

THE LONG EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

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*Progress and Prejudices
in the 18th and 19th Centuries
Abstracts*

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1. A MEDIEVAL ANTI-JEWISH WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BULGARIAN ENLIGHTENMENT. THE EPISTLE OF RABBI SAMUEL OF MOROCCO TRANSLATED BY NEOPHIT HILENDARSKY BOZVELI

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Independent researcher

The aim of the article is to present a hitherto unknown complete translation of the famous anti-Jewish polemical work “The Epistle of Samuel of Morocco” (*Epistola Samuelis*), also known in the late Eastern Orthodox tradition as “The Golden Work” (*opus aureum*, *πόννημα χρυσόν*), by the prominent figure of the Bulgarian Enlightenment Neophit Hilendarsky Bozveli. Although the manuscript was not published and did not gain popularity, the author defends the thesis that the late appearance of this and some other similar medieval texts in Bulgarian in the 19th century proves that Bulgarian enlightened men, no matter how progressive in their other views, find it difficult to part with some of the most deeply rooted Christian ideas, and in particular with the persistent image of the traitorous Jew.

Keywords: Neophit Bozveli, “The Epistle of Samuel of Morocco”, Anti-Jewish Works

2. RELIGIOUS ASPECTS IN THE SCENES ABOUT PUNISHMENT OF SINNERS IN THE BULGARIAN ORTHODOX PAINTING IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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The article examines the places imposed in iconography in the 19th century for the representation of sinners who violated church dogmas. These are: the taking of sinners by devils to the River of Fire and Hell, the duplicating white ribbon with sins on the coiling serpent, the creation of a register with the torment of sinners under the composition “The Last Judgment.” During the Bulgarian Revival period, new independent scenes were also formed, as a reflection of the Western European influence, such as “The wrong confession.”

Keywords: Church Painting, Church Ethics, Christian Morality, Didactic Plots, Punishments of Sinners

3. THE INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN THE AFTERWORD TO “ISTORIYA SLAVYANOBOLGARSKAYA” (TEXTUAL REVIEW)

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The object of the present study are the textual characteristic features of the so-called Chertkov copy of “*Istoriya slavjanobolgarskaya*” by St. Paisii Hilendarski. The study of the textual variants of Chertkov’s copy and other apographs sketches the grouping of the manuscripts and sheds light over the positioning of Chertkov’s copy among the other textual witnesses. The research includes 12 copies of the Paisii’s original text. The variants which are based on Chertkov’s copy, form 4 groups of different textual readings: 1) Lexical substitutions, 2) Word order substitutions, 3) Additions and 4) Omissions in the compared texts. The purpose of the research is to establish whether there are significant differences in the information from the individual transcripts (by analyzing the different readings) and whether, based on them, a textological grouping of the apographs can be carried out in comparison with the previous systematization of the textual history of the Paisian copies in the 18th and early 19th century.

Keywords: “*Istoriya slavjanobolgarskaja*”, Paisii Hilendarski, Chertkov’s Copy, Textual Readings

4. ON THE TRAIL OF TWO LATE TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE STORY “BARLAAM AND JOASSAPH”

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The aim of the study is to clarify the sources of two late copies of the story “Barlaam and Joasaph,” preserved in manuscripts NBKM 338 and RM 4/9, and to analyze their textual source. The methods used include archiographical, textual and literary approaches to trace the source of the text and editions of the copyist Todor Vrachanski. The study shows that the narrative was part of the wider literary tradition of the South Slavs in the eighteenth century, with scribes often editing and adding new elements to existing texts. The manuscripts are part of larger collections of Christian teachings that were adapted to the needs of Bulgarian spirituality and literature.

Keywords: Barlaam and Joasaph, South Slavic Literary Tradition, Todor Vrachanski, Rila Monastery, Manuscripts, Textual Tradition, Late Copies, Joseph Bradati

5. MARQUIS DE TORCY'S "ACADÉMIE POLITIQUE" (1712)

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The idea of future diplomats being formally educated is indeed a relatively new one, as its practical application greatly increased in the 18th century. One of its most serious attempts came from France with the Political Academy (*Académie politique*) founded in 1712 by the incumbent Secretary of State, Marquis de Torcy. Its innovative execution ranks highly among the most serious attempts in Europe to formally establish the necessary training. However, the Academy lasted only 8 years and is subsequently closed, which openly suggests that progress is not always a straightforward affair.

