

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИСЛЕДОВАНИЯ	
История	08-07-2015
Възраст № 378	

STATEMENT

from Professor Svetlozar Vladimirov Eldarov,

Doctor of Historical Sciences,

Institute of Balkan Studies with Center for Thracology at the Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences

regarding dissertation thesis of Associate Professor Teodorichka Ilieva
Gotovska-Henze, PhD

on

BULGARIANS IN THE CZECH-RUSSIAN LITERARY EXCHANGE
(1830s – 1860s)

for the award of scientific degree Doctor of Historical Sciences

Scientific field 2. Humanities

Professional field 2.2. History and archeology

Scientific specialty: New and recent history 05.03.04.

Teodorichka Ilieva Gotovska-Henze, Associate Professor, PhD in the Department of World History and International Relations in Modern and Contemporary Times at the Institute for Historical Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, is an established academic scientist whose research work is well known and highly valued by the scientific circles in our country and abroad. Her specializations in prestigious research institutions, such as Charles University and the Central European University in Prague, the American John Hopkins University - Bologna branch and the Catholic University of Eichstatt, as well as the basic start from the Faculty of History at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", paved the way for her formation as a serious researcher with a wide methodological horizon, excellent language training and rich set of scientific tools. The field of application of her research covers the history of Slavic Science, Bulgarian-Czech cultural and political relations and the history of Central Europe in the XIX - XX centuries, the results of which are evidenced by her publications and especially through the dissertation for the degree "Doctor of Science", which is the subject of this statement.

The dissertation of Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze is a fundamental scientific research on a significant Slavic topic, which breaks the traditional framework of bilateral

relations, established by inertia in historiography, and instead develops the problem-thematic content on a larger scale, by introducing Bulgaria and the Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian literary exchange. It can be reasonably argued that in her study for the first time in Bulgarian historiography such an interdisciplinary summary of the literature accumulated so far in the field of linguistics, literary studies, folklore, ethnography and history has been achieved, with which the cultural and social functions of Slavic Science with regard to the Bulgarians in the period of the 1830s - 1860s finally appear in their entirety. The set research tasks are precisely formulated, the object and subject of the research, as well as its chronological boundaries are convincingly substantiated, and preliminary clarity has been introduced regarding the used methodology and terminology. The historiographical review of Bulgarian and foreign language literature is comprehensive, analytical and critical, clearly distinguishing the results achieved so far from the personal contribution of the author.

My opinion regarding the structuring of the study, which is successfully balanced, is also completely positive. The dissertation has a total volume of 456 pages and consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion and an overview of the sources. The author seems to have tried with mathematical precision to divide the text equally between the four chapters, which in turn are divided into more (11 to 18) paragraphs. This structural composition creates a kind of problem-thematic rhythm, which combined with the good language and clear thought of the author allows for the full development of the scientific narrative and its perception by the reader. The first chapter traces the development of Slavic knowledge in its initial phase in the XVIII century in the Danube monarchy and in Russia, focusing on research on Bulgarian studies until 1826. The second chapter presents the Russian-Czech scientific exchange in the 1830s - 1840s until the opening of the first Slavic departments in Russia. The third chapter traces the initial steps of the first Russian academic Slavists, the content of the curricula and their activities and interests related to Bulgarian studies. The last fourth chapter traces the evolution of Czech writers from humanities scholars to political leaders. The profiles of the Czech and Russian Slavists of the epoch, as well as their Bulgarian students and followers are outlined clearly and vividly throughout the work. Among all of them, however, with his scientific contributions stands out the most powerful figure of Pavel Josef Shafarik, who seems to receive the most thorough, documented and convincingly defended scientific assessment in Bulgarian historiography.

The author's reference on the scientific contributions of the dissertation in terms of topics, documentary sources, scientific approach, theoretical summaries and concrete results is objective, and in a sense more modest than reality in terms of their true dimensions and value for enriching scientific knowledge in the field of Slavic and Bulgarian studies. In addition to the new view of the scientific heritage, personality and work of Pavel Josef Shafarik, the contributions stand out to various aspects of the scientific update of Cyril and Methodius' work among Slavic science and the Slavic peoples in the XIX century, to the discovery and affirmation of Slavic identity of the Bulgarians among the family of European nations and cultures, to the formation of the first Bulgarian Slavists and many others. I deeply believe and hope that the work of Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze will set a new stage in the development of Slavic research in Bulgaria, including from the point of view of historical science.

The list of scientific publications presented by Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze as part of the procedure contains 13 titles of studies and articles in thematic collections, proceedings of scientific conferences and periodicals that focus on various aspects of the dissertation topic and in essence are an integral part of the process of its construction. The abstract accurately reflects the content of the dissertation and the main ideas and main conclusions of the author. I also find that all the requirements of the law and the procedure have been met. The attached reference proves that the minimum national requirements for the procedure for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" have been met.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the dissertation on "Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian literary exchange (1830s -1860s)" successfully achieves the goals, contains significant and original scientific contributions and discovers new research spaces in front of Slavic and Bulgarian studies. This gives me a reason to vote "FOR" and to suggest to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury that they also vote in favor of awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Historical Sciences" in the scientific field 2.2. (History and archeology), scientific specialty New and recent history 05.03.04. to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorichka Ilieva Gotovska-Henze.

Sofia, 30 June 2020

Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences Svetlozar Eldarov