



## EVALUATION REPORT

by Prof. Dr. Slavia Barlieva,

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on the materials submitted for the academic competition for the position of **Associate Professor** in the Higher Education Field 2. Humanities, Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature), announced in the *State Gazette*, issue 13/14.02.2025, for the needs of the “Cyrillo-Methodian Sources” Section at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre – BAS.

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature), the only applicant is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetomira Stoyanova Danova. As a member of the academic committee appointed by Order No. 18-1 RD-16/22.04.2025 of the Director of the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre and selected as rapporteur at its first meeting, I hereby state that Dr. Danova’s scientific publications and scholarly contributions, submitted for this competition, meet the formal requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. Dr. Danova fully satisfies the criteria stipulated in the *Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences* (adopted on 29.10.2018), Art. 2, item 4.3, as well as those of the internal regulations of the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre – Art. 2, item 4.3. She holds a PhD degree, has held the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor for 10 years, and has submitted a published monograph that is entirely distinct in topic and research subject from her doctoral dissertation. Her work is free of plagiarism.

Dr. Danova received her PhD degree at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre in 2015 with a dissertation titled “*John of Damascus’ Marian Homilies in Medieval South Slavic*

*Literature – Based on Materials from South Slavic Calendar Compilations up to the 14th Century.*” A revised and expanded version of this dissertation was published by the prestigious academic publishing house Peter Lang:

**Tsvetomira Danova. *John of Damascus' Marian Homilies in Medieval South Slavic Literatures*. Berlin: Peter Lang GmbH Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften, 2020. Studies on Language and Culture in Central and Eastern Europe Vol. 36. 542 pp. ISBN 978-3-631-83390-2.**

This work presents four Slavic translations of three Marian homilies by John of Damascus. It offers the first comprehensive and systematic analysis of the First and Third Homily on the Dormition of the Theotokos and the Homily on the Nativity of the Theotokos preserved in South Slavic hagiographic and homiletic collections. The research focuses on the textual tradition and translation features of these works, including editions of the Slavic translations with parallel Greek texts, as well as Slavic-Greek and Greek-Slavic lexical indices. The study successfully achieves its stated aim: to initiate a systematic investigation into the reception of John of Damascus's homiletic oeuvre in the Slavic Middle Ages. In recognition of its scholarly contribution, Dr. Danova was awarded a national prize for an outstanding monograph of national importance in 2020, on the occasion of the Day of the National Enlighteners.

For the current evaluation, particular emphasis should be placed on Dr. Danova's principal work submitted for the competition:

**“The Orthography of the Psalter of Tsar Ivan Alexander (Manuscript No. 2 from the Scientific Archive of BAS)” (*Cyrillo-Methodian Studies*, Vol. 34). Sofia, 2024. 168 pp. ISBN 978-954-9787-42-9.**

The Interpretative Psalter of 1337, commissioned by Tsar Ivan Alexander and also known as the *Sofia Psalter*, is one of the most significant artefacts of the Bulgarian literary tradition. Its publication is part of a long-term project at the Cyrillo-Methodian

Research Centre that has also produced editions of two other prominent manuscripts from the same era – the *Laurentian Codex* and the *London Four Gospels*.

Dr. Danova's monograph, developed within this framework, presents a thorough and original investigation of the orthographic features of the Psalter manuscript preserved in the BAS Scientific Archive. The study comprises 211 pages, divided into five chapters, and offers, for the first time, a comprehensive account of the orthographic characteristics of each of the scribal hands identified in the manuscript, which were previously mentioned only in passing in manuscript inventories. The research is conducted with exceptional precision, based on both digital copies and meticulous *de visu* comparison with the original manuscript.

The monograph makes significant contributions not only to the understanding of the manuscript itself but also to the broader study of orthographic developments in 14th-century Bulgarian writing. The extensive data collection and rigorous analysis provide a solid foundation for conclusions regarding the involvement of individual scribes in the manuscript's production, their distinct orthographic profiles, and the typology of Middle Bulgarian orthographic practices, particularly those linked to pre-Euthymian models and manuscripts written for or commissioned by Tsar Ivan Alexander. This study proposes a methodological framework that opens new avenues for research on the *Sofia Psalter* and other Middle Bulgarian manuscripts.

Although this monograph constitutes the primary work in the present habilitation procedure, Dr. Danova's broader scholarly output deserves attention. Her long-standing interest in the works of John of Damascus and their reception in the Slavic Middle Ages has already been noted. Equally productive is her research on translated and original works in South Slavic calendar collections (10th–14th centuries), pursued within the framework of the *Bibliotheca Homiletica Balcano-Slavica* reference project. She has published six contributions in this area, some in co-authorship, yet her individual input is clearly evident – for example, in her study of the reception of Andrew of

*Crete's Homily on the Exaltation of the Cross* (CPG 8179) in the repertory of South Slavic calendar codices arranged according to the fixed liturgical calendar. Dr. Danova identifies multiple textual versions, notes the fragmentary nature of the early translation, and demonstrates its alignment with the translation norms and traditions of the Cyrillo-Methodian school.

In the competition for the position of Associate Professor at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre, Dr. Danova has submitted 14 publications out of a total of 23, including two monographs, six studies, and six scholarly articles. Her literary output, the 53 citations of her work in reputable academic publications, the BAS Governing Board's award for academic excellence, and her active participation in scientific forums all portray her as a well-established researcher with outstanding qualifications in the field of philological studies.

The report, according to Art. 2b of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria confirms that she meets the national requirements for the position of Associate Professor, and her candidacy is fully justified. I strongly support the appointment of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetomira Danova to the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature), and I recommend that she be elected to the esteemed Academic Council. This would mark a significant step in her academic career and further contribute to the development of the scholarly team at the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Centre of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

**Sofia, 22 June 2025**

**Prof. Dr. Slavia Barlieva**