

BOOK REVIEW

***The Beginnings of Macedonian Academic Research and Institution Building (19th – Early 20th Century)*. Edited by Biljana Ristovska-Josifovska, Dragi Ćorgiev, Skopje: Institute of National History, 2018, 166 p.**

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The book “The Beginnings of Macedonian Academic Research and Institution Building (19th – early 20th Century)”, edited by Biljana Ristovska-Josifovska and Dragi Ćorgiev, was published by the Institute of National History in Skopje (2018). It consists contributions submitted at the Workshop under the same title, held in the premises of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts on 21 March 2018, in Skopje, as part of the International Scientific Research Project “Knowledge Exchange and Academic Cultures in the Humanities: Europe and the Black Sea Region, Late 18th – 21st Centuries” (funded by the European Union's Research and Innovation Program “Horizon 2020”, under the grant agreement No. 734645). In the “Introduction: the Beginnings of Macedonian Academic Research and Institution Building”, Biljana Ristovska-Josifovska addresses the Macedonian cultural revival and its representatives from the 19th century to early 20th century. Then, the activities of the Macedonian team

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during 2017, within the above-mentioned project, are described – research stay in the Russian Federation, Republic of Armenia and Republic of Macedonia, as well as participation at the International Congress of Historians-Slavicists, in St. Petersburg (12–17 September) and the International Conference on Knowledge Exchange. Europe and the Black Sea Region, c.1750–1850”, in Graz (29–30 September).

“The First Cultural-Educational Institutions in Macedonia as the Basis for Future Academic Culture (from the 19th to the beginning of the 20th century)” is the title of Silvana Sidorovska-Čupovska's work. It deals with the importance of schools (church, secular, feminine) in the process of building Macedonian national consciousness, in time of an intensified activity of the neighboring educational propaganda. Macedonian intelligence had an active participation in the establishment and building of cultural and educational institutions. The educational institutions in Macedonia are also concerned in the paper “Secular Versus Religious: the Education of Muslims in Skopje at the End of the 19th Century”, by Dragi Ćorgiev, who turns to the importance of the Muslim educational institutions in Skopje, as an important part of the secularization process in the last decades of Ottoman rule in Macedonia. The guidelines sent to the local authorities at the lowest level show the cooperation of the central government with the local population for the new educational program to be as painless and as widely as possible accepted by the Muslim population, and the introduction of the French language within the curriculum in Muslim schools indicates the process of Europeanization.

“The Beginnings of Macedonian Linguistic Research in the European Context (from the end of the 19th to the early 20th century)” is the topic of Liljana Guševska's paper. This is a significant contribution to highlighting the importance of Macedonian research through Krste Petkov Misirkov's linguistic research within Balkan and Slavic studies. In that period of elevated attention to the ‘Macedonian question’ in the European diplomacy, Misirkov remains one of the key figures in the affirmation of Macedonian ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity.

Katerina Petkovska-Kuzmanova is the author of the paper “The Beginnings of Folkloristic-Ethnographic Research in Macedonia”, dealing with the research work of Dimitar and Konstantin Miladinovi, Kuzman Šapkarev, Konstantin Petkovich, Efrek Karanov, Vasil Ikonov and other, who devoted their life to folklore study and achieved significant results. They posed essential questions related to the development of Macedonian literature and science. Early collection and classification of folklore data was a major factor in the national awakening in Macedonia.

“Atanas Badev: the Beginnings of the Macedonian Musicology” is the work of Nataša Didenko. It describes the creative work of the prominent cultural figure and one of the founders of Macedonian music. The paper presents Atanas Badev’s activity and professional development in the field of pedagogy, literacy of music staff, choir conducting and creation of church and other musical compositions.

“The Debar-Mijak School of Zografs in the 19th Century and the Transfer of Knowledge in Regional Context” is the title of Sašo Cvetkovski's work. The subject is the art history of the 19th century in Macedonia with a special preview to the Debar-Mijak painting school, especially Dičo Zograf and Avram Dičov, who were the founders and the most important representatives of this school.

Blaže Ristovski is the author of the paper “Attempts to Establish a Macedonian School with a Boarding House in the Žitoše Monastery and an Academy for Teachers in Skopje”. In the period of intensification of the assimilation activities of the neighboring countries (the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century), the need to create Macedonian national institutions was crucial. Thus, the iconographer Marko Mušević stood out with his cultural activity, who tried to establish a Macedonian school with a boarding house in the Žitoše Monastery in 1910/1911. In 1909, Krste Misirkov, Petar Pop Arsov and Teodosij Gologanov tried to establish an Academy for Teachers in Skopje. Although these initiatives have proved unsuccessful, they are important for the history of Macedonian higher education and an authentic expression of the national idea. The institution building is also considered in the paper “Macedonian Cultural Associations – The Nucleus of Early Academic Research”. The author Biljana Ristovska-Josifovska deals with the Macedonian cultural associations in the process of national academic institutions building, at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. In the activity of the cultural-national associations of the Macedonians abroad, one can find the beginnings of the scientific research in the process of academic research and institution building.

The book “The Beginnings of Macedonian Academic Researches and Institution Building (19th – Early 20th Century)” consists of topics on education, art history, linguistics, and folklore, with a rich illustrative material – photographs and documents, making them available to the international scientific community. It is a significant contribution to history of Macedonian academic culture through the development of the Macedonian national and cultural identity.