

## RECENSION

of the submitted works for participation in the competition for the academic position **PROFESSOR** in professional field 2.2 History and Archeology, scientific specialty "History of Bulgaria (New Bulgarian History - Social Policy, Institutions and Public Organizations)", announced by the Institute for Historical Research at BAS in "State Journal ", issue 21 of March 13, 2020

**Reviewer: Prof. Yordanka Marinova Gesheva, PhD, Institute for Historical Research at BAS**

**Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Ivanova Stoyanova, PhD, Institute for Historical Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Stoyanova, PhD, is the only candidate announced in the State Gazette, issue 21 in competition for the academic position of "professor". For participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova offers the monograph "Shared responsibility. Civil organizations, the State and the Institutions for Public Care in Bulgaria (1878-1939)". Sofia, 2009, 375 pages. The monograph was prepared together with Prof. Veska Nikolova, but the parts written by the two authors are clearly distinguished and were signed in the content. As a collective study, the candidate offers the three volumes of the encyclopedia "Donation. Donation Funds and Foundations in Bulgaria 1878-1951". Sofia, 2011. The fact that the encyclopedia undergoes a second supplemented and expanded edition shows the relevance, necessity and significance of the volumes.

Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova also offers two more collective encyclopedic editions: "Parliamentarians of Ruse 1878-1946" Co-author: Lyubomir Zlatev. Ruse, 2011, 247 pages; "Women in the History of Academic Science in Bulgaria (Habilitation Women Members of BAS)". Sofia, 2018, ROPRINT, 351 pages. In this issue, Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova is the author of 75 encyclopedic articles.

Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova also participated in the competition with the research "In the foundations of Bulgarian science. Charitable donations and benefactors of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Authors: R. Stoyanova, I. Marcheva, Tsv. Velichkova. Sofia, 2019, 127 pages. In addition, she offers for evaluation four documentary editions, of which I place special attention on the book "Politics as a responsibility and challenge. Teodor Ivanov Teodorov 1859-1924. Correspondence, speeches, memoirs of contemporaries." Sofia, 2014. Co-author and compiler together with Veska Nikolova. The second collection that I would note is "Benefactors and charity in Bulgaria - between praise and negation. 1879 - 1951. Documents. Compiled jointly with Veska Nikolova. S., 2015, 363 pages.

And to complete the list of the main publications with which Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova participates in the competition for professor, I will mention that the list prepared by her

includes 33 studies and articles published in various journals referenced and indexed in world databases, as well as in collections of scientific peer-review. The candidate also shows nine reviews of books by colleagues, which she wrote in the period from 2005 to 2020. During this time, she has participated in more than 20 conferences and scientific forums. She has participated in seven projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, UNESCO, the Research Fund and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In addition, she participates in the work of editorial teams of various research and documentary collections (nine in total), and since 2008 is a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal of the institute - "Historical Review" and a member of the editorial board of the Almanac for the History of Ruse since 2013. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyanova was a scientific consultant and supervisor of two already successfully defended doctoral students. Fourteen reviews have been written for the publications with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova.

In the beginning I want to point out the fact that Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Stoyanova often works in co-authorship – which shows her tolerance, cooperation, ability to work with other people, defending her own opinion, but also hers readiness to communicate and accept another point of view.

I would like to point special attention to the monograph "Shared responsibility. Civil organizations, the State and the Institutions for Public Care in Bulgaria (1878-1939). Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova is the author of Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 149-305, co-author of the introduction and the conclusion, co-compilation of the application, pp. 5-7, and 306-374. The monograph is the first attempt in Bulgarian historiography for a comprehensive study of the development and achievements of public charity in our country. The task of the research is to present the difficult path that public charity in Bulgaria goes through; to highlight the achievements and weaknesses; to show the significance of this social phenomenon; to outline the leading public groups dealing with support; to bring out of oblivion the most active individuals who have been involved in charitable initiatives at different times and in different ways. Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova's attention is focused primarily on the processes that emerged and took place after the end of the First World War mainly until 1939. She correctly noted and showed that these processes generally ended until 1952, when with a series of laws the state puts an end to all possibilities for carrying out charitable activity and nationalizes the funds and real estate of the charitable organizations.

According to the precise assessment of Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova, the period under consideration is characterized by the establishment of a relative balance in the field of social relations between the state, local authorities and civil society organizations. The author presents enough evidence from which she concludes that after the end of the First World War and the transition to a peacetime organization, the state is much more active, accepts much more social commitments and begins to exercise control over the activities of organizations and on the way, funds are spent.

Legislative changes have made caring for war orphans and war invalids part of public policy.

It should be noted that in this chapter Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova has successfully shown the activation of interaction, partnerships or problems between the state and social structures.

The various forms of charitable events aimed at helping the most vulnerable members of society are considered - orphanages and lonely adults, shelters for beggars; dormitories, facilities for helping people with health problems, with criminal acts, etc.; free school canteens and summer playgrounds, summer school colonies, medical institutions, etc. It should be noted as a contribution of the author that for the first time in the Bulgarian historiography the data on the social homes and establishments, discovered and functioning in the country until the middle of the 50s of the XX century, have been searched and summarized.

