

OPINION

**for the scientific production of ch. assistant professor ist. n. Martin Assenov Gyuzelev,
participant in a competition for the academic position " associate professor"**

**in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.2. History and
Archaeology, scientific specialty "Ancient History (including Prehistory),**

announced by the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"-Burgas

in SG, no. 45/17.06.2022,

prepared by Prof. D.Sc. Diana Atanasova Radoinova, internal member of the Scientific

Jury, appointed by Order No. RD-245/15.09. 2022

of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"-Burgas

I. Competition data: Ch. Assistant, Dr hist. sc. Martin Assenov Gyuzelev is the only candidate in the announced competition. The competition procedure has been duly observed and corresponds to the Law on the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"-Burgas.

The candidate's competences, scientific degrees and academic positions acquired Dr hist. sc. Martin Assenov Gyuzelev are adequate to the requirements laid down in the relevant regulations for occupying the academic position. The presented scientific production, with which he is included in the competition, corresponds in its qualitative and quantitative dimensions to the standards laid down in the regulatory framework.

II. Data about the candidate: The only participant in the competition, Dr hist. sc. Martin Gyuzelev, has a serious professional and scientific biography. His entire career has been connected with archaeology, Regional historical museum

-Burgas and with the academic structures of the University where he currently works and which announced the competition for the academic post. In the period 1993-1998, he followed and graduated from the specialty "Archaeology" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2004, he defended a dissertation on the topic "Settlement system along the West Pontic coast in the 1st century BC: the lands between Cape Emine and the Bosphorus" for the award of the scientific and educational degree "doctor". In 2015, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Dionysius of Byzantium and his Anaplus on the Bosphorus as a source for the history and culture of Southeastern Europe" to obtain the scientific degree "Doctor of Historical Sciences". Since 2017 he has held the position of "Ch. assistant" in the Department of "History and Philosophy" in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"-Burgas.

The candidate has impressive linguistic competences in two Western European and two classical languages, as well as in Old Bulgarian, which obviously gives him advantages in the use of foreign language scientific literature, in participation in overseas projects and specializations, as well as in the specific readings of archaeological finds and ancient inscriptions and maps.

At the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas teaches the disciplines: "Old History", "Tracology", "Archaeology" and "Introduction to Historical Knowledge".

III. Description of the scientific works of Dr hist. sc. Martin Gyuzelev. Already while preparing his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Settlement system along the West Pontic coast in the 1st century BC: the lands between Cape Emine and the Bosphorus", Martin Güzelev declared his interest in a certain area: the West Black Sea coast, its history and culture, extracted with the means of field archaeological research.

The scientific texts with which Martin Gyuzelev participated in the competition for the academic position „associate professor” are the following:

1. Monographs.

A/ Habilitation work.

The habilitation work of Dr hist. sc. Martin Gyuzelev is located in the field of his traditional scientific interests. Under the title "Stone anchors with three holes from the Bulgarian Black Sea", Burgas, 2022, ISBN 978-619-7559-284, represents a long-accumulated and significant contribution to the study of the maritime culture of the Bulgarian coast. The monograph comprehensively presents the written evidence for the existence of the focal artefacts from antiquity to the late Middle Ages, a historiographical review of the writings on maritime navigation in the Mediterranean-Pontic region, as well as a palaeographic review of this type of anchor, is presented on a catalog basis. Stone anchors with three holes and for the first time their locations have been mapped, their functions and symbolism in the traditional maritime culture of the littoral communities along the western Black Sea coast have been interpreted.

B/Published monograph based on a protected dissertation work for obtaining the scientific and educational degree "doctor" under the title "The West Pontic Coast between Emine Cape and Byzantium during the First Millenium BC", Burgas, 2008. ISBN 978-954-90393- 7-5. The work was published in English and is an updated and supplemented version of the candidate's doctoral dissertation "Settlement system along the West Pontic coast in the 1st millennium BC: the lands between Cape Emine and the Bosphorus". It reflects the results of the studies of the settlement, port and road system of the West Pontic coast. The accessible empirical material available in the interval between the dissertation defense and publication is included. The illustrative and cartographic material has been supplemented, and some new titles of publications on the subject have been included.

2. Articles: The candidate presents himself for participation in the competition with 28 scientific articles published in regional, national and international scientific collections and magazines in Bulgarian and English. Conditionally short scientific texts of the candidate can be distinguished into several groups, according to their subject matter:

A/ Socio-economic, political and religious reflections of shipping through the Straits and especially through the Bosphorus (Bosporus) Strait during Antiquity. To this group can be referred the articles "Crossing the Strait: A View to the Bosporian Seafarers' Pantheon in Antiquity", "The Information of the Minor Greek Geographical Tradition about the Black Sea and Its Shores: Periplus of Pseudo Scyllas" (2016), "The Bosporus Strait and Byzantium: Changes after Conversion of Thrace into a Roman Province" (2017), "The information of the minor Greek geographical tradition about the Black Sea and its shores: The periegesis of Pseudoskymnos" (2017), "Salmydes(s)os - A place, a stretch of coast, a river, a town: Problems of the historiography (7th century BC – 12th century AD) (2017), "Navigating in the Hellespont/Dardanelles and the Bosporus during Antiquity: Some Remarks about the Difficulties (2020), "Englyphic Amphora Stamps from Barbarian Contexts in the Western Black Sea Coast and the Hinterland of Southern Thrace" and others. In this cycle of scientific texts, the author extends his research in the temporal framework from prehistoric times to the end of Antiquity. Archaeological findings, annals of authors from antiquity, and even mythological reminiscences were used as evidence. The peculiarities of the West Pontic maritime traffic, the strategic geopolitical role of the straits, the attempts of various institutions and rulers to control them are examined.

