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**ZUR FRAGE NACH DEN WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN GRUNDLAGEN**

**DER BULGARISCHEN BALKANISTIK. DER BEITRAG VON GUSTAV**

**WEIGAND UND STOJAN ROMANSKY**

**ON THE SCHOLARLY FOUNDATIONS OF THE BALKAN STUDIES IN BULGARIA:**

**GUSTAV WEIGAND’S AND STOYAN ROMANSKY’S CONTRIBUTION**

**Abstract:** The foundations of the Balkan Studies in Bulgaria were laid in an unnfavourable environment, as the result of which the reception of the scholarly ideas was delayed. Outside the country the claims of Balkan Studies had settled firmly into the thought of the European scholarly community in the first two or three decades of the 20th c. The claims had also substantiated the right of the study of Balkan languages and cultures to exist as a field of its own. Most of the research on the Bulgarian language in the Balkan context was conducted by foreign scholars (Gustav Weigand, Afanasij Seliščev, Mieczysław Małecki). Their research and observations, together with Stojan Romansky’s research, formed the first stage in the development of Balkan Studies in Bulgaria. Gustav Weigand’s contribution is considered to be seminal since he conducted not only field work but also did research and made scholarly observations, just like Afanasij Seliščev and Mieczysław Małecki. Weigand also founded a Balkan Studies school, which, although initially dealing with the Romance languages and dialects in the Balkans, was permanently focused on the Bulgarian language and the variety of its dialects on the Balkan Peninsula. There are reasonable grounds to claim that the true scholarly beginning of the Balkan Studies in Bulgaria was initiated in Weigand’s school in Leipzig by Weigand himself as well as by his Bulgarian students. Stojan Romansky is considered to be the student who had the most significant contribution to the development of the Balkan Studies in Bulgaria.

**Keywords:** Balkan Studies, Balkan Philology, Balkan Linguistics, Sprachbund, Balkan Sprachbund, Balkanisms

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