The place of the state and local authorities in the charitable activity is specific, due to which special attention is paid to the legislation on the issue. The research is multifaceted because Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova has sought and shown all possible areas in which charity and social assistance have developed.

The author's statement that in the period after 1934 it is much stronger, active and remarkable in all areas of public life, in this number the social sphere. An indisputable contribution to this has the Public Aid Act of 1934 and make changes in the next 3-4 years, to be introduced in the single system of public support and to determine the rights and employees, in terms of relations between state citizens, local authorities and civil society organizations and associations.

As positive moments in the period from 1934 to 1939, R. Stoyanova points out that the social commitments of the municipalities are growing; the network of social institutions is growing, new categories of people who need help are included. As a weakness, it is noted that in just a few years the state's regulatory intervention has increased excessively, not without the assistance of civil society organizations themselves, which are increasingly relying on state funding, which in turn leads to inefficiency and central administration.

It is necessary to emphasize the extremely rich archival base of the research: documents from the central and regional archives and museums; published and working materials of the organizations. It should also be noted the good historiographical awareness, the widespread use of scientific and local lore literature, as well as numerous information from the press. This has given Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova the opportunity to draw up-to-date conclusions, to point out the importance of the Revival tradition and of foreign borrowings in the field of public care; to outline the leading social groups and figures in them; to show the role of women.

The study includes interesting and sometimes unknown biographical data about figures who appeared in the charity field. Some of these undeniably worthy people are forgotten. Others are well-known figures in our history, and their charitable performances add new touches to their portraits.

I am pleased to note the very well thought-out conclusion of the book. It not only summarizes the implementation of the goals and tasks by periods, but also gives a comprehensive assessment of charity, the idea and meaning of social care and social assistance, the place and role of the state, the contribution of individual public organizations and companies. Last but not least, attention is drawn to the fact that the network of social institutions built over several decades creates and strengthens the feeling of public solidarity, of mutual assistance, of empathy for the problems of others; that in the first half of the 20th century, the Bulgarian already perceived the idea of the fate of the poor and suffering as his responsibility, which made him a citizen.

Donation gives a specific look to the research of Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova; it becomes her "trademark". Three other editions with her participation are closely connected with the donation and with the donor organizations. First, I will present the three volumes of the encyclopedia "Donation". Donor funds and foundations in Bulgaria 1878-1951. The publication is the first collective attempt to search for and summarize the data on the donation tradition in Bulgaria. The first two volumes are of the same type in structure and content and are dedicated to donation funds and foundations. The articles are arranged in alphabetical order of the names of the respective funds and foundations. Materials from all major archives and museums in Sofia and in the country, information from the press, various literature were searched for and used for writing the articles. The authors of the articles are identified. Apart from collecting materials and writing 162 articles for the three volumes, searching for and selecting illustrative material, Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova's contribution also consists in compiling and designing the matrix on which the articles were written. Compiler and editor together with Prof. V. Nikolova. It should also be noted that the articles in the encyclopedia are not only informative, but often of a research nature.

The third volume of the edition is different in terms of design, content and structure. It examines institutions and public formations that managed donations or used them. In this form, the volume is the first attempt to give a more comprehensive picture of public charity in the country. In almost all Bulgarian cities, in quite a few villages, public organizations have been formed: cultural-educational, scientific, charitable, women's, ethnic, various donation funds have been established and operate. Unlike the previous two volumes, the third does not strictly follow the principle of alphabetical presentation of the material, but is combined with the thematic approach and thus formed several parts dedicated to state, church and religious institutions, scientific and educational institutions, social and health institutions.

In 2019, the popular science research dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences "In the foundations of Bulgarian science. Donations and benefactors of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences". Authors are R. Stoyanova, Il. Marcheva, Tsv. Velichkova. The book is prepared based on documentary material, but is aimed at a wide readership. It traces the various manifestations of the charitable tradition in relation to the academic institution over the years. The first four parts, of which Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova is a



co-author together with Tsv. Velichkova, trace the history of the various types of donations to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in the period 1869-1944. They show the diversity of personalities, their motives and gestures in favor of science.

The documentary collection "Benefactors and Charity in Bulgaria - Between Praise and Negation 1879 - 1951" is again compiled together with Veska Nikolova. The publication presents the donation tradition in Bulgaria through primary sources. The documents are divided into 4 sections. First, laws and regulations regulating donations and charity were set in the period 1879 to 1952. Along with the current ones, three draft laws on charity are included, as they clearly show the direction in which the ideas and intentions of the representatives are evolving. Of state power. The second section combines original materials of separate charitable funds and foundations - wills and deeds of donation, reports, budgets, audit reports. Title 3 provides partial documentation of some of the most prominent civil society organizations that open and maintain orphanages and lonely elderly people, free school canteens, summer school colonies, business schools, etc. The last section includes heterogeneous materials - genres and articles in the press, invitations to celebrations, etc. What unites them is that they all illustrate the policy of state institutions to build the public image of benefactors, public sentiment towards acts of donation and charity. A purposeful emphasis in the selection of documents is to present the sharp change in the state's attitude to this tradition in the second half of the 1940s, which eventually led to the closure of existing funds, foundations, companies and the nationalization of their material resources.

