

# ADVANCES IN BULGARIAN SCIENCE '2014



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**ADVANCES  
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## CONTENTS



<b>NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES WITH EUROPEAN DIMENSIONS</b>	<b>5</b>
THE VALLEY OF THE STROUMA RIVER IN ANTIQUITY	5
THREE SPECIAL MEGALITHS IN BULGARIA AND CAUCASUS: SIMILARITY AND PROBLEMS	18
OCCURRENCE OF BLOOD ACETALDEHYDE IN SOCIAL AND CHRONIC DRINKERS	28
ACUTE ORAL POISONING WITH ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL IN A 50 YEARS' WOMAN	35
ROLE CONFLICTS – ESSENCE AND PRACTICAL PROJECTIONS	41
RECLAIM THE STATE. CONCEPTIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN RECENT SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN BULGARIA (2009-2013)	48



<b>BULGARIAN ADDED VALUE TO ERA</b>	<b>53</b>
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVAL SCIENCE AND THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO THE PROFESSION OF ARCHIVIST	53
ARIT AND THE ARCHIVES OF THE A.B.C.F.M. – AN IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR KEY EPISODES IN BULGARIAN HISTORY	67



<b>MADE IN BULGARIA WITH EUROPEAN SUPPORT</b>	<b>75</b>
ROMANIAN – BULGARIAN CROSS-BORDER JOINT NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS ASSESSMENT IN THE DANUBE FLOODPLAIN. THE CALAFAT-VIDIN – TURNU MĂGURELE-NIKOPOL SECTOR – TWO BASIC ASPECTS	75
ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX PASSAGE CAVE AT THE VILLAGE OF KOSHNITSA, MUNICIPALITY OF SMOLYAN	83



<b>EQUAL IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>BULGARIAN VIPs</b>	<b>95</b>
ASSOC. PROF. LEANDER LITOV, PHD	95
PROF. NIKOLAI LAZAROV, MD, PHD, DSC	97
<b>AWARDS</b>	<b>99</b>
JOHN ATANASOFF AWARD AND PRIZES '2014	99
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE OF THE UNION OF THE SCIENTISTS IN BULGARIA '2014	100
<b>ARTICLES</b>	<b>103</b>
RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF BULGARIAN SCIENTISTS	103
<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>107</b>
THE ANNUAL ISECS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE RIVER AND AND RIVER SPACES IN THE XVIII CENTURY (THE DANUBE AND OTHER EXAMPLES) CONFERENCE HELD IN SOFIA IN 2014	107
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION "GEOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL SCIENCE" IN HONOR OF PROF. DR. IVAN BATAKLIEV, 30-31 OCTOBER 2014, PAZARDZHIC	111



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## NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES WITH EUROPEAN DIMENSIONS

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### THE VALLEY OF THE STROUMA RIVER IN ANTIQUITY

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#### **Abstract**

*The presented studies are part of the research project "Historical and Archaeological Researches in Rhodope Mountains and in the valley of the Strouma River" financed by the National Science Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science under contract "ДДВУ02/92". The main focus is on the study of the ethnic and demographic issues in the Strouma valley through Antiquity (from the archaic age until the Roman age). In the first part is chronologically traced the information of the ancient authors about Thracian tribes in these territories. Various hypotheses in the modern historiography are commented and are offered new or possible solutions. The second part deals with the available information about the location of significant urban centers along the middle course of Strouma River. Also proposed are new localizations of Heracleia Sintica, Skotoussa, Tristolos, Petra etc.*

#### **THE VALLEY OF THE STROUMA RIVER IN ARCHAIC AND CLASSICAL EPOCHS**

***Strymon in the notions of authors from the Archaic epoch.*** The review of literary and historiographical testimony that has reached our times is aimed at demonstrating the separate steps in the penetration in and acquaintance with the Strymon valley by the Hellenes, marking tribal territories and the basic directions of migration movements throughout the Archaic era. In Homer's epics the Strymon is not present but is discovered in his later notes only. In relation to the origin of the Thracian king Rhesus, for example, Homer said he was a son of Eioneus (Hom. Il. X, 435). Hesiod was the first author mentioning the Strymon, which proves that the river was known to the Greeks as early as at the dawn of Archaic times (Hes. Theog. 337-339). At the same time, a little later on, Archilochus who lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C., wrote about the beautiful spots around the flow of the Siris,

#### **TRIBES AND SETTLEMENTS IN**

obviously referring to the same river, in the land above the ancient lake Tahino (Archiloch. Iamb. Fr. 18). This raises the question whether during the Archaic era the name Strymon was related to the whole stream of today's Strouma river? In that early epoch Greek authors knew well just the area around the river mouth where the Eioneus settlement was located and generally the area around the Pangaeon Mountain. Therefore it is possible to assume that probably only that portion of the river had the name Strymon. Moreover, the Tahino lake (dried up nowadays) was there and the Strymon actually flew from it. Where did that river flow come from, according to the notions of Greeks from the Archaic era, did it come from the north or from the east? Is it not possible that initially the Aggitis river was related to it?

The writings of ancient Greek poets and playwrights depict two major communities in that region. The Paeonians, who were settled along the Strouma valley and to the east of the Aggitis valley and in the surroundings of the Pangaeon Mountain and the Pelasgians, who were situated to the west of the lower stream of the Strouma. There is also the memory of the dominions of the ancient Thracian ruler Rhesus. The Edones were also familiar but with no specific data whatsoever.

On the border between 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. the logographers had more considerable knowledge about the Strouma valley, more specifically Hecataeus of Miletus. He knew the area along the lower stream of the Strymon quite well. He was aware of the Paeonians settled there. He even left interesting ethnographic notes about them. Based on the information provided by Hecataeus, it is possible to assume the location of several

tribes and settlements. For example, the Trisplae could be related to the lowland territories along the lower stream of the Strouma, to the south-east of today's Lake Kerkini. There are no serious reasons to doubt that the Disorae were so named by Hecataeus, simply because they inhabited the Dysoron Mountain. More specifically they could be related to the eastern slopes of the Dysoron and to the lands westwards from the Trisplae. Hecataeus also knew about the existence of the Paeonian settlement of Galepsus; of the settlements Phagret and Aigialos at the Strymon. Eastwards and northwards from the lower stream of the Strymon, as far as the Nestos valley some more tribes mentioned by Hecataeus were situated: Darsioi, identical with Dersaioi, according to Herodotus (VII, 110) and Thucydides (II, 101, 3); Datyleptoi, to the east of Pangaeon, in relation to the region and settlement Daton; Satrae and Satrokentai, identical with the Herodotus' Satrae (Hecat. fr. 156, 157, 175, 177, 181). To the west in the direction of the Axios river, by the Thermaic Gulf and along the Chalkidiki river the Sindonaioi were situated as well as the Thracian settlement of Chalastre, the Greek colonies Therme, Smila, Lipaksos, Mekiberna, Sermili and others (Hecat. fr. 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151). To the west of the Strymon the Crestonaioi were also situated. Evidence indicates that the name of that old Thracian settlement was Crestone and not Creston.

***The information provided by Herodotus about the tribes and settlements in the Strouma valley.*** The data provided by Herodotus does not quite leave the regions of the Lower Strouma either. But Herodotus traveled and had his own observations. In this sense his notes about the Lower

Stouma are a significant step forward in the getting to know Southwestern Thrace. When exactly he visited the Strymon and Macedonia is hard to state but nevertheless analyses give us grounds to assume it was within the time interval between 454 – 453 B.C. (See Фол 1977: 10). In his journey around that area, Herodotus passed by the Paeonian city of Siris (today's Seres), along the Prasiada lake (nowadays most frequently identified as the lake Kerkini) and in proximity to the Orbelos Mountain (nowadays most frequently identified as the Belasitsa Mountain) (compare Гепов 1961: 167-168). From there he headed westwards to Macedonia and did not go to the north, i.e. into the Middle Strouma. So, that area still remains outside the field of vision of ancient Greek literary tradition. This has, of course its explanation as Herodotus mainly followed in his description the route of Persian troops along the Aegean Sea coast toward Greece. Concerning the conquering activities of Persians in Thrace beforehand, at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, Herodotus has limited his information to just a few contradictory sentences. Only the military campaign against Paeonians was described in detail and just because it was related to the lands of the Lower Strouma, which Herodotus had visited personally and so he had the stories of eye-witnesses or local legends at hand (Hdt. V, 12-17).

In relation to the military activities of Megabazus, Mardonius and Xerxes, and also within the context of his personal visit, Herodotus mentioned the name and certain data of a large number of Thracian tribes in the lower stream of the Strymon valley. They include: Siroipaiones, Paeoplae, the anonymous Paeonians around the lake Prasiada and the Pangaeon Mountain,

Doberes, Agrianes, Odomantes, Dersaioi, Satrae, Satrokentai, Pieres, Edones, Bisaltae etc. An essential part of the present research is devoted to these tribes. There is additional information about some of these tribes highlighting the migration processes in the studied region. The general trend observed is a movement of the tribes from the south to the north, from the lower stream to the middle and upper stream of the Strouma and from the Axios valley to the Strymon valley. The reasons for those refugee streams were: in the first place, the Persians' actions at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and during the first two decades of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C., and in the second place the military actions of Macedonians in the context of Greek-Persian wars and after the Persian retreat. However, in order to specify more precisely certain details of the events mentioned, it would be necessary to take into account some information as provided by Thucydides.

In Herodotus' History there are also a few notes with hints about the Thracians along the middle and upper stream of the Strymon. One of them is the story with the stolen chariot of Xerxes (Hdt. VIII, 11). Another one concerns the religious beliefs of the Thracians who lived further in the lands above the Krestones (probably to the north and more generally in the region of the Middle Strouma) (Hdt. V 5, 1). Their anonymity, however, indicates that Herodotus did not have clear and specific data of the population along the middle and upper flow of the Strouma.

***The information provided by Thucydides about the tribes and settlements in the Strouma valley.*** Thucydides substantially expanded the horizons of ancient Greeks in terms of the inland of Thrace and particularly

about the middle and upper streams of the Strymon. That happened on the background of the Peloponnesian War, more specifically in relation to the march of the Odrysian king Sitalces against the Macedonian king Perdikas II in 429 B.C.

Thucydides knew that The Strymon sprang up from the Scombros Mountain, and he meant the Mountain of Vitosha under said name. After that Strymon flew through the lands of the Paeonian tribes Graaeans and Laeaeans (Thuk. II, 96, 3). These along with other Paeonian tribes were the ultimate western peoples ruled over by Sitalces. According to Thucydides there were other Paeonian tribes in the Upper Strouma valley as well, as he explicitly noted that Sitalces had also put those under his reign. It is not possible to state where exactly they were situated.

It is hardly occasional that in relation to that campaign Thucydides wrote about the Graei and the Laei along the Upper Strouma and even about the Treri and Tilatei to the north of Vitosha. Maybe this is exactly the spot through which Sitalces route or at least part of Sitalces army had passed through the Sofia Field and downwards aslong the Strouma stream as far as Vlahina and the Maleshev Mountain, Sitalces reached the Kerkine Mountain. Here the story briefly mentions the Middle Strouma region. According to Thucydides, Kerkine was an uninhabited mountain and border between the Sintoi and the Paeonians (Thuk. II, 98, 1). Various assumptions exist in relation to the location of this mountain. If we bear in mind the fact that Sitalces descended from the north to the south most generally between the Strymon and Axios, it then becomes clear that Kerkine was a mountain or mountain range situated

approximately in the same direction. It seems acceptable to identify the Maleshev Mountain with Ograzhden. At this point of the story, the Sintoi and the Maedi were mentioned in ancient historiography for the first time. It is just then that they came into the sight of Thucydides and caught his attention but bearing in mind that he mentioned them only once or twice and never said anything more about them it is clear that they remained outside the route and actions of Sitalces. The order of listing, first the Sintoi, and then the Maedi must not be misleading that the Maedi were southwards from the Sintoi, because that most generally said was the direction that Sitalces followed. The Maedi were to the east of the Sintoi. The Strouma river was outlined as the border between the Sintoi and the Maedi.

Thucydides wrote that after passing Kerkine the Thracian troops "reached Dober in Paeonica" (Thuk. II, 98, 2). It certainly seems they have passed through the ridge of the mountain because they did not affect the local tribes. The question of the location and status of Dober has not been answered. If we assume that Kerkine is identical in its southern part with today's Ograzhden, then the settlement of Dober must be searched in the Strumeshnitsa (Strumitsa) river valley, particularly in its middle stream.

Sitalces' military activities in the southwestern direction caused serious disturbance among the autonomous Thracian tribes although he was careful to avoid passing through their territories. Up to that moment no Odrysaeen ruler or his armies had interfered so directly into events in Southwestern Thrace. It is quite obvious from the information provided by Thucydides that Thracian tribes in the territories between the Lower Strouma

and Lower Mesta – Panei, Odomantes, Droi and Dersaioi, preserved their political independence. The same is true about the Maedi located immediately to their north.

**The information provided by Aristotle and his students.** Interesting data about the Strymon valley and its vicinity is contained in some of Aristotle's and Aristotle students' writings. This data is connected primarily with the flora and fauna but it also has a bearing on the problems of local toponymy and ethnonyms. At the same time such data marks the gradual penetration of Hellenes into the interior of the Strouma valley and the partial familiarization with the region of the middle and upper stream. In relation to this information the question that is raised concerns the location of the Mesapion (Hesaynon) Mountain. The opinion that it was the name of today's Vlahina Mountain seems acceptable.

The anonymous Pseudo-Aristotle also provided interesting information. It is, however, too uncertain to be used as grounds for significant conclusions concerning the region's geography. From that information the later and contemporary authors commented most frequently on the issue of hard coal along the Ponthos river. The prevailing opinion is that the river was the Stroumeshnitsa (Strumitsa) but there is no strong evidence to support that.

Pseudo-Aristotle was also the author of a text telling about the existence of a large and beautiful temple of Dionysus in Southwestern Thrace, more specifically in the district of Crestonia. As of the present moment the localization of this sanctuary seems an impossible task. There is the essential question of whether or not this prophecy temple is identical with another one known to Aristotle, namely a Ligurian one hypothetically situated by

Al. Fol in "Western and Southwestern Thrace" (Фол 1990: 186; 1991: 153).

Certain individual notes about the Strymon valley have been related to Theophrastus as well. They are in connection with the flora and fauna along the lower stream of the river.

## PROBLEMS OF TOPONYMY AND URBANIZATION IN THE MIDDLE STROUMA DURING THE HELLENISTIC AND THE ROMAN EPOCHS

**Sintia (Sintice) – Heracleia Sintica (Heracleia Strymnos).** On the land belonging to Rupite, in Petrich municipality, which is known in the scientific literature mostly with its old names Shirbanovo and Muletarovo, is situated one of the most significant archaeological complexes in the Middle Strouma valley. Today there are three hypotheses about the name of the ancient town which is situated here – Petra, Orhtopolis and Tristolos. The archaeological researches indicate the presence of materials mainly from the Hellenistic, the Roman and the Late ancient epoch. They allow to make the following suppositions: during the Hellenistic period the town occupied its largest area and leads to the conclusion that if it is not situated in the region of the Sintoi then it surely lies on the border between the Sintoi and the Maidoi (Maedi).

Furthermore, these researches make clear to a certain extent the significance of the smaller archaeological monuments with civil and religious character, which are situated near the town, including the necropolises.

On 25 March, 2002, a group of treasure-hunters was caught in a police campaign. They were trying to take out of a necropolis (near Cervenite skali) a solid marble stele with an

inscription in Latin (24 lines). It was secondary used in the building of a tomb, probably from the Late ancient period (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century).

The content of the inscription is an indication of its official character. Emperor Galerius and Caesar Maximinus Daia's decree from the end of the year 307 and the first third of 308 A.D., is written on the marble stele. It is addressed to the *quattuorviri* and the *decuriones* of the Heracleians (*salutem dicunt IIII viris et decc(urionibus) Heracleotarum*). The name of the settlement and its statute are categorically given. This is **civitas Heracleotarum** – the city of the Heracleians! It is obvious for us that it is **Heracleia Sintica** (Митрев, Тапакон 2002: 25-32; Mitrev 2003: 263-272; Митрев 2005: 181-187).

Apart from the information about the name of the ancient settlement near Rupite, the newly found inscription contains a valuable information about the statute of Heracleia. The decree gives the symbols and the right of *civitas* to be the fatherland of the Heracleians (*ornamentis et iure civitatis patriam vestram nobilitare cuperemus*). Even in lines 6-7 it is said that earlier the city has had such rights too, but to a little extent. Among the reasons for their actual reinstatement three things are emphasized. The inherent love of Galerius and Maximinus Daia towards the country; their desire for a greater approval of their thoughtfulness and benevolence; and the statement of the native residents that this civil community of the Heracleians existed in the past.

The newly found inscription poses several problems regarding the historical geography of the region. It is necessary to rationalize in detail the hypotheses about the ethnical aspect and the tribal boundaries in the Middle

Strouma valley during the antiquity; about the localization of some settlements known from the written sources and the archaeological researches; about their place in the Macedonian kingdom and within the Roman province Macedonia. This convincing proof concerning the location of Heracleia Sintica makes necessary the new reading of the records about the ancient history and archaeology in the region of Middle Strouma.

**Skotoussa and the „Scotusaei liberi”**. References to the ancient town of Skotoussa and the community of the Skotoussaians, who inhabited the valley of the Strymon River, are rarely encountered in literary sources. A few brief notes about them can be found in the manuscripts of Strabo (VII, frg. 36), Pliny Maior (IV, 10, 35; IV, 11, 42), Claudius Ptolemaeus (III, 12, 28), and in the *Tabula Peutingeriana* (fr. 7). A new epigraphic monument from the time of Heracleia Sintica suggested a more careful study of the Skotoussaians (Митрев 2005, 185-186 – earlier publication). Discovered in 2002 on the site of the village of Rupite, Petrich municipality, it is now stored in the Archaeological Museum in Sandanski. This is a rectangular, 7-10 cm-thick stele measuring 88 cm in width and 83 cm in height. The transcription and translation are not difficult to decipher: “*Gaios, son of Loukios, a Skotussaian, and a Heracleian too, and Ulpia Paromona (placed) for their son Gaios*”. In lines 1-3, reference is made to Gaios, son of Loukios, who was called Skotussaian, but who was also known by the name Heracleian. The order in which the ethnicons ‘Skotussaian’ and ‘Heracleian’ are used is significant evidence that Gaios, son of Loukios, originated from Skotussa (Skotoussa), but migrated to Heracleia, which can explain the reason why he is referred

to in two ways in the inscription. Apparently, he permanently settled down in Heracleia, as this was the place where both the epitaph and his son's grave were found. In line 4, there is reference to the mother, Ulpia Paromona, of the deceased man. Gaios, the deceased son, is mentioned in line 5. It will be reasonable to propose that the date of the new inscription from Heracleia is the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D.

Everything said so far is sufficient enough to suggest the need to search for Skotoussa in the vicinity of the Strymon, in the eastbound direction. In the vast zone thus demarcated, the site of the city can be pinpointed with the help of the data from the *Tabula Peutingeriana*. As already said, this has been done several times in modern historiography. The new moment here follows from the definite localization of Heracleia Sintica at the village of Rupite, district of Petrich. The four Roman miles or approximately 6 km, well-known from the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, should be added in the eastbound and southeastbound directions towards the Rupel Pass on the assumption that the road ran along this pass or east of it, and provided that we are at the same time guided by the already established location of Skotoussa to the east of the Strymon. There are sufficient grounds for hypothesizing that the territory of the ancient Skotoussa was in the area where the rivers Pirinska Bistritza and Melnishka flow into the River Strouma. At this place, in the vicinity of the villages Gorno Spanchovo – Vranya – Katuntzi, once was the site of an important ancient centre. B. Gerov recognizes the possibility that the city was located under the village of Gorno Spanchovo, on the left bank of the river Pirinska Bistritza, while smaller settlements of the *kome* type existed at Vranya-Katuntzi-Piper-

itza, Melnik and Petrovo. However, B. Gerov's idea that centre was Philippopolis in Paporbelia (Orbelia) will be hardly possible in view of the new localization of Heracleia at the village of Rupite (Геров 1961, 208-209). If the information in the *Tabula Peutingeriana* is followed word-for-word, it will be found that the settlement which best corresponds to the indicated distance of four Roman miles is the ancient village in the vicinity of Vachovitza (Dabo) near the village of Vranya.

The question about the status of Skotoussa and its autonomy in particular is of essential importance. There is no evidence available about the time of origin of this settlement and the rights it had. Considering the repeated reference to the geographic proximity with Heracleia Sintica, though, it seems logical to assume that although Skotoussa existed during the Hellenistic period it not differ from a village (*kome*). Pliny Maior points out that the Skotoussaians were one of the 150 "*populi*" in Macedonia, meaning, undoubtedly, the Roman province of Macedonia. It can be assumed that even during the period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> centuries B.C., Skotoussa was still a *kome* and along with the act of "freedom" also obtained township status. The benefaction was given to the inhabitants of Skotoussa after the battle at Philippi in 42 B.C. in return to their loyalty to Mark Antony and Octavian Augustus. It is very difficult, however, to speak definitively about the dimensions of "freedom", especially in the case of the Skotoussaians, since there is no reliable evidence available. The township status under the Principate and more specifically during the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries A.D. is supported by the above laconic reports of Claudius Ptolemaeus. He describes it as one of the towns in the interior of Macedonia

and more specifically in the region of Odomantike (III, 12, 28). There is no evidence, though, how long Skotoussa retained that state and what were the reasons for its degradation. In any case, during the Late Antiquity, when Heracleia Sintica rose again as an urban centre, Skotoussa had already been marked on the *Tabula Peutingeriana* as a road station.

**Desudaba – Alexandropolis (Alexandria Thracians) – Paroecopolis – Parthikopolos.** In the close vicinity northwards of Heracleia Sintica and Scotoussa, the Peutinger map does not reflect any other settlements during Late Antiquity. Today it is known that it was exactly here by Sandanski, that the most significant center in the Middle Strouma during the Roman era was situated. There has not yet been serious evidence how it was called during the Antique epoch. Desudaba, Alexandropolis, Paroecopolis, Parthikopolos, Gareskos, Zapara, Hadrianopolis, Sale, Neine and Phillipopolis, form one essential group of the existing assumptions.

The hypothesis of the situation of Desudaba in the region of the old village of Sv. Vrač, today the town of Sandanski belongs to T.-Al. Desdevizes du Désert (Desdevizes du Désert 1862: 86, 293). The sources and current status of surveys in the area completely support the idea that Desudaba was in the Middle Strouma. This localization is based on a single statement by Livy, which is, however, especially accurate concerning the distance from the Vardar river to that town in the district of Medica – 75 Roman miles. This distance completely corresponds to nowadays location of Sandanski. It provides grounds to support the statement that Desudaba of the Maedi was on that spot or in close proximity to it. Moreover, today there is explicit evi-

dence of the existence of an old Thracian settlement here as early as the late Bronze era. In addition, the situation of Desudaba by Sandanski is not in contradiction with any of the possible names of the city during the Hellenistic or Roman era.

According to D. Dechev next to today's Sandanski the ruins of the ancient city of Alexandropolis are situated – the first Macedonian colony in the lands of the Maedi (Detschew 1954: 113-115). He has pointed out as evidence the city walls, which he believes have remained from the time of Philip II and Alexander III the Great but that could be difficult to accept. At the same time, according to D. Dechev, the colony Alexandropolis should have been located in the southern part of the Middle Strouma valley and in proximity to the territories ruled over by Macedonians because it is mentioned in the background of an uprising of the Maedi in 340 B.C. It was quickly suppressed by the heir to the throne Alexander III.

According to me it is possible to formulate the assumption that in 340 B.C. upon the suppression of the Maedi uprising, Alexander conquered the fortified Desudaba and after chasing away the native population settled mixed Greek and Macedonian colonists there, renaming the settlement into Alexandropolis. But that was evidently for a short time. As it is known after the death of Alexander III in 323 B.C. and during the disintegration of his state the reign of the Macedonians in Thrace was significantly weakened. The discovery in Sandanski of Cassander's coins (305 – 297 B.C.) indicates that the city existed at that time but in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. the Macedonians lost control over that area.

The hypothesis of the situation of

Paroecopolis/Parthikopolos upon Sandanski belongs to J. and L. Robert (Robert 1948: n. 112). Later on it was also accepted by F. Papazoglou. In her research she summarizes that what is known about the ancient city by Sandanski, is not in contradiction with the identification with Paroecopolis/Parthikopolos (Papazoglou 1988: 373). Meanwhile this hypothesis has been further developed by J. and L. Robert, in the sense that Parthikopolos succeeded Alexandropolis, after its decay (Robert 1954: № 165). V. Popova has paid attention to the possibility that the foundation was more the renaming of an already existing old Thracian city (Popova 1981: 178-179). This seems completely possible to me and the ancient Thracian city could be Desudaba. The examination of the various assumptions about the name of the ancient Sandanski, as well as the opinions in favour of and against the situation of Paroecopolis/Parthikopolos on that spot show that there are no substantial grounds against this hypothesis.

The other assumptions concerning the name of Sandanski are according to me groundless. B. Gerov, for example, simultaneously with the rejection of the hypothesis about Paroecopolis (Parthikopolos), has formulated a new suggestion for the location of that place on the ancient city of Gareskos. Considerable doubt in relation to that comes from a statement by Strabo who noted that when traveling to the north from Heracleia Sintica, the mountains Rhodope and Hemus and not Orbelos remained to the right. Besides, it is evident that the Macedonian Parorbelia district in which Gareskos was included was to the west of the Strymon, as it started from Eidomene on the Vardar river (Strab., VII, frg. 36).

Another author who does not accept the idea of the situation of Paroecopolis/Parthikopolos by Sandanski and at the same time has formulated his own theory, is V. Beshevliev. His basic argument against such localization is that the region of Sandanski was connected with the Maedi while according to Claudius Ptolemy, Parthikopolos belonged to the district of Sintica (Beševliev 1962: 2). This, however, could be explained with migrations in the region during the Hellenistic era. At the same time Beshevliev thinks that in Late Antiquity, Sv. Vrach (Sandanski) had the name Zapara. But that late antiquity city was in the province of Second Macedonia while according to the present research, the region of Sandanski was in the province of First Macedonia.

For about 30 years another assumption also has existed, that of T. Ivanov, concerning the presence at Sandanski of an antique settlement under the name of Sale (Иванов 1984: 12). This is in a direct relation with the temple of the Thracian horseman named God Salenos, discovered here. In the availability of clear and explicit data of the existence of a settlement Sale in the Aegean sea coast, it seems to me unnecessary to search for a new settlement with the name Sale by Sandanski. The penetration and integration of this cult in the Middle Strouma has its explanation in the ethnic characteristic of the region and in the migration processes among the Thracians.

During the last few years one more opinion became known, of M. Zahrnt who also rejects the localization of Parthikopolos by Sandanski and formulates a new hypothesis of the situation on that spot of an ancient city named Hadrianopolis (Zahrnt 1993:

229-239). Under the current status of the data this hypothesis seems to me unacceptable. Hadrianopolis has a good location by the village of Edirnedzhik (today's village of Adriani at Drama). Besides, Hadrianopolis was a participant in the confederation of polises known as Pentapolis. It is impressive that the Pentapolis members are predominantly villages and small towns whose location is in the Lower Strouma and probably along the Angista river valley.

Recently V. Dinchev has proposed one more option for the name of the ancient Sandanski – Neine (Динчев 2006: 87-95). This toponym is derived from an inscription known a long time ago from the region of the villages of D. Gradeshnitsa and Ilindentsi and typically it has been assumed that there was the location of Neine (Герасимова-Томова, Сандански 1980: 24-27). I have not found explicit arguments in favour of or against such a hypothesis but nevertheless there is no data that Neine is a polis name, while the ancient Sandanski is indisputably a polis.

Also recently M. Manov published an assumption that Philippopolis in the Orbelia district was on the spot of Sandanski (Манов 2008: 21). The assumed location of Philippopolis on that spot, however, cannot be agreed with the objections pointed out to in relation to Gareskos. There is no evidence at all that the region of Sandanski was in the Macedonian district Parorbelia. According to Strabo's information it was to the west of the Strouma (Strab., VII, frg. 36).

***Tristolos: Petra, Neine, Skiame?*** It has become known from the writings of Claudius Ptolemy that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D., a city existed in the geographical area Sintica, which city was named Tristolos (Ptol. III, 12, 27).

It is mentioned together with Heracleia Sintica and Paroecopolis, and it is believed to have been closer to the latter. On these grounds, on the maps from Modern times (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century), Tristolos, Paroecopolis, Heracleia, and even Scotoussa, are presented in an almost straight line and next to each other. Unfortunately, the cartographic materials mentioned constitute a quite unreliable source to make it possible to determine an explicit location of Tristolos along the Strouma or along the Stroumeshnitsa only through them.

The opinions known to me as of the current moment in relation to the location of Tristolos are either unacceptable or questionable, after the localization of Heracleia by the village of Rupite. At the same time in historiography there is also the idea that Tristolos was, actually, a union of settlements. D. Samsaris has assumed that was an association of three villages (Samsaris 1989: 365-366). This, in combination with the traditional positioning of Tristolos in geographical materials, immediately next to Paroecopolis and in the opposite direction to Heracleia Sintica, allows the formulation of a working hypothesis that the town was situated to the north of nowadays' Sandanski. Here the ruins by the villages of Ilindentsi (former village of Belitsa) and D. Gradeshnitsa are known and these are usually associated with the name Neine. But epigraphic heritage within this region has provided other information as well. Monuments originate from here in which the names of three settlements or of persons related to these settlements have been clearly mentioned: Petra, Skiame and Neine. In addition to that, a transcript of a text has been preserved containing the indicative in this case term *sympoleitai* (fellow citizens) (Гефов 1961: 343, № 25a;

Велков 1963: 143; Mihailov 1966: 236-237; № 2247; Манов 2008: 76-77, № 12). However, the mentioning of Tristolos only by Claudius Ptolemy prompts the town existed only in the Roman era and more specifically around the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

**Petra.** Petra is an ancient city in the lands of the Maedi mentioned in ancient historiography in relation to the time of the Hellenistic era. The information is from Livy, concerning the military maneuvers of the Macedonian king Philip V in the lands of the Maedi and Dentheleti in 181 B.C. and the conquering of Petra (Liv. XL 22, 12; 23, 4). It is difficult to determine based only on this description where exactly Petra was situated.

The only epigraphic monument having some relation to Petra, was discovered many years ago within the territory of the village of Ilindentsi, municipality of Strumyani. In it a person is mentioned born in Petra. In the absence of any other epigraphic evidence this inscription is the only clue concerning the location of the settlement. According to me it is located relatively close if we follow the idea that one administrative union of three settlements existed in this region during the Roman era – Tristolos and those settlements were Petra, Skiame and Neine.

