

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REPORT

by Prof. DSc Iliya TODEV for the scientific works of

Assoc. Prof. DSc Teodorichka GOTOVSKA-HENZE, with which she participates as the only candidate in the competition for "Professor", announced for the needs of the department "History of the World and International Relations in Modern and Contemporary Times", professional field 2.2. "History and Archeology", specialty "New and Recent General History" ("History of the Slavic Peoples, XIX - XX century"), at the Institute of Historical Studies – BAS

T. Gotovska began her academic career in 1989 as a researcher at the Institute for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In the same year she received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" ("PhD") at the Faculty of History of Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic) with a dissertation on "Czechoslovakia and the Little Entente (1920-1925)". After a series of specializations in the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy, in 2003 she was elected "Associate Professor" in the Department of "World History and International Relations in Modern and Contemporary Times" at the Institute for Historical Studies. In 2020 she successfully defended a "Doctor of science (D.Sc.)" thesis on "Bulgarians in the Czech-Russian literary exchange (30s-60s of the XIX century)". She is a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute, as well as of the editorial board of the "Bulgarian Historical Review".

T. Gotovska participated in the competition with eight scientific works. Chronologically, they are located in almost a century - from the 1830s to the First World War. They are dedicated to the Bulgarian-Czech cultural ties and some of the most prominent participants in them - both Czechs and Bulgarians. First of all, I would like to mention the text entitled "Czech-Bulgarian cooperation in the field of education and politics". It is the size and significance of a monograph, containing a number of contributions to the study of Czech-Bulgarian relations during the National revivals of the two Slavic peoples. It is the result of a six-year collective project of the Institute of Institute

for Historical Studies and the Slavic Institute in Prague, as part of the collective monograph *“Sounáležností a soudržností k vzájemnému pozná(vá)ní”* (Praha, Slovanský ústav, 2021) with authors M. Černý, T. Gotovska-Henze and L. Solenková.

Several more of the texts presented in the competition fall into the same thematic circle. The first of them is entitled *“Bulgarian sources for the early work of Pavel Jozef Šafárik”*. He analyzes the Bulgarian problematics in the early works of one of the most famous Slavists of the 19th century, placing it in the broader context of inter-Slavic relations. A study entitled *“Literary exchange in the bosom of two empires: Pavel Josef Šafárik and his relations with Croats and Bulgarians (30-60s of the 19th century)”* is also dedicated to the Czech scholar. Here the scientific contribution consists in adding a new light to the Czech-Bulgarian cultural relations and emphasizing their importance for a better understanding of the Bulgarians.

Two other prominent scientists are in the focus of T. Gotovska's research interest. The texts *“Marin Drinov and his contacts with the Old Czechs (60-70s of the 19th century)”* and *“The Way of K. Jireček to Bulgaria”* are dedicated to them. Although they are some of the most famous people of this period, not all important details of their lives and work are known. Drinov's connections in Czech circles have so far not been the subject of independent analysis in Bulgarian historiography. The cooperation that the first professional Bulgarian historian established with representatives of the Old Czech Party was presented on the basis of unpublished materials from Czech archives, mostly from the Literary Archive in Prague. The archival base is also new in the study of the early Bulgarian orientation of Konstantin Jireček. It is about the ideas, influences, contacts, which ultimately contribute to shaping the decision of the young man to go to the newly liberated Bulgarian principality and join its cultural and educational development.

Another thematic circle in the research that T. Gotovska presents in the competition is formed around the critical years 1912-1918 for the Bulgarian people. The first text to appear there is entitled *“War and Memory: The Political Vocabulary of the*

Young Czechs in 1912". The author's contributions are mostly in attracting new, hitherto unused documentary sources. For the first time in the Bulgarian historiography the diaries from the meetings of the Austrian Reichsrat are put in scientific circulation. The focus is on the political vocabulary of the most famous Czech MP from the Austro-Hungarian period. This is Karel Kramář, leader of the Young Czechs and ideologue of the Neo-Slavic movement. The main conclusion here is that on the eve and at the outbreak of the first Balkan war, the Czech MP contributed to preventing a possible adverse reaction of Austria-Hungary against the Balkan Union.

Chronologically related to the First World War (and partly to the fate of Kramář) are two studies on the Czech journalist and publicist Vladimir Sis. They shed additional light on the biography of this undeservedly forgotten for decades defender of the Bulgarian cause. The first is entitled *"The Young Czechs and Vladimir Sis's Unofficial Diplomatic Mission during the First World War"*, the second (co-authored with V. Rogozenki) - *"Vladimir Sis - Sofia's unofficial diplomat of the future Czechoslovak state"*. Based on Czech archival sources, the little-known conspiratorial activity of the prominent Bulgarian Czech is reconstructed. Both his secret contacts with the leaders of the illegal Young Czech Resistance and with the diplomatic representatives of the Entente in Sofia at a time when Bulgaria was still a neutral country have been highlighted. The overall activity of the journalist until the end of the war and some of his connections in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic are summarized.

In the competition T. Gotovska also presents a study of historiographical nature - *"Latest Hungarian research on the First World War"*. It presents the current pursuits of Hungarian researchers from different generations. The prestigious edition, of which this text is a part, is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the war and is the work of the Balashi Research Institute in Vienna. Topics related to the participation of Hungarians in the politics and diplomacy of the Dual Empire, the development of military action in critical points on the front, medical missions and life in the rear were developed.

The listed works of T. Gotovska are distinguished by excellent knowledge of sources and research, rich culture and broad horizons and undoubted scientific contributions. They are published in leading Bulgarian and foreign publications and are at a high academic level. T. Gotovska presents 30 citations of her texts, which is evidence of the high interest in her research. She has participated in several conferences and 9 projects - one under the European program, four international and four national. She was the scientific supervisor of a successfully defended doctoral student. With requirements of at least 550 points on scientific indicators for "*Professor*", T. Gotovska scores more than 850. She has a rich international activity, fluent in five foreign languages to varying degrees.

The documentation related to the competition is in order

Conclusion: Assoc. Prof. GOTOVSKA has a rich and diverse academic activity performed at a high professional level. She has all the necessary qualities of a professor. Based on this, I recommend Assoc. Prof. T. GOTOVSKA to take the academic position "*Professor*" in Professional field 2.2. "*History and Archeology*", specialty "*New and Recent General History*" ("*History of the Slavic Peoples, XIX - XX centuries*"), in the department "*History of the World and International Relations in Modern and Contemporary Times*" at the Institute for historical research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

May 12, 2022, Sofia

Signature: