

REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dimcho V. Momchilov, DSc in Archaeology (Department of History and Philosophy, Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University- Burgas), as member of a scientific jury appointed for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 45 of 17 June 2022 in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.2. History and Archaeology, Scientific specialty: Ancient History (including Praehistory) for the needs of the Department of History and Philosophy at the Faculty of Social Sciences with Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas

Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 45 of 17 June 2022 in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.2. History and Archaeology, Scientific specialty: Ancient History (including Praehistory) for the needs of the Department of History and Philosophy at the Faculty of Social Sciences with Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, the only candidate is Chief Assistant Martin Asenov Gyuzelev, Doctor of Historical Sciences, who was admitted to participate under a record issued by the Commission for admission to the competition.

Martin Gyuzelev was born on 26 January 1972 in the city of Sofia. In 1998 he graduated from St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University with a degree in Archaeology. Basing on his completion of a full-time procedure of postdoctoral studies held from 1999 to 2003 at the Archaeological Institute with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and his defence of PhD thesis on *Settlement System along the West Pontic Coast during the First Millennium B.C.: the Area between Emine Cape and the Straits*, he was awarded the scientific and educational degree of PhD.

In 2004 M. Gyuzelev was employed as an archaeologist (and Head of the Archaeology Department of Regional Historical Museum-Burgas). In 2005 he became Chief Assistant at RHM-Burgas. In fact, almost his entire career until his appointment at Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas passed at RHM - Burgas.

In 2015 he defended his post-doctoral dissertation at the Department of Ancient History, Thracology and Mediaeval History at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University titled: *Dionysios of Byzantium and his Anaplus Bospori Thraci as a Source for the History and Culture of South-Eastern Europe* for which he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Historical Sciences.

He has been working at Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas as a part-time lecturer since 2015. After winning a competition, since the autumn of 2017 (20 November 2017) he has been appointed as a chief assistant and full-

time lecturer – i.e. he has been a lecturer (part-time and full-time) for seven years now.

He had participated for many years (from 1987 through 2020) in numerous archaeological excavations, both rescue and regular archaeological ones (both as a student and later on- professionally) at more than 22 archaeological sites, such as: Paleokastro (Pomorie), Urdoviza (Kiten), Manastir Tepe (Banevo Housing Estate- Vetren- the city of Burgas), the village of Madrets (Haskovo Region), Kabyle (Yambol region), Silistra, Site 17 of Lot V along the layout of TRAKIA Highway near the village of Vratitza, Kameno Municipality, Kozareva Mogila (near the town of Kableshkovo), Kantona locality, the village of Cherni Vrah (Burgas Region), Golyamoto Kale- the village of Mladezhko (Malko Tarnovo Municipality). But particularly impressive are his studies at: Sozopol (in a number of sub-projects, such as Kalfata locality, Old Town – “Krepostni steni and Saorazhenia”, “Starata Darvodelna”, “Morski Skali”, Budjaka locality- Solinaria, “Starata Obshtina”, St. Marina locality); Nessebar (in sub-projects: St. John the Baptist Church, St. Spas, St. Archangels Michael and Gabriel, St. John Aliturgetus) and Obzor (sub-projects: “Late Antiquity Building”; Regulated Land Property /RLP/ XXX, Quarter 23), i.e. he took part in the research of some of the most significant archaeological sites, such as Sozopol, Nessebar, Aquae Calidae, Urdoviza. He was Deputy Supervisor of three of them, co-supervisor of two, and Chief Supervisor of eight of them.

He is part of teams conducting field surveys in the southern parts of the Eastern part of the Balkan Mountains as well as underwater expeditions.

He has conducted and continues to carry out expert examinations of cultural and historical monuments.

According to his publications, several thematic circles emerge in the sphere of Martin Gyuzelev’s scientific interests:

1. The first one is the West Pontic coast and the adjoining lands to the south of the Balkan Mountains from the 1st millennium BC to the 4th century AD. Here the socio-cultural and political contacts of Thracians, Greeks and Romans are differentiated as well as the material culture related to them, i.e. imported and local pottery, epigraphy, coins and coinage; settlement structure - settlements (urban and rural), road system, strongholds, temples; together with analysis of written sources for the region.

