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The Selection of Facts and Documents

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Abstracts

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1. TRUTH AND FICTION. VAZOV'S LOVE LIFE IN POEMS AND DOCUMENTS

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The article deals with the love life of the great Bulgarian poet Ivan Vazov and the way his personal experience appears in literature. Such a connection between the poet's love life and his published poems is something new in the Bulgarian context. From different documents we now know the women that were in love affairs with Vazov, some of them (but not all of them) were mentioned in his poems, mostly without their names. Some of them were married or foreigners, and this generated tension with the moral norms of the time and with the patriotic ideas of the poet.

Keywords: Ivan Vazov, Love Poems, Personal Experience in Literature, Documents, Editing of Documents, Private Letters, Memoirs

2. ARCHIVES SPEAK: THE MEMORY OF FORGOTTEN WORKS

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The article examines the creative path of Georgi Jordanov Nenov (1892–1967). Based on archival material, the main activities and artistic achievements of the artist from Razgrad are presented. Among the faded pages of the documents stand out some creative contacts with a number of artists and writers, including the poet Hristo Yassenov and the writer Anna Kamenova.

Keywords: Razgrad Archives, Georgi Jordanov Nenov, Fine Art, Cultural Relations

3. A WALK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES, OR OPTIMISTICALLY FOR LITERATURE BIOGRAPHICAL WRITING

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This article examines the problems of literary historical writing and the use of archives for the needs of literary studies. Focusing on individual moments of the research practice, the study also presents different approaches to creating a biography of a writer from the first half of the twentieth century. Examples of the search and arrangement of archival materials when writing a monograph on Ivan Grozev are attached.

Keywords: Bulgarian literature, the first half of the 20th century, archives, Ivan Grozev

4. PORTRAIT OF THE RESEARCHER AS A WRITER

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The article raises the question of scientific creativity in the light of the artistic – a thesis that has its foundations in the specificity of writing in general. The contemporary situation further contributes to this convergence, which conceals a fascinating ambiguity that stimulates creativity, but whose happy formula eludes the researchers themselves. Therefore, even if in their practice they sometimes come close to creativity, in their theory they find themselves powerless to explain it. Does this not suggest once again that art is eternal and science transient?

Keywords: Science, Art, Literature, Mixed Culture, Artistic Creativity, Scientific Creativity

5. THE BULGARIAN “GOOD SAVAGE” – POLITICAL PROJECTIONS, STATE-BUILDING POTENTIAL

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The article examines a main —national-ideological—aspect of reflexes of the cultural figure of the “good savage” in the Bulgarian revival. The research plot is framed by two state building “documents”: “Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya” (1762), where the Bulgarian is postulated as a “savage” vs. the sophisticated but cunning civilization, and the so-called “Tarnovo Constitution”, when this ideological vision acquired a direct political reality through P.R. Slaveykov’s key participation in the constitutional debate in the Constituent Assembly (1879). The plot unfolds in juxtaposition with the figure of the authentic savage —the American Indian – and the analogous nation-building potential that ethnologist L.H. Morgan found in the Iroquois League for the confederation of the U.S.A.

Keywords: “Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya”, “Good Savage” (*beau sauvage*), P. R. Slaveykov, Tarnovo Constitution, J. F. Cooper, L. H. Morgan, Iroquois League, Civilization, Fashion, Europe

6. STORY, NARRATION, FICTION: ON SOFRONIY VRACHANSKI'S ORIGINAL FRAGMENTS IN THE MANUSCRIPT OF "SISTIMA MOHAMEDANSKAYA AND RELIGIA IH" (THE MUHAMMADAN SYSTEM AND THE RELIGION OF THE MUSLIMS)

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The article discusses the way the Bulgarian translation of Dimitrie Cantemir's polemical work "The Book [called] Structure or System of Muhammadan Religion" treats his narrations. It starts with a generic reflection on the way Sofroniy Vrachanski uses terms such as story or fable, and makes a reference to his own autobiography which also vibrates generically between a memoir and a fictional story that presents itself as factual. Then the study identifies and analyzes three fragments from the Bulgarian translation of Cantemir's work, which Sofroniy Vrachanski created himself for the sake of his goal – to turn the piece into weapon for refutation and a tool for instruction of christians against Muhammadan religion.

