



STATEMENT

done by Kostadin Kostadinov Rabadjiev, Dr.Sc., Professor in Classical archaeology (2.2 History and Archaeology) in the Department of Archaeology at Faculty of History in St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia,

member of the Scientific Jury according to the Order of the Rector of NBU (No. 3-PK-242/ 18.05.2022), concerning the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology, announced in the State Gazette No. 29/12.04.2022.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and NBU requirements:

In the announced competition, organized for the needs of the Master’s Faculty of the NBU, Department of Archaeology, the only candidate is Dr. Boyan Yuliev Dumanov, Assistant Professor at the Department of Archaeology. His documents have been accepted by the Scientific Jury and he was admitted participating in the competition procedure on the basis of the submitted certificate that he fulfils the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff. Boyan Dumanov graduated in Archaeology at the Faculty of History of Sofia University (1997), he was a full-time PhD student at the Department of Archaeology with the dissertation topic: “Late Antique Jewellery in the Dioceses of Thrace and Dacia (4th-7th centuries)”, defended in 2004.

II. Research activities and results:

1. Evaluation of the scientific contributions of the author in the published monography: Boyan Dumanov participates in the competition with a habilitation thesis, published and submitted for discussion under the title: “*Archaeology of the Old Iron Age Metallurgy on the Lower Danube and in the Balkan Region (Roman Imperial Period – end of the 18th century). NBU Publishing House, Sofia 2021*” (B3). The book is an interdisciplinary study devoted to iron-production in the area in a millennial period of history of the Bulgarian lands, which began and ended within the borders of two empires. The structure is much specific and concrete, the analysis is built on collected published information (see Chap. I), supplemented with personal observations in the field – walks over and collection of residual materials from metallurgical activity and archaeometric analyses of what was collected. The introductory chapters present the technology and stages of the process, starting from the raw materials (Chap. II) to the fuel (Chap. III), outlining the specificity of iron metallurgy in our lands. The aim is ambitious but also difficult, at the border between several sciences: archaeology, geology, and metallurgy, all with different methods, including conceptual apparatus, which provokes complicated analyses. With this, Boyan Dumanov has left the comfort of classical archaeology, accepting the challenge of modern science in the synthesis of knowledge about man and society, but also about the natural environment in which human activities take place. In fact, although I do not share the enthusiasm of the interdisciplinary approach, I am convinced, and after what I have read here even more so, that this is the only way in which we can achieve complex answers,

unthinkable in the traditional way; to expand our knowledge of iron mining and the organized production of iron objects in the dynamics of historical epochs, which is a way to understand the economy of societies and their social structure. This is precisely what my colleague Boyan Dumanov has successfully overcome, and in his analysis of situations and different production models, he has achieved new knowledge about metallurgy and its periods in the ancient history of our lands. The book is written in a professional language, clear and readable, extremely concrete, which is among the distinctive features of his style, as well as of his character. I did not notice any elements of plagiarism in the texts, in fact I did not expect to find anything like that.

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the listed other publications (after the appointment to the academic position of “Assistant Professor”). In his scholarly pursuits, Boyan Dumanov has steadily reproduced his interest in Late Antiquity, most clearly evident in his doctoral thesis on Late Antique Jewellery, a theme to be found also in his summary on Thrace in Late Antiquity, a study issued in the prestigious *Companion to Ancient Thrace*, by Wiley-Blackwell in 2015 (Г6.1). Also included in the list of publications are two scholarly articles (co-authored) that have been issued in refereed journals and indexed in world-renowned databases of scholarly information (Г6.2-3), and it is telling that both of these are data analyses of archaeometric studies. I would also point to a few studies and articles published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes, with discussions on topics significant to our society and in which the archaeological reading is particularly significant, such as the idea about the “trinity” of ethnic components in the formation of the Bulgarian nation, revealed in the propaganda of the recent past (Г7.1), or the nationalistic aspects in Bulgarian archaeology before the World War II (Г9.1), also on the terror in the age of tolerance (Г9.2), provoked probably by modern political discussions. These writings reveal to us not only Boyan Dumanov's scholarly potential, manifested in innovative ideas and profound analysis, but also his strong civic attitude, in which he engaged his professional pursuits in interesting ways. In fact, he is a representative of a generation that seeks to overcome the dogmas of predecessors, but their efforts would be truly successful if they overcame the need for new such. Another guideline is his preoccupation with the subject of habilitation thesis, which we trace in published chapters of collective monographs (Г10.1, 2, 3). The list also includes a significant number of articles (Ж25.1-49) that are different from those submitted at the completion of the PhD. The main theme of these is Late Antique society and in particular jewellery, but also the discussion of the Goths; ironworking studies; fieldwork as well, here also his involvement in archaeological investigations of Late Antique centres (and not only), published in *Archaeological Discoveries and Excavations*. Here I would also include his numerous contributions with papers to national and international scientific forums (Ж30.6-21), and I would especially highlight the scientific conference organized with his participation: “Archaeology of Power. Interdisciplinary Approaches”, November 2014 (Ж33).

