

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Antoni Stoilov,

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Member of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position "Professor" in Professional field 2.1. "Philology" (Bulgarian language - Old Bulgarian language), announced by Sofia University in SG, issue 103 /

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with a candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petko Dimitrov Petkov

The only candidate participates in the competition with academic papers presented by him, which can be divided into a) publications, b) citations, c) participations in research projects. Since the candidate for the academic position of "Professor" has been an associate professor since 2016, and presents in his academic biography some earlier work, I will focus mainly on the part which was done after 2016.

A. Publications

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petko Petkov presents an academic reference, including thirteen monographs (nine of them co-authored), four research studies (one co-authored), thirty-three scientific papers (thirteen of them co-authored). Their number after 2016, with which he participates in the competition, is seven, four and seventeen, respectively.

1. Monographs

In all of them, the author's contribution to the research, analysis and explication of our verbal antiquity is obvious and indisputable. Of great importance for the research is Father Edoardo Valpa's work *Zaropismo illi Balgarska Istoria*, the Catholic missionary in Bulgaria, which was prepared for printing by the Capuchin Father in 1849. Assoc. Prof. Petkov's book quite

logically begins with a review of Paulician literature (Father Edoardo's work was written in the Bulgarian Paulician dialect). It presents the data collected by him so far about Father Edoardo Valpa. He describes in detail the transcripts of Zaropismo and Bulgarian history in the work of the father, the relation of what was written by Edoardo to the Tsarstvenik of Christaki Pavlovich, analyzes the original literary-linguistic form of the work in terms of its phonetic, grammatical and lexical features, and presents the text of Zaropismo in its original. Assoc. Prof. Petkov's research is a fully professionally presented philological study of a valuable manuscript from the first half of the XIX century, written in Paulician dialect with the help of the Latin alphabet, and therefore the effort of Associate Professor Petkov to make it available to the scientific philological community (and to the people outside the community who are interested in antiquity) deserves only admiration.

Of the other monographic works of the candidate, some study old Bulgarian literature (*Services for St. Clement*, written from the tenth to the twentieth century; *Parchment Cyrillic excerpts* from the library of the Holy Monastery of Zograf; *Dragotin the Apostle*, a Bulgarian manuscript from the XII-XIII century); others are characterized by compilation (*A Catalog of Slavic manuscripts from the Holy monastery of Zograf*, containing 119 descriptions of Slavic manuscripts; *A Jubilee collection* containing research of Old Bulgarian and Paleo-Slavic studies; *A Chrestomathy*, including South Slavic texts from the XIV and XV centuries).

All monographs submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition are significant, professionally written and are related to the topic of the competition.

2. Research studies.

The candidate presents four research studies for participation in the competition.

An important source for the study of the literary language in the fourteenth century is the research study of *The middle Bulgarian text of the dispute of*

Panagiot with Azimite after a 16-th century manuscript (№53 from the Grigorovich collection in the Russian State library), as it provides information on the Wallacho-Moldavian adaptation of Slavic texts.

In *The Slavonic Text of "Chapters with Acrostic" by Gregory Sinaita*, the contestant makes available the most significant work of the founder and theorist of hesychasm in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries in the Balkans and Byzantium through its Slavic version, which gives the opportunity to analyze its lexical and word-forming features.

The Egyptian patericon is one of the six types of patericons that exist. It is known in a translation from the 10th century into Old Bulgarian, which gained popularity mostly through Russian transcripts from the end of the 15th century. *Complex words in the Egyptian patericon* is a work in which the author Assoc. Prof. Petkov analyzes word-formation and lexical features in the Slavic translation of the patericon and thus it becomes a valuable source of data in the field of Bulgarian historical lexicology.

In connection with this work is the fourth research study of the candidate *Suffix-motivated abstract nouns in the text of the Egyptian Patericon*, emphasizing word-formation models in abstract nouns in the Egyptian Patericon in a comparative context with Old Bulgarian translations of patericon texts.

3. Papers

The candidate for the academic position participates in the competition with seventeen papers (eight of them co-authored). The issues covered in them are related to the topic of the competition. The author focuses mainly on the analysis of old literature (*Eulogy to St. Forty Martyrs by St. Basil the Great in manuscript №3 from the library of the Monastery of Zograf; On the Marginal Note of "the Poor Dragan" in the Zograf Trephologion; Manuscript № 328 from the library of the Holy Monastery of Zograf [collection of Tarpe Vuchidolov]; For two parchment fragments from the library of the Holy Monastery of Zograf; Third Eulogy to St. George by Gregory Tsambalak, etc.*). He expands the scope both by

studying the old Bulgarian features that exist in today's folk dialects (*Primary and secondary nasal vowels in a Western Rhodope Bulgarian dialect*) and by analyzing and publishing old Slavic translations (*The Slavic translation of the Thanksgiving Sermon by St. Basil the Great; The Slavic translation of the fasting words of St. Basil the Great; etc.*).

B. Citations

The candidate for the academic position presents citations in monographs and collective volume articles with scientific reviews by Bulgarian and foreign authors in both print and electronic resources.

C. Projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petkov participates as a member of research teams in projects with local and foreign research structures (with the University of Saarland in Saarbrücken, Germany; with the University of Athens in Greece). He was also a project manager at Sofia University (*Dragotin the Apostle. A Bulgarian monument from the XII-XIII century*). The objectives of these projects (to create electronic resources of manuscript transcripts and catalogs of hitherto undescribed Cyrillic manuscripts, etc.) are related to the theme of the competition.

Conclusion:

The works and research activities with which the candidate participates in the competition show that our creative literary-linguistic continuity is a fact in the times of foreign rule in the period XIV-XVI century, and the work done by Assoc. Prof. Petkov proves that it is necessary to conduct persistent purposeful research, to analyze and announce these important works of our ancestors.

The presented scientific production confirms that the candidate has the necessary research qualities to enable him to take the academic position for which he is applying. Therefore, I strongly recommend that the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury award the academic position of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petko Dimitrov Petkov.

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Prof. Dr. Antoni Stoilov