Keywords: Polemical Treatise, Islam, Dimitrie Cantemir, Sofroniy Vrachanski, Original Fictional Story

7. THE DIFFERENT FACES OF MEMORY: THREE EXAMPLES FROM THE MEMORIES OF BULGARIAN WOMEN FROM THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY

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The memory of an important event in the recent history of Bulgaria – the welcoming of the Bulgarian Prince Ferdinand and his mother Princess Clementina and their tour of Bulgaria at the beginning of 1888 – is formed from multiple points of view. Three of them are presented here: by the already established public figure Elisaveta Karaminkova, by the young Sultana Racho Petrova, who at that time was taking her first steps in palace life, and by the court lady Anna Countess de Grenaud, later Mrs. D. Stanchova. The memory of E. Karaminkova was stored in a personal letter to her daughter and was never intended for publication. It remains "hidden" in the personal documentation of the author. The memoir of Sultana R. Petrova was written with the intention of being published, but it also remained "hidden" for a long time. The memoirs of Anna Stanchova present the exact point of view from which a French noblewoman perceives new Bulgaria. The present text tries to explain the common and the different in the three narratives that build the historical memory by analyzing their contextual specifics.

Keywords: Memory/Narrative of a Historical Event, Personal/Public, Perspectives, Social Context

8. THE CORRESPONDENCE OF DR. ALBERT LONG

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The paper examines the private correspondence of Dr. Albert Long, which is scattered among various archives of Bulgarian writers, educational institutions, Bible and missionary societies. Long's letters complete the picture of his biography, including his extensive educational and public service activities as well as illuminate aspects of the life and being of Bulgarians from the second half of the 19th century. Attention is also paid to the Bulgarian language he had mastered, as well as to the issue of the missing correspondence. In these letters, Long reveals himself with his feelings, emotions, pains, disappointments, but determined to stay and work for the upliftment of a people that gradually become a nation.

Keywords: Albert Long, Correspondence, Missionaries, Bulgarian Revival, Education, Press

9. THE PROVOCATION “SMESNA KITKA OR ANNUAL PERIODICAL MAGAZINE”

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The article examines “*Smesna kitka*” by P. R. Slaveikov as a communicative provocation, directed towards both its current readers and contemporary researchers. The provocation is concealed not only in the claim of being a magazine, in which there are no signs of one, but also in the diverse genre characteristics of its individual parts, in the conceptual idea, and in the functionality of the whole. “*Smesna kitka*” brings together various layers of literary, speaks on different levels, through different worldviews, but aims to convey current insights and validate behavioral patterns.

Keywords: “Smesna kitka”, P. R. Slaveikov, Genre, Magazine, Communicative Provocation

10. “SERMON ABOUT THE READING OF THE BOOKS” IN THE BULGARIAN 18TH CENTURY’S MANUSCRIPT TRADITION

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This article examines the Sermon about the reading of the books in two Bulgarian manuscripts from the second half of 18th century, preserved in the National Library in Sofia. The focus of the paper is on the text sources of the sermon.

Keywords: Sermon, Joseph the Bearded, Manuscripts, 18th Century

11. FICTION IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION (1790–1860)

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The Haitian Revolution (1791–1804) terminated colonial rule in the richest French colony. Drawing on various works of Haitian fiction, this article maps the legacy of revolutionary contestations onto the new Haitian state. Haiti provides an interesting comparison to Bulgaria, which underwent its emancipation from Ottoman rule after 1878. Elites in both countries encountered similar hurdles in their quest to create a national literature —how to reckon with an imperial past, reorganize gender relations, and cope with the legacy of slavery. Comparing these examples of “fiction in the archive” suggests new ways of examining the Enlightenment from the margins, enabling scholars to probe the relationship between center and periphery and the nature of the Enlightenment itself.

Keywords: Haitian Revolution, Bulgarian Revival, Colonialism, Ottoman Empire, Race, Nation-Building, Comparative Literature, Gender Relations

12. THE REVIVAL LITERARY AND DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHIVES IN BULGARIA

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The Bulgarian National Revival era is characterized by the creation of numerous documents of a diverse nature, the preservation of which faces a number of challenges. It was precisely in the circles of the Revival intelligentsia that the initial ideas for the search and collection of literary values arose, with the aim of preserving them as evidence for the history of the Bulgarian people. Individual actions and responsibility lay the foundations of native archival collections, where revival documents have a prominent place. The problem of the archival heritage of the National Revival continued to excite researchers both in the first half of the twentieth century and after the Second World War. It is extremely multilayered and includes a number of historical and specifically archival elements.

Keywords: Archive, Documents, Photography, Bulgarian National Revival, Institution, Museums, Libraries

13. THE PERSONAL MANUSCRIPT BOOK COLLECTION OF THE OTTOMAN PRINCE IDRIS PASHA OF VIDIN

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The fund of the Oriental Department of the National Library in Sofia contains a rich collection of manuscripts in Ottoman Turkish, Arabic and Persian languages. Some of these manuscripts have been received from the library of Osman Pazvantoglu from Vidin. Before becoming part of his fund, however, they had other owners. The article presents the personal manuscript collection of Idris Pasha – governor of Vidin and close friend of Osman Pazvantoglu. Information about this historical figure is given, the codices owned by him are identified, in terms of number, languages, subjects and authors.