3. Quoting from other authors. Although the meaning of this criterion escapes me because it does not reflect the attitude (positive or critical) expressed in publications towards texts and ideas, but also because of the peculiarities of the research approach in the humanities, which implies the use of texts and ideas from a century ago, and this would be the true sign of presence in scholarship but it cannot be considered in the current picture today. However, I would summarize that Boyan Dumanov's writings have found their echo in scholarly journals, refereed, and indexed in world databases such as “Web of science”

(Д12); also, citations in monographs and in peer-reviewed volumes (Д13), as well as in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (Д14).

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects. Boyan Dumanov is a prominent researcher who takes an active part in projects organised by the National fund for scientific research to the Ministry of Education and Science (E17, E19): he is the coordinator of the project “Centre for localization and experimental reconstruction of ancient routes and habitations through the methods of space analysis and archaeometry – SARCHUS AIR” (2014-2017); member of the scientific team of the project “Landscape archaeology: models for the reconstruction of ancient living environments” (2019); member of the scientific team of the project “Reconstruction of material culture and knowledge of the ancient environment through the methods of archaeological chemistry – RE:MATRIARCHES” (2019); leader of the project “Archaeology of raw materials: chemical and geological analyses – ARCH.GEO” (2016-2020). I would highlight his work with focus on the application of interdisciplinary methods in archaeology, which illustrates how his project engagements are also tied to his research agenda, a meaningful approach in the modern world, and we see it realized in his habilitation thesis.

III. Teaching and learning activities:

1. Teaching and non-teaching activities: The educational programme of Boyan Dumanov involves: 5 general education courses at the Faculty of Basic Education, two of them in English; 7 lecture courses and 10 extra-curricular practices, seminars, internships, and projects in the “History and Archaeology” Bachelor programme; 8 lecture courses and 2 extra-curricular practices and internships in the “Archaeological Studies” Master's programme; also 1 course in the “Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology” Master's programme in English; and 1 course in the “Ecology” Master's programme at the Department of Natural Sciences. This makes for a very busy horarium, with a maximum in the final year of 345 hours of auditory and 343 hours of extra-curricular employment. But also important is the observation of a broad spectrum of ideas and teaching activity that is in clear relation to Dr. Dumanov's scholarly engagement and research. And his teaching activity includes the preparation of two lecture courses in English (Ж42), as well as the preparation of three courses in the e-learning module "Moodle NBU" (Ж37). Boyan Dumanov is actively involved in the reform and updating of the “History and Archaeology” MA and the “Archaeological Studies” MA programme (Ж32); and also in the creation of a joint MA programme “Archaeology of the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean” in English (Ж31). His work with undergraduate and postgraduate students since 2016 includes supervising 24 successfully defended undergraduate and postgraduate theses, 18 student thesis reviews, and 60 committee participations (Ж39); he also supervised one PhD student who successfully defended his PhD in 2015 (E16). He was involved in summer practices of archaeology students on excavations and fieldwork between 2005-2015, 2017, 2019 (Ж40). To outline Boyan Dumanov's scholarly prestige, here I would mention the public lectures he has given on behalf of the NBU at European universities and research centres, all on the subject of his scholarly pursuits, which underlines the importance of his scholarly recognition (Ж30.1-5).

2. Grades from student inquiry: 4.75 (Ж36).

IV. Administrative and public activities:

1. Participation in collective management bodies of the NBU: he was a member of the Academic Council of the NBU for the period 2012-2015 (Ж48); he is the Head of the Department of Archaeology since 2012 up to the present (Ж49).

V. Personal impressions of the candidate:

A thorough researcher, highly responsible for his scientific activities; with a clear position on burning social problems, which he steadily defends; collegial and demanding towards himself, but also towards those with whom he contacts.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and comments on the candidate's activities and achievements:

The texts Boyan Dumanov has written to participate in the competition deserve appreciation – he is a researcher, precise to the facts, correct in the reconstructions he offered, also a talented teacher who will fascinate future generation archaeologists. I end with the conviction that he should have been admitted to a habilitation long ago.

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My assessment of the candidate's academic activity is entirely affirmative, and this is my reason for voting positively for the award of the academic position of '*Associate Professor*' to Dr. **Boyan Yuliev Dumanov** and to recommend his election by the NBU Academic Council.

July 25th, 2022



Kostadin Rabadjiev