Keywords: Académie politique, Academy, Diplomacy, François de Callières, Louis XIV, Marquis de Torcy

6. THE LUDDITES AND THEIR REVOLT AGAINST THE MACHINES AT THE DAWN OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

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In an era of unprecedented technological progress associated with the development of artificial intelligence, there are legitimate concerns among the public about mass unemployment. People's fears that machines will take their jobs, undermine their social status, threaten their futures, and change their lives are as relevant today as they were at the dawn of the first industrial revolution. In 1812 in England, skilled weavers feared that a factory full of automated looms would put them out of work. Thousands of people, known in history as the Luddites, raised up in a powerful, decentralized resistance against the machines. Enraged, the British Parliament passed a law-making machine-breaking punishable by death, a draconian measure opposed by Lord George Byron. New research shows that Luddism was not actually a rebellion against technology per se, but rather a struggle for workers' rights in the face of the first wave of labor automation. Based on newly published research and sources from the era, the report will attempt to shed new light on the motives of the Luddites in their fight against technology and will attempt to assess how real a threat they were to the progress of industrialization.

Keywords: Luddites, Machine-Breaking, First Industrial Revolution, England, Workers' Rights, Labor

7. THE INTIMATE CONFESSIONS OF THE EMPEROR: HOW NAPOLEON CORRESPONDED WITH THE WOMEN IN HIS LIFE

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Epistolary correspondence was an essential element of Napoleon's life. He spent many hours writing to numerous recipients – politicians, generals, diplomats, clergymen, foreign rulers. But among his considerable output of letters, the ones dedicated to the women in his life have a special place. Examining these letters reveals a whole new side of Napoleon as a person, general and politician. It also helps understand how men perceived women during the Enlightenment era and what role did women play in the functioning of politics, society and everyday life. The following article aims at analysing the contents, frequency and the recipients of Napoleon's letters, in order to present a new perspective on his intimate relations, but also on the role the women in his life played in his decision making, how they shaped his emotions, and to what extent the emperor of France considered them partners, confidants or servants of his will.

Keywords: Napoleon, Women, Correspondence, French Revolution, French Empire, Enlightenment, Letters

8. CONSERVATISM, DVORYANSTVO CULTURAL IDENTITY AND THE MEMOIRIST I. M. DOLGORUKOV (1764–1823)

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In periods of intellectual fervour, such as the 18th and early 19th centuries, people feel the need to assert their cultural identity. The fear of the disappearance of traditions often leads to conservative positions. This article interprets the conservatism of Prince I. M. Dolgorukov (1764–1823), a remarkable figure of the then Russian culture, as a main trait of his cultural identity and self-representation. The study focuses on his travel journal "*Puteshestvie v Kiev v 1817 godu*," written by the prince during his trip to the Ukrainian lands in 1817. In it, the author, inspired by his journey, collects his conservative (and often biased) thoughts. By doing this, he aims to pass on to his children the vanishing values of the *dvoryanstvo* and to state his belonging to the Russian elite.

Keywords: I. M. Dolgorukov, Conservatism, Cultural Identity, *Dvoryanstvo*, Life-Writing, Travel, 18th and Early 19th-Century Russian Literature, Self-representation, Innovation, Prejudices

9. A PARADOXICAL INTERWEAVING OF PROGRESS AND PREJUDICES IN SOME SEMI-DOCUMENTARY BULGARIAN TEXTS FROM 19TH CENTURY (GEORGI IKONOMOV, ILIYA BLASKOV, MINCHO KANCHEV)

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This article focuses on several curious case studies from the middle and second half of the Bulgarian 19th century, associated with progress, modern thinking, and people related to them who instrumentally and self-servingly benefit from prejudices living in the minds of their less educated contemporaries. Conversely, in order to be rejected, the progressive is demonized with arguments drawn from traditional beliefs. The cases considered here are documented in the texts of contemporaries whom we tend to define as “enlighteners”: Georgi Ikonov (1822–1865/1866), Iliya Blaskov, Mincho Kanchev.