Keywords: Manuscripts, Idris Pasha, library of Osman Pazvantoglu, Vidin, National Library, Sofia, Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, Persian.

14. THE ITALIAN LITERARY HERITAGE OF THE 18TH CENTURY: DIGITALIZED ARCHIVES – WOMEN WRITERS

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The article examines the Italian cultural context of the 18th century. There are two main goals of this research: first, to present the cultural changes and the result of those alterations in the literary field, and second, to present some women authors from this period and their work, especially in a digital space. The text puts emphasis on the establishment of specific literary academies and the participation of women intellectuals in them. The article tries to present women authors such as Ada Negri. The report presents the work of Ada Negri in a digital space. Lastly the paper gives a brief overview on the presence of the relevant authors in the digital repositories today.

Keywords: Italian Literature, Women Writers, Academy, Digital Space, Italy, Culture, Digital Archives

15. THE ARCHIVE AS A MODUS OF MEMORY

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The article is part of my dissertation work titled „Modes of Literature in the Culture of the Banat Bulgarians. It explores the role of archives as a context in which the collected documents serve as repositories for potential interpretations. The focus is on official documents related to the activities of the Catholic Church, which become carriers of various meanings. The reconstruction of history provides a field for the manifestation of literature through the “revitalization” of the documents, and the inclusion of texts in scholarly discourse establishes connections with present and future community projects, laying the logical foundations of the relationships between the participants.

Keywords: Banat Bulgarians, Catholics, Relations, Mode, Archives, Chiprovtsi, Banat, Father Marko Pejačević, Fermendžin

16. A GEOGRAPHY OF THE ADVENTURE (BASED ON THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STORY BY PARTHENIUS PAVLOVICH)

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The article examines the theme of the interweaving of documentary and fictional elements in the work “Autobiography” (1757) by Parthenius Pavlovich. The manuscript book, written in Church Slavonic, is the first manifestation of the autobiographical genre in South Slavic literatures. The work incorporates features of the documentary-historical, travel narrative, autobiographical, preachy and fictional. In the unfolding of the theme, a comparative reading will be attempted between the two works – “Autobiography” by Parthenius Pavlovich and “Life and Sufferings of Sinful Sophronius” (1804) by Sofronius Vrachanski. The narrative line of the adventurous is intertwined once with the line of chronicle and travel sketching of towns, villages, localities; a second time with the documentation of historical persons and events; and a third time with medieval hagiographic literature and the obligatory elements of torture and trials.

Keywords: Parthenius Pavlovich, Autobiographical Genre, Sofronius Vrachanski, Manuscript Books, Adventure Narrative, Documentary and Fictional

17. THE PREFACE OF “NESHTASTNA FAMILIYA” (“A WOEFUL FAMILY”) AS A MANIFESTO OF THE EMERGING NEW LITERATURE

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During the 19th century the Bulgarian society passes through different transformations. New ideas from West Europe started to spread and the Bulgarian literature tried to set its boundaries and determinations. One of the ways in which the authors tried to explain the motivation behind their texts is the introductions to their literary works. The introduction that is presented in this research is Vasil Drumev's introduction to his first novellette. It captures the ideas of a whole literary generation and presents them to potential readers.

Keywords: Manifest, Realism, Criteria for Writing Literature

18. THE IMAGE OF SKENDERBEG IN THE POEMS OF THE AUTHORS NAIM FRASHERI AND GRIGOR PARLICHEV. THE ROLE OF HEROISM IN THE ALBANIAN AND BULGARIAN REVIVAL MOVEMENTS

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The report examines the image of Skenderbeg in the poems “History of Skenderbeg” by Naim Frasheri and “Skenderbey” by Grigor Parlichev, as well as the role of heroism for the Albanian and Bulgarian Revival movements. Georg Kastrioti Skenderbeg, embodiment of all patriotic and revivalist values, is an object of interest by local and foreign historiographers, but especially a source of inspiration for artists and representatives of national liberation movements in the Balkans. Both poems use the heroic image of Skenderbeg for the purposes of revival and to strengthen the national idea of independence. Turning to the glorious age of Skenderbeg inspires and strengthens the national consciousness of unity and freedom. The poems “Skenderbey” and “History of Skenderbeg” reflect real historical events filled with romanticism. Both authors use the same methods to “awaken” the people (Albanian or Bulgarian) and return them to a glorious era in which the national hero fought for freedom and independence.

Keywords: Skenderbeg, Naim Frasheri, Grigor Parlichev, Revival Movements