

OPINION

by Chavdar Venelinov Vetov, Assoc. prof. PhD, Institute for Historical Studies

For the award of the academic position "associate professor".

Professional field 2.2. History and archaeology, scientific speciality "Archival science, documentary science, palaeography (including historiography and source studies)"

Section of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Informatics at the Institute for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

One candidate participated in the competition for associate professor: Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Strahil Valentinov Panayotov.

In preparing my opinion, I have complied with the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff in the republic of Bulgaria and Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the Institute for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition and has no administrative omissions. He has acquired an educational and scientific degree "doctor" more than two years ago; he has held the academic position of "assistant", "chief assistant"; he has submitted a report on his individual scientometric indicators and has submitted evidence that he meets the accepted minimum requirements of the Bulgarian Academy of Science and Institute of Historical Studies.

Other documents presented by him are: a list of original scientific contributions, to which the relevant evidence is attached; a list of studies and articles from 2013 to the present (about 40 issues); scientific reviews; a list of four collective monographs and two individual monographs; a list of citations; summaries of publications in Bulgarian and English, etc.

Two of the monographs are in Bulgarian, one in German and three in English. One of the monographs in Bulgarian is his published dissertation - Tablets with Projection (amulet-shaped tablets) from Mesopotamia – 2nd-1st Millennium BC (2016)

Some of the materials have been published in Bulgarian and Western specialized scientific publications such as: Bulgarian e-Journal of Archaeology Supplements; Le Journal des Médecines Cunéiformes; Journal of the American Oriental Society, etc.

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
Изходящ №	дата 201 г.
Входящ № 292	дата 10.06. 2016 г.
София 1113, бул. Шипченски проход № 52, бл. 17 тел.: 02/ 979 29 93 ; факс: 02/ 870 21 91	

From the presented publications it is clear that the candidate Dr. S. Panayotov is working on a comprehensive study of the texts on eye and other diseases from ancient Mesopotamia. He participated with colleagues in the first comprehensive epigraphic critical edition and commentary of medical texts from Nineveh, dedicated to eye diseases. Another area in which he works is the epigraphic and paleographic study of prayer spells.

Other articles of his make the connection between mythological texts and medical texts. The conclusion of the reviewed texts is that S. Panayotov seriously developed the ancient texts related to medicine. A connection is made between medical achievements and the religious and mythological understandings of the society of that time. A paleographic review of the sources is made, but the textual content itself is retold and analyzed. His work also includes historiographic studies of the writings on the topic, they are included in some of his articles, but are also presented in a separate material *Magic and Medicine in Ancient Mesopotamia — A New Collection of Translations*. It is striking that in addition to analysis, he also publishes the texts from the tablets and other information carriers, giving a corresponding analysis of the carriers.

The main habilitation work with which St. Panayotov is applying to the competition is a monograph published in 2020 in co-authorship with Mark Geller - *Mesopotamian Eye Disease Texts: The Nineveh Treatise. Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen* 10. Berlin–Boston: De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781501506550>

The study by S. Panayotov and Mark Geller is a comprehensive study of the texts on eye diseases from Ancient Mesopotamia. An important feature of the study is that it is dedicated to a topic other than political, social, economic, military history - it examines the development of medicine and some technologies in this direction of ancient societies.

For the first time, a full translation of the documents from cuneiform into English has been made, the texts have been transliterated and provided with a detailed philological and medical-historical commentary.

My opinion refers to the scientific work on the texts, done by S. Panayotov. He compared relevant texts from the British Museum with texts from the Museum of the Ancient Near East in Berlin. He worked on the transliteration and transcription of the texts; photographed the text tiles; prepared a comprehensive dictionary; the initial draft / draft of the translation and comments; a list of logograms of Sumerian origin.

In the overview of the publication, done by S. Panayotov, it is emphasized that the documents are from the largest surviving corpus related to ophthalmological diseases.

The features of the cuneiform script that have been studied are examined. The main studies on the subject are also mentioned. The documents are classified chronologically and by their purpose - spells and recipes. Attention is also paid to the interest in these diseases in Ancient Egypt and the Greco-Roman world.

Each of the documents translated into English is accompanied by information on the location (archive or museum institution) of the original cuneiform plaque, the date, the type of plaque with the inscription, dimensions, information on the photograph of the plaque, and literature on the plaque. At the end of the study, photographs of the examined tiles are published. The published documents and their analysis are a serious contribution to the study of ancient societies.

As a result of the presented materials – studies, articles, monographs and reviews, I believe that the entire work of S. Panayotov is a contributing and in-depth study of ancient medical practices. He comments on the very carriers of information – the tablets, etc.; translates cuneiform texts from the Assyrian – Babylonian civilization, analyzes texts about medical practices.

In his research, S. Panayotov refers to a wide range of research related to the Ancient East – i.e. he is thoroughly familiar with Western historiography on the topic. Similar topics have not been developed in Bulgarian historiography.

For this reason, I give my reasoned positive assessment for the selection of the candidate Dr. St. Panayotov for the academic position of “associate professor”.

Date:
Sofia.

Signature:
Assoc. prof. PhD Chavdar Vetov /Member of jury/