2. For M. Gyuzelev, navigation through the Straits and in particular through the Bosphorus (Bosphorus) Strait and the role of Byzantium is of significant interest. In the general list of submitted publications, this range of issues is considered in six of them within a short period of time. Here socio-economical, political and religious aspects of Antiquity related to the problem of transition from Europe to Asia are intertwined.

This issue has a broad chronological framework - it includes events from epic mythographical times and traces the notion of parallelism (comparing it with the mirror image) of both shores - Europe and Asia. The role of shipping does not miss the tradition of divine characters in the Thracian-Asia Minor notions of Zeus (such as Zeus Ourius), the Mother of the Gods, Poseidon, etc., but a special place is given to the role and significance of the Hieron of Zeus Ourius, located at the end of the Bosphorus and the beginning of the Pontus.

The interesting matter about the opening of the Bosphorus is also covered here.

3. Another (third) round of studies is the archaeological research of sites concentrated in the polis territory of Apollonia (Martin Gyuzelev calls it *Apollonia on the Pontus*). Nine publications in total present the results and their scientific interpretations under an international project in which M. Gyuzelev himself has a significant participation. The implementation of the programme continues today under the guidance of Alexandre Baralis, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Krastina Panayotova, PhD. Specifically, this refers to an archaeological site in St. Marina locality where the discovered structures are connected and interpreted as a rural building with residential and economical functions (*oikos*), whose dimensions including the yard amount to 300 m². Archaeological data (building and household pottery, a collective find of bronze autonomous coins of Apollonia) direct the dating of the functioning of this site to the chronological range between the third quarter of the 4th century BC until the middle of the third century BC. This round of studies defined as the third one, can and should be linked and interconnected with the problems studied in the first one, namely: socio-cultural and political contacts of Thracians, Greeks and subsequently Romans, but mostly with the material culture related to them (expressed through pottery and coinage), as well as, of course, with certain types of settlement structures.

4. An important part of the general scientific investigations of M. Gyuzelev is the study of the Anapulus of Dionysius of Byzantium and especially the analyses of the geographical information. Special attention is paid to the Thracian *realia* - toponyms, anthroponyms, ethnonyms, which could be attributed to the Graeco-Thracian or Thracian mythological spectrum.

5. Another range of issues considered and modestly presented by the author only as a local one (with which I would not agree in terms of significance), is whether Mandra Lake was navigable for ships or not. The thesis proposed by Martin Gyuzelev in co-authorship with his colleague Konstantin Gospodinov (in two publications) that Mandra Lake was not accessible for sea operations of cargo ships is only part of the big question whether the colony Deultum had a port in its adjacent water basin and in general the question of shipping there both in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Here, in my opinion, researchers still have unsettled aspects of this question, namely: what was the

role of the fortification of Cape Foros then, or the interpretation of an epigraphic monument that has recently been deciphered by Nikolay Sharankov.

6. A group of publications of Martin Gyuzelev is dedicated to:

- sites and finds from Apollonia and its territory;
- separate investigations of archaeological sites on land (the fortress Golyamoto Kale near the village of Mladezhko, ones on the territory of the town of Obzor) and under water - for example, the aquatory of the Nessebar Bay;
- processing and publication of the Herakleian amphorae and englyphic amphora stamps from the collections of Regional Historical Museum - Burgas regarding the clarification and distribution of Herakleian amphorae to the south of the Balkan Mountains and along the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast;
- study of coins from the so-called Bizyan dynasty;
- as well as the preparation and publication of exhibition catalogues (for exhibitions in Bulgaria and in the Louvre).

