска архивна сбирка, създадена у нас след освобождението в Народна библиотека. – Известия на НБКМ, № 12 (18), с. 329-350.

<sup>17</sup> **Трашлиева, Л.** Български исторически архив при Народна библиотека “Св. Св. Кирил и Методий” – история и съвременност. – Известия на държавните архиви, № 80, 2000, с. 31-57.

<sup>18</sup> **Йорданов, В.** История на Народната библиотека в София. София, 1930.

K. Vazvazova left a very small part of her personal archival fund in the BHA at the NLCM, and the remaining – a larger part is stored in the Central State Archives (CSA) and has not yet been processed<sup>19</sup>. With the courtesy of Prof. Stefka Petkova and the CSA, I was granted access to part of the documents in it. But due to the objective impossibility of introducing this archival fund into scientific circulation, the dissertation work was developed mainly on the basis of the archive funds of the CSA: f. 1137 – “St. St. Cyril and Methodius” National Library, f. 117 – National Assembly, f. 540 – Central Office of Archives, f. 745 – Nikola Kondarev, f. 1921K – Hristo Gandev, f. 1496 – Panayot Panayotov; SA-Burgas: f. 145K – District Court – Burgas; DA-Ruse: f.1454 – Violeta Radeva; SA-Sofia: f. 1790 – Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski"; NLCM-BHA: f. 744 – Victoria Vazvazova, f. 849 – Prof. Todor Borov, f. 854 – Kirila Nikolova Vazvazova-Karateodorova; NA of BAS: f. 229 – Ivan Undzhiev; Archives of SU: f. 1 – Rectory.

### 3. Purpose, tasks and expected results

The availability of a rich documentary base is condition for the construction of one more complex study on the creative activity and personality of K. Vazvazova. The main goal of the dissertation is to present biographical data about the family environment and professional development of K. Vazvazova, examining above all her activity as an administrator, archivist and archaeographer, her participation and contributions in the construction of the modern archive system in Bulgaria.

In order to achieve the so formulated goal, the following more important tasks should be accomplished:

- to present data on the life and professional activity of K. Vazvazova, through the bibliographic sources discovered for her, archival resources and memories of her colleagues;

biographical and creative image of the personality under study. However, the paragraph strongly confirms her indisputable contribution to the development of Bulgarian archival studies and the Manuscript and Documentary Sector she headed, supported also by her the testimonies of her colleagues.

The **Conclusion** outlines the main contributions of K. Vazvazova as an administrator, organizer, archivist and archaeographer based on the discovered and analysed information. Having devoted more than forty years of her life to the development of Bulgarian archival work, Vazvazova actively worked for the confirmation of a scientific field important for historical research and Bulgarian society, such as archival studies, which began its development in Bulgaria at the time when K. Vazvazova stepped over the threshold of the National Library.

### III. CONCLUSION

K. Vazvazova achieved high professional results, always and unwaveringly defending her professional views and convictions. She skilfully combined her administrative functions with extremely intensive and fruitful creative work as a historian, archivist and archaeographer. She has greatly contributed to the establishment of MDS as a leading scientific and publishing centre. Under the expert guidance of K. Vazvazova, archival inventories, reference and documentary editions were prepared and issued, providing access to the archival resources of the manuscript-documentation centre in the National Library.

For nearly half a century of creative activity, K. Vazvazova participated in the preparation and publication of over 300 titles, of which over 100 were of high scientific value and contribution. Many young researchers were trained under her leadership; all this is a great contribution to the training and development of the staff in the MDS.

The active participation of K. Vazvazova in the Scientific Board of Directors of NLCM is an expression of her high sense of responsibility towards the problems that arise along the way. The administrative documents preserved in

<sup>19</sup> ЦДА, ф. 1426 – Кирила Николова Възвъзова-Каратеодорова. (необработен).

manuscripts of her lectures, etc. K. Vazvazova belongs to the first generation of Bulgarian archivists. Through the presented documents it is clearly proved that her personality stands out with exceptional firmness, dedication, energy and demandingness towards herself and others. She impresses not only with her creative activity, but with qualities that are only characteristic of a leader and administrator. Especially great is K. Vazvazova's contribution to the theory and practice of archival science and archaeography in Bulgaria. She organised the work in the manuscript and documentary departments of the National Library on a scientific basis. Thankful to her care and under her leadership, the MDS rose to the level of an important scientific unit in the system of source studies, archivistics and archaeography. The documents presented highlight her contribution to the searching, processing and preservation of documentary materials from the Bulgarian revival period.

The third paragraph, "**Archival inventory of documents of and about Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova**" presents the documents collected about her, regardless of their storage place. They are mostly related to her professional career. Its purpose is to summarize, classify and systematize the information retrieved in archival funds of personal and institutional origin.

The documents included in the inventory with data about K. Vazvazova cannot be found using the search fields in the Information System of State Archives (ISSA) as they do not appear in the standard levels of archival description. The only way to access this data is by examining a significant amount of institutions records where K. Vazvazova's professional life took place. The classification scheme and the documents presented in the inventory were drawn up precisely after such a detailed research.

