

## SHORT REVIEW

In relation to a competition for holding the academic post *professor*

Under speciality 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language (Old Bulgarian, History of Bulgarian Language)

According to the announcement in SG issue 93/22.11.2022г.

With a candidate: **Yavor Ivov Miltenov, PhD**, Associate Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ – Bulgarian Academy of Science

Reviewer: DSc. Mariana Tsibranska-Kostova, Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian language „Prof. L. Andreychin“ – BAS

In the announced competition for the academic position of *professor* the documents were received from the only candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yavor Ivov Miltenov, a long-time collaborator of the Department for the History of the Bulgarian Language at the Institute for Bulgarian Language. Y. Miltenov holds the educational and scientific degree of PhD; he obtained his first habilitation as Associate Professor in 2014. This procedure is a natural step in the career development of an established specialist in the field of medieval studies, diachronic Bulgarian and Slavic studies. He has submitted in full all the necessary documents required by the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the related regulations.

In the procedure, Y. Miltenov participates with the following materials, subject to review according to the legal scientific metrics: printed habilitation thesis; 3 studies and 16 articles, including two studies and three articles in reputable Bulgarian and foreign periodicals in the indexed databases Scopus and Web of Sciences. The rich scholarly production and, above all, the thematic scope of the works related to the earliest period of the Old Bulgarian written culture, to the Glagolitic alphabet, to the Preslav lexical markers, etc., have naturally led to one of the most recognizable and characteristic features of the author's production – a very high citation index in Bulgaria and abroad. The colleague has been involved in all projects of the Department of History of Bulgarian Language since he joined it in 2006, but he has also been the leader of a total of five projects, of which it is worth mentioning the *Electronic Database Operum Patrum Graecorum Versiones Slavicae* and *Assimilation and Adaptation of Byzantine Cultural Patterns in the First Quarter of the 10th Century: Sources, History and Significance of the Old Bulgarian Zlatostruj Collection*, developed in collaboration with the Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Sofia. In recent years, Assoc. Prof. Miltenov has been giving lecture classes at St. Kliment Ohridski University. In 2022, he was awarded the *Pythagoras Prize* in Humanities of the Ministry of education. It can be confidently said that the candidate has complex scholarly qualities and defends them in all aspects and areas of his professional activity as an Old Bulgarian scholar and historian of language.

The habilitation thesis *Sermons from the Collection of Chrysostom with an Unknown Greek Source*. Sofia: Avalon, 2021, pp. 250 gives an excellent insight into the quality of the candidate's

scholarly production. The work represents a step forward in the study of the textual history of the Zlatostruj collection in the Slavonic manuscript tradition and a new milestone in his own contributions to this thematic field. The main object of study here are 10 sermons with an unidentified Byzantine model, which on the basis of certain stylistic, textual and linguistic characteristics can be assumed to have been created by Old Bulgarian authors. Behind one of the reworking the author supposes a work by the Old Bulgarian scribe Chernorisetz Peter, several others he attributes with a great deal of inevitable caution to St. Clement of Ohrid. The work extends the knowledge of the scope of the Old Bulgarian homiletic heritage; imposes a critical look at the methodology of authorial identifications relative to the specifics of the Middle Ages; summarizes the stylistic and linguistic-textual peculiarities of one of the most remarkable Old Bulgarian scribes, such as Clement of Ohrid, on the basis of a comparative analysis of all that has been accumulated to date about his activity, style and language. The book is an important contribution to Old Bulgarian manuscript literature and its spatial and temporal transmission. The author manifests all the most valuable methodological premises of Old Bulgarian studies concerning textual study and attribution, linguistic markers, archaeography of written sources, modern editing practice, and complex linguistic-textual analysis. The scholar's versatile skills and his accomplishment as a medievalist are evident.

Along with the subject of *Zlatostruj*, which is an undisputed calling card for its researcher, in the publications of Assoc.Prof. Miltenov, the topic of the so-called Preslav lexical markers stands out (under the same title in *Palaeobulgarica*, 44, 2020, 2, 54–79; its continuation is currently being developed within the framework of a DHBL sectional project). Under this term he understands word usages in medieval texts, fixed in works of clear Eastern Bulgarian origin from the 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> centuries, or in copies from such protographs. With his typically thorough approach, the author develops a methodology for excerpting and interpreting lexical material, relating it to the translating practice from Greek and proposing his own theoretical principles. For example, the attempt to build a hierarchy of markers, i.e. to distribute them by importance and reliability as a localizing and chronologizing feature. A second standout theme is the most recent contributions to the history and specificity of the 10<sup>th</sup> Glagolitic century Zograph Gospel, whereby Assoc. Prof. Miltenov has established himself as the most active contemporary Bulgarian researcher of the younger generation who deals with Glagolitic manuscripts (*Three Layers of Lexical Editing in Codex Zographensis*, Slovĕne = Словѣне. International Journal of Slavic Studies, 8, 2019, 12–24, and others). He discusses the Cyrillic and Glagolitic glosses in the margins of the Zograph Gospel as an example of lexical editing that reveals the figure of the medieval scribe. This topic directly corresponds to the study on the peculiarities of the translation technique in the earliest Old Bulgarian manuscripts, on the assimilation of Byzantine models through translations, editions and adaptations in Old Bulgarian literature, on the spiritual culture of the Golden Age, the creation of anthologies and the role of the ruling institution in the support of literature. His knowledge of this earliest stage in the development of the Bulgarian literature leads him to a critical reflection on the criteria for classification and chronology of the earliest Slavonic manuscripts. Miltenov is actively engaged in the study of the processes of coexistence and mutual influence between Glagolitic and Cyrillic, continuing his earlier research on Glagolitic inscriptions in Cyrillic manuscripts and the manifestations of digraphy. It can definitely be argued that within the Department in which the candidate works and the present competition is taking place, he is the leading specialist in Old