As far as I am aware, no one has paid attention so far that the description of Petra conforms very well with the location of the village of Ilindentsi itself, in proximity to the Pirin Mountain. Even today the seven rocky hills towering here impress deeply and give the area a unique magnetism, while in the vicinity around them about 30 rocky caves and abysses are registered. It should be expressly emphasized, however, that we are not discussing here the archeological sites

located in the areas named Shtavenska skala, Hilyadnitsa and Rukaloto, which are especially popular in scientific literature but we are discussing the settlement located 2-3 km southwards from them in the place of the contemporary village of Ilindentsi. It seems that the necropolis was located in close proximity westwards and above it on the hill named Kostenurkata the acropolis was situated. The information stating that in the past the hill Kostenurkata (the tortoise) was also known as „Grad Kajasi“, i.e. „Rock Town“ or „Petra Town“, is especially essential.

**Skiame.** The only testimony about Skiame is a monument discovered in the area named Hilyadnitsa, between the village of Ilindentsi and the village of D. Gradeshnitsa (Mihailov 1966: 235, № 2242). The inscription on it reads: „*Gaius Iulius Maximus dedicated a gift to the master Dionysus in Skiame*“. According to some authors Skiame is the name of an area, while others believe it is the name of a settlement. Field research shows that there was a large necropolis in the area named Hilyadnitsa (Велков 1963: 144; Динчев 2006: 89-90). Obviously we need to assume that was the necropolis of Skiame. This explains to a certain extent the presence of an offering to Dionysus whose cult is incompatible with burial traditions. But it is not mentioned explicitly in the inscription that a temple of Dionysus existed. The settlement itself, according to antique tradition is to be searched for eastwards as to the necropolis. In the present case, in the eastern part of the area named Hilyadnitsa and immediately to the east-northeast from it. Here, with no clearly demonstrated borders, is the area known as the Shtavenska skala (or Shtaven), which is related to quite a lot

of archeological monuments. This, according to me, must have been the settlement Skiame. In and of itself it would not exceed the scope and location of a village.

**Neine.** The name Neine became popular after several publications by V. Gerasimova-Tomova and B. Sandanski. It is related to an epigraphic monument discovered between the areas Rukaloto and Hilyadnitsa, next to the villages of Ilindentsi and D. Gradeshnitsa (Герасимова-Томова, Сандански 1980: 24-27). According to the publishers this is a construction inscription in which it is announced that „the Neine residents“ built „from the ground“ a sanctuary of the Egyptian gods Isida and Serapis who are worshiped in one temple. They also reached the conclusion that the name of the settlement located here was Neine. It is, however, to be explicitly noted that the text is addressed not only to Isida and Serapis but first to the Augustus gods, i.e. the deified emperors and then to the Egyptian deities.

In later literature there are almost no objections concerning the name Neine and its relation to the archeological complex located here. At the same time, the idea that it was a town turned out to be quite questionable. The doubt whether Neine is a town is enhanced not only by epigraphic testimony but also by archeological materials preserved in the areas named Rukaloto and Hilyadnitsa. Here the architectural and public utility structures and facilities typical of the urban environments are not discovered. Unfortunately, whatever assumption is made it will remain in the realm of the unproven given the present status of the data. Still, according to me Neine is not the name of a town and the inhabitants of Neine were one demos and a

village community that existed during the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century in this region. But it seems Neine was not an ordinary village within a polis bearing in mind this significant temple of the Augustus deities, of Isida and Serapis. It could even be assumed that „the Neine demos“ had the regulation and organization of a local „koinon of the inhabitants of Neine“.

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## ДОЛИНАТА НА РЕКА СТРУМА ПРЕЗ АНТИЧНОСТТА

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### Резюме

Проучванията са част от дейността по проект ДДВУ02/92 към Фонд „Научни изследвания“ на МОН, на тема: „Историко-археологически проучвания в Родопите и долината на река Струма“. Основният акцент е върху изследването на етническите и демографските процеси в долината на река Струма през Античността – от архаичната до римската епоха, включително. В първата част се проследява хронологически информацията на античните автори за тракийските племена, разположени в тези територии. Коментират се различни постановки и проблеми в съвременната историография и се предлагат нови възможни решения. Във втората част се разглеждат наличните сведения за местоположението на основните градски средища по средното течение на Струма. Предлагат се нови локализации на градовете Хераклея Синтика, Скотуса, Тристолос, Петра и други.

## THREE SPECIAL MEGALITHS IN BULGARIA AND CAUCASUS: SIMILARITY AND PROBLEMS

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### **Abstract**

*Present publication comments two remarkable phenomena in the technology of megalithic construction. On the one hand, the publication analyzes the pyramidal vaults of several prehistoric stone structures. This technique has been applied by the ancient architects: twice in SE Bulgaria (Strandzha Mountain, near the town of Malko Tarnovo) and once in South Russia (Western Caucasus, river Fars, village Novosvobodnaya). On the other hand, the publication points to the strange fact that this technological innovation has been used very rarely, only three times in two neighbouring megalithic regions and nowhere else in the world. Further analysis of this remarkable archaeological situation requires a significantly more precise dating of the Thracian and the Caucasian megaliths.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Problems that are commented here concern some principal issues about megaliths and still did not find generally accepted solutions (Трифонов, 2001), (Григорьев & Ивасько 2010). These problems do not depend on the function of objects, but are essentially related to the concept of megalithic technology and to the possible ways of its distribution towards different geographical areas.

The concept of megalithic technology is associated primarily with the concept of jointing (assembling) of plates or pillars along their peripheral edges (Fergusson 1872), (Eric Peet 1912), (Цонев, 2010), (Цонев, 2011). We shall use the term “jointing” to notify a construction process whereby rough stone pillars or slabs come into contact not by their plane walls, but only by their edges, along their perimeter. In this way, the megaliths fundamentally differ from mass standard construction method in antiquity – layered walling (masonry) of relatively small blocks or bricks.

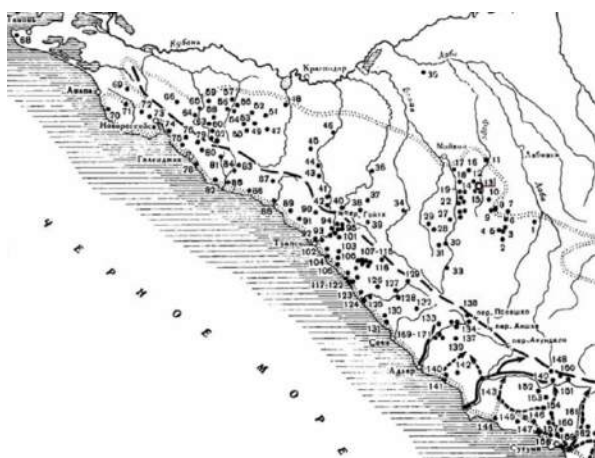
Because the type and function of megalithic constructions that will be compared in the present study are too obscure and unconventional, we shall avoid terms like “tomb”, “heroon”, “sanctuary”, etc. and we shall use neutral terms “site”, “edifice”, “construction”, “building”, “monument”. First, we give a brief description of the monuments, focusing on their technological similarity. Then we point out the serious problems arising from the attempt to find the reasons for this strong similarity in exchange of architectural and/or religious ideas between Balkans and Caucasus.

### **DESCRIPTION AND COMPARISON OF THE SITES**

***SITE No. 1: Megalith “Fars” in  
Caucasus.***

Megalith No. 1 was registered by N. L. Kamenev on the left bank of the river Fars at the village Tsarskoye, today called Novosvobodnaya, in 1869-1870 (Марковин, 1978). It was destroyed in the early twentieth century. This ancient monument is unique in its appearance and in its

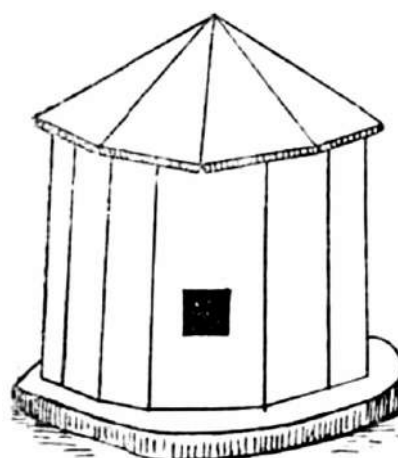
**Fig. 1.** Megalith No. 1, village Novosvobodnaya, river Fars – circle No. 13 (Марковин, 1973).



Megalith No. 1 consisted of three parts: (1) prismatic chamber of 11 vertical rectangular plates; (2) roof (pyramidal assembly of 8 trapezoidal plates); (3) dromos. The sketch in Fig. 2 is made by E. D. Felitsin who carried out excavations 15 years later than N. L. Kamenev (Марковин, 1978), (Попова, 1963). The chamber and the roof of the building are constructed by the same megalithic technology: jointing of large stone slabs. Describing the chamber the discoverer N. L. Kamenev wrote about a 16-walls prism, but E. D. Felitsin, more closely investigating this dolmen 15 years later, reports about a 11-walls prism made of big vertical rectangular plates of the same height (2.13 m) and thickness (up to 20 cm), but of different widths, which are tightly in contact along their vertical edges

design and is situated in the centre of a large dolmen area on the Northern foothills of the Western Caucasus – Fig. 1. People created megalithic constructions in this region during the period III-II millennium B.C. creating about 2300 dolmens (Марковин, 1978).

**Fig. 2.** Sketch of Megalith No. 1, Felitsin, 1904 (Марковин, 1978).



(Марковин, 1978).

According to E. D. Felitsin the roof consisted of 8 *different* triangular stone slabs, stacked in a pyramid (Марковин, 1978). Т. В. Попова (Попова, 1963) claims the pyramidal roof consisted of 8 *identical* triangular plates. The dromos was heavily damaged even before the archaeological disclosure. V. A. Trifonov suggests that the dromos began from the main face plate with a square opening and was oriented East (Трифонов, 2001).

L. I. Lavrov (Лавров, 1960) describes the inventory found in the building and around it: ceramics, sling stone, several bronze arrowheads, one golden ring. Т. В. Попова (Попова, 1963) gives a little bit more detailed data: "Inside the dolmen, on both sides of the square hole, stood 2 clay pots.

**Fig. 3.** Balkan megalithic area in SE Bulgaria (Delev, 1984). ● dolmens; ○ – rock-cut tombs; ▲ – rock-cut niches. The number of respective monuments in the concrete locality is given in parentheses. Circles with arrows near the town of Malko Tyrnovo indicate megaliths No. 2 and No. 3.



In various places inside the burial chamber lay a small ball made of marble, 2 bronze rings and 2 bronze spears. Inventory, found in the excavations, does not give grounds to suppose the presence of a funeral in the considered object."

Megalith No. 1 can be dated only indirectly and approximately. V. I. Markovin considers it a manifestation of the heyday of megalithic construction in the Caucasus and dates it about 2300 B.C. (Марковин, 1978).

***SITE No. 2: Megalith "Propada" in Strandzha Mountain, SE Bulgaria.***

The mound in the site "Propada", covering megalith No. 2, was identified in 1979 during the expedition "Sakar-Strandzha", organized by the Institute

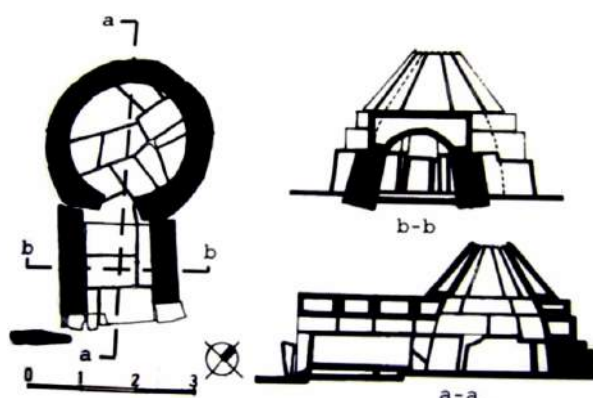
of thracology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and was led by Prof. Al. Fol (Делев, 1984), (Рыцева, 1982). The same statement applies to the megalith No. 3 in the site "Mishkova Niva", which is described in the next section of the present article. Buildings No. 2 and No. 3 were destroyed long ago in antiquity. They are located inside the Balkan dolmen area (Fig. 3), just like the megalith No. 1 is located inside the West Caucasus dolmen area.

Excavations on the archaeological site No. 2 were carried out in the summer of 1979 by P. Delev. In the vicinity of the megalith No. 2 a necropolis of several graves is located. The archaeologist D. Agre conducted secondary excavations there in the period 1999-2004 (Arpe, 2005 a), (Arpe, 2005 b).

Building No. 2 consists of: (1) cylindrical chamber, (2) pyramidal/conical roof and (3) dromos – Fig. 4. Unlike the Caucasian building No. 1, the camera and the coating of the Balkan building No. 2 were fulfilled by two different technologies: the roof has a purely megalithic character while

the camera was created by classical dry masonry of well-crafted quadras – Fig. 5. The roof is non-standard: it is constructed of seven tilted trapezoidal plates (Делев, 1984), (Delev, 1985), (Pyceva, 2000), (Pyceva, 2002). Only 6 from the original 7 trapezoidal slabs were found in the excavations.

**Fig. 4.** Building No. 2 – anastylosis reconstruction according to M. Russeva (Pyceva, 2002).



**Fig. 5.** Building No. 2 – reconstructed cylindrical chamber (Pyceva, 2000).



The covering trapezoidal slabs have a unique feature: from the outside they're all flat and therefore the outside shape of the roof is a trun-

cated pyramid; inside, however, the slabs are treated with azimuthal curvature, so that the inside shape of the roof is a truncated cone – Fig. 6.

**Fig. 6.** The roof of the megalithic building No. 2 after successful restoration in 1981 from the inside (left) and outside (right). Photos by D. Kolev, 2006.



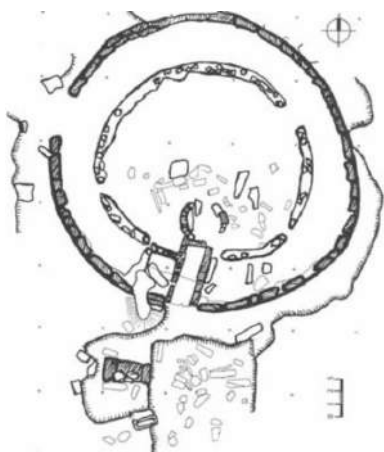
The most interesting feature of the dromos is its roof again. The architect applied here a purely megalithic approach instead of the so-called false

vault. The roof is formed by three large pieces of marble placed over the walls along the corridor contacting in between by their transversal edges.

Their upper surfaces are flat, but their lower surfaces (i.e., internal to the corridor) are smoothly processed in the shape of a semi-cylinder (Pyceva, 2000)!

In the site No. 2 and around it the following inventory was found: small fragments of ceramic and glass vessels, two clay lamps, beads of black glass, bronze key, a bronze coin from the beginning of the 3<sup>th</sup> century A.D., scattered and shattered bones of seven individuals (Делев, 1985), bones of two dogs (Delev, 1985). All materials belong to the Roman age, which was accepted as dating of the tomb itself (Делев, 1984). The number and the condition of the bones in the chamber give the reason to doubt that we have an ordinary funeral there. The situation resembles an ossuary, like several dolmens in Sakar and Strandzha Mountains.

**Fig. 7a.** Photogrammetry of site No. 3 (Pyceva, 2000).



The basic building No. 3 is similar to the building No. 2, because it also consists of three parts, which are realized in two different technologies – Fig. 8: (1) cylindrical chamber fulfilled in the technique of dry stone masonry; (2) pyramidal dome of megalithic nature; (3) dromos. The chamber roof

**SITE No. 3: Megalith “Mishkova niva” in Strandzha Mountain, SE Bulgaria.**

The mound containing within the remains from the destroyed building No. 3 was identified in the area “Mishkova Niva” also in 1979-80 during the expeditions in Strandzha mountain led by Prof. Al. Fol. The geographical location is shown in Fig. 3.

Building No. 3 is the basic element of a big archaeological site, which is significantly more complex than the buildings No. 2 and No. 1. The site consists of several elements: (i) central sacral building No. 3; (ii) inner fence made of broken pieces of granite; (iii) external fence with a diameter of 23 m made of well-crafted marble quadras; (iv) rectangular side chamber adjacent to the west wall of the dromos – Fig. 7-a,b.

**Fig. 7b.** The archaeological site No. 3 after the second phase of excavations 2005 (Photo from Internet).

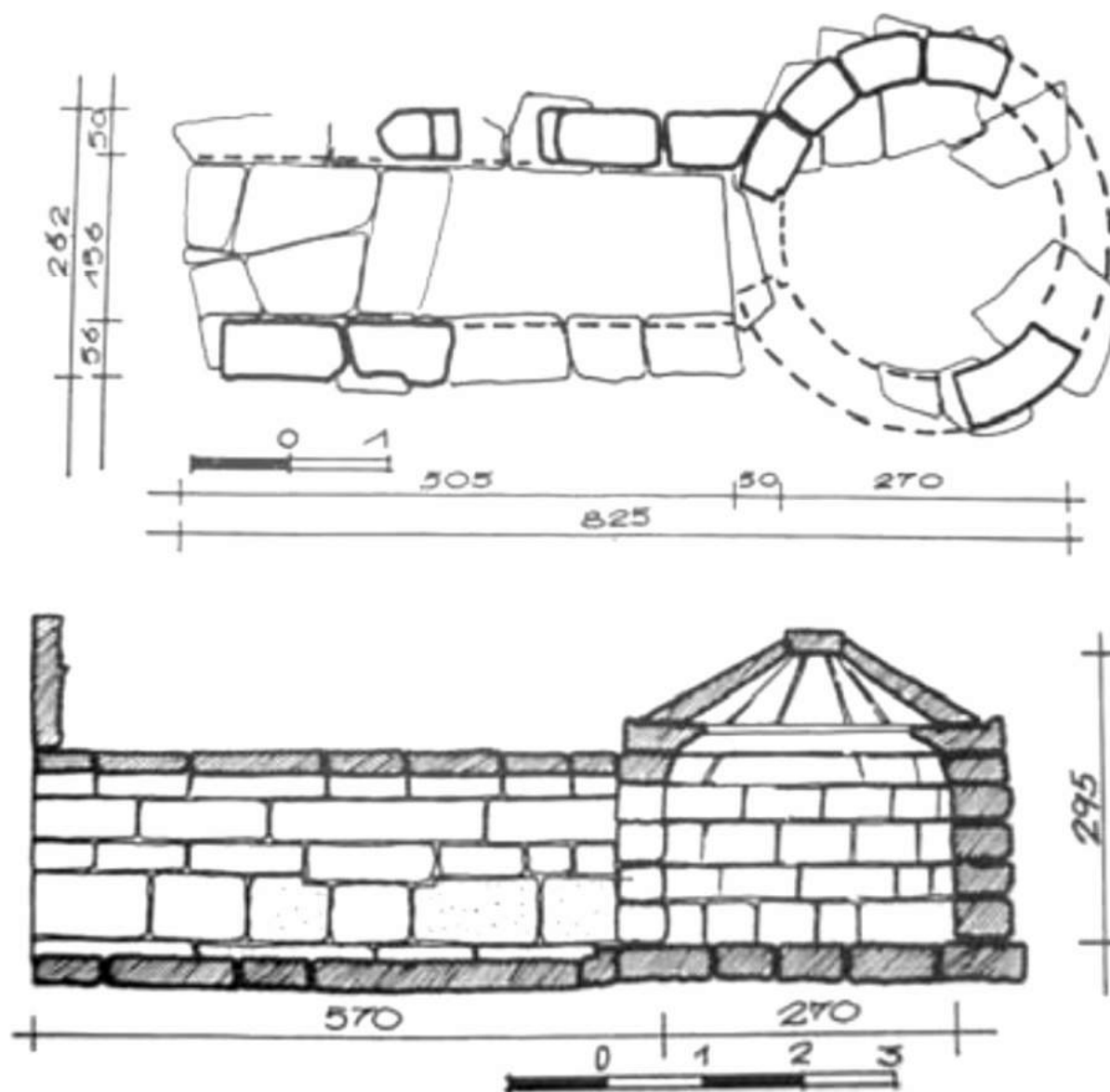


in its original condition had the form of 10-sided pyramid (Pyceva, 1987), (Pyceva, 2000). It consisted of 10 triangular plates, but only 3 of them survived. Unlike building No. 2, we observe here a gradual transition between the roof and the chamber; thus, the roof becomes closer to a

spherical form. Unlike building No. 2, the triangular slabs of the roof of building No. 3 are flat on both sides, so that their combination gives a pyramid not only from outside but also from inside.

The dromos roof is restored only partially; it is unclear whether it was a false cylindrical vault or a quasi-megalithic cylinder, similar to the dromos roof of the building No. 2.

**Fig. 8.** Reconstruction of building No. 3 proposed by the architect M. Russeva (Русева, 1987).



On the site No. 3 almost no artifacts were found, except for a few pieces of ceramics from the Roman era. P. Delev dates the building No. 3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. A.D. based on the structural similarity between buildings No. 3 and No. 2 (Delev, P. 1985),

(Делев, 1990), (Делев & Иванов, 2006), (Делев, 2015), (Русева, 2000).

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The vaulted roofs No. 1, 2 and 3 show an extraordinarily impressive

constructive similarity:

I/ They are full or truncated pyramids, assembled from large triangular or trapezoidal plates (7, 8, or 10 pieces); the diameters of all the roofs are about 2.5 m.

II/ They are megalithic constructions, as far as roof slabs contact in between only along the peripheral edges, i.e., they do not lay one over another like quadras in classic masonry.

III/ In order to acquire its stability the roof construction needs neither key stone, nor supporting post in the center of the dome, because the triangular/trapezoidal plates mutually support each other – this is an ingenious engineering solution.

IV/ The pyramidal megalithic roof constructions No. 1, 2, 3 are unique and they fundamentally differ from all other known domes in antique world.

V/ All sites No. 1, 2, 3 are localized in the central regions of the respective dolmen areas where their builders could gain megalithic construction experience.

VI/ The dolmen areas containing sites No. 1, 2, 3 are located in closest proximity, they are adjacent areas.

The amazing technical similarities in the construction of the sites No. 1, 2, 3 require some comments.

On the one hand, the megalith No. 1 was built about 2300 B.C., and the megaliths No. 2 and No. 3 are officially dated to the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. A.D. Taking into account such big time difference it is very difficult to

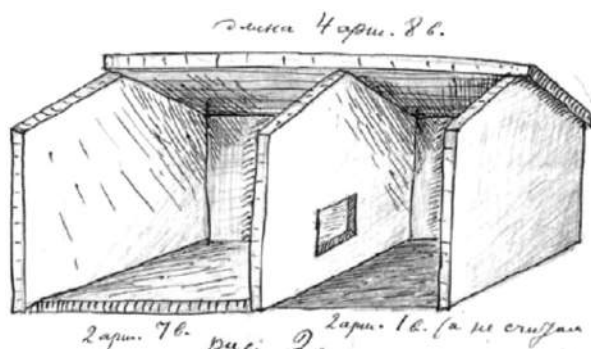
imagine the existence of some interaction, exchange of ideas between the builders of these objects. The most likely conclusion is that the occurrence of pyramidal megalithic roof No. 1 in Caucasus and of pyramidal megalithic roofs No. 2, 3 on the Balkans is a *purely accidental coincidence between two independent megalithic architectural schools*.

On the other hand, the “*accidental coincidence*” looks strange because: (1) it is implemented in only two geographical regions, (2) which are situated not apart, but adjacently; (3) these geographical regions are not just parts of territory, they are megalithic areas, and (4) the coincidence mentioned here has no analogues in any other megalithic area of the world.

The “coincidence” described here looks even more strange in the presence of an additional argument (5). The question is about two non-typical dolmens with two-sloped (gable) roofs. These constructions differ essentially from the sites No. 1, 2, 3 but they are also very similar to each other and represent very specific megalithic monuments. Such dolmens cannot be found in any other megalithic area in the world but on the Balkans and in Caucasus.

One of these remarkable dolmens (let's denote it as A) was discovered by N. I. Veselovsky in 1898 (Трифонов & Шишлина 2014) and destroyed in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> cent. – Fig. 9. It was located in the vicinity of village Novosvobodnaya, i.e. very close to the megalith No. 1 at the river Fars – Fig. 10. Dolmen A consisted of two chambers and was covered with a two-sloped (gable) roof consisting of two large monolithic plates. This essentially megalithic roofing turns dolmen A into a unique dolmen for the entire Caucasian megalithic area.

**Fig. 9.** Two-chambered dolmen A with two-sloped (gable) roof near village Novosvobodnaya. Sketch by N. I. Veselovsky (Трифонов & Шишлина 2014).



In the necropolis, located in the vicinity of building No. 2 in Bulgaria, the archaeologist D. Agre found a very similar one-chamber tomb with a two-sloped (gable) roof of monolithic slabs (Arpe, 2005 b) – Fig. 11 (let's denote it

**Fig. 10.** Part of a West Caucasus dolmen area according Markovin (Марковин, 1978). Megalith No. 1 at the river Fars - circle 13. Two-chamber dolmen A with a gable roof near village Novosvobodnaya – circle 12.



as B). Both roof plates rest on two pediments and on both longitudinal walls. Constructively tomb B represents a real gable-roof dolmen. It is also unique for the Balkan megalithic area.

**Fig. 11.** Two-sloped (gable) megalithic roof on tomb B in the vicinity of building No. 2. Photos by L. Tsonev, 2003.



## FINAL REMARKS – PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED

Unfortunately, a deeper further analysis of buildings № 1, 2, 3 together with the dolmens A, B and with the surrounding dolmen areas is impossible, if we accept the official dating of the Balkan and Caucasian megaliths. A strange and suspicious situation appears noticed, e.g., by V.

A. Trifonov (Трифонов, 2001). There is a mysterious millennium-long-discrepancy between the Balkan dolmens and the rest of the European dolmens. Megaliths in Western Europe, Caucasus and Ural Mountains were built in IV-II mill. BC, and the megaliths on the Balkan Peninsula were created only in the period 12<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C.

A serious general study of megaliths in Europe and of the buildings No.

1, 2, 3, in particular, could be developed further in two directions. If the dating difference is real and is not the result of an error, we need to solve a complex scientific problem: why one thousand years after the megalithic construction in Europe was terminated, suddenly a new megalithic area appeared on the Balkan Peninsula and only there. On the contrary, if the dating discrepancy is unreal, i.e., if it arose due to differences or due to errors in the dating methods, then a new, modern, more exact and objective dating procedure has to be applied to the Balkan and Caucasian dolmens simultaneously. Particularly suitable for this purpose is the method of optically stimulated luminescence – OSL (Liritzis et al, 2010), (Liritzis, 2011).

Only after this procedure has been performed we could discuss the question about the possible ideological interaction between the Balkan and Caucasian megalithic areas that produced the astonishing similar and almost unique buildings No. 1, 2, 3, as well as the gable dolmens A and B.

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## ТРИ ОСОБЕНИ МЕГАЛИТА В БЪЛГАРИЯ И В КАВКАЗ: ПОДОБИЕ И ПРОБЛЕМИ

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### Резюме

Настоящата публикация коментира забележително явление в технологията на мегалитното строителство. От една страна, тя анализира уникалното пирамидално (шатрово) покритие на праисторически каменни съоръжения. То е било използвано от древните строители в Югоизточна България (в местностите «Пропада» и «Мишкова нива» в Странджа планина около град Малко Търново) и в Западен Кавказ (на левия бряг на река Фарс, до станица Новосвободная, Руската федерация). От друга страна, публикацията посочва странното обстоятелство, че това изключително технологично нововъведение е реализирано само три пъти, при това в два съседни мегалитни района и повече никога и никъде в света. По-нататъшният анализ на тази забележителна археологическа ситуация изисква да се уточнят датировките на тракийските и кавказките мегалити.

## OCCURRENCE OF BLOOD ACETALDEHYDE IN SOCIAL AND CHRONIC DRINKERS

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### Abstract

*Ethanol (E) as the most often detected agent and increasing the alcohol-polidrug intoxications in recent studies were demonstrated. Acetaldehyde (AA), the first product of ethanol metabolism, has been suspected to be involved in some pharmacological and behavioral effects of ethanol and alcoholism. Acutely poisoned patients (71) who were admitted to the Clinic of Toxicology (UMBALSM „Pirogov”) for acute care and subsequent detoxification were included in the study. Blood ethanol and acetaldehyde concentrations were evaluated using headspace gas chromatography. The mean AA levels in social drinkers were:  $3.81 \pm 1.15$ ;  $4.66 \pm 1.21$ ;  $4.85 \pm 1.21$ ;  $5.55 \pm 1.28$  at increasing E levels: 0.90 - 2.00; 2.01 - 3.00; 3.01 - 4.00; > 4.00. These data suggest that there is a dependency between E and AA: the growing of E goes together with the growing of AA. The mean AA level for the whole group of social drinkers was  $4.72 \pm 1.33$  mg/l. In the group of the alcoholics the mean AA concentration was  $12.51 \pm 6.46$  mg/l. AA in children was  $2.30 \pm 1.13$  mg/l. Five of the chronic alcohol users exhibited low blood ethanol ( $0.09 \pm 1.05$  g/l) together with high acetaldehyde ( $6.83 \pm 13.96$  mg/l). The highest concentration of acetaldehyde (28.32 mg/l) was measured in a patient (E=3.60 g/l) with long history of alcohol abuse. The data show higher*

*concentrations of acetaldehyde in alcohol abusers as compared to non-alcoholics. This is probably a result of a primary reduction in hepatic acetaldehyde dehydrogenase activity which may be a critical event leading to liver injury.*

### INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization estimates that 140 million people worldwide suffer from alcohol dependency causing damage to lives and economies. Alcohol dependence is associated with increased risk of variety of medical problems including cirrhosis, cardiomyopathy, various cancers, infectious disorders, fetal abnormalities and neurological complications including dementia.

Many epidemiological studies have established a relationship between excessive alcohol intake and liver disease, although there seems to be a weak relationship between the extent and duration of alcohol intake and severity of liver injury (Hunt et al., 1996). Acetaldehyde (the first and most toxic poison created by alcohol metabolism) is involved in the stimulant, sedative, hypnotic, amnesic, reinforcing and lethal effects of ethanol (Hunt et al., 1996; Smith et al., 1997).

The aim of the present study was to measure the levels of acetaldehyde (AA) and ethanol (E) in intoxicated drinkers and chronic alcoholic users.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 71 acutely poisoned patients who had been admitted in the period of September-December 2014 in an intoxicated state to the Clinic of Toxicology for acute care and subsequent detoxification were included in the study. The study population included: 22 females and 25 males - social drinkers; 9 males and 3 females with well-documented histories of chronic alcoholism, age 20-45 years and 12 pediatric patients (age 13-15 years).