7. A special place in his research is set to the monographic study "THREE-HOLED STONE ANCHORS FROM THE BULGARIAN BLACK SEA COAST", Burgas, 2022. The work is a synthesis of his long-term interest in this issue, which he started with a master's thesis defended by him in 1998 at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. The author acknowledges the good results of almost six decades of underwater researching on the Bulgarian shelf, in which the number of discovered stone blocks with holes is large (along with the amphora tare).

The monograph is of 152 pages. It consists of: "The Black Sea Anchors in Antiquity and the Middle Ages" (instead of a foreword by the editor Atanas Orachev, PhD), Introduction, five chapters, "Main Conclusions", Appendices, Catalogue of Stone Anchors, References, Summary in English and in Bulgarian. The illustrative material offers maps, schemes, drawings, photographs. The structure chosen by the author makes the topic clear.

This type of ship equipment is poorly studied and highly debatable.

Anchors also have a sacral meaning. Their sacred functions are also a symbol of hope in Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

In the Introduction the author reasonably describes the relatively rapid development of underwater archaeology, which allows studying in detail some of the navigational skills and habits of ancient sailors. This leads to some more specific topics, such as the invention and development of one component of the basic ship equipment- the anchor, and clarification of the importance of the three-holed stone anchors.

Martin Gyuzelev substantiates the application of a new approach to the topic of stone blocks with openings, which no longer and not so much concerns their typology, the method of their making and quantitative analyses as a mark of oversea trade, but rather their utilitarian functions and symbolism, reaching conclusions about interpretations of maritime trade routes and also ones about the much debatable dating of these objects.

Distribution, functions and symbolic meaning of stone anchors, as well as the presence or absence of harbour facilities, have been considered too.

Chapter One is entitled "Literary Evidence on Ancient Anchors". There M. Gyuzelev, basing on certain researchers' opinions, approaches with a critical comment about the name of this type of ship equipment. For this purpose he traces the information provided by a number of ancient authors - on texts that have been a subject of wide discussion in the scientific space, but at the same time lead to discrepancies and different interpretations. He made an etymological analysis. To a great extent he relies on his studies on Dionysius of Byzantium's *Anaplys*. For him, this type of ship equipment should be worded as "ἄγκυρα".

Chapter Two is "Historiographical Review". A review is made with respect to foreign and Bulgarian historiography and a wide range of researchers, including ones with quite recent publications on the subject, are indicated. The main scientific bibliography on the three-holed stone anchors is reviewed. It has been reported as a very important circumstance that a large number of the museums do not publish the materials kept there - in fact, this is a problem that goes far beyond this particular topic.

Chapter Three "The Three-Holed Stone Anchors from the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast (Attempt for a Palaeogeographical Study)" examines the finds obtained by Bulgarian museums as a result of almost sixty years of underwater archaeology and dredging. The locations are presented on a map. These artifacts are indicators of the presence or absence of anchorages or harbours, i.e. respectively, of commercial or other type of maritime activities. The author's reference to petrographic characteristics is very relevant here.

Chapter Four- "Distribution of Three-Holed Stone Anchors" traces this type of ship equipment along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast from north to south starting at Shabla Lighthouse and down to the Ahtopol water area with relevant references and a commentary on each of the artifacts. The chapter ends with several extremely important conclusions made by Martin Gyuzelev, among which: 1) that the number of three-holed stone anchors decreases sharply to the south of Apollonia; 2) that the largest number of this type is found in the water area of Apollonia; 3) that the three-holed stone anchors from the Bulgarian shelf should be accepted as an ancient Hellenic invention that was "borrowed" here and that unlike the Mediterranean, in the Black Sea region these anchors were used throughout Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Chapter Five "Functions and Symbolism of Ancient Anchors" is examined through the lens that in all times and eras an anchor had an important symbolic meaning for the Mediterranean peoples. In fact, this question has not been illuminated sufficiently well in the scientific literature. Further, M. Gyuzelev traces some of these meanings and defines it as one of the main Christian symbols. I believe that here the symbolism should be more widely deployed.

