

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr Anelia Bozkova

National Archaeological Institute and Museum,

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

on the scientific research activities of Head Assistant Dr Daniela Stefanova Stoyanova, sole candidate in an open competition for the position of Docent in the professional field of History and Archaeology for the needs of the Faculty of History of the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia announced in “Darzhaven Vestnik” No 103 of December 10, 2021

Dr Daniela Stoyanova is the only candidate who has applied in the announced open competition. She has submitted as a part of her application 21 selected scientific papers, of which one is monographic, one is a part of a collective monograph and 19 are studies and articles, some of which are co-authored. In reality, however, the scientific output of Dr Stoyanova is far more voluminous, as can be seen from the attached full list of publications, and it is this list that gives a real insight into the wide range of the candidate’s research topics and scientific contributions, including in the field of applied science.

The data on the participation of Dr Daniela Stoyanova in the creation of a number of prestigious exhibition catalogues, in scientific research projects and in archaeological field explorations complement the rich range of activities to which she has devoted her valuable and in-depth expertise.

From the very start, with both her master's and doctoral theses, Dr Daniela Stoyanova has demonstrated a lasting interest in the problems of ancient architecture and the use of construction techniques and materials in ancient Thrace, which have become the main scientific domain of her research career. It is important to underline that she does not tread on beaten paths in the field of scientific knowledge, but has chosen a specific segment, under-studied in the Bulgarian historiography, which she has expanded and developed over the years. To her expertise on Thracian architectural monuments, Dr Stoyanova has added a vast professional competence regarding the architectural monuments in the Greek cities along the West Pontic coast, and thus over the years she has established herself as the best specialist on ancient architecture in our country for the age of Thracian and ancient Greek antiquity.

The scientific works with which Dr Daniela Stoyanova is participating in this competition cover a wide range of problems that can be summarized in the following major groups:

1. Studies and articles on tomb architecture in ancient Thrace – problems of planning schemes, building materials, construction techniques, decoration and internal arrangement. The studies included in this group are devoted to individual monuments and to typological groups (Nos 2, 6, 14, 17), and to specific structural and decorative elements of the architecture of tomb structures (No. 9). The summary studies of Dr Stoyanova on Thracian tomb architecture (nos. 3, 4, 10, 15, 21) provide a broad overview of all aspects of the walled tombs of Thrace and are of particular importance. These studies are richly illustrated with plan schemes, drawings and photographs, many of which are the author's personal contribution, and bring together the current knowledge on monumental

tombs in ancient Thracian lands, their typological characteristics and specific peculiarities, the used construction techniques and materials, the various decorative schemes and elements. These studies are not mere generalizations of what has already been known, they are actual contributions on monumental tomb construction by Dr Stoyanova as an author, with new important and hitherto neglected observations on the building materials, the decorative programs of the facades, the typology, the functional characteristic and the decoration of stone doors and burial beds. As a particularly significant contribution in this group of publications I would also single out Dr Stoyanova's substantiated efforts for a more precise and objective dating of the architectural tomb structures. The chronology she proposes for each of the monuments she deals with (e. g. No 8), as well as for the period of their existence in general, is based on solid parallels from the Mediterranean zone with references to the development of the architectural order and its elements in the eastern Mediterranean world.

2. A second group of scientific publications by Dr Stoyanova are related to the investigation of particular aspects of settlement construction in the lands of ancient Thrace. In its historical biography, this issue is still new for the archaeology in Bulgaria and the works of Dr Stoyanova, although not numerous, can be defined as both innovative and setting modern scientific standards. Her study on *adobe* (No. 7), widely used as a building material both in ancient Thrace and in the Greek world, is particularly important for the understanding of fortification structures in the Thracian settlement system and of housing construction in ancient Thrace. The publications on decorous stone buildings (no. 16) or on the building ceramics and architectural terracotta from settlement sites or cult buildings (nos. 19, 20) are directly related to the architecture of

settlement centres. It is worth recalling here that with her research on building ceramics and architectural terracotta in ancient Thrace Dr Stoyanova has established a new scientific field in Bulgarian historiography and has become the only specialist in this field who is currently in great demand in Bulgaria. Her expertise has been particularly valuable for the correct interpretation of a number of newly discovered immovable architectural monuments or particular artefacts.