Keywords: Progress, Prejudices, Georgi Ikonov, Iliya Blaskov, Mincho Kanchev

10. COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE REVIVAL PERIODICALS DURING THE TRANSITION TO A MODERN SOCIETY

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The following article is based on the understanding of the key cultural significance of the Revival periodicals during the transition from a traditional to a modern society. It functions as a window into the achievements of civilized Europe while simultaneously serving as a mirror reflecting the processes of modernization in Bulgarian Revival society. Its communicative power manifests in various roles – as a platform for analyses and debate, a means of providing information (educational, practical, sensational), and an outlet for concerns and anxieties brought about by the relentless march of progress. It is precisely on the pages of Revival periodicals that the dual attitude towards modernization is most vividly expressed – the coexistence of aspirations for progress and Europeanization alongside the prejudices and constraints of a traditionally conservative mentality.

Keywords: Revival Periodicals, Functions, Society, Modernization, Europeanization

11. EUROPE AND CIVILIZATION – BETWEEN UTOPIA AND PROGRESS

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This article aims to explore the idea of the civilization and the image of Europe in Bulgarian literature and culture from the second half of the 19th century. It will trace the views of Europe as a utopia and its role in constructing national identity. Linking the idea of civilization with the concept of progress has changed the attitude towards Europe. The perception of it as a utopia, another place where the benefits of civilization have been achieved, is replaced by its displacement in time. The nation is thus constructed as project-oriented towards an ideal that can be associated with different cultural spaces and that is thought of as attainable in the course of historical development.

Keywords: Europe, Civilization, Utopia, Progress, National Identity

12. THE IDEA OF THEATRE AND ITS “DOMESTIC USES”

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The theme of cultural modernity and cultural progress, their beginnings, whose first apparent manifestations in the Bulgarian Revival society can be observed in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, is closely linked to the idea of theatre among the Bulgarian people. The article explores the concept of the own vs the foreign during the Bulgarian National Revival, linking it to early theatrical expressions among the Bulgarian people. Contemporary testimonies and later memoirs provide insight into the emergence of Bulgarian Revival theatre. Examples are given from publications of the first decades of the twentieth century, which indicate its beginnings in the modern form of this art in the period of the second half of the nineteenth century. In the 1940s, 1950s and 1970s the first comprehensive academic histories of Bulgarian theatre were compiled. However, they form another thesis about the emergence of theatre during the Revival from cultural influences of the Middle Ages, of folklore games and of church rituals – a very presumptive thesis which from today’s point of view seems untenable. If we adhere to the facts, the history of theatre during the Revival illustrates the path taken by what is essentially a foreign appropriation towards its establishment as an important national cultural project, as is theatre for the Bulgarian society.

Keywords: Bulgarian Revival Theatre, Academic Histories of Bulgarian Theatre, European Cultural Influences

13. ENRICHMENT THROUGH FRUGALITY. REVIVAL VISIONS IN JOURNALISM

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The article interprets the philosophy of Revival frugality as a combination of tradition and foreign influences. Publicists severely judge unproductive extravagance, because frugality increases the property and capital not only of the personality, but also of the nation. Apart from being an insurance for family life, saving serves to nurture human dignity, elevates the Bulgarian above slavery and makes him independent of foreign mercy. It is a virtue that influences the moral life of a person and acts as a guarantor against the manifestation of unworthy human passions.

