



STANDPOINT

by Dr SLAVIA GEORGIEVA BARLIEVA-BEKIROVA,

Professor at the Cyril and Methodius Scientific Center of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
regarding a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of

"Doctor" in scientific field 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1 Philology.

Author: THEODORA KRASIMIROVA GEORGIEVA

Topic: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIAN LANDS ACCORDING TO
CYRILLIC MONUMENTS FROM THE 13TH - 14TH CENTURY

Academic Supervisor: Prof. Dr DIMO DONCHEV CHESHMEDZHIEV

I am participating in the dissertation defense procedure as a member of the academic jury based on Order No. 26 RD-10 / July 14, 2023, issued by the director of the Cyril and Methodius Research Center at BAS, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 1 of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions, and the decision of the National Assembly of the Institute of Historical Studies-BAS, protocol No. 9, vol. 1/ July 11, 2023.

The topic of Theodora Georgieva's dissertation has been carefully discussed and defined in line with the research paradigm of the Cyril and Methodius Scientific Center, as well as in accordance with the interests of the doctoral candidate and the prospects for her future professional development. She has demonstrated good preliminary preparation, and the opportunity to work under competent academic supervision and to have access to the resources of the Cyril and Methodius Scientific Center and its partner institutions both in the country and abroad has created a favorable environment for her research.

The dissertation presented for defense is part of the rich research tradition focusing on Cyrillic monuments of Bulgarian Late Medieval period, which, however, have not been examined from the perspective of economic history until now. In this sense, the dissertation topic is innovative and relevant. At the same time, it has a well-defined research object - it is focused on Cyrillic texts, royal charters, hagiographies, eulogies, divinatory books, inscriptions, and more. The goal of the study is clearly defined - to extract all data related to the economic development of Bulgarian lands during the 13th - 14th centuries from these monuments and subject them to an interdisciplinary comparative analysis, which will

incorporate "Serbian and Vlach charters, Byzantine chronicles and trade manuals, as well as a synthesized overview of archaeological discoveries and numismatic findings."

The work by Theodora Georgieva comprises 334 pages and consists of an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, bibliography, and appendices (a glossary of economic terms in Cyrillic monuments, medieval depictions of economic activities, and two statistical graphs). It is developed with the idea of fitting into the good traditions of historical-philological research and presents an adequate approach to studying literary texts as historical sources. The topic is developed based on rich material sources:

- Legal documents (Bulgarian royal charters compared with Serbian and Vlach charters, international treaties, and legal collections), from which information on official legal terminology, administrative and financial structure of the state, land regime, population categories, and regulation of trade activities is extracted.
- Narrative texts (hagiographies of Bulgarian saints, oratorical prose, chronicle notes and annotations, divinatory books, and inscriptions), from which the author finds information on natural conditions and specific economic sectors such as fishing, salt extraction, beekeeping, the development of craftsmanship, and trade in Black Sea cities.
- Archaeological and numismatic findings, serving as an additional basis for comparison with the information from Cyrillic monuments, as well as Byzantine and Latin writings.

This choice of materials allows the dissertation topic to be considered as dissertation-worthy in the field of Philology 2.1. It contributes to the procedure for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor."

Theodora Georgieva has met and even exceeded all additional requirements of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions. She has successfully passed specialized courses and the doctoral minimum, participated in 7 international and 2 national scientific forums during her doctoral studies, including one abroad. She has published 4 articles related to her dissertation topic in authoritative scientific publications, with two more accepted for publication. It is also noteworthy that she has been involved in 3 research projects, one funded by FNi, one developed within the framework of the bilateral agreement between BAS and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and one infrastructure project – the National Interdisciplinary Research

E-Infrastructure for Resources and Technologies for Bulgarian Language and Cultural Heritage, ClaDA.BG.

Furthermore, her qualities as a young scholar have been highly regarded by the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation, and she has been included in expert groups for program accreditation procedures of doctoral programs at 4 Bulgarian universities.

All of these accomplishments, coupled with the quality of her dissertation work, "Economic Development of Bulgarian Lands According to Cyrillic Monuments from the 13th - 14th Century," portray Theodora Krasimirova Georgieva as an established young researcher with an original approach to medieval issues, analytical skills, and a proven ability to conduct independent research. The dissertation meets the requirements of Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions.

Based on the above, I cast my vote for Theodora Krasimirova Georgieva to be awarded the scientific and educational degree of "Doctor."

Sofia, September 7, 2023

Signed by Slavia Barlieva