

STANDPOINT

from Radoslav Dimitrov Radev, Prof. Dr. at University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of **'professor'**

of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

in the field of higher education 2. Humanities

professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian literature - Bulgarian literature after the First World War)

In the competition for 'professor', announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 40 / 14.05.2021 and on the website of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of History of Literature and Comparative Literature Studies at the Faculty of Philology, as a candidate participates Associate Professor Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska from University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № P33-3117 of 12.07.2021 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for a competition for the academic position of **'professor' in University of Plovdiv** in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, 2.1. Professional Field 2.1 Philology (Bulgarian Literature - Bulgarian Literature after the First World War), **announced for the needs of катедра** of the Department of History of Literature and Comparative Literature Studies at the Faculty of Philology.

The only candidate for participation in the announced competition has submitted documents: Associate Professor Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska from University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

Presented by Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska set of materials on paper is in accordance with the Regulations for development of academic staff of University of Plovdiv, and includes all documents required by regulations No 15.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska has submitted a monograph, 19 articles, 4 textbooks and teaching handbooks, 80 reviews and 16 compilations and scientific editions. The books and articles related to the procedures for associate professor, Ph.D. and Dr. are correctly presented. The distribution of the scientific publications by respective rubrics, in the country and abroad, is as follows: according to the procedure for professor: 1 monograph, 4 articles abroad and 15 in our country; under the procedure for Ph.D.: 1 monograph and 21

articles; under the procedure for associate professor: 2 monographs and 26 articles; under the procedure for doctor: 1 monograph and 14 articles. The "Other publications" section presents 11 publications that testify to the author's exceptional gift for capturing key issues in literature and culture.

2. Brief biographical data (of the applicant)

Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ichevska has fully connected her higher education and scientific career with the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski. Her abilities as a professional make her development naturally and without hesitation as a scientist and lecturer who is constantly educating herself. As a lecturer in Bulgarian language and literature in Bratislava, she contributes enormously to the beneficial meeting of Bulgarian and Slovak literature. Her research is characterized by professional skill and relevance. She has a sense of synthesis, which makes the distinctive integrative connections between the individual arts very significant. She is a lecturer with significant professional experience and interesting methodological approaches. She lectures in the bachelor's and master's programs at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in Bulgarian literature after the First World War; lectures on Slavic anthropology; lectures on contemporary Bulgarian literature (from the 60s of the 20th century to the end of the 80s of the 20th century; from the 90s of the 20th century to the present day). She deals with current literary critics and has a column "Pages of Tatiana Ichevska" in the magazine "Stranitsa". She modestly noted that she is one of the organizers of the national scientific conference for students and doctoral students, which is held every May in Plovdiv, but it should be kept in mind that it has been implemented for 15 years and has a stimulating effect on other universities. Prominent high school students also take part in it.

3. Personal impressions

Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ichevska is a scientist with an open type of communication, which makes her scientific theses and researches popular. She is recognizable and sought after as a scientific partner and collaborator, a significant participant in scientific conferences as a person with key competencies, related to Bulgarian and Slavic literature, and is emphatically tolerant. It is no coincidence her participation in eight projects, which are of great practical value and are related to student internships and to publication of collections towards which there is a lasting scientific interest. I have impressions from her scientific performances at the Arbanassi Readings conference and I admire her ability to be inspired by the ideas of her colleagues. With such scientists and lecturers as her, the University of Plovdiv is a convenient

place for the realization of young people and for the rejuvenation of established academic personalities, always ready for meetings.

4. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity and preparation of the candidate

Almost all publications of Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Ichevska, achieved with a clear scientific goal, are related to her direct teaching work, as the main research authors are in the curricula of the disciplines she teaches. She is an author of modern literary studies, knows and uses new methodologies and schools for analysis of literary text, but in her style does not allow self-serving use of terms, which makes her research applicable in the educational process, as the proposed systems and ideas for analysis and synthesis give rise to lasting perceptions. It is precisely this style of interaction with the literary text, and not its subordination to terminology, that makes the textbooks for the middle course of study functional, in which Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Ichevska participates. This approach is evident in her work with her doctoral student Dora Vasileva Marinova, who successfully defended on October 1, 2020. Also for a period of 11 years (2000 - 2021) she was the research supervisor of 80 graduates of bachelor's and master's programs with successful defenses.

Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

The fulfillment of the minimum national requirements to the scientific and teaching activities, presented in the candidate's documents, which regulate the required number of publications and participations in refereed international journals, as well as all forms of participation in scientific life through activities and publications, show that Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ichevska fully respond to the requirements for awarding the academic position of professor. Particularly impressive are the citations of her works, which are made by authoritative authors in representative publications.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations

In connection with the competition, Tatiana Ichevska presents the monograph "Bulgarian Literature. Plots, contexts, research." In essence, this work presents the scientific biography of Tatiana Ichevska, it reflects on her previous books "The Biblical Word in Yovkov" (2003),

"The Novels of Dimitar Dimov" (2005) "Medicine in Bulgarian Literature" (2019), but without repeating them. The author creates her research through empathy and therefore remains faithful to the writers to whom she has dedicated her individual works and especially to Yordan Yovkov, who is the quiet haven of her scientific and human contemplation. Something more! I have the feeling, and therefore the confidence, that Yordan Yovkov, with the way he arranged the stories in "Staroplaninski legendi", influenced Tatiana Ichevska when she constructed the content of her book. The titles of the three parts are poetic and expressive: "Temptations and redemptions", "Worlds, desires and sufferings", "Perspectives, (in)correspondences". The topics are as thoughtful as they are felt, because the author respects literature more than the methodology for it. The theoretical density of her research, which is with functional rather than pretentious terminology, preserves the vitality of the text, as her methods are not a powerful logical tool for subordinating the work, but only looking with eyes and mind, which are taught to love. Therefore, when we read her research, we have a strong desire to read again the literary text she interprets.

