

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REPORT

to Mrs Elena Kostova, PhD, on her Habilitationschrift and Publications on occasion of applying for the
Academic post of Associate Professor

(Summary)

The Habilitationschrift of Dr. Elena Kostova is entitled "Bulgaria, Ragusa and the Balkans. Political, Economic and Diplomatic Relations". Before applying for Ass.Prof. Dr. Kostva has continuously been occupied with the history of the small city of Melenicos and her dissertation has been translated into English (2013). The next year she was awarded with the John Bell Memorial Book Prize.

The strong points of the work on Ragusa and the relations of the city with Bulgaria and the Balkan countries could be put in the following:

1. On the first place is the work with the archival materials from Ragusa and although this has been done by other scholars it always contains a certain amount of scientific surprise.
2. Secondly I should like to stress the contributions in the problem of customs and consular service in the Commune or Republic.
3. The style and attitude of the applicant is well worked out and this demonstrates an already nearly perfect scholar.
4. All the documents of the procedure are well drawn up which demonstrates precise work with such a material.

My remarks on the Habilitationschrift could be formulated as follows:

1. First of all the different parts of the study are not equivalent as contributions. The best part in my opinion is the second.
2. The different parts of the study are created in different times and this transpires in the attitude and citations in them.
3. I have some remarks on the scientific literature cited in the study. Sometimes it is too old; sometimes the same titles are repeated constantly.

Nevertheless, my general attitude is quite positive and I shall vote with "yes" for the acquirement of the academic post of Associate Professor by Mrs Elena Kostova, PhD.

Dec. the 6th, 2019

Prof. Dr. Habil. Christo Matanov