The concentrations of ethanol and acetaldehyde in whole blood were determined at the time of the patients' admission to the clinic. Patients with mixed intoxications and other diseases were excluded.

Blood E and AA concentrations were measured immediately after classification of clinical intoxication level, physical examination and assessment of patients' history of alcohol use. They were estimated by headspace gas chromatography (Gesheva et al., 2003).

Conventional (standard) treatment with parenteral solutions: infusions with saline, isotonic solution, 5% glucose solution, nootropic drugs, and vitamins were used to manage acute alcohol intoxications.

Statistical methods used were: descriptive statistics, independent-samples T-test, One-Way ANOVA, Linear regression and graphics.

The study followed the principles in the Declaration of Helsinki.

## RESULTS

Overall, 71 patients with different degree of intoxication were enrolled and treated between September and December 2014. Table 1 shows the mean AA levels in social drinkers:  $3.81 \pm 1.15$ ;  $4.66 \pm 1.21$ ;  $4.85 \pm 1.21$ ;

$5.55 \pm 1.28$  at increasing E levels: 0.90 - 2.00; 2.01 - 3.00; 3.01 - 4.00; > 4.00.

The results of means of E and AA were summarized in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. The mean levels of ethanol in all patients were: in females  $2.26 \pm 1.29$  g/l; in males  $2.97 \pm 1.39$  g/l. The same dependency ( $p=0.019$ ) was established in acetaldehyde. The mean AA concentration in females was  $4.26 \pm 2.59$  mg/l, in males:  $6.55 \pm 4.88$  mg/l.

Figure 3 demonstrates the summarized E values in the three groups: social drinkers, chronic users and children. There was statistical difference between mean values of E in social drinkers and children but not between social and chronic users ( $p<0.0001$ ).

The summarized results for AA in the three groups are shown in Fig.4. The mean AA level for the whole group of social drinkers was  $4.72 \pm 1.33$  mg/l. In the group of the alcoholics the mean AA concentration was  $12.51 \pm 6.46$  mg/l. AA in children was  $2.30 \pm 1.13$  mg/l. There was a statistical significant difference between means of AA in the three groups (from  $p<0.0001$  to  $p=0.007$ ).

Figure 5 summarizes the whole information of all the patients included in the study and displays two tendencies: 1. The higher levels of AA are connected with higher E; 2. The chronic users are with higher AA than the social drinkers.

Extremely high values of AA ( $6.83 \pm 13.96$  mg/l) were detected in five chronic abused patients with negligible low blood E ( $0.09 \pm 1.05$  g/l). The highest value of AA (28.32 mg/l) was obtained in one patient with a long history of alcohol abuse.

## DISCUSSION

Epidemiological studies have demonstrated that approximately one in four deaths among men aged 15-29

is alcohol-related (Winick et al., 1997). Although acute intoxication is not the main cause of alcohol-related deaths, it is one of the major factors contributing to premature death (Mayor et al., 2001). It is assumed that alcohol drinking that begins in early ages is a good predictor of the use of more serious drugs and in more cases alcohol abusers frequently abuse multiple drugs (Hird et al., 1997). Our data show higher concentrations of acetaldehyde in chronic alcoholics as compared to non-alcoholics and confirms the data in other studies (Sorrel et al. 1987); and is a result of a primary reduction in hepatic acetaldehyde dehydrogenase activity. A favorable effect of Liv.52 (Indian herbal formulation) in lowering the accumulation of acetaldehyde by its rapid removal is most probably responsible for its hepatoprotective effect in alcoholic liver disease (Chauhan et al., 1991).

There is substantial evidence that acetaldehyde contributes to the reinforcing effects in alcohol consumption and abuse. Studies have shown that acetaldehyde is a 1000-fold more potent reinforcer than ethanol when tested for self-administration into the ventral tegmental area, a brain region strongly involved in ethanol reinforcing effects (Rodd-Henricks et al., 2002). Other studies have reported that acetaldehyde self-administration in rats correlates with subsequent voluntary ethanol consumption suggesting that acetaldehyde is involved in the regulation of ethanol intake (Myers, 1984).

Most of the abused drugs have been shown to stimulate dopamine release within one of the targets of ventral tegmental area neurons (Volpicelli et al., 2001; DiChiara et al., 2002). Acetaldehyde itself has been shown to increase the firing rate of dopaminergic neurons from the ventral tegmental

area, suggesting that an increased release of dopamine might also mediate acetaldehyde reinforcing effects (Foddai, et al., 2003; Quertremont, 2004).

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## НАЛИЧИЕ НА АЦЕТАЛДЕХИД ПРИ ХОРА С УМЕРЕНА КОНСУМАЦИЯ НА АЛКОХОЛ И ХРОНИЧНИ АЛКОХОЛИЦИ

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### Резюме

В редица епидемиологични проучвания на съвременните отравяния, етиловият алкохол (Е) се явява най-честият агент, както и комбинирането на алкохола с няколко лекарства едновременно. Ацеталдехидът (АА) е първият продукт на метаболизма на етиловия алкохол и се счита, че е отговорен за някои фармакологични и поведенчески ефекти на етанола и при развитие на алкохолизма. В нашето проучване бяха включени 71 пациенти, в състояния на остри интоксикации с Е, които бяха приети за лечение-детоксикация в Клиниката по токсикология на УМБАЛСМ „Пирогов”. В хода на изследването бяха измерени кръвните нива на Е и АА с помощта на хедспейс газова хроматография. Измерените средни нива на АА при пациенти, приети с остри алкохолни отравяния (с несистемна консумация на алкохол, т.е. нехронични), бяха следните:  $3.81 \pm 1.15$ ;  $4.66 \pm 1.21$ ;  $4.85 \pm 1.21$ ;  $5.55 \pm 1.28$  мг/л при нарастващи нива на Е съответно: 0.90 - 2.00; 2.01 - 3.00; 3.01 - 4.00; > 4.00 г/л. Получените данни показваха наличието на зависимост между Е и АА, т.е. при повишаване на Е се наблюдаваше повишаване и на АА. Средната стойност на АА за всички неалкохолици беше:  $4.72 \pm 1.33$  mg/l. В групата на пациентите с хронична

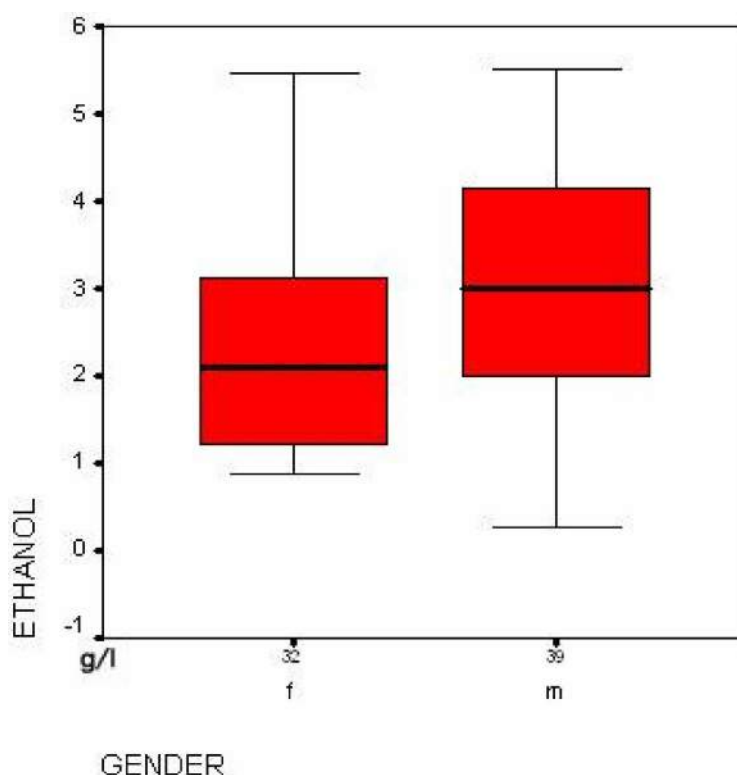
консумация на алкохол средната стойност на АА беше  $12.51 \pm 6.46$  мг/л. Средната стойност на АА при деца беше  $2.30 \pm 1.13$  мг/л. Особено високи стойности на АА ( $6.83 \pm 13.96$  мг/л) бяха установени при пет пациенти с преминали остри етанолови отравяния, при които бяха измерени много ниски нива на Е ( $0.09 \pm 1.05$  г/л). Най-екстремна концентрация на АА ( $28.32$  мг/л) беше открита при пациент с Е  $3.60$  г/л, с история на

продължителна алкохолна зависимост. Получените данни показват по-високи концентрации на АА при пациенти с продължителна злоупотреба с алкохолни напитки, отколкото при неалкохолиците, т.е. при хора с нормална консумация на алкохол, което вероятно е резултат от първична редукция на чернодробната ацеталдехид дехидрогеназна активност, което се явява ключов етап, водещ до чернодробно увреждане.

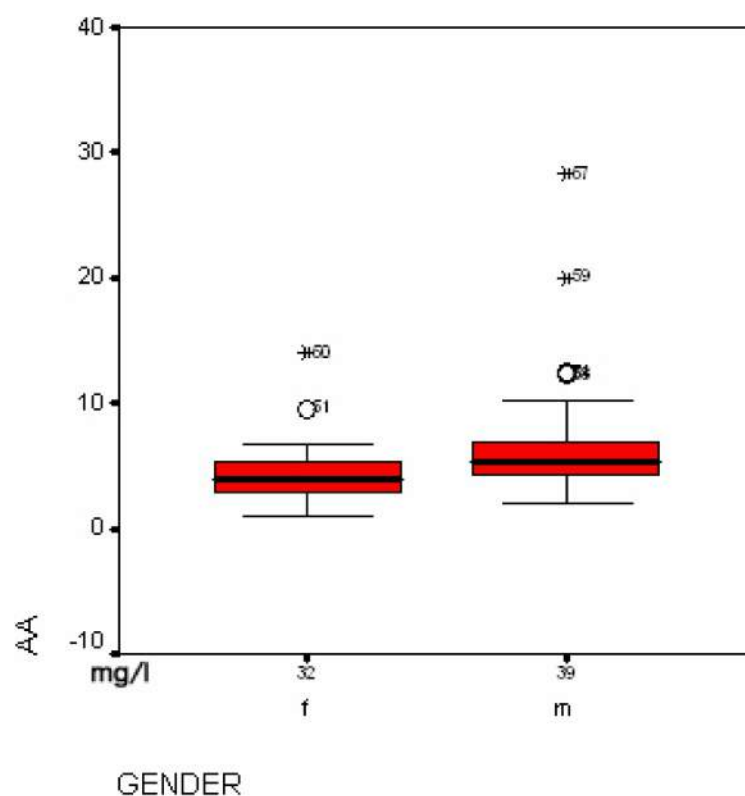
**Table 1.** Mean blood ethanol and acetaldehyde levels in patients- non-alcoholics ( $x \pm SD$ ;  $n=10$ )

Non-alcoholic patients	Ethanol levels (g/l)	Acetaldehyde levels (mg/l)
	0.90 - 2.00	$3.81 \pm 1.15$
	2.01 - 3.00	$4.66 \pm 1.21$
	3.01 - 4.00	$4.85 \pm 1.21$
	> 4.00	$5.55 \pm 1.28$

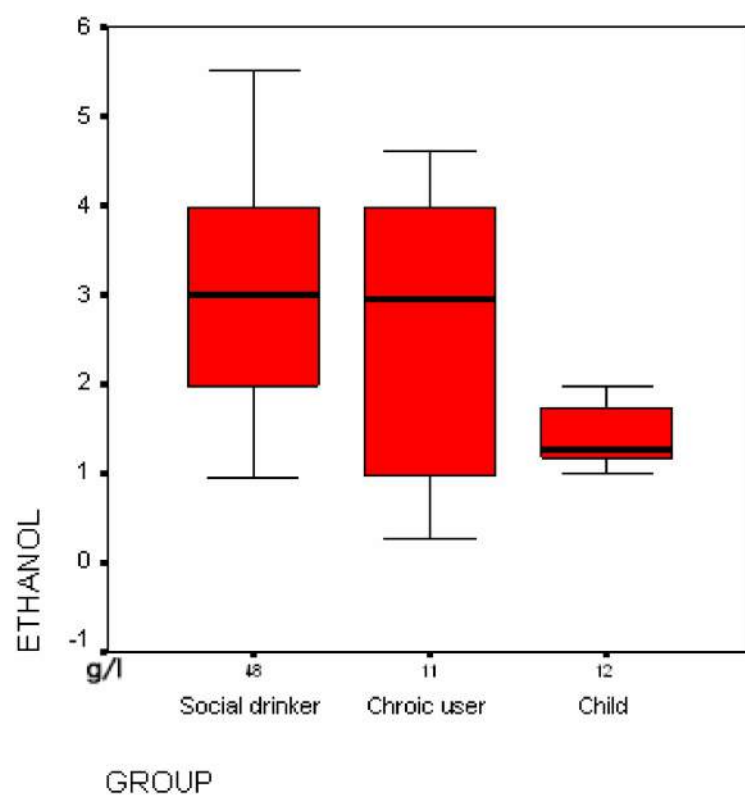
**Figure 1.** Ethanol in females and males



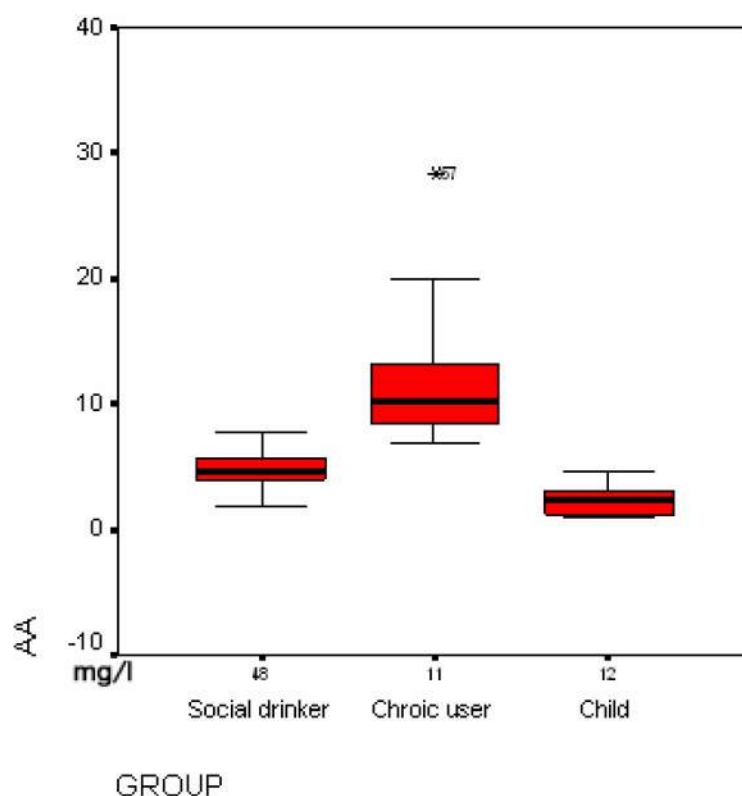
**Figure 2.** Acetaldehyde in females and males



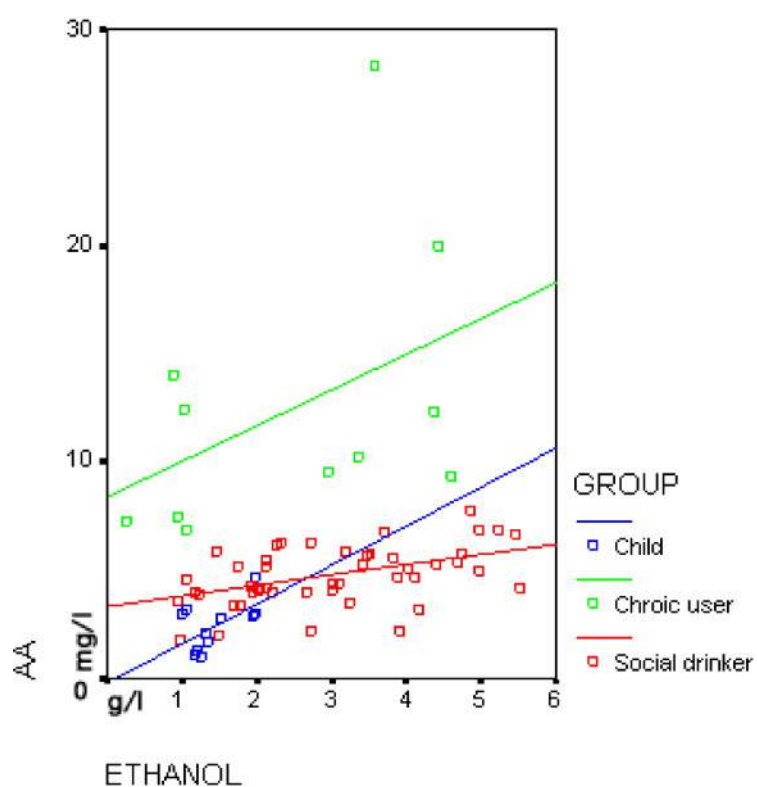
**Figure 3.** Ethanol in social drinkers, chronic users and children



**Figure 4.** Acetaldehyde in social drinkers, chronic users and children



**Figure 5.** Summarized data for AA and E in social drinkers, chronic users and children



## ACUTE ORAL POISONING WITH ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL IN A 50 YEARS' WOMAN

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### Abstract

*Isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol, 2-propanol) is found in numerous household and commercial products including cleaners, disinfectants, antifreezes, cosmetics, solvents, inks, and pharmaceuticals. Severe isopropanol poisoning results in CNS and respiratory depression and circulatory collapse. Poisoning can be diagnosed using the measurement of isopropanol blood concentrations. An acute oral poisoning with isopropyl alcohol in ethanol addicted 50-year-old woman in the Clinic of Toxicology UMBALSM "N.I.Pirogov (June, 2014) presented in the study. The woman was found in an unconscious state and brought to emergency room. According to information obtained from patient's friends, she had drunk unknown amount of liquid using as disinfectant. Physical exam revealed coma, pale skin and mucous membranes, mydriatic pupils, fruity odor on the breath. Treatment consisted of supportive care, including respiratory and circulatory support. Intravenous fluids, nootropic drugs, vasopressors and vitamins were administered. Blood concentrations of volatile substances were measured immediately after classification of clinical intoxication level, physical examination and assessment of patients' history of alcohol use. They were estimated by headspace gas chromatography. Two peaks in the chromatogram of our pa-*

*tient were detected on the 2.69 and 3.50 minutes. The peaks were identified as: acetone and isopropanol with concentrations respectively: 2.40 g/l and 2.20 g/l. 18 hours of the therapy of the patient, the blood levels of both volatile substances were: isopropanol – 0.10 and acetone – 3.27 g/l. Acetone as isopropanol is also a neurodepressive agent. The simultaneous action of isopropanol and acetone is presented as a prolonged depression of consciousness. Isopropanol is more toxic than its metabolites; in our patient, most of the isopropanol had already been converted to acetone and we decided not to pursue dialysis.*

### INTRODUCTION

Isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol, 2-propanol) is a clear, colorless liquid with a fruity odor and a mild bitter taste. Most commonly found domestically as rubbing alcohol, isopropanol is also found in numerous household and commercial products including cleaners, disinfectants, antifreezes, cosmetics, solvents, inks, and pharmaceuticals.

Severe isopropanol poisoning results in CNS and respiratory depression and circulatory collapse. The major features of severe poisoning are due to CNS and respiratory depression, shock, and circulatory collapse. The most common metabolic effects are an increased osmol (osmolal) gap,

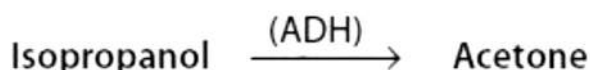
ketonemia, and ketonuria (Slaughter et al., 2014).

Poisoning can be diagnosed using the measurement of isopropanol serum concentrations, though these may not be readily available. Diagnosis is therefore more typically made on the basis of the patient's history and

clinical presentation.

Isopropanol is rapidly absorbed, and approximately 80% is metabolized to acetone by alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) following first order kinetics. The remaining 20% is excreted unchanged in the urine (See Figure 1, Krause, 2012; Jones, 2000).

Figure 1. Metabolism Of Isopropyl Alcohol.



Isopropanol is metabolized by alcohol dehydrogenase to acetone, acetol and methylglyoxal, propylene glycol, acetate, and formate with conversion of these metabolites to glucose and other products of intermediary metabolism. The elimination of isopropanol is predominantly renal, though some pulmonary excretion of isopropanol and acetone occurs. Hemodialysis enhances elimination of isopropanol and acetone and should be considered in very severe poisoning (Mankowski et al., 2000; Trullas et al., 2004).

**CASE REPORT:** An acute oral poisoning with isopropyl alcohol in ethanol addicted 50-year-old woman (June, 2014) is presented in the study. The blood concentrations of isopropanol and acetone are also presented. We discussed the clinical and laboratory findings of a patient presenting to the Clinic of Toxicology. The woman was found in an unconscious state and brought to emergency room. According to information obtained from patient's friends, she had drunk unknown amount of liquid using as disinfectant. The patient had a history of alcohol abuse. Occasionally she had drunk rubbing alcohol.

**Initial vital signs were:** blood pressure - 101/40 mmHg; heart rate - 123 beats/ minute; respiratory rate - 20 / minute.

**Physical exam** revealed coma, pale skin and mucous membranes, mydriatic pupils, fruity odor on the breath. Her chest and lungs were clear to auscultation and percussion; mildly enlarged liver.

**Laboratory studies:** ERS - 13 mm/h; WBC - 8.5 G/L; RBC - 5.18 T/L; HGB -159 g/L; HCT - 0.5; PLT - 200 G/L; Biochemistry: ALAT - 53 U/l; ASAT - 42 U/l; Albumin - 29; Creatinine - 136 umol/l; Bilirubin total - 4.7; 12.4 umol/l; Glucose - 5.4 mmol/l; Potassium - 4.4; 4.0 mmol/l; Sodium - 138; 137 mmol/l; Chloride 98; 103 mmol/l.

**Urinalysis:** glucose; ketones - negative

**Arterial blood gas studies:** pH - 7.54; 7.59; 7.41; 7.43; PCO<sub>2</sub> - 18; 28; 34; 42 mmHg; PO<sub>2</sub> - 276; 306; 215; 126 mmHg; satO<sub>2</sub> - 100; 99 %; BE - (-6); 5; (-3); 4.

**Treatment** consisted of supportive care, including respiratory and circulatory support. Intravenous fluids, nootropic drugs, vasopressors and vitamins were administered.

The patient recovered fully and 3

days later she left hospital in good condition.

## METHODS

Method for ethanol, acetone, methanol, isopropyl alcohol (2-propanol) in blood samples

A poisoned patient who had been admitted in an intoxicated state to the Clinic of Toxicology for care and subsequent detoxification was included in the study. Blood concentrations of volatile substances were measured immediately after classification of clinical intoxication level, physical examination and assessment of patients' history of alcohol use. They were estimated by headspace gas chromatography (Gesheva et al., 2003) and gas chromatograph Thermo Quest 2000 with flame-ionization detector was used. The method "split" was used and 1 ml gas phase was injected in the apparatus.

### Reagents:

1. Methyl alcohol /Merck/,  $p=0.79$
2. Ethyl alcohol /Merck/,  $p=0.79$
3. N-propyl alcohol /Merck/,  $p=0.80$
4. Isopropyl alcohol /Merck/,  $p=0.78$
5. Acetone /Merck/,  $p=0.79$

### Combined standard solution in distilled water:

1. Solution of methanol – 1 g/l
2. Solution of ethanol – 4.5 g/l
3. Solution of n-propanol – 0.4 g/l
4. Isopropanol – 1 g/l
5. Acetone – 1 g/l

### Preparing of the sample

In vials for head-space were mixed 500  $\mu$ l n-propanol and 100  $\mu$ l whole blood for testing.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Isopropyl alcohol is a sedative-hypnotic agent whose toxicity closely resembles that of ethanol, with which it

shares strong structural similarity. Like ethanol, isopropyl alcohol's precise mechanism of action in the central nervous system (CNS) remains uncertain. Changes in membrane fluidity and/or function, and interactions with neurotransmitter receptors, are believed to account for the CNS effects of alcohols and other simple hydrocarbons. There is a linear relationship between the molecular weight of alcohols and their sedative effects: as size increases so does sedation. Thus, isopropyl alcohol is marginally more potent than ethanol at comparable concentrations. Isopropanol is rapidly absorbed following ingestion with peak plasma concentrations occurring within 30 min. Isopropanol is metabolized by alcohol dehydrogenase to acetone, acetol and methylglyoxal, propylene glycol, acetate, and formate with conversion of these metabolites to glucose and other products of intermediary metabolism. The elimination of isopropanol is predominantly renal, though some pulmonary excretion of isopropanol and acetone occurs. 20% of the absorbed dose is eliminated unchanged in urine, with the remainder excreted as acetone and metabolites of acetone. The elimination half-life of isopropanol is between 2.5 and 8.0 h, whereas elimination of acetone is slower with a half-life following isopropanol ingestion of between 7.7 and 27 h. (Jones, 2000; Slaughter et al., 2014; Trullas et al., 2004).

The most common method of poisoning is oral ingestion. Less common routes of poisoning have been described, including transdermal and inhalation poisoning (Leeper et al., 2000).

Signs and symptoms of isopropanol intoxication include lethargy and gastric irritation, often resulting in emesis. Hypotension can occur and is

refractory to treatment (Zaman et al., 2002).

Supportive care is the mainstay of **management** with primary emphasis on respiratory and cardiovascular support. Hemodialysis enhances elimination of isopropanol and acetone and should be considered in very severe poisoning (Abramson et al., 2000; Bekka et al., 2001).

Ingestion of methanol, ingestion of ethylene glycol, and ingestion of isopropanol all lead to an elevated plasma osmolal gap. However, isopropanol does not cause metabolic acidosis with an elevated anion gap. Primary alcohols are metabolized to aldehydes, followed by oxidation to carboxylic acids; deprotonation then causes acidosis with conjugate bases that elevate the anion gap. Secondary alcohols, such as isopropanol, oxidize to ketones, such as acetone, which under physiologic conditions cannot be further oxidized to acid (Emadi et al., 2007).

Poisoning can be **diagnosed** using the measurement of isopropanol serum concentrations. In the blood of the intoxicated 50-year-old woman, two peaks in the chromatogram of our patient were detected on the 2.69 and 3.50 minutes (Fig. 2). They were compared with the chromatogram of the combined solution of methanol, ethanol, acetone and isopropanol (Fig. 3). The peaks were identified as: acetone and isopropanol with concentrations respectively: 2.40 g/l and 2.20 g/l (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3). After 18 hours of the therapy of the patient, the blood levels of both volatile substances were: isopropanol – 0.10 and acetone – 3.27 g/l.

Acetone as isopropanol is also a neurodepressive agent. The simultaneous action of isopropanol and acetone is presented as a prolonged depression of consciousness.

Unlike methanol and ethylene glycol, isopropanol is more toxic than its metabolites; in our patient, most of the isopropanol had already been converted to acetone and we decided not to pursue dialysis.

## CONCLUSION

The clinical symptoms, similar to ethanol poisoning without metabolic acidosis indicate the isopropanol intoxication. Physicians should be aware of the potential of isopropanol for intoxication, especially among alcoholics. It is important to differentiate isopropyl alcohol poisoning from methanol and ethylene glycol, which are more dangerous.

