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OPINION

by Prof. D.Sc. Penka Ivanova Peykovska, Institute for Historical Studies – BAS,

on the materials presented for participation in the competition for the academic post of “Professor” in the field of Higher Education 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.2. History and Archeology, Scientific Speciality: Modern and Contemporary History, code 05.03.04. (“History of Slavic Peoples, 19th–20th Centuries”), as promulgated in the State Gazette, 2022, No. 10 (04.02.) by the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at the BAS

The only candidate who has applied and has been admitted to participate in the competition, announced for the academic position of “Professor” at the Department of “History of the World and International Relations in Modern and Contemporary Times” at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is Assoc. Prof., D.Sc. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze.

The Commission has examined the applicant’s documents and has found no shortcomings or irregularities within the meaning of the Act for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation and the candidate has been admitted to the competition.

This opinion has been prepared in accordance with the submitted scientific production, teaching and administrative activities of the candidate and with the requirements for the academic position of “Professor”.

Assoc. Prof. T. Gotovska-Henze is a Czech graduate. She obtained the degree of “Candidate of Historical Sciences” (replaced under the Higher Education Act of 27.12.1995 by the degree of “Doctor”, resp. PhD) in 1989 after defending her dissertation on “Czechoslovakia and the Little Entente 1920–1925”. She received the title of “Associate Professor” in 2003 under the same cipher, i.e. 05.03.04. “Modern and Contemporary History”. In 2020 she obtained the academic research degree of “Doctor of Science” in the field of history after successfully defending her dissertation on the topic of “Bulgarians in Czech-Russian Literary Exchange (1930s–1960s)”.

for professor T. Gotovska-Henze has submitted a total of 8 studies for participation in this competition, which are not listed in the NACID database as having participated in previous procedures: 1 monograph in co-authorship and 7 independent studies. It is noteworthy that all of them have been published in the last three years and do not repeat the ones submitted in the previous procedures for scientific degrees and academic positions. The number of citations submitted for participation in the competition for “professor” is 31 and almost all of them relate to the last three years; they come from thematic collections and monographs. Assoc. Prof. D.Sc. T. Gotovska-Nenze’s project work concerning the last ten years is impressive: she has participated in 11 projects, of which 9 international (with the Czech, Slovak and Hungarian Academies of Sciences, and one, under the EU Jean Monnet Programme) and 2 national; she has supervised 4 of them, and has been the coordinator of 2; in the competition she is participating with 8 projects implemented after 2019. She has one PhD student who successfully defended his dissertation thesis.

By duration of occupation of the position of Associate Professor (19 years) and in terms of the volume of scientific activity, the candidate fully meets the requirements of the Law.

Assessment of the habilitation thesis. The main object of study in Assoc. Prof. D.Sc. T. Gotovska-Henze scientific work is the historical past of the Czechs and Slovaks and their connections and relations with the Bulgarians, the Bulgarian-Czech reciprocities, in the 19th and the 20th centuries. To obtain the academic position of “Professor” T. Gotovska-Henze has submitted a basic habilitation thesis entitled “Czech-Bulgarian Cooperation in Education and Politics”. It represents her independent authorship (from p. 424 to p. 528) of a joint Czech-Bulgarian work, which contains the research results of three scholars (one Czech and two Bulgarians), who had been working for several years on a joint project within the framework of an equivalent currency-free exchange between the Bulgarian and Czech Academies of Sciences; it was published in Prague in 2021 under the title “Sounáležností a soudržností k vzájemnému pozná(vá)ní. Sondy z kulturních vztahu mezi Čechy a Bulhari do vznihu ČSR” [“Belonging and Coherence to Mutual Knowledge. Probes from the Cultural Relations between Czechs and Bulgarians until the Formation of the Czechoslovak Republic”].

As is evident from the title, namely “Czech-Bulgarian Cooperation in Education and Politics”, Assoc. Prof. D.Sc. T. Gotovska-Henze’s work is a natural continuation of her up-

to-now research work on the subject. In terms of the chosen topic, she remains faithful to her main research interests. In terms of structure, the text consists of a main part, entitled “The Modernization of Bulgarian Education in the Context of Slavic Exchange (until 1878)”. In the introduction to the text, the author briefly presents the historical context and the aims of the study, namely to summarize the available research on “the relationship between Czech education and the cultural rise of the Bulgarians during the Renaissance” and, in particular, Bulgarian strategies for the education of Bulgarians in the Czech lands in “the context of Slavic exchange” and to reveal “the role of Bulgarian-Czech reciprocity in the educational progress of the Bulgarians during the National Revival”.

The source base of the study is not mentioned in the introduction, but it is evident from the section of “Archival Sources” attached at the end of the study. The historical sources necessary for the specific research were searched by the author herself in the Historical Archives of the National Library “St. St. Cyril and Methodius” (6 collections used) and especially in the national archives of the Czech Republic, where she has been doing research for many years; to mention the archives of the National Museum in Prague (funds of Kramar and Sis) and the Literary Archives “Monument of National Literature” (funds of Šafárik, Hanka, Grégr, etc.). In this case, one of her contributions (as we have pointed out on other occasions) is the introduction of newly discovered and/or little-known Czech documents into scholarly circulation.

