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The Bulgarian ottomanistics between two centuries-continuity and renewal

(Summary)

In the essay the author Elena Grozdanova makes an attempt to trace the continuity and renewal processes in three basic directions of the Bulgarian ottomanistics development, where it has strong science positions and international authority: 1) publishing the ottoman-Turkish sources and source knowledge 2) ottoman-Turkish diplomatic and paleography and 3) researches about the problems of the Bulgarian, Balkan and ottomans history for the XV–XIX century. The essay explains the basic reasons for the intensive development of the Bulgarian ottomanistics. The important premises are the impressive content, chronological range and meaning of the ottoman- Turkish archive materials for all Ottoman provinces – European, Asia Minor, Arabian, which is located in the Oriental section of the National library “St. St. Cyril and Methody” . This development is very intensive especially in the last 15 years – between two centuries (1989-2004). The reason is that the changed social-political conditions, the deideological processes in the science and the facilitated international contacts stimulate the scientific researches. The condition and development analyze of the Bulgarian ottomanistic in its passage from the XX to the XXI century establishes some general conclusions. There are very successful results in reference to the training of highly qualified Bulgarian ottomanistic specialists. But in the future is expected that there will be a lack of continuity in the sphere of the ottoman – Turkish diplomatic and paleography. The process of continuity and renewal in the orientation of Bulgarian ottomanistics, in close relation with the Bulgarian and

Balkan historiography are tangible between two centuries. In the last 15 years the interest to themes such as the ottomanistics culture and art on the Bulgarian and Balkan territories is increased. Completely new and important for the Bulgarian historical science are the investigations about the role and significance of the woman, child and the family in the Bulgarian community in the period of XV–XVIII century. Investigations on the structures created on territorial, professional or ethnic-religion principles are increased. It is accentuated on the possibilities for some representative and self-administration functions of their elders and leaders as early as in the period before the Tanzimat. More attention is paid on various categories of people with special duties and statute in the Ottoman State as well as on the “privileged” rayah. Intensively studied are the problems of economical history in the conditions of methodological pluralism and enriched base sources. Problems of historical and ethnic demography are of increased interest in connection with the Christian and Muslim community as well as with smaller ethnic confessional groups and relations between them. But some researches on these problems give impressions on conjuncture influences in the last as well as in the presence.