

Expert opinion

submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. K. Nikov,
member of an Academic committee

Regarding: call for occupation of an Academic position Associated Professor in the field 2.2 History and Archaeology (Archaeology – Architectural archaeology) announced by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of History, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” for the needs of the Department of Archaeology in State Gazette No. 103/ 10.12.2021

There is only one candidate for the announced Academic position – Daniela Stefanova Stoyanova. She holds an MA in Archaeology (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” 1997) and a PhD in Archaeology (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” 2003). Since 2006 Daniela Stoyanova is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of History of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.”

Dr Daniela Stoyanova meets the eligibility criteria by submitting a complete set of necessary documentation, which meets the state requirements in accordance with the ADASRB and article 102, paragraph 2 of the Regulations clarifying the conditions and order of obtaining scholarly degrees and occupying academic positions in Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.”

The applicant participates in the announced call with a monograph (habilitation), a chapter in a team-authored monograph, 9 extended publications (studia) and 10 articles. A list of lectures and tutorials delivered by the candidate as a part of a BA (Architectural archaeology in 4 parts; Wall painting and architectural decoration in the Eastern Mediterranean and Theace) and a MA (Conservation and restoration of archaeological architectural monuments; Theoretical Master’s Seminar, parts 1 and 3) programme of the Department of Archaeology at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” with an impressive number of classes (cf. Reference for Curriculum Academic hours), complements the academic activities. In addition, there is a list of National and International projects with the participation of directed by Daniela Stoyanova (10), as well as the names of MA students who graduated successfully under her supervision (4).

Dr Daniela Stoyanova is a renowned expert in the field of the architectural archaeology of the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic Antiquity. Given that, the subject of her habilitation (Architectural ceramics and terracotta from Apollonia Pontica (6th c. BC – 3rd c. BC). Sofia University Press. 2022) is not surprising. By contrast, it is long waited and even a little belated, I would say, considering the significance of the problems it poses and the long-lasting research of the candidate in that field. The monograph is the first of its kind summarising study of this type of monuments. The structure of the book betrays maturity and rational approach, which suits optimally the nature of the published artefacts (architectural ceramics, architectural terracotta, temple architecture and decoration). Although the study discusses the results from a particular site and its hinterland, the author draws comparanda from a vast area, including the Pontic coast, the Eastern Mediterranean, Thrace and Macedonia. It reveals impressive knowledge and provides a tool for setting the discussed artefacts from Apollonia Pontica into the cultural and historical context of their time. The application of this approach is well noticeable in Ch. 3 (Architectural ceramics from the Late Classical / Hellenistic periods), which not only discusses in detail various kinds of architectural ceramics, but also introduces, for a first time, available evidence for stamped roof and floor tiles of different types and proves with reliable arguments their manufacture in the colony. Likewise, the same approach in Ch. 4 (Temple architecture and architectural decoration) allows Daniela Stoyanova to identify, even with minimal surviving architectural details, various types of cult places (temples, altars, sanctuaries) and to outline a spatial and temporal depiction of the phases of development of the monumental architecture within the Apollo temenos on Skamnii peninsula. This part of the study also provides an explanation of the mass use of architectural ceramics in the colony. The in-depth study of various types of pan and cover tiles in Ch. 5 (Archaic architectural ceramics) in the light of their finding contexts allows the author to draw important conclusions for the use of different roofs during the identified phases of the Archaic and Early Classical periods. The main accent of the study is, undoubtedly, Ch. 6 (Architectural terracotta). It reveals, again, the skills of the author to analyse particular artefacts in the context of the “data sea” from the eastern Mediterranean. Not only all identified types of architectural terracotta from the Archaic, Late Classical and Hellenistic periods were discussed (the analysis and interpretation of the Late Archaic Warrior plates and the Lion-head simae stand out), but Daniela Stoyanova provides, too, a complete reconstruction of several types of roofs dated to the Archaic and

Early Classical period. In addition, she outlines the main features of the Late Classical and Hellenistic roofs and clarifies the arguments elucidating the manufacture of architectural terracotta in the colony. The book is richly illustrated with graphic depictions and photographs of the discussed artefacts.

It is a pioneering study in the Bulgarian archaeological research. Undoubtedly, it will become a point of reference for everyone who has already met or will face the challenge of the architectural archaeology.

The architectural ceramics and architectural terracotta focus the discussion in a number of studies (No 5, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20), thus reflecting Daniela Stoyanova's long-lasting scholarly interest in the subject. These artefacts were analysed as a primary source for solving varying scholarly problems, such as reconstructions of the roofing of tomb constructions (No 11, 12); outlining the specifics of the import of architectural ceramics from various centres along the West Pontic coast (13, 18) and the interior (No 20); as well as identifying the function of the buildings these were used in (No 19). The author persuasively uses the architectural ceramics and architectural terracotta as a main argument for dating the construction of the discussed structures.

Another study area, within the candidate's research activities, is devoted to the problems of the tomb architecture. These, undoubtedly, contributing studies encompass a broad spectrum of subjects from the publication of particular architectural elements (No 2, 4, 8, 9) or monuments (No 6, 11, 14, 17) to summarising discussions of the structural features of the roofing systems and their combinations, building materials and the spatial distribution of various types of tumular constructions (No 3, 10, 15, 21). The thorough analysis, which these studies employ, allows Daniela Stoyanova to clarify the chronological framework of the existence of the tombs, to outline the features of the various types of tombs and to search for their origin outside of Thrace. Her skill to set a single architectural detail or monument in the rich and varying scholarly knowledge on the architecture of the Eastern Mediterranean is also clearly attested in this circle of her research.

Her study of the use of mud-bricks in Thrace (No 7), as well as the publication and analysis of one of the most representative monumental buildings from the Classical period in Thrace (No 16 – Kozi Gramadi) should be included in the list of important contributions.

The relevance of the subjects, which focus the research of the candidate, is supported by the list of noticed citations, some of which come from works published in

academic editions, referred and indexed in renowned international databases. Daniela Stoyanova participated in numerous prestigious international (15) and national (11) academic forums and events. She acted as a co-organiser for two of these.

The participation of Dr Daniela Stoyanova in the call for occupation of the Academic position Associated Professor finds a well-founded support in her scholarly contributions, which reveal her as an acknowledged researcher of the Antiquity. In addition, she delivers a significant amount of University lectures and tutorials, participates in various research projects and in the time- and effort-consuming fieldwork.

I will support the award of the Academic title Associated professor to Ass. Prof. Dr Daniela Stoyanova in view of the quality of her scholarly contributions and the monograph submitted as a habilitation, as well as because of the high esteem I hold for her personal qualities.

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Sofia

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