

## OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Yuri Todorov Todorov, Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department of Archival Studies and Methodology of History Education, member of the scientific jury appointed by order of the Rector

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regarding the dissertation on the topic:

Formation and preservation of the documentary resource of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

for awarding the ONS "doctor", professional field

2.2. History and archaeology - Documental studies, archival studies, paleography (Archival studies)

by Ilonka Stoyanova Petrova, doctoral student in independent training at the Department of Archival Studies and Methodology of History Education of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",

scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Anna Kostadinova Kochankova

Ilonka Petrova's dissertation studies the contemporary specificity of university archives. The topic of university archives is relevant and is pursued in a number of scientific studies in our country and around the world. The author analyzes data on a number of university archives in Europe, following the activities of the Section for University Archives of the International Council on Archives and the Section for College and University Archives of the Society of American Archivists.

Attention is paid to the conditions for working with documents from the time of the absence of specialized archival legislation in our country in the period until the creation of the State Archival Fund and then - to the practices for forming and preserving the archival fund of Sofia University in the period after the archival reform in Bulgaria in the early 1950s and the creation of a centralized archival system. The intention is to present the organization of paperwork, work with documents, including the storage of documents in a considerable chronological framework from 1888. until 1951, after 1951 until the establishment of an archive at Sofia University in 1998, as well as the time of the archive's existence from 1998 to the present.

The topic of the dissertation is actual and useful, as it focuses on the unexplored history of the formation of documentary resources of Sofia University, its institutional memory. Due to the high degree of unification of documentary arrays in Bulgarian universities, it is interesting to establish similarities in their management and administrative organization, a topical issue that the author aims to develop.

The presented dissertation has a balanced structure and sufficiently voluminous parts: introduction, four chapters, conclusion, appendices and bibliography. There is no list of abbreviations used, which would be useful due to their abundance. The dissertation fully uses the archival funds of Sofia University in the state archive, as well as the documents stored in the university archive, including official documents and methodological tools for the organization of work in the archive. The first chapter "University archives - models and

practices" presents data on the archives of significant university centers in Europe and the USA. The candidate also presents the activities of the Section for Archives of Universities and Research Institutes of the International Council on Archives. Valuable in this presentation are the examples given for standardization of work in university archives, developed by the Section for Archives of Colleges and Universities of the Society of American Archivists. Petrova proves that university archives are useful for the administration, but they also represent a field for work of scientists and students, performing simultaneously the functions of an administrative, historical and scientific archive. The second chapter presents sequentially the regulations and activities of Sofia University for the storage, use and destruction of documents until the creation of a centralized archival network in the country. The third chapter "SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski' - a source for filling in the DAF" covers the time from the beginning of the 50s of the 20th century until the creation of the Sofia University Archive in 1998. The modern activities and functions of the University Archive since its creation in 1998 up to the present moment are presented in the fourth chapter of the scientific work. The author proves that in this phase of the development of the archive, new methods are being developed in the organization of archival work. The approaches to the organization and formation of a historical archive of Sofia University are presented. A Concept for development is also presented with an emphasis on the prospects of the work of the university archive. Undoubtedly, the documentation of the history and the presence of Sofia University in the modern educational, scientific and cultural space originate as a result of this activity, where the candidate has an active contribution.

In conclusion, the dissertation of I. Petrova highlights and proves in an original work the place of university archives in Bulgaria as an organ for popularizing the activities of universities before the society, as a scientific and educational center on a large scale. Normative and methodological tools prepared in the university archive of Sofia University and tailored to the activities of universities in their structural integrity are presented, which may be useful for the work of other archives of higher education institutions in the country.

The assessment of the dissertation candidate according to the minimum national requirements and mandatory criteria of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" can be made with the attached reference in accordance with Art. 2b of the Law on the Archives of the Republic of Bulgaria for the scientific field 2.2. History and archaeology. The indicators from group A and group B have been fulfilled with the required number of articles and participation in scientific conferences.

What has been written so far leads to my convinced conclusion that the dissertation work of Ilonka Petrova represents a significant scientific study with emphasized contributing moments. Therefore, I give my opinion in favor of the election of Ilonka Stoyanova Petrova in the educational and scientific degree "doctor" for professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology.

02/28/2025

Yuri Todorov