

R E V I E W

OF THE MATERIALS PRESENTED BY HEAD ASST DHS MARTIN ASENOV GYUZELEV
CANDIDATE IN AN OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF DOCENT
SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN 2. HUMANITARIAN SCIENCES
PROFESSIONAL AREA 2.2. HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE ANCIENT HISTORY (INCLUDING PREHISTORY)
DECLARED BY THE UNIVERSITY "PROF. DR. ASEN ZLATAROV" – BURGAS
PUBLISHED IN "DARZHAVEN VESTNIK" No 45 OF JUNE 17, 2022

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Peter Nedelchev Delev, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia (emeritus)
member of the scientific jury by order of the Rector of the University
"Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas No ПД-245 of September 15, 2022

The competition was announced by the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University in Burgas with an advertisement published in Darzhaven Vestnik No 45 of 17 June 2022 with a three months deadline for the submission of applications. Only one candidate has submitted an application within the deadline – Martin Asenov Gyuzelev, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Head Assistant at the same University. The sole candidate was admitted to the competition. As far as I can judge, the competition procedure was conducted in full compliance with the existing legal framework.

According to the submitted affidavit and the other documents of the candidate, he fully meets the minimum national requirements under Article 26, clauses 2 and 3 of the Law for the Advancement of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria and in article 1a, paragraph 1 and the relevant attachment (Field 2. Humanitarian sciences. Table 1) of the

Rules for its application. He scores exactly the required points for indicators 1 and 3 (50 points for a doctoral dissertation and 100 points for a habilitation thesis) and more than the required points for the indicators in Group Γ (224 points against a minimum national requirement of 200 points) and Group Д (275 points against a minimum national requirement of 50 points). The general sum total of his point count (854 points) also exceeds the minimum national requirement (a sum total of 400 points). The candidate also meets the particular requirements stated in the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for the acquisition of scientific degrees and academic positions at the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” in Burgas (pp. 24-26) in the indicators of Group Д (275 points against a requirement of 100 points) and Group E (105 points against a requirement of 50 points), as well as the total score under these increased requirements (854 points against a requirement of 700 points); his score however is somewhat deficient in the indicators of Group Γ (publications) with 224 points against the elevated university requirement of 400 points. In view of the last-mentioned circumstance it could be noted that the candidate has included in the affidavit for compliance with the minimum national requirements only the publications submitted in the competition (published after 2010, but even for this period the list is not complete); the full list of his scientific publications (which is not included among his submitted papers) would show a significantly higher score in this group of indicators.

Martin Guzelev was born in 1972 and is fifty years old at the time of the present competition. He received his education at the National High School for Ancient Languages and Culture “St. Constantine – Cyril the Philosopher” and at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, where he graduated with an MA degree in archaeology in 1998. Subsequently, he was a full-time doctoral student at the Archaeological Institute

and Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and in 2004 he received his PhD degree with a dissertation on “The Settlement System of the West Pontic Coast in the First Millennium BC: The Lands between Cape Emine and the Bosphorus”. In 2015 he defended his second doctorate at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia and received the academic degree “Doctor of Historical Sciences” with a dissertation entitled “Dionysius of Byzantium and his Anaplois of the Bosphorus as a Source for the History and Culture of Southeastern Europe”. In the last two decades he has worked at the Regional Historical Museum in Burgas (as Head of the Department of Archaeology) and at the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” (as a head assistant). He knows (in varying degrees) several foreign languages: Russian, English, French, Ancient Greek, Latin and Old Bulgarian. He is also qualified as a scuba diver and as a captain of small sea vessels.

Martin Gyuzelev has submitted for participation in this competition a habilitation thesis (the monograph “Stone anchors with three openings from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast”) and a number of additional publications. The monograph submitted as a habilitation thesis was published in Burgas in 2022 on behalf of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University (ISBN 978-619-7559-284). It is not of large volume (151 numbered pages, of which 8 pages are taken by the introduction of Dr. Atanas Orachev), but both in volume and in its other attributes it fully meet the requirements for a monograph as defined by the Law for the Advancement of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria (§ 1, entry 10 of the Supplementary Regulations). The work is a thorough and comprehensive study of a relatively rare and much discussed category of archaeological artefacts: the stone anchors with three openings. The structure of the work is clear and logical: a brief introduction, five chapters devoted respectively to the written sources, the historiographical development of the topic, a paleogeographical overview of the finds, a detailed review of their distribution, an

analysis of their functions and symbolism, a brief conclusion (entitled “Main inferences”), an illustrated catalogue of all documented finds, a bibliographical list and summaries in English and Bulgarian.

In the introduction (pp. 15-19), the author sets forth the aims and scope of the study and emphasizes that (unlike previous studies, including his own) it focuses not so much on the typology and mode of manufacture of the stone anchors and the quantitative analyses of their finds as an indication of seaborne trade, but on their utilitarian functions and symbolism (p. 16), a new approach in the study of this group of archaeological monuments.

The first chapter (“Written Accounts of Ancient Anchors”, pp. 20-38) examines the ancient terms for “anchor” and their usage, and cites (in the original languages and in the author’s own translations into Bulgarian) and comments on a number of accounts in the literary tradition in ancient Greek and Latin of the use of stone anchors, beginning with Homer and ending with Erasmus of Rotterdam.

The second chapter, entitled “A Historiographic Overview” (pp. 40-50) is devoted to the preceding research on the problems of the stone anchors abroad and in Bulgarian scientific literature. The review is quite useful in terms of information, but also essential for highlighting Martin Gyuzelev’s personal achievements in his research.