Keywords: Frugality, Outlay, Revival Newspapers, Benjamin Franklin, Adam Smith, P. R. Slaveykov

14. THE EXILE-CIVILIZER

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The article discusses a paradox: how the Bulgarian political exiles in the Asia Minor peripheries of the Ottoman Empire (*Diyarbakır*), who ended up there at the height of the revolutionary movement in the 1860–70s, found themselves in the role of “white” colonists among the local “savages” – their civilizers. How these “crazy heads,” as the national ideological narrative will canonize them (Vazov, Z. Stoyanov) – comites and revolutionaries, reveal themselves as bearers of bourgeois pragmatism: with their professional skills and economic activity they absorb, cultivate the wild desert in which they are thrown, and at the same time they are “cultural heroes” for the local “savages”, revealing to them the elementary benefits of civilization. A typological parallel is drawn with the colonial situation in European modernity (archetypally set by Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*).

Keywords: Nationalism, Modernity, Bourgeoisity, Capitalism, Wilderness, Savage, “Cultural Hero”

15. EVGENIA KISIMOVA AND THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT IN TARNOVO – INFLUENCES, OPPOSITION, ESTABLISHMENT

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The article examines the historical prerequisites for the emergence and development of the Women’s Movement in Tarnovo in the 19th century with an emphasis on Constantinople and Western literary and cultural influences. It focuses on the figure of Evgenia Kisimova as the organizer and driver of the movement. Attention is drawn to the problems surrounding the name and the sphere of influence of the first women’s society in the city, “*Zhenska obshtina*” (Women’s Community), and the struggle for its confirmation.

Keywords: Evgenia Kisimova, Women’s Societies, Tarnovo, Bulgarian Revival, Letters, Style

16. REPUTATION SHAME AND INTIMACY IN SEVERAL PLAYS FROM THE BULGARIAN REVIVAL PERIOD

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The article explores shame in its connection with reputation when it comes to the norms of intimacy in the Bulgarian society of the 19th c. Shame will be regarded as a complex emotion that may collide with guilt, on the one hand, or with fear of social rejection, on the other hand. The paper seeks to explore the latter in regard to the intimate relations between the characters of three Bulgarian plays from the time of the Bulgarian Revival in 19th c. – “*Lovchanskiat vladika*,” “*Krivorazbranata tsivilizacia*,” and “*Fudulesku*.” On the whole, these were instructive pieces of literature at the outset of modern Bulgarian drama, in which the female characters, especially when young and innocent, are presented as victims of the new European manners and ideas of emancipation. In accordance with a more general policy of patriarchal control and protection over Bulgarian women during the National Revival period, the authors of these plays envision such intimate experiences as a signal of immorality and social threat. Women’s desire for learning is categorized as just, whereas women’s bodily intimate experiences were considered dangerous especially if the partner in the couple is a learned man from another ethnic group, usually Greek or Romanian. At the finale of the plays the outcomes for women are tragic. They regret their conduct and realize that in such a patriarchal society, as the Bulgarian one, their honor was compromised and this has brought reputation shame both to them and to their families.

Keywords: Shame, Reputation Shame, Guilt, Intimacy, Bulgarian Revival, Civilization, Woman’s Question

17. ISSUES OF MARITAL RELATIONS AND COHABITATION IN SEVERAL PERIODICAL TEXTS ON THE PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPER “SHUTOSH”

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The article examines Bulgarian Revival perspectives on marriage and the roles of men and women within the patriarchal family, defined by its enduring norms and ingrained prejudices. The analysis is based on two texts from the periodical “*Shutosh*” (Anonymous, 1874 and Rada Garbachkina, 1874), as well as ethnographic study (Zahari Knyazheski, 1846). The juxtaposition of female and male viewpoints reveals alternative interpretations of interpersonal relations within Revival culture. Particular attention is given to marginal societal perspectives and their inherent ambivalence. The counter-lesson is explored as an explicit opposition to female presence, serving as both a pedagogical tool and a mechanism that simultaneously critiques and reinforces traditional family roles. This raises the question of whether this model represents a progressive shift toward individual emancipation or remains entrenched in conservative and masculinist reflections.