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## СЛУЧАЙ НА ОСТРО ОТРАВЯНЕ С ИЗОПРОПИЛОВ АЛКОХОЛ ПРИ 50-ГОДИШНА ПАЦИЕНТКА

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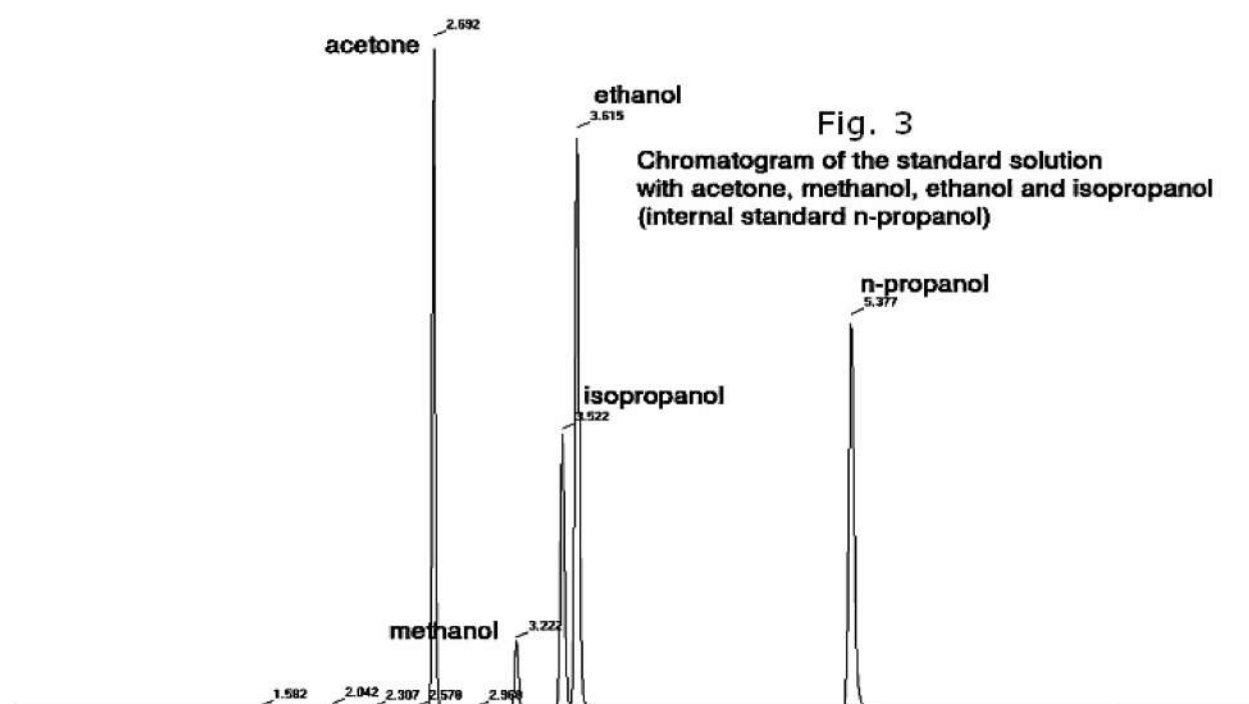
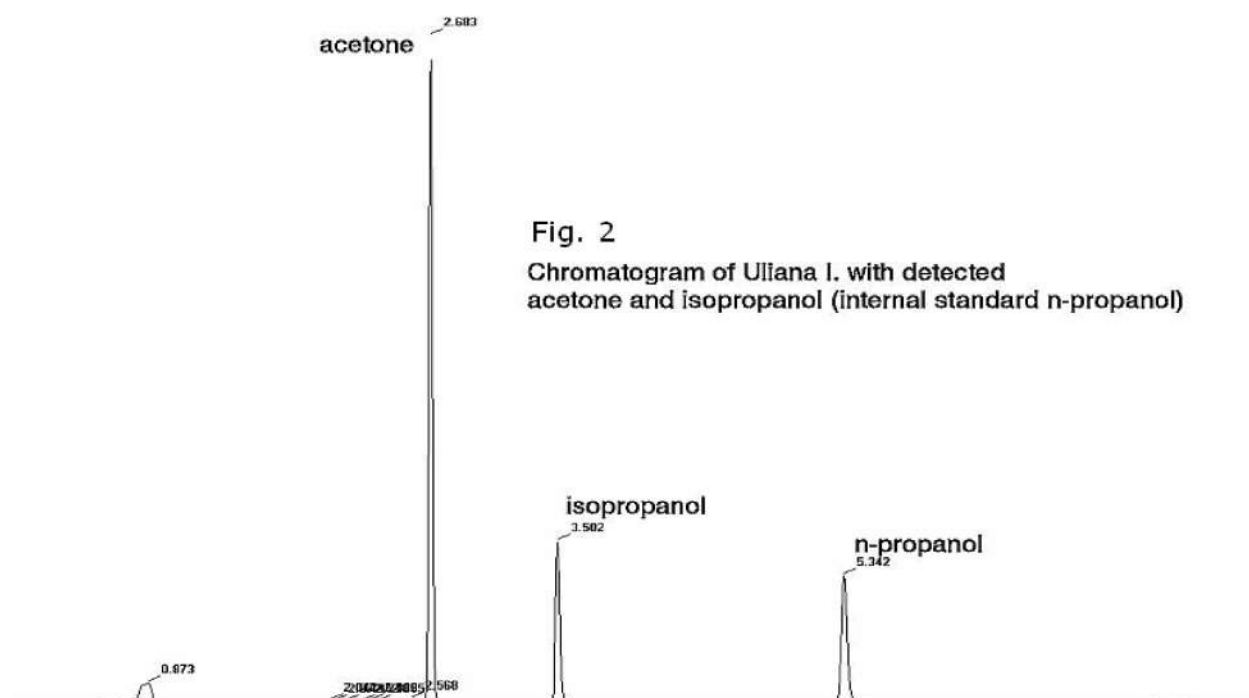
### Резюме

Изопропанол (изопропилов алкохол, 2-пропанол) се съдържа в редица търговски продукти за домашна употреба, като почистващи препарати, дезинфектанти, козметични средства, разтворители, обезмаслители, бои, течности против замръзване, някои лекарствени препарати и др. Известни са случаи на тежки отравяния с изопропанол, като ефектите са потискане на централната нервна система, на дишането и циркулаторен колапс. Този вид интоксикации могат да се диагностицират точно с данните за кръвните концентрации на

изопропанола. В настоящата публикация е представено остро отравяне на 50-годишна жена, приета в Клиниката по токсикология при УМБАЛСМ “Н. И. Пирогов” през юни 2014 г. Пациентката бе приета в безсъзнателно състояние в спешния токсикологичен кабинет на болницата. По данни на нейни приятели, тя е изпила неизвестно количество от дезинфекцираща течност. При прегледа бяха установени: кома, бледа кожа и лигавици, мидриаза на зениците и дъх на плодове. Лечението на пациентката включваше: подобряване на респираторното и циркулаторно състояние; интравенозни вливания, ноотропни средства, вазопресорни препарати и витамини. Бяха измерени кръвните концентрации на летливите вещества веднага след оценка на състоянието на жената, преглед, както и отчитането на състоянието ѝ с оглед на история за дългогодишна зависимост от алкохол. Нивата на летливите вещества бяха регистрирани чрез хедспейс газова хроматография. При това бяха отчетени два пика в хроматограмата на пациентката на 2.69-а и 3.50-а минута. Получените пикове бяха определени като на: ацетон и изопропанол, с нива съответно: 2.40 г/л и 2.20 г/л. След 18 часа от терапията бяха измерени следните нива на изопропанола – 0.10 г/л и ацетон – 3.27 г/л. Пациентката се възстанови напълно за три дена и бе изписана в добро състояние. Ацетонът метаболит на изопропанола, както и изопропанолът са агенти с невродепресивно действие. Едновременно им действие се изразява с удължаване на потискането на съзнанието при такива пациенти. Изопропанолът е по-високо токсичен отколкото

неговите метаболити. При тази пациентка обаче по-голямата част от изопропанола вече е била

метаболизирана в ацетон, поради което не се наложи хемодиализно лечение.



## ROLE CONFLICTS – ESSENCE AND PRACTICAL PROJECTIONS

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### **Abstract**

*This article presents some of the main formulations in and results from the developed dissertation ‘Role Conflicts of the Contemporary Bulgarian Woman: Between Family and Career’, defended in 2014. The purpose of the article is to make a short review of some of the main ideas of the author on role conflicts as a social phenomenon. In order for the essence of role conflicts to be clarified, definitions are presented, as well as the basic conditions for their occurrence. Some of the existing classifications of such types of conflicts are also presented in a synthesized way. The practical manifestation of this problem has been studied in detail through empirical sociological research developed by the author and conducted in 13 Bulgarian towns from 25.07.2013 to 08.08.2013. The research has established not only reciprocal relations between family and professional roles, or models of contemporary women’s realization, but it also reveals the way of life, the role conflicts, attitudes and ambitions of the contemporary Bulgarian woman. Some of the main conclusions from the empirical research are presented.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is an undisputable fact that we

live in a conflict environment. Economic, political, social, labor and family conflicts are part of our social reality. It was decades ago when Ralf Dahrendorf claimed that conflict is constantly present in every system due to the ongoing changes and struggle for power and authority. This idea can be fully related to contemporary democratic and liberal societies. Moreover, as Alvin Toffler says, ‘no technological revolution can occur without an accompanying social one’ [1], and each revolution brings reorganization and rearrangement of the structural and institutional status quo, as well as contradictions and conflicts within the system. In addition, it is worth mentioning that Alvin and Heidi Toffler are the authors writing that ‘As economies are transformed by the Third Wave, they are compelled to surrender part of their sovereignty and to accept increasing economic and cultural intrusions from one another’ [2]. This intrusion in our country started to transform Bulgarian society as far back as the last decade of the 20th century, and has significantly increased since 2007, after Bulgaria was admitted as a full member of the EU. It is in this same context (an environment of new thinking models, new lifestyle, family creation, labor, entertainment, earning money), that role conflicts of the person become an important problem for scientific research.

## ESSENCE OF ROLE CONFLICTS

Conflicts arise in the role repertoire of the person as a result of the fact that the performed social roles are not always compatible and sometimes just not perceived as a value or a priority. A situation that creates role tension, which, on its part, provides the necessary conditions for the so called role conflicts to arise.

An ideal case of personal realization can be presented as an unproblematic performance of the role repertoire by the person, when the person distributes his or her time, energy and attention among his or her separate role-sets and multiple roles in a harmonized and balanced way – as for example between family and professional role positions [3]. Practically, however, this is a state that is generally difficult to reach in the contemporary society. If a person performs multiple roles without feeling role overload, stress, anxiety or emotional instability, then we can speak of conflict-free and organic, as well as harmonized in terms of values role repertoire. Otherwise, role conflicts arise, reflecting its negative side.

Roles, according to Doncho Gradev, sometimes enter into conflict with the Ego, which means that, in its essence, the role conflict is, first – a contradiction between the Ego and the roles it performs and, second – a discrepancy and an imbalance in the person's behavior. He formulates two possible outcomes from such a situation: the person conforms to the undesired roles, or he/ she refuses to perform them [4]. I would add a third outcome here – when the person performs the social roles but he/ she does not take into consideration the role partner's expectations. A situation

which often leads to interpersonal conflicts.

Role conflict is interpreted also as a situation in which differences in role priorities create contradiction (Kolyo Ramchev), i.e. when a role is a priority to some people, but of secondary importance to others – characteristic of this situation is the so called interpersonal role conflict. According to Marin Paunov, these are the result of different requirements and expectations of each role sender to the focal person. Paul Secord and Carl Backman, on their part, think that a role conflict arises when expectations to a role behavior are incompatible with the behavior formed under different expectations [5]. This incompatibility may be incited by physical, psychological or social oppositions, which come as a result of the diversity in the roles performed by people, of the fact that people are 'multiple role performers' [6]. The multiple roles of the contemporary person, in their content and as a concept, reflect the complexity of the social reality and the environment surrounding us.

In general, role conflicts are 'temporary or permanent conflicts and contradictions between at least two roles of a person, arising from different positions and statuses which the person holds in the social structure and among which he/ she has to effectively distribute his/ her limited resources – time, energy, attention, efforts, motivation, effective actions/ activities' [7].

Role conflicts, by contrast with other types of conflicts, do not enjoy a lot of scientific research interest, but from the theoretical description I am acquainted with, the following basic conditions for their occurrence can be summarized.

First of all, they arise as a con-

sequence of the social roles performed by the person. In their content, they are a clash between the aims, interests and values of the person and the dependency on defined norms for the social roles in the various areas of society; they are an expression of the disharmony between individual and social necessities, between individual and social interests and activities. In support of this, we have the sociological concept of Émile Durkheim about the conflict between the individual's desires and ambitions and the socially accepted norms of human behavior and thinking. This is a dualism which presents a conflict between what 'I want and can do' and what 'I must and actually do'.

Second of all, role conflicts arise as a situation in which 1) the individual holds two or more positions which impose incompatible role expectations towards him/ her; 2) the multiple roles cannot be effectively combined by the person, as he/ she undergoes two or more different behaviors; 3) a person is compelled to perform several roles simultaneously because the objective requirements of the surroundings make him/ her perform these actions, regardless of his/ her desire to do so, i.e. he/ she acts in a situation of contradictory requirements [8]; 4) there is contradiction, discrepancy, and lack of harmony between the person's own role expectations of his/ her behavior and those of the role partners; 5) the person accepts roles which he/ she cannot perform due to lack of necessary knowledge, skills and resources; and 6) feelings, emotions and actions are not balanced.

Third of all, the presence of role conflicts is a reflection, on the one hand, of environment marked by un-

certainty – both personal and social. Uncertainty and instability create conditions for distortions (partial or radical) of role behavior and personal realization. On the other hand, they are an expression of the contradictory interests, aims and needs of each social area where the person performs his/ her roles. Each social area needs particular resources (human, intellectual and time resources) to develop and support activity in the other areas; when economical issues and family are 'fighting' for the time and energy of the individual, then role conflicts are inevitable.

Performance of social roles is the result of particular events and statuses held by the person, of production, spiritual, communication, managerial and family relations. The balance between a person's multiple roles is a reflection of how organized and consistent he/ she is, of his/ her skills and competence for achieving role balance, as well as of the favorable social surroundings that allow unproblematic performance of functions in the family, at work, in all areas of social life. Imbalance, on its part, is an expression of the contradictions in the person while performing all roles, of the pressure and feeling of ineffectiveness in performing his/ her obligations and the responsibilities that come with them. For instance, imbalance between family and professional life is an expression of disharmony at several social levels, since role conflicts and their consequences are transferred to the reproductive behavior, family relationships, labor productivity, work activities and professional realization, social and labor mobility (horizontal and vertical) – to human reproduction and labor resources in the country as a whole.

## ROLE CONFLICTS CLASSIFICATION

A lot of classifications of conflicts exist [9]; typification of role conflicts, however, does not come to the essence and it is not sufficiently developed, both in terms of content and variations. Almost all classifications that I am acquainted with divide role conflict into *intrapersonal* and *interpersonal* (Robert Merton). Other researchers (Theodore Sarbine and Allen, etc.) classify them as *intra-role* and *inter-role* conflicts. In her extensive conflict research, Mariya Stoyanova groups conflicts per their level of manifestation. Role conflicts, according to this approach to classifying conflict interactions, are located at the micro level, i.e. at the level of the individual, of his/ her needs and values, of his/ her relationships and interactions with his/ her family and closely-related people, with friends and acquaintances, with colleagues and the professional guild he/ she comes into contact with. A somewhat different point of view can be found in Stoyan Vlaykov's classification; he groups role conflicts into *hierarchical*, *functional* and *situational*.

By analogy with the presented typifications, three groups of role conflicts which mutually complement and influence each other can be defined:

- *intrapersonal* – typical of a single person. They are developed in his/ her emotionally sensual and spiritual world as a result of his/ her role repertoire and as such they can be differentiated into *emotional*, *behavioral*, and *spiritual*. They are cognitive-behavioral and they reflect the struggle between the individual's desire and possibilities of action, on the one hand, and, on the other, the social reality and surroundings. These are conflicts caused by different needs and

necessities, values and interests, emotions and attitudes, role dilemmas, which the person goes through while he/ she is performing his/ her role repertoire. A typical example is the working mother who feels and goes through emotional and behavioral split between the cares for her children and her work duties;

- *interpersonal* – an expression of clash in aims and values between two or more people (role partners) resulting from the performance of their roles. They arise as a result of people's joint actions, of the differences in their motives, interests and activities (economic, political, organizational, cultural and social). Such conflicts can be seen, for example, between a working husband and an unemployed wife, a mother and a child, a worker and a supervisor, between colleague X and colleague Y, etc.;

- *individual-group* and *individual-community* role conflicts which occur between an individual and a particular group or a community. Reasons can once again be found in contradictory aims, evaluations, views, expectations and positions. They occur in the public sphere, for example in the areas of economics, politics, religion, business structures, communications and mass media, and social relations, as well as in the personal sphere – for example in the family, in the circle of relatives and friends. A good example are the conflicts between a working mother who often has to leave work earlier (because of her children), on the one hand, and, on the other – the colleagues from the team who work overtime to complete a task or project assigned on time.

## PRACTICAL PROJECTIONS

Undoubtedly, in the Bulgarian so-

ciety, the clash, or the conflicts respectively, can be more and more often seen at macro-, meso-, and micro level. More often than not, we are witnessing conflicts (obvious or not) in business and economics, in politics and government, in institutions and organizations, among and between different social groups and communities. Conflicts are more and more often observed also at the level of the 'individual'. I mean not only intrapersonal, but also interpersonal conflicts, which reflect person's contradictions within himself/ herself – with his/ her thoughts, feelings, emotions, perceptions, with the social roles and functions performed by him/ her in the social system. It is at this level that role conflicts can be found. One of the most typical and outstanding examples of this type of conflict is between person's family and professional life. In its essence, it is a reflection of the contradictions between family and labor-professional roles of the person; between what is expected and what is real; between economics and non-economics; between the expectations of organizations for professional competence and effectiveness of the economic subject and his/ her individual attitude towards creating and taking care of a family.

There are grounds to claim that role conflicts are manifested and expressed in different and specific ways in men and women, among the educated and illiterate, among people who belong to different professional areas, among the rich and the poor, etc. The reasons for this stem, generally speaking, from the difference, not any kind of difference, however, but the one related to the status and position of people in the social structure, to their belonging to the low, middle or upper class.

In this regard, it is interesting to see the results from an empirical sociological research (not representative) on topic: 'The Contemporary Bulgarian Woman Facing a Choice of Alternative in the Collision between Family and Career', conducted in 13 Bulgarian towns (2013). Some of the main conclusions are:

- The role conflicts of the working Bulgarian women who have families (respondents) occur more often as a result from the professional life interfering with the family, than vice versa. Women's professional realization and career often have a negative influence upon their family relationships and mostly upon the performance of their roles of mothers and wives.

- The contemporary personal realization of the women from the research cannot be expressed through a single model. The research shows four models of contemporary women realization (groups of women with different values): 'The most important thing is the family and the children', 'Career above all', 'Children and career come first, then comes the family' and 'First comes the family, then career and children'.

- The imbalance between family and professional life is much more clearly and strongly expressed with women at non-managerial (subordinate) positions, in contrast to women at middle and high management level.

- Under the influence of the new type of economic, social and cultural environment, there is a huge gap between the realization of the young and older generations as mothers. Young women give birth to fewer children, and what is more – at an older age. Twice as often, they follow the one-child model, instead of the two-children one.

- Collisions between family and

professional roles in contemporary women have a negative effect not only on relationships in the family and at work. They influence the women's psychological, emotional and inner tranquility. This is proven by the research data, which show the presence of anxiety, tension, stress, uneasiness and psychological fatigue among women.

## CONCLUSION

In all probability, there are not many women who are fully aware of the role conflicts they go through. They probably feel them, but are not conscious of them as a problem which they should find the right solution for. The reason for that, on the one hand, might be found in the desire of some of the women to 'play multiple roles' simultaneously, in order to show that they are socially active and express their intellectual abilities. On the other hand, it turned out that some women do not realize the connections and influence between the individual elements of the social system and the social roles of each person in it. They searched for the problems related to work and family coordination only at the individual level, while these problems exist not only at the micro-, but also at the meso- and macro level.

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**РОЛЕВИ КОНФЛИКТИ –  
СЪЩНОСТ И ПРАКТИЧЕСКИ  
ПРОЕКЦИИ**

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**Резюме**

Статията представя част от основни постановки и резултати от разработен дисертационен труд „Ролеви конфликти на съвременната българска жена: между семейството и кариерата”, защитен през 2014 г. Целта на статията е да се направи кратък преглед на основни авторови възгледи за ролевите конфликти като

социално явление. За да се изясни същността на ролевите конфликти, са представени дефиниции, както и базовите условия за възникването им. В синтезиран вид са представени и част от съществуващите класификации на този тип конфликти. Практическото проявление на проблематиката е детайлно изследвано чрез авторово емпирично социологическо изследване, проведено в 13 български града в периода 25.07 – 08.08.2013 г. Проучването установява не само двупосочни отношения между семейни и професионални роли, не само модели на съвременната женска реализация, а разкрива начина на живот, ролевите конфликти, нагласи и стремежи на съвременната българска жена. Представени са някои от основните изводи на емпиричното изследване.

## RECLAIM THE STATE. CONCEPTIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN RECENT SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN BULGARIA (2009-2013)

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### **Abstract**

*During the last few years in Bulgaria, as well as in other parts of the world, we are witnessing a proliferation of social movements. As far as the current global crisis is defined as predominantly economic and financial crisis, it puts to question neoliberalism as the doctrine with a minimalist vision of the state intervention and deregulation of public goods. What can be seen in social movements around the world, as well as in Bulgaria, are the demands for stronger state with citizen participation and restricted influence of privileged (financial) lobbies on political decision-making. The article presents data collected through in-depth interviews and anthropological observation of protest mobilizations in Bulgaria, analyzed with the methodology of grounded theory, to form three core categories: representative democracy and political parties, participation, deliberation. The data show a strong preference for forms of citizen control and a return to established forms of representative democracy in a fraction of the protesters by the end of the studied period.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Democracy is one of the most discussed and multi-faced political regimes. Although it is assumed that all democracies are based on the freely

expressed will of people, on the rule of law and respect of human rights, this "will of people" is not a constant. Therefore, democracy as a regime takes multiple forms in different cultures and historical periods. Furthermore, democracy has its independent exercise in every state, which makes the debates about models of democracy and waves of democratization ever actual (see for example Held, 2006, and Tilly 2007). Social movements are a part in these debates, and are particularly valued for their capacity to express "the will of people" as a fully entitled partner in the political process or in the form of street demonstrations.

Recent social movements take a new rhizomatic form (della Porta, 2015, 17) or follow the logic of aggregation (Juris 2012), which distinguishes them from the previous wave of alter-globalization protests (defined as the "network of networks"), as well as from the after-May-68 movements known as "new social movements" (Touraine 2013) or movements for identity (Castells 2010). Established social scientists and political theorists have recently published a growing number of research monographs devoted to the social movements of the last five years (Badiou, 2011; Castells, 2012; della Porta, 2013; Gerbaudo, 2012; Touraine, 2013; Žizek, 2012). Nevertheless, it is

still hard to find an overarching theory covering the variety of protest movements from Northern Africa to the Americas and from Spain to Russia. The present research focusses on the social movements in Bulgaria, and takes as a starting point the anti-government rally from 14 January 2009, remembered as the first spontaneous protest organized via online social networks. Strengthening the role of the society, Bulgarian citizens demanded to have more control on public institutions and – during 2012 and 2013 mobilizations – raised slogans like “We are the State”. They reclaimed the state from the political elites, suspected of corruption and illicit connections to the structures of organized crime.

Because the movements in question experiment with forms of collective action and political expression, they have still not elaborated a coherent program or blueprint for their involvement in the political process. In the core of emerging programs and organizations lie conceptions of democracy, as expressed by the movement participants and activists. By focusing on the accounts provided by ordinary citizen and activists, this project aims at reconstructing the processes of “democratization from below” (della Porta, 2013, 125 sq.).

## DATA AND METHODS

The goal of the present research project is to outline participants’ understandings of democracy as the core value of contemporary political regimes. Data were collected from 2009 to 2014, through the methods of in-depth interviewing and anthropological observation. The corpus of data for analysis consists of 35 transcribed in-depth interviews with activists held during latent periods (when no mobiliz-

ation was scheduled), and 25 short interviews with participants in situ (held during mobilization, on the site of venue).

The data corpus was analyzed using the methodology of grounded theory. The open coding procedure was applied to the corpus of interviews, and completed with axial and selective coding. These procedures helped establish a list of concepts used by participants to describe their understanding of democracy. Concepts were further regrouped in categories. Three core categories refer to conceptions of democracy: perceptions of representative democracy and political parties; ideas about citizen participation in the political process; and forms of deliberation, consultancy and decision making.

## CORE CATEGORIES

Only three of the core categories, outlined in the data analysis, will be presented hereafter: representative democracy and political parties, participation and deliberation.

### Representative democracy and political parties

Throughout the period (2009-2013) activists of the green movement, of the movement for direct democracy and other single-issue protests, as well as the anti-government rallies from 2013, declined any attempt to be connected with the structures of the political parties. In the same vein participants in street demonstrations expressed a strong resistance to be associated with any political party, and attach a negative connotation to everything “political” or related to “party structures” or “the existing political system”. In the language of the in-

interviewees, the political system is characterized in terms of lobbyism or political protection for corporate interests on national and local level. According to the respondents, politics is synonymous with “backstage games”, where ordinary citizens have no active role.

A significant proportion of the protestors throughout the period affirmed that they do not feel represented. Only at the end of 2013, when a fraction of the organization Protest Network (founded by protestors during protest actions) merged with the civil board of the Reformist Block (a coalition of political parties), some participants of the summer protests expressed satisfaction and confessed that they feel optimistic about the reforms undertaken by the coalition. Nevertheless, connections between social movements and political parties are still considered problematic by the movement supporters.

### Participation

Whereas representative democracy is based on the principle of delegation, the idea of participatory democracy encompasses all possibilities for citizens to intervene in decisions regarding public issues. Participatory democracy is seen as a remedy to the pitfalls in existing representative democracies. Some of the problems are the bureaucratization and professionalization of political elites, their illicit connections with corporate elites, and as a consequence the concentration of decision making at the apex, thus creating a system of oligarchic power. Peoples’ broader and more active involvement in the public life can counter these negative effects of representative democracy.

The forms of participation in the

political process, evoked by the activists and protesters, are the following: voting, participation in street protests, citizens’ control over politicians and public institutions, referendums. Bulgarian protestors believe that voting has so far been their only instrument of participation: it is regarded as imperfect and insufficient, but still necessary. Very few believe that voting can bring about social change. They conceive voting as a negative instrument – it expresses dissatisfaction, or even “punishes” politicians.

Participation in street protests and demanding the resignation of a high state official or the government is perceived as a variation of the negative accountability, exercised by voting. Though protesting is still understood principally as an instrument to overthrow governments, with the growth of single-issue protests during 2009-2012 and especially with the street actions of the environmentalists, participation in protest is seen more as a way to influence and/or participate in decision making over issues of public interest. The interviews with activists of the green movement show a growing interest in the implementation of local referendums, which – they believe – will facilitate the fight for the protection of nature and against the corporate interests of the tourism and construction industries.

A particular understanding of citizens’ control was developed by the green activists and the founding members of Protest Network. Activists of the green movement often cite the slogan: “The price of democracy is to be vigilant!” This means citizens being on the alert and going out in the streets whenever they disagree with the authorities. Yet another statement is popular among green activists – that they are like a fire brigade. The moment a

vigilant citizen alarms about an act of abusing power (such as an illegal permit, an illegal construction site, deforestation, or a bill that is being drafted), everybody is ready to go out in the streets and contest the act in question.

### Deliberation

Alongside demands for stronger instruments of exercising control over the incumbents and thus “reclaiming the state”, a more radical wing of the 2013 protesters developed the rhetoric of a “system reload” or of a thorough transformation of the political regime. The process of forging demands and raising claims was achieved through deliberation among core activists and organizations. Some called for significant modifications in the electoral code, others insisted on a new constitution (and prepared drafts of new charters), still others rejected the principle of delegation and demanded “direct democracy”. Displaying a mixture of utopianisms and pragmatism, the winter 2013 movement drew up lists of concrete demands (different lists were prepared by different fractions of the movement).

Some activists described the process of deliberation during protest actions as the lived experience of social change. According to one of the leaders of the student occupation Ivaylo Dinev, in the occupied building of the university (where an entire organization of working groups, logistics and special security unit was established), the protesters created a new autonomous student republic, a parallel state prefiguring the new society in a nutshell (Dinev, 2014). Thus deliberation about social change coincides with the experience of social change (this thesis was contested by other participants). However, in Bulgaria the at-

tempts with deliberative democracy open to everybody remain marginal.

### CONCLUSION

Recent social movements in Bulgaria show some pronounced deficits in the functioning of representative democracy. Participants identify the following problems: erosion of the connection between voters and their representatives, illicit connections between political and corporate elites and, as a consequence, an established system of oligarchic power, where the process of decision making regarding public issues is not open to public, but is the product of “backstage games”. Citizen participation and control are seen as a remedy to the system of oligarchic power, in the form of vigilant citizens that act as a kind of fire brigade against decisions of the authorities. This citizen vigilance also performs the functions of the fourth estate. In recent Bulgarian social movements, instruments to counter the deficits of representative democracy are sought mainly by means of participatory politics, namely street demonstrations and citizen control. Paradoxically, by the end of the period, the organizations founded with the purpose of being an instruments of citizen control, returned to forms of representative democracy, putting trust in one political party in the ruling coalition. The attempts with deliberative democracy in Bulgarian social movements did not prove to be neither efficient, nor sustainable.

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## ДА СИ ВЪРНЕМ ДЪРЖАВАТА. КОНЦЕПЦИИ ЗА ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА В СОЦИАЛНИТЕ ДВИЖЕНИЯ В БЪЛГАРИЯ ПРЕЗ ПОСЛЕДНИТЕ ГОДИНИ В БЪЛГАРИЯ (2009 – 2013)

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### Резюме

През последните няколко години в България, както и в други части на света, сме свидетели на широко разпространение на социални движения. Доколкото настоящата глобална криза се определя предимно като икономическа и финансова криза, тя поставя под въпрос неолиберализма като доктрина на минимална намеса на държавата и дерегулация на публичните блага. Както навсякъде по света, така и в България се издигат искания за по-силна държава и гражданско участие, както и за ограничаване на влиянието на привилегировани (финансови) лобита във взимането на политически решения. Статията предлага данни, събирани чрез методите на дълбочинното интервю и антропологичното наблюдение и анализирани с помощта на grounded theory, обобщени в три основни категории: представителна демокрация и политически партии, участие, делиберативна демокрация. Данните показват силно предпочитание към формите на граждански контрол, както и известно връщане към формите на представителна демокрация при част от протестиращите в края на изследвания период.



## BULGARIAN ADDED VALUE TO ERA

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### THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVAL SCIENCE AND THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO THE PROFESSION OF ARCHIVIST

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#### **Abstract**

*Currently the topic of our vocational university education in Archival Science and the opportunities for practicing the profession of Archivist in the networking society is a question of present interest, as long as the vocational education is a priority of the National strategy for development of the Bulgarian higher education. The objective in this case is the preparation of specialists — archivists ensuring the formation of public documentary and archival resources not only on a national level but also in the Member-States of the European Union.*

*Despite that the Bulgarian archival education has had a comparatively short history (1952-2015), from the very beginning it has been commensurable with the established models and achievements of the leading countries, with long-term traditions in this*

*field. The introductory retrospective review, marking its development, categorically confirms these characteristics.*

*The selected approach allows for outlining the separate stages and authors from various generations with their ideas, theoretical contributions and lecturing activity, directed towards ensuring adequate university vocational education in archival science, in compliance with the public expectations and requirements towards the profession of **Archivist** in our country.*

*Moreover, special attention has been paid to the created electronic educational resources for the needs of the training in **Archival and Documentary Sciences** at the Faculty of History of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“. In this connection a chronicle of the nine scientific conferences organized from 2005 until present on*

*the occasion of the Specialty Day – 18 April has been included, as well as the series **University readings in archival science** where the materials and programmes of the separate conferences are published.*

*As a conclusion the achieved results, prospects and challenges before the contemporary Bulgarian university archival vocational education are summarized in compliance with the common European strategies, programmes, regulations and policies in this field, including licensing of the right of practicing the profession of **Archivist** in the European Union.*

In the beginning we would like to note that the merit for the start but also for the establishment of the *Bulgarian university archival science* as a national educational model undoubtedly belongs to Sofia University «St. Kliment Ohridski» (SU). As already known, for more than six decades (since 1952, until present) Alma Mater has successfully organized and conducted vocational training and qualification in archival science, preparing archivists — specialist necessary for our country. As a result more than 500 archivists have graduated during that time — representatives of different generations, including those with Bachelor's and Master's degree in *Archival and Documentary Science*, as well as several dozens of PhD students and postgraduate students. Most of them, including foreign student, almost immediately start work as archivists within the system of state archives, in the state and municipal administration, as well as in the private public sector. The information and forecasts related to their vocational realization clearly indicate that the contemporary archival niche needs archivists of various professional profiles, corresponding to the

typology of the existing archives: establishments' archives, historical archives, scientific archives in libraries and museums, private archives, etc. In its integrity they are also the main employers of the students graduating Archival and Documental Sciences from Sofia University. Their expectations however exceed the framework of the traditional profile of the archivist — historian, a product of the classical archival education. The first specialty, Archival Science (1952-1956) at the Faculty of Philosophy has been directed towards I during the period 1952-2002, as well as the specialization in Archival Science created after its transformation at the then Faculty of Philosophy and History (Neykova, 2013).

