

SHORT REVIEW

**In relation to the competition for holding the academic position *Professor*
in scientific area 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language
According to the announcement in SG, issue 93/22.11.2022**

**Candidate: Dr. Yavor Miltenov, PhD, Associate Professor at the Institute for Bulgarian
Language "Prof. L. Andreychin" – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

**Reviewer: Tatyana Dimova Slavova, DSc., Professor at Sofia University
"St. Kliment Ohridski"**

Associate Professor Yavor Miltenov, Ph.D., is the only candidate in the competition for holding the academic position *Professor* in scientific area 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language, announced in SG issue 93/22.11.2022. He has worked for 17 years at the Institute for Bulgarian language "Prof. L. Andreychin" at BAS, where he has held the academic position Associate Professor since 2014.

As participant in the current competition, Associate Professor Yavor Miltenov, Ph.D., has submitted the following publications in view of the scientometric indicators of the National minimal requirements for the position *Professor*: a major monograph for habilitation purposes, entitled "Слова от колекцията Златоструй с неизвестен гръцки източник. София: Авалон, 2021, 250 с., ISBN: 978-954-9704-40-2; [Homilies from the Chrysorrhoeas Collection With Unidentified Greek Original]"; 3 articles and 2 studies published in scientific journals, cited and indexed in world databases of scientific information (such as Web of Science and Scopus); 13 articles and one study published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes. Since 2014, his publications have been cited 20 times in scientific journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. For the same period, the candidate has participated in 18 scientific conferences (9 international, 3 of them outside Bulgaria) as well as in 15 scientific projects (4 international, 11 national, being the leader of one of the latter). The publication and scholarly activities of Associate Professor Yavor Miltenov, Ph.D, amount to more than 990 points (A–E indicators), which exceeds considerably the minimal national requirements pursuant to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) for obtaining the academic position *Professor*.

Since 2012 Yavor Miltenov is a member of the Association of Byzantine scholars and Medievalists in Bulgaria as well as of Ceraneum – Research Centre for the History and Culture of the Mediterranean Area and South-Eastern Europe, Uniwersytet Łódzki. In 2022, he was awarded the "Pythagoras" Award for his scientific achievements in the humanities (Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria).

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Yavor Miltenov, PhD, are in the field of history of medieval Slavonic texts, translations and manuscripts, Slavic and Byzantine textology, the Old Bulgarian alphabets, the classification of the oldest Slavic manuscripts, historical lexicology and lexicography, Byzantine-Slavic patristics, Slavic manuscript collections, the reception of the Byzantine literary heritage in Bulgaria, the publishing history of medieval Slavic texts, the study of their language and their role in cultural and literary aspects. This extensive research testifies that Associate Professor Miltenov Ph.D. is a researcher of a broad scientific profile and diverse research interests, an internationally known and prominent scientist.

The monograph - the main work presented for habilitation - "Homilies from the Chrysorrhoeas Collection With Unidentified Greek Original. Sofia, 2021, 250 p.)" is devoted to ten works from the translated *Zlatostruy collection*, for which no corresponding Greek text has been found so far. This particular common feature is the reason why Miltenov brings them together to explore them as a whole; he is the first to do so in the Bulgarian research tradition. Some of the texts have not been explored at all or have been insufficiently researched – this fact constitutes one of the many contributions of the monograph. For each of them, the author of the book employs one and the same complex approach: he compares a significant number of copies, identifies the different textual versions and secondary editions, carries out a linguistic analysis and offers an edition with a critical apparatus. Miltenov's conclusion is that the greater part of the ten homilies are not translations, but original Old Bulgarian works. The untranslatable nature of the homilies from the *Chrysorrhoeas Collection* with an unidentified Greek Original, as well as the time and place of their creation lead Yavor Miltenov to search for their authorship among the Old Bulgarian men of letters, primarily in the figure of Kliment Ohridski - based on text correspondences with his works, both of a certain and assumed authorship. These homilies expand the reach of the original Old Bulgarian written heritage and through light on the manner of compiling the repertory of Old Bulgarian writing. This is the most significant contribution of the author of the monograph Yavor Miltenov – one of the best contemporary experts on the textual history of the *Chrysorrhoeas Collection*.

