

REVIEW

By Assoc. Prof. Ilian Boyanov, PhD,

Department of Archaeology, New Bulgarian University

Member of the scientific jury, appointed by order of the Rector of the NBU No. 3-RK-242 dated 18.05.2022 for a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of science 2.2 History and Archaeology, for the needs of the Department of "Archaeology" of the NBU, announced in SG No. 29 of April 12, 2022.

The procedure for conducting the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the NBU.

In the announced competition, the only candidate who submitted documents for participation is Ch. Assistant Professor Boyan Yuliev Dumanov, Ph.D., who is also on a main employment contract at the NBU.

Boyan Dumanov was born in 1974 in Sofia. He graduated from secondary education in his hometown, then graduated from higher education at the Department of Archeology at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with OCS "master" and professional qualification "archaeologist" in 1997. The candidate defends the educational and scientific degree "doctor" at VAK in the scientific specialty 03.05.12 - Archeology in 2004. Since 2004, Boyan Dumanov has been a full-time lecturer in the "Archaeology" Department of the New Bulgarian University, specializing in Ancient Archaeology, Medieval Bulgarian Archaeology and Byzantine Archaeology. He has been the chief assistant since 2007. He has been the head of the Department of Archaeology since 2012. Member of the NBU Academic Council in the period 2012-2015.

Ch. Assistant Professor Boyan Dumanov participated in the competition with one monograph and an impressive number of 55 studies, articles and reports, most of which were published in authoritative international publications. The

applicant's citation reference includes sufficient citations in refereed and indexed scientific publications in world-renowned databases. The results of Boyan Dumanov's scientific research activities presented in the competition documentation significantly exceed the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "docent", specified in art. 2b of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as of the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB, and meet the other conditions provided for in Art. 24 of ZRASRB, art. 53 of the Regulations for the implementation of the RSARB and Art. 56 of the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of the NBU.

The publications selected by Boyan Dumanov for participation in the competition cover a wide range of issues in Bulgarian historiography on the problems of ancient and late antique archaeology. Apart from their number, they impress with the problems and monuments considered in them, as well as with their interdisciplinary nature. According to the emphasis in these studies, they can be divided into several main groups.

The first of them covers analytical publications devoted to late antique jewelry. This group is a natural continuation of Boyan Dumanov's studies on this problem, which found expression in his doctoral dissertation, which was subsequently published as a monographic work. The emphasis in these studies is placed on the stylistic, compositional and iconographic features of the monuments, as well as their chronology. The various influences on their development are also traced. A symbolic and social interpretation of some monuments is proposed. In these studies, the candidate further develops some of his theses, thus building not only on his own studies, but also on a number of contemporary studies on South-Eastern Europe. The mentioned publications emphasize Boyan Dumanov's lasting interest in the monuments of late antique jewelry and especially in the study of Gothic identity and after the defense and publication of his doctoral thesis.

To the second group of publications I would include the candidate's research on various monuments and aspects of the development of Durostorum during the Roman and Late Antique eras. All of them are the result of long-term field studies in the city, in which Boyan Dumanov directly participated over a long period of time, which predictably reflects his scientific interests in the monuments of the

city. Among these studies, I would single out the few dedicated to the grave find from Durostorum and, in particular, to its dating and the in-depth analysis of the armor elements, as particularly contributing. Several studies in encyclopedic editions can also be attributed to this group, especially Boyan Dumanov's studies on the Diocese of Thrace, published by the prestigious "Blackwell" publishing house.

The third group of publications represents a historiographical analysis of trends in the development of Bulgarian archaeology. Tracking this development, taking into account various external influences and internal political doctrines, is particularly important for the overall understanding of the level of modern Bulgarian archaeological, and not only, science. The essential contribution of these publications is determined by the fact that similar historiographical studies on native archeology are practically absent.

The fourth group of publications includes a large number of announcements in AOR, which present the results of a number of field studies of the candidate in recent years. A large part of these results are also directly related to the formation of his habilitation work.

The fifth group includes publications of interdisciplinary studies, which are the result of the implementation of several projects, among which stand out those related to iron mining on both sides of Stara Planina in the region of Botevgrad-Etropole and Zlatitsa-Pirdop. It is the results of these studies that provide the necessary basis for writing the habilitation thesis.

Boyan Dumanov's monographic research, previously discussed and highly appreciated by the extended departmental council of the Department of Archeology of the NBU, represents the candidate's original independent work. After reading the work, one gets the impression of a valuable study, the structure and content of which are the result of a thorough analysis, a meaningful arrangement, selection and editing in order to obtain an optimally informative and persuasive presentation. In fact, as I have already mentioned, the basis of this monograph is Boyan Dumanov's experience from several successive archaeological seasons in the study of different areas of the Central Stara Planina,

as well as from a number of the candidate's publications on the issues under consideration from recent years.

