

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurie Mehmedova Muratova, member of the scientific jury in the competition for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Field of Higher Education: 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.2 History and Archaeology - Doctoral Programme "Documentary Studies, Archival Studies, Palaeography (Archival Studies)"

Subject. "Formation and preservation of the documentary records of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski".

Author: Ilonka Stoyanova Petrova, independent PhD student at the Department of AMOI, Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Research Supervisor.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Anna Kochankova

The dissertation "Formation and Preservation of the Documentary Resource of St. Kliment Ohridski", submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Ilonka Stoyanova Petrova, is 330 pages long and consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, appendices and a list of sources and bibliography.

The topic of the dissertation represents an "unexplored field" in Bulgarian archival studies in relation to university archives and is devoted to a topical and undeveloped topic of the documentary and archival collection of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the functioning of the founding/historical archives of the University. The author has set herself the task of covering and tracing the history of the creation and preservation of the documents that accompany and reflect the activities of the oldest university in Bulgaria from the end of the 19th century to the present day. Doctoral student Ilonka Petrova is also among the "pioneers" in the construction of the University Archives of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".

The introduction justifies the topic, its topicality, defines the aims, objectives and subject of the dissertation, its structure, as well as the sources.

The first chapter is introductory and presents foreign models and practices of university archives in a historical perspective. It provides a history of the earliest European universities in the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. Special attention is given to university archives in the countries of Eastern Europe - the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania. Examples are given based on the activities of the International Council on Archives and its Special Section on University Archives, as well as the Section on College and University Archives of the Society of American Archivists.

The second chapter presents the records management of the university, the first normative steps in regulating the movement of documents and their preservation in the university institution. The university is shown as an institution in which the work of the archivist is visible and can be traced historically from the first decades of the university.

The third chapter "St. Kliment Ohridski" - a source for replenishment of the SAF" is dedicated to Sofia University as a fund-former of the Sofia City and District State Archive (State Archive-Sofia) and to the archival documents accepted in it. There are also two examples of the efforts of both the University and the State Archives to establish an institutional archive. The time span here is from the early 1950s to the establishment of the Sofia University Archives in 1998.

The last, fourth chapter is entirely devoted to the university archive. It can be assumed that it is the main and the most voluminous - more than 100 pages. It consistently discusses: 1) the lack of a modern legal framework/regulation for university archives; 2) the establishment of a university archive by virtue of a decision of the Rectors' Council in 1998, 3) the establishment of the archives (including the filing system/electronic filing system with proposals for the optimization of document flow; the processes of collection and storage of administrative documents; the requirements for the nomenclature of files with the time limits for the storage of documents; the expertise of the value of documents and the selection of documents for destruction; the digitization of documents from the institutional/university archive; the collection of the University's documents in the State Archive-Sofia; 4) the historical archive (including the collection of documents for the historical archive; the collection of personal funds; activities to ensure access to the archive;) 5) the concept for the development of the university archive (including the status of the university archive; resources - financial and personnel; activities to ensure access to the documents and their promotion; the use of the documents for the purposes of training; the replenishment of the archive).

In its entirety, the dissertation has achieved its objectives. The text is the result of the author's professional practical experience and her good knowledge of the bibliographic sources that are related to the researched issues. The doctoral candidate has also done her own research on oral history and finding documents that complete in the historical archives of the university. Additionally, the research and knowledge of the archival sources on the topic, stored at the Sofia University and the State Archive of Sofia, contribute to the factual density of the text. Probably the work would benefit if, in the absence of documents and sources from the two institutions mentioned above, opportunities were sought to supplement the picture with data and documents from the respective state archives management body (CDA f.540) or from the archival funds of

ministries (CDA f.177K Ministry of National Education; CDA f.142 Ministry of National Education), etc.

The abstract correctly reflects the structure, main conclusions and contributions of the dissertation.

Conclusion

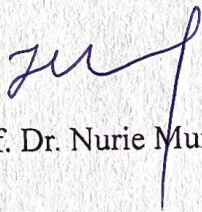
The dissertation possesses all the qualities of a serious and thorough scientific research and meets the minimum requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDA and the relevant regulations of St. Kliment Ohridski". Ilonka Petrova's dissertation has original scientific and applied contributions and no plagiarism is observed.

For the current competition, Ilonka Petrova has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree "PhD" and has an impressive number of published articles.

All of the above gives me a reason to express my positive assessment of the scientific research conducted in the dissertation "Formation and Preservation of the Documentary Resource of St. Kliment Ohridski".

I recommend the Honorable Scientific Jury to take a decision on awarding Ilonka Stoyanova Petrova, PhD student of the independent form of study at the Department of AMOI, Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", to the degree of Doctor of Education in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.2 History and Archaeology - Doctoral Programme "Documentary Studies, Archival Studies, Palaeography (Archival Studies)".

03.03.2025


Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurie Muratova