

Opinion

of Prof. D.Sc. Nadya Hristova Danova

with regard to the participation of Dr. Fotiny Yannis Christakoudi-Konstantinidou

in a competition for Associate Professor

In the announced in issue 21 of 13/03/2020 of the State Gazette competition for Associate Professor under 2.1. Philology, professional field Literature of the peoples of Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia - Modern Greek literature, participates as the only candidate chief assistant at the Department of General, Comparative, Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" Dr. Fotiny Yannis Christakoudi-Konstantinidou. The candidate has graduated the specialties "Balkan Studies" and "English Philology", as well as a two-year course in "International Relations" at Sofia University "St. Cl. Ohridski".

I would like to begin with the fact that, as a historian dealing with the cultural and political history of Greece, I had the opportunity to follow with interest and satisfaction the scientific development of the candidate from 2003 to 2006, when she was a full-time doctoral student in the section "Cultural History of the Balkan People" at the Institute of Balkan Studies. I was pleased to attend in 2007 the successful defense of her doctoral dissertation on the topic of "The modern literary movements and Greek poetry (the first decades of the twentieth century)". I am now pleased to note that over the years she has continued her scientific maturation and the acquisition of new knowledge and professional skills through specializations and participation in seminars in Germany, Romania, Macedonia, Greece and Denmark. The result of Dr. Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou's purposeful efforts is her scientific production, comprising 29 articles and 2 monographs in the field of comparative literature, with special emphasis on the reception of symbolism in modern Greek poetry, as well as on the specific to the Greek cultural development diglossia. It is especially valuable what she has done to make available to the Bulgarian reader the works of a number of Greek poets. Her excellent philological training and in-depth knowledge of the development of Greek poetry in the period 1880-1930 allowed her to reveal chronologically the entry and reception of symbolism and neo-symbolism in Greece - a hitherto insufficiently studied period in the development of Greek literature. Dr. Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou's

enviable language training, which includes not only the well-known European languages, but also the Balkan languages, provides her access to Balkan literatures, as a result of which she offers us Balkan studies in the full sense of the word. Thanks to her publications the Bulgarian reader has the opportunity to get closer to hitherto unknown aspects of the works of Nikos Kazantzakis, Stefanos Stefanou, Kostis Palamas, Odysseus Elytis, Konstantinos Cavafy and Nikos Kavvadias. Her role as a mediator between cultures also includes texts through which she introduces the Greek readers to the works of Nikola Vaptsarov and Valeri Petrov. Since the monograph of Dr. Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou "Symbolism and the Modern Greek poetry of the late XIX and early XX century", S., 2020 is based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", I will not analyze it here.

Fotiny Christakoudi's monograph, "Problems of the 1880-1930 Greek Literary Development (Studies on Modern Greek Poetry)", published in 2020, aims to reveal the genesis and specificity of Greek literary modernism and to outline the characteristics of different generations of Greek symbolists and neo-symbolists. This task inevitably requires the author to situate the literary processes in their historical context, and she very skilfully presents us a picture of the development of Greek society for almost half a century. It successfully recreates those features of the social, political and cultural environment in Greece from the end of the XIX and the first decades of the XX century, which determine the signs of symbolism and neo-symbolism on Greek soil. Introducing us to the multifaceted world of Greek poetic modernism, the author inevitably immerses us in Greek history, culture and worldview, provides valuable information about Greek politicians, military and social upheavals, about the epic disputes over the language question in Greece, the urban problems of Athens, about the modernization/conservatism in mentalities, etc. Her special merit is the revelation of the connection between the phenomena in the field of literature and the problems of national identity - issues that became especially relevant in the Balkans after 1989. The author pays special attention to the role of the Greek national doctrine "Megali Idea", which influences the whole life of the Greek society and naturally is reflected in the literary processes. Fotiny Christakoudi's monograph discusses the problem of the dilemmas that the modern individual is facing - he must get to know his own self and find his foundations in the past in order to move forward and have a future, as well as that of the identity crisis of that modern individual. The author is sensitive to the problem of the "native-foreign" to the Greek and Balkan artists in general, who must combine the national, native, traditional with the European, foreign, modern. Revealing how European literary processes influence artists in the

Balkans, the author emphasizes that they themselves are influenced by Balkan artists, which is why she talks about interpenetration and active dialogue in the field of European cultures and literatures, as well as the similarities in literary processes.

For the writing of her monograph, Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou has attracted a huge amount of literature in Bulgarian, Greek and other languages, and, of course, Greek researches on the subject occupy a leading place. Nevertheless, as a historian I will allow myself to recommend to the author in her future work to take into account the publications of the Greek historians Philipos Iliou (Φίλιππος Ηλιού. *Ι ιδεολογικές χρήσεις του Κοραιοσμού–Διήμερο Κοραή*. Αθήνα, 1984) as well as the work of Rena Stavridi-Patrikiou (Ρένα Σταυρίδη-Πατρικίου. *Οι φόβοι ενός αιώνα*, Αθήνα, 2007), which will allow for the consolidation of the picture of the linguistic and ideological situation in Greece, as well as the avoidance of some inaccuracies in the characterization of ideology and language views. Dr. Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou enriches the Bulgarian scientific literature with a research, which builds on what has been achieved so far in the field of literary criticism and comparative literature. Undoubtedly, the monograph contains many contributing moments and allows us to assume that it has the qualities of habilitation work.

The scientific biography of the candidate also includes editorial work related to the publication of volumes of papers, translations of Greek poetry, expert participation in committees and editorial boards. The reference to the citations of the works of Dr. Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou testifies to the respect that their author has received from her colleagues. Data on her participation in four research projects show that she is a valuable and desirable partner. She is a member of prestigious international professional organizations in the field of comparative literature and Neo-Greek Studies.

Information about her work shows that she meets the indicators related to teaching and research.

Based on the listed positive aspects of the scientific activity of Dr. Fotiny Christakoudi-Konstantinidou, I can say that she has the professional qualities necessary for her habilitation as an associate professor.

Sofia, 1.09.2020

Author of the opinion:

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