**POSITION**

**By Prof. VESELIN KOSTOV YANCHEV, PhD**

**Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski”**

for the scientific materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of " Professor" in a professional field 2.2. History and Archeology/Bulgarian historiography - historical periodicals

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Documents for participation in the competition were submitted only by associated professor Todor Popnedelev, PhD.

Assoc. Prof. T. Popnedelev is an established name in the Bulgarian historical circles and one of the few specialists in the field of historiography. He has worked in this field for more than 30 years as a lecturer and researcher. He continues a tradition at the Faculty of History at the University - readings in Bulgarian historiography. It is worth mentioning that Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev managed to expand both the geographical scope and the topic of these readings. In recent years he has been lecturing on Balkan historiography, Introduction to historical knowledge, Fields and schools of historical science in various specialties.

The research work of the candidate is in several areas. Since his doctoral thesis he has been exploring the professional path and achievements of a number of famous Bulgarian historians such as V. Zlatarski, D. Strashimirov, P. Nikov, P. Mutafchiev, Y. Trifonov and others. His second research field is related to the history of educational institutions and institutional memory - mainly Sofia University and its Faculty of History. Third field is the beginning, development and role of historical periodicals as a means of promoting historical knowledge but also as a tool for ideological influence on society. The fourth area - periodization and characteristics of Bulgarian historiography and the fifth one - the philosophy, creative pursuits and achievements of the contemporary Bulgarian historians.

For the competition the candidate presents 16 publications, including 2 monographs, 1 co-authored study, 12 articles, 1 foreword. Thus the minimum scientific requirements (550 points) under the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria are fully met and even exceeded - 705 points.

The main work presented for the competition is "The Bulgarian Middle Ages in the Pages of the Sofia University Yearbook. Faculty of History and Philology (1905-1945)”. After a brief presentation of the subject of historiography, the author clearly and logically justifies the reasons that led him to the publication (the oldest and most important scientific periodical of the University) and the topic (Medieval Bulgarian History), which occupies the largest share of publications in this period of forty years. 45 studies of 13 scholars - mainly historians but also writers, geographers, linguists are examined in chronological order. The main goal of the study is presenting their methods and methodology of work.

The conclusions are made regarding the number of publications on the different periods of medieval Bulgarian history, their topics and issues. It is concluded that Bulgarian scholars during this period have a systematic and lasting interest in the Bulgarian Middle Ages and have presented the spirit of the era. They rely on the historical source as the main tool to know and reconstruct the past, work in a precise manner with the scientific literature and trace the causal links. As a result the expressed opinions can be assessed as objective.

Taking into account the research, teaching and organizational skills of Assoc. Prof. Dr. T. Popnedelev, the originality of his work and lack of plagiarism, I believe that he meets the requirements for the competitive academic position "Professor".

February 20, 2022

Prof. Dr. Veselin Yanchev