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REVIEW

by Penka Peykovska, Prof. D.Sc.
of Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze's dissertation thesis, entitled
"Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian Literary and Scientific Exchange (1830s – 1860s)"
for obtaining the scientific degree of "Doctor of Science" in professional area 2.2. (History
and Archeology), scientific specialty "Modern and Contemporary History", code 05.03.04.

I present the evaluation below in my capacity as a member of the Academic Jury for the procedure. This evaluation is based on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Rules for its implementation, the BAS and internal IHS rules, regulations, and policies, including the procedure for obtaining the scientific degree "D.Sc." and the advertisement on the IHS website regarding the procedure.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze is a well-known and recognized researcher of the Bulgarian-Czech and Bulgarian-Slovak reciprocity in modern and contemporary times, has excellent language and professional training, acquired at Charles University (Prague), where she prepared her first doctorate, and during her specializations in the history of Central Europe, carried out at the Catholic University of Eichstätt, at the Central European University in Prague and at the American University in Bologna. Her studies are based on serious research work in the Czech and Slovak archives, a significant part of which outlines the Czech and Slovak contribution to the construction and development of the Third Bulgarian State.

The candidate for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Institute for Historical Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; the procedural requirements have been met and no violations have been found.

Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze presents a significant in volume (407 pages) dissertation work on the topic of "Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian Literary Exchange (1830s – 1860s)" – preliminarily discussed and proposed for the defense at an extended meeting of the section "History of the World and International Relations in Modern and Contemporary

Period". Generally speaking, the work reveals the change in the perception of the Turkic-Tatar character of the Bulgarians in the process of Czech-Russian literary and scientific exchange and the affirmation of the opinion about their Slavic affiliation. Regarding the chosen topic, the researcher remains faithful to her main scientific interests focused on the history of Central Europe in the 19th – 20th Centuries and the relations of the Bulgarians with the Central European peoples; in this case, however, a completely different issue has been examined than that of the previous doctoral and habilitation thesis (respectively "Czechoslovakia and the Little Entente, 1920–1925" and "Society and Power: Czechoslovakia 1945–1967"), different – including the studied period and characterized by special relevance and significance in our time. As can be seen from the list of publications and self-citations, Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze has been working on it for years, she is well acquainted with the specialized literature and archival sources, she uses precisely the scientific results of previous research.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters, each of which contains a dozen paragraphs, a conclusion and a list of used sources and literature, containing 353 titles. I will not dwell in detail on the content of the work – it can be traced in the abstract, its structure follows the classical requirements for a scientific work, the content of the single parts – too. In short ... The general discourse of Slavic studies in the Austrian and Russian empires is outlined in the exposition of the work; the Bulgarian themes in the pre-academic period of the development of Slavic studies are traced, the Czech-Russian literary exchange is presented - mainly the development of Bulgarian themes, as well as the participation of Bulgarian educators in it; The object of special study are the Bulgarian works of the prominent Slovak Slavist Pavel Josef Šafarik and their influence on the Bulgarians. The merits of Osip Bodyanski, Izmail Sreznevski, Piotr Price and Viktor Grigorovich – the "first Russian academic quartet" of Slavists and its connections with the Czech Slavic Center and with the Bulgarians are also outlined. Presenting the initial period in the development of modern Bulgarian education, the author also draws parallels with the Czech educational system, analyzes the political aspects of the idea of Slavic reciprocity and its manifestations in the Austrian and Russian empires, points out the consequences of the 1848 revolution for the Czech-Russian literary exchange and with regard to the Bulgarians. Thus, in the presence of many specialized Slavic studies in various fields of humanities, Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze presents for the first time a comprehensive interdisciplinary work, studying once the place of Bulgaristic matters in the Czech-Russian Slavic and literary exchange, and for the second time – the role of the Bulgarians in this exchange, which is an undoubted contribution

to our cultural history. She demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the studied topic, interprets the facts and comprehends them critically, and substantiates her theses with arguments and professionally. I appreciate the chronological-problematic approach adopted in the exposition. The source base of the research is impressive, and at the same time the fact that the author puts into scientific circulation many sources searched by herself in foreign archives, which supplement the rich and varied information of memoirs, travel notes and other published sources. The newly discovered sources come mainly from the Literary Archive in Prague – from the documentary heritage of Pavel Josef Šafarik, Vaclav Hanka, Alois Šembera and Šafarik's collaborator, the student Ivan Shopov. I have no significant remarks on the text of the work – it is characterized by a precise statement, terminological explanations, an interesting look at the Slavic issues. The conclusions formulated by Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze at the end of the separate chapters and in the concluding part are substantiated. I have a few recommended technical notes regarding the list of specialized literature used, namely: the monographs should not be separated from the studies and articles, in the bibliographic data of the latter the pages should be indicated.

The scientific publications related to the topic of the dissertation and gradually announcing the results of the author's research work are sufficient – a total of 13 (two of which in a foreign language), published in prestigious scientific journals. I would add the monograph missing in the list of author's publications on the topic of the dissertation entitled "The Cyrillic Code: Slavic Studies and the Rediscovery of the Bulgarians (until 1848)", published in 2018, which is the most important intermediate moment in the analysis of historical sources and in the interpretation of scientific results and which was accepted with dignity and received the recognition of specialists.

The abstract is 49 pages, correctly reflects the content of the dissertation and corresponds to the ones developed in it. I fully accept the contributions mentioned there by the author.

Conclusion

Based on the abovementioned I am fully convinced that the presented dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze, entitled "Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian literary exchange (1830s – 1860s)" has all the necessary qualities to be awarded the degree of "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 2.2. History and archeology.

Prof. D.Sc. Penka Peykowska

Sofia, 06.07.2020.