3. The contributions of Dr Stoyanova in the field of the architectural heritage of the West Pontic ancient Greek cities make up a heterogeneous third group. The main focus of these works is on the building ceramics and architectural terracotta from various types of archaeological contexts. Roof tiles from funerary contexts of different character in Mesambria and Apollonia are examined in three of the papers (Nos 11, 12, 18), and the roof tiles and ceramic decoration from Odessos are discussed in a fourth (No 5). In all these studies, the main typological characteristics of the roof constructions for the respective age (the Late Classical and the Hellenistic periods) have been deduced and observations have been made on the local production of building ceramics and the import of roof tiles from other Pontic centres. The manufacturers' seals present on the tiles have also been professionally analysed. The typological and stylistic analysis of architectural terracotta has in turn led Dr Stoyanova to the discovery of a number of common features in the production of architectural decoration in many Pontic cities. A further study (No 13) in this field of research summarises for the first time the data on the importation of roof tiles from the leading centres of Sinope and Heraclea Pontica into the West Pontic colonies, which

has led to important observations on the market share of imported and local ceramic roofing products.

4. A special accent should be placed to the monographic work of Daniela Stoyanova entitled “*Building Ceramics and Architectural Terracotta from Apollonia Pontica (6th century BC – 3rd century BC)*” (No. 1). It should be said from the outset that it represents a truly pioneering work for the Bulgarian school of archaeology and, with its in-depth analysis, ranks among the best examples in this field in world scientific literature.

The work consists of six analytical chapters, a conclusion, tables, a bibliographical apparatus and an extensive summary in English. It is based on the primary processing of thousands of artefacts (fragments of roof tiles and architectural terracotta) documented personally by the author. The road to this research has been long and fraught with challenges, requiring professional skill, perseverance and consistency. Dr Daniela Stoyanova has tackled all the difficulties of “urban archaeology” and the resulting stratigraphic difficulties (clearly formulated already in the first chapter) and has reached an objective possibility of reconstructing the ceramic coverings of the architectural monuments of Apollonia Pontica of the Archaic, Late Classical and Hellenistic periods.

The first chapter of the book describes the aims and objectives of the research and the scientific methods used.

Chapter two provides a comprehensive overview of previous studies on the building ceramics of Apollonia and its immediate and more distant surroundings. The results of the elaboration of related problems in other centres in

the Pontic area are also briefly presented. Insofar as the subject is new to the Bulgarian reader, perhaps a small review section on the world historiography should have been provided, but this recommendation in no way detracts from the merits of the work.

The third chapter is devoted to the building ceramics of the Late Classical and Hellenistic periods, and its elaboration is based mainly on the data from the necropolises of Apollonia Pontica. All the elements of roof construction – pan, cover and eaves tiles and antefixes – are considered. Production stamps are the object of special attention.

The fourth chapter discusses the temple architecture and the architectural decoration in Apollonia based on the data from the excavations on the island of St Cyriac and St Julitta and various places on the Sozopol peninsula. A summary review of what is known so far presents in a very visual format the data on the temple construction during different periods of the existence of the city, and Dr Stoyanova has had a personal involvement in the identification of the cultural remains and construction periods of many of the cult buildings examined. Diagrams, plans, drawings and other illustrative material accompany this part of the book, most interesting and important for the main topic part of the research.

Chapter five presents an analysis of the building ceramics of the Archaic period, based on artefacts from the temenos on the island of St Cyriac and St Julitta. The chapter contains a typological study of the pan, cover and eaves tiles and the antefixes, also taking into account the data on the composition of the clays and the colour of the fired production.

The sixth chapter is devoted to the most attractive elements of the roof structure of ancient monumental buildings, namely the ceramic artistic decoration, also called architectural terracotta. The architectural elements examined include an analysis of clay antefixes, eaves tiles, Ionic cymation panels, warrior panels, and simas with relief decoration. Although not numerous, these artefacts are important in determining the functional characteristics of the buildings and their chronology, providing evidence for the development of local arts and crafts and for the importation of wares from various Pontic and eastern Mediterranean centres. The monuments are discussed in the text one by one, with detailed descriptions and graphic reconstructions where necessary. On the basis of the analysis and the parallels drawn, Dr Daniela Stoyanova has reached important generalizations about the connections of Apollonia with her metropolis Miletus and other eastern Mediterranean centres and with Pontic cities such as the major manufacturing centre of Mesambria. The evidence for local, Apollonian production of artistic architectural decoration is also straight and convincing. The tables appended to the text of the book catalogue all known examples of stamped tiles produced in Apollonia Pontica, which will also facilitate future discoveries and research.

My general impression is that the monographic work of Dr Daniela Stoyanova is an original and personal scientific study with the high qualities of a significant scientific product and with a high coefficient of practical usefulness. This scientific study, the first of its kind in Bulgaria, represents an unquestionable contribution of the Bulgarian school of archaeology.

Summing up all that has been said so far about the rich and contributive scientific work of Dr Daniela Stoyanova, I believe that supporting her academic

advance would be fully merited. In this regard, I categorically state that I will vote with “Yes” for awarding the academic position of Docent to Dr Daniela Stoyanova.

Sofia, April 8, 2022

Reviewer:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anelia Bozkova', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr Anelia Bozkova