

**International Summer School
in Palaeoslavic Studies and
Medieval Studies,
Tryavna (Bulgaria)
26 July - 8 August 2010**

The Tryavna Summer School was part of a major project entitled *History and Historicism in the Orthodox Slavic Realm: Study of Ideas for History*. The project and the school were funded by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria and organised mainly by a recently established research consortium chaired by Anna-Maria Totomanova, Doctor of Philology and Professor at the Faculty for Slavic Studies at the Sofia University.

The project is focused on developing the concept of history among the Orthodox Slavs and its relation to the Byzantine historiographic model. It is concerned also with the traces of the medieval perception in the modern

historic doctrines of Russians, Serbs and Bulgarians. Also sought are the points of intersection between the Orthodox Slavic historiography and other historiographic traditions mainly the Catholic one. This presupposes various types of studies: editions and explanations of medieval chronicles, analyses of historical documents in Bulgarian and foreign primary sources, monographs on the administrative written data on the First Bulgarian Kingdom (7th-11th century) and even research in modern fiction and poetry related to history. The International School in Tryavna allied the scholarly efforts of delegates from a number of universities, research centres and academic associations: the Slavic Studies Departments at the universities of Sofia and Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), Kraków and Jyväskylä (Poland), Saint Petersburg and Ivanovo (Russia) and Venice (Italy) as well as certain research institutes at the academies of sciences of Bulgaria, Russia and Serbia.

The courses were intended for young scholars, i.e. PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. They had the opportunity to be present at lectures in various fields - History, Biblical Studies, Literary Theory, Linguistics, Philosophy, Cultural Studies and History of Art. One of the important accents was placed on the Old Testament books and the Biblical apocrypha in the Slavic environment. It is worth mentioning here some of the most interesting lectures - those of Professor Alexander Naumov (Krakow, Venice) on the Biblical text as a model and material and of Professor Tatyana Slavova (Sofia) on the *Octateuch* in the Archival Chronograph. Yet the majority of the papers were within the historical context of the project. Specialists in Byzantine Studies and Palaeoslav Studies presented the most recent discoveries in the field of medieval historiography. Associate Professor Vasya Velinova (Sofia) tracked the reception of the Byzantine chronicles in Bulgaria, Professor Anna-Maria Totomanova (Sofia) situated the chronicle of Julius Africanus in the Slavic historiographic tradition, and Associate Professor Rostislav Stankov (Sofia) dealt with the Old Bulgarian translation of the Chronicle of Georgios Hamartolos and of the Chronograph. Professor Tibor Zivkovic (Belgrade) presented the new edition and study of the Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja and analysed the sources used by Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos as representative of Balkan history. Professor Dmitry Polyviannyi (Ivanovo) and Professor Georgi Dimitrov (Sofia) shared their theoretical vision of, respectively, the medieval orthodox historiography and, from a more modern perspective of historicism as a

challenge before the social sciences and the humanities. The interdisciplinarity of the School was supported by the presentations of Associate Professor Alexander Kiosev (Sofia), Professor Kiril Maximovich (Moscow), Senior Research Associate Nina Gagova (Sofia), Senior Research Associate Elena Kotseva (Sofia) and Associate Professor Maria Spasova (Veliko Tarnovo).

The idea of the Tryavna Summer School was mainly to gather scholars from various fields and to establish or strengthen contacts among colleagues from different countries and regions. And Tryavna proved to be the best place for this as it is a town which preserved a Bulgarian National Revival appearance and memory of its glorious history. The skillfully organised programme was planned for a visit sometime to a couple of the most remarkable medieval monuments in Bulgaria such as the churches in Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi. By seeing artefacts of the Middle Ages and of the 19th century, participants had a diachronic view of history and commented on the modern perspective on the ideas of studying history.

More information available at:

<http://cyrilmethodiana.unisofia.bg/index.php/the-news/98>

Just two of the lectures are published online at http://cyrilmethodiana.unisofia.bg/index.php/mdocs/cat_view/56---2010

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