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The Bulgarian Commercial Textbooks of the National Revival (The 30s – 70s of the 19th century)

(Summary)

The theme of the Bulgarian commercial literature during the National Revival still remains inadequately researched. Its largest part consisted of textbooks on commerce, this collective concept comprising all the aids on subjects directly or indirectly connected with trade, with its practical side, used for educational purposes at school and also by merchants in their professional instruction. It is the question of the subjects of book-keeping (diplography), geography, arithmetic, general history, of the textbooks, dictionaries and foreign language textbooks, and letterwriting manuals which helped commercial education and qualification. An attempt is made in the article at the analytical presentation of all these publications brought out in the 30s-70s of the 19th c. (i.e. in the period up to the Liberation) which numbered over 200. Their comparison with the European and Balkan publications leads to inferences about the foreign influences in this country and also about certain specific features of the Bulgarian titles caused by the requirements of the merchants during the National Revival. The theme of commercial textbooks is an introduction to a more extensive problem: that of the modernizing (Europeanizing) role of trade in the Bulgarian National Revival society which includes a number of interesting and important questions: about commercial literature in general, the merchant's mentality and the attitude towards the merchant, the emergence of the new trade structures, the provisions of commercial law in the practice of the Bulgarian merchant, etc.