Chapter 3 “Stone anchors with three openings from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (an attempt at a palaeogeographical overview)” (pp. 51-61) briefly discusses the problems related to the changes that have affected the Western Black Sea coast over time, in relation primarily (but not only) to the eustatic fluctuations of the sea level and their significance for the identification of harbour anchorages on the basis of the finds of stone anchors.

The fourth chapter is entitled “Distribution of the stone anchors with three openings” (pp. 62-85). It presents and analyses in detail the various

locations where the stone anchors included in the study were found, following the Bulgarian Black Sea coast from north to south. A total of 65 stone anchors with three orifices have been documented (from Shabla, Yailata, Kaliakra, Kavarna, Nessebar, Pomorie, Chernomorets, Sozopol, Raiski Bay, the mouth of the Ropotamo, and Ahtopol); the most numerous are those from Sozopol (27 pieces) and Nessebar (16 pieces). The observations summarised at the end of this chapter highlight the predominance of stone anchor finds in the bays around the Greek cities and their limited presence in coastal areas with a prevailing Thracian population, for example south of Apollonia. The limited number of stone anchors from Odessos, Dionysopolis and Anchialos is explained by probable thick alluvial accumulations. In conclusion, the hypothesis is formulated that the type of stone anchors in question are of Hellenic origin and were used in the Black Sea Greek cities throughout antiquity, and probably also in the Middle Ages.

In the brief fifth chapter (pp. 86-91) the author has set out some ideas about the function and symbolism of the ancient anchors. Despite the priority given to this topic in the introduction, it remains under-explored here; indeed, the author has stated his views in more detail elsewhere, for example, on the use of the stone blocks with one or two openings as mooring bollards for tying-up ships or as “dead anchors” attached to a buoy on the water surface to which ships were moored (pp. 74-81).

The “main conclusions” on pp. 92-95 offer a summary of the results obtained in the analytical part of the study. Grouped into nine points, they present both the possible actual conclusions and the hypothetical assumptions, as well as the still-unsolved research tasks and problems in the study of this type of archaeological monuments.

This is followed by catalogue of all documented stone anchors with three openings from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (pp. 97-116). The cat-

alogue is meticulously prepared, in most cases with illustrations and annotations of metrical, museological and bibliographical data and other supporting information on the individual finds. A total of 61 specimens are presented, which represents the most complete corpus of such monuments in the literature to date.

A bibliographical list is appended on pp. 119-129; this contains a total of 105 titles, including ancient authors and modern publications, divided into Cyrillic and Latin alphabet titles.

The book ends with detailed and helpful summaries in English and Bulgarian (pp. 131-151).

My overall impression of the monograph presented as a habilitation thesis is positive. It represents a comprehensive and multifaceted study of an obviously important and controversial category of archaeological monuments, if only attested so far with a relatively limited number of documented specimens. The conclusions drawn in the work are sound and substantial, and the author's scientific contributions are unquestionable. In my opinion, not only in its formal features, but also in substance, the monograph fully meets the requirements for a habilitation thesis for the acquirement of the academic position of "decent".

In addition to the habilitation thesis, the candidate has also submitted in the competition 28 other publications, mostly short articles and published papers from conferences and congresses; two of the titles (Nos. 5 and 6) however have a larger volume (over 40,000 characters) and meet the requirements of the Law for the Advancement of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria for larger papers ("студии"). Nine publications date from 2010-2015; 17 were published between 2016 and 2021, and two (Nos. 1 and 3) are still in press. More than half are published in Bulgarian (15 titles), the rest in English (9 titles) and French (4 titles). More than half (15 titles) are personal publications by the author, the remaining 13 (Nos. 7-10, 13, 15-20, 27-28) are co-authored. The subject

matter of these publications is varied, but most of them are related in one way or another to the Thracian coasts in antiquity and to ancient seafaring. Five of the titles deal with the study of ancient written sources containing descriptions of coastal areas: Nos. 21 (Pseudo-Scylax), 22 (Pseudo-Scymnos), 23 (the periplus of Flavius Arianus) and 5 and 24 (Dionysius of Byzantium); three other deal with ancient shipping through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles (Nos. 1, 3, 4). Nine publications present short reports and primary publications of archaeological explorations on the territory of the region of Burgas (Nos. 8-10, 18-20, 26-28), four are related to monuments and explorations in Apollonia (Nos. 12-15), two deal with the problem of the navigability of Lake Mandra in antiquity (Nos. 16-17), one – with the scope and purport of the name “Salmidessos” (No. 6). One publication (No. 25) is in the field of numismatics, another (No. 11) in that of epigraphy, one deals with an interesting votive monument from Ahtopol (No. 2) and one (No. 7) with amphora stamps.

Without going into a detailed analysis of these various publications, I can say summarily that they are, without exception, of good and state-of-the-art scientific quality, present the candidate for “docent” as a serious and productive scholar, and contain numerous, versatile and significant scientific contributions.

Martin Gyuzelev has had research specializations in France (University of Aix-en-Provence, 2003) and Greece (American School of Classical Studies in Athens, 2009). He has participated in a number of national and international scientific conferences and congresses both in this country and abroad. He has participated in national (National Fund for Scientific Investigations) and international research projects. The attached reference of citations of his works shows that he is well recognized as a scientist (including abroad); his most cited work is his first doctoral dissertation published as a monograph in Bulgarian and English.