From the final conclusions, I would emphasize on the following: 1) the places where ancient anchors are found mark sea routes, which is certainly valid for the three-holed anchors, because stone blocks with one or two holes may not be anchors; 2) due to their smaller size, this type of anchor was used to anchor small vessels.

The catalogue includes 61 three-holed stone anchors with appropriate illustrations and references.

The bibliography used by the author consists of the works of several ancient authors, as well as more than one hundred titles both in Bulgarian and foreign languages.

The monograph ends with summaries in English and Bulgarian.

The monograph "Three-Holed Stone Anchors from the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast" has indisputable scientific merits.

I could summarize my colleague Martin Gyuzelev's contributions in the research and publication activity, as follows:

1. The detailed examination of the settlement system and the road network between Emine part of the Balkan Mountains and the Bosphorus with the attached detailed catalogue. He is not content with just a description of the archaeological materials, but makes a vertical and horizontal section of the settlement structure, the economic condition of the settlement (settlements) on the basis of:

- compliance with the physical and geographical features - as a prerequisite;
- the traditional methodology – a historical research based on the analysis of the sources;
- in addition to the settlement system, structures and facilities are also considered.

2. On the background of the increased interest in the Black Sea Strait Bosphorus and the city located on the Bosphorus Peninsula, a special place is given to the Anapulus of Dionysius of Byzantium. Moreover, the available source data are quite scarce. Through the analysis of the *topoi* mentioned in the Anapulus, M. Gyuzelev registered a steady trend in the appearance and disappearance of ancient sanctuaries and "sacred places". He made comments on the ancient work *Anapulus*, applying approaches inherent in mediaeval studies. The use of the work as a historical and palaeogeographical source is a contribution. M. Gyuzelev's assumptions about the disappearance of a large part of the toponyms (connected with the destruction of Byzantium by Septimius Severus, with the Gothic attacks and with the change of the population) are quite successful.

3. Regarding navigation through the Straits, attention is paid to several extremely important factors, such as:

- the seasonality of the voyage, which according to the author varies from summer to autumn (in particular, in general this seasonality falls within the time limits April - October);

- compliance with the currents and overcoming them in the Straits - in the Dardanelles and especially in the Bosphorus;

- the intensification of maritime traffic in connection with the invasion of the Hellenic settlers and the resulting problems of a political and economic nature.

M. Gyuzelev has considered the complex picture of the available or non-available options for movement through the Straits, related to:

- partial or complete naval blockades arising from the geopolitical role of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles;

- the controlling role demonstrated at times by Byzantium and other rulers;

- piracy;

- the pursuit of free access to the Straits under the Roman doctrine;

- the tendency for decrease of the geopolitical importance of the region until the end of Antiquity.

4. The author analyses the processes, convincingly constructs his own formulations and theses, which with the relatively limited and sometimes one-sided information about the epoch requires the use and combination of various data from different information sources.

5. Coins of rulers from the so-called Bizyan dynasty are published for the first time.

6. On the debatable stone anchors.

Through rich written and archaeological sources he convincingly traces roads, settlements, important fortified points; confirms old localizations, suggests new ones and backs them with arguments or expresses reservations about others for which there is unconvincing information.

A very good impression makes the use of modern trends, on the one hand, in the processing of archaeological material, and on the other hand, its presentation - through rich, precisely made tables, graphs, diagrams.

He applies interdisciplinary methods.

M. Gyuzelev is a skilled connoisseur of the monuments he publishes and of the authors dealing with the topics - he freely operates with a huge amount of Bulgarian and foreign literature.

Naturally, there are some gaps. In some of his studies M. Gyuzelev formulates constructions that are hypothetical, debatable, although they are seldom inaccurate. But weak points are inevitable with any researcher.

His works have been published in many renowned editions.

A number of M. Gyuzelev's researches supplement the factual base, introduce into scientific circulation new archaeological material, new

monuments, which is also of help to his work now as a lecturer at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University and will be of use to him in his future work too.

