

OPINION

FROM: Prof. Dr. Sergey Borisov Torbatov

SUBJECT: competition for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (Archaeology – Architectural Archaeology), for the needs of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The announcement for the competition was published in SG, issue 103 of 10.12.2021. After the expiration of the set term, with Order № RD - 38 - 104 of 09.02.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" is determined the Scientific Jury. The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Daniela Stefanova Stoyanova, who since 2006 has held the academic position of "Assistant Professor" and is a lecturer in "Architectural Archaeology" at the Department of "Archaeology" at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

From her impressive scientific output after the acquisition in 2002 of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (including 94 independent and co-authored publications!), for reasons that I could only define as unnecessary modesty, the candidate has chosen to participate in the competition with 21 titles - 1 monograph (which is also a habilitation thesis), 1 chapter of a collective monograph, 8 studies and 11 articles.

The issues under consideration in the scientific production presented for evaluation are very closely intertwined and can only be conditionally referred to separate thematic circles.

Most numerous are the publications directly related to the tomb architecture in the lands of Ancient Thrace in the second half of the first millennium BC (9 in total). Four of them (№ 3, 10, 15, 21) are of a highly synthetic nature and are staged studies without historiographical parallels. They not only summarize the currently available data on the issues under discussion, but offer a number of new, well-argued interpretive ideas about the impact of the roof structure on the plan of the tombs, registered architectural features, possible external influences for their appearance and for the rethinking and practical transformation of fashion trends in an autochthonous environment, in view of the local worldview and traditions. Of particular interest is the attempt to use data on representative tombs to identify and locate regional political centres (№ 10). The other five publications in this group are dedicated to specific monuments. In three of them (№ 6, 11 and 17) are presented in the most comprehensive form the results of studies of newly discovered tombs, one of which (that near

Gagovo) reveals hitherto unknown in the ancient world elements of tomb architecture, expressed in the combination of two domed cameras. The other two works (№ 8 and 14) concern known monuments, but the author offers a new chronology, analysis and interpretation of the applied construction methods.

Directly related to the problems of tomb architecture is the second conditional thematic circle, including publications on various elements of architectural decoration (№ 2, 4 and 9). The first two of them are a kind of summary of the available data on the stone frames and door leaves of tombs in Thrace, in which the monuments are divided into separate groups and it is established that their emergence and development here should be attributed to cultural influences from Asia Minor, not Macedonia, as previously thought. Although focused on the façade decoration of the royal tomb in Ginina mound, the study of the bukrans is also emphatically generalizing, tracing the emergence and spread of this specific decorative motif in monumental Thracian architecture.

The third thematic circle consists of publications (8 in number) dedicated to building ceramics and architectural terracotta from the Archaic to the late Hellenistic era. In a series of articles and studies, the whole complexes of finds of this kind from Odessos, the Getic capital Hellis, mound № 9 on Cape Kolokita near Apollonia and the site Gradishte near Kran (№ 5, 18-20) are examined in detail. In many cases, this is little known, and sometimes virtually unknown information, partially rediscovered by the author between the lines of older publications and in various museum repositories. In two other works (№ 13 and 18), the first of which is again of an overview-summary character, important issues of the nature and chronology of the import of tiles from Sinope and Heraclea Pontica in the Western Pontic colonies are commented on in the light of modern scientific research. I would also like to note the in-depth theoretical and analytical development of the use of mud brick in pre-Roman Thrace (№ 7), which has a high applied value in field archaeological practice.

To the same thematic circle belongs the monograph of the candidate presented as a habilitation work, dedicated to the building ceramics and the architectural terracotta from Apollonia Pontica and its urban territory (№ 1). This is the first comprehensive monographic regional study on such issues in Bulgarian historiography. It includes many thousands of finds from the area, acquired for more than a century during rescue and regular archaeological excavations, as well as accidental circumstances, and are currently stored in various museum collections at home and abroad. I will especially emphasize the fact that the vast majority of this material, in the most literal sense of the phrase, has "passed through the hands" of the author, being subjected to careful primary processing and proper graphic and photographic

documentation according to established and strictly followed algorithm focused on comparability of the available empirical database. Of great importance for the reliability and scientific value of the conclusions and summaries is the fact that Dr. Stoyanova directly participated in many field studies in Apollonia and the information about the archaeological context of many of the analyzed findings come from "first hand ". Without going into too much detail, I will summarize in a few points the main, in my opinion, merits of the habilitation work: the author has clearly shown (and proved!) how building ceramics and architectural terracotta can and should be used as reliable indicators for determining specific construction phases; building ceramics and architectural terracotta are a sure argument for the existence of buildings whose physical remains have not been found; the type and combination of elements of architectural terracotta with specific decoration allow the identification of religious buildings and public buildings with representative functions. I am deeply convinced that the commented monographic work for a long time will be a basic reference guide and a valuable methodological guide for all current and future researchers who purposefully deal with or "encounter" with materials of this category. In view of this, I would like to make two recommendations, which do not concern the text, but the external layout of the book: 1) the annotations to the images should be placed under them, and not in an appendix after the main text; 2) to seek maximum synchronization of the text with the relevant images.

The monumental civil and cult architecture in Ancient Thrace can be singled out as the fourth thematic round in the scientific production of the candidate. These include the complete publication of the representative building in Kozi Gramadi, interpreted as a treasury (№ 16), and the extensive and deeply analytical section on temple architecture in Apollonia Pontica in the habilitation work (№ 1).

Dr. Daniela Stoyanova is a very recognizable, established and respected scientist among the Bulgarian and International Archaeological College, with clearly defined, long established and implemented with enviable consistency research priorities. Characteristic of her scientific work is the contribution nature of practically all her publications, which are characterized by a deep analytical spirit and research precision, testifying to high professionalism, erudition and excellent knowledge of the world scientific literature. Dr. Stoyanova's national and international reputation is convincingly evidenced by her participation in 9 research projects, 3 of which are international. She is also the leader of four of the national projects. Proof of this are the 26 registered participations with reports in international, national and regional scientific forums, as well as her membership since 2015 in the Management Board of the Association of Bulgarian Archaeologists.

More than 15 years Assistant Professor Dr. Daniela Stoyanova is a full-time lecturer at the Department of Archaeology at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ", where he leads 7 academic courses in the field of architectural archaeology, wall painting, architectural decoration, conservation and restoration of archaeological architectural monuments, as well as a theoretical master's seminar. In addition, she is the head of a summer field practice in Thracian archaeology, and under her expert scientific guidance, 4 students have graduated so far.

According to the attached references and documents, it is evident that the candidate fully meets the state requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Having in mind the above, I strongly express a positive opinion and recommend to the esteemed Faculty Council to elect Assistant Professor Dr. Daniela Stefanova Stoyanova for ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (Archaeology - Architectural Archaeology), for the needs of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "

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(Prof. Dr. Sergei Torbatov)