This is why the recently opened Bachelor's and Master's programmes for vocational training in Archival Science in some other Bulgarian higher educational schools, among which the University of Library Studies and Information Technology, South-west University «Neofit Rilski» (SWU) remain outside the scope of the present development. Moreover, they currently have not got diplomaed archivists unlike the graduates from the specialty of Archival and Documentary Sciences at the Faculty of History of Sofia University, which has been functioning from 2002 onwards. The diplomas issued to the graduates are legitimate in the Member States of the European Union, since the right of exercising the profession of Archivist has been licensed on a community level. The criterion is that the relevant candidate have an initial vocational education in archival science or additional education, acquired in accredited universities or other educational structures, ensuring the relevant education. The specialty of Archival and Documental

Science at Sofia University definitely meets the indicated requirements, which is confirmed by the three official accreditations on behalf of the National agency for assessment and accreditation (NAAA) of all degrees of the contemporary Bulgarian higher education: Bachelor's, Master's and Phd educational and qualification degree. It is not incidental that on a national level the relevant professions of *archivist* and *documentalist* are included in the *National qualification of professions and positions in the Republic of Bulgaria, direction of Public Administration*<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore even on this stage the graduates of the reviewed specialty form a professional class of legitimate university diplomas, enabling them to practice the profession of Archivist in the Member States of the European Union. On an annual basis their number will increase by the new graduates: bachelors, masters, PhD and post graduate students, with additional qualification in archival and documental science.

The specialty of *Archival and Documental Sciences* at Sofia University, as we have already noted, is the successor of the specialty of *Archival Science*. In the period 1956-2002 it had the status of building professional education of the specialty of *History* at SU. Its task is to provide archivists — specialists for the archival institutions and the state administration.

However the start of the Bulgarian archival university vocational education was several years later — in the academic year 1952/1953, when in re-

sponse to a governmental decree defined in the command-administrative style in the style typical for the previous totalitarian period and principles of management, a profile of Archival Science was opened with a 5-year term of studies at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University (Neykova, 2009).

From the point of view of the envisaged term of education, the question relates to the opening of an independent university specialty. According to the records of the lectures preserved, the training in the newly opened specialty begins with 4 subjects and the lectures in *History and organization of the archival activity in the USSR and Library science and bibliography* were read by Prof. Todor Borov, in History of the Bulgarian economy — by Academician Zhak Natan and in History of the state and law in Bulgaria — by prof. Mihail Andreev and prof. Vasil Tsonev. Prof. T. Borov is the first permanently appointed lecture of archival science at SU (since 1952) and also head of the Archival Science department after its administrative differentiation in 1953 within the structure of the above mentioned Faculty of Philosophy and History.

Soon after that the restructuring of our higher education began in the spirit of the dominant communist ideology. The ideologization in the sphere of higher education affected the existing faculties, departments and university specialties, in particular the *Archival Science*. More specifically, on 13 October 1954, in connection with the administrative order for division of the *History* specialty into 4 specializations: History of Bulgaria and the Bul-

<sup>1</sup> In force as of 1 January 2006. A list of positions by classes, subclasses, groups and single groups of the National qualification of professions and positions: 2431. Archivists, librarians and similar specialists in computer science – 7001, Archivist:2432, 2432, Librarian and other information specialists – 7004, Documentalist.

garian Communist Party, History of the USSR and the Communist Part of the Soviet Union, Archaeology and Museum Activities, a written proposal for the status of the specialty Archival Science has been prepared, but now only as one of the specializations within the History specialty. As for the department of Archival Science, according to a resolution of the Academic Board, it was resolved that the former department of Archival Science should be transformed into a department of Library Science and Bibliography. In 1958 the specialty of Archival Science was transferred from that department to the department of History of Bulgaria. It was not before 1972 when an independent department of Archival Science and Supplementary Historical Subjects (ASSHS) was created at the Faculty of Philosophy and History, whereto the specialty of Archival Science was also transferred.

It must be noted that the influence of the dominant communist ideology has determined the professional destiny of the first university lecturers of archival science: acad. Ivan Duychev<sup>2</sup> and assoc. prof. Mariya Mateeva. For the predominant part of the Bulgarian archival college, both of them, above any doubt, are outstanding personalities and specialists who have laid down the foundations of *Archivology*, meaning *Science of Archives*, as well as our *University archival science* as a national educational model. Despite that their ideological orientation, scientific interests, administrative positions and possibilities

for development for any of them were different, there are also some coincidences. The latter result from the conducted policy, the mechanisms used and the existing complicated relations within the academic community.

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By a concurrence of circumstances **18 April** is also the date of birth of acad. Ivan Duychev (1907-1986), who was elected for a patron of the specialty of Archival and Documental Science at SU on its first conference held in 2005, as a sign of respect for his activities related to studies, research and introduction to science of the Bulgarian medieval documental and manuscript heritage around the world, as well as to his legacy regarding the establishment of the archival institutions and the tasks of the professional archival university education in our country. Everything recommended by him in his two speeches during the first national meeting organized in 1949 at the initiative of the then Archival Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and dedicated to the problems of the contemporary archival sector with a view to the forthcoming institutionalization of the archives and regulation of their activity related to preservation and utilization of our national archival heritage, as part of the collective historical memory, today is already a reality (Neykova, 2004). What impresses most in this case is not only his professionalism but also his vision with

<sup>2</sup> It is necessary to explain that Ivan Duychev, although in 1981 was elected academician, preferred to be a professor (meaning teacher (from Latin professor), due to which the Centre of Slavic and Byzantine research at SU was named after „Prof. Ivan Duychev“. He was elected Professor of Medieval Bulgarian History in 1967. Scientific reading room No: 100 at the Central State Archive is called „Acad. Ivan Duychev“.

respect to the necessity of professional education and qualification of the future archivists in our country. Unfortunately the author of the famous *Lectures in Archival Science* (Duychev, 1993) — the first issue in the field of our theoretical archival science in our country (1950) did not have the opportunity to manifest himself as a university lecturer in archival science. The subsequent proposal made by prof. T. Borov in his capacity of scientific director of the department of *Library science and bibliography* and of prof. Aleksandar Burmov (department of *History of Bulgaria*) for possible participation of Ivan Duychev in a competition for an associate professor in *Archival Science* was not supported by the then political and administrative management of SU.

This is why the *Lectures in Archival Science* of acad. Ivan Duychev remain unknown to a number of generations of Bulgarian archivists and university lecturers. They were read before their publication only during the autumn course for preparation of archivists, organized in 1949 by the then Bulgarian Institute of Bibliography (BIB).

Time however does not reduce their scientific value. Now they still preserve their significance as a classical model of development for scientific purposes of the main theoretic issues of the contemporary theoretical archival science, the activity of the archives, the archival education and qualification. What makes an impression is the fact that in the separate topics (24 in total), not a single trace of the communist ideology or the class and party-based approach as an imminent essence of the dominant marxist-leninist methodology at that time

can be found. The author remains loyal solely to his professionalism because in fact he was also a diplomaed archivist — paleographer, graduate of the School of archival science and paleography at the Secret archive of the Vatican (1935).

Only in 1993 his works were reissued at the initiative of lecturers in archival science from the department of *Archival sciences and supplementary historical subjects* at the Faculty of History of SU. Currently the edition is included in the *Electronic library of archival and documental science*, which was created with a view to modernization of the educational process in the subject Archival and documental science<sup>3</sup>.

According to acad. Ivan Duychev, *the transformation of the historical science into an accurate knowledge, trying to encompass all sides of human life and to become an expression of its political, economical and social past, directs specialists to archival documents, which are the most precious historical building material, thus increasing the interest in the archives themselves as depositories of such documents* (Duychev, 1993). A priority task of the Bulgarian historians and archivists is the systematic tracing, critical studying, copying and publishing of archival documents and manuscripts kept in foreign archives, libraries and museums, about the Bulgarian medieval history and culture. His own bibliography is an evidence of the accomplishment of this mission of his, which has received due recognition from most renown representatives of the foreign historical community.

At the same time acad. Duychev underlines the significance of the new

<sup>3</sup> <http://electronic-library.org/>

types of documents on technical bearers – photo documents, phono documents, films, etc., which also need to be transmitted and stored in the national historical archives since they are part of the contemporary archival heritage.

Also, the author reviews, though superficially, the appearance and development of archives within the context of the general historical process. He illustrates with appropriate examples the specification of the archival work, which includes the processes related to the gathering of archives and forming the relevant documentary complexes, systematization and description of the archival documents, determination of their value and authenticity on the basis of the relevant requisites (author, date, seal, text, written material, etc.), as well as their systematic publication for the purpose of ensuring the necessary printed source base for historic research in the reviewed period.

Prof. Duychev's lectures are also important for the clarification of the Bulgarian archival terminology, including the terminology related to the so called *supplementary historical subjects* or *special historical subjects*, as one more correct denomination in this case. They refer to the following: *knowledge of sources, paleography, diplomatics, historical chronology, historical metrology, sphragistics, archeography, etc.* The methodological set of tools of the above disciplines, an object of which are the written historical sources or separate parts thereof, practically finds the broadest application in the professional work of archivists.

The information in the reviewed monography is especially valuable with respect to the school plans and curricula of European universities and

professional schools with long-lasting traditions in the education and preparation of archivists — historians. The concepts and requirements of acad. Duychev for the still unpopular profession of archivist in our country conform to the established foreign educational models and standards in the field of professional training in archival science: ... *the archivist should not only be considered as a n ordinary clerk, assigned with the task of preservation and description of popular archival materials. Just the opposite, he should be included among the actual scientific workers and should be considered as first assistant and associate of the scholar and research worker. His work imposes extreme scientific responsibility and requires deep and essential knowledge in the field of several scientific disciplines. He should possess, above all, profound knowledge in the field of general and special history, because archival documents are the most valuable historical sources. He should know old and new language in order to cope with the great variety of archival values originating from different times and peoples. Sometimes this knowledge should be even more profound since he may come across documents reflecting the language of one epoch or one limited language area. He needs knowledge of paleography in order to read old documents written in one or another language with one or another alphabet. He must also know the different chronological systems and the methods used for each specific chronological element so that a document is dated as accurately as possible. He needs knowledge of sphragistics in order to be able to read and explain a seal. And last, in addition to the special knowledge of different areas, he should also know what we call archive economy and archivo-*

*technique, i.e. information about the preservation of documents and the archive structure* (Duychev 1993).

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As already mentioned, the next stage 1958-2002 of the development of the university professional education in archival science comprises the development of specialization in Archival Science to the specialty of History at SU. Generally this stage is mostly related to the work of assoc.prof. Mariya Mateeva (Kuzmanova) — a long-term lecturer in archival science (from 1958 to 1983) who came to the university as an established specialist from the system of the state archives, but also head of the department of Archival science and supplementary historical disciplines after its administrative differentiation in 1972.

The merit for creation of a contemporary and scientifically correct curriculum for training of archivists within the specialization, belongs to her. It makes an impression that the separate disciplines included in it comply with the leading achievements and tendencies in the foreign theoretical archival science and practice during the reviewed period (Pendzheкова-Hristeva, 2012). Lectures were read and workshops in Documental science were organized in the late 1964, and later also in Foundations of archival science, History and organization of archival establishments, Theory and practice of archival activity, Information system of archives, Archeography, History of the Bulgarian state institutions, etc. The new readings allow for the adequate preparation of the future Bulgarian archivists with a view to the public expectations and requirements towards the profession of Archivist not only in our country.

In this connection it should be noted that in 1959 the Bulgarian archives subordinated to the then Archive Department (1952-1961) of the Ministry of Interior, are accepted as member of the International Council on Archives — ICA). This circumstance broadens international cooperation in terms of involvement in programs of general interest, the timely familiarization with the technological innovations in the field of documenting and archiving, and also the tendencies in the development of the university archival education and qualification.

In 1975, at the request of assoc.prof. Mateeva, a general course in Archival science was studied in the specialty of History at SU for the first time. The content was based on her monography — History of archives and organization of the Bulgarian archival work (Kuzmanova, 1966).

It traces for the first time the history and development of archives in the different periods of existence of the Bulgarian country, including their typology and organization during the contemporary period until the middle of the 60s of the past century. The content has been systematized in 9 parts, 4 of which were dedicated to the establishment and building of our national archival system. For this purpose the author reviews the issues regarding the status, profiles and administrative subordination of the different state archives: central, local and the so called departmental archives with permanent documents, as well as the establishment of the parallel and differentiated network of political parties' archives.

Generally the periodization of the history of the Bulgarian archives meets the requirements of the class and political and formation approach, spe-

cific for the Marxist-Lenninist methodology and terminology, dominating during that period.

The author is convinced that the organization of the newly established Bulgarian archival institutions on the analogy of the Soviet centralized model, is the only correct choice. In accordance with the official historiography, she also determines our national archival system, which was launched in 1951 under the pattern of the Soviet archives, as the highest stage in the development of the Bulgarian archives and the our archival history. According to assoc.prof. Mateeva, the still unsolved problems in this sector are only due to the *incomplete centralization of the Bulgarian archives, in comparison with the organization of the Soviet archives during that time*. (Kuzmanova, 1966).

Despite its methodological imperfections, the above mentioned monography is the first comprehensive study of the history and contemporary organization of the Bulgarian archives, and empirically it is still useful for the research workers dealing with these problems, including for educational purposes.

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The newest stage in the history of the Bulgarian university archival science is related to the opening and establishment of the specialty Archival and Documental Science at SU. Its launching (2002) coincides with the beginning of the reform of the archive system left from the previous totalitarian system, from the so called *Soviet model*. It is a well-known fact that it is reproduced in the countries from the former Eastern bloc, among which is Bulgaria. Here this model of archival system functioned during the period

1951-1989. After the end of the Cold war and the transition from a totalitarian country and society to the contemporary democratic values and market economy, the archival and informational sector also started to reform in a legislative, structural, technological and personnel aspect.

On the other side, our professional university archival education, represented by the specialization Archival science at SU, also has to adapt to the new realms and technological innovations in the formation, preservation and utilization of the public documentary and archival resource, in connection with the so called *life cycle* of the documents. As a result, at the beginning of the 90s of the past century, the number of students who decide to become archivists in the former specialization Archival science at SU or in the specialized courses for postgraduate qualification began to increase. Unlike the previous period, when direction of the students towards the specializations was practically performed under an administrative allocation. The interest in the professional archival education increased with the announcement of the first master's programs in archival and documental science after the adoption of the Three-stage higher education act.

Taking into account the public need of specialists with primary university education in archival science under the conditions of the contemporary information society and electronic management, in 2002 a project for opening of the above mentioned specialty Archival and Documental Science was developed. The adopted initiative of lecturers in archival science from the department of Archival and Documental Science, (assoc.prof. A. Neykova and chief assistant Valeri Katsunov), which was also supported

by the faculty and university management, responded to certain public expectations. At the same time the scope of the archival reform carried out in the country was also expanded, as far as the professional archival education is an important precondition for its results.

The opportunities for professional realization of the graduates are real. The profession of archivist at the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century is already universal and the work of archivists is necessary not only in the sphere of management and social activities, but also in any administrative structure using documents.

The opening of the specialty Archival and documental science in the academic year 2002/2003 marks the beginning, as we already noted, of a new stage in the history of the Bulgarian archival professional education and qualification. During the past 13 years its development and ratification in the system of the Bulgarian higher education is closely connected with the scientific research and lecturing activity of prof. Andriana Neykova, Dsc. During that period she read the main profiled lectures for Bachelor's and Master's programs of the specialties Archival and documental science and History not only at Sofia University but also in other higher educational institutions. Moreover, she is a scientific director of over 200 graduates and postgraduate students, including from abroad. All of them bring her highest level of satisfaction and hope for the future of the professional archival education exactly at Sofia University (Pendzheikova-Hristeva, 2015).

Special attention should be paid to the achievements of prof. Neykova, directed towards the modernization of the educational process through the creation of contemporary information

resources. She is the scientific director of the first of its kind profiled Electronic library in archival and documental science, and the graphic designer and coordinator is David Ninov.

The library, organized as a database, provides in an electronic form, through the Internet, a considerable part of the contemporary Bulgarian archival literature and legislation, as well as the most significant foreign developments in this area, with an emphasis on the established community and international archival strategies, regulations and standards. The data for the use of the library evidence that the number of its readers, also from abroad, increases over time. In the past 2014 the total number of readers was already 26 328, who have visited it 38 291 times and the information resource of the library systematically increases (Ninov, 2015). The aforementioned library has no analogy in our country and abroad and is practically an important step towards the future distance learning within the specialty *Archival and Documental Science*.

It is worth mentioning that in 2014 an e-tool was published at the *Electronic library: Archives in the virtual space* (Neykova, A. & Pendzheikova-Hristeva, R., 2014).

The issue is designated for training of students from the general course in Archival science, which is lectured in a number of university programs. The idea of its creation, however, comes from an earlier period and is connected with the monography of prof. Andriana Neykova, *Archives and Society*, published in 2007. It was the starting point for the search of images of documents and archives complementing the monography. This is why the selected illustrations fully comply with the topic, content, struc-

ture and chronological scope of *Archives and Society*. The descriptions thereto make the necessary specifications, including terminological, which allow for the use of an e-edition as an independent educational tool in archival science (Neykova, 2014).

The electronic issue Archives in the virtual space provides the readers with interest in authentic documental memory, with the opportunity to experience an unforgettable trip in the world of archives. Within the context of their appearance and historical development, the formation and destiny of the Bulgarian archive heritage has been outlined, as well as the typology, institutionalization and the contemporary organization of our archives. The message is that documents and archives are an indicator of the state, the cultural traditions and level, as well as the scientific and technological potential of any society. Such a trip, though virtual, not only specifies the concepts and enriches the knowledge of the readers of the significance of the documental evidence, but we believe it will provoke their personal stand on the care for their preservation. Outside the official regulations and state policy, the formation of public documental and archival resources is in fact a responsibility of the entire society.

It is a well known fact that the archival heritage is part of the collective historical memory and the documents and archives have been one of the everlasting symbols of civilizations in the ancient world. And in the contemporary networking society the information resources of the archives constitute a universal historical code. Exactly this code enables our identification and presence in the global cyber space as a historically differentiated community, thanks to its thousand years of cultural and state tradition.

(Neykova, 2014).

The educational model of organization of an electronic archive on the basis of the *Nomenclature of the cases with deadlines for their safekeeping*, developed by prof. A. Neykova and D. Ninov is also useful with a view to the modernization of the educational resources in archival science and the processes in the contemporary archival and information sector.

Currently prof. Neykova and her students are preparing e-learning notebooks for contemporary interactive training in the main specialized courses: *Archival theory and methodology*, *Archeography*, etc.

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As already mentioned, scientific conferences have been conducted on an annual basis since 2005, celebrating the Day of the specialty Archival and Documental Science at SU, and the materials and participants are published in the series University readings in archival science. Within the period 2005-2015 nine conferences have been held. The first one was on the following topic: *The Bulgarian university archival science as an educational model — history and future*. The second conference in the same format was organized in 2007 and was dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of acad. Ivan Duychev. In 2008 the third conference was held: *The Bulgarian archives and the university archival science in 21<sup>st</sup> century*. The fourth conference, *The European archival priorities and the Bulgarian archival reform*, including a round table, on the following topic: The Bulgarian archives and the profession of Archivist in the European Union, was held in 2010. The day of the specialty was celebrated with another confer-

ence in 2011: *The contemporary classical archival science and the Bulgarian university computer archival science – interaction, policies, strategies*. It includes two modules: The contemporary archives, the Bulgarian university archival science and opportunities for interinstitutional cooperation; Specialty “*Archival and Documental Science*” – achievements, problems and prospects. In 2012 the specialty of *Archival and Documental Science* celebrated its first anniversary on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its official opening during the academic year 2002/2003 at Sofia University, which coincided with an even more respectful anniversary – the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bulgarian professional archival education. The topic of the jubilee anniversary: *Archives, profession and education – realms and strategies*, was the occasion for the balance of the achievement and the hope for the future of the Bulgarian university archival science, as well as the profession of Archivist, under the conditions of the contemporary networking society (Pendzhekova-Hristeva, 2012). The 7<sup>th</sup> scientific conference: *Philosophy of the archival knowledge and achievements of the Bulgarian university archival science*, which was held on 18 April 2013 was also a major event (Pendzhekova-Hristeva, 2013). The eighth scientific conference: The Bulgarian university archival science – theoretical level, educational content and professional profiles, drew the attention of the archival community to the necessity of preparation of archivists of various professional profiles, meeting the actual necessities of the labour market (Pendzhekova-Hristeva, R. 2014).

This year on 16 and 17 April the ninth conference of Archival and Documental Science took place: The uni-

versity professional archival education and archival information sector – realms and challenges. It was organized in cooperation with the Faculty of History at SU and the State Archival Agency (SAA). During its official opening the Rector of Sofia University, prof. Ivan Ilchev and the Head of SAA, as-soc.prof. Mihail Gruev re-signed the Contract for cooperation between the two institutions.

Generally the scientific conferences conducted until present contribute to the maintenance of the necessary professional dialogue within the Bulgarian archival community. The intentions for publishing of the materials from the conferences in a specialized sequence of *University readings in archival science* however are facing some obstacles, mostly of financial nature. This is why the first volume, *The Bulgarian university archival science*, became a bibliographical fact only in 2009. The collection presents 21 scientific works and a special place is designated to the works of PhD students and the students from the program (6 essays and reports in total), published in the section: The voice of the young. This section is present in all subsequent volumes. It should be noted that the biggest hope and confidence in the future of the subject *Archival and Documental Science* at Sofia University are exactly the works of the youngest authors.

*60 years of Bulgarian university archival science and 10 years of the program Archival and Documental Science at SU „St. Kliment Ohridski“* is the title of the second volume (2013). The collection, apart from the materials from the jubilee conference, also includes selected materials from former conferences, contributing to the enlightenment of the history and development of the Bulgarian university

archival science as a specific integral scientific knowledge (Neykova, 2013).

The third volume of the University readings was issued in two separate parts: I. *Philosophy of archival knowledge and achievements of the Bulgarian university archival science* (2014); II. *The Bulgarian university archival science – theoretical level, educational content and professional profiles* (2015). For the first time the volume was issued in two simultaneous variants – classical and typographic edition and an e-edition (CD). The aim is to response in an adequate manner to the expectations of the readers, who belong to different generations and have different preferences to the format of the edition (Neykova, 2015).

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In conclusion: The results achieved during the past 13 years from the successful launching of the specialty Archival and Documental Science at SU clearly indicate that it has already been established and is functioning as a national university educational model. However, the future of the Bulgarian university archival science as a competitive national model within the European Union already requires the search of additional possibilities for education and qualification of archivists and documentalists with contemporary professional profiles. (Neykova, 2015). In this connection we will recollect an already forgotten idea of acad. Ivan Duychev, which becomes topical again. In connection with the necessity of professional training and qualification of the specialists working in the archives, he clarifies: *When people realize the need of correct organization of our archives we of course will think about the preparation*

*of scientific workers in this area, namely for the preparation of archivists through some temporary course or, even better, through some kind of school of archival science, with all necessary subjects included therein* (Pendzhekova-Hristeva, 2012). Moreover, the same autonomous format of educational structures has its very successful analogies in the Member States of the EU – France, Germany, Russia, etc.

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## ПОСТИЖЕНИЯТА НА БЪЛГАРСКАТА УНИВЕРСИТЕТСКА АРХИВИСТИКА И СЪВРЕМЕННИТЕ ПРЕДИЗВИКАТЕЛСТВА ПРЕД ПРОФЕСИЯТА АРХИВИСТ

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### Резюме

Към настоящия момент темата за професионалното ни университет-

ско образование по архивистика и възможностите за упражняване на професията **архивист** в мрежовото общество е особено актуална, доколкото професионалното образование е приоритет в Националната стратегия за развитие на българското висше образование. Целта в случая е подготовката на специалисти архивисти, които да осигуряват формирането на публичните документални и архивни ресурси не само на национално равнище, но и в държавите членки на Европейския съюз.

Въпреки че българското архивно образование има сравнително кратка история: (1952 – 2015), още от самото начало то е съизмеримо с утвърдените модели и постижения на водещите държави с дълголетни традиции в тази област. Въвеждащият кратък ретроспективен обзор, маркиращ неговото развитие, категорично потвърждава тази характеристика.

Избраният подход позволява да бъдат открити отделните етапи и автори от различни генерации с техните идеи, теоретични приноси и преподавателска дейност, насочена към осигуряване на адекватно университетско професионално образование по архивистика в съответствие с обществените очаквания и изисквания към професията **архивист** у нас.

Освен това, специално внимание е отделено и на създадените електронни учебни ресурси за потребностите на обучението в специалност **Архивистика и документалистика** в Исторически факултет на Софийски университет „Св. Климент Охридски“. В тази връзка е включена и хроника на организирания от 2005 г. досега общо девет научни конференции по

повод Деня на специалността – 18 април, както и поредицата **Университетски четения по архивистика**, в която се публикуват материалите и програмите на отделните конференции.

В заключение се обобщават постигнатите резултати, перспективи и предизвикателства пред

съвременното българско университетско архивно професионално образование в съответствие с общоприетите европейски стратегии, програми, регламенти и политики в тази област, в това число и лицензирането на правото за упражняване професията **архивист** в Европейския съюз.

## ARIT AND THE ARCHIVES OF THE A.B.C.F.M. – AN IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR KEY EPISODES IN BULGARIAN HISTORY

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### **Abstract**

*In 2011 ARIT launched a major project with international participation to catalogue and digitize the Archives of the American Board in Istanbul. Both the authors of the present article have taken an active part in its implementation at some stage of it, which gave them the opportunity to become acquainted with a number of valuable documents and materials. The present article highlights the importance of the archives as a major source of information about the Bulgarian history.*

### **Introduction**

The American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) is a non-profit educational institution that promotes North American and Turkish research and exchanges related to Turkey in all fields of the humanities and social sciences. ARIT maintains centers in Istanbul and Ankara and runs fellowship programs to support research in Turkey at doctoral and advanced research levels [1]. The ARIT Istanbul center often hosts Bulgarian scholars and cooperates with them in various research projects.

The ARIT-Istanbul library has approximately 14,000 volumes and journals, covering the Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern Turkish periods. The institute also houses the library holdings of

the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), rich in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century material on the American missions in Anatolia, the Balkans, and the Middle East [2].

In 2011, ARIT launched a project to preserve, catalogue, and digitize the archives of the American Board's head office in Istanbul, which closed and transferred its holdings to ARIT in 2010. ARIT's aim is to make this collection, which comprises approximately 300,000 documents dating back to the 1820s, publicly available for research on the worldwide web. In the first half of 2015, the authors of this article participated in the cataloguing process as ARIT interns, and ARIT looks forward to the further close involvement of Bulgarian scholars in the project.

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The American Board archives are housed at Istanbul's SALT Research Center and Library, situated in the building of the former head office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. SALT explores critical and timely issues in visual and material culture, and cultivates innovative programs for research and experimental thinking [3]. SALT is responsible both for the storage and scanning of the archives, as well as

providing the venue for their online display. Access to the physical documents is currently restricted, in accordance with the plan to make them accessible entirely via the Internet [4]. Realization of this aim will allow scholars all over the world to have a free access to the American Board archives.

### **Foundation and Development of the ABCFM in Anatolia and South-eastern Europe**

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was established in 1810, in the state of Massachusetts, USA. Subsequently, the ABCFM founded missions in North America, Europe, Africa, the Pacific, and Asia. Anatolia and southeastern Europe were two chief areas of its work. The first missionaries to this region, Pliny Fisk and Levi Parsons, arrived in Izmir (Smyrna) in 1820, on route to Jerusalem.

In 1822, the ABCFM opened a press at Malta to serve the Mediterranean. Other ventures followed, and the ABCFM's administrative structures in the region changed over time. The mission to Western Asia was established in 1827; the mission to Greece in 1831 (after the Greek war of independence); the mission to the Armenians in Turkey in 1844, and the Assyrian Mission in 1852. The ABCFM began working among Bulgarians in the Ottoman Empire's European territories in 1858.

ABCFM missionaries contributed to the establishment of a millet for the Ottoman Empire's Protestant subjects in 1847, which was reaffirmed in 1850. This helped fuel the missionaries' efforts, and up to 1914 they founded churches, hospitals, printing presses, schools, and colleges throughout the

Ottoman Empire, primarily to support local Protestant and other Christian communities. In 1860-1, the ABCFM organized its work in Anatolia into the Western, Central, and Eastern Turkey Missions, mainly to serve Armenians, Greeks, Nestorians, and Bulgarians, as well as some Muslims. These missions comprised 23 stations (places with resident missionaries), 81 outstations, 44 missionaries, 3 doctors, 45 female assistant missionaries, 109 schools with 3,308 students, and a press in Istanbul (annual expenditure \$120,503.20).

In 1870, the ABCFM opened a headquarters in Istanbul, known as the "Bible House" since it also housed the offices of the American and the British and the Foreign Bible Societies. The same year marked the establishment of the European Turkey Mission, which focused on territories in the Balkans. In 1914, the European, Western, Central, and Eastern Turkey Missions included 24 stations, 308 outstations, 209 missionaries, 1,299 native laborers, 450 schools with 25,922 students, 9 hospitals, 10 dispensaries, and a publication department for each mission (annual expenditure \$313,917.32), which made up about one quarter of the ABCFM's work worldwide.

Between 1914 and 1923, when Turkey's population suffered from war, famine, and disease, and the number of Christians was lessened by deportation, emigration, and atrocities, the ABCFM's work in the region diminished. In 1924, the Western, Central, and Eastern Missions were combined into a single Turkey Mission [5].

\* \* \*

The American Board archives are a principal source for researching the

Board's history, the careers and activities of its missionaries, and its impact on the region. As the mission stations in the Ottoman Empire grew, as well as in the newly established countries in the Balkan Peninsula, the influence of American missionaries in contemporary, local social and political processes also increased. Members of the ABCFM were in contact with political leaders, diplomats, and intelligentsia from southeastern Europe, and they contributed to the formation of local elites. The many American Board schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, churches, women's clubs, and publications created a natural, accessible environment for coexistence, cooperation, and mutual exchange between the missionaries and the local populace, which contributed to the spread of new values and trends. Examples include attempts to further the emancipation of women; encourage tolerance among different ethnic groups, no matter their cultural or religious background; and promote the ideals of volunteerism and charity.

### **Classification of the Archives and Their Importance for Bulgarian History**

The American Board archives offer a broad field for research and analysis, with opportunities for specialized or interdisciplinary studies. The documents can be classified roughly into three general categories.

The first includes financial records related to banking, accounting, purchasing, shipping, property, etc.