Several more publications are dedicated to various themes and aspects of the *Chrysorrhoeas Collection*. In one of them (2017), the first Slavic collection of homilies by John Chrysostom is explored in the context of the flourishing of the 10th century Bulgarian literary tradition and the successful adoption of Byzantine models through collecting and selecting the authoritative works of the Byzantine tradition, followed by various mechanisms of adaptation, transformation, and abridgement. Three 14th c. Serbian manuscripts, written at the Hilendar Monastery on Mount Athos, are of great importance for the reconstruction of the initial corpus of *Zlatostruy collection* and for its spread in the Balkans, to which Yavor Miltenov pays special attention (2014). Three other unresearched Russian miscellanies, which contain selected Slavonic translations of Chrysostomian homilies, but have not been assigned to the Tsar-Simeon collection until now, have been identified by Miltenov for the first time (2019). A special publication is dedicated to the reception of Byzantine written culture in medieval Bulgaria with a view to the common compilation strategies and common passages between the *Zlatostruy collection* and the so-called *Knyazhi Izbornik* (The Princely Florilegium) as representatives of the most interesting and important Old Bulgarian anthologies. In Miltenov's view, it is precisely the composition of translated and compiled anthologies that is the main and perhaps the most important feature of Byzantine literary heritage reception in Old Bulgarian translated literature from 9-10th centuries and an essential characteristic of the terms "Preslav civilization" (2014) and "Golden Age" (2019). The publications in this thematic circle reveal the participant in the competition for the academic position *Professor* as a connoisseur of the Bulgarian literary tradition in the 10th century and the assimilation of Byzantine literary models with a view to translation strategies, the adaptation of Byzantine originals, the compilation of anthologies, state support, the role of the aristocracy and the ruler etc.

Of great scientific value are the recent innovative studies of Assoc. Professor Dr. Miltenov focused on the oldest Slavic manuscripts. The research is related to the author's participation in the international scientific project The Origin of the Glagolitic-Old Church Slavonic Manuscripts. In the study "Проблеми и перспективи пред проучването на „класическите“ старобългарски паметници" (2019) Miltenov critically re-evaluates key issues of the research tradition of the earliest Slavic manuscripts (their determination as corpus and canon, attempts at their relative chronology, localization and classification), supplementing the discussed problems with his own observations. The theme of the localization of the earliest

Slavic manuscripts has been specially developed (2021) in view of three linguistic criteria: the change of the reduced ѣ into vowel o, the interchange of ж and ѡ, and the replacement of ж with o. New and very valuable information about scribal errors (omissions, additions, or substitutions of letters) in the earliest Slavic manuscripts can be found in a 2018 publication by Miltenov where he reconstructs important features of the process of reading, perceiving, and copying texts in the Slavic Middle Ages.

In three of his publications (2019, 2021) Associate Professor Miltenov Ph.D. touches upon the problems, related to the Glagolitic-Old Church Slavonic Codex Zographensis and its digital edition on the website of the Russian National Library. In these articles he demonstrates an ability to analyze and summarize controversial and unresolved issues, offering his own solutions and ideas, regardless of the fact whether it is related to the origin of the Codex Zographensis, the original content and notes on the liturgical use of the manuscript, the presence of Cyrillic and Glagolitic glosses, inserted by the scribe himself (one of the earliest examples of editorial work in a written Slavonic source) or the influence of the Cyrillic alphabet on the habits of the copyist, the three Glagolitic quaternions inserted in the original manuscript – comprehensively studied and described for the first time.

Associate Professor Dr. Yavor Miltenov is also the author of a number of publications in the field of Old Bulgarian lexicology and lexicography (2016, 2021, 2022). He has focused on both Old Testament books and Reading Menologion (manuscript No. 1039 from the National Library “Sts. Cyril and Methodius” in Sofia), as well as “marginal” texts from the 10th-11th c. (notes left by the copyists of Old Bulgarian manuscripts, inscriptions and lead amulets from the same period). The rare words and hapaxes extracted by Miltenov, as well as the new interpretations of the analyzed material, expand the understanding of the Old Bulgarian vocabulary and supplement the lexicographic manuals. In some cases, the considered lexemes function as a marker and a differentiating feature of time and place. This is the case with the “Preslav lexical markers”, to which Miltenov dedicates a special study (2020). The latter is a successful attempt for a new conceptual understanding through a methodology for lexical analysis that is characteristic of the literary works created in East Bulgaria from the late 9th until the last quarter of the 10th centuries.

In conclusion I will say that Associate Professor Dr. Yavor Miltenov participates in the current competition with a high-caliber scientific performance, which goes in many research directions, marked by high professional achievements, diverse competencies, interdisciplinary approaches, rich source materials, and solid argumentation. His original theoretical and methodological contributions make him stand out as one of the most brilliant representatives of his generation of mediaeval scholars. The candidate meets the national requirements according to article 26, paragraphs 2 and 3, art. 60, paragraphs 1, 2 and, 3 of DASRBA and article 1(a) of the Implementing Regulations on DASRBA, of the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquisition of the academic position *Professor* in BAS and the Rules of IBL “Prof. L. Andreychin” for holding the academic post *Professor*. That is why I strongly recommend to the Scientific Council of the IBL to choose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yavor Miltenov for the academic position *Professor*, scientific area 2.1. Philology. Bulgarian language.

15.03.2023
Sofia

Signature:
(Prof. Tatyana Slavova, DSc.)