In the last fourth paragraph, the personality of K. Vazvazova is presented through the memories of her colleagues from the BHA. They share stories about the first meeting with her, about their collaboration and the character of Kirila Vazvazova. The memories have an auxiliary function in the construction of the

- to trace the most important aspects of her work as an archivist, archaeographer and head of the MDS of the NLCM;
- to clarify her participation in the Scientific board of directors of NLCM and especially her positions on MDS various problems, headed by her;
- to present her participation in the methodical support of the work on issuing archival documents;
- to investigate her contributions to the search and popularization of documents on Bulgarian history in archival repositories outside Bulgaria;
- to review the documentary editions prepared by BHA, with the participation of K. Vazvazova, analyzing their scientific level, respectively her contribution to the creation of a printed source base of historical science in Bulgaria;
- to outline its characteristic views and positions in the process of the construction and legislative arrangement of the centralized archive system in Bulgaria.

#### **4. Work methodology**

The development of the dissertation is fully subordinated to the objectives of the search, research and specificity of the material in order to present the personality of K. Vazvazova and her contributions to the modern archival construction. The first stage of the work required a study of the available literature on the topic, and based on this archival repositories and archival funds were identified, with data and documentary traces of K. Vazvazova which were expected to be found, combined with knowledge of these archival funds history and their inventories. Thus, the methods of archival heuristics were used in the development of the dissertation, and its content was structured on the basis of the thematic principle.

The dissertation was developed primarily on archival sources. First of all, these are funds of institutions in which or in communication with which the

professional activity of K. Vazvazova took place, as well as archival funds of personal origin, in which, due to family or collegial relations, it was assumed that they would be discovered (and were discovered) documentary traces on the subject.

Documentary editions, monographs, studies and articles produced by BHA were also used.

The development of K. Vazvazova took place at a time when collective decisions and methods of work in the archival collegium dominated. For this reason, in a number of cases her work is presented namely in the context of this collective, team work, for whose high standards K. Vazvazova's contribution is undeniable.

It is necessary to make the stipulation that the scientific contributions of K. Vazvazova as a researcher of the Bulgarian revival are not subject of research in the dissertation. Some of her monographs and articles are only mentioned sofar because of K. Vazvazova's studies and knowledge in this field as condition for her highly qualified activity as an archivist and archaeographer.

## **II. STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION**

In terms of structure, the dissertation is divided into an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, sources and literature appendix.

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose, tasks and main research methods on the subject of the dissertation are presented in the introduction. An overview of the historiographical studies and archival resources, as well as the problems related to the state of the researched topic, was made.

Cyril and Methodius". Attention is paid to the way some archaeological problems were solved in order to characterize the scientific level of the publications. The contributions of K. Vazvazova and BHA in creating a printed source base of Bulgarian historical science are outlined. The examined documentary editions are of a very good scientific level, as initially during their preparation some methodological guides and archaeological rules imported from the then USSR were used, and later the "Rules for promulgation of written sources for the Bulgarian history (18th-20th centuries).

All the publications in which Vazvazova participated as an author, compiler and editor are proof of her outstanding contribution not only to the improvement of historical research source base, but also to the development of archaeography in Bulgaria, and mostly to the establishment of high criteria in the retrieval, processing, publication, analysis and interpretation of archival documents.

3. The third chapter "**Archival and bibliographic resources for Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova**" is also developed in four paragraphs. The first two: "**Documentary and bibliographic sources on the origin, family environment and career development of Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova**" and "**Documentary and bibliographic sources on the work of Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova as an archivist, archaeographer and administrator in NLCM**" contain information about the discovered archival documents and bibliographic sources about the family environment, creative activity, career development and the work of K. Vazvazova as an archivist, archaeographer and administrator in the NLCM. The archival funds in which information about K. Vazvazova can be found are indicated. Biographical documentary testimonies were presented in her own memories about meeting prominent Bulgarian scientists and her impressions of some of them, such as Ivan Duychev, Ivan Undzhiev, Bistra Tsvetkova, Bonyo Angelov, Bozhidar Raikov, Veselin Traykov, etc. Among the archival documents discovered for K. Vazvazova are also congratulatory addresses, official correspondence, report notes, protocols,



influenced the creation of the archival legislation of Bulgaria and the development of methodological rules for processing and publication of archival documents.

During these years, along with the Library directors, K. Vazvazova actively participated in the archival discussion. With her intransigence and persistence, she took one of the leading places in the NLCM's struggle to preserve the documents from its special departments. Defined as the "tip of the blade" by prof. St. Petkova, she boldly criticized and defended her stated positions with characteristic intransigence and tenacity.

The second paragraph, **"Participation in the development of methodological rules for scientific and technical processing and publication of documents from the Bulgarian archives"** traces the participation of the BHA at the NLCM and K. Vazvazova in the development of methodological rules for scientific and technical processing and the publication of documents from the Bulgarian archives. The indisputable merits of BHA and K. Vazvazova for the methodical provision of promulgation of archival documents are presented. BHA at NLCM is the first of all interested institutions to regulate its publishing activity.