The historiographical basis of the study is rich and includes more than 130 titles, mainly books by Bulgarian and Czech authors, summarizing the previous scientific achievements in the field. T. Gotovska-Henze’s in-depth knowledge on the Czech and Bulgarian specialized literature, interpreting the studied issues, is impressive. The review of the research texts on this subject, which she has systematized and presented, allows us to establish that the work under review is an independent work of T. Gotovska-Henze.

The methodology of classical historical research is applied, which in some places is combined with the biographical approach.

The structure of the exposition follows the chronological-thematic order. In the text of the exposition, generally speaking, the author reveals the mechanisms of the Bulgarian-Czech reciprocity against the background of the historical reality in the Austrian Empire, and after the Compromise in 1867 – Austria-Hungary, namely: the way in which the national movement of Czech patriots acted in terms of bringing representatives of the

Bulgarian intelligentsia to the cause of Slavic reciprocity and the way in which Bulgarian Renaissance society responded in the Bulgarian lands and beyond their borders, the main actors on the Czech and Bulgarian sides and their role in the process of interaction, the benefits of Czech-Bulgarian reciprocity for Bulgarian educational work in the period of National Revival.

The introduction is followed by 13 chapters, a conclusion and one documentary appendix. In the text of the exposition (1) parallels are drawn in the modernization of the school system under Czechs and Bulgarians, beginning with a brief introduction to the Enlightenment era of the 18th century; (2) the role of Vasil Aprilov in this modernization of the Bulgarians, the linguistic aspects of the revolution of 1848-49, and the birth of the new generation in Bulgarian-Czech reciprocity are discussed; (3) the first overseas bridges of the Bulgarian enlighteners are presented, or how after 1835 the Odessa Bulgarians became involved in the Czech-Russian literary exchange, with special emphasis on the role of V. Aprilov and Ivan Bogorov; (4, 5) the historical background of the Bulgarian-Czech reciprocity is shown – the demands and manifestations of the new patriotic generation during the revolution of 1848–1849 (the struggle for the linguistic equality of the Czech language alongside the official German language, the aspiration for the realization of the idea of Slavic reciprocity in politics, Slavic cooperation within the empire on the political and economic level, economic exchange not only among the Slavs in the empire but by including the southern Slavs, the Slavic Congress and the debut of the new Slavophile Czech generation – Fr. Palacký, V. Hanka, Fr. L. Rieger, P. J. Šafárik, Fr. A. Brauner); (6) the connections between the Czech revolutionary diaspora and the Bulgarians are revealed (the arrival and activities of Joseph Meissner in Shumen); (7, 8) the activity and role of the Bulgarians in Prague and Vienna is analyzed in the context of Slavic relations, the first involvement of Czech activists in the Bulgarian educational movement (and specifically in the development of school work in Shumen) is thrown light on; (9, 10) the role of Vasil D. Stoyanov and Hristo G. Danov is outlined in the Bulgarian-Czech cooperation in education in the 1860s (and in particular in recruiting and sending Czech teachers to Bulgarian schools); separate chapters are devoted to (11) Tabor (and the Tabor Gymnasium) as the second after Prague centre for the education of Bulgarians and (12) how Bulgarian Renaissance society supported education in the Czech lands.

The main part of the text, which has been referred to so far, is followed by - said in

the words of the author from the list of summaries – “a small paragraph” which “summarizes Czech-Bulgarian political actions in the 20th century”. It is entitled “The Young Czechs and the Unofficial Diplomatic Mission of Vladimir Sis during World War I”, runs to 20 pages, and is perceived rather as a supplement to the main monographic text on Czech-Bulgarian reciprocity in educational affairs, as it lacks a proper meaningful connection with it, but it has its merits and contribution, revealing poorly known moments of Sis’s activity.

The structure of the presentation follows a chronological and logical thematic sequence and corresponds to the specific content of the work.

In terms of content, the paper complies with the provisions of the RRDA, as it is devoted to topical and socially significant issues and contains summaries of clearly formulated scientific problems.

The scientific achievements contained therein are presented in a separate reference, with which I agree.

Assessment of the rest of the candidate’s research work. The rest of the scientific production, with which T. Gotovska-Henze participates in the competition, speaks of her lasting and deep authorial interest in the history of Central Europe in the 19th – 20th centuries, in its sources and studies. As it can be seen from the list of the candidate’s publications reflected in the NACID and from the attached list for participation in the competition, the candidate’s overall activity is dominated by research work, the scientific interests of T. Gotovska-Henze are in the field of the competition’s problems.

I have no critical remarks to make about the candidate.

I have not noticed any plagiarism in the scientific production submitted for evaluation.

With all his previous scientific, project and expert activity T. Gotovska-Henze has proven herself as a deserved authority and internationally recognized scientist, established as one of the main specialists in the scientific field, the subject of her immediate academic activities.

Conclusion. The presented materials of the only candidate in the competition clearly show that Assoc. Prof. D.Sc. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze fully meets the necessary requirements for the election of the academic position “Professor”. She is not

only a conscientious scientist and in-depth author of numerous scientific publications, including monographs, but also an excellently trained specialist.

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I will definitely vote for the election of Assoc. Prof. D.Sc. Teodorichka Gotovska-Henze for the academic position of “Professor” and will support the proposal of the jury addressed to the Scientific Council of the Institute for Historical Studies at the BAS concerning her election to this position.

(Prof. D.Sc. Penka Peykovska)

Sofia, 27.05.2022.