

SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Faculty of Theology

Department of "Historical Theology"

R E V I E W E D

by Prof. Dr. Ludmil Martinov Malev

member of the scientific jury Order RD 38-350/10.07.2023

of a dissertation on:

**"Yaroslav Pelikan and the path of the historian to the Church (through the Tradition to Orthodoxy)"**

author: **Teodor Asenov Avramov**

for awarding the scientific and educational degree "doctor"

by field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4, scientific specialty Religion and Theology (History of Orthodox theology in the 20th century)

Sofia

2023 г.

## Data for the Ph.D

Doctoral student Teodor Avramov has a theological education acquired at the Faculty of Theology of Sofia University ( 2017 г. "bachelor" and 2018 г. "master"). There are two practical specializations – in France and in Latvia. In 2016 г. majored in theology and Greek language at the University of Thessaloniki. In the period 2020- 2023 г. is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Theology at the SU. From 2021 г. is an assistant in the "Historical Theology" department. The completed path of education and qualification is an important prerequisite for the achieved positive end result.

Teodor Avramov was enrolled as a doctoral student by order of the rector of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski" in January 2020 г. The entire preparation, including the writing of the dissertation, was carried out in the department of "Historical Theology" at the Faculty of Theology of Sofia University. His academic supervisor is Prof. Dr. Pavel Pavlov.

During the period of doctoral studies, the dissertation student has completed his study plan in full. He successfully passed the scheduled exams. He managed to prepare and implement the required number of scientific publications. He always responded and diligently handled the activities assigned to him by the department. He was involved in additional forms of doctoral training at the faculty level. He participated in doctoral readings organized by the Faculty of Theology. In the current control carried out through the provided attestations, it has always received good marks.

All this has led to the completion and integrity of his doctoral studies and the successful preparation of a doctoral dissertation.

He was expelled by rector's order from 2023 г. on the basis of the law and regulations, as well as a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology, with the right of defense.

In my opinion, Teodor Avramov meets the requirements and meets the criteria of the RSARB and the Regulations for its implementation.

What has been pointed out so far gives me reason to accept. that all procedural rules have been followed and no violations have been committed.

The first meeting of the scientific jury approved by order of the rector of Sofia University was held on 18.07.2023 and is reflected in the protocol attached to the documents.

#### Dissertation data

The dissertation work of Theodor Avramov proposed for defense has a volume of 284 pages and is structurally organized in the following parts: preface, introduction, three chapters, conclusion, appendices and references.

Between the separate parts, in general, there is a balance, in terms of volume (the third chapter is smaller). The preface, introduction and conclusion are quite lengthy.

In the Preface, the author, after the initial introductory thoughts, shares the reason why he turned to the topic and its development.

The introduction contains all the attributes that are characteristic of this part and are important in view of the research work. The goals and tasks that the author sets for

their achievement are formulated. The methodology is indicated. It stands out with the necessary complexity and comprehensiveness. The limits of the study are outlined. A short review of the foreign works known to the dissertation was made.

The content of the Three Chapters corresponds to their wording. Probably in order to arrive at a complete elucidation of even the smallest detail, the dissertationer has separated each detail into appropriate subdivisions. This is a technique that also serves for better visualization and easier orientation in the content. It should be noted that the author did not engage in mechanical fragmentation and fragmentation of the text, and each of the substructures seems appropriate.

At the end of each chapter there are conclusions, and at the end of the dissertation work a general Conclusion is made, which outlines the results of the research and highlights the contributions.

The parts indicating the sources and the literature (author's and reference) are particularly impressive. One hundred and fifty-five books (19 in Cyrillic, 135 in Latin and 4 archival materials) in various languages are marked, which testifies to a deep interest and diligent work.

Placed applications are tailored to the topic and contribute to its visualization.

The abstract presented by Teodor Avramov meets the requirements and enables a clear and accurate introduction to the text of the dissertation in a synthesized form.

The dissertation's publications are sufficient in number and depth and have been published in authoritative journals. The same could be said about his participation in scientific forums.

Scientific contributions

The dissertation work of Teodor Avramov is dedicated to the personality and work of a little-known and quoted historian and theologian of the 20th century, and this generally contains the reason to assume that he has a marked contribution character. For researchers in this field, it is clear that the contributions are contained in the extensive and thorough analysis down to the smallest detail. The positive approach to clarifying the facts and events in close connection with the historical premises and setting is not to be neglected. This is what the present study suggests. As for specific dimensions, I fully accept the contributions highlighted in the abstract. The main ones, as indicated by the dissertation student, are: 1. First voluminous and detailed study dedicated to Yaroslav Pelikan, his life and work; 2. First in-depth presentation of his key works in the "framework of his entire work and of his personal family and academic continuity"; 3. Until now unexplored archival materials have also been studied, which are also related to another great theologian of the last century - Prot. G. Florovski 4. The issues related to the name of Yaroslav Pelikan become more popular and accessible to those showing interest; 5. To the realized contributions we should add one that has future development: delineating the framework of further research related to new translations of his work.

Remarks

Along with the undoubted qualities of this work, in my opinion, there are also some minor weaknesses:

1. Content balance could be improved.
2. In the introduction, when reviewing the sources, a brief critical analysis of the more significant of them could be made. This would make the contributions stand out even more brightly.
3. In the text on which the review was written, there is an inaccuracy in the numbering of the pages (until the beginning of the introduction there is one numbering with Latin numbers, and then a new numbering starts from 1, etc. with Arabic).
4. Applications are relevant but very voluminous. However, it is the doctoral student's right to judge their form and content.
5. Again in the appendices, it would be appropriate for a prosopographical study to include photos and images (if available).

## Conclusion

I declare that I do not in any way fall under the hypotheses of the law and other normative acts regarding conflict of interests!

The qualities of the current dissertation work give me full reason to vote positively "FOR" Teodor Asenov Avramov to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4,

scientific specialty Religion and Theology ( History of Orthodox theology in the 20th century).

Veliko Tarnovo

2023 г.