The paragraph successfully proves that the BHA has a great merit in terms of methodological support of the activity related to the promulgation of archival documents. It is the first of all institutions interested in this field to regulate its publishing activity. K. Vazvazova, as its representative, thanks to the high professional qualification and experience gained in the publication of archival documents, had a significant contribution to the compiling of common methodological requirements for the publication of written historical sources from the period of the 18th-20th centuries. With certain additions, these rules are still valid today.

The third paragraph of the second chapter is entitled **"Contributions to the preparation and realization of documentary and reference publications"**. The contributions of K. Vazvazova are in the preparation and realization of documentary collections, mainly from the fund of the National Library "St. St.

**2. The first chapter "Biographical data and main directions in the professional development of Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova"** includes three paragraphs. The first paragraph presents data on the life and family environment, education and professional development of K. Vazvazova, found in her personal archival fund, parts of which are stored in the Bulgarian Historical Archive at the National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" and the Central State Archive. Biographical information on members of her family is also presented. Main directions in the scientific and socio-political activity of K. Vazvazova are traced. Details of her involvement in various commissions are given, about her participation in scientific sessions, conferences, international congresses and symposiums in Bulgaria and abroad, and her honours. The most significant individual studies of K. Vazvazova in the field of archival studies, archaeography and source studies are indicated.

Her contribution to the development of Bulgarian archival studies and archaeography is proven. She ranks among the most distinguished researchers of the Bulgarian revival. Thankfully to her constant care and searches, thousands of documents have been collected in the National Library, which after scientific processing have been made available for the use of Bulgarian and foreign researchers. Her name is associated with the publication of documents' collections revealing parts of Bulgarian history. More than thirty volumes of documentary editions have been published under her management and direct participation not only as a manager but also as a compiler and editor. In cooperation with the state archives, she participated in committees for archival funds' search, as well as for preparation of the first instructions for their processing.

The next paragraph, entitled **"In the Academic and Directors' Council of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library"**, explores the participation of K. Vazvazova in the work of both boards. Her opinion on basic issues concerning the Library and the Manuscript and Documentation Sector (MDS) is outlined, as well as the importance of the positions she defended. The qualities of

K. Vazvazova as an organizer and her contributions to improving work in NLCM and MDS are presented.

In a period of no less than three decades, while she was part of the management team of one hardly imposed cultural institution, K. Vazvazova achieved high results. She flexibly led the battle for establishment of Manuscript and documental sector (MDS) as a leading archival centre. K. Vazvazova acted in a way that everyone to notice the people she worked with and the hard-achieved quality publications to be seen. She never sat aside from the problems of various kinds that arose for the Library and the MDS, always expressing her opinion and position with thorough suggestions.

From the attached evidence, we can highly appreciate what she has done in the overall situation background at that time. The documents preserved in the NLCM's archival fund do not always provide us with sufficiently accurate and detailed information about the atmosphere of work in the Scientific and Directorate Councils, where matters were not confined to the special collections but were common to such a multifunctional institution. Nevertheless, they give us a clear idea of the active and effective participation of K. Vazvazova in these governing bodies.

The third paragraph "**Searching for documents about Bulgarian history in foreign archive repositories and exploring foreign archival experience**" examines the activity of K. Vazvazova in searching for archival documents in Bulgaria and abroad. In chronological order, her business trips are traced, during which she searched for documentary materials about Bulgarian history, some of which were subsequently realized as publications and documentary editions. K. Vazvazova's three-month specialization at the French School of Archivists (Ecole Nacional des Chartes) in Paris is examined in more details. Her publications, made public on the basis of archival documents on Bulgarian history discovered by her in foreign archive repositories, are presented.

The activity of the NLCM's management related to overseas assignments have been clarified in details with a view to further qualification and specialization of MDS staff, including K. Vazvazova in her capacity as head of the sector. As a result, she was well acquainted with the organisation and working methods of a number of foreign libraries and archives and used this knowledge both in her administrative work and to defend the positions and interests of the NLCM special departments at every opportunity. On every trip K. Vazvazova established contacts with local specialists, with whose cooperation she searched for documents on Bulgarian history, including the realization of joint documentary publications.

The second chapter "**Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova in the Bulgarian archival studies and archaeography**" also has three paragraphs. In the first one, the positions of K. Vazvazova in the archival discussion in the 1950s and 1960s are traced. Vazvazova shared and consistently defended her views on the ways and methods of constructing a centralized archival system in Bulgaria, namely through uniform methodological rules for working with archival documents and centralized access to archival documents information, as well as through a system of administrative mechanisms for their implementation. Vazvazova is also among the earliest advocates for profiling the management bodies of the State Archive Fund, respectively, for legal regulation of the Manuscript-documentary sector in the structure of the NLCM. Vazvazova's proposals to the archival legislation and some of her views on the institutional organization of the management of the national archival heritage, as well as her role in improving the organization of work in the BHA at the NLCM, are examined.

The paragraph reveals that for 20 years the directors of the Library G. M. Dobrev and K. Kalaydzhieva, together with some of the most prominent managers of the special departments - Iv. Panayotov, K. V. Tileva were fighting to preserve the archival collections of the NLCM. With their professional experience they