It is gratifying that in the monograph of Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ichevska finally the textual commentary goes beyond the circle of the published collected works of the authors as a history of the individual editions of the works, and highlights the idea of the life of the work according to "cultural-historical and socio-political conjunctures" which "influence and determine the existence of Yovkov's collections" (p.213). The commentary reveals an amazing story of hidden and overt manipulation of Yovkov's works. And it is precisely these considerations of political nature that give Ichevska an occasion to analyze the texts from a new point of view. Personally, I was surprised that the publishers of the 90s of the 20th century ignored one of Yovkov's most wonderful stories - "Sud". In just one paragraph (p.221) Ichevska makes such a synthesis of the story that it is as if she is sending a message. By the way, this is one of the subtle manifestations of her thought - never intrusive, but always empathetic. In this way, aesthetics enters in life like a sunrise on a clear day. Whether it will be for temptation, for woman, for sin, for truths, for punishment, even for the amazing connection between the village and technology, she knows how to make opposites, oppositions come closer. A classic example of such a correlation is the final of "Mistake and Sin in the Works of Yordan Yovkov."

And going back to the unique approach that makes textual commentary so interesting and functional, I wonder if we should give a broader path to textology in our literary studies. Moreover, it offers opportunities to highlight the synthesis of individual arts, as far as the creation of a book is related to drawing, graphics and painting. Using the wonderful title "The

Story of the Story", Ichevska follows the illustrated editions of Yovkov's stories. The title itself suggests that it does not deal with the technology of illustration, but the extent to which "artists manage to" translate" the messages of Yovkov's stories" (p.279). Her ability to understand the essence of the illustration and in certain cases to overcome its subordination to the text in order to feel its independent suggestion is impressive. The arguments on the illustrations of "Po zhitsata" by Yordan Yovkov (p.288-290) are especially detailed and in-depth. The critique of the illustrations by Alexander Poplilov in the edition of "Staroplaninski legendi" and their compositional arrangement, preceding the scenes from the story, is very appropriate. "If Yovkov's story - writes Ichevska - seeks and produces "mysteries", then the illustrations persistently reveal them..." (p.292). Extremely interesting problem, which is typical for other authors and publications. That is why Iliya Beshkov notes that the illustration should not repeat the text, but "complement the free valence bonds" in it. Illustration as a plastic problem and genre is relatively well studied in art history, but from the point of view of the text used by Ichevska, there is no extensive research. The author is aware of the importance of this issue in order to illustrate textbooks and handbooks. (p.292-293).

Special congratulations to Assoc. Prof., Ph.D. Tatiana Ichevska, for the first part of the monograph successfully entitled "Temptations and Redemptions". When she writes about water, we understand that she is completely on familiar ground. This logical and emotional transfer from folklore / mythology through biblical to the literary and cultural-historical make her reasoning like a clang in the miraculous. The study is full of facts and arguments, but it actually lives in the metaphor, because no matter how much she says, Ichevska does not completely reveal the secret of the literary text, especially when it comes to woman. Therefore, the motive for the demand will remain key (p.22-23). I accept that this is the true merit of the critical text.

Publications reflect the life of the topics that have occupied Ichevska in recent years and find their complete form and relevance as a whole in the monograph. She is a scientist with a wide range of interests, that is why she works equally well interpretively and integratively, and most importantly - intensively.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The works submitted for the procedure have a completely original character, they are achieved with an author's style that is recognizable in scientific and academic circles. She has an incredible flair for critical stories. Kazimierz Brandys says that the contemporary writer, in search of plots, is like a lumberjack in Sahara, and Tatyana Ichevska, for the ease with which

she finds them, we can say that she is like cleaning the trees in the Garden of Eden - so knowledge is with doubt, but without sadness.

The contribution moments presented by her are correctly formulated and fully reflect her scientific achievements. I would like to add to them her activity with the textual commentary, because through it she has found original solutions. This approach could be applied to other authors.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend continuing to examine the works through the textual commentary.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska **meet all the requirements** of the Law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) Implementing Regulations of ZRASRB and relevant Rules of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has presented a significant number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense for degree 'Doctor' and Doctor of Science. In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific journals and international academic publishers. Theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska is **undoubted**.

Achieved by Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska results in teaching and research, fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology adopted in connection with the Rules of University of Plovdiv for application of the Law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB).

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and the analysis of their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology for election of Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Ivanova Ichevska to the academic position

of Professor at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" with professional field 2.1.
Philology. (Bulgarian literature - Bulgarian literature after the First World War).

02.09. 2021

Standpoint prepared by:

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