The second consists of reports, letters, and other correspondence about a variety of topics that cover or reflect local and international events, governmental and political matters, and social and economic life, etc. (This

body of material is especially important for the history of the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries.)

The third category comprises documents specifically related to missionary endeavors, such as the opening of schools, colleges, and health facilities, the establishment of mission stations, relief work, etc.

The records (manuscript, typescript, and print) are primarily in English, but a number are also drafted in Armenian, Greek, Ottoman Turkish, French, and German.

\* \* \*

A large segment of documents were generated by or received at the office of the American Board's treasurer and chief administrator in Istanbul from 1881 to 1925, William Wheelock Peet (d. 1943). Reports, correspondence, and financial records to and from mission stations throughout the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans, as well as the Board's home office in Boston and other international locations, all passed through the treasury office. Besides mission personnel, Peet was in contact with many prominent diplomatic, governmental, and public figures, and he was both a witness to and participant in contemporary regional political and social affairs. Besides his work for the ABCFM, Peet fulfilled leading roles in other, affiliated organizations, such as the local branch of the YMCA, the American Chamber of Commerce in Istanbul, and Near East Relief (NER), whose records are included in his files in the archives.

The American Board archives offer significant information about Bulgaria in the nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries. The Board began its work among the Bulgarians in 1858, when they were still under Ottoman rule [6], and its records are an important source for key episodes in the history of Bulgaria and its relations with other Balkan countries in the following decades.

The Balkan Wars are one example of events broadly represented in the archives. Correspondence between American missionaries who were located in various Balkan cities directly or indirectly affected by the conflicts provide firsthand details about many different subjects, including military supplies, prisoners of war, activities of diplomatic missions, refugees and social problems, etc. For example, correspondence from missionary Elisabeth C. Clark, who was located in Sofia (Bulgaria), mentions a pause in hostilities, which was used by the Bulgarian government to convert the military academy in Sofia into a hospital for wounded soldiers. Clark also wrote about the provision of necessities such as flour and salt to Adrianople (Edirne) [7], as well as the Bulgarian siege and capture of the city. Some postcards in the collection testify to Adrianople's new status as part of Bulgaria, with the city's name rendered as "Odrin" and a salutation from "New Bulgaria" [8].

Some missionaries expressed personal views about the Balkan Wars, including criticisms. For instance, in a letter to William Peet, dated October 18, 1912, James F. Clarke of Sofia (Bulgaria) reproached the Great Powers for opposing the conflict [9]. Another missionary correspondent, Robert Thomson of Samokov (Bulgaria), discussed the regional political situation in wartime, with special reference to supply and communications in the Board's Bulgarian stations of the

European Turkey Mission [10]. Information about contemporary events was also provided from Thessaloniki (Greece) by Edward B. Haskell [11]. Moreover, the Board archives include correspondence about internal political decisions, such as the conversion of 300,000 Pomaks to Christianity [12].

The correspondence of Mary L. Matthews of Monastir (Bitola, Turkey) is particularly interesting for its account of the political and social situation in the city during the First Balkan War and the detailed description of its conquest by the Serbian army [13]. Matthews also provides information about the initial measures of the new Serb administration, one of which was to forbid the use of the Bulgarian language in schools [14].

The victories of the Bulgarian army and its advance on the Ottoman capital provoked discussions in the United States about the future of the Empire and the American missionaries residing there, especially in Constantinople [15]. American attitudes toward the First Balkan War were a main subject of correspondence between William Peet and George F. Herrick of New York, James L. Barton of Boston, Herbert E. B. Case of Boston, and William Nesbitt Chambers of Chicago [16]. Information about the number of foreign battleships in Istanbul, the safety of missionaries there, and cholera in the city's surroundings is also included in their communications.

Education in the Ottoman Empire's American schools is an especially prominent topic in the ABCFM archives. One of Turkey's most distinguished American educational institutions, Istanbul's Robert College, was founded in 1863 by a former ABCFM missionary, Cyrus Hamlin, and Christopher Rheinlander Robert, a wealthy New York businessman and philan-

thropist. According to the stipulations of the board of trustees, the school was supposed to accept students of all races, nationalities, and religions, without prejudice or discrimination [17], and the college became a center for the education of Bulgarians, many of whom who contributed significantly to the formation of a Bulgarian intelligentsia [18]. Indeed, Robert College's first class included Petko Gorbanoff, who later played a major role in Bulgarian political life. Many other of the school's Bulgarian graduates filled important posts in the government of Bulgaria, such as Stephan Panaretoff.

Panaretoff is best known as Bulgaria's minister plenipotentiary to the United States (from September 1914) and as a pioneer of diplomatic relations between Sofia and Washington. However, he was also closely associated with Robert College, where he was first appointed as an instructor in 1872 and later as a professor of Bulgarian literature in 1875. In Istanbul he worked for the Bulgarian cause and alerted the European powers to the Bulgarian Question during the atrocities in 1876. Undoubtedly, his efforts helped shape Western public opinion and gain support from London both for the creation of the Bulgarian state and for Bulgarian acquisition of eastern Rumelia [19]. Panaretoff's importance is even more evident in the preservation of Bulgarian national consciousness under the Ottoman rule, exemplified by his articles in the newspaper *Zornitsa*, which informed and educated people of many generations [20].

Stephan Panaretoff authored a work of political analysis [21], but he himself has never been the subject of sufficient, in-depth research. Perhaps the archives of the American Board will help fill this blank spot, especially

about his years in Istanbul. In his capacity as Bulgarian envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States, Panaretoff was involved in solving issues related to Bulgarian prisoners of war in İzmit (Turkey) during World War I, as evidenced by the Board's archives [22].

William Peet's extensive correspondence might reveal some aspects of the development of the Macedonian Internal Committee, including the assaults in Thessaloniki [23], at the beginning of the twentieth century. Furthermore, it could provide additional details about the famous Ellen Stone Affair. Despite her experience with the Committee, Stone continued to pursue her missionary work in the region and proposed collaboration between the United States and organizations in Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Romania that sought to foster better education and procure financial support for educational institutions in these countries [24].

The Board's archives seem to show that the ABCFM's Bulgarian stations played a critical role in the mission's further expansion in southeastern Europe. For example, correspondence dated a few years before the proclamation of the new Albanian state underscores the necessity of creating an Albanian committee [25]. The archives also contain important official documents about little known meetings, such as the central conference of the Macedonian churches in Radovich [26].

The American Board collection provides a singular opportunity for new research into the biographies of Bulgarians who worked with the American missionaries and were affiliated with their institutions. One notable example of these little-known historical figures is Rada Pavleva (Pavlova), a teacher

in the American school for girls in Monastir (Bitola, Macedonia), who also served as the assistant of the school's American missionary principal, Mary L. Matthews [27]. Described as a "devoted native teacher" [28], Pavleva worked at the institution for more than 25 years, teaching students of many backgrounds, Bulgarians, Albanians, Serbians, Jews, and others.

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The foregoing are only a few examples of possible topics of study and opportunities for research in the American Board archives. The collection's importance for the history of Bulgaria and neighboring countries is undeniable, and the American Research Institute in Turkey anticipates that it will be a vital primary resource for Bulgarian scholars investigating the birth and development of their nation. ARIT also welcomes inquiries and applications from qualified, advanced Bulgarian university students who are interested in temporary, unpaid internships to assist in the archival cataloguing process.

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**АМЕРИКАНСКИЯТ  
ИЗСЛЕДОВАТЕЛСКИ ИНСТИТУТ В  
ТУРЦИЯ И АРХИВА НА  
АМЕРИКАНСКИЯ БОРД НА  
ПЪЛНОМОЩНИЦИТЕ ЗА  
ЧУЖДЕСТРАННИТЕ МИСИИ В  
ИСТАНБУЛ – ВАЖЕН ИЗТОЧНИК ЗА  
КЛЮЧОВИ МОМЕНТИ ОТ  
БЪЛГАРСКАТА ИСТОРИЯ**

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**Резюме**

*През 2011 г. ARIT стартира мащабен проект с международно участие по каталогизиране и дигитализиране на Архива на Американския борд в Истанбул. В етап от неговата реализация активно участваха авторите на настоящата работа, като по този начин получиха възможност да се запознаят с редица ценни документи и материали. Представената статия изтъква значението на Архива като първокласен източник на информация за българската история.*



## MADE IN BULGARIA WITH EUROPEAN SUPPORT

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### ROMANIAN – BULGARIAN CROSS-BORDER JOINT NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS ASSESSMENT IN THE DANUBE FLOODPLAIN. THE CALAFAT-VIDIN – TURNU MĂGURELE-NIKOPOL SECTOR – TWO BASIC ASPECTS



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#### **Abstract**

*The article presents the design and results of the project „Romanian – Bulgarian cross-border joint natural and technological hazards assessment in the Danube floodplain Calafat-Vidin – Turnu Magurele-Nikopol sector” in two main research directions. The project aims to improve the existing database on natural and technological risks on both sides of the border area between Romania and Bulgaria and to increase the transparency of information available, but also to raise awareness of all stakeholders (local authorities, municipalities, offices) in the prevention and combating emer-*

*gencies. The study is planned to evaluate the incidence of natural and technological hazards, to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development of the study area and support the effective management of risk in the border area.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The general aim of project is to improve the already existent information on natural and technological hazards on both Romania and Bulgaria border area and increase access in terms of availability and dissemination for all the interested actors (local gov-

ernment, municipalities, emergency situation inspectorates etc.). The other aspect of the study is planning to access the incidence of natural and technological hazards in order to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development of the study area.

The project was implemented through the Cross border cooperation program Romania – Bulgaria 2007 – 2013 within period from June 2012 to November 2013. The priority Axis is no. 2 ‘Environment’. Detail information is put on the project website: [www.robuhaz-dun.eu](http://www.robuhaz-dun.eu). The research are includes administrative units of Bulgarian and Romanian side from the region Vidin-Calafat to Nikopol-Turnu Magurele (Fig. 1).

Five partners have been involved for implementation of the project:

1. Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania (Lead Partner)
2. National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria (Partner 2)
3. Research Institute for Analytical Instrumentation (ICIA), Cluj-Napoca, Romania (Partner 3)
4. Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria (Partner 4)
5. University of Craiova, Geography Department, Craiova, Romania (Partner 5)

**Figure 1.** Research area



## OBJECTIVES

1. To elaborate a joint integrated GIS database for the Calafat-Vidin – Turnu Măgurele-Nikopol Danube Floodplain sector.
2. To identify the natural and technological hazards typologies.
3. To assess the vulnerability to the natural and technological hazards.
4. To elaborate the specialised natural and technological hazards maps.
5. To assess soil and water qual-

ity and aquifer vulnerability to pollution with nutrients, pesticides and heavy metals.

6. To identify the best sustainable development strategies for environmental protection.
7. To disseminate the results of the research to interested actors in the border area through joint events.

## ACTIVITIES

1. First Steering Committee Meeting, Bucharest.

2. Web-site design, continuously updated with new information.

3. Joint GIS database elaboration.

4. Identification of the natural and technological hazards typologies.

5. Joint Round-table on “Hazard maps assessment and mapping” inviting specialists dealing with natural and technological hazards protection and management”, Bucharest.

6. Joint Round-table on “Hazard maps assessment and mapping” inviting specialists dealing with natural and technological hazards protection and management”, Sofia.

7. Fieldwork campaigns for measurements using LIDAR radar to obtain accurate altimetry maps.

8. Elaboration of vulnerability indicators for natural and technological hazards.

9. The establishment of the common methodology for hazard maps.

10. Interim Steering Committee Meeting, Sofia.

11. Elaboration of the specialised natural and technological hazards maps.

12. Field campaigns for assessing soil and water vulnerability to pollution.

13. Data processing interpretation regarding soils and water quality.

14. Final Steering Committee Meeting, Craiova.

15. Romanian-Bulgarian Summer School on “Sustainable development and natural and technological hazards in the Danube Floodplain” for university students, young scientists, Craiova-Calafat.

16. Development and publishing of the number of promotional materials.

17. Publishing of technical guide and university lecture course in the problems of natural and technical haz-

ards.

18. Dissemination of the results through various actions and events.

## **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS**

The publication observes two main issues examined as part of the project – landslide hazards and water pollution.

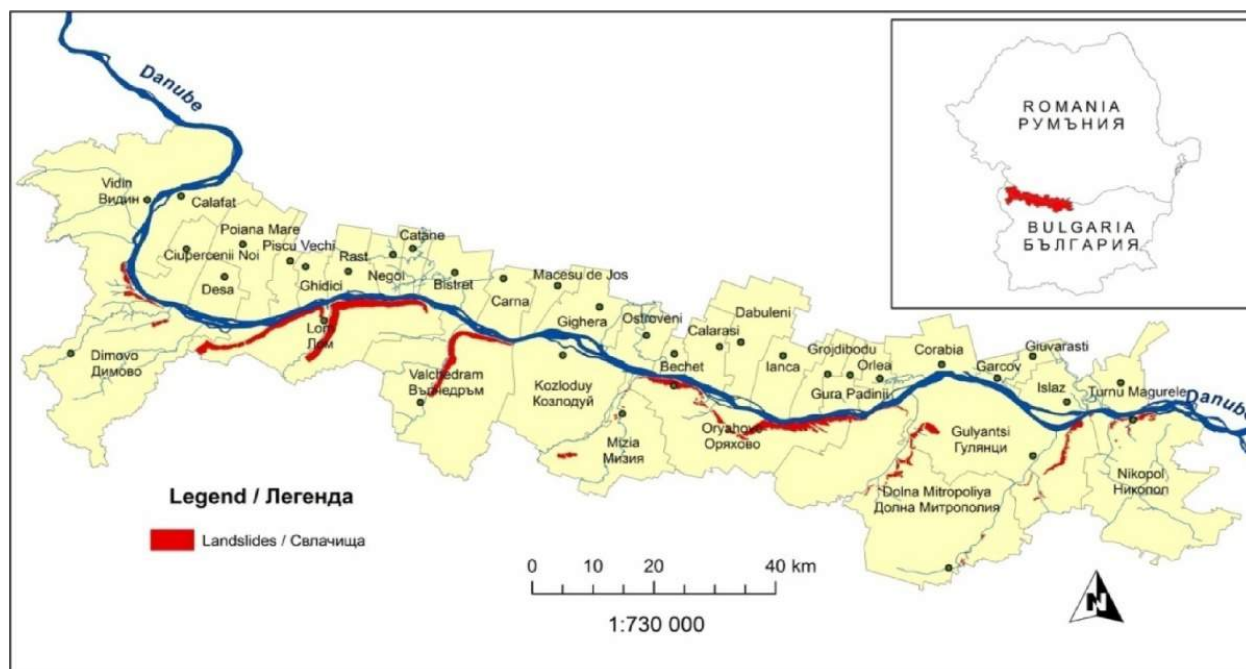
### **LANDSLIDE HAZARD STUDIES**

A database for hazards on both banks along the river has been composed. The data for hazards that was collected by Geological Institute (Partner 4) concerned landslides along the Danube river banks and its tributaries, erosion, loess collapsibility, water sources and groundwater pollution.

The specifics of the database of geological hazards is that they have often sheet distribution. Another aspect of the operation of the database is in shaping datasets of landslides in the research sector. It was compelling examination of a significant volume of landslides in the research area, consultation and on-site inspections to fill the empty rows in the database. Such data were needed for clarification of mechanisms of landslides, their depth and their state of activity. Attention was paid to some of the more risky landslides in the areas of Nikopol and Oryahovo, and also in insufficiently explored areas, such as near the villages of Tsar Simeonovo and Botevo (Fig. 2).

Landslide's data relate to phenomena occurred mainly in the areas of Oryahovo (they were tested further detailed mapping, Fig. 4), Nikopol, Lom, Gorni Tsibar and Gorni Vadin (Fig. 5). The database was introduced and landslides provided by the municipality of Nikopol and further studies of archival sources.

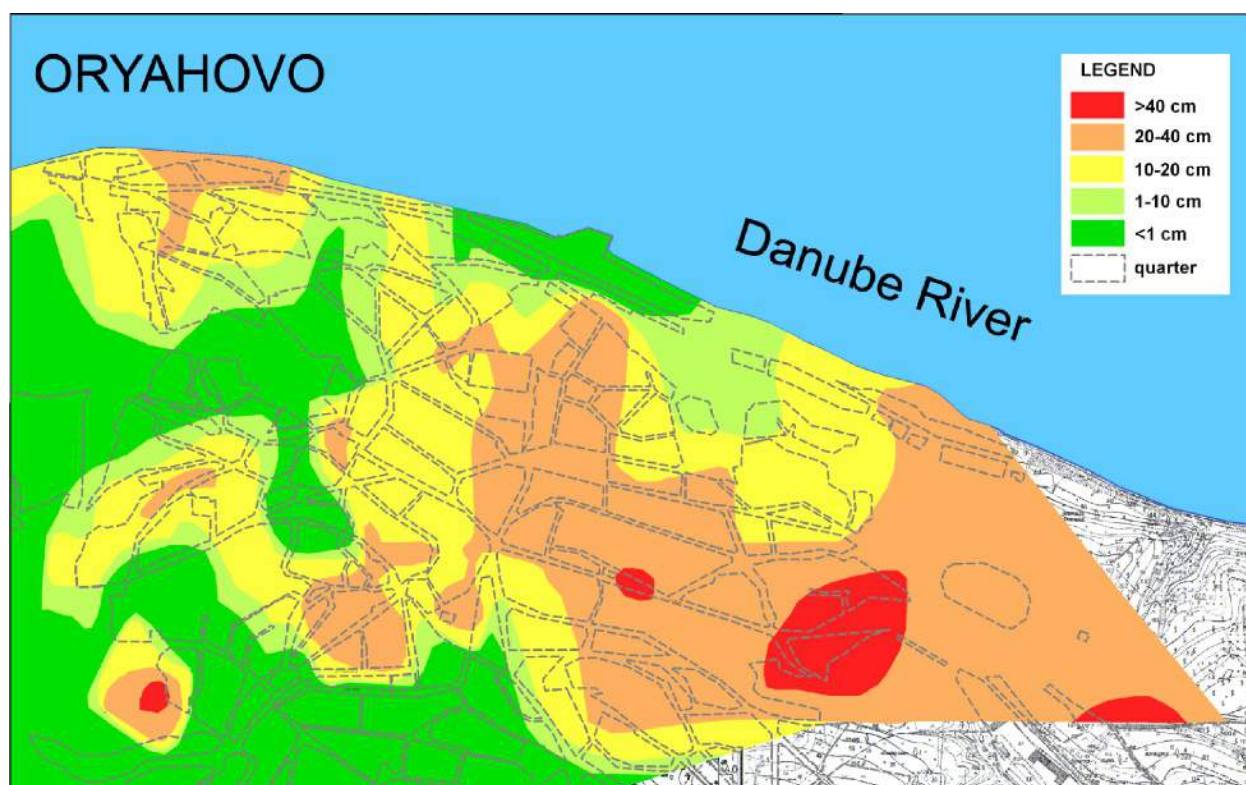
**Figure 2.** Landslide inventory map of research area



The different methods used to evaluate the assessment of landslide hazard have been analyzed. The most appropriate approaches for the research area have been selected. Additionally, the physical and mechanical

properties of the main lithological units were analyzed. We assess the vulnerability of the area of Oryahovo Town and surroundings (Krastanov et al., 2015). On this basis it is made a model map of landslide danger in the town.

**Figure 3.** Landslide hazard zoning of Oryahovo Town area



This was a pilot model that could be used at the other settlements in the area. The assessment of the impact of various triggering factors on the slopes

instability has been clarified. The expert opinion (applied with hazard map) was given by the mayor of the town. Oryahovo for local use (Fig. 3).

**Figure 4.** Joint field work NIGGG-BAS, movements, Geological Institute, BAS and Institute of Geography, Romania Academy, October 2012



**Figure 5.** Damaged house by landslide  
Gorni Vadin Village,  
March 2013

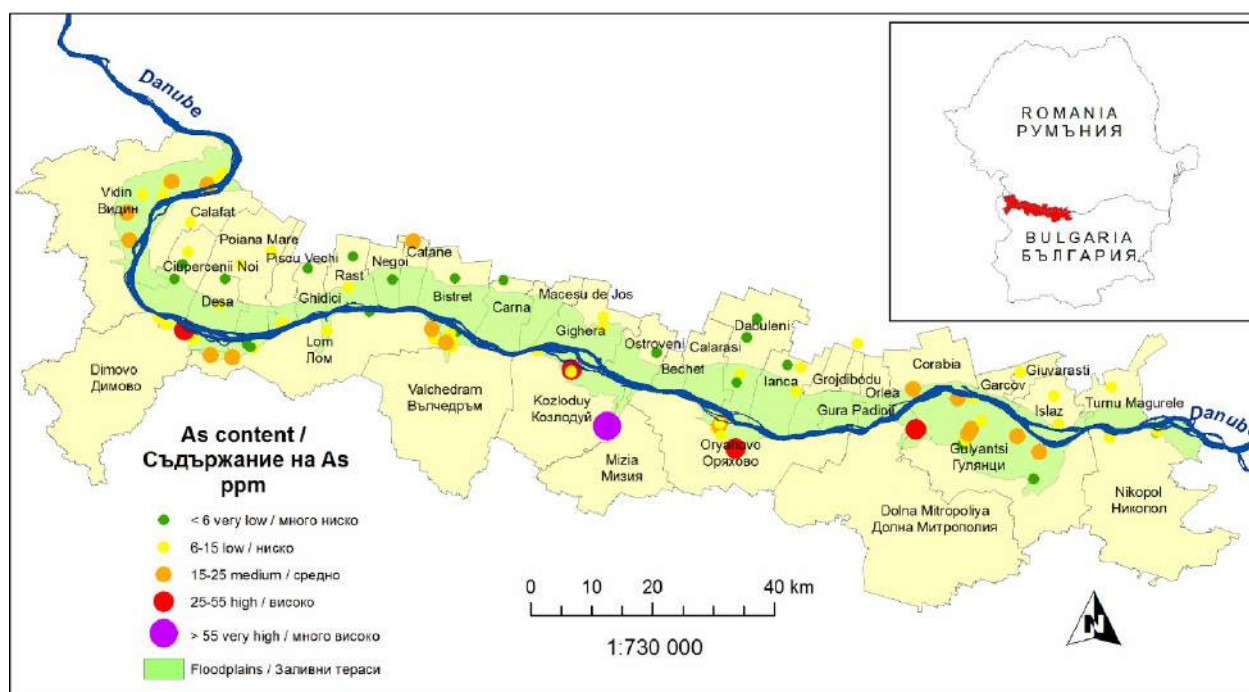


## GROUNDWATER AND RIVER'S WATER POLLUTION STUDIES

Groundwaters in the lowlands of the Danube are important for water supply of settlements in the area. They are related with specific of the geolo-

gical structures and relief in the region (Fig. 8). Simultaneously, these depressions are most subject to the influence of a variety of natural and anthropogenic factors. The whole area of water bodies was included in the present

**Figure 6.** Map of As content in water sources



study (Fig. 7). One of the main investigated pollutants in the region is the arsenic concentration (Fig. 6). The highest concentrations are found in the

valley of Ogosta river. High concentrations also are established on the territories of Dimovo, Oryahovo and Gulyantsi municipalities.

**Figure 7.** Water Sampling, October 2012



**Figure 8.** LiDAR scanning, September 2013



**Figure 9.** Public campaign, Nikopol, April 2013



**Figure 10.** Public campaign, Vidin, September 2013



**Figure 11.** Public campaign, Oryahovo 20.11.2013



**Figure 12.** Public campaign, Nikopol 21.11.2013



## DISSEMINATION CAMPAIGNS

Dissemination of results was implemented through various activities and events, including:

Information campaign in schools (Vidin, Lom, Oryahovo, Selanovtsi, Valchedram, Mizia, Kozloduy, Nikopol etc., Fig. 9 and Fig. 10), municipalities (Vidin, Dimovo, Lom, Valchedram, Oryahovo, Nikopol, Kozloduy, Mizia, Dolna Mitropolia etc.), villages and town halls, a meeting with local professionals and business organizations.

Organization of media events under the terms of the contract: Vidin - with broadcasts on local TV, Oryahovo and Nikopol (Fig. 11 and Fig. 12).

Printing and distribution of promotional materials – bilingual poster, bilingual leaflet, information tables, T-shirts, caps and pens.

Publication and presentation of results at conferences (SGEM- Albena), publications (IAEG Congress, Turin, Italy; Problems of Geography Journal, Geosciences Conference 2013, Mining and Geology Journal), issuing Technical Guidebook and more.

The Romanian-Bulgarian Summer School “Sustainable development and natural and technological risk in the Danube floodplains” for students and young scientists, 6 days Craiova-Calafat have been organized as part of project activities. The meeting was held in the period 17-21 November 2013. The Bulgarian side was represented by ten young scientists and students and five lecturers.

The two variants of bilingual technical guide (Bulgarian-English and Romania-English versions) have been published.

## CONCLUSIONS

The main results of the project are related with:

- identification of the natural and technological hazards typologies in the research region Calafat-Vidin – Turnu Măgurele-Nikopol.

- creation of joint GIS database for the investigation region.

- determination of the vulnerability to the natural and technological hazards.

- elaboration of the specialised natural and technological hazards maps.

- determination of the soil and water quality and aquifer vulnerability to pollution with nutrients, pesticides and heavy metals.

- identification of the best sustainable development strategies for environmental protection.

- dissemination of the results of the research to interested actors in the border area through joint events.

- publishing of the scientific results.

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**ИНТЕГРИРАНА ОЦЕНКА НА  
ПРИРОДНИЯ И ТЕХНОЛОГИЧЕН РИСК  
В ДУНАВСКАТА ЗАЛИВНА РАВНИНА В  
РУМЪНСКО-БЪЛГАРСКИЯ  
ТРАСГРАНИЧЕН УЧАСТЪК КАЛАФАТ-  
ВИДИН — ТУРНУ МЪГУРЕЛЕ-  
НИКОПОЛ – ДВА ОСНОВНИ АСПЕКТА**

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**Резюме**

*Настоящата статия представя проекта „Интегрирана оценка на природния и технологичен риск в Дунавската равнина в румънско-*

*българския трансграничен участък Калафат-Видин — Турну Мъгуреле-Никопол” и резултати от работата по проекта в две от основните научни направления. Проектът има за цел да подобри вече съществуващата информационна база за природния и технологичен риск от двете страни на граничната област между Румъния и България и да увеличи достъпа по отношение на наличната информация, а също така и да подобри информираността на всички заинтересовани страни (местни власти, общини, служби) по отношение на превенцията и борбата с непредвидени ситуации. Проучването е насочено към оценка на честотата на природни и технологични опасности, за да се гарантира опазването на околната среда и устойчивото развитие на изследваната територия и подпомагане на ефективното управление на риска.*

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX *PASSAGE CAVE* AT THE VILLAGE OF KOSHNITSA, MUNICIPALITY OF SMOLYAN

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### **Abstract**

*The article presents the findings of archaeological explorations of the Late Antiquity and Mediaeval fortress at the village of Koshnitsa, Smolyan Municipality, Smolyan Region – the Central Rhodopes. Excavations, conservation, restoration and the socialisation of the archaeological structures have become possible thanks to project THRABYZHE won and successfully implemented by Municipality of Smolyan, European Territorial Cooperation Programme ‘Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013’. The fortress is a part of an archaeological complex including of a cave and a fortified prehistoric settlement, a rock sanctuary and a military fortress-sanctuary.*

The archaeological complex ‘Passage Cave’ includes objects and places characterised by territorial and functional continuity – from the Stone – Copper Age to the Middle Ages (5<sup>th</sup> millennium BC – 13<sup>th</sup> century). It is situated in the Arda part of the Rhodope Mountains, on a cone-shaped peak built of marble rocks penetrated from northwest to southeast by a wide Karst gallery – the Passage Cave. The peak is situated on the right bank of the Arda River. Its slopes rise up to 150 meters above the river (1006 meters above sea level). It is more accessible from the south slope, along the saddle: two footpaths start from

there – one on the east and one – on the west slope. The Passage Cave is a steep tunnel, with 45° inclination, 35 meters long (Fig. 1). It has a semi-circular cross-section, widening from 15 m at the upper end to 30 m at the lower one. The cave is dry all through the year and provides an all-year-round shelter on an area of about 0.7 decares (0.173 acres).

The visible architectural monument (which apparently gave the name of the peak – Kaleto – the fortress) is situated within the fortress wall encircling its highest part (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3). The fortified area also includes a Passage Cave whose upper end comes out into the fortress. Most probably, when the fortress was built, that end was closed by a wall (one of the entrances to the fortress in the north), leading down to the Arda River valley. It is possible that there also existed a fortress wall blocking the wide lower entrance (unexplored) of the cave. If such was the case, we should add to the fortified area of the fortress – 3 decares (0,741 acres) – 0.7 decares (0.17 acres) of cave area. The main entrance to the fortress (unexplored) was obviously on its south wall, which blocks the access from the south (along the narrow saddle) accessible on two footpaths – one along the east and one – along the west slope of the ridge. The fortified area can be divided in two parts: northern (North sector) –

**Fig. 1.** Passage Cave in the valley of the Gorna Arda River: north view  
(photo by D. Damyanov)



**Fig. 2.** Passage Cave with the north fortress wall: north view  
(photo by D. Damyanov)

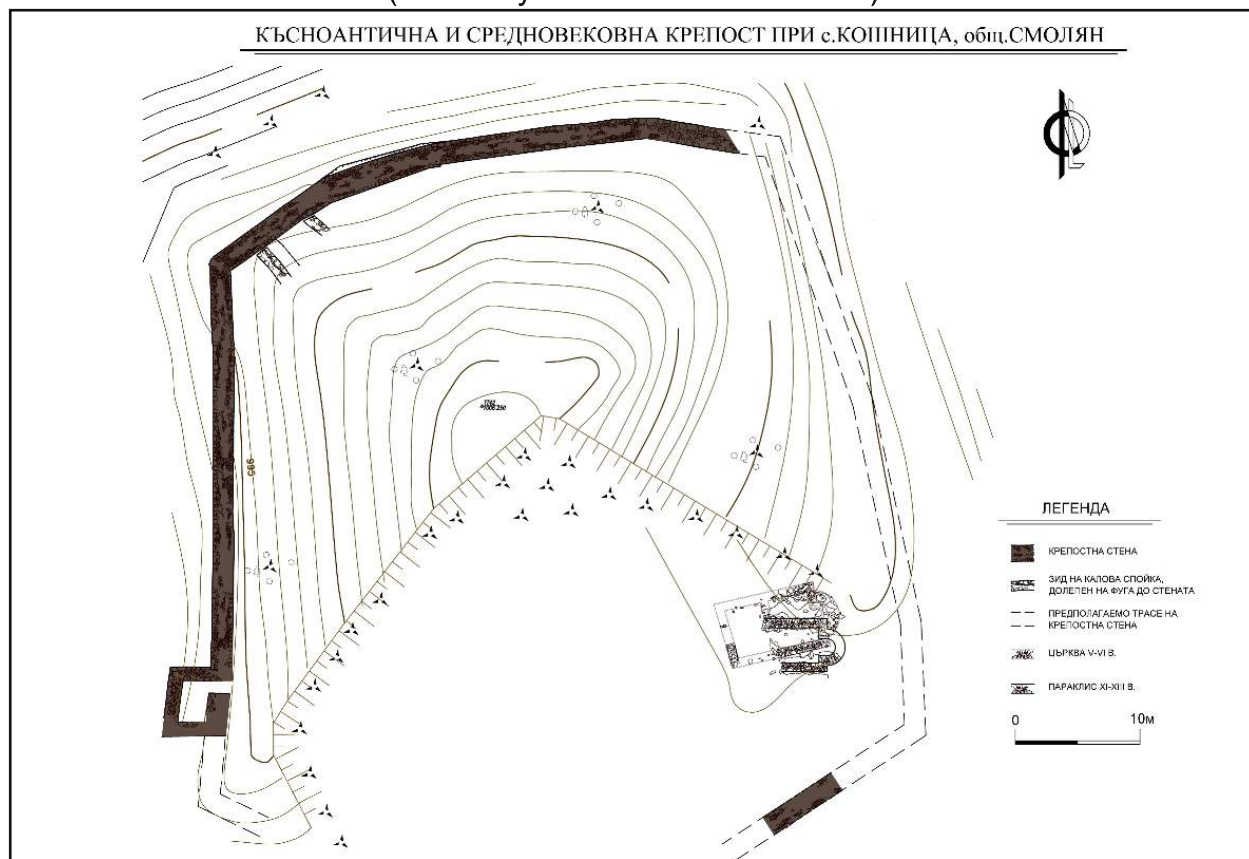


rocky, steep, with inclination to the East, North and West and southern (South sector) – even and suitable for building (Fig. 3).