Keywords: Marital Relations, Revival Periodicals, Gender and Prejudices, Marginal Societal Perspectives, Patriarchal Expectations

18. GENDER AND PREJUDICES: EKATERINA KARAVELOVA IN NEWLY LIBERATED BULGARIA

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The article deals with Ekaterina Karavelova's encounter with the patriarchal Bulgarian society during the first years after the liberation of Bulgaria. The notions of appropriate and inappropriate female behavior are examined. Karavelova didn't fit to these notions and became an object of criticism and aspersion from her conservative compatriots, and first of all—from the political opponents of her husband. Special attention is payed on Nedyalka Tsankova-Lyudskanova's memoirs, because they are symptomatic not only for the time they deal with, but also for nowadays.

Keywords: Ekaterina Karavelova, Gender Relations, Prejudices, Public Opinion, Private Life, Mentality

19. “WALLACHIAN BEANS” AND THE HARD PATH OF THE POTATO IN BULGARIA

Stefan Detchev

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The article traces the tough distribution of potato among the local population before and after the end of the Ottoman rule. It stands out how, at an earlier stage, the potato spread in some mountainous and semi-mountainous regions. At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, consumption of potatoes was found both among the ordinary population in the Rhodopes, some other places in the country and among representatives of the elite in the capital. The role of the state policy itself in deepening the processes of distribution of potatoes is traced, especially, although not only, in the period between the two world wars. The article reveals how the wartime difficulties with nutrition at the beginning of 1940s lead to the final and irreversible entry of potatoes into the life and nutrition of Bulgarians. Finally, a complex combination of the search for alternatives in conditions of heavy harvests, governmental policy, culinary fashions suggested by cookbooks and the restaurant industry led to the imposition and spread of a new food product and related dishes.

Keywords: Food, Foodways, Potato, *Cuisine*, Cookbooks, Bulgaria, Agriculture, Economy

20. THE “STRUGGLE” OF THE REVIVAL INTELLIGENTSIA WITH HEALTH SUPERSTITIONS AND PREJUDICES IN BULGARIAN SOCIETY UNTIL THE LIBERATION

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From the beginning of the 19th century, under the influence of European Enlightenment and the ideas of the Modern Age for the development of the sciences in the Bulgarian lands, the so-called modern health knowledge. It is based on the experience and observations of European medicine and is in counterpoint to the traditional notions of health embodied by folk medicine. A number of representatives of the Renaissance intelligentsia adopted the modern ideas of building a new attitude to health, personal and public, mainly by introducing the population to the basic postulates of medicine in a form of popular science. Personalities such as Lyuben Karavelov, Stefan Bobchev, Zahari Knyazheski, doctors Venko Grumnikov, Nacho Planinski led a fierce campaign on the pages of the periodical press and in the works published by them, in which they sharply condemned the ossified prejudices of society towards health and opposed a number of superstitions and traditional views to be replaced through the power of health education with modern perceptions.

Keywords: Bulgarian Revival, Health Prejudices, Health Education, History of Medicine, Bulgarian Intelligentsia, Folk Medicine

21. THE DIFFICULT PATH FROM LITERATURE TO SCIENCE BETWEEN TWO EPOCHS

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This publication is dedicated to the creation of national science during the Bulgarian National Revival and in the initial years after Liberation. In the last decades of the 19th century, the national intelligentsia began to create the foundations of modern Bulgarian science. The period is extremely dynamic, related to the church struggle and the national liberation movement. Its second stage is the early years of the Third Bulgarian State, when the development of modern scientific institutions gradually began. The present publication is also related to the 155th anniversary of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as a highlight in it is the emergence of the Bulgarian Literary Society.

Keywords: National Revival, Science, Bulgarian Literary Society, Transformation

22. THE HISTORIC LAYER IN THE LITERARY WORKS “THE ROAD TO LOVE” BY JÁN KALINČIAK AND “THE REVENGE” BY LYUBEN KARAVELOV

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The study aims to research how the authors in two literary works interpret the historical past. Their works combine different ways of writing – Ján Kalinčiak and Lyuben Karavelov combine the romantic elements, with folkloristic ones. The so-called historical layer is but a part of their novels. The two authors have a shared way how they incorporate the layer of historical accuracy to the work. In “The Road to Love” and “The Revenge” they also share some folkloristic motifs in terms of snatching a loved one etc.

Keywords: History, Folklore, Romanticism, Realism, Historical Layer