The new monuments discovered add a lot to our knowledge of the West Black Sea coast in the first millennium BC, and some of them - about the first centuries of the new era.

In conclusion, with regard to his publication activity, I can add that the works considered show purposefulness, profoundness, thorough knowledge of the sources, of both Bulgarian and foreign publications. Many of the questions raised have been a subject of long-standing disputes in science, but it should be noted that Martin Gyuzelev takes a stand on them basing on archaeological researches, literary sources and interprets them on the basis of abundant historiography. He defends his own scientific positions, showing a tolerant attitude to the opinions of others - he treats all opinions with respect and at the same time he does not impose his opinion rudely and is not irritatingly categorical.

Based on the above, I may state that with Martin Gyuzelev we not only have an expert, a scientist of distinguished professionalism, a very good researcher on the problems of the first millennium BC, but also a specialist who knows excellently the subsequent historical periods too. That is why I believe that his achievements must be appreciated on their merits.

Regarding the fulfilment of the minimum requirements for scientometric indicators under Article 2, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the applicant has the necessary asset of points.

Martin Gyuzelev takes active part in the implementation of research projects and programmes:

1. He has developed, directly participated and continues to participate in a Bulgarian-French-Romanian research project (with archaeological, interdisciplinary researches on the territory of ancient Apollonia, finalized with a report);

2. Projects related to the territory of Nessebar, including ones connected with the ancient territory of Mesambria Pontica.

He also has scientific specializations: at Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme (MMSH) - at the University of Aix-en-Provence, France in 2003 and the American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece in 2009.

He has participated in the development and implementation of several programmes and projects in Sozopol and Nessebar.

He has presented reports at scientific forums in Bulgaria and at international ones in Greece, Turkey and France.

At Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov University - Burgas for the seventh year now Martin Gyuzelev has been in charge of the following major lecture courses:

- For the Bachelor's degree programmes: delivering lectures in Ancient History, Thracology, Cultural and Historical Heritage, Ancient Civilization, Archaeology, Introduction to Historical Knowledge. He also holds a series of discussion lectures with undergraduate students on Historical Geography and Cartography of the Mediterranean;

- For the Master's degree programmes: delivering lectures in Ancient History and Thracology, Historical Geography of the Eastern Mediterranean, Historical Semantics.

He has developed and updated curricula in: Ancient History, Thracology, Ancient Civilization, Ancient History and Thracology, Archaeology, Historical Geography of the Eastern Mediterranean, Historical Semantics, Introduction to Historical Knowledge.

He is highly respected by both his fellow lecturers and students.

During all these years Martin Gyuzelev has participated in various forms of scientific, teaching, popularizing and publishing activities.

He diligently and continuously improves his professional qualification.

Martin Gyuzelev was head of the Archaeology Department of Regional Historical Museum - Burgas - something he modestly did not mention in his CV, however, we should not forget that this is the place that moulded the scientific development of such famous Bulgarian scientists like Mihail Lazarov and Ivan Karayotov. Here he had developed thematic exhibition plans and expositions.

The overall activity of Chief Assistant Martin Gyuzelev, Doctor of Historical Sciences, leaves the brightest possible impression of his professionalism.

APPRECIATING HIGHLY THE CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS IN THE PRESENTED SCIENTIFIC WORKS AND BASING ON THE ABOVE AS A WHOLE, IN CONCLUSION, I FIRMLY CONSIDER THAT THE CANDIDATURE OF CHIEF ASSISTANT MARTIN ASENOV GYUZELEV, DOCTOR OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES, MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FOR THE NEEDS OF PROF. DR. ASEN ZLATAROV UNIVERSITY - BURGAS. THAT IS WHY I CATEGORICALLY RECOMMEND HIM TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE JURY AND SUPPORT HIS NOMINATION FOR THIS POSITION.

Done at Karnobat, 5 October 2022

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. Dimcho Momchilov, DSc in Archaeology)