It can be said with full conviction that in her works Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova has achieved the search and introduction into scientific circulation of an impressive body of documentary information about the development of charity in Bulgaria. In the process of her long-term scientific research on the preparation of the encyclopedia for donations and foundations, the monograph, a number of studies and articles, the implementation of three research projects funded by the Research Fund and the Ministry of Education and Science, the candidate has worked not only in central archives. In Sofia, but also in all major archives in the country, in a number of museums and libraries. As a result, in its research it has included documents of various types, origins and contents (from more than 150 archival holdings). The documentary base, on which all these texts are built, allows for multi-layered and comprehensive construction of the historical picture, for well founded analyzes and conclusions. With the richly documented and originally written studies and articles, the author aims above all to preserve the memory of the charity events, to outline the collective image of the donor, the benefactor.

"Politics as a responsibility and challenge. Teodor Ivanov Teodorov 1859-1924. Correspondence, speeches, memories of contemporaries. S., 2014. In this documentary collection, Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova is a co-author and compiler together with Veska Nikolova. The publication is divided into two parts - a research study (from p. 11 to p. 55) and a documentary part. The research part is made more like an essay on man and politics by Teodor Teodorov. Education and growth, professional orientation and his participation in the state and political life of Bulgaria are traced. The good acquaintance and friendship with his

granddaughter, daughter of his son Ivan - Nadezhda, helps to describe the character of Teodorov, to note a number of his specific features and peculiarities. She not only provides unpublished letters and documents, but with her stories she recreates the atmosphere in the family, shows features of the character of her famous grandfather, which have long been hidden from the public. This, together with the review of a huge array of documents, has helped to build an image of a man, politician and diplomat with his positive traits, with his omissions and mistakes, to present an active and charming person who has left his mark in Bulgarian politics and history.

The documentary part of the collection consists of three sections: correspondence to and from Teodor Teodorov and related letters parliamentary speeches memories of contemporaries. The first section presents 69 letters and telegrams, all of which are published for the first time. The second section contains 14 speeches delivered in parliament or at party forums. This section is called "The Parliamentary Lion" - this is the name by which contemporaries called Teodorov and it successfully shows features of his character. Only a part of the many speeches given by Teodorov on various occasions has been published. In the last, third section, 23 memoirs of friends, relatives, party comrades and admirers, even of Teodorov's political opponents, were published. Here again, the reader reveals a number of features of his character, moments of the relationship with his relatives, his professional qualities. For each of the authors of the memoirs short biographical notes are given, the kinship or party connection with Teodorov is indicated.

The collection is accompanied by the much needed for the reference editions nominal and geographical index, a list of the abbreviations used; illustrative material is attached at the end. For each document it is indicated where it was taken from, whether it is original or draft, whether it is handwritten or printed text, where it is written, from what date it is , on what occasion. The materials are arranged chronologically, taking into account the change in the calendar made in 1916.

The directory "Ruse parliamentarians. 1878 - 1946. „In it, Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova is a co-author and compiler together with Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Zlatev. The purpose of the publication is to gather in one place brief information about the Ruse deputies entering the separate Bulgarian parliaments. It is indicated where and when the deputy was born, in which meetings he enters, from which party he is, what his political views are. Lists of the chosen ones from the region have been made.

The aim was to add new touches to the group portrait of the Bulgarian parliamentarian, as he seems from the distance of time, free from the political biases of the era, with lasting features of the national character of the Bulgarians.

It should be noted that in addition to working for charitable funds and foundations, Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova is interested in a number of Bulgarian politicians, for whom she recently published a number of studies - Teodor Teodorov, Alexander Malinov, and Mihail Madjarov. I cannot fail to mention another research area in the work of Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova.

As stand-alone articles or as part of larger studies, she presents portraits of remarkable women - wives of politicians and public figures, charities, donors and benefactors. Interest in this topic is still relatively limited, and its development provides a variety of opportunities for analysis in the field of social history.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the references and outlined contributions attached by Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova in the competition documentation objectively reflect the huge collecting, organizing and authorial work, especially in the field of charity and legislative policy in this area. Based on the characteristics of the works and the noted academic activities, all the contributions and positive points in the research mentioned so far, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Stoyanova meets all the requirements and conditions for acquiring the academic position of "professor". That is why I allow myself to recommend to the members of the highly respected scientific jury to support the scientific growth of Assoc. Prof. Stoyanova, as I will surely do myself.

Sofia,

August 24, 2020

Member of the scientific jury:

(Prof. Y. Gesheva, PhD)