The monograph "Archaeology of the old iron mining on the Lower Danube and in the Staroplanina region. Roman Imperial Age - end of XVIII century" is structured in five chapters: Chapter I. Research history; Chapter II. Raw materials and stages of work in iron mining and iron metallurgy; Chapter III. Fuel materials; Chapter IV. Iron Mining in the Balkans during the Roman Imperial Age and Late Antiquity; Chapter V. Iron mining in the Balkans during the Middle Ages and the Ottoman period until the end of the 18th century. To them, the author has added a preface, conclusion, cited literature and a list of attached maps and illustrations to the text.

The objectives and tasks of the research are clearly stated in the Preface, and its interdisciplinary nature is highlighted. The emphasis is placed on the different approaches by which Boyan Dumanov strives to achieve the goals of the research, namely archaeological, chemical and geological analyses.

In Chapter One of the presentation, an extremely comprehensive look at the sources and literature is presented, demonstrating the solid preparation of the candidate on the specific issue. Boyan Dumanov is rightly critical of the geological and chemical data published in modern Bulgarian scientific literature, without the much-needed archaeological context and interpretation.

Chapter Two summarizes the information on the iron ores used in the chronological scope of the monography, as well as on the individual stages of the iron production process. The patterns of ore mining during the Roman and Late Roman eras, the Middle Ages and the Ottoman period are analyzed diachronically. Boyan Dumanov also offers a justified reconstruction of the systems of exchange of raw materials during the different periods in the context of the development of the settlement system.

Chapter Three is devoted to the production of fuel materials, which are essential for the implementation of the metallurgical process of iron extraction. Due to the very small volume of this chapter, I would add it as the last point of the previous chapter, with which it is also inextricably linked.

Chapter Four presents a complete overview of iron mining in the Balkans during the Roman Imperial Age and Late Antiquity. The relationship between iron deposits and ore processing areas is analyzed. Boyan Dumanov presents his known archaeological and epigraphic data, as well as the written sources on mining not only in the territorial scope of the monograph, but also for a large part of the Eastern Balkans. The data from the author's field studies in specific areas can be cited as particularly helpful. Despite the comprehensive set of sources presented by the candidate, as an omission here I would point out the information on the concession of mines through the Principate, for which there is sufficient epigraphic and archaeological data, as well as a number of scientific publications. The concentration of settlements related to the development of deposits of various metals in the area of the town of Tran during the Roman era has been known for a long time. Two Italian families - Aufidii and Antonii - were connected with the active mining here during the era of the Principate, attested in the inscriptions from the village of Zelenigrad (IGBulg IV 2111) and the village of Lomnitsa (Gerov 1965, 63-74), respectively from the third quarter of the II century and from the time of the Severi. The iron and copper mines in the area of the town of Malko Tarnovo were considerable in size and were probably an imperial domain. A funerary epigram from there of a man who probably died in the Kostoboki's invasion in 170 probably attests to a freed slave of a member of the same Antonian family. This gives reason to assume that this family had mining concessions, both in Tran and Kyustendil area, as well as in Malko Tarnovo area. The cult of Apollo Tadenos, associated with mining, is attested, apart from the mentioned areas, also in the ore regions of Dalmatia, especially in present-day Bosnia. All these data enable a broader interpretation of the organization of the development of ore deposits during the Roman imperial era.

Chapter Five is devoted to iron mining in the Balkans during the Middle Ages and the Ottoman period. The most contributing part of this chapter is the exploration of iron mining in the Pre-Balkan region. In the process of implementing several projects and field studies under the leadership of Boyan Dumanov in Etropole and Botevgrad regions, the origin of the iron ore, the places and the method of its extraction, the fuel materials used, and the type of iron slag - metallurgical and blacksmith's - were determined. Based on the obtained chemical

and geological data, the author derives the technological stages of iron mining in the specific area.

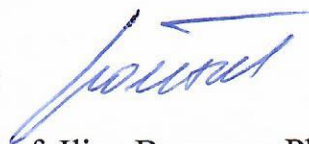
The Conclusion presents the main conclusions of the author's research, which are well argued and supported by sufficient facts. This concluding part of the book, in my opinion, could have been translated into a Western language and acted as a summary.

Despite the minor critical remarks of a recommendatory nature, in view of the overall positive impression of the candidate's scientific output, I am convinced to vote "YES" the awarding of ch. assistant professor Boyan Yuliev Dumanov, PhD, at the academic position of "associate professor".

06/08/2022

Sofia

Sincerely:



/ Assoc. Prof. Ilian Boyanov, PhD /