The first archaeological excavations of the fortress were made to ‘test the waters’ and were, to a large extent, provoked by the busy treasure – hunting activity in its interior. They were

carried out in 1993 by the Regional Museum of History ‘Stoyu Shishkov’ – Smolyan [1, p. 492-495]. More systematic explorations were carried out in 2011 and 2012 thanks to the project won and successfully implemented by the Municipality of Smolyan „Thracian and Byzantine Cultural Heritage in the Rhodopes and the North Aegean

**Fig. 3.** Plan of the architectural excavations 2011-2014  
(Drawn by architect M. Kamenova)



Coast' – THRABYZHE, funded by the European Territorial Cooperation Programme 'Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013' [2]. The aim of the excavations was to uncover the foundations of the east, north and west walls, their equipment and interior rooms in order to make possible the engineering activities resulting in the conservation and restoration, socialization and the exposure of the archaeological site (Fig. 2).

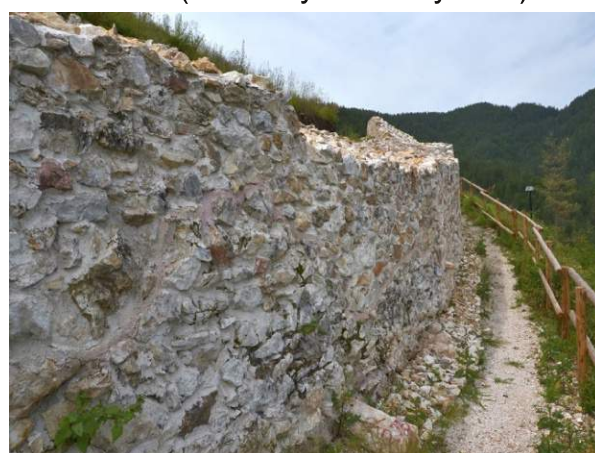
### North Sector

The archaeological excavations at the above mentioned fortress walls were carried out on a strip 1.2 m – 1.5 m wide along the inner face and 1 m wide along the outer face. They were carried out in the north half of the fortress (visible from the nearby villages – Koshnitsa and Turyan) as well as from the road along the Arda River. 85 m of fortress walls were examined. The curtain was 1.7 m – 1.8 m thick. The building technique used was opus implectum – typical of the Late Antiquity fortresses 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century [2, p. 32-36; 3, p. 63-67]. The masonry was double sided, predominantly built with natural local limestone and bound with white mortar. The filling (emplekton)

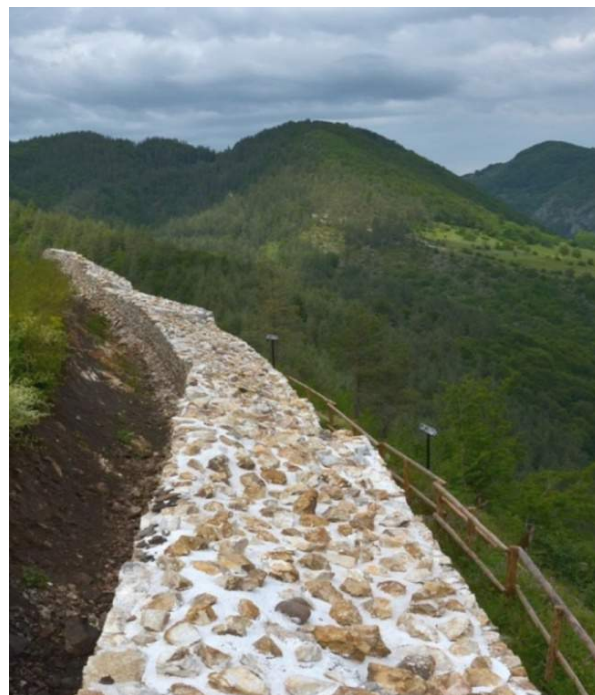
consisted of local stones, different in size, also bound with white mortar. The fortress walls were not dug into the rock. The face (outer and inner) is perpendicular and even; there is no socle (bank) to define the substructure (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5). With very few exceptions, no mortar was used to build their foundations on the rocks.

The north fortress wall (the best preserved one) is 47.3 m long. Some parts rise as high as 2.5 m – 3 m. The arc-shaped wall covers the north slope of the peak; its curtain bends three times (Fig. 2 and Fig. 4). Its northwest corner is round on the outside and its northeast one is completely destroyed. In the northwest corner two transverse walls were uncovered, 0.6 m – 0.7 m thick, adjacent to the inner side of the curtain, the masonry being made of stone and mud. The walls have a shallow base (it was not dug into the ground) and, most probably, were used as a storage room 3.9 m long; on the other hand, they could have been the base of wooden stairs leading to the platform in the northwest corner of the fortress. The thorough excavations of the area adjacent to the inner side of the fortress wall uncovered ground storerooms in the northwest and north-

**Fig. 4.** Part from the north fortress wall, outer side – northwest view: left – fully uncovered; right – after conservation and restoration (Photo by D. Damyanov)



**Fig. 5.** East view of the north fortress wall: Left – fully uncovered; right – after conservation and restoration (Photo by D. Damyanov)



east corners where the ground is comparatively flat. In one of them, in situ, a pythos (a vessel for holding liquid) buried in the soil was uncovered. On the same ground level a number of crockery fragments from vessels for cooking and holding liquids were

uncovered as well as many iron objects: knives, nails, brackets, locks and keys. The coins uncovered from that level date back to the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century, most of them minted by Emperor Justinian I (527-565).

**Fig. 6.** North view of the west fortress wall: left – fully uncovered; right – after conservation and restoration (Photo by D. Damyanov)



The west fortress wall is 38.30 m long. Its northwest corner is preserved best – its outer side reaching up to 0.9 m. The inner side is preserved in 1-2 lines of masonry. The curtain is straight; directed north-south. The west fortress (south end) wall ends with a tower built near a steep rock face. South of the rock the fortress wall was directed northwest-southwest. At present, 10 m of wall are completely missing. The foundation of the wall can be traced along the ground in the south half of the fortress where the main entrance is situated (Fig. 6).

The west wall has an outer tower. It was a viewpoint to the north, west and south (to the access paths to the fortress) where one of the paths leading to the fortress still exists. The tower reveals a broad view of the nearby villages – Koshnitsa and Turyan. One of the antiquity roads of the Central Rhodopes passed through them, the one connecting the Thracian Plain with the north Aegean coast [4, p. 103; 5, p. 269-284]. The tower is rectangular in shape. It is structurally connected to the fortress wall and was built in the same manner – using the same building technique – double-sided masonry of crushed stone bound by white mortar, but its walls are thinner. The tower measures 5.5 m north-south and 3.4 m east-west. The preserved part of its foundation reaches up to 0.7 m in height. The thickness of the front wall is 1.10 m and the side walls are 1m thick. The entrance to the tower was built on the fortress wall. It was preserved in a substructure up to 0.4 m high and is 1 m – 1.05 m wide. There is no visible threshold. The inner space of the tower measures 2.5 m (width) and 3.5 m (length). Probably wooden stairs

started from there-leading to the top, where, most probably, there was a watch landing. The examinations of the possible layout of the east wall did not lead to its uncovering. It must have been 40 meters long. No remains of its substructure or traces of mortar layer or digging a bed for its foundation in the rock were uncovered – it was, most probably, completely destroyed (Fig. 7).

The crack in the rock across the eastern slope (0.2 m – 0.3 m wide) is probably the result of an earthquake of a great magnitude resulting in the slide of the curtain down the slope, destroying completely both the northeast and southeast corners of the fortress. Apparently it was the earthquake which led to the tear and collapse along the west slope of one sector of the southwest wall south of the tower. An identical situation was recorded during the examination of the fortress near the town of Smolyan. Its southeast corner was also torn and collapsed taking with it part of the east wall and the foundation [6, p. 91]. To be more specific as to when exactly the two abovementioned fortresses were destroyed by an earthquake we should take into account their state at the time of their uncovering. The archaeological situation of the inside parts of their curtains is identical and unambiguous. Both were burnt down and abandoned after they were conquered during the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Both were re-inhabited from the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century till the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. So, it is obvious that between the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century and the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century one or a series of strong earthquakes had destroyed both fortresses [7, p. 87, 178, 217].

**Fig. 7.** North view to the battlement of the west fortress wall: left – the base is fully uncovered; right – after conservation and restoration (Photo by D. Damyanov)



During the archaeological excavations in 2011 and 2012 the cultural layers of the inner side of the north fortress wall were thoroughly examined. The wall itself, 2.5 m – 3 m high in its central parts, had managed to stop the erosion and the washing out of the soil and preserve the traces of habitation of the marble peak during earlier ages. The comparatively steep slopes contributed to the constant sliding and re-depositing of the ceramic material. Examining from top to bottom the stratigraphy of the site in North Sector from outermost to innermost we can draw the following conclusions:

1. Up to 0.3 meters at the inner side of the north fortress wall in the cultural layer, crockery from 11<sup>th</sup> – beginning of 13<sup>th</sup> century prevails. It is the second and last stage of the habitation of the fortress. It was not registered by examining the architecture, but mainly by examining the crockery

of the time – vessels for cooking or holding liquids (tara) as well as a few bronze coins used at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century which marked the end of the period. During that time a chapel was built in the South Sector on top of the ruins of the church dating from the end of 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century.

2. The crockery uncovered at depth from 0.3 m to 0.7 m is mainly from the 6<sup>th</sup> century. All the coins dating from the end 5<sup>th</sup> century to the second half of 6<sup>th</sup> century were uncovered at depth 0.3 m – 0.5 m. That period marked the first stage, a stage connected with the building of the fortress by the Byzantine Empire (during the reign of Justinian I), its conquering and burning down during the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The great number of vessels for holding liquid (tara) cooking and dining crockery, coins with the images of Justin I (518-527) and Justinian I (527-565) prove the

heyday of the development of the fortress towards the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

3. At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century a small church was built in the South Sector functioning till the fall of the fortress.

4. During Antiquity, Iron and late Bronze age (16<sup>th</sup> century BC – 4<sup>th</sup> century) the peak was used as a sanctuary judging by the fine, richly decorated dining crockery. It was uncovered mainly in layers at depth 0.7 m – 1.1 m. So far there has been no evidence of the existence of Thracian fortress or settlements.

5. During the early Bronze Age the peak was probably used as a

fortified refuge and sanctuary. Crockery from that time ( very concentrated) was uncovered mainly in layers 1.1 m – 1.3 m deep.

6. Crockery from the late Stone-Copper Age (5<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC) prevails in the cultural layers uncovered at 1.3 m – 2.5 m depth. Uncovered at 2.3 m – 2.5 m depth, a cylinder shaped hole with ashes from a burnt pole (0.16 m – 0.18 m in diameter) at about 1 m away from the inner side of the fortress wall) proves the existence of a wooden fortification at the top at that time. the pole is, most probably, a remnant from a palisade, stabilised on stone foundations from both sides (Fig. 8).

**Fig. 8.** A hole from a burnt pole from a palisade in the late Chalcolithic Age  
(Photo by D. Damyanov)



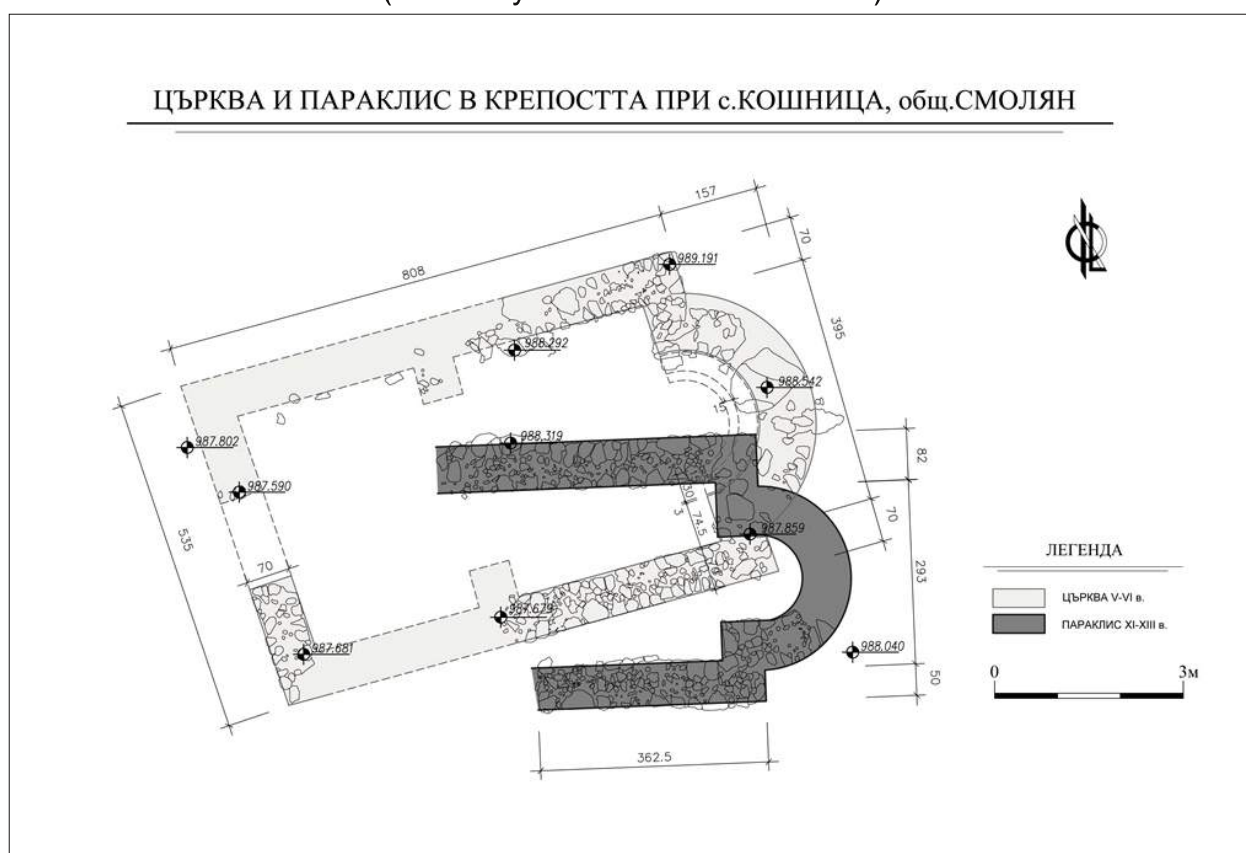
### South Sector

Unlike the steep rocky northern part of the archaeological site in the fortress, the southern half is flat. The fortress wall is almost fully destroyed and only few remains can be found on site.

The archaeological excavations were concentrated in the east part of

the South sector where destructions of buildings oriented East – West can be found which lead to the conclusion that there used to be a Christian temple. The examinations proved the above hypothesis. Between 2012 and 2014 the foundations of a chapel and a church were uncovered (Fig. 3 and Fig. 9).

**Fig. 9.** Plan of the chapel and the church in the South sector of the fortress  
(Drawn by: architect M. Kamenova)



The earlier-built temple was a small one-knave church: no narthex, a comparatively big semi-circular apse and a two-step sintron. Very little of it is preserved as it was used for building material for the chapel. The length of the church (including the apse) is 9.5 m. The outside measures of the naos are as follows: length – 8.1 meters, width – 5.3 meters. The opening of the apse is 2.3 meters and its depth – 1.15 meters (Fig. 10). The two-step sintron

is 0.45 meters wide, the lower step (preserved in substructure) is 0.15 meters wide and the upper one (preserved up to 0.65 meters in height) is 0.3 meters wide. The sitron is adjacent to the apsidal wall (i.e. has no structural connection to it). It is 0.7 m deep and its opening is 1.4 m in diameter. The church has one entrance, in the middle of the west wall. Its estimated width is 1.4 m, i.e. roughly the same as the diameter of the opening of the

sintron.

The church was built with stone and mud. The walls are 0.6 – 0.7 m thick at the naos and 0.9 m thick at the apse (Fig. 11). Tiles of porous limestone (travertine, tufa) were uncovered as evidence that they were used in building: both as belts levelling and fortifying the walls and as ornaments. The fact that tufa stones were not yielded locally, together with some peculi-

arities of the plan of the church (such as the proportionally big semi-circular apse) prove that the temple was built earlier, probably in times of peace, after Christianity became the official religion in the Roman Empire – i.e. the end of 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century. The excavations down to floor level uncovered an uneven layer of soil, ashes and charcoal, evidence that the temple was pillaged around 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

**Fig. 10.** The foundations of the church and the chapel, north view  
(Photo by D. Damyanov)



**Fig. 11.** The apse and the sintron of the church from end of 4<sup>th</sup> – end of 6<sup>th</sup> century) left: west view of the sintron; right – view of the apse from above  
(Photo by D. Damyanov)



century. Fragments from a cup coloured in rusty red with 2 handles (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century), fragments from glasses with or without handles and window glass. No floor covering was found.

The second temple, the chapel, is synchronic with the second period of the fortress – 11<sup>th</sup> – the beginning of 13<sup>th</sup> century. The foundations of north and south walls of the chapel have been preserved in substructure as well as its southeast corner with part of the

south arc of the apse. The preserved outside dimensions of the chapel are: length – 5.1 m and width – 4.25 m. Its walls have been uncovered at 0.4 – 0.5 m depth of the level of the site and were founded on the remains of an earlier building. They are 0.7 m – 0.75 m thick and were built with stone and mud. Treasure-seekers have repeatedly dug at and eventually completely destroyed its west wall and the greater part of its apse (Fig. 9 and Fig. 12).

**Fig. 12.** A chapel from the 11<sup>th</sup> – beginning of 13<sup>th</sup> century: left – east view; right – west view (Photo by D. Damyanov)



Although the examination of the church in Koshnitsa has not finished yet, it is a fact that it had been built before the fortress walls were, i.e. it was not built between the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century to serve the needs of the people working in the fortress, but earlier – between the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century the result of ‘inheriting’ the sacred place, the local spiritual centre (Axis mundi) where people could communicate with Gods/God. More evidence supports the earlier dating: the building technique (stone and mud); the usage of imported stone, porous limesone (tufa, travertine) made into rectangular bricks and tiles the proportionally big apse with sintron [8, p. 69]; the uncovered (below floor level) frag-

ments of glass and crockery characteristic of the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

The coincidence of a suitable site with favourable conditions for the building of a fortress on the peak (with a Passage Cave), its proximity to settlements (work force) and its access to one of the trans-Rhodopean roads (connecting Inland and Aegean Thrace), as well as, probably, the ‘sacredness’ of this place predetermined its choice for building a fortress – sanctuary. It also functioned as a military fortress [9, p. 33-44] a place where the local civilians found shelter. The fortress was, probably, managed by a garrison whose task was to watch and protect the communications along the Central road through the Central

Rhodopes [10, p. 9-11].

The fortress near Koshnitsa is one of the many castles [11, p. 12-31], which, according to Prokopij Kesarijski (chronicler, a contemporary of the events), by order of Emperor Justinian I (527-565) were either refurbished or rebuilt or newly built in the European part of the Byzantine Empire. Probably because they belonged to the third type and were smaller (compared to the city fortresses), the names of those in the mountains, particularly in the Central Rhodopes, remained unknown to Prokopij. Due to lack of precise information, he mentioned them as 'a countless number of castles' [12, p. 446]. The purpose of their construction was to create a strong fortress system for protection of the borders (along the Danube in the North) and the inside the country – along Stara Planina (the Balkan), Sredna Gora (Middle Forest) and the Rhodopes – from the frequent invasions of the Slavs who wanted to plunder and conquer new territories: in the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century they even succeeded in reaching Salonika and besieged it.

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**АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИ КОМПЛЕКС  
„ПРОХОДНА ПЕЩЕРА“ ПРИ С.  
КОШНИЦА, ОБЩИНА СМОЛЯН**

**Дамян Дамянов**

Регионален исторически музей  
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**Резюме**

Статията представя резултати от археологическите проучвания на късноантичната и средновековна крепост при с. Кошница, общ. Смолян, обл. Смолян – Средни Родопи. Проучването, консервацията, реставрацията и социализацията на архитектурните структури са постигнали благодарение на спечеления и успешно осъществен проект THRABYZHE на Община Смолян по „Програмата за Европейско териториално сътрудничество

Гърция – България, 2007 – 2013“. Крепостта е част от археологически комплекс, състоящ се от пещерно и укрепено праисторическо жилище, скално светилище и военна крепост-убежище.

Съвпадението на подходящи теренни условия за строителство на крепост на върха с Проходната пещера, близостта му до населени места (работна ръка) и до един от трансродопските пътища, свързващ Вътрешна и Егейска Тракия, както и вероятно „светостта“ на това място са предопределили избора му за изграждането на крепост-убежище. Крепостта е била обслужвана най-вероятно от гарнизон, който е имал задачата да наблюдава и охранява поверения ѝ участък от Централния път през Средните Родопи, както и да поддържа комуникациите по него. В нея временно е намирало убежище цивилното население от околността.



## EQUAL IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

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### ***BULGARIAN VIPs***

**Assoc. Prof. LEANDER LITOV, PhD**

Faculty of Physics, Department of Atomic Physics  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
Phone: +359 2 8161 410, E-mail: [litov@phys.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:litov@phys.uni-sofia.bg)  
[www.cern.ch/litov](http://www.cern.ch/litov)



*Assoc. Prof. Leander Litov is head of the Bulgarian scientific team at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. According to the on-line tool InCites™ he is currently the most cited Bulgarian scholar.*

Sofia, Faculty of Physics, Particle and nuclear physics

#### **Academic Career**

##### *Research Associate*

1979–1980 Laboratory for Theoretical Physics, JINR–Dubna, Russia  
1980–1981 Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy – Sofia  
1981–1983 Laboratory for Theoretical Physics, JINR–Dubna, Russia  
1983–1990 Laboratory for Nuclear Problems, JINR–Dubna, Russia

##### *Assistant Professor*

1985–1991 Atomic Physics Dept., University of Sofia "St.Kl.Ohridski"

##### *Head Assist. Professor*

1991–1997 Atomic Physics Dept., University of Sofia "St.Kl.Ohridski"

##### *Associate Professor*

as of 1997 Atomic Physics Dept., University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski"

#### **Education**

1970–1973 High School „G.S. Rakovski“, Sofia, Physics- and mathematics class, IT-specialization

1973–1975 compulsory military service

1975–1980 University of Sofia, Faculty of Physics, Nuclear and particle physics

1990, PhD Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) – Dubna, Russia

1997, Habilitation University of

### *Scientific Associate*

2003–2005 CERN, PH Department

### **Fields of expertise:**

- (A) Design and construction of experimental equipment
- (B) Monte Carlo simulation and data analysis
- (C) Theoretical research in the field quantum physics
- (D) Computer drug design

### **Publications**

131 papers cited more than 12000 times.

### **Awards**

- 1986 First Prize of JINR for the best experimental proposal;
- 1990 First Prize of JINR for a series of papers on investigation of colour-screening effects in hadron-nucleus interactions;
- 2005 Second Prize of JINR for measurement of form-factors of  $K_{e3}$  decays.
- 2007 Second Prize of Scientific and Educational Expo, Plovdiv, 2007 for "Virtual Screening and computer simulations for drug design"

### **Science-management experience**

Establishing of the Particle Physics Group at the University of Sofia, its supervision and management (including both material and human resources);

Organization of Bulgarian participation in particle physics experiments (CMS, NA48, NA49, NA62);

Organization of conferences and workshops;

Team-work organization at big international research centers (11 years at JINR, Dubna; 14 years at CERN);

Organization and supervision of the (certified) Laboratory on Particle physics in Sofia;

Organization and supervision of a Grid laboratory at Sofia University;

Supervision and management of large-scale research projects (for details, see below).

### **Offices held**

Member of the Scientific Council of the Laboratory for Nuclear Problems of JINR, Dubna (1987–1990);

Member of the Expert Commission on HEP of the Laboratory for Nuclear Problems of JINR, Dubna (1987–1990);

Member of the Scientific Council of the Laboratory for Particle Physics of JINR, Dubna (1989–1990);

Member of Bulgarian National Commission for collaboration with JINR, Dubna (1998–1999);

Member of Bulgarian National Commission for collaboration with CERN (1999–2000 and since 2006);

Member of the CMS Collaboration Board (since 1993);

Member of the CMS RDMS (Russia and Dubna Member States) Collaboration Board (since 1995);

Member of European Commission for Future Accelerators (ECFA) (since 1999);

Member of Bulgarian National Commission on HEP (since 2002).

Member of NA62 Steering Committee (since 2006).

### **Supervision of research projects (current)**

♦ CMS, on the part of the University of Sofia / Ministry of Science

and Education;

- ♦ CMS-related R&D work / Joint research project Bulgaria – JINR;
- ♦ NA48 / JINR, Dubna;
- ♦ Rare kaon decays / Bulgarian National Science Foundation;
- ♦ Development of Grid infrastructure / Bulgarian National Science Foundation;

### **Pedagogical activity**

- ♦ Design, organization and supervision of the Masters curriculum in "Nuclear and particle physics" at the University of Sofia;
- ♦ General course on "Particle physics";
- ♦ Specializing course "The stand-

ard model of electroweak and strong interactions";

- ♦ Specializing course "Beyond the Standard Model";
- ♦ Supervision of diploma- and PhD students (26 and 10, resp.);
- ♦ "Introduction to Particle Physics" – University textbook;
- ♦ Supervision of the annual Open-Day programme in HEP at Sofia University, frequent popular lectures for the pupils from the National School for Natural Sciences and for physics students in the first semesters.

Talks and invited talks at many international conferences, schools and workshops.

### **Prof. NIKOLAI LAZAROV, MD, PhD, DSc**

Faculty of Medicine, Department of Anatomy and Histology  
Medical University – Sofia

Phone: +359 2 9172 525, E-mail: [nlazarov@medfac.acad.bg](mailto:nlazarov@medfac.acad.bg)  
<http://nikolai.lazarov.pro/>



*Originally from Vidin, Bulgaria, Dr. Nikolai Lazarov received his MD from the Medical University in Sofia in 1981, his PhD in Neurobiology from the Thracian University in Stara Zagora in 1991*

*and his DSc from the same university in 2000.*

Dr. Lazarov was appointed Assistant Professor at the Thracian University in Stara Zagora in 1982 and in

1994 he became Associate Professor at the Department of Anatomy. In November 2001 he was promoted to a Full **Professor** at the same department. Since April 2007 he is a **Professor of Anatomy and Cell Neurobiology** at the Department of Anatomy and Histology to the Medical University in Sofia. He has also been a collaborating Professor and Head of the Department of Synaptic Signalization and Communications to the Institute of Neurobiology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences since 2010.

His biographical sketch currently appears in ***Who's Who in the 21st Century, Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in Science and Engineering*** and ***2000 Outstanding Scient-***

***ists of the 21st Century.***

**Academic Appointments and Present Position**

Vice-Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Thracian University, 2000-2003

Chairman, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, Thracian University, 2000-2007

Member, Faculty Council, Faculty of Medicine, Thracian University, 1994-1995; 2000-2007

Member, Academic Board, High Medical School, 1982-1995

**Awards and Honours**

1993 COPERNICUS-Fellow; grant ERB3510PL922161 from the Commission of the European Communities; University of Ulm, Germany

1994 Commission of the European Communities; grant CIPA-CT93-0205 (DG 12 HSMU) from the EEC and Universitair Centrum Antwerpen, Belgium; Research Project 'Functional Morphology of the Autonomic Nervous System', University of Antwerp RUCA, Belgium

1995-1997 AvH Fellow; grant 1015945 from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; Research Project "The Significance of Dopaminergic and Glutamate Afferents for the Differenti-

ation of the Striatum", University of Ulm, Germany

1997 The First Bulgarian Anatomical Society Dimitri Kadanoff Memorial Award

1998 M.R.C. Visiting Professor, Leiden University, The Netherlands

1999 The First Award of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria

2000 Visiting Professor, University of Ulm, Germany

2003 The First Award for Scientific Merits of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria

2003 International Scientist of the Year

2004-2005 AvH Fellow; Research Project: "Expression of Receptors: Focus on Histamine Receptors in the Petrosal Ganglion", University of Munich, Germany

2006, 2007, 2008 Visiting Professor, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Germany

2009-2010 Visiting Professor, Medical University of Pleven

2010 The Medical University-Sofia "Orahovatz" Award for Outstanding Contributions to Fundamental Science

## AWARDS

### JOHN ATANASOFF AWARD AND PRIZES '2014\*



The John Atanasoff Award and Prizes '2014 were awarded for 12th consecutive year by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Mr. Rosen Plevneliev through an official ceremony in 8th October 2014. The John Atanasoff award has been handed out since 2003 in order to encourage talented Bulgarian scholars to offer developments that have a high potential for practical application. Throughout the years, as the President pointed out during the ceremony, the John Atanasoff awards have become a point of attraction for the young and succeeding Bulgarians, no matter where they work and live.