B/ The second group of articles presents the author's research contribution to the studies of the territory of Apollonia Pontius and some specific archaeological tops of this territory. To this group belong the articles "Rescue archaeological investigation of the site "Extraurban settlement structure from the territory of Apollonia Pontika in the town of Snt. Marina, Municipality of Sozopol, Burgas Region" (2011), an article of the same name presenting the continuation of the excavations from 2012, "Economic Complexes in the areas of Mesarite and Snt. Marina", "Between crisis and conflicts: The territory of Apollonia Pontica in Late Classical and Early Hellenistic periods" (2017). Most of these scientific articles are focused on the results and interpretation of archaeological sites in the polis territory of Apollonia within the international program ANR "Pont Euxin", under the supervision of Dr. Alexander Baralis and Assoc. Dr. Krastina Panayotova.

C/ The third group of articles from the scientific output of Martin Gyuzelev represent analyzes of various aspects of the problem with the buoyancy of Mandrensko Lake in the past.

They are co-authored with Konstantin Gospodinov. In the articles "Was Lake Mandrensko navigable for seagoing vessels?" (2015) and "Did the Roman Deultum have a port for sea ships in Lake Mandrensko?" (2017) through a retrospective analysis of the complex data from personal observations, accounting for geological-geomorphological changes, as a result of the eustatic fluctuations of the sea, of anthropogenic interventions, the study of written documents and maps, as well as medieval and ancient evidence the idea that Lake Mandrensko was not accessible for maritime operations of heavy cargo ships is argued.

D/ Articles devoted to certain other scientific problems.

Such are the articles "Studies of the Big Muddy near the village of Mladezhko, Malko Tarnovo Municipality" (2018), "Archaeological monitoring of the deepening activities in the water area of the port terminal "Nessebar-South" (2018), "Coins of Thracian Rulers (4th c. BC–1st c. AD) from the Numismatic Collection of the Archaeological Museum of Burgas" and others. They reflect separate studies of archaeological sites and finds from different eras in the region of Burgas, Malko Tarnovo, Obzor, Nessebar on land and water. Some of the texts from this group are a contribution to the interactive project Corpus Nummorum Thracorum and present the coins of the Thracian rulers that are in the collection of the Burgas Museum (some of the coins are being published and interpreted for the first time).

The entire scientific production with which Dr hist. sc. Martin Gyuzelev enters the competition for the acquisition of the academic position "associate professor" has contributing and innovative qualities. I would like to strongly emphasize that Martin Gyuzelev's successful acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Historical Sciences" - an achievement that sometimes eludes holders of the academic positions of "Associate Professor" and "Professor" - is one of the most convincing proofs of the high quality of his scientific activity.

IV. Other scientific implementations of Dr hist. sc. Martin Gyuzelev.

1. Citations and references. In his application for the academic position of "associate professor", Martin Gyuzelev indicated 16 citations of his scientific works. Among them, 6 are cited by foreign scientists, which indisputably proves the value of his scientific output.

2. Participation in scientific projects. The candidate has a total of 4 participations in research projects. He is a participant in one international and three national scientific projects, being the deputy head of the International Project " Pont Euxine ".

In any case, his extremely active and constant research activity through his participation in archaeological excavations on land and water should not go unnoticed. Over the years, he has registered 20 participations in archaeological surveys in the regions of Burgas, Sozopol, Nesebar, Malko Tarnovo, Haskovo, Silistra, Yambol, etc.

To the applicant's credit should also be noted his research specializations at the Center for the Study of Mediterranean and Human History in Aix-en-Provence, France and at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece.

3. Scientific mentoring of students. Until now, Martin Gyuzelev has been the scientific supervisor of one successfully defended graduate student at the university where he works, and also the scientific consultant of eight students participating in circle activities.

V. Conclusions and recommendations. The examination of the scientific biography, scientific production and other scientific realizations of the former Dr hist. sc. Martin Gyuzelev gives grounds for a positive assessment of his overall scientific research and scientific publication activity, as well as his scientific consulting work with students. This fact, as well as the confidence in the strict observance of the tender procedure in accordance with the regulatory regulations, give me reason to express an opinion: on Dr. hist. sc. Martin Asenov Gyuzelev to be awarded the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.2. History and archaeology, scientific specialty "Ancient History (including Prehistory). I strongly recommend to the other colleagues, included in the highly respected Scientific Jury of the competition, to give their positive vote for the awarding of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Chief Assistant Dr hist. sc. Martin Guzelev.

17. 10. 2022

Prof. Dr hist. Sc. Diana Radoynova