The John Atanasoff Award '2014

for achievements in the sphere of information and communication technologies was awarded to **Dr. Slav Petrov**, a specialist in computer linguistics. Being research scientists and head of research group at Google Inc., Dr. Petrov attained a lot of achievements, including a detailed algorithm for grammatical analysis. His other invention is a grammar appendix to Google Translate, which lead to more precise translations in more than 60 languages, including Bulgarian.

Two John Atanasoff Diplomas for the practical application of scientific achievements and for the implementation of projects of high public significance were awarded to

\* Note: The article is prepared based on official information available on the President's website at: <http://www.president.bg/cat40/630/mladiyat-uchen-d-r-slav-petrov-e-nositel-na-prezidentskata-nagrada-dzhon-atanasov-za-2014-g.html&lang=en>

Mr. **Stavros Stavru** and Mr. **Plamen Ivanov**, who has been working in the sphere of topical problems and innovative developments for the management of IT services. They are also authors of a lot of techniques and practical exercises, games among them, in the sphere of the flexible development of software.

Diplomas for their achievements in the sphere of mathematics and

information technologies received Mr. **Encho Mishinev** and his teacher Mr. **Anton Shikov**, the student Mr. **Kristian Krumov** and his teacher Mr. **Krasimir Asenov** and Mr. **Stefcho Nakov**.

During the ceremony the Head of State also awarded Ms. Maria Tsvetkova, the winner of the competition for choosing a logo of the John Atanasoff awards.

## AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE OF THE UNION OF THE SCIENTISTS IN BULGARIA '2014\*

For a consecutive year the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria organizes a competition for outstanding scientific achievements. This year were awarded four types of prizes.

### I. HONORARY DIPLOMA AND PRIZE MONEY

The awards of this type are classified by field of science.

#### *Natural Sciences*

**Dr. Nikolay Minkov Petrov, Associate Professor** in the Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for a number of papers, published in the period 2011 – 2013, related to models of complex deformed nuclei, symmetries and fine structure of nuclear spectra. In his proposed model system he gives a detailed description of complex mechanisms, which lead to solutions of fundamental problems in the field of nuclear physics.

**Dr. Todorka Gancheva Vladkova, DSc, Professor** in the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy for the monograph entitled "Surface Engineering of Polymeric Biomaterials" (Published by Smithers Rapra Technology Ltd., 2013, 604 p.), two chapters in other monographs and 10 papers in international refereed journals, related to creation of materials for biomedical and other applications with improved interactions with the living matter. The research results provide an opportunity for development and improvement of existing polymer prostheses, devices for biosynthetic processes, polymer blood vessels, catheters, stents, drug delivery systems etc.

#### *Engineering Sciences*

**Corresponding Member Atanas Dimitrov Kovachev** from the University of Forestry for the monograph "Urbanization" in two volumes. This book is of great significance to urban

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\* Note: The following article is prepared based on a synopsis of information entitled "Scientists and publications awarded in the Competition of the USB for outstanding achievements in 2014" which is published in Bulgarian in Nauka (Science) – a bi-monthly journal of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, XXIV, 2014, 6, pp. 21-22.

planning and large investment projects, for shaping of contemporary and historical concepts of the urban environment, for development of the urban planning and its connection to sustainable development, ecology and landscape.

**Dr. Olympia Nikolaeva Roeva, Associate Professor** in the Institute of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, for 14 papers in the field of application of artificial intelligence methods for mathematical modeling, management and optimization of processes. In these works for the first times are developed various metaheuristic techniques and hybrid algorithms between metaheuristic and classical optimization techniques. New results in hybrid techniques are obtained, which are applied for the first time in tasks of modeling and management of fermentation processes.

### ***Medical and Biological Sciences***

**Dr. Petya Asenova Dimitrova, Associate Professor** in the Institute of Microbiology, for a book chapter and 7 papers, dedicated to the development of adequate experimental models of arthritis and osteoarthritis and the introduction of internationally recognized criteria for diagnosis of disabilities caused by them. It is determined for the first time a correlation between presence of neutrophils in the synovial fluid in collagenase-induced osteoarthritis and the extent of damage to the bone.

### ***Humanities***

**A collective of the Institute of Bulgarian Language at the Bulgari-**

**an Academy of Sciences** (Dr. Lilia Krumova-Tsvetkova, DSc, Professor; Dr. Diana Blagoeva, Associate Professor; Dr. Sia Kolkovska, Associate Professor; corresponding member Emilya Pernishka; Dr. Maya Bozhilova; Dr. Stefana Kaldieva, DSc, Professor; Dr. Ivan Kasabov, DSc, Professor) for the monograph entitled "Bulgarian Lexicology and Phraseology" in three volumes. This work is considered as first comprehensive and multifaceted study on the issue.

### **II. Honorary diploma for excellence in science**

**Dr. Petar Stoyanov Apostolov, DSc, Associate Professor** in the College of Telecommunications and Post, for the monograph "Mathematical approximations with compressed cosines and their application". Through computer experiments the author asserts his claims for new approaches in this area. The proposed new approximation algorithms are applicable in a wide range of areas.

**Dr. Moni Almaleh, DSc, Professor** in the New Bulgarian University for his five published monographs. Most of them are devoted to different aspects of the biblical narratives. Hebrew notions about realities in the Old Testament are decoded, including the names of some biblical personalities. Proposed are a number of original and persuasive analysis and interpretations. They have not only linguistic character, but also unmistakable hermeneutical value.

### **III. Honorary diploma for scientific applied contribution**

**Dr. Boris Ivanov Evstatiev, Associate Professor** in the "Angel

Kunchev" University of Ruse for five studies, 15 articles and a monograph entitled "Application of modeling and simulation of physical processes in dimensioning and exploiting of buildings with green roofs". In these papers is developed an new model for determining the average daily temperature conductivity of the soil, a new method for determining the total solar radiation. Modeled are heat and mass exchange processes in buildings with green and tile roofs.

**Dr. Katia Grozeva Issa, Associate Professor** in the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy for the monograph "Language and building construction". The author offers a theoretical and methodological model of teaching construction and architectural terminology. The study make a contribution to application and practical knowledge of the Bulgarian language used for special and professional goals.

**Academician Todor G. Nikolov** for the book "Fundamentals of paleontology and historical geology". Con-

ceived as university textbook, this work takes a much broader character and represents new knowledge in an accessible form and manner, which stirs thoughts about the studied processes and phenomena related to the history of the planet Earth and the evolution of the organic world.

#### **IV. Honorary diploma for excellence in PhD dissertations**

**Ilvie Abipova Konedareva** from the "St. Clement of Ohrid" Sofia University for the dissertation entitled "The Bulgarian novels after 1989: changes in the poetics". The work is considered as one of the firsts successful attempts to highlight the literary field in the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. Represented are the various languages of criticism and literature. It is clearly shown how through replacement of the traditional type of storytelling through different artistic style, who rejects all resistant norms, it is not allowed the building of permanent constructs, but the new novels create different and divergent poetics.

## ARTICLES

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF BULGARIAN SCIENTISTS

**Title:** **Assessment of shelf life of Bulgarian industrial FAME by the use of modified ASTM D2274 as accelerated oxidation method**

**Authors:** Rosen K. Dinkov<sup>1</sup>, Dicho S. Stratiev<sup>1</sup>, Ivelina K. Shishkova<sup>1</sup>, Slavi K. Ivanov<sup>2</sup>, Tanya T. Tsaneva<sup>2</sup>, M. Mitkova<sup>2</sup>, M. Skumov<sup>2</sup>

**Source:** Fuel Processing Technology, Volume 130, February 2015, Pages 245-251.

**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>LUKOIL Neftohim Burgas JSC, Bulgaria  
<sup>2</sup>University Assen Zlatarov, Burgas, Bulgaria

**ISSN:** 0378-3820

**Title:** **Treatment Outcome Results from the Bulgarian Acromegaly Database: Adjuvant Dopamine Agonist Therapy is Efficient in Less than One Fifth of Non-irradiated Patients**

**Authors:** Vandeva, S.<sup>1</sup>, Elenkova, A.<sup>1</sup>, Natchev, E.<sup>1</sup>, Kirilov, G.<sup>1</sup>, Tcharaktchiev, D.<sup>1</sup>, Yaneva, M.<sup>1</sup>, Kalinov, K.<sup>2</sup>, Marinov, M.<sup>3</sup>, Hristozov, K.<sup>4</sup>, Kamenov, Z.<sup>5</sup>, Orbetzova, M.<sup>6</sup>, Gerenova, J.<sup>7</sup>, Tsinlikov, I.<sup>8</sup>, Zacharieva, S.<sup>1</sup>

**Source:** Experimental & Clinical Endocrinology & Diabetes. 2015, Vol. 123 Issue 1, 66-71, 6 p.

**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>Clinical Center of Endocrinology and Gerontology, Medical University - Sofia  
<sup>2</sup>New Bulgarian University, Sofia  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski", Medical University – Sofia  
<sup>4</sup>Clinic of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, University Hospital  
<sup>5</sup>University Hospital "Aleksandrovska" - Clinic of Endocrinology, Medical University – Sofia  
<sup>6</sup>Clinic of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, University Hospital "St. George, Medical University – Plovdiv  
<sup>7</sup>Department of Endocrinology, University Hospital "Stara Zagora, Tracian University – Stara Zagora, Medical Faculty  
<sup>8</sup>UMHAT "Dr. G. Stranski" Clinic of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Medical University – Pleven – Pleven

**ISSN:** 0947-7349

**Title:** **Use of dc Ar microdischarge with nonlocal plasma for identification of metal samples**

**Authors:** Kudryavtsev, A. A.<sup>1</sup>, Stefanova, M. S.<sup>2</sup>, Pramatarov, P. M.<sup>2</sup>

**Source:** Journal of Applied Physics. 2015, Vol. 117 Issue 13, p133303-1-133303-8. 8p. 2 Diagrams, 6 Graphs.

**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>St. Petersburg State University, 7-9 Universitetskaya nab., 199034 St.

Petersburg, Russia

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Solid State Physics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 72  
Tzarigradsko Chaussee Blvd., 1784 Sofia, Bulgaria

ISSN: 0021-8979

**Title:** Willy-nilly thin liquid films prevail over foams

**Authors:** Dimo Platikanov<sup>1</sup>, Dotchi Exerowa<sup>2</sup>

**Source:** Current Opinion in Colloid & Interface Science, Volume 20, Issue 2, April 2015, Pages 79-80

**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>University of Sofia, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

ISSN: 1359-0294

**Title:** TCTAP A-014 Complete Versus Target-Vessel Revascularization in NSTEMI Patients

**Authors:** Nikolay Dimitrov<sup>1</sup>, Kiril Karamfilov<sup>1</sup>, Iana Ivaylova Simova<sup>2</sup>, Rumen Iliev<sup>1</sup>

**Source:** Current Opinion in Colloid & Interface Science, Volume 20, Issue 2, April 2015, Pages 79-80

**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>University Hospital St. Ekaterina, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>National Cardiology Hospital, Bulgaria

ISSN: 0735-1097

**Title:** Capacity assessment of concrete containment vessels subjected to aircraft impact

**Authors:** Anton Andonov, Marin Kostov, Alexander Iliev

**Source:** Nuclear Engineering and Design, In Press, Corrected Proof, Available online 21 May 2015

**Author Affiliations:** Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

ISSN: 0029-5493

**Title:** The microstructural secrets of contact lens related conjunctival hyperemia

**Authors:** Christina Grupcheva, Teodora Marinova, Dimitar Grupchev, Ruslan Toshev

**Source:** Contact Lens and Anterior Eye, Volume 38, Supplement 1, February 2015, Page e8.

**Author Affiliations:**

ISSN: 1367-0484

**Title:** Comfort, contact lenses and the blinking paradigm

**Authors:** Christina Grupcheva, Dimitar Grupchev, Yana Manolova, Ruslan Toshev

**Source:** Contact Lens and Anterior Eye, Volume 38, Supplement 1, February 2015, Pages e5-e6

**Author Affiliations:**

ISSN: 1367-0484

**Title:** 235 Serum zinc in pediatric patients with cystic fibrosis  
**Authors:** V. Nedkova<sup>1</sup>, N. Kolarova<sup>1</sup>, R. Koleva<sup>1</sup>, N. Yanev<sup>1</sup>, M. Angelova<sup>1</sup>  
**Source:** Journal of Cystic Fibrosis, Volume 14, Supplement 1, June 2015, Page S118  
**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>Medical University Pleven, Pleven, Bulgaria  
**ISSN:** 1569-1993

**Title:** Eye lens exposure to medical staff during endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography  
**Authors:** A. Zagorska<sup>1, 2</sup>, K. Romanova<sup>3</sup>, J. Hristova-Popova<sup>1</sup>, J. Vassileva<sup>1</sup>, K. Katzarov<sup>3</sup>  
**Source:** Physica Medica, In Press, Corrected Proof, Available online 1 May 2015  
**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>National Centre of Radiobiology and Radiation Protection, Sofia, Bulgaria  
<sup>2</sup>Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria  
<sup>3</sup>Military Medical Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria  
**ISSN:** 1120-1797

**Title:** Diabetes mellitus type 3c screening by patients with chronic pancreatitis  
**Authors:** Mila Kovacheva-Slavova<sup>1</sup>, Sylvie Mitova-Siminkovitch<sup>1</sup>, Borislav Vladimirov<sup>1</sup>, Jordan Genov<sup>1</sup>, Plamen Gecov<sup>2</sup>, Rumyana Mitova<sup>1</sup>  
**Source:** Pancreatology, Volume 15, Issue 3, Supplement, June 2015, Page S75  
**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>University Hospital "Tsaritsa Yoanna – ISUL", Bulgaria, Department of Gastroenterology, Bulgaria  
<sup>2</sup>University Hospital "Tsaritsa Yoanna – ISUL", Bulgaria, Department of Medical Imaging, Bulgaria  
**ISSN:** 1424-3903

**Title:** The significance of CD25<sup>+</sup> CD127<sup>low</sup> regulatory lymphocyte's expression as an independent prognostic marker in patients with acute pancreatitis  
**Authors:** Georgi Minkov<sup>1</sup>, Yovcho Yovchev<sup>1</sup>, Krasimira Halacheva<sup>2</sup>  
**Source:** Pancreatology, Volume 15, Issue 3, Supplement, June 2015, Page S55.  
**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>University Hospital, Department of Surgery, Bulgaria  
<sup>2</sup>Trakia University, Department of Immunology, Bulgaria  
**ISSN:** 1424-3903

**Title:** Atherogenic indices, elastin turnover and the development of microvascular complications- study in diabetic patients with arterial hypertension  
**Authors:** A. Nikolov<sup>1</sup>, I. Tsinlikov<sup>1</sup>, G. Nicoloff<sup>2</sup>, I. Tsinlikova<sup>1</sup>, A. Blazhev<sup>2</sup>  
**Source:** Atherosclerosis, Volume 241, Issue 1, July 2015, Pages e215-e216  
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**Title:** Serum anti-collagen type iv igm antibodies and development of microvascular complications in diabetics with essential hypertension

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**Title:** Two-phonon Raman bands of bilayer graphene: Revisited

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**Source:** Carbon, Volume 91, September 2015, Pages 436-444.

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**ISSN:** 0008-6223

**Title:** Size Ranges Optimization

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**Source:** Procedia Engineering, Volume 100, 2015, Pages 791-800.

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**ISSN:** 1877-7058

**Title:** Tyrosine kinase inhibitor tyrphostin AG490 reduces liver injury in LPS-induced shock

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**Source:** European Journal of Pharmacology, Volume 751, 15 March 2015, Pages 118-126.

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**ISSN:** 0014-2999

**Title:** 107 Sputum flora among teenage cystic fibrosis patients using inhaled TOBI therapy for 5 and more years from Sofia CF center

**Authors:** I. Galeva<sup>1</sup>, S. Mileva<sup>1</sup>, M. Yankova<sup>1</sup>, R. Markova<sup>1</sup>

**Source:** Journal of Cystic Fibrosis, Volume 14, Supplement 1, June 2015, Page S84

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## **EVENTS**

### **THE ANNUAL ISECS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE RIVER AND RIVER SPACES IN THE XVIII CENTURY (THE DANUBE AND OTHER EXAMPLES) CONFERENCE HELD IN SOFIA IN 2014**

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#### **Introduction**

The International Society for Eighteen-Century Studies is an organization that exists for almost half a century already. It was Theodore Besterman, well known for his monumental work on Voltaire, who conceived and organized the international and interdisciplinary gathering of scholars and students of the eighteenth century, and who founded ISECS as a permanent organization in 1967. Since then The International Society is uniting the efforts of scholars from all over the world, and from all fields of humanities, who are working on different aspects of cultural, religious, literary, artistic, scientific, etc. heritage of the Century of Enlightenment. Promoting, encouraging and coordinating such studies, facilitating the dialog and co-operation between scholars and supporting the young scientist are set as main goals of ISECS. One must say The Society is perusing these goals with much success, which is evident by the number of published works, conferences held and annual international seminars for early career eighteenth-century scholars. No less important merit of The Society is the establishing of a permanent interdis-

ciplinary dialog and collaboration between scholars and scientific centers around the world.

The formation of the International Society was soon followed by formation of affiliated national societies as nowadays such exist in 30 countries around the world, including Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS) was founded in 1992 and it is currently headed by Prof. Dr. Angelina Vacheva (Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridsky"). The work of BSECS was already presented on the pages of this journal (see Petkova 2013, pp. 56-57).

#### **The Annual ISECS Executive Committee Meeting, Sofia 2014**

In August 2014 BSECS had the privilege to be a host of the Annual ISECS Executive Committee (EC) Meeting and also the River and River Spaces in the XVIII Century (The Danube and Other Examples) Conference. This is the first time when such events of ISECS are held in Bulgaria. Associate Professor Dr. habil. Ivan Parvev, Associate Professor Dr. Angelina Vacheva and Assistant Professor Dr. Maria Baramova formed the

organizing committee, which was promising enough for the quality of the coming event, given their reputation and experience in organizing international events. Important support of the whole initiative was given by the Center of Excellence in Humanities Alma Mater.

The official program of the event started on the evening of 25 August with a reception by the Municipality of Sofia, on which guests were welcomed by the head of the organizing committee Associate Professor Dr. habil. Ivan Parvev and Sofia's Deputy Mayor for Culture Dr. Todor Chobanov. The EC meeting itself took place on 26 August in the New Conference Hall of the Sofia University. The present 37 delegates, representing national societies affiliated to ISECS, were greeted by the Rector of Sofia University, Prof. Ivan Ilchev, and the President of the Bulgarian Society Angelina Vacheva. ISECS President Marc André Bernier thanked the organizing committee for the warm welcoming and the admirable programme of meetings and events.

The EC meeting had two working sessions, during which the points scheduled in the agenda were discussed. Since this was the last full meeting of the current EC, in his opening remarks ISECS President traced out its main goals until 2015, which included the development of new National Societies, planning the 2015 Congress in Rotterdam, making the 2015 Executive Committee electoral list and the election of the overseeing committee. Following next were the General Secretary's report, outlining main areas of activity over the past year, and the Treasurer's report, stating that ISECS is in healthy financial situation. The proposed budget for 2014-15 was approved unanimously

and £20,000 was provided for the 2015 Congress bursary fund.

In her report the Technical Secretary Lynn Roberts noted the lack of communication from the Chinese Society and unpaid subscriptions for number of years, which would deprive it from right to participate in the 2015 ISECS elections. As Japanese delegate Kenta Ohji noted, The Chinese Society is mostly history orientated and focused on national, rather than European research.

The delegates outlined the progress in developing new national societies in Australia, South America and Eastern Europe. The newly forming Brazilian society was unanimously accepted as a constituent society of ISECS, also presented was the already officially founded Argentinean society with 60 members.

One of the main subjects of this meeting was the coming Congress in Rotterdam in 2015 (such congresses are held once on every four years) and a number of question regarding the organization work were discussed. ISECS president commented that the Congress plans are developing extremely well and expressed gratitude to the members of the organizing committee for their professionalism and devotion. It was also noted that The Bulgarian Society, via Ivan Parvev, would host the 2016 annual seminar for young scholars. Finally the list of candidates for 2015 EC elections was constituted.

After the working sessions the guests had time for sightseeing in Sofia, and the organizers took care to introduce them with the landmarks of city center by providing a special walking tour. This day's program was closed by a reception at the Botanic Garden of Sofia University, at which delegates were greeted by

the Scientific Director of the Center of Excellence in the Humanities Alma Mater Assoc. Prof. Kostadin Grozev.

### **River and River Spaces in the XVIII Century (The Danube and other examples) Conference**

According to an established tradition, the Annual ISECS Executive Committee meeting was accompanied by a multidisciplinary conference, which took place on 27 August 2014. The subject of the conference was "River and River Spaces in the XVIII Century (The Danube and other examples)".

Not merely a geographic realities, but natural highways, cradle of civilizations, sources of life and sacred objects, rivers always had a powerful hold over the mankind. During the ages rivers shaped whole societies, became locations of important historical changes, inspired writers and artists for their works. By choosing this topic for the conference, organizers aimed to give the scholars freedom to cover a widest possible understanding of rivers and river spaces in XVIII century, in political, geo-strategic, economical, social, culture, etc. aspect. The fact that the river topic will be further discussed on this year's ISECS Congress in Rotterdam proves that it presents serious interest for the scholars.

For the Sofia Conference speakers had a chance to choice between two general topics: "Rivers as connections in the 18<sup>th</sup> century"; and "South-Eastern Europe as a Danubian space (environment, culture, history)". Thirteen presentations were made and delivered either in English or French. In relation with the place where the Conference was held, the larger part of them (8 papers) treated the Danubian

topic. Start of the event was given by the opening speech of the president of the Bulgarian Society Angelina Vacheva. Following next were a number of interesting historically orientated papers. Olga Katsiardi-Hening from the University of Athens made a presentation about Danube as a "bridge" between South-Eastern and Central Europe, which was actually combining the two general topics of the Conference – South-Eastern Europe as a Danubian space and Rivers as connectors. Auditory was given a chance to further immerse itself in the different aspects of the Danubian topic by the following papers, presented by Maria Baramova (who actually devoted large part of her scholarly work namely to studying the role of Danube in the history of ottoman conquest of South-Eastern Europe), Harald Heppner (University of Graz) and Ivan Parvev. The last paper offered a look at the Danube River as a marker for the Habsburg geo-strategy in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Judging by the subsequent discussion, speakers managed to provoke the interest of the auditory and to raise many questions.

Young eighteen century scholars were also given a chance to contribute for the conference. The PhD candidate from Sofia University Antoaneta Petkova offered at the attention of the auditory a paper treating the question about Danube in the oriental politics of France in the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. The next presentations of Ileana Mihaila (Romanian Accademy of Sciences), Raya Zaimova (Bulgarian Accademy of Sciences) and Plamen Mitev (Sofia University) further diversified the different ways of perception the Danube River and Danube space in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and were also followed by a lively discussion.

The two afternoon sessions

broadened the geographic scope of the conference and also came to show its true multidisciplinary character. Conrad Brunstrom's (National University of Ireland, Maynooth) fascinating presentation "And seas but join the Regions they Divide: Oceans as Rivers, Rivers as Oceans in the Eighteen-Century Literature" took the discussion from the field of history to that of literature, and judging by the questions, it managed to provoke a lot of thoughts in the audience. The next papers of Brucchan Carey (Kingston University), Marek Debowsky (Jagiellonian University), Jean-LucLaffont (Université de Perpignan-Via Domitia) and Rositsa Tasheva (Sofia University) were devoted to different and distant geographic regions, from Niger River, to Vistula and Garonne, and likewise showed very different approaches in research, ranging over the historical, as well as cultural and economic aspect of the topic about rivers and river spaces. Final discussion and words of gratitude for the hosts put an end of 2014 ISECS EC Meeting and accompanying conference.

The program for this evening continued with a memorable reception in the Austrian Embassy in Sofia, given by His Excellency the Ambassador of Austria Mr. Gerhard Raiveger. In a short speech ISECS President Marc-André Bernie expressed on behalf of the guests true satisfaction from the superb program of events and thanked

Ivan Parvev, Angelina Vacheva and Maria Baramova for their professional and tireless work that made this possible. On the next day in more informal setting ISECS delegates visited the Rila Monastery on a specially provided trip.

## Conclusion

The 2014 ISECS Executive Committee Meeting and the River and River Spaces in the XVIII Century (The Danube and Other Examples) Conference, held in Sofia without a doubt lived up to the expectations and showed high level of organizational quality. The program, very well balanced between working sessions and other events, was embraced by the delegates. Technical and logistical support was also up to standard. All this of course has to be rendered to the professional work of the organizing committee. All in all 2014 events are giving good ground for future ISECS events on Bulgaria, first of which, as already mentioned, will take place in 2016. And maybe in not distant future our country will be able to host an ISECS Congress.

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**SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL  
PARTICIPATION “GEOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL SCIENCE”  
IN HONOR OF PROF. DR. IVAN BATAKLIEV,  
30-31 OCTOBER 2014, PAZARDZHIC**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Scientific conference “Geography and regional science” in honor of Prof. Dr. Ivan Batakliiev took place on 30-31 October 2014, in Pazardzhik (Bulgaria). Organized by the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography (NIGGG), Pazardzhik Municipality and the Bulgarian Geographical Society (BGS)<sup>1</sup>, the conference was held to celebrate the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and was structured in two parts – plenary sessions and students’ workshop.

The conference was open to local participants whose contribution to the event was especially valuable. Honored guests were the son of Prof. Batakliiev – Todor Batakliiev, delegates from Pazardzhik municipality, Prof. Peter Petrov, chairman of BGS, Mrs. Evgenia Karadzova, CEO (ESRI Bulgaria) and Prof. Svetloslav Simeonov, director of the NIGGG. There were also participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina. On both of the conference days the involvement of companies engaged in the geo-informational analysis and spatial planning activities

was also well acknowledged and appreciated. Over 100 people gathered for the event, led not only by their scientific and practical interest, but also by their esteem and admiration to the great patriot and scientist Prof. Ivan Batakliiev.

**PROF. IVAN BATAKLIEV –  
ORIGINATOR OF THE  
GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCE**

Born on January 24, 1891 in Pazardzhik, Professor Ivan Batakliiev is a notable Bulgarian geographer, actively engaged in the academic and social life in Bulgaria in XX century. Prof. Batakliiev’s significant achievements and manifold scientific contribution in the domain of geography and history are supplemented by his high erudition and profound knowledge in ethnology, regional studies, agriculture, hydro engineering and land reclamation. Pivotal to Prof. Batakliiev research works are the problems of the political geography, defining him as the founder of the political geography studies in Bulgaria. Not less important is his substantial input to the regionalization of Bulgaria referring to the landscape ecology and climatology. The adminis-

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<sup>1</sup> Bulgarian Geographical Society: <https://sites.google.com/site/geographybgd/>

trative occupation and active civic position rank Prof. Batakliiev among the Pleiades of founders of modern geography and science in Bulgaria.

## OPENING

The meeting was opened by the Research secretary of the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – Assoc. Prof. Georgi Zhelezov, who was extremely delighted to welcome scientists, practitioners, and local authorities sharing the common geographical spirit of the event. There were also welcome words by the mayor of Pazardzhik Mr. Todor Popov, Prof. Peter Petrov and Mrs. Evgenia Karadzova who expressed her most positive opinion and great honor to be part of the conference. The Scientific conference “Geography and regional science” was also broadly covered by the local digital and print media. Special limited facsimile edition “Prof. Ivan Batakliiev – Selected works” was promoted and disseminated throughout the event.

During the conference, three main objectives were highlighted:

1. To raise the awareness and draw special attention to the scientific contribution and socially engaged work of Prof. Ivan Batakliiev
2. To present researches and perspectives on the geographic investigation and regional science
3. To conduct students’ workshop delivering undergraduate and postgraduate students the opportunity to present their research work and co-operation, paving the way through the geographical science.

## BACKGROUND

The conference was arranged in thematic areas according to the fields of interest and more than 70 oral presentations have been delivered. The program included a total of eight sessions organized as follows:

### Day 1 – October 30, 2014

1. Plenary session – dedicated to the contributions of Prof. Batakliiev
2. Session “Physical geography and landscape ecology”, structured in three sub-sessions
3. Session “Regional, economy and political geography”, structured in three sub-sessions
4. Session “Tourism”
5. Session “Cartography and GIS”
6. Session “Geophysics, seismology and geodesy”

### Day 2 – October 31, 2014

7. Session “Local studies”
8. Session “Problems of the mountain regions” – session for PhD students and young scientists, supported by the project “Present transformations of landscape diversity in mountain regions in Bulgaria – potential, land use, nature protection and conservation”.

The topic of the conference rose serious interest and the number of papers and oral presentations was exceeding the capacity of the plenary sessions. To the participants of the conference was also suggested the possibility give poster presentations at the conference venue. The proceeding of the papers collects most of the presented researches. A special issue of the journal “Problems of Geo-

graphy”<sup>2</sup> dedicated to the event, will present the most intriguing and key topic papers.

The major number of attendees was from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, but there was also a significant number of participants from universities from all over the country – University of Architecture, Civil engineering and Geodesy (Sofia), “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of Veliko Turnovo, Shumen University “Konstantin Preslavski” and South-West University “Neofit Rilski” (Blagoevgrad). It was also a great pleasure to welcome geographers from University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The diversity of the talks was enriched by the kind participation of scholars from local Language school “Bertolt Brecht”, Mathematical high school “Konstantin Velichkov” and the Primary school “Prof. Ivan Batakliiev”. Their presentation started with the anthem of the school and later showed in a very interactive way the work of their patron. During the “Local studies” session on Day 2 special attention was delivered to the local history and memory of the geo-historical and social settings in the region of Pazardzhik throughout the years.

Before the official adjournment of the conference, a special open discussion with presentation of the book “Prof. Ivan Batakliiev – Selected works” initiated by the Bulgarian Geographical Society was held. As being recently reestablished, there were crucial issues that needed to be tackled. Moreover, it was extremely important

to receive feedback from the geographic community, to depict the frame and deliberate the perspectives concerning the directions of the society, and also – the activities in the foreseeable future.

Partnership agreement between National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography and Pazardzhik Municipality is signed.

Special ceremony with participation of the scholars from Pazardzhik on the house and monument of prof. Batakliiev has been organized as part of the activities of the conference.

### Acknowledgement

The organization of the conference is supported by Pazardzhik municipality, ESRI Bulgaria, Ltd., RegioPlan, Ltd., and Center of Excellence in